



Youth Services Committee Meeting

February 17, 2026
3:30 pm

Bayview Tower
400 Mann Street, Suite 800
Bayview Large Conference Room
Corpus Christi, TX

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Toll Free Dial-In

888 475 4499 US Toll-free

Meeting ID: 602 310 6124

Passcode: 205402

www.workforcesolutionscb.org

Strategic Goals

- Establish and Strengthen Partnerships
- Effectively/Efficiently Target Rural Area Services
- Increase Workforce Awareness
- Expand Innovative Services to Business
- Explore New Revenue Opportunities
- Improve Internal Efficiencies
- Refine Board Culture

Mission Statement

At Workforce Solutions of the Coastal Bend, we invest in our regional economic success through access to jobs, training, and employer services.

Value Statement

Accountability – We address our customers and co-workers in a positive manner that elevates their spirit and creates a professional, supportive workplace for staff, job seekers, and employers.

Teamwork – We combine our individual talents for the benefit of the mission and common goals leveraging our unique abilities and contributions.

Trust – We consistently deliver on our commitments to our customers and co-workers to establish strong, sustainable relationships.

Integrity – We are honest, supportive, candid in addressing difficult issues, and willing to share success to demonstrate respect and consideration for our customers and co-workers.

Tenacity – We resist giving up when the going gets tough and support our customers and co-workers in seeing that issues are resolved and the job gets done.

Understanding – We are serious and passionate about delivering our services with compassion and empathy.

Dignity – We interact with customers and co-workers professionally regardless of their backgrounds, experience, and circumstances to reflect our commitment as public servants.

Enthusiasm – We recognize the importance and value of our work and know that every day we have the opportunity to help build the economic success of our regional economy.

Disclosure and Declaration of a Conflict of Interest

Conflicts of Interest and the appearance of Conflicts of Interest shall be reported according to Board Administrative Policies #1.0.101.00 - Standards of Conduct and Conflict of Interest; and #1.0.105.00 - Reporting Conflict of Interest, Fraud, and Abuse, which were adopted by the Board of Directors on April 26, 2007.

Conflict of Interest – A circumstance in which a Board Member, Board employee, Contracted Provider, or Contracted Provider's employee is in a decision-making position and has a direct or indirect interest, particularly a financial interest, that influences the individual's ability to perform job duties and fulfill responsibilities.

Appearance of a Conflict of Interest – A circumstance in which a Board Member, Board employee, Contracted Provider, or Contracted Provider's employee's action appears to be:

- influenced by considerations of one or more of the following: gain to the person, entity, or organization for which the person has an employment interest, substantial financial interest, or other interest, whether direct or indirect (other than those consistent with the terms of the contract), or;
- motivated by design to gain improper influence over the Commission, the Agency, the Board, or the Board's Chief Elected Officials.

Code of Ethics

The Workforce Solutions Code of Ethics is a guide for dealing with ethical matters in the workplace and in our relationship with our clients and members of the community.

- We believe in respect for the individual.
- We believe all persons are entitled to be treated with respect, compassion and dignity.
- We believe in openness and honesty in dealing with the general public, the people we serve, and our peers.
- We believe in striving for excellence.
- We believe in conducting ourselves in a way that will avoid even the appearance of favoritism, undue influence or impropriety, so as to preserve public confidence in our efforts.



Youth Services Committee Meeting

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=LGkM5d67Dtb6LmUIVkd2iPYgMpA2DX.1&omn=86751890609>

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Tuesday, February 17, 2026 – 3:30 pm

AGENDA

Page

- I. Call to Order: *Dr. Leonard Rivera, Chair*
- II. TOMA Rules: *Sarahi Vasquez*
- III. Roll Call: *Sarahi Vasquez*.....3
- IV. **Announcement on Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest**
Any Conflicts of Interest or Appearance of a Conflict of Interest with items on this agenda shall be declared at this time. Members with conflicts will refrain from voting and are asked to refrain from discussion on such items. Conflicts discovered later in the meeting shall be disclosed at that time. Note: Information on open meetings is included at the end of this agenda.
- V. **Public Comments**
- VI. **Discussion and Possible Action on Minutes of the September 10, 2025 Youth Services Committee Meeting**.....4-6
- VII. **Review of Committee Charter, Initiatives, and Strategic Board Goals for BCY 2026**.....7
- VIII. **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: *Catherine Cole & Monica Cisneros*.....8-12
 - b. First Quarter (Q1) Performance: *Catherine Cole*.....13

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Equal Opportunity Employer/Program

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Deaf, hard-of-hearing or speech impaired customers may contact Relay Texas: 1.800.735.2989 (TDD) and 1.800.735.2988 or 7-1-1 (voice)

(cont. page 2)

2. Services to Special Community Populations	
a. Student HireAbility Navigator: <i>Imelda Trevino</i>	14
b. Foster Care Youth: <i>Catherine Cole</i>	15
3. Program & Education Engagements	
a. Texas Internship Initiatives: <i>Catherine Cole</i>	16
b. Tri-Agency Regional Convener Grant: <i>Catherine Cole</i>	17
c. Career & Education Outreach Program: <i>Luis Rodriguez</i>	18-19
4. Celebrating Participant Success: <i>Catherine Cole</i>	20

IX. Adjournment

Note: Except for expressly authorized closed sessions, meetings, discussions, and deliberations of the Board or Committees will be open to the public. Voting in all cases will be open to the public. Board members are advised that using personal communication devices to discuss Committee and Board business during the meeting may be a violation of the Texas Open Meetings Act. Such communications also may be subject to the Texas Public Information Act.

Closed Session Notice. PUBLIC NOTICE is given that the Board may elect to go into executive session at any time during the meeting in order to discuss matters listed on the agenda, when authorized by the provisions of the Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code. In the event the Board elects to go into executive session regarding an agenda item, the section or sections of the Open Meetings Act authorizing the executive session will be publicly announced by the presiding officer.

Texas Open Meetings Act (TOMA). All public meetings are required to follow all parts of the Texas Open Meetings Act. Therefore, we will be holding this meeting both in-person at our **Bayview Tower – Administrative Office, Bayview Large Conference Room** and on **ZOOM**. With this format, comes some changes to what is required of board members and the public.

- The presiding member (Chair or designee) must be in-person at the meeting location, 400 Mann Street, Suite 800, Corpus Christi, Texas.
- Board members must be visible on camera in order to count toward the quorum and in order to vote.
- The public and all presenters will need to be visible while presenting information.

This hybrid meeting format will allow us to meet TOMA rules, while still ensuring the safety of those who must attend.

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**Youth Services Committee
Roll Call Roster
February 17, 2026
(4 = Quorum)**

_____ Dr. Leonard Rivera, Chair

_____ Dr. Sandra Clement, Vice-Chair

_____ Michelle Flower

_____ Jenna Hoffman

_____ Michelle Lozano

_____ Liza Wisner

Signed

Printed Name

MINUTES

Workforce Solutions Coastal Bend – Youth Services Meeting
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/81244118817?pwd=vhekjZ1ELqdPuLxpdl2zPxUNnb6UO.1>

Toll-Free Call In

888 475 4499 US Toll-free

Meeting ID: 812 4411 8817

Passcode: 506773

Wednesday, September 10, 2025 - 3:00 pm

Committee Members

Present

Lisa Wisner, Chair
Michelle Lozano

Absent

Sandra Clement
Michelle Flower

Others Present

Ken Treviño, Workforce Solutions
Alba Silvas, Workforce Solutions
Shileen Lee, Workforce Solutions
Janet Neely, Workforce Solutions
Catherine Cole, Workforce Solutions
Imelda Munoz, Workforce Solutions
Milanda Ballesteros, Workforce Solutions
Luis Rodriguez, Workforce Solutions
Ruben Aceves, Workforce Solutions
Zachary James, Workforce Solutions
Richard Holland, RH
Monica Cisneros, C2GPS, LLC
Marcia Keener, Board Member
Dr. Leonard Rivera, Board Member
C. Michelle Unda, Board Member
Jesse Gatewood, Board Member

Other Board Members Present

Raynaldo De Los Santos
Gloria Perez

I. **Call to Order**

Ms. Wisner called this meeting to order at 3:02pm.

II. **TOMA Rules**

Ms. Neely provided information on the Texas Open Meetings Act (TOMA) Rules.

III. **Roll Call**

The roll was called and a quorum was present. The following board members were in attendance:

- Michelle Unda
- Marcia Keener

- Dr. Leonard Rivera
- Mr. Jesse Gatewood was present online via Zoom.

IV. Announcement on Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest

Attention was called to the Disclosure and Declaration of Conflict of Interest and disclosures were requested by the chair Ms. Wisner at this time. None were made. Attention was called that due to the new TOMA rules a laptop is set up at 400 Mann Street, Suite 800 and is listed on the zoom call as Public. The laptop is available and open to the public.

V. Public Comments

No Public Comments were made.

VI. Discussion and Possible Action on Minutes of the May 7, 2025 Board of Directors Meeting

Dr. Rivera moved to approve the minutes of the May 7, 2025, Youth Services Committee Meeting. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Keener and passed.

VII. Items for Discussion and Possible Action 1. Board Policy # 4.1.103.03 – Youth Eligibility Criteria

Mrs. Cole presented information on the Board Policy # 4.1.103.02 – Youth Eligibility Criteria (included on pages 7-9 of the September 10 agenda packet). Ms. Cole discussed updates to policy. Dr. Wisner moved to approve the updates to the policy. Dr. Rivera seconded the motion. There were none opposed and the motion passed.

VIII. Information Only:

1. Services to Youth Update BCY2025 (Q1 Oct.-Dec.) (Q2 Jan.-Mar.) (Q3 Apr.-Jun.) (Q4 Jul.-Sept.)

a. Third Quarter (Q3) Program Report

Ms. Cole provided information on the Third Quarter (Q3) Program Report updates to the Workforce Information and Opportunity Act (WIOA) internships and their progress. Ms. Cisneros provided information on youth enrollment and services in Q3 (included on pages 10-13 of the September 10 agenda packet).

b. Third Quarter (Q3) Performance

Ms. Cole provided information on the Third Quarter (Q3) Performance updates regarding Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) WIOA Youth Measures (included on pages 14-15 of the September 10 agenda packet). Geri Escobar provided tracking information for credentials and employments for Youth Measures.

2. Services to Special Community Populations

a. Student HireAbility Navigator

Ms. Cole presented information on the Summer Earn and Learn Event, SEAL Signing Day Event, disability awareness training for employers, and other upcoming symposiums and events (included on pages 16-17 of the September 10 agenda packet).

b. Foster Care Youth

Ms. Cole and Ms. Cisneros presented information on strengthening connections with Foster Youth Referrals with Baptist Child and Family Services (BCFS), as well as the upcoming Aging Out seminar and the TWC Foster Conference, (included on page 18 of the September 10 agenda packet).

3. Program & Education Engagements

a. Texas Internship Initiatives

Ms. Cole presented information on Texas Internship Initiatives (included on page 19 of the September 10 agenda packet).

b. Educator Externship

Ms. Ballesteros reported on the Educator Externship (included on pages 20-21 of the September 10 agenda packet).

c. Tri-Agency Regional Convener Grant

Ms. Cole presented information on reestablishing the Pathways Leadership Team, implementation on Career Pathways Dashboards, and convening on the Texas Regional Pathways Network for the Tri-Agency Convener Grant (included on page 22 of the September 10 agenda packet).

d. Career & Education Outreach Program

Luis Rodriguez presented information on school engagements from April-June 2025 for the Career and Education Outreach program (included on page 23-24 of the September 10 agenda packet).

4. *Celebrating Participant Success*

Ms. Cole presented information on WIOA Youth Participant, Madison Garza, and their training completion at Blue Diamond Welding (included on page 25 of the September 10 agenda packet).

IX. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:23 pm.

ITEM FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

VII. Review of Committee Charter, Initiatives, and Strategic Board Goals of BCY 2026

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Youth Services Committee Charter:

YOUTH SERVICES

Responsible for monitoring all issues associated with the delivery of youth programs through the business and career centers and the quality of those services to the youth. Review issues associated with youth programs and services and make recommendations to the Board. Responsible for reviewing all issues associated with youth programs and services with the workforce training programs. Review issues associated with alternative learning programs, and review the quality issues of all these programs.

Agenda topics may include, but are not limited to: Services to Youth, Services to Special Community Populations, Programs and Education Engagements, and Celebrating Participant Success.

Strategic Board Goals

Established in 2010, the strategic board goals were set to work towards increasing educational and employment opportunities for the people of the Coastal Bend region, including youth and those with barriers to employment.

1. Establish and Strengthen Partnerships
2. Effectively/Efficiently Target Rural Area Services
3. Increase Workforce Awareness
4. Expand Innovative Services to Business
5. Explore New Revenue Opportunities
6. Improve Internal Efficiencies
7. Refine Board Culture

RECOMMENDATION

The Youth Services Committee consider committee charter, initiatives and board strategic goals for BCY 2026; and take any appropriate action on the information presented.

INFORMATION ONLY

VIII – 1a. Services to Youth Update BCY2026- First Quarter (Q1) Program Report

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Board Team Members will provide information regarding all youth related activities; information provided is for scope of October – December 2025.

WIOA YOUTH Program:

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) is designed to help job seekers access the employment, education, training, and support services needed to succeed in today's labor market, while also connecting employers with a skilled workforce. Participants in the WIOA Youth program are classified as either In-School Youth (ISY), ages 14–21, or Out-of-School Youth (OSY), ages 16–24. As directed by the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) and the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), at least 75% of WIOA Youth funding must be allocated to OSY participants, and a minimum of 20% of the total WIOA Youth budget must be dedicated to providing Work Experience (WE) opportunities.

○ **YOU Program ISD Engagements**

- **High School & Career Fairs:** During Q1, multiple visits were made to ISDs by the WIOA Youth Program team to conduct outreach and engagements to in-school youth population.

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| ▪ Flour Bluff HS | ▪ Banquete HS |
| ▪ Taft HS | ▪ London HS |
| ▪ Beeville HS | |

○ **Outreach and Community Engagement**

- **Healthcare Internship Fund:** WFSCB, in partnership with the Rural Schools Innovation Zone (RSIZ), was awarded \$99,438 to support 16 youth from RSIZ schools in paid healthcare internships. These internships provide hands-on experience with local healthcare employers across the southern rural Coastal Bend region, helping students explore career pathways while strengthening the region's future healthcare workforce.
 - To date, 13 youth have participated in healthcare internships throughout Christus Spohn Hospitals located in Kingsville, Alice, and Beeville.
 - These internships have been between 6-10 weeks in length with \$15 per hour wages funded through by the grant.
 - With the grant ending in May 2026, WIOA Youth Team are working with the healthcare school Instructor to identify 3 students who would like to participate in a paid healthcare internship.
- **October 2025:** The WIOA Youth Team provided presentations and participated in community engagements on behalf of the YOU program during the month of October.
 - La Retama Library
 - Elevate 361 – weekly visits (2-3 days)
 - Youth Fall Job Fair at Elevate 361
 - USS Lexington – Lunch and Learn

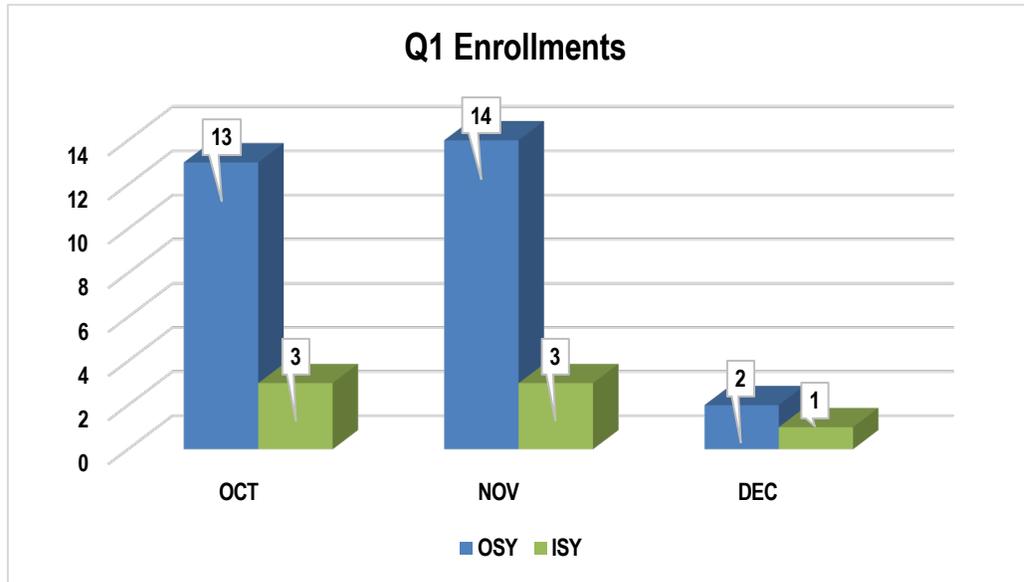
- **November 2025:** The WIOA Youth Team provided presentations and participated in community engagements on behalf of the YOU program during the month of November.
 - Portland Chamber of Commerce - YOU program flyer drop-off & YOU resource table
 - Duval County Court House – YOU program flyer drop-off & YOU resource table
 - Woodsboro City Hall – YOU program flyer drop-off & YOU resource table
 - Mathis City Hall – YOU program flyer drop-off & YOU resource table
 - Justice of the Peace Riveria TX – YOU program flyer drop-off & YOU resource table
 - Palmera Mall – YOU program flyer drop off.
 - Goodwill – YOU program flyer drop off.
- **December 2025:** The WIOA Youth Team provided presentations and participated in community engagements on behalf of the YOU program during the month of December.
 - Elevate 361 – weekly visits (2-3 days)
 - Mobile Unit outreach
 - Premont City Hall – YOU program flyer drop-off & YOU resource table
 - Odem City Hall – YOU program flyer drop-off & YOU resource table
 - Pader Island Baptist Church – YOU program flyer drop-off & YOU resource table
 - Portland Chamber of Commerce – YOU program flyer drop-off & YOU resource table
 - Freer City Hall – YOU program flyer drop-off & YOU resource table
 - Woodsboro City Hall – YOU program flyer drop-off & YOU resource table
 - Duval County Court House – YOU program flyer drop-off & YOU resource table
- **Elevate361**

Workforce Solutions Coastal Bend and Elevate 361 collaborate to break down barriers to employment for youth ages 16–24, particularly those facing challenges such as limited formal education, minimal work experience, basic skills deficiencies, housing instability, or lack of access to training. Through coordinated efforts that include job readiness workshops, career advising, and employment placement services, this partnership has become an invaluable resource for both young adults and local employers. Together, Workforce Solutions Coastal Bend and Elevate 361 are strengthening the Coastal Bend workforce by equipping young people with the tools and opportunities needed for long-term success. This collaboration has also generated meaningful social impact by expanding access to employment pathways for underserved populations who might otherwise be left behind.

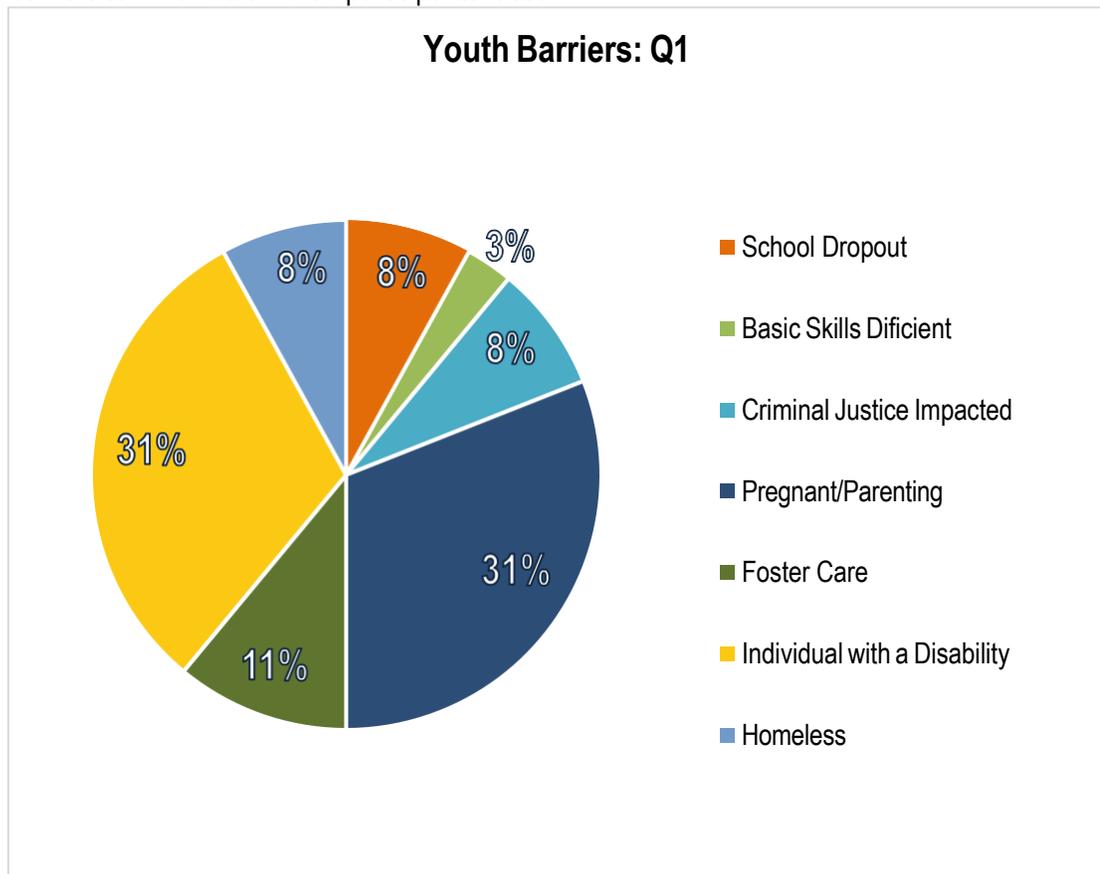
 - Youth Job Fair, October 22 – In partnership with Elevate 361, a job fair for opportunity youth was held at the reengagement center. Five employers participated in networking and interviewing young adults seeking employment opportunities. 30 young adults attended the job fair and were offered 1:1 resume writing assistance along with on-the-spot pre-screening for WIOA Youth program enrollment.
 - Referrals received from Elevate 361(QTR 1)
 - 22 customers (active)
 - 03 customers enrolled in our YOU program
 - Top 3 Barriers for Elevate 361 customers
 - Needing a HS Diploma or GED
 - Basic skills deficiency
 - Facing homelessness
 - Top 3 Services for Elevate 361 customers
 - Intensive job search assistance
 - Work experience
 - Support services

○ **Youth Enrollments**

- 36 (7 ISY and 29 OSY) youths were enrolled into the WIOA program during October – December 2025.
 - During the month of November, WFSCB was ranked #2 out of the 28 Texas Workforce Boards in Youth enrollments.

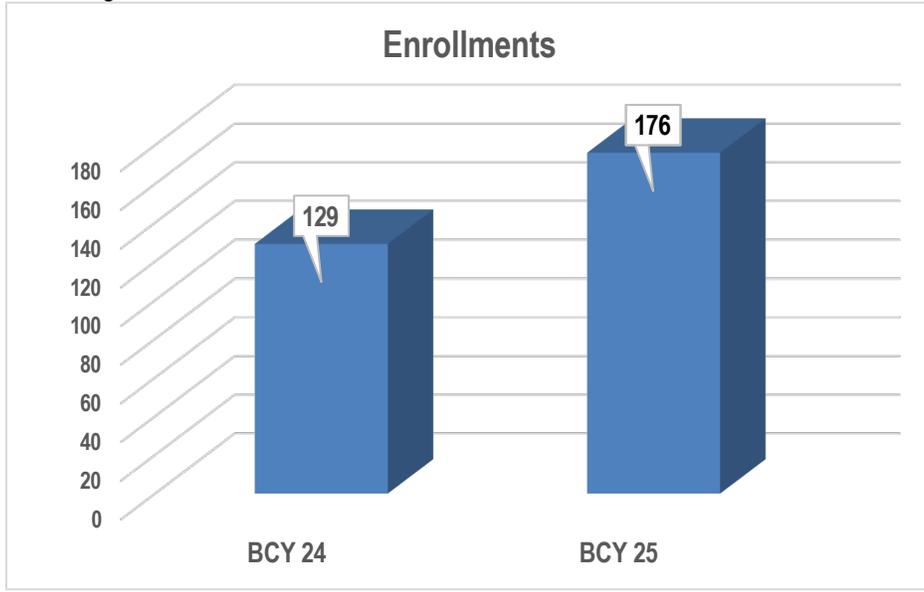


- As WIOA Youth Program promotes removing barriers for youth, the graphic below reflects the barriers to which 36 enrolled participants faced.

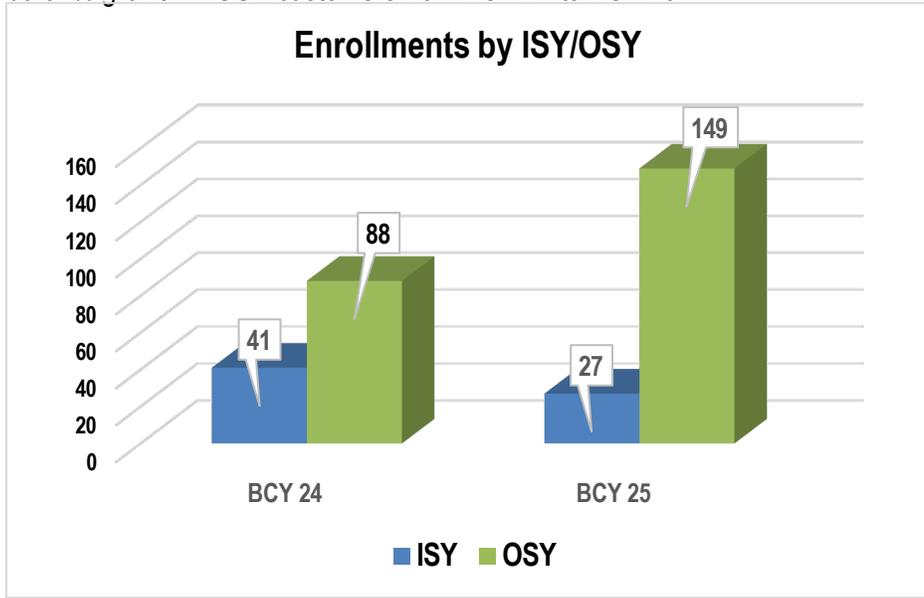


○ **YTD Enrollment Overview**

- 36.43% growth in enrollments totals from BCY 24 to BCY 25.



- 69.32% growth in OSY customers from BCY 24 to BCY 25.



○ **Services to WIOA Youth Customers During Q1 BCY 26**

CENTER	ACTIVE CASES
Alice	13
Beeville	24
Kingsville	6
Sinton	3
Staples	1
Mission Plaza	53
Total	100

WORK EXPERIENCE	
CENTER	PARTICIPANTS
Alice	3
Beeville	5
Kingsville	1
Staples/Mission	27
Total	36

YOU PROGRAM EXPENSES	
ACTIVITY	AMOUNT
Training Scholarships	\$9,012.65
Work Experience	\$97,376.75
Support Services	2,061.77
Incentives	\$250.00

TRAINING PARTICIPANTS	
PROGRAM	CUSTOMERS
EMT-B	2
Total	2

INFORMATION ONLY

VIII – 1b. Services to Youth Update BCY2026- First Quarter (Q1) Performance

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Board Professionals will provide information regarding all youth related activities; information provided is for scope of October – December 2025.

Performance Updates:

- As of January 16th, October is the latest MPR publication by Texas Workforce Commission (TWC).
- Measurable Skills Gains is the only performance measure currently not meeting its target, a trend that is consistent across many sister boards. Historically, this measure improves over time as report cards and progress reports are generated later in the academic semesters.
 - With a 26.22 increase in performance from September to November, the team is working to continue to increase the performance measure.
 - Board and Contract Program team have met to review the MSG extract and identify customers in the denominator who could have reported credentials, progress reports, or other measurable documents to show a positive MSG.

MPR Reporting	Employed/Enrolled Q2 Post-Exit	Employed/Enrolled Q4 Post-Exit	Median Earnings Q2 Post-Exit	Credential Rate	Measurable Skills Gains
Sept (Q4)	98.87%	116.29%	121.39%	101.49%	23.55%
EOY 25	103.37%	103.70%	133.18%	120.32%	117.53%
Oct (Q1)	98.87%	116.29%	121.39%	101.49%	48.13%
Nov (Q1)	98.87%	116.29%	121.39%	101.49%	49.77%

EOY = End of Year

INFORMATION ONLY

VIII – 2a Services to Special Community Populations-Student Hireability Navigator

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Board staff will provide information regarding all services to special community populations related activities, information provided for the scope of October – December 2025.

Student HireAbility Navigator (SHN):

- Tx HireAbility Forum and Lex Frieden Employment
 - SHN attended the Texas HireAbility Forum and the Lex Frieden Employment Awards held at Morgan’s Wonderland in San Antonio. The event celebrated employers who demonstrated excellence in hiring and retaining employees with disabilities and recognized workplace practices that positively impacted these employees. The Texas HireAbility Campaign raised awareness of the value and contributions of people with disabilities in the workforce.
- National Disability Employment Awareness Month, October 2025
 - WFSCB recognized the 80th anniversary of NDEAM 2025, celebrating the positive impact of people with disabilities in the American workforce. The observance began in 1945 as a weeklong national recognition of the contributions of individuals with physical disabilities. In 1988, Congress designated it as NDEAM, expanding to create opportunities for people with disabilities—including those with mental health conditions and other nonobvious disabilities—within the workforce. Corpus Christi Mayor Paulette Guajardo signed a proclamation.
- YOU Inspire Symposium
 - WFSCB celebrated NDEAM with an employer breakfast at the Coastal Bend Food Bank. 33 employers attended an engaging disability awareness training led by members of the TWS Regional Vocational Rehabilitation team. Participating in SEAL employers were recognized and presented with certificates of appreciation for their commitment to fostering an inclusive workplace. Ms. Alice Acuna, the City of Corpus Christi’s Mayoral Liaison, presented the proclamation on behalf of Mayor Guajardo, commemorating the 80th anniversary of NDEAM.
- A-Z Transition Fair
 - SHN participated in the A–Z Transition Fair at Flour Bluff High School. Students and parents received firsthand information about available pre-employment transition services and workforce program opportunities for students.
- Student HireAbility Navigator – Mentor
 - For the fourth consecutive year, Imelda Trevino was chosen as one of only three Mentors statewide. Mentors are selected based on their performance and serve as program representatives, providing guidance, supporting large-scale outreach efforts, and promoting the Student HireAbility Navigator initiative and the Coastal Bend region in public engagements.

Upcoming Events:

- Presenter - “It takes a village”, TWS-VRS Transition Team Meeting
- Presenter - Texas A&M Center on Disability and Development - Texas Transition Conference
- Inclusive Job Fair
- Summer Earn & Learn (SEAL) 2026

INFORMATION ONLY

VIII – 2b. Services to Special Community Populations – Foster Care Youth

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Board Professionals will provide information regarding all services to special community populations related activities, information provided for the scope of October – December 2025.

Foster Youth Services:

- DFPS Pal and BCFS
 - WFSCB Board donated 20 \$25 (\$500 total) Wal-Mart gift cards for older foster youth.
 - WFSCB Contractor donated an additional \$500 to BCFS for foster youth that was utilized to purchase gifts for older foster youth.
 - Resource folders along with a Workforce letter were provided to foster youth to wish them a Happy Holiday and to provide a menu of services available to them.
- WIOA Youth Enrollments
 - For the BCY 2025 year, WFSCB enrolled 10 foster youth into the WIOA Youth program.
 - Notable increase in enrollments was foster youth being able to be serviced at Elevate 361.
 - WIOA Youth Team has frequent communication with BCFS, DFPS PALs, and Foster Angels to assist in documents needed for eligibility and enrollment, communication with foster youth, and coordinating appointments.
 - WFSCB Youth team continue to monitor areas of improvement in eligibility and enrollment to remove barriers for foster youth participants.

INFORMATION ONLY

VIII – 3a. Program & Education Engagements – Texas Internship Initiatives

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Board Professionals will provide information regarding all program and engagements related activities; information provided for the scope of October – December 2025.

Texas Internship Initiatives (TII):

In partnership with Education to Employment (E2E), E2E serves as the internship program provider for the Emerging Professionals Internship Program (EPIP). This grant supports the delivery of part-time, paid internships in middle-skill STEM fields, including accounting, business management, engineering, and information technology. Eligible junior and senior high school students must successfully complete a dual-credit course to qualify for placement in an internship with a local business.

- With the goal of serving 35 students, the current enrollment of interns is 19.
 - Eight out of the 19 students are participating in an internship.
 - 11 out of the 19 are currently waiting for an internship placement.
 - EPIP staff continue to meet with school counselors and with Elevate 361 staff to promote the program and to identify potential youths who may benefit from the internship program.
- EPIP staff have been actively engaging with employers to identify suitable internship placements. Through this outreach, several industries have been explored to meet participant needs. One industry that has consistently been difficult to fill is the healthcare sector. Challenges include limited placement availability as these are paid internships by the employer and age of interns.
- Current internships placements are with:
 - First Community Bank
 - Bonilla & Chapa Law Firm
 - City of Corpus Christi – Animal Control (three placements)
 - Discount Tires
 - Whataburger – Taft
 - City of Corpus Christi – Public Works
- During Q1, WFSCB submitted for the latest RFA for the Texas Internship Initiatives grant.
 - This grant will be structured differently and will be targeting internships for post-secondary students.

INFORMATION ONLY

VIII – 3b. Program & Education Engagements – Tri-Agency Regional Convener Grant

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Board Professionals will provide information regarding all program and engagements related activities; information provided for the scope of October – December 2025.

Tri-Agency Regional Convener Grant:

Through the Tri-Agency Workforce Initiative, the Texas Education Agency (TEA), Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), and Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) partnered to strengthen Texas's education-to-workforce pipeline. In April 2023, the Tri-Agency launched a \$12 million grant program to designate a Regional Convener in each of the state's 28 workforce development areas (WDAs). These conveners leverage existing regional infrastructure to build and coordinate education–workforce partnerships that support long-term economic growth.

- Implementation of TREK
 - Transfr VR has launched a new assessment tool called TREK, which enables students to complete an assessment and be matched with occupations aligned to their interests. TREK also provides students with access to labor market information (LMI) powered by Lightcast, recommended classes to focus on, and financial literacy resources.
 - TREK allows Coastal Bend the opportunity to provide regional assessment to all school districts. Implementation has occurred through the Career and Education Outreach Program.
- Implementation of Industry Representation
 - During Q1, Workforce Solutions Coastal Bend launched the Industry Representation Request form to allow educators the opportunity to request employer participation in WBL opportunities.
 - Partners like Education Service Center Region Two, have assisted in promoting the referral form to educators in their region.
 - Current popular requests are in the construction industry.
- Data Analyzing
 - TEA has provided all regional conveners with baseline data from the tri-agencies. Using this information, WFSCB is organizing the data into a tool to identify which ISDs and CTE programs are earning industry-based certifications (IBC) and how those IBCs align with regional industry needs. This data will support efforts to better bridge education and industry by engaging employers to provide input on the relevance of existing credentials and to help determine whether additional credentials should be reviewed.
 - WFSCB relies on Pathways Leadership partners to provide their expert input in understanding and utilizing the data from their respective agencies.
- Upcoming Events
 - Maritime Expo, WBL Sessions – January 21st
 - Education and Industry Summit – May 6th

INFORMATION ONLY

VIII – 3c. Program & Education Engagements – Career & Education Outreach Program

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Board Professionals will provide information regarding all program and engagement-related activities; information provided for the scope of October – December 2025.

Career & Educator Outreach Program (CEOP):

The Career & Education Outreach Program empowers students in grades 6–12, along with parents and educators, by providing education, support, and access to TWC resources that guide informed education and career choices. Through strategic outreach, the program builds strong partnerships with local schools and employers to advance career readiness across the Coastal Bend.

OCTOBER 2025 School Engagements				
School	VR	Endorsement Program of Study	Essential Skills Resume Writing	Total Students Per School
Ingleside MS	63	76	0	139
Rockport MS	0	0	347	347
Port Aransas	0	0	20	20
Gregory Portland HS	0	0	120	120
Premont HS	0	0	20	20
Falfurrias HS	54	0	0	54
Total Per Service	117	76	507	700

NOVEMBER 2025 School Engagements				
School	VR	Endorsement Program of Study	Essential Skills Resume Writing	Total Students Per School
Santa Gertrudis MS	0	50	0	50
Flour Bluff MS	220	0	0	220
Rockport - Fulton HS	0	0	134	134
Port Aransas HS	0	0	20	20
Total Per Service	220	50	154	424

DECEMBER 2025 School Engagements				
School	VR	Endorsement Program of Study	Essential Skills Resume Writing	Total Students Per School
Rockport – Fulton MS	0	215	0	215
Premont MS	0	58	0	58
Flour Bluff MS	0	0	107	107
Riviera MS	0	0	58	58
Total Per Service	0	273	165	438

- **Outreach Activity Definitions**
 - **Virtual Reality Career Exploration (VR):** Virtual Reality career exploration utilizes immersive VR technology to let students experience simulated in-demand work environments and job tasks firsthand. IT helps students explore careers, build awareness of skills required, and make informed career decisions in a safe, engaging way.
 - **Endorsements and Program of Study Presentations:** Presentation focuses on educating students on their potential endorsements and the specific career pathways they should follow. Utilizing TWC tools and resources such as Texas Reality Check, Texas Career Check, and Career Coach, students gain access to valuable career information. The greatest benefit is an inside look at the high-paying, in-demand careers in the Coastal Bend.
 - **Essential Skills & Resume Writing Workshops:** Essential skills training is a highly requested workshop, with educators frequently seeking this topic for their students. The training covers resume writing, interviewing techniques, financial literacy, communication and active listening, time management, critical thinking, and related skills.
- **Activities & Events**
 - Transfr XR Futures, October 6-7, 2025
 - CEOP was invited to New York City to participate in Transfr XR Futures, collaborating with partners from across the country. The experience brought back innovative ideas and strategies to implement and enhance career exploration in the Coastal Bend region.
 - Transfr Trek, October 9-10, 2025
 - Transfr Inc. traveled to the Coastal Bend to meet with the 11 CCISD Middle Schools to introduce Trek Mobile for their students. The professional development included educators learning how to enroll students into the platform and how to utilize the tool to its fullest capability along with free access to their classroom curriculum.
 - CCISD plans to begin implementation of Trek Mobile into the classrooms during late February 2026.
- **Activity by the Numbers**
 - Student Exposure and Engagements from 2022 to Current
 - Students Exposed 31,937 (Q1 - 1,562)
 - Students Engagements 17,775(Q1 -1,149)
 - Virtual Reality: from 2022 to Current
 - Students in VR – 7,771 (Q1 - 337)
 - Careers Stared and Explored – 14,548 (Q1 - 950)
 - Ratio of students to careers explored – 1.911 (Q1 - 1.915)

INFORMATION ONLY

VIII – 4. Celebrating Success

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Ms. Cole will provide an overview of WIOA Youth participant Lauryn Flores and her involvement in the Summer Earn and Learn 2025 program, as well as her participation in the WIOA Youth Work Experience at the Coastal Bend Council of Governments (COG). She will also highlight Ms. Flores's transition to full-time employment with the COG in December.

WFSCB Glossary of Terms

Program Title	Acronym	Program Description
Able-bodied Adult Without Dependents	ABAWD	An individual 18 yrs.+, but under the age of 50, without dependents. SNAP-ABAWD recipients are referred by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC).
Board Contract Year	BCY	Board Contract Year (runs from Oct. 1 - Sept. 30)
Career & Education Outreach Program	CEOP	Provides career information to students at public middle and high schools, grades six through twelve, to direct students towards high-growth/high-demand occupations. Students receive in-depth information and directions on career choices as well as access to workforce resources.
Dislocated Worker	DW	An individual who has been terminated or laid off from employment is not eligible for unemployment benefits due to insufficient earnings and is unlikely to return to a previous industry or occupation.
Department of Labor	DOL	United States Department of Labor
Educator Externship	EDEX	Informs teachers of the skill sets needed for in-demand jobs, and allows the teachers to inform and guide students toward employment in industries that match their skill sets.
Employment Services (Wagner-Peyser)	ES	Services for employers and job seekers to ensure employers have access to qualified workers. Provides job matching and recruitment services to employers and job seekers.
Eligible Training Provider	ETP	Training providers certified by the Texas Workforce Commission to provide WIOA-funded training programs.
Eligible Training Program List	ETPL	A comprehensive list of training programs approved for WIOA-funded training using Individual Training Accounts.
Fiscal Year	FY	The fiscal year is the accounting period of the federal government. It begins on October 1 and ends on September 30 of the next calendar year.
Individual Training Accounts	ITA	An account established for eligible WIOA customers for training in an array of state-approved training programs. ITAs may be used only for programs included on the statewide ETPL.
Local Workforce Development Board	LWDB	Local workforce development board established in accordance with WIA Section 117, for the purpose of policy planning for a local area and has the responsibility to ensure that the workforce needs of employers and job seekers in the geographic area governed by the local unit of government are met.
Monthly Performance Report	MPR	Performance accountability indicators used to assess the effectiveness of states and local workforce systems to achieve positive outcomes for individuals served by the six core workforce programs.
Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Program	MSFW	A nationally directed program created by Congress in response to the chronic seasonal unemployment and underemployment experienced by migrant and seasonal farmworkers (MSFW). Provides funding to help migrant and seasonal farmworkers and their families achieve economic self-sufficiency.
National Dislocated Worker	NDW	A grant awarded to areas affected by major disaster or national catastrophe to assist in disaster relief employment and assist the substantial number of workers who were forced to relocate from an area in which a disaster has been declared.
On-the-Job Training	OJT	One-on-one training located at the job site for participants who already have some job-related skills. By participating in training as an employee, the participant acquires new skills and knowledge and receives the same wages and benefits as current employees in the same or similar position.
Program Year	PY	Program Year (for example, Program Year 2022: PY'22; –period varies for state and federal years)
Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment	RESEA	A federal grant program designed to allow states to provide intensive reemployment assistance to individuals who are receiving unemployment benefits and are determined likely to exhaust their benefits before becoming reemployed.
Rapid Response	RR	Provides immediate on-site assistance to workers who have job losses due to businesses closure or worker reduction. Designed to transition workers to their next employment as soon as possible.

WFSCB Glossary of Terms

Program Title	Acronym	Program Description
Summer Earn and Learn	SEAL	A summer program that offers basic work-based learning and training services for students with disabilities such as, pre-employment work readiness training and preparation for the work experience placement; work experience to help gain familiarity with the workplace environment and develop transferable job skills; and paid compensation for time worked on the job.
Student HireAbility Navigator	SHAN	Student HireAbility Navigator's role is to expand and improve access to employment and training services and to increase employment opportunities for students with disabilities by creating strong partnerships between vocational rehabilitation (VR) Workforce Solutions offices, independent school districts (ISDs), community organizations, employers.
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment & Training	SNAP E&T	Designed to assist SNAP recipients in obtaining employment through participation in allowable job search, training, education, or workforce activities that promote long-term self-sufficiency. SNAP recipients are referred by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC).
Trade Adjustment Assistance	TAA	A federally funded program, with no costs to employers, who helps workers who are adversely affected by foreign import or job shifts to a foreign country.
Texas Education Agency	TEA	The branch of government in Texas responsible for public education. TEA is responsible for the oversight of public primary and secondary education in the state of Texas.
Texas Internship Initiative	TII	Provides part-time paid internships in Middle-Skill areas of accounting, business, construction management, engineering, healthcare, and information technology. Participating senior high school students must pass a dual-credit course to be placed in an internship with a local business. This grant is in partnership with Education to Employment (E2E) for the Coastal Bend.
Texas Industry Partnership Program	TIP	Supports collaborations between local workforce development boards and industry partners through the leveraging of matching contributions of cash or qualifying expenditures for occupational job training. Match funds must support certain WIOA (Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act) activities and focus on eight designated industry clusters.
Texas Veterans Commission	TVC	A state agency that assists veterans, their families, and survivors through services provided by federal, state, local government, and private organizations.
Texas Veterans Leadership Program	TVLP	A non-profit agency that provides services to veterans to help find employment and achieve successful transitions back into civilian life.
The Workforce Information System of Texas	TWIST	TWIST is a centralized point of reporting intake and case management for customers. Intake information is submitted just once for multiple employment and training programs and can be retrieved statewide. TWIST also allows staff to query and retrieve information from the legacy systems – Employment Services, Unemployment Insurance, SNAP E&T, TANF, Supplemental Security Income, and the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.
Vocational Rehabilitation Services	VRS	A federal program that helps individuals with physical or mental disabilities get and/or keep a job.
Work Experience	WE	A work-based learning opportunity in which program-eligible customers learn both essential and technical skills for long-term employment. Businesses are referred to as "work experience sites." Intended to be short-term (12 or fewer weeks) and part-time work experience can be a volunteer, internship, or temporary short-term paid-work setting.
Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act	WIOA	Helps job seekers and workers access employment, education, training, and support services to succeed in the labor market; and matches employers with the skilled workers they need to compete in the global economy.
Work In Texas	WIT	A comprehensive online job search resource and matching system developed and maintained by TWC. It provides recruiting assistance to Texas employers and job search assistance to any individual seeking work in Texas.
Workforce Opportunity Tax Credit	WOTC	A federal tax credit that the government provides to private-sector businesses for hiring individuals from nine target groups that have historically faced significant barriers to employment.