

TRS Workgroup Conference Call # 5 Notes

Thursday, October 10, 2019

11:30AM - 1:30 PM

TWC provided the Workgroup with some updates:

- In-person meeting will be a deeper dive into the information of other states' QRIS
- Have requested outside facilitators at the national level

WF Registry: TECPDS, in coordination with TWC, is already in the planning stages of how they will be conducting a rollout of the Registry statewide; currently in Phase II. This phase includes system management, user support and technology enhancements. TWC provided data from other states' QRIS regarding WF Registry participation requirements, as well as current TECPDS Director data entry.

- Workgroup discussed options to consider for requirement implications.
- Workgroup consensus is to be a requirement, if there is a grace period allowed to comply, specifically for current TRS programs.
- TWC/TECPDS will give support to TRS Staff by having events in every board area where all TRS staff will be trained/ opened to programs as well.
- Workgroup addressed concerns with the job board option within TECPDS, regarding providers recruiting other staff or staff leaving current provider for another. TWC will review options of having the job board separate from the WF Registry.
- Workgroup discussed requiring participation in the WF Registry as part of the initial application process of the program.
- Workgroup discussed giving Boards the ability to plan the onboarding time and potential for the grace period to be determined locally or in partnership with TWC.
- Workgroup discussed the marketing and messaging of requiring the WF Registry and the importance to message this in a manner that the provider understands the benefits in participating.
- **Recommendation made by Workgroup:**
 - *WF Registry is a requirement for participation within Texas Rising Star and will be part of the initial application process.*
 - *For current TRS programs, TWC, in coordination with Boards, will set a grace period for compliance.*
 - *A marketing plan will be created to ensure messaging of the WF Registry addresses early learning programs' concerns and the benefits for participating.*

Entry Qualifications - Screening: TWC reviewed the current process for eligibility, specific to screening form implications.

- Workgroup discussed reviewing the most recent 6 months of CCL history instead of 12 months.
 - TRS would keep the requirement of the early learning program to hold a permit for 12 months before applying.
- Workgroup discussed the need for additional or more robust onboarding support to help providers maintain their status during TRS recognition.
- **Recommendation made by Workgroup:**
 - *Create a standardized onboarding process to include more support and additional local resources available to the early learning program.*
 - *Review the most recent 6-month CCL history for initial applicants.*

1-Star Program Consideration: Any provider that has a contract to take subsidy would be TRS.

- Workgroup discussed allowing this consideration but having a timeframe set for the early learning program to move up star levels.
- Workgroup discussed the challenges with this consideration, such as:
 - this consideration can water down the program regarding quality.
 - this consideration can create confusion to parents regarding which providers have met quality standards and which ones have not.
 - the subsidy program currently has approximately 6,000 programs that would be affected therefore in terms of implementation and the system as a whole, this will be challenging.
 - Workgroup discussed placing this consideration into a long-range goal for TWC/TRS, with a desire to discuss in more detail after the Workgroup has ended.
- **Recommendation made by Workgroup:**
 - *Programs enrolled in the subsidy program remain as denoted. No use of 1-Star for CCS early learning programs at this time.*

Entry Qualifications – Assessment Visit: TWC reviewed the two different assessments early learning programs can have at the initial assessment visit – Structural and Full. Measures reviewed, benefits, disadvantages and procedures for each of these two assessment types were discussed.

- Workgroup discussed the option of having the structural assessment be noted as 1-Star; however due to statute/rule, this level would not be allowed to receive enhanced reimbursement rates at this time but could receive other supports at the local Board area.
- Workgroup requested data on how many current early learning programs have been utilizing the structural assessment. TWC will ask for Engage data.
- **No consensus was reached on the consideration for initial assessment options (structural vs. full)**