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PANHANDLE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
Panhandle Workforce Development Board's Child Care Advisory Committee
Minutes
April 22, 2026

The regular meeting of the Panhandle Workforce Development Board's Child Care Advisory Committee was held at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 22, 2026.

In order to accommodate Committee members who wanted to access the meeting remotely, a hybrid link was provided pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.127 with more than three counties in the State of Texas being represented on the Panhandle Workforce Development Board. This notice complies with Texas Government Code Chapter 551, Open Meetings Act, Section 551.041 (Notice of Meeting Requirements); Section 551.043 (Time and Accessibility of Notice Requirements); Section 551.053 (Notice Requirements of a Political Subdivision Extending into Three or More Counties) and Section 551.127 (Videoconference Call). The notice was filed at least three business days before the scheduled time of the meeting with the Secretary of State's Office, the Potter County Clerk's Office and was posted in the Administrative Office of the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission.

Committee members and individuals from the public who desired to attend in person, accessed the meeting at Workforce Solutions Panhandle, 3120 Eddy Street, Amarillo, Randall County, Texas.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Gracie Aragon
- Karleigh Cross
- Kristi Hanes
- Victoria Hughes
- Kodie McManus
- Omar Mendoza
- Kim Winegeart

MEMBERS ABSENT:

- Irma Burney
- Wendy Garza
- Karron Gilbreath

OTHERS PRESENT:

Cynthia Hixon, Workforce Solutions Panhandle
Trent Morris, Workforce Solutions Panhandle
April Slatter, Workforce Solutions Panhandle
Jill Goodrich, Opportunity School

PANHANDLE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD STAFF PRESENT:

Kathy Cabezuela
Leslie Hardin
Amanda Leal
Heather Reid
Marin Rivas

1. CALL TO ORDER
Ms. Hanes called the meeting to order and noted that quorum was present.
2. INITIAL PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD
None.
3. MINUTES
Members considered the approval of the minutes from the Committee's January 21, 2026 meeting. Ms. Winegeart moved to approve the minutes as presented. Ms. McManus seconded the motion; the motion carried.
4. APPOINTMENT TO THE CHILD CARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Members were asked to consider the recommendation of appointing Jill Goodrich to serve on the Committee as a Representative of Licensed child care centers participating in TWC's Child Care Services program. Ms. Winegeart moved to recommend the appointment of Ms. Goodrich to serve on the Committee. Ms. Cross seconded the motion; the motion carried.
5. SCHEDULING NEXT MEETING
Members were asked to determine the next scheduled meeting date and time. Members agreed that the Committee meet on Wednesday, July 22, 2026 at 1:30 p.m.
6. CHILD CARE SERVICES POLICY
Members were asked to consider the recommendation of the updates in the Child Care Services Policy 3.2 to the PWDB for final approval. Following discussion, Ms. Winegeart moved to recommend the updates to the PWDB for final approval. Ms. McManus seconded the motion; the motion carried.
7. CHILD CARE PROVIDER UPDATE
April Slatter, Workforce Solutions Panhandle Child Care Services Program Manager, provided an update on the Child Care Providers. No action by the Committee was required.
8. CHILD CARE PROGRAM PERFORMANCE UPDATE
April Slatter, Workforce Solutions Panhandle Child Care Services Program Manager, discussed the Child Care Program Performance. No action by the Committee was required.
9. CHILD CARE QUALITY ACTIVITIES
Cynthia Hixon, Workforce Solutions Panhandle Child Care Industry Support Specialist, provided an update on ongoing and upcoming Child Care Quality (CCQ) activities. No action by the Committee was required.

10. CHILD CARE ON-SITE VISIT

Members discussed the recommendation to hold one of the board meetings at a child care facility, allowing board members to tour the site and gain an overview of its operations. No action by the Committee was required.

11. OPEN DISCUSSION

Members discussed that the Amarillo Independent School District's is offering a new childcare option to their full-time employees. No action by the committee was required.

12. CURRENT MEMBERSHIP LIST

Informational item only. No action by the Committee was required.

13. FINAL PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

April Slatter, Workforce Solutions Panhandle Child Care Services Program Manager, reported that the Early Learning Inclusion Training and Education (ELITE) Initiative has will be launched in the Panhandle. This statewide effort was launched by TWC to strengthen inclusion for children with disabilities and challenging behaviors in Texas Childcare Program. No action by the committee was required.

14. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Ms. Hughes moved that the meeting adjourn. Ms. McManus seconded the motion; the meeting adjourned.