

MINUTES

Workforce Solutions Coastal Bend – Youth Services Committee
Bayview Tower – Administrative Office – 400 Mann Street, Suite 800
Bayview Large Conference Room
Corpus Christi, Texas 78401

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6023106124?pwd=LGkM5d67Dtb6LmUIVkd2iPYqMpA2DX.1&omn=86751890609>

Toll-Free Call In

888 475 4499 US Toll-free

Meeting ID: 602 310 6124

Passcode: 205402

February 12, 2026 – 3:00 pm

Committee Members

Present

Dr. Leonard Rivera, Chair
Dr. Sandra Clement, Vice Chair
Jenna Hoffman
Michelle Lozano
Liza Wisner

Absent

Michelle Flowers

Others Present

Ken Trevino, Workforce Solutions
Alba Silvas, Workforce Solutions
Shileen Lee, Workforce Solutions
Christina Gonzalez, Workforce Solutions
Allyson Riojas, Workforce Solutions
Kristen Bily, Workforce Solutions
Vicki Stonum, Workforce Solutions
Celina Leal, Workforce Solutions
Tracy McAfee, Workforce Solutions
Ernest Everett, Workforce Solutions
Harvey Pina, Workforce Solutions
Sarahi Vasquez, Workforce Solutions
Catherine Cole, Workforce Solutions
Imelda Trevino, Workforce Solutions

Other Board Members Present

Marcia Keener

I. Call to Order

Chari Rivera called the meeting to order at 3:30pm.

II. TOMA Rules

Ms. Vasquez provided information on the Texas Open Meetings Act (TOMA) Rules after the introductions were given.

III. Roll Call

The roll call was called by Ms. Vasquez, and a quorum was present. Child Care Chair Marcia Keener was present.

IV. Announcement on Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest

Attention was called to the Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest and disclosures were requested by the Chair Rivera at this time. None were made.

V. Public Comments

Due to the new TOMA Rules, there is a laptop at meeting location 400 Mann Street; Suite 800 and is noted on Zoom call that it is Public as per TOMA Rules. The laptop is available and open to the public. Mr. Trevino recognized it was Mrs. Silvas 2nd year as Chief Operating Officer.

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VI. Discussion and Possible Action on Minutes of the September 10, 2025 Youth Services Committee Meeting

Chair Rivera moved to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2025 Workforce Services Committee meeting. Ms. Wisner motioned to approve the minutes, Ms. Keener seconded the motion and passed.

VII. Review of Committee Charter, Initiatives, and Strategic Board Goals for BCY2026

Chair Rivera presented the review of Committee Charter, Initiatives, and Strategic Board Goals for BCY2026. Dr. Rivera explained that the Youth Services Committee was responsible for monitoring and delivery of youth programs through our business career centers. Dr. Rivera reviewed Board Strategic Goals in place to work towards increasing educational and employment opportunities for the Coastal Bend region. Mr. Trevino added that it was important to know that these have been ratified over the years. There were no further comments or questions for Dr. Rivera. (included in page 7 of the February 17, 2026 packet).

Information Only:

1. Services to Youth Update BCY 2026 (Q1 Oct.-Dec.) (Q2 Jan.-March) (Q3 April-June) (Q4 July-Sept.)

a. First Quarter (Q1) Program Report:

Mrs. Cole presented information on the First Quarter Program Report, where she discussed information relating to all youth-related activities and information provided from October-December 2025. Mrs. Cole discussed the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Program outreach and community engagement into schools utilizing these programs, how they can be helped, along with adding education on top of training to these programs. Mrs. Cole recapped on the Rural Schools Innovation Zone partnership, as well as the WIO Youth Team community engagements during the month of October, November, and December 2025. Mrs. Cole discussed Elevate 361 collaboration in breaking barriers to employment, and the Youth Job Fair. (included in pages 8-12 of the February 17, 2026 packet).

b. First Quarter Performance

Mr. Reyna discussed First Quarter Performance enrollments for October, November, and December. Mr. Reyna explained that there is historically a slight dip in December and January before Quarter 2 and highlighted an increase in January enrollments already. Robert explained why they target for out of school youth versus in school youth, as he expressed under WIO rules and regulations, they are required to fiscally serve a proportionally higher amount of the out of school youth population. Mr. Reyna discussed primary partnerships such as Posture Youth and DFPS, and the re-engaging of those partnerships. Mr. Reyna explained that in Quarter 4, they exceeded 113% in employed and reported wages and expect to see them continue to improve. Mr. Reyna expressed that they are currently meeting their measurable skills gained performance at 96%. Dr. Clement discussed paraprofessional training, as it is certification that can be acquired without a degree. Ms. Hoffman asked Mrs. Cole how the youth was being reached, in which Mr. Reyna explained physical outreach, social media, and the mobile unit were good avenues used to reach the youth community. (included in page 13 in the February 17, 2026 packet).

2. Services to Special Community Populations

a. Student HireAbility Navigator

Mrs. Cole discussed information Services to Special Community Populations, beginning with the Student HireAbility Navigator, which included Quarter 1's National Disability Awareness Month 80th Anniversary, along with the YOU! Inspire Symposium and it's participating employers. (included in page 14 in the February 17, 2026 packet).

b. Foster Care Youth

Mrs. Cole discussed Services to Special Community Populations with Foster Care Youth for Quarter 1, where she explained there was a collective donation from not only the Workforce Board, but contractors such as C2 GPS, and totaled \$1,000 that they provided to the Foster Youth Transitioning Center, BCFS. Mrs. Cole expressed their great relationship with BCFS, other partnering agencies such as Foster Angels and DFPS Pal's. Mrs. Cole explained how this provided 25 resource packets for transitioning foster youth. Dr. Clement asked Mrs. Cole if there were foster students from other rural area, and if so, what that would look like. Mrs. Cole answered by explaining they utilize the same map that BCFS and DFPS look at, which goes past the Coastal Bend to include areas such as the Valley and Laredo. Mrs. Clement praised Mrs. Cisneros and Mrs. Cole for providing a warm handoff to these children throughout this process. (included in page 15 in the February 17, 2026 packet).

3. Program and Education Engagements

a. Texas Internship Initiatives

Mrs. Cole presented information on the Program and Education Engagement with Texas Internship Initiatives (TII), where she expressed this is in partnership with Education to Employment Partners (E2E). Mrs. Cole expressed for this program they had 19 enrollments and expressed school districts going into IBC's as a great way to earn funding for their districts opposed to TII that held heaviness in being able to earn funding through the program. Mrs. Cole expressed through their TII externship program, some are 6 weeks, a couple months, that are paid by the employer wages and employ them at about 20-30 hours. (included in page 16 in the February 12 2026 packet).

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b. Tri-Agency Regional Convener Grant

Ms. Cole presented Program and Education Engagement updates on the Tri-Agency Regional Convener Grant during Quarter 1 and explained the transfer Virtual Reality opportunity to provide regional advising to all middle school students in the Coastal Bend area. Mrs. Cole explained that Mr. Rodriguez was deploying that too out to the school districts and noted that they want to provide school districts with a report on student's interest and where they are landing. Ms. Cole explained there is about 8 weeks' worth of curriculum that is developed for career readiness for educators, at no cost to them, to be able to track usage. (included in page 17 in the February 17 2026 packet).

c. Policy Review Schedule

Mr. Rodriguez went over the Program and Education Engagements with the Career & Education Outreach program, where he described essential skills training, resume work, and interviewing skills that take part in the program other than the VR aspect in Quarter 1. Mr. Rodriguez described working with 12 schools and 9 districts, and described new partnerships with Port Aransas, Flour Bluff, Rivera, and Ingleside ISD and their support with these programs. Mr. Rodriguez explained that 950 careers were explored this quarter 1, with the ratio being 1:0 career exposure to students, essentially 2 careers per person that they get to experience with the headset. (included in page 18-19 in the February 17 2026 packet).

4. Celebrating Participant Success

Mrs. Cole began by highlighting success story Lauren Flores, who participated in the Summer Earn and Learn (SEAL) program, and was under the Student HireAbility Navigator program of 2025, where she was placed to work with CASA of the Coastal Bend, which was her first job. Mrs. Cole described that while placed at this worksite, her manager communicated Lauren's great work ethic, and successfully completed her 5 week SEAL experience, where she began Business Administration Classes at Del Mar College in September, where she was recommended into the WIOA School Youth Program and began working with the Council of Governance (COG) as an Office Assistant. Mrs. Cole shared that they have received positive feedback from her supervisors, and express Lauren to be an asset and was offered a permanent position with the COG in December of 2025. (included in page 20 in the February 17, 2026 packet).

VIII. Adjournment

Chair Rivera called for adjournment of the meeting, and the meeting was adjourned at 4:43pm.

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