



**Friday, August 19, 2022 | 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
Zoom Meeting**

Agenda

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|-------|--|----------------------------|
| I. | Welcome & Approval of Minutes | B. Troyer |
| II. | Christian Community Action: Workforce In Action | W. Guido |
| III. | Workgroup Committee Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Family Childcare Network• Working Family Success: Financial Empowerment | S. Redondo
J. Dooley |
| IV. | Denton County Leadership Teams Update <ul style="list-style-type: none">• DCBHLT• DCHLT | S. Spencer
G. Henderson |
| V. | Backbone Support Update <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Business collaborative update | G. Henderson |
| VI. | Public Comment | B. Troyer |
| VII. | New Business | B. Troyer |
| VIII. | Adjourn | B. Troyer |

**Next Meeting Date:
Friday, September 16, 2022 | 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. | Hybrid
Meeting**



Friday, July 15, 2022 | 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Hybrid Meeting Agenda

I. Welcome & Approval of Minutes B. Troyer

Councilman Troyer welcomes everyone to the meeting and calls for the approval of the minutes from last month's WSLT meeting. Mr. Koontz motions, Mr. Emerson seconds, and the minutes are approved.

II. Team Member Introductions

Each member introduces themselves and states their role on the leadership team.

Councilman Troyer, a member of the Lewisville City Council, touches on relevant workforce issues he notices in Lewisville.

Ms. Dooley, Career and Financial Mobility Coordinator with the United Way of Denton County (UWDC), explains her new role and its function as backbone support to help the community achieve self-sufficiency.

Dr. Jeng, one of the original members of the team and the Director of the School of Library and Information Studies at Texas Women's University (TWU), speaks about the importance of libraries as touchpoints in the community.

Ms. Redondo and Ms. Orduna, coordinators with the Family Childcare Network (FCN), oversee the family childcare growth and expansion in Denton, Dallas, and Tarrant Counties. They support women entrepreneurs in creating and sustaining their own small business and help to create more affordable child care spots in the community. As the bilingual coordinator, Ms. Orduna oversees the Spanish-speaking population and strives to empower women to fill the gap in Denton County childcare deserts.

Ms. Redifer, executive director of Workforce Solutions for North Central Texas (WSNCT), shares her excitement to be part of the team, help find needed workers, and create onramps to the workforce. She shares that they are seeking approval from the Workforce Development Board and the Council of Government (COG) Board to approve a recommendation for new childcare and sub recipient who could potentially move the region forward in robust ways.

Ms. Spradley shares her role as an intern for Ms. O. Williams in Education, Workforce, and Housing Initiatives at UWDC.

Mr. Koontz, a founding member of the leadership team and a member of the Board of Directors at UWDC, describes his role in Corporate Risk with Wells Fargo as well as his passion for workforce topics, including Asset-Limited, Income-Constrained, Employed (ALICE) households.

Ms. C. Williams, the Economic Development Manager for the City of Lewisville, highlights the city's work with the corporate community and their desire to establish a business

retention and expansion program. She speaks about how collaboration with the Chamber of Commerce and WSNCT can help the city be a more connected resource for employers.

Ms. Shah, the Community Services Director for the City of Denton, touches on the department's efforts with homelessness housing and allocating the CDBG funds to help low-income families. She shares that the information provided in DCWSLT meetings assists the department with their needs assessments and contributes to their understanding of the gaps in the community. In addition, the Community Services department participates as a match for the TWC childcare program.

Mr. Emerson, the Economic Development Director for the City of Denton, discusses the city's role filling real estate, workforce, and housing gaps in the economy. He speaks about the challenges involved in recruiting outside businesses to bring more jobs, as well as his excitement to work with the leadership team to fill the gaps.

Ms. Douangdara, the Deputy Director for Community Services for the City of Denton, echoes everything Ms. Shah discussed.

Ms. Pritts, the Director of Marketing Communications with UWDC, shares about the advantages of "listening in" to the leadership team meetings.

Ms. Spencer, the Director of Health and Mental Health Initiatives with UWDC, elaborates on the connection between her work and the Workforce Team's efforts. Denton County has an oversized deficit regarding the number of mental health service providers in the area. She and Ms. O. Williams are coordinating to build the workforce of mental health providers in Denton County so that residents' needs can be better met.

Ms. O. Williams, the Director of Education, Housing and Workforce Initiatives, discusses engagement through a person-in-environment framework, illuminating the dimensions that contribute to housing stability, such as workforce and behavioral health. She weaves in narratives of client stories, exposing the barriers that continuously prevent people from working and achieving stability and self-sufficiency. Ms. O. Williams briefly discusses progress being made in creating a Denton County UpSkill workforce initiative, as well as the stakeholders involved in the endeavor.

Mr. Henderson, CEO of UWDC, tells the story of the DCWSLT regarding cross-sector, collaborative groups and the collective work of repairing systems in Denton County. He speaks about Mayors Housing the Homeless Task Force, the original community organization convened by City of Denton Mayor Chris Watts, that began to address effectively moving people from literal homelessness to self-sufficiency. This was the first opportunity for UWDC to work together with the City of Denton to pilot a homelessness leadership team.

Around the same time, the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute was working at the state level reviewing health and human services and assessing the effectiveness of mental health delivery systems in Texas. There became a need for a cross-sector leadership team focused on building a systematic housing crisis response system, equipped with strategies such as Coordinated Entry. This is now the Denton County Homelessness Leadership Team. Another team, the Mental Health Leadership Team, works to ensure that all people in Denton County have access to mental health services.

He returns to discussing the various gaps in Denton County: food insecurity, mental health services, and affordable childcare, and how these compromise the position of economic development partners. Mr. Henderson shares about the desire to fill these gaps, further

exacerbated during this time of high inflation, so that: (1) workers can earn and sustain an income aligned with Denton County basic living costs and (2) non-profits doing direct service work can be supported in a more effective system. The DCWSLT completes the bridge between nonprofits serving ALICE households and employers on the sidelines, but there are limits to what direct service nonprofits can do with limited grant funding and donations. He summons hope that the WSNCT and cross-sector collaboration can repair systems in Denton County and remove barriers for employers and workers.

Mr. Henderson refers to Emergency Rental Assistance Two (ERA 2), the last U.S. Treasury funded COVID-19 relief fund. ERA 2 follows Emergency Rental Assistance One (ERA 1), which ends on September 30, 2022. ERA 2 funds will be different than ERA 1 funds, as they will no longer be applicable only for rental and utility assistance for financial situations directly or indirectly impacted by COVID.

UWDC is working with the County Commissioner's court to start the \$7 million ERA 2 funding in mid-to-late August, which will better assist nonprofits in their case management endeavors. He alludes that childcare may be one of the allowable expenses under ERA 2, which would utilize the workforce childcare program to bridge childcare gap funding opportunities. Mr. Henderson also thinks that ERA 2 might fund adult workforce training opportunities that could manifest as North Central Texas College (NCTC) tuition.

Mr. Emerson suggests creating a document that explains the different roles people hold on the team, the voting members, and people on UWDC staff. Mr. Emerson wonders about labor market information, and Ms. Redifer offers to provide that information on behalf of WSNCT.

Ms. Redifer shares that WSNCT is hosting listening sessions with their new childcare sub recipient to better understand the gaps. These listening sessions will benefit the childcare industry, providing resources to childcare providers and funding regarding employer based childcare. Mr. Henderson suggests creating a pilot for employer based childcare, with matching funding from WSNCT, that could potentially become a model for other employers in Denton County.

Ms. Davis, the Business Development Administrator for the City of Denton, works for Mr. Emerson. She explains that the Denton Business Allies are utilizing all the organizations that provide support to businesses. Their goals are to support businesses using their combined programs and efforts and to connect businesses to the workforce. They are trying to build programming in response to issues that are problems for businesses. For example, Ms. Davis notices the lack of childcare that works with industrial businesses for shift changes.

III. Family Childcare Network (FCN) S. Redondo

Ms. Redondo and Ms. Orduna recently attended the Texas Rising Star conference. They learned that from now on, every childcare center or provider that accepts childcare subsidies must be on the Texas Rising Star scale. The conference provided an opportunity for Ms. Redondo and Ms. Orduna to network with Workforce Solutions of Greater Dallas and Workforce Solutions Tarrant County around solutions to support childcare providers as they prepare their center-based and home-based facilities for this shift.

The FCN are working on Pre-K partnerships funded by the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC). Ms. Redondo and Ms. Orduna are creating a model of the partnership to share with

childcare providers. The FCN will use this model to spark conversation about the benefits of engaging in a Pre-K partnership.

Ms. Redondo and Ms. Orduna are crafting a 24-hour childcare model to share with providers and identifying what a provider needs to transition to a 24-hour schedule. Stephanie Robinson from Texas Women's University (TWU) will assist with the business aspect of this endeavor.

The FCN now has 65 members. Ms. Orduna has been working hard to engage Spanish-speaking providers, and more have recently joined.

Ms. Redondo and Ms. Orduna conducted a successful check-in recently with TWC. They look forward to year three of the FCN and making the program beneficial and supportive to childcare providers.

IV. Working Family Success J. Dooley

Ms. Dooley has continued to meet with Cumberland Presbyterian Children's Home and work closely with administration to ensure program outcomes are met.

Her recent work with Denton County Friends of the Family has focused on creating a pre-assessment to determine clients' prior knowledge about financial topics and how best to serve them.

Ms. Dooley reports that she and Ms. O. Williams are considering building out a career and financial mobility course for the City of Lewisville, potentially to be utilized in library settings.

V. Behavioral Health Leadership Team. S. Spencer

Ms. Spencer shares that they are waiting for the Mental Health Navigators Program funding to begin. She and interns in the department are preparing for the referral and onboarding processes and working on resource lists and matters regarding insurance.

She reports that the \$300,000 grant for the Texas Veterans' Commission was renewed for the 2022-2023 year to provide financial assistance to Denton County veterans.

Ms. Spencer is thinking about ways to connect with local universities to address the need for more diverse mental health students and future mental health providers in Denton County.

Mr. Henderson speaks about how important data is for securing funding through grant writing and for communicating gaps through advocacy. He touches on partnerships the team is making with Denton County municipal law enforcement departments in Lewisville, Denton, and possibly Flower Mound, with the purpose of beginning to track calls that are related to mental health. Capturing this data could provide a better window into the unmet mental services need in Denton County.

VI. Homelessness Leadership Team (HLT) O. Williams

Ms. Williams shares her experience learning about Homelessness Leadership Team programs.

The HLT is working through the Point in Time Count (PIT Count) data and presentations (to be revealed in September), which demonstrate the head count of people experiencing literal homelessness nationwide.

She states that the Emergency Solutions Grant Coronavirus Round Two (ESG-CV) funding, used for Rapid Rehousing (RRH) and providing clients with up to six months of financial assistance, ends in September. She is helping case managers terminate clients and process how clients will sustain their housing that was secured for them. She notices the alignment between this process and workforce endeavors such as assisting clients, who may experience significant barriers and limitations, with obtaining employment.

VII. Backbone Support O. Williams

a. Business Collaborative Update

Ms. O. Williams met with Ms. Samples and Ms. C. Williams from the City of Lewisville. They discussed ways to make business meetings more efficient and effective, and Ms. O. Williams is considering conducting focus groups with certain industries rather than one-on-ones with individual businesses.

Ms. Jones, Resource and Development Director with UWDC, has recently been partnering with Ms. Davis, the Business Development Administrator for the City of Denton, to conduct the business meetings.

Ms. O Williams informs that UWDC did not get accepted to be one of Aspen Institute's Workforce Leadership Academies (WLA). Sixty entities applied and only six were chosen to submit a full application. She feels that it was helpful to see which entities applied; this provides information about which "hub" from the leadership team might be a strong applicant for the 2023 application cycle. Dr. Jeng advises the team to start thinking about the WLA early in the year to plan with a framework, theme, and emphasis in mind.

Dr. Jeng discusses the importance of the DCWSLT Strategic Plan as it demonstrates the vision and goals of the team, including the Collective Impact mission. She recommends viewing the documents and information from the [Collective Impact Forum](#). Dr. Jeng highlights [Leading From 'Languishing' to Beloved Community](#) by Reverend Dr. Starsky Wilson as an opportunity to reflect on our "gaps of engagement," the urgency of equity, and the obligation to continue working towards a socially just world.

VIII. Public Comments B. Troyer

Councilman Troyer shares one of his poignant experiences as a Lyft Driver.

WSNCT will propose an increase to their support services policy at the next Workforce Development board meeting, Ms. Redifer informs. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment and Training (SNAP E&T) funding and the Choices program funding could be increased to \$4,000 and would include utility assistance and shelter assistance. WSNCT is also working to increase the gas reimbursement.

IX. New Business B. Troyer

No new business.

X. Adjourn B. Troyer

The meeting adjourns at 9:57 a.m.

Next Meeting Date: Friday, August 19, 2022 | 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. | Hybrid Meeting

Ling Jeng

8/2/2022

Secretary Ling. H. Jeng