



## **NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT JOINT CHIEF ELECTED OFFICIALS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS ANNUAL MEETING**

**Meeting Agenda**  
**February 25, 2025**  
**9:30 a.m.- 11:30 a.m.**  
**Texas Motor Speedway**  
**3545 Lone Star Circle, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor**  
**Fort Worth, Texas 76177**

The North Central Texas Workforce Development Board may conduct this meeting by videoconference call in accordance with Section 551.127 of the Texas Open Meetings Act. The presiding officer of the meeting will be physically present at the address listed above and the public may attend the meeting at the same location.

1. **Call to Order** – Danny Chambers, Somervell County Judge, Lead Chief Elected Official  
Mercedes Bolen, Chairwoman, Workforce Solutions for North Central Texas
2. **Public Comment**  
The Workforce Board invites the public to speak on any topic listed on the agenda. Anyone wishing to speak should sign-in with the Board’s Secretary before the beginning of the board meeting. In consideration for everyone’s time who is in attendance at the meeting, a time limit of three (3) minutes is allotted for each person wishing to address the Board.
3. **Declare Conflicts of Interest**
4. **CEO Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action Regarding**
  - a. Approval of the Minutes from the March 7, 2024 Chief Elected Officials Meeting
  - b. **Nominate and Elect Lead Chief Elected Official and Alternate Lead Chief Elected Official – effective March 1, 2025**
  - c. Judge Danny Chambers Recognition – Phedra Redifer
5. **Adjourn CEO Meeting – Judge Chambers**
6. **Workforce Board Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action Regarding**
  - a. Approval of Minutes from the March 7, 2024 Meeting
  - b. Strategic Leadership Committee Update – Romney Guy, Chair
  - c. Workforce Development Committee Update – Chip Evans, Chair
    - i. Data Dashboard Overview – Kirsten Jakowitsch
  - d. Oversight & Accountability Committee Update – Carlton Tidwell, Chair
    - i. FY2025 Financial Update – Lisa Sack
    - ii. FY2025 Performance Update – Kirsten Jakowitsch and Kelley Fontenot
  - e. Executive Committee Update – Mercedes Bolen
    - i. TX3C Update – Phedra Redifer / Kelley Fontenot

- ii. **WSNCT 2025-2028 Local Plan Approval**
- iii. Presidential Executive Order Impact – Phedra Redifer
- iv. Executive Committee Leadership Change – Rolanda Macharia, Secretary

**7. Executive Director’s Report**

- a. WD Board Management
  - i. WD Board Management Data Dashboard – Laurie Gillispie
- b. WSNCT Grants Submissions Update – Fred Schmidt
- c. Workforce Innovation Network Q1 Meeting Invitation – March 19-21, 2025
- d. Guest Speaker: Texas Workforce Commission – Ed Serna, Executive Director

**8. Announcement of Executive Session**

- a. As authorized by Section 551.071 to consult with the Board’s attorney for legal advice on any matter listed on the agenda, pending or contemplated litigation, settlement offers, or any matter in which the duty of the Board’s attorney to the Board under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflict with the provisions of Chapter 551 of the Texas Open Meetings Act.

**9. Action as a Result of Executive Session**

**10. Adjourn to Annual Awards Luncheon**



# ANNUAL NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT CHIEF ELECTED OFFICIALS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

## Meeting Minutes

March 7, 2024

9:30 a.m.- Noon

Hurst Conference Center

1601 Campus Drive

Hurst, TX 76054

**Chief Elected Officials Present:** Judge Danny Chambers, Judge Andy Eades, Mayor TJ Gilmore, Judge Todd Little, Judge Ron Massingill, Judge Christopher Boedecker (virtual), Judge Brandon Huckabee (virtual), Judge Pat Deen (virtual), Judge Frank New (virtual), Judge Bobby Stovall (virtual), Mayor Steve Babick (virtual), Mayor Jeff Cheney (virtual)

**Board Members Present:** David F. Bristol, Bindu Adlakha, Barbara Batista, Mercedes Bolen, Brian Bondy, Amy Crippen, Kathy Davis, John Dickson, Craig Driggers, Chip Evans, Jason Gomez, Romney Guy, Roger Harris, Gary Henderson, Kelly Holloway, Jan Jungmann, Dr. William King, Rolanda Macharia, Cheri Moseley, Jerold Nichols, John Rattan, Carlton Tidwell, Kenny Weldon

**Board Members Not Present:** Mickey Hillock, Ken Peters, Kevin Strength, Kenneth Thom, Rusty Vaughn, Mindy Wooley, Joshua Worthey

**Others Present:** Carvan Adkins, Phedra Redifer, Mike Eastland, Monte Mercer, Reagan Miller, Bryan Daniel, Aaron Demerson, Courtney Arbour, Kelley Fontenot, Lisa Sack, Laurie Gillispie, Stephanie Roberts, Kay Schroeder, Julie Schilling, Kimberly Curry, Angelina Fuchs, Renee Jimenez, Annie Thompson, Dana Buckholt, Cintia Ortiz, Kim Vaughn, Joe Gonzales, Terri Perry, Randy Richardson, Glynnis Woolridge, Mary Ford, Elvin Simmons, Cadie Allen, Jason Jimenez, Tina Hunter, Meghan Norbryhn, Lupita Montero, Kirsten Jakowitsch, James Powell, Karen Price, Elaine Zweig, Greg Emory, Pam McFadden, Kathy Oleszkowicz, Gwen Snyder, Layla Wiewel, Cherisa Price-Wells, Brooke Hansnak, Stephania Whitehurst, Grace Peninger, Patricia Looper, Christian Davis, Fatima Parsons, Nicole Nelson, Lisa Boyd, Cesiah Kessler, Laura Bruton, Elizabeth Chapman, Elisabeth Hall, Mary Erin Young-Guzowsky, Danielle Davis, Kara Waddell, Lori Wynne, Dr. Jennifer J. Alexander, Teresa Wilson, Ed Serna (virtual)

- 1. Call to Order** – Danny Chambers, Somervell County Judge, Lead CEO,  
David F. Bristol, Chairman, Workforce Solutions for North Central Texas  
Judge Danny Chambers certified a quorum of the Chief Elected Officials and called the CEO meeting to order at 9:49 a.m.  
Chair David Bristol, certified a quorum of the Workforce Solutions for North Central Texas Board of Directs and called the board meeting to order at 9:50 a.m.

**2. Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

**3. Declare Conflicts of Interest**

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

Chair Bristol turned the meeting over to Judge Chambers.

**4. CEO Meeting: Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action Regarding**

- a. Approval of the Minutes from the March 21, 2023, Chief Elected Officials meeting.  
Judge Todd Little moved to approve the meeting minutes, seconded by Mayor TJ Gilmore. Minutes were approved.
- b. Amendments to the Chief Elected Officials Agreement for the North Central Texas Workforce Development Board Area – Judge Chambers  
Judge Chambers presented the changes required by HB1615 regarding the makeup of the board to add the category of Child Care Workforce and the minimum number of members required increasing from 25 to 27. Judge Andy Eades moved to approve the changes presented, seconded by Mayor TJ Gilmore. Motion carried.
- c. Regional Law Enforcement Workforce Development Recruitment and Retention Symposium Update – Judge Chambers and Judge Little  
Judge Chambers introduced the symposium held on Friday, February 23, 2024, at the North Central Texas Council of Governments to find ways to recruit, retain and keep deputies, jailers, and dispatchers without the 16 counties hiring LE away from each other. Judge Little continued with the discussion explaining the symposium had 90 attendees from all counties in the region. Judge Little discussed the keynote address provided by Arlington Assistant Police Chief Terrick McGuire, with the meeting starting as a group discussion leading to breakout sessions. Areas of discussion included the barrier to entry into the law enforcement field to obtain the required TCOLE certification which can take 9 months to a year process. Also discussed were potential benefits to attract officers including child care programs, flexible spending accounts for child care, and wellness benefits. Finally, Phedra explained that board staff is working with North Central Texas Council of Government administration regarding innovating job applications.
- d. Workforce Development Board Membership Update – Phedra Redifer  
Phedra Redifer provided an update regarding the makeup of the board membership, what category they represent, and what area they are from, showing where the vacancies are located.

Judge Chambers concluded the Chief Elected Officials agenda turning the meeting back over to Chair Bristol.

**5. WD Meeting: Approval of Consent Agenda Items**

- a. Approval of the Minutes from the January 30, 2024, Workforce Development Board Meeting  
Craig Driggers moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Gary Henderson. Motion carried.

**6. Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action Regarding**

- a. Committee Updates
  - i. Strategic Leadership Committee – Mercedes Bolen  
Mercedes Bolen provided the SLC meeting report including updates on the \$200,000 teacher externship grant awarded to North Central Texas. Phedra will be putting out a call to action during the luncheon to recruit employers and ISD to help expand the grant.

#### Workforce Development Committee – Chip Evans

Chip Evans provided updates on the Staff Provided Workforce Center Impact presentation with FY22-FY23 data. The committee also received an update on the Texas Rising Star (TRS) program.

- ii. Oversight & Accountability Committee – Carlton Tidwell  
Carlton reported the O&A committee received Financial and Performance updates provided by Lisa Sack and Kirsten Jakowitsch.
- iii. Executive Committee – Chair David F. Bristol
  1. New Board Member Introductions  
Prior to introducing the new board members, Chair Bristol took the time to introduce the Executive Committee. Chair Bristol then introduced Jerold Nichols, representing Private Sector for Ellis County, and John Dickson, representing Economic Development for Hunt County.
  2. Sunset Review  
Chair Bristol reported that the Executive Committee received a presentation from the Pre-Sunset Review Committee. The executive committee will be working together with attorney Carvan Adkins, Phedra Redifer, and staff regarding the potential recommendations to advance on the board's behalf to the Sunset Commission for consideration.
  3. Texas Association of Workforce Boards (TAWB) – Roger Harris  
Roger provided an update on TAWB including discussions on the House Education and Workforce Committee's advancement of HB 6655, The Stronger Workforce for America Act (SWAA), which it deems the bipartisan WIOA (Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act) reauthorization policy. Roger encouraged all board members in the area to attend the next TAWB meeting.

Before moving on to Phedra's Executive Director's report, Chair Bristol acknowledged TWC Commissioner Chair Bryan Daniel, Former TWC Commissioner Aaron Demerson, and TWC Executive Director Ed Serna's attendance at today's board meeting.

- b. Executive Director's Report – Phedra Redifer
  - i. New Board Staff Introductions  
Phedra began her report with the introduction of new board staff Daniel Aguilar, Abbie Dodson, Danielle McClelland, and Joshlyn Willis.
  - ii. The Future is Now: The State of Child Care and Its Effect on Tomorrow's Workforce – Kara Waddell, President & CEO, Child Care Associates  
Kara Waddell gave a background of Curantis, LLC an affiliate of Child Care Associates. Kara covered some performance highlights and discussed how getting child care right today is impactful to having the right workforce for the future. She concluded with the December 2023 trip to Harvard with Phedra, Kelley Fontenet, and representatives from Tarrant County to participate in a policy intensive day on how to use grants and contracts with child care funds, hosting Momentum 2024 on April 11-12 with TWC Chair Daniel and the head of Texas Education Agency to be in attendance, the launching of the North Central Texas Child Care Provider Collaborative Council, and increasing the focus on community-based Pre-K.
  - iii. The Power of Partnership: How Workforce Development Fuels Economic Development – Aaron Demerson, President & CEO, Texas Economic Development Corporation.

Phedra introduced Aaron Demerson who provided a video presentation from the Texas Economic Development Corporation (TXEDC) and discussed The Power of Partnership: How Workforce Development Fuels Economic Development. Mr. Demerson explained that his group is the private side of a public-private partnership with the Office of Economic Development and Tourism and how it is responsible for marketing and promoting Texas as a premier business location to build a stronger Texas. Mr. Demerson presented the diversity of the TXEDC Board of Directors appointed by Governor Greg Abbott and the activities of the TXEDC throughout the year both domestic and international. Mr. Demerson concluded with the Secret Sauce of Texas, the bringing together the worlds of Workforce, Economic Development and Education.

Prior to being excused to leave the podium, Phedra and Chair Bristol acknowledged Mr. Demerson's success as a former TWC Commissioner representing employers and the work he is doing for Texas with the Leadership Achievement Award from Workforce Solutions for North Central Texas.

- iv. The Path Forward: Our Strategic Plan for Transformative Workforce Development  
Phedra concluded her Executive Director report with her presentation regarding The Path Forward. To start her discussion, Phedra covered the FY23 Strategic Plan Milestones in each of the four categories, Child Care Quality, Career Pathways, Industry & Workforce Engagement, and Resource Development. Phedra presented how the strategic plan fits into the Vision, Mission, and Values of WSNCT to help focus on the trends, challenges, and opportunities to come in the next 12 to 18 months. Next Phedra showed a few strategic ways that the very focused work aligns with the state's plans allowing for deeper collaboration, engagement, and partnership opportunities to address the workforce in both different and innovative ways. Phedra provided the example of the State Comptroller's Office SB 22 grant funding and how WSNCT made webinars available pulling in many of the counties leaders to have access to this grant funding. There were 224 attendees from all 14 counties with many applying for this grant funding related to law enforcement. Phedra presented the WSNCT Strategic Workforce Innovation highlighting the collaborations and partnerships with community partners with common customers, ways to address regional challenges, and using workforce development as an economic engine.

## **7. Announcement of Executive Session**

- a. No Executive Session was held.

## **8. Action as a Result of Executive Session**

Not applicable.

## **9. Future Agenda Items**

The next Workforce Board meeting will occur in person at the North Central Texas Council of Governments, Transportation Room on May 7<sup>th</sup> followed by a Lunch and Learn Session featuring Brad Turner-Little, President & CEO of the National Association of Workforce Boards. No further future agenda items were discussed.

## **10. Adjourn**

A motion for adjournment of the WSNCT board meeting was recommended by Rolanda Macharia and seconded by Chip Evans.

A motion for adjournment of the CEO meeting was recommended by Judge Ron Massingill and seconded by Judge Todd Little.

The meetings adjourned at 11:27 a.m.