Members in Attendance

Reagan Miller	– Texas Workforce Commission (TWC)
Patricia Smith	– Little Dudes Learning Center
Sul Ross	– Gulf Coast Workforce Solutions
Howard Morrison	– Texas Education Agency
Lana Estevilla	– Department of Family and Protective Services
Pattie Herbert	– Infants 123
Rebecca Latimer	– Just Kidding Around
Doug Watson	– Healy-Murphy Child Development Center
Dr. Elaine Zweig	– Collin County Community College
Mary Clare Munger	– Amarillo College Child Development Lab
LaShonda Brown	– Texas Early Learning Council

Members not in Attendance

Sharon Davis	– North East Texas Workforce Solutions
Sandra Solis	– Lower Rio Workforce Solutions

Additional TWC Attendees

Laurie Biscoe	– Deputy Director, Workforce Development Division (WDD)
Patricia A. Gonzalez	– Director WDD Technical Assistance and Child Care
Phil Warner	– Child Care Program Supervisor
Regan Dobbs	– Child Care Policy and Program Analyst
Kimberly Flores	– Child Care Policy and Program Analyst
Adela Esquivel	– Child Care Policy and Program Analyst
Sue Flores	– Child Care Policy and Program Analyst
Anjali Barnes	– Child Care Policy and Program Analyst

Meeting Summary

Welcome, Roll-Call and Overview of the Agenda

Approval of Meeting Notes

March 6, 2014 notes were approved for posting with a change requested by Sul Ross. Notes will reflect that 50% of classrooms will be "**observed**," and not necessarily "assessed." Ms. Miller stated that the change will be made before posting.

Review of TRS Provider Facilities that Move or Expand

Reagan Miller began the discussion on the draft recommendations for facilities moving or expanding. A few members of the Workgroup met to make recommendations for facilities that move or expand. Reagan recommended that a clarification be made to establish parameters for local physical facility moves specifying that this applied to moves within the same county only. Secondly

Ms. Miller clarified that the draft recommendation states that the move should not alter the number of classrooms and she believes that a change in the number of classrooms would not have a significant impact in the quality of child care services. Lana Estevilla agreed that quality of child care services is more important than number of classrooms.

Regarding staff changes at the new facility Reagan expressed concern that establishing a percentage vs. 'bulk' of new staff would be conflicting and considered a “substantial change” for new facilities.

She added that if a moving facility has a substantial change in the number of staff, facility may need to be considered as a split and TRS star level would not transfer to the new facility. TWC will work on phrasing to convey this concept of significant change in staff.

Pattie Herbert asked what would happen if a home based provider wants to become a licensed center. Lana responded that from a DFPS licensing perspective, it would not be considered a move. Reagan added that the home would need to be re-assessed for TRS as a center and TRS standards would apply if the home becomes a licensed center.

Reagan added that this item will be in future meeting agendas for further discussion.

It was also added that a facility that moves will keep TRS level until a full assessment takes place within three to six months. If new facilities score differently, then the center would be reclassified according to appropriate star level designation based on the review.

Reagan explained the definitions for facility moves, expansions and splits. She mentioned that current TRS standards state that if a facility has a new director due to a split or expansion, the wait period for assessment is 12 months. Recommendation would state that centers do not have to wait 12 months to have a TRS assessment if the center has previously been in good standing with both TRS and DFPS standards.

Pattie asked what would happen if the facility has two co-directors. Ms. Miller deferred the response to Lana and she stated she would need to research to provide an accurate response. The initial response is that a facility only has one director.

Review of Scoring to Determine TRS Star Level

Reagan asked Phil Warner to explain the scoring methodology.

Phil went over two scoring documents sent to the Workgroup previously. First document contains the methodology for scoring measures and the second one a scoring example.

He explained that points on the provider scores, would determine the star level for each category. The Workgroup agreed to have total points for each category. He mentioned the recommendation to make nutrition a separate category since a center could score as a four star by scoring high on all categories except in nutrition. This recommendation would ensure providers would need to score high on all categories.

Sul Ross suggested separating indoor/outdoor from curriculum.

Mary Clare Munger expressed concern with making nutrition a separate category and suggested to combine it with another category. Workgroup agreed to combine nutrition with physical activity/indoor/outdoor environment. This modification yields five categories: director and staff qualifications, caregiver interactions, curriculum, nutrition and indoor/outdoor environment, and parent involvement and education.

LaShonda Brown asked how points would be assigned to director qualifications and training as there is no difference between levels. Phil responded that there would be no points since director/staff qualifications are all structural (met or not met) and this would be the gate to other star levels. Reagan suggested a modification to the scoring document to reflect that 100% of structural measures need to be met before scoring process measures.

Phil continued to explain scoring using both median and average methodologies; including pros and cons of each. Using the median would place less emphasis or on any outliers and may result in the most typical value. However, when the sample size (number of classrooms) is large and does not include outliers, the average score generally provides a better measure of central tendency.

Sul mentioned that the median method is more complicated than the average method. Phil agreed that it may be more complicated to explain, but that a tool to automatically calculate will be provided so that assessors will not have to perform the calculation. Mary Clare commented that the median method provides more accuracy.

Reagan added that TWC should speak with a few TRS assessors at the Boards to see if the assessors believe the median or the average result in a more accurate picture of the facility.

Phil then presented the proposal to base the star level on percentage of the average score of the classrooms. If points are not available, it is null and for all the measures there will be a possibility of 0-3 or nothing. Then, the star level would be based on a certain percentage of the score. Example, to be a 3 star, a center would have to score at least 50% of the average, which is 1.5 of the 3, and for a 4 star, center would have to have 75% which is 2.25 average score out of 3.

Sul also commented that 2.25 seems to be too low for a 4 star level and he would like instead 2.5.

Consensus was reached to use a minimum of 1.8 for 3 star level and a minimum of 2.4 for 4 star as well as preference to use the median methodology.

LaShonda suggested adding the number of measures in parenthesis in each category. All agreed.

Ms. Miller stated that scoring document will be available to the public for review and comment.

Discussion on director and staff qualifications

Reagan asked Patricia Gonzalez to provide information regarding meeting for further discussion on director and staff qualifications. Members are: Elaine, LaShonda, Sandra, and Doug. A conference

call will be held on May 7 at 10:30 a.m. to discuss the pending items. Ms. Miller mentioned that if other members are interested in participating to contact Patricia. Laurie Biscoe indicated that materials will be sent to all members for review.

After School Programs

Reagan mentioned that the Workgroup has not made any recommendations for after school programs. She suggested that staff work with Child Care TXPOST, an organization that deals with after school care to see what recommendations they may have. The group agreed for staff to work with TXPOST on draft recommendations for director/staff qualifications for after school programs.

Next Steps

The director and staff qualifications conference call is scheduled for May 7 at 10:30 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:40 p.m.