



# WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS GREATER DALLAS

## *President's Briefing—Item D Childcare/Childcare Quality*

At the May Board meeting, staff was directed to pursue additional information for child care quality options and explore a methodology for the distribution of tools (computers). The Board has procured several child care quality partners which include: ChildCareGroup, Easter Seals of North Texas, Launchability, and Dallas County Community College District. Dallas is approved to receive an additional \$1.6 million in child care quality dollars. This brings the total dollars available to approximately \$2 million which must be spent by December 2010. The following includes a menu of current quality options and a new quality proposal by the ChildCareGroup:

### *Professional Development— Child Care Providers*

**ChildCareGroup (CCG)** offers child care workers 1) core child care knowledge/skills training, 2) expanded content specialized training with mentoring, 3) specialized training towards earning Texas Rising Star, 4) health and safety certification, 5) teacher-family partnership for literacy learning, 6) professional development: preschool early language and literacy training and toddler TEEM training, 7) training of trainers and 8) website information of training opportunities funded with ARRA. Focused on building relationships with the 830 CCA providers, CCG coordinates information sharing and recruitment activities with DCCCD campuses (Eastfield, Brookhaven and Cedar Valley). Participants are coached toward enrolling in college credit courses and continuing education classes leading towards an Associate of Applied Science degree in Child Development, certifications such as Child Development Associate, college skills achievement awards and certificates, as well as continuing education units. Pre-school Early Language and Literacy training is available and presented by The State Center for Early Childhood Development/Children's Learning Institute making state of the art training available to child care providers which assists in enhancing school readiness skills of children in their care.

ChildCareGroup proposes the following ideas:

1. Offering 110 licensed child care centers one computer each with loaded software (Microsoft Office Professional and Pro-Care—which includes tracking of parent fees, child health records and immunizations). These providers would be selected based on a review of children by zip code. The highest numbers by zip code include: 75217 (712 children), 75243 (711 children), 75216 (708 children), 75228 (678 children), and 75241 (662 children).
2. Partner with LIFT – to offer basic adult literacy training for child care providers and possibly parents who receive child care subsidies. Child care providers with limited literacy skills need this support in order to teach basic language and pre-literacy skills to young children and also to ensure their safety.
3. Partner with Dallas After School Network to provide support/training for after school and summer providers to help them meet the newly developed licensing standards for after school providers (they will be released by the end of the summer)
4. Partner with Texas Association for Infant Mental Health to provide infant/toddler caregiver certification training
5. Texas Early Education Model (TEEM) expansion—provides a basis for early childhood education.
6. Assistance for additional Texas School Ready Certified child care centers- a program that certifies preschool education classrooms that effectively prepared their students for kindergarten.

**Dallas County Community College District (Eastfield College, Brookhaven and Cedar Valley College)** offers comprehensive child care training to enhance the qualifications and skills of child care providers throughout Dallas County. DCCCD offers college credit courses and continuing education classes leading towards the Associate of Applied Science degree in Child Development. Courses are offered on and off campus as well as using various methods of online instruction, webinars and hybrid classes. An internship or CO-OP course is included as part of each specialized series of credit courses, which allows the instructor to provide on-site technical assistance and coaching for each student.

**Launchability** offers within the Early Childhood Intervention program provides therapies, resources, and support to babies and toddlers with developmental delays or disabilities, to help them reach their maximum potential to be successful in school. In addition, training is provided to childcare providers through "Child Care Champions", a multi-faceted project that incorporates training, networking, technological resources and reflective practice into a comprehensive tool to enhance the quality of available child care.

**Easter Seals of North Texas** provides a comprehensive training and support program to equip regulated providers with the knowledge, skills and abilities to better care for children. Easter Seals of North Texas offers a four step process which includes: Outreach, Training/Technical Assistance, Creating and Sustaining Parent and Provider Support Activities, and Coordinating Transition Services and Inclusion Support.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Board approval to negotiate with the current child care quality contractors to explore innovative and non-duplicative quality strategies for the available quality dollars. We do not anticipate fully obligating the new funds. New recommendations will be presented to the Board in August along with ratification of contract amendments for this action.