



HB 376 Workgroup

Members in Attendance

Reagan Miller	- Texas Workforce Commission (TWC)
Michelle Adams	- Department of Family and Protective Services
Howard Morrison	- Texas Education Agency
Dr. John Gasko	- Texas Early Learning Council, QRIS Subcommittee
Dr. Elaine Zweig	- Collin County Community College
Doug Watson	- Healy-Murphy Child Development Center
Patricia Smith	- Little Dudes Learning Center
Pattie Herbert	- Infants 123
Sharon Davis	- North East Texas Workforce Solutions
Sul Ross	- Gulf Coast Workforce Solutions
Sandra Solis	- Lower Rio Workforce Solutions
Mary Clare Munger	- Amarillo College Child Development Lab

Members not in Attendance

Ashley Boggs	- Sunshine House
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Additional Attendees

Texas Workforce Commission Staff:

Laurie Biscoe	- Deputy Director, Workforce Development Division
Patricia A. Gonzalez	- Director Workforce Policy
Phil Warner	- Child Care Policy and Program Supervisor
Regan Dobbs	- Child Care Policy and Program Analyst
Angeli Barnes	- Child Care Policy and Program Analyst
Kimberly Flores	- Child Care Policy and Program Analyst

Meeting Summary

Welcome and Introductions

Laurie Biscoe welcomed the workgroup members and thanked them for agreeing to participate in the workgroup. Ms. Biscoe asked each member to introduce themselves.

Following introductions, Ms. Biscoe described the nomination process for the workgroup and that workgroup members were selected based on the requirements of HB 376 with the intent of ensuring that membership represented as many geographic regions of the state as possible.

Ms. Biscoe explained that HB 376 did not provide for reimbursement for travel, therefore, the workgroup will be conducting several meetings through conference calls with an occasional in person meeting to provide opportunities to receive public input on the activities of the workgroup.



Overview of the Purpose of the Texas Rising Star (TRS) Workgroup/HB 376 (Attachment 2)

Ms. Biscoe provided a brief overview of the purpose of the TRS Workgroup as required by HB 376. The purpose is to make recommendations to TWC on proposed TRS criteria. Ms. Biscoe pointed out that HB 376 required that the workgroup hold its first meeting by November 1, 2013 and this meeting is being conducted ahead of that deadline. She also stated that HB 376 required that the workgroup submit recommendations to TWC by May 1, 2014 and that TWC propose TRS rules no later than September 1, 2014.

Review of Potential Workgroup and Subcommittee Components (Attachment 3)

Ms. Biscoe reviewed the draft outline of the workgroup and possible subcommittee components. The group agreed the subcommittee approach is a good strategy. Ms. Biscoe invited the participants to request other topics to be explored in more depth.

Discussion:

- Recommendation to standardize how TRS is implemented throughout the state by local workforce development boards.
- Standardization is addressed in the evaluator and mentor qualifications components and due to the provision in HB 376 to hire staff to provide technical assistance, the workgroup may want to address evaluator and mentor qualifications as soon as possible.
- Include more emphasis overall on quality improvement, in addition to quality rating.
- Focus on home quality improvement components and the need to get more home-based providers participating in TRS.

Election of a Presiding Officer

Ms. Biscoe then stated that HB 376 required the workgroup to select a presiding officer and opened up the floor for nominations.

Michele Adams nominated Reagan Miller for presiding officer and Elaine Zweig seconded the nomination.

John Gasko nominated Mary Clare Munger and Pat Smith seconded the nomination.

Ms. Biscoe requested that the participants email their vote to Laurie.Biscoe@twc.state.tx.us.

Discussion on other agenda items continued.

Subcommittee Structure and Stakeholders (Attachment 4)



Patricia Gonzalez proposed the use of subcommittees due to the extent of the work involved. She also proposed the development of a stakeholder's list for possible participation in subcommittees. Ms. Gonzalez invited the group to email stakeholder information to her or Ms. Biscoe.

Workgroup members were invited to volunteer to chair a subcommittee they were particularly interested in leading. Ms. Biscoe added that there is an expectation that workgroup members will serve on a subcommittee or more than one if they choose.

Reagan Miller mentioned that the subcommittee breakout was structured after the Early Learning Council's Infant –Toddler Early Learning Guideline workgroup structure. She asked the members for their input. Two ELC members, (John Gasko and Michele Adams) agreed with the structure of the subcommittees for stakeholder input.

Stakeholders will be invited to participate in the in-person meeting on October 9, to provide feedback and participate in breakout meetings for the subcommittees.

Discussion:

- Decide at a later date if other topics should be added to an existing subcommittee.
- Workgroup should discuss variations on mentoring and incentives across the state.
- Barriers for home providers in attaining certification. Many of the professional development activities are often only offered during the day and it is difficult for providers to get away from their home.

Review of Meeting Schedule and Timelines (Attachment 5)

Ms. Gonzalez provided a brief overview of the calendar of scheduled meetings. She explained there is no travel budget, so as many meetings as possible will be teleconferences. The group confirmed their availability for the next conference call scheduled on September 25, as well as the in person meeting October 9.

Discussion on Immediate/Urgent Action Items:

Mentor and Evaluator Qualifications (Attachment 6)

Ms. Biscoe stated that the mentor and staff qualifications – a requirement of HB 376 – will be discussed in more detail during the September 25th conference call.

A request was made to review the workforce board's current TRS evaluator and mentor qualifications. TWC staff will gather this information and provide to the workgroup. It was highly recommended that there should be inter-rater reliability for evaluator staff.

TRS Criteria Structure (Attachment 7)



Phil Warner (Program Supervisor, TWC Child Care Policy and Program Assistance) lead a brief discussion outlining the three basic QRIS structures: block, points, or hybrid. TRS is currently a points system.

Discussion:

- Suggestion to consider “emerging practices” as a transition for TRS criteria
- Comment that building blocks are discouraging for homes because some of the required criteria seem unattainable.

In closing, Ms. Biscoe added that there was an outstanding vote that had not been received and that the workgroup would be notified of the election outcome as soon as possible. After the meeting, the final vote was received, which resulted in a tie. Workgroup members were notified that another election would be scheduled.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:45pm