



**Friday, June 18, 2021 | 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
Virtual Meeting**

Agenda

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| I. Welcome | B. Troyer |
| II. Approval of Minutes | B. Troyer |
| III. Denton County Works | O. Mata Williams |
| IV. Workgroup Committee Updates | |
| • Workforce Navigator | R. Del Rio |
| • Childcare | S. Redondo |
| • Working Family Success- Financial Empowerment | A. McElroy |
| V. Denton County Leadership Teams Update | |
| • DCBHLT | |
| • DCHLT | E. Lusk |
| VI. Backbone Support Update | |
| • Denton ISD Back to School | O. Mata Williams |
| VII. Public Comment | B. Troyer |
| VIII. New Business | B. Troyer |
| • Strategic Plan workgroup | |
| IX. Adjourn | B. Troyer |

**Next Meeting Date:
Friday, June 18, 2021 | 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. | Virtual Meeting**



Denton County Workforce Success Leadership Team

8:30 am Friday, May 21, 2021

Virtual Meeting Over Zoom

Welcome and Introduction

Mr. David Koontz calls the meeting to order and welcomes everyone.

Nominating Committee

Dr. Del Rio informs that nominating committee met and Ms. Olivia has put together officers to vote on. Ms. Olivia introduces officers to fill vacancy for the secretary position. The chair of the committee Mr. David called for a vote regarding Dr. Del Rio staying in the Co-chair position. All in favor, none opposed. Mr. David called for a vote for Councilman Bob Troyer for the Chair position. All in favor, none opposed. Dr. Jeng as secretary was voted all in favor, none opposed. David Koontz will preside as Past Chair per the leadership team bylaws.

ED Farm Grant and Partnership Opportunity

Ms. Olivia Mata-Williams presents over an opportunity with ED Farm. Ms. Olivia explains the plan to sell it as a workforce development tool. Ms. Olivia explained that there is an upcoming meeting with Mr. Henderson and Ms. Julie Sills Molock to go over more questions. The Biden billion-dollar infrastructure deal could potentially mean \$111 million over 5 years to go to workforce development through United Way of Denton County for program development and partner agencies. Governor Abbott would have to sign off on this initiative.

Mr. Henderson provides justification over why we need expansion on workforce development. 70% of households reaching out for help are at 30% or below area median income, far below ALICE average. Only 14% of households we are helping are fully employed. Over half of people needing financial assistance are currently unemployed. The question will be what nonprofits need to do to aid during this time, which is workforce connectivity resources. Texas brings increased racial equity capacity. Mr. Henderson explains three challenges; to participate in proposal which would be around 15,000-25,000 out of United Ways budget which was approved and the second challenge being United Way Denton County is being cautious to not enter lobbying for the Biden Stimulus Plan and having an attorney to look into it. A third challenge is to get a republican governor to accept Biden's Stimulus Plan. The board has decided to give staff the ability to sign MOU and we have until end of June to make that decision.

Mr. Henderson informs everyone that the money would be released in grant form for nonprofits that specifically do workforce engagement. Mr. Henderson explains that anything that is an obstacle to gain employment would be part of the grant. The funds will also be used to hire a consultant from a bipartisan lobbying firm to focus on advocacy. There is a scenario where Governor Greg Abbott will reject the funds from the Biden Administration, and there are several ways it could play out.

Mr. Henderson opened the floor to questions. No further questions asked.



Workgroup Updates

Ms. Shelby states as they are continuing to work with 30 unlicensed family childcare providers, they also are working with TWU to get a self-paced module up to pursue their LLC. They met 1/3 of their quota for their licensed providers. They were awarded a Bright Spot due to their work with supporting family childcare providers and book grants.

Working Family Success and Financial Empowerment

Ms. Alicia McElroy announces this summer that they are going to be expanding financial services with 5 other nonprofits. Their biggest push is in the Lewisville community. They are focused on getting financial coaching services set up at CCA with the goal to transition that into our next Working Families Success Pilot Program. They also plan on exploring additional partners in Lewisville. They are waiting on grants to be approved to for the financial coaching coordinator position. They resubmitted the Wells Fargo Grant. This is split between financial coaching and VITA. They submitted requests from Lewisville. Ms. Alicia went over different funding opportunities available to the team. Financial services got dialed back due to covid. Of the 36 clients financial coaching clients, who all said they were able to avoid debt by utilizing this service.

Denton County Leadership Team Updates

Ms. Shanan Spencer updates the team on the behavioral health leadership team. They are seeing a significant increase in hospital services for crisis mental health needs. 1 in 3 people in Denton County will experience a mental health issue. They have recently started a substance use work group. The jail diversion workgroup with law enforcement have created a protocol for responding to mental health crisis. The children family systems work group is applying for a grant from Lewisville to pilot a mental health navigator program to assist in transitioning clients to services.

Homelessness Team

Ms. Elena Lusk reports they are working on gathering data from the point in time count. The barriers fund has assisted 308 households in 3 years. These funds assist in paying fees or for services that many funds will not cover like covering costs for IDs. A t-shirt fundraiser will be launching June 7th that will donate part of the profits to the barriers fund. Rapid rehousing providers are working to house homeless individuals in Denton County. Rapid Rehousing currently has 2.4 million dollars to utilize and they are working to house 150 people. The 100-day challenge to end veteran homelessness is currently in place. Elena pointed toward volunteer opportunities to assist the transition to housing veterans.

Backbone Support

Ms. Olivia Mata-Williams spoke about establishing a work group program now that unemployment benefits are being cut back. They are going to focus on creating workforce navigation to bridge gaps for clients to gain necessary skills to obtain employment. Ms. Olivia extended an offer to participate in the work group or if anyone would like to recommend or become a member. Dr. Del Rio offered to volunteer. Mr. Henderson answered questions posed by Dr. Jeng on what a workforce navigator is



and explained that it would highly benefit those with unique challenges to navigate how to get jobs and build skills. Ms. Olivia explained that they're in the middle of a design and development phase. Mr. Henderson explained that ALICE households have been driven to services due to covid and that they are in contact with United Way. Now is an opportune time to assist ALICE households. Dr. Jeng signed up to be on the team. Mr. Jason Moore offered his assistance on this team by coordinating with businesses to get people in the door for employment. They don't want to list all the jobs like Texas Workforce already does but make it simpler on the website. Mr. Garza states that they could help those with educational gaps and soft skill gaps to get employment and market them in a positive way. Mr. Garza explained that he works with 5 districts to help elevate people from a high school diploma equivalency to a certificate or higher.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourns at 9:38am. Our next meeting is scheduled for June 18th, 2021.

If you have something you would like on the agenda for our next meeting, please contact Olivia Mata-Williams: Olivia@unitedwaydenton.org

X

Dr. Ling Hwey Jeng
Secretary of DCWSLT