



Adult Education and Literacy Advisory Committee

December 10, 2025 @ 1:30 pm
Virtual Meeting



Agenda

- TWC Welcome/Opening Remarks/Roll Call
- AEL Updates
 - Committee Member Appreciation
 - New Member Recommendations
 - Annual Report
 - Timeline for Strategic Plan
 - Career Pathways Professional Development Center (CPPDC)
- Committee Business and Discussions
 - CPPDC – Employer Connect Center
 - Discussion: Third System Strategy Area Action Items
 - Discussion: Sample Indicators for Third System Strategy Area Objectives

Welcome and Remarks

- Commissioner Representing Employers, Chairman Joe Esparza
- Commissioner Representing Labor, Commissioner Alberto Treviño III

Presiding Officer

Jauneen Maldonado

AEL Director, Workforce Solutions Tarrant County

Roll Call –Presiding Officer

Member	Location	Representing	Affiliation	Term Expires
<u>Jauneen Maldonado</u>	Fort Worth	Workforce Board	Director, Adult Education, Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County	December 2025
Ernest Lewis	Houston	Nonprofit	Senior Director, Economic Initiatives, Ripley Baker	January 2026
Karla Flanagan	Waco	Technical College	Associate Vice Chancellor of Instructional Alignment and Innovation, TSTC	January 2026
Leslie Cantu	San Antonio	Business	Assistant Vice President of Administration, <u>Toyotetsu</u>	September 2026
Kevin Rose	Mount Pleasant	Higher Ed	Sr. Vice President for Student Success, Northeast Texas Community College	September 2026
Chris Tovar	Odessa	Higher Ed	CPR AHA Faculty Instructor, Continuing Education, Odessa College	September 2026
Dr. Ben Stafford	Port Arthur	Community College/Higher Ed	Vice President, Workforce and Continuing Education, Lamar State College—Port Arthur	May 2027
Kristina Hartman	Huntsville	Corrections Education	Superintendent, Windham School District	May 2027

Adult Education Updates

Mahalia Baldini

Chief Deputy Division Director, Workforce Development
Director, Adult Education and Literacy (AEL)



Committee Member Appreciation

- Three Members Terms Expiring
 - Jauneen Maldonado – December 2025
 - Ernest Lewis – January 2026
 - Karla Flanagan – January 2026
- 4 vacancies to fill, need:
 - Board Representative (required)
 - Business Representative (desire)

Federal Funding Update

- Current federal funding runs through June 30, 2026
- Current Continuing Resolution (HR 5371) runs through January 30, 2026
- Current US Department of Education budget request for FY 2026 eliminates funding for AEL
- Adult Education and Literacy Program (WIOA Title II) needs to be reauthorized or new legislation introduced, current authorization has expired and we depend on annual appropriations for federal program to continue

Other Items

- Annual Report
- Strategic Plan Timeline

Career Pathways Professional Development Center

- \$1M Grant per year, 5 possible years
- PD for AEL Grantees and Workforce System Stakeholders on AEL Career Pathway models. These models include:
 - a) Integrated Education and Training (IET);
 - b) Intensive Service models which include:
 - i. services for Internationally Trained Professionals (ITPs);
 - ii. workplace literacy and employer engagement; and
 - iii. post-release services for Second Chance Individuals.

CPPDC Continued

The CPPDC will facilitate regional discussion with Workforce System Stakeholders in an effort to identify ways to improve alignment and integration through:

- a) providing State-level and evidence-based PD and technical assistance to further support a “One Workforce” system as promoted by the Department of Labor Training and Employment Notice (TEN) 13-20; and
- b) developing resources related to regional career ladders that support local in-demand occupation pathways; and
- c) develop the Employer Connect Hub

Guest Presentation

Career Pathways Professional Development Center Presentation

- Kelli Rhodes – Restore Education, Co-Founder, President, & CEO
- Kerri Rhodes – Restore Education, Co-Founder & Chief Program Officer
- Liz Moya – CPPDC Project Manager

System Area: *Employer*
System Objective 1

Improve Program Effectiveness Through Quality Outcomes

System Area: Employers

System Objective 1

Improve Program Effectiveness Through Quality Outcomes

Action Item	Description
1	Develop and Expand Apprenticeship Bridge programs to support pipeline to Apprenticeships in high demand and emerging industries
2	Partner with employers to implement career pathway models, incorporating micro-credentials and incumbent worker training, to improve employee retention and promote growth opportunities.
3	Provide curriculum resources for AEL programs to develop work-based learning strategies and frameworks that include employability skills and digital literacy.

System Objective 2

Address Demand by Expanding Access

**System Area:
Employers**

**Objective 2:
Overview**

**Address Demand
by Expanding
Access**

Action Item	Description
1	Develop partnerships with employers to develop targeted training programs that address specific skill gaps in the workforce.
2	Promote AEL partnerships with employers who actively hire adult learners facing employment barriers, such as those who employ justice involved or TWC's We Hire Ability program participants.
3	Launch a statewide campaign to increase AEL visibility as a crucial economic and community development tool to gain support from employers, economic development organizations, and employer organizations.

System Objective 3

Increase Alignment and Coordination

System Area: Employers

Objective 3: Overview

Increase Alignment and Coordination

Action Item	Description
1	Align Tri-Agency policies and credit transfer pathways with industry skill requirements through employer partnerships, ensuring the workforce development system directly addresses employer needs.
2	Support teacher externships for adult educators to learn more about industry needs to incorporate into classroom curriculum.
3	Enhance AEL program relevance by incorporating occupation-specific skills and work-readiness training, informed by employer needs assessments and active employer engagement.
4	Conduct a comprehensive economic impact study of adult education and literacy within the state/region and disseminate the findings of the report to policymakers and community leaders to advocate for increased AEL investment.
5	Actively participate in regional economic development initiatives to position AEL as a key partner in developing talent pipelines for critical industries.

Indicators

Possibilities for Employers' System Area

Sample Indicators:

- **Increase number of new employer partnerships established to provide AEL training programs, career pathways, or work-based learning opportunities.**
- **Increase percentage of AEL enrollment growth attributed to new employer partnerships.**

2026 Meeting Dates

- Wednesday, March 25, 2026
 - Wednesday, June 24, 2026
 - Wednesday, September 23, 2026
 - Wednesday, December 9, 2026
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- Meeting time will remain at 1:30PM

Request Before Next Meeting

- TWC will send out an email before the next meeting with any information that needs to be previewed.
- For our next meeting on March 25, 2026
 - You can submit your recommendations or questions to Nicole.Stevens@twc.Texas.gov



Questions?





Next Meeting

Wednesday, March 25, 2026

At 1:30pm



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