



Friday, July 21st, 2023 | 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.  
Virtual Meeting

**Agenda**

- |       |  |  |
|-------|--|--|
| I.    | Welcome & Approval of Minutes  | Bob Troyer- COL  |
| II.   | VITA   | Teddy Yan- UWDC  |
| III.  | Advocacy Update<br>Staff   | Shelby Redondo- UWDC   |
| IV.   | Workgroup Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Child Care</li><li>• Economic Mobility</li></ul>   | Shelby Redondo- UWDC<br>Dr. Del Rio- NCTC  |
| V.    | Denton County Leadership Teams Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• DCHLT</li><li>• DCBHLT</li></ul>   | Gary Henderson- UWDC<br>Shanan Spencer-UWDC  |
| VI.   | Backbone Support Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Family and Children Support</li><li>• Broadband Open Meeting</li><li>• Family Child Care Network</li><li>• Vocational Rehab</li><li>• Seniors in Denton County</li></ul> | Shelby Redondo- UWDC<br>Shelby Redondo- UWDC<br>Belinda & Courtney- UWDC<br>UWDC Staff<br>UWDC Staff |
| VII.  | Public Comment   | Bob Troyer- COL  |
| VIII. | New Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• New Meeting Time Announcement</li></ul>   | Bob Troyer- COL  |
| IX.   | Adjourn  | Bob Troyer- COL  |

**Upcoming Events & Dates:**

- Aug. 2<sup>nd</sup> : Texas Broadband Development Open Meeting at Lewisville Grand Theater (2:00pm-4:00pm)**
- Aug. 25<sup>th</sup>: Help Me Grow Tarrant County at United Way of Denton County (9:00am-11:00am)**
- Sep. 8<sup>th</sup> : Denton Kickoff Breakfast at UNT Gateway Center (8:00am-9:30am)**
- Sep. 15<sup>th</sup> : Lewisville Kickoff Breakfast at Hilton Garden Inn Lewisville (8:00am-9:30am)**

**Next Meeting Date:**

**Thursday August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023 | 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. | In-Person Meeting**





Denton County Workforce Success Leadership Team  
8:30 am Friday  
June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
Virtual Meeting Over Zoom

### **Welcome and Introductions**

Councilmember Troyer called the meeting to order at 8:30 am and the group approved the minutes from April and May meetings. Ms. Redondo introduces a new appointee, Scott Wood from North Texas Sherm who is on the North Texas Room Board of Directors and serves as a vice president of Training Solutions.

### **Strategic Plans**

The strategic plan for Denton County Workforce Success Leadership Team was approved.

### **Goodwill North Central Texas**

Ms. Redondo, Olivia and Gary met with representatives of Goodwill North Central Texas who is actively engaged in Tarrant County and are rebuilding their Denton County center off of Loop 288. She introduced Reginal Titus, the program manager of the North Texas Institute, and Jackie McClinton, the program manager at Workforce Development. The representatives introduced program services in education, training, and job placement, as well as A squared, an adult GED program in Tarrant County. Mandatory classes are held in person on Monday from 12:30- 3:30 p.m. All participants must have a Texas ID/ Driver's License and a Social Security Card. E squared is a formal GED program targeting ages 16- 24 years old, currently only available in Tarrant County. Participants go to school in the morning and work in a goodwill store in the afternoon, except for those experiencing barriers to be unable to work. The rehab services such as the pre-employment transition services for individuals who meet the definition of a "student with a disability" is available for ages 14-22 years old. The main categories for pre-ETS are job exploration, work-based training, workplace readiness training, self-advocacy, and counseling on post-secondary opportunities. Ms. McClinton also presents the Digital Skills Accelerator that is a free training and consists of basic computer skills such as internet, email, Windows OS, Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, and Excel. The Opportunity Acceleration program is a framework that supports job seekers and specializes in those experiencing homelessness, veterans seeking employment after returning from serving in the military, and those who are relaunching back into society after incarceration. All these services are available in Denton and Tarrant Counties.

Reginal Titus presents an overview of healthcare courses including Medical Billing and Coding, Medical Front Office, Pharmacy Tech, and Phlebotomy Tech. Second, IT courses like COMPT ITA A+ Certification Training, and COMPT TIA Network + Certification Training. Vocational training includes Professional Truck Driver Training and Forklift Training which is only held in Ft Worth. The enrollment process begins with scheduling and attending orientation, having a personal interview, complete enrollment forms, taking an assessment, and submitting all required documents. Students must be a US Citizen, have a High School Diploma, State ID/ Driver's License, and Social Security card. Financial Aid is available and assistance. NTI assists students in post graduate services such as employment advising, job searching skills, job club, job placement, job fair, and goodwill staffing services.

The NTI target population is people who are 18 and older. They have 14 people who will start the medical program and 14 students enrolled in their CDL program. Councilmember Troyer asks if there are any statistics of job placement. Reginal Titus states that they will have 20 graduates and about 60% will have a job post-



graduation. Also, he states that they have a 30-day window to place their students. Scott Wood asks what is needed for their CDL program to expand to Denton County. Reginal Titus states that they need a space for a classroom and states that he will e-mail Ms. Redondo with more specific details and details on real estate and costs. Ms. Redondo asks Jackie and Reginal as far as barriers whether it's through the opportunity accelerator, digital skills or the North Texas Education Institution what are the top barriers that they notice? Jackie states that transportation is a big barrier, and not having a GED is another. Reginal stated that not having a High School Diploma is a big barrier for them. Ms. Redondo also asks if they have financial assistance. Reginal Titus states that they have funders such as Ft Worth ISD and Texas Workforce Solutions. They have a payment plan program for their CDL program. Jackie states that they have a number of grants, and they are finishing up a grant to fund one of North Texas Institute Student.

### **Advocacy Update**

Ms. Redondo states there is still a waiting on some dates and topics for a special session and continuous communication will take place for any updates. She also states 2 bills have been signed and will be effective in September. One is HB 1755 which is the Lone Star Workforce Funding. Which there will be some grant opportunities for community colleges and nonprofits who are in that workforce area. The other bill is HB 2729 for pre-k partnerships which will now eliminate the certification requirement which will make more childcare centers and family childcare homes participate in that pre- k partnership. Gary adds that the State Legislature have Texas State Technical College the authority to open a presence inside of Denton County. There is no funding associated with that permission, and they have no site. He also states it will create a path forward to bring adults or certificate programs into the county.

### **Workgroup Updates**

Courtney states there FCCN is conducting the mid-year training audit is being worked on where they provide Family childcare network members the opportunity to catch up on their self-trainings. They have shipped out their second stem box orders to 60 FCCN members to encourage Texas Rising Star participation. There is a network meeting being held which will welcome new members and talk about the Texas Rising Star partner system. They closed this quarter with 97 members.

### **Homelessness Leadership Team Updates**

Olivia reports that the Lewisville Senior Gap Assistance program has been launched. June 8<sup>th</sup> the program went live. Funding is from Lewisville which consists of \$123,400. The program is held at the Lewisville Public Library on Tuesdays and Wednesdays in their computer lab. Most of the applicants that have come in so far are 80 years and older. Olivia also states that she has received personal letters from many senior citizens stating their lease has gone up 300 dollars. Affordable housing is important. She talks about the Texas Homeless Network. It is the continuum lead agency for homelessness. Olivia stated that she and Leia got picked to present their PIT data. Councilmember Troyer states that the city of Lewisville was working with a developer to build guaranteed affordable housing at 50%-80% AMI. It is a mixed development of townhomes, houses, and apartments near Old Town Train Station. There will be 600 units in the final development, 300 in the first phase.

### **Mental Health**

Shanan stated United Way was awarded a \$200,000 grant from the Texas Veterans Commission to provide clinical mental health counseling to veterans in Denton County. They are in the process of developing the program and looking for a lead therapist. This grant is effective July 1, 2023. Shanan states they had their first Ad Hoc meeting that was developed between their homelessness, leadership team and behavioral health



leadership team and the purpose of that work group is for them to really look at the overlap that happens between folks who are experiencing homelessness and who have behavioral health issues. The group will meet once a month and will continue to look for barriers and then hopefully find some ways to make the system better with the resources that they have.

#### **Backbone Support Child Care Update**

Ms. Redondo states that they have their childcare subsidy information session on Wednesday, June 20, 2023, at United Way Denton at 9:30 a.m. They will hear from Curantis who is the entity that oversees the childcare subsidy applications. Chris Watts stated he met with Stephanie Whitehurst who is the North Texas Director of Childcare Quality, and Patricia Looper who is the director of Quality Assurance and Operations. He states the good news is that Curantis is trying to do a cleanup from the previous contractor. By doing so they have been able to pull 1000 people off the waitlist for childcare. The bad news is data is a barrier for them and they have recognized that.

#### **Adjourn**

No new business was reported. The meeting is adjourned at 9:50 am. If you have something you would like on the agenda for our next meeting, please contact Shelby Redondo, [shelby@unitedwaydenton.org](mailto:shelby@unitedwaydenton.org).

*Ling Jeng*

Dr. Ling Hwey Jeng  
Secretary of DCWSLT