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TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS  
BEFORE THE  
TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION  
AUSTIN, TEXAS

PUBLIC MEETING )  
FOR THE TEXAS )  
WORKFORCE COMMISSION )

PERFORMANCE BRIEFING  
THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 2018

BE IT REMEMBERED THAT at 9:39 a.m. on  
Thursday, the 25th day of January, 2018, the above-entitled  
matter came on for hearing at the Texas Workforce  
Commission, TWC Building, 101 East 15<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 244,  
Austin, Texas, before ANDRES ALCANTAR, Chairman; JULIAN  
ALVAREZ and RUTH R. HUGHS, Commissioners

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PROCEEDINGS, THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 2018

REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE ..... 45

P R O C E E D I N G S

THURSDAY JANUARY 25, 2018

(9:39 a.m.)

1  
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4 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Good morning, everyone.  
5 Thank you for being here, we are back in Session. Larry,  
6 who do you have up first?

7 MR. TEMPLE: We'll have Doyle, do his Labor  
8 Market update first.

9 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Okay, so we're starting  
10 the briefing on, performance, so thank you.

11 MR. FUCHS: good morning, Mr. Chairman,  
12 Commissioner Hughs, Commissioner Alvarez, Mr. Temple. Doyle  
13 Fuchs with, Labor Market and Career Information, with an  
14 economic update for -- for this quarter. Passed out -- or  
15 in your packet there's an economic briefing material, and we  
16 also faxed out just now a series of -- of charts that --  
17 that we're going to discuss briefly. The -- the first of  
18 those charts takes a look at our (indiscernible) employment  
19 for December our most recent data. We're -- we're -- had --  
20 only added, about 400 jobs over the month from November to  
21 December, which is -- is very low compared to where we had  
22 been running. A major reason for that is that we've been up  
23 so much for October, November, that the December levels  
24 returned to -- to some -- somewhat normal numbers. The  
25 biggest declines were in mining and logging and

1 manufacturing on the goods producing side. On the service  
2 providing side, trade, transportation and utilities showed  
3 the biggest drop. Retail trades you know continues to lead  
4 the decline in that area. So, -- you know we've talked  
5 about it before; the shift from brick and mortar to online,  
6 Commerce; that kind of thing. But, also, that was one of  
7 industries that saw a big surge in employment post Hurricane  
8 Harvey, and -- and it's now returning to somewhat normal  
9 levels, and so that is part of the decrease. the sub-  
10 sectors that show the biggest declines, over the month were,  
11 motor vehicle parts, auto dealers, food and beverage stores  
12 and material and garden centers; which kind of ties into  
13 that.

14 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Could you, do the same  
15 thing but focus on the over-the-year numbers, please?

16 MR. FUCHS: yeah, the over-the-year numbers,  
17 are -- are still, very healthy. we're, showing overall 2.5  
18 percent over-the-year growth rate, added 306,900 jobs over  
19 the year. mining and logging is up 13.5 percent over the  
20 year. the only negative in there is information and that  
21 industry has shown an increase the last couple of months;  
22 so, it's -- it's coming back to some degree also. So a --  
23 again, a goods producing sector up 5.3 percent, which, for  
24 that particular Sector led by oil and gas has been very  
25 robust growth. The -- I apologize I've got a -- a guide

1 here.

2 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: But, Doyle -- Doyle when  
3 we talk about information technology we're talking about  
4 very specific companies, but we're not talking about the  
5 need for occupations in terms --

6 MR. FUCHS: Right, it's not --

7 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: -- Of IT talent.

8 MR. FUCHS: -- occupations, it's the  
9 industries, and it includes, you know some -- some IT based  
10 industries, but it's also, print -- printing companies,  
11 newspapers, that kind of thing that, as -- as we know, those  
12 -- those types materials have been declining for some time  
13 now because of the -- the shift to electronic versions and  
14 that kind of thing. So -- so it's not occupations; it's the  
15 industry, and so those IT information occupations are  
16 scattered through all of these industries.

17 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: The industry cluster, but  
18 the -- some of the key Sectors in there that, that are  
19 expanding, continue to expand. like some of the, software  
20 and other companies. All right, thank you.

21 MR. FUCHS: Yes, Sir. Like I said, the  
22 annual growth rate, did decline a bit but it's remained  
23 above 2 percent for ten consecutive months now, so, as you  
24 mentioned, yeah, we still continue to show some robust  
25 growth there. Leisure and hospitality showed a series high

1 gain of 29, almost 30,000 jobs in October, and rose again,  
2 or rose by a total of 44,000 jobs for the fourth quarter.  
3 some of that was -- was Hurricane Harvey recovery, a -- as  
4 -- as workers looked for temporary housing and that kind of  
5 thing, so, the -- the next chart does take a look at our  
6 annual growth rates. Again, it's -- it's taken a little --  
7 lit -- a bit of a dip lately, but it has remains robust and  
8 -- and a very healthy le -- 2.5 percent; well above the  
9 U.S., 1.4 percent. Looking at our metro areas, the -- still  
10 seems to be a -- some variation in -- in over-the-month and  
11 over-the-year changes, there, a few areas continuing to show  
12 -- over the year declines. but most are showing a healthy,  
13 growth rate, over-the-year and -- and over -- the-month.  
14 The unemployment rates for Texas and the U.S. continue to  
15 decline -- Texas increased a tick from 3.8 to 3.9 percent,  
16 but still remains at historically low levels. And -- and  
17 lower than the U.S. as a whole. The -- by region we saw 54  
18 counties at a -- at an increase in unemployment rate, and  
19 141, decline -- over -- over the month. Next chart takes a  
20 look at -- at initial unemployment claims; we did see a  
21 spike, during the Hurricane Harvey period, but those claims  
22 have returned to more normal levels now. Also, we kind of  
23 keep an eye on a few other economic indicators, and -- and,  
24 include those in our -- our monthly labor market review,  
25 hourly earnings for the U.S. and Texas are up, with Texas

1 up slightly more than -- than the nation as a whole.  
2 consumer price index is also, ticking a bit higher --  
3 indication that, you know, inflation may be picking up a  
4 bit, but it's also a sign of growth. We also; the next  
5 chart take a look at -- since the oil and gas is such an  
6 important industry for us in a lot of ways, we pay some  
7 particular attention to that. Ga -- oil prices continue to  
8 trend higher. Rig counts kind of levelled out a bit, some  
9 of that's got to do with these variations we've seen in oil  
10 prices, but it's also, a factor of the efficiency and -- and  
11 productivity levels of those individual rigs now is much  
12 higher than what it was just a few years ago. We don't need  
13 as many rigs to produce the same amounts of oil or more. So  
14 the -- again, that industry is -- is showing some healthy  
15 growth. Rig count up to 456, with Permian Basin continuing  
16 to lead the charge nationwide in -- in number of rigs.  
17 labor force participation rate in the next chart, actually  
18 ticked a little bit higher for, for December stands at 63.7  
19 percent, down from its -- ten-year peak, in July 2019, of  
20 66.7 -- the -- the chart, it shows a decline in our -- our  
21 -- our labor participation rate is one thing to keep in mind  
22 as you look at that chart, the range -- the scale is very,  
23 very small; the -- the variation, is back from a peak in --  
24 in the 70 percent range back in the 1990's. It's only  
25 dropped about six points now, even though the charts it

1 tends to -- to make that look like a little bit bigger drop  
2 than it is. also, just a few notes about the U.S. December  
3 jobs report -- comparison to what we're doing here. So I'll  
4 continue to recovery from the -- the Hurricanes in -- in  
5 Puerto Rico, Florida and Texas. Gained an estimated 148,000  
6 jobs in December, growth rate dropped to 1.4 percent; not  
7 quite as good as it has been, but still a healthy rate of  
8 growth nationally. And, nationally, also seeing a drop in  
9 retail trade. So, that concludes my -- my prepared remarks.  
10 Would be glad to answer any questions you all might have.

11 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Commissioners, any  
12 questions or comments for Doyle?

13 COMM. HUGHS: No, thank you for the update.

14 COMM. ALVAREZ: Thanks Doyle for the update  
15 and your team.

16 MR. FUCHS: Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Thank you, Doyle.

18 MR. TEMPLE: And, Adam will give our pro --  
19 program performance.

20 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Good morning, Adam.

21 MR. TEMPLE: Oh, Adam, excuse me --

22 MR. LEONARD: Not before Randy, we're not  
23 going to make him wait in line.

24 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Let's go to Randy  
25 instead.

1 MR. TEMPLE: We'll let Randy go first,  
2 sorry.

3 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Good morning, Randy.

4 MR. TOWNSEND: Morning Chairman,  
5 Commissioners. For the record, Randy Townsend, Chief  
6 Financial Officer. I'm going to be discussing our monthly  
7 legislative report. Which is in -- un -- in -- behind Tab 2  
8 of your notebook, for the first three months of state fiscal  
9 Year '18. So we're 25 percent into the year at this point,  
10 and just to kind of hit some highlights, the -- as -- mostly  
11 by way of reminder here, review, the total budget we're  
12 talking about for the agency is about 1.7 billion. As the  
13 first three months of state fiscal Year '18, we have  
14 expended about \$381,000,000, you'll see that in your 3<sup>rd</sup>  
15 column of numbers at the -- at the bottom of the page. That  
16 compares to about \$357,000,000, a year earlier. So,  
17 generally on pace, at about 22 percent of the budget in, for  
18 this year as, and -- and -- was about the same point last  
19 year, as well. the only other thing on this part I would  
20 just as -- by way of reminder re -- just -- point out that  
21 we did make some changes in '18, as compared to '17, in  
22 terms of our strategies. So, as an example, if you look at  
23 our indirect strategies, and that's 3.11, 3.12 and 3.13,  
24 last year in '17 we actually had a fourth indirect strategy  
25 if you will. That was approved by the legislature, if you

1 go into three strategies. So, we -- you are going to some  
2 -- we're -- we're trying to compare apples and oranges, here  
3 a little bit across here, so just be a little wary if you're  
4 -- if you're looking at those numbers. and so, essentially  
5 what is happening in that comparison column for, last year  
6 is that you're seeing that fourth indirect strategy showing  
7 up in strategy 1.2.1; some of that anyway, in that 70 -- 7.  
8 million -- 77.7 million in the prior fiscal year, which is  
9 overstated truly because it includes some of that indirect.  
10 I'm just pointing out just be kind of careful if you're  
11 doing a comparison year-over-year, because we don't really  
12 have complete alignment. And, I -- you know we can walk  
13 through the details if you have questions about those kinds  
14 of things but, I've looked at I think, you know everything  
15 seems to be matching up well.

16 A few other observations I -- I know -- while  
17 we're on 1.2.1, so it makes it a little hard to compare the  
18 point in time with last year, but the other thing that --  
19 that occurs when you look at the timing of expenditures, and  
20 particularly, in our pre-employment training services, if  
21 you go back and look at last summer, we probably spent about  
22 6-7 million dollars in the June, July, August timeframe,  
23 through our rehab works and through the initiative for the  
24 summer earn and learn. So, if you're looking at this point  
25 in time and think it's a straight line, you have to take

1 into account the timing of when those expenses will actually  
2 be counted against the state fiscal year. So, we -- when we  
3 do projections for you, we're trying to take that into  
4 account to give you what we think will happen compared to  
5 last year, even though we're not seeing that at the moment.  
6 So, we -- when we do this analysis, we -- we do take -- take  
7 that into account so that in this case the, just under 20  
8 percent doesn't particularly seem alarming, if the trends  
9 from last year are indicative of what will happen this  
10 coming summer; which in some ways we think right now that  
11 does appear to be the case. So, anyway, just another point  
12 of observation. Another good example of timing would be in,  
13 1.2.3, the BET, the Business Enterprise of Texas, the trust  
14 fund. This is where we make, what's referred to as RIVAS,  
15 as the Retirement Health Insurance Vacation, payments that  
16 occurs in the Mar -- late March, early April timeframe, and  
17 it occurs to the tune of about \$390,000 or so. Do you see  
18 zero there? That's not shocking or surprising or alarming  
19 or anything along those lines, it's just the timing again of  
20 the expenditure. So, there's -- there's a few strategies  
21 that are of course relatively new to our agency that are  
22 just now less than a year and a half into this transition,  
23 completing the transition. And so, just trying to point out  
24 a few things to so -- you -- kind of - a little better  
25 picture the kind of how the numbers work; the financial

1 numbers and that sort of thing. The only other thing that I  
2 -- when I looked at this, I would like to point out to you,  
3 is some -- towards the far righthand side of the -- of the  
4 page there under Average FTE's; third column from your  
5 right, this is showing a three-month average for full-time  
6 equivalent staffing, at just under 4,300 FTE's. Again by  
7 way of reminder; the FTE limit is 4,868, so we're about 570  
8 some-odd FTE's under for the first three months, on average  
9 basis. I did take a peek at December to see where we  
10 actually were off of the current month, and we had added  
11 about 60 Staff. And so, we're still about 500 FTE's below  
12 the limit. Those are occurring, -- as -- essentially that's  
13 about 10 percent under. So, not necessarily a bad thing but  
14 it does mean that, you know, I don't know; I can only speak  
15 for finance, in this -- when I say this, we've been adding  
16 FTE's at -- you know, after the freeze was lifted to fill  
17 critical positions. But, we're probably losing as many as  
18 we're actually bringing on. So, we're kind of -- just  
19 trying to catch back up, and you know, complete the work  
20 that's -- that's necessary and that sort-of-thing. But,  
21 also being mindful of how many Staff are necessary. But, we  
22 are about 10 percent under the -- under the limit at this  
23 point. the -- the two big divisions are our largest  
24 divisions; Voc Rehab and -- and UI, Unemployment Insurance  
25 Division, so, Cheryl's area and LaSha's. Again, just

1 because they -- the larger numbers of -- of Staff there.  
2 But, I do want to point that out, that that's -- that's what  
3 people would be seeing if they were looking at -- at the  
4 agencies, you know, status as far as, -- staffing levels and  
5 that sort --of-thing. So, unless you have questions, I did  
6 -- oh, I did include the -- the explanations of variance on  
7 -- which I've talked about a couple of those already, on the  
8 second -- on the handout for explanations of variance. so,  
9 that's included in there. Most of it, again, for us is  
10 timing of -- of expenditures on our grants, and -- and then  
11 the couple observations I pointed out to you earlier. So,  
12 unless you have questions, that's -- completes my remarks  
13 this morning.

14 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Any questions,  
15 Commissioners?

16 COMM. ALVAREZ: No questions.

17 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: We have not questions,  
18 Randy. Thank you. Good morning, Adam.

19 MR. LEONARD: Good morning, Mr. Chairman,  
20 Commissioners. A moment ago I handed out a copy of notes  
21 associated under the observations for this quarterly  
22 performance briefing as I am wont to do. on the top of Page  
23 1, you can see that, we're starting the year. We're one  
24 quarter into the year, about three quarters of our LBV  
25 measures are, in a meeting or positive status. Of the

1 twelve that are missing, though, two of them are Hurricane  
2 related; four of them are kind of scheduling, so they're --  
3 we believe by the end of the year those are all going meet  
4 out. Looking down -- as a reminder, this is the first  
5 quarterly Session where all of the measures we report to the  
6 legislature and the Governor's office, are post WIOA  
7 measures where, were changed -- or made there so you're  
8 looking at, for instance, in the Workforce Development  
9 Division, now most of the programs are -- are -- -- focusing  
10 on people who got more than self-service. And so, the  
11 concept of a participant versus a customer has changed a  
12 little bit, and I wanted to kind of demonstrate that with  
13 this chart in the middle of page 1. The blue line, the top  
14 line, is the old customer serve number, looking at, the  
15 number served in any rolling twelve-month period, the last  
16 eleven years. And the red line below that is showing the  
17 same trend, but only counting participant service. There's  
18 a difference between these are what we call reportable  
19 individuals. People who are, using the system primarily in  
20 a self-service mode who are getting information only  
21 services, but not reaching to a level of participant as WIOA  
22 now defines them. One thing of note here is, you -- you may  
23 remember we've had conversations in the past about kind of  
24 the overall trend since the recession. And we see kind of  
25 that same trend occurs both with, the old definition and the

1 new; meaning that, the reduction we've been seeing there is  
2 also in the staff assisted customers. We're getting more  
3 than information only services. Not just self-serve people  
4 working outside the system. When we start to go down to  
5 some of the Programs areas you can see that, we owe a -- a  
6 downed dislocated worker customer served, went down a little  
7 bit, from last year about 13.5 percent lower than last year,  
8 and currently at 87.6 percent of where we would expect to be  
9 at this time. So, we're negative there. But again, some of  
10 that has had to do with changes in allocations and  
11 uncertainty about funding. We know that some of the boards  
12 have been a little, conservative in terms of trying to  
13 husband their resources and keep -- and ensure that they're  
14 not in cliff situation later. Skills and self, is kind of  
15 what we typically see, which is lower in the earlier part of  
16 the year. Adult Education, one of the areas that we're kind  
17 of trying to look at and understand better, has to do with  
18 the credential rate. And our participant serve numbers are  
19 a little bit tricky to evaluate since what we do with the  
20 grantees is on a PY basis; July to June versus state fiscal  
21 year that we report to the legislation and the governor.  
22 but right now, in a normal year, 52 percent of target about  
23 this point in the year, would probably be pretty good. But,  
24 given that we're seeing some changes in the -- or we will --  
25 have the re-procuring Adult Ed, that might create some

1 uncertainty or some changes in the typical service pattern.  
2 So, we're not sure what to make of quite yet there. The one  
3 positive note is that the employment outcomes for Adults Ed  
4 are doing quite well. so better than expected there. I  
5 wanted to take a minute and talk a little bit about child  
6 care. And, there's a lot on the page. I won't go through  
7 all the details, that's -- we can, you know, discuss  
8 separately. But, this is something I shared, previously a  
9 few days ago with the boards. And, it has to do with some  
10 big questions for child care moving into the second year of  
11 re-authorization. One had to do with, what's going to  
12 happen to all of those formally mandatory customers who are  
13 coming into the system either as general protection cases,  
14 or choices cases. They get to the end of their 12 months,  
15 potentially. Are they going to then shift into  
16 discretionary care? We only have one month of data here,  
17 but what we did was we looked at the people who are brand  
18 new in October of '16, to see what happened to them 13  
19 months later, and the, data on Page 3 shows, that for  
20 Choices, about 62.5 percent of those people are not in any  
21 TWC care anymore. About 23 percent moved into Discretionary  
22 Care. 13 percent, or 13.6 are still in Choices. Now, those  
23 are probably cases that may have bounced around. Not so  
24 much just stayed the whole time, they may have left and then  
25 come back and gotten, TANF and started a new period. But,

1 that's kind of what we're looking at. For the General  
2 Protection Kids, these are the ones who start off, being  
3 paid for by the DFPS, but who ultimately, move into ex-  
4 general and went into our case load. About 72.7 percent of  
5 the 1,800 new cases we had October '16, are no longer in TWC  
6 care. They are not being funded in November of '17. About  
7 9 percent are in discretionary, 5 percent are still in  
8 General -- or -- back in general protection maybe, and then  
9 about 12 percent are in ex-general. So, on the whole, they  
10 were still looking at less than 20, or a little over 25  
11 percent of the people still in the system at some place.  
12 One month of data, we -- next week, we hope to have another  
13 month of data, another monthly cohort to look at, but  
14 certainly nothing really alarming in our initial look at  
15 this data. The other thing that we had done, was we're  
16 looking at our projections for where we thought caseloads  
17 would grow, with choices in mandatory this year. And, the  
18 choices production seemed to be pretty good. The -- ex-  
19 general protection projections were a little higher than  
20 what we've seen, which is a positive. And, as we go back  
21 and look at that, it may mean we can afford more  
22 discretionary care. which is something that I know there  
23 has been a lot of concern about; the ability to bring in new  
24 low-income families into the system without having first  
25 passed through a mandatory stage. So, so far, we're --

1 we're seeing some things here that are fairly promising and  
2 we're going to continue to monitor that and we'll share that  
3 information when we have it.

4 For, moving into Vocational Rehabilitation,  
5 they're meeting 4 out of 5 measures average cost per  
6 Participant Service. Currently --

7 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: I'm sorry - I'm sorry,  
8 Adam?

9 MR. LEONARD: Yeah, I'm sorry.

10 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: in terms of the boards  
11 being able, have more discretionary, flexibility moving  
12 forward; is that uniformly, or is that most boards, or is  
13 that -- all boards?

14 MR. LEONARD: I'm looking at that now. So,  
15 I don't have that answer today, but what we had said was  
16 when we have three months of ECY-17 days of December, we'd  
17 relook at it for each board and bring recommendations, to  
18 you all and -- and to Workforce set --- leadership.

19 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: All right, thank you.

20 MR. LEONARD: I think for the most part  
21 though, it was more -- well over the majority of what I  
22 would guess. So, from kind of my memory of it so, I can  
23 maybe answer a little bit more of that sooner, than later.  
24 on Vocational Rehabilitation, I was mentioning that average  
25 costs for participant service is currently running above

1 target. but, one of the things that, we've been trying to  
2 get a handle on is thinking about -- I mean this is new data  
3 to us in a way and looking at these measures, of having  
4 average cost measures. Looking at, them a couple different  
5 ways, so we hope to have a better view of this by the next,  
6 performance briefing; more historical data, to kind of  
7 compare it to, to see the -- the historic patterns of how  
8 this changes over the course of the year, and to decide  
9 whether this is something that's an anomaly and it's going  
10 to smooth its way out, or is actually more meaningful.

11 BET is currently meeting or exceeding all  
12 four of the measures that are reportable during the year.  
13 They have a fifth measure that's only reported at the end of  
14 the year. In UI, the two measures that they're not  
15 currently meeting were both Hurricane related. so, the  
16 numbers of claims and the, hold time, we obviously had  
17 greater demand this Fall, than was expected. RID the one  
18 measure that's currently missing is, sub-recipient  
19 monitoring reviews, but those are kind of a scheduling issue  
20 and they should meet out. Same thing with civil rights,  
21 that their personnel policies should, finish the year fine,  
22 because they don't work on a proportionate 1-12, 1-12 kind  
23 of schedule. Then when we look at the boards themselves,  
24 generally starting the -- the year, fairly hot, with about  
25 92.5 percent of, possible instances of -- of meeting or not

1 meeting performance to be meeting -- or exceeding, generally  
2 we've got, all boards are meeting a number of the measures,  
3 which are listed here at the bottom of Page 4 and going to  
4 5. and there are three other measures where only one board  
5 is missing, their target. So, pretty strong there. We also  
6 have a number of boards that, have, met all of them, or that  
7 have met all but one. So, very -- very good beginning to  
8 the year of what we're seeing there. We do have a few areas  
9 where we have more common misses, for instance the, numbers  
10 of employers missing -- sorry, missing -- boards missing,  
11 employers receiving Workforce assistance, is at 5. Child  
12 care is at 6. But, as I mentioned, when we relook at that,  
13 I have a feeling we're going to find that, these boards are  
14 probably going to be okay. When we kind of revisit what  
15 they can afford, generally speaking, the ones that are  
16 missing it's because they're over-enrolled from where we  
17 expected them to be. But, again, that was using  
18 conservative estimates of what would happen in mandatory  
19 care. If it turns out that what I'm seeing is right and the  
20 numbers are lower, they may be fine. Credential rate youth  
21 seems to be the area of greatest challenge right now with  
22 nine missing. That's something we're starting to try to  
23 look at and understand if there's anything in the data, or  
24 the way that, that we're analyzing this. And, then lastly,  
25 dislocated worker median earnings; five boards are currently

1 missing; although two of those are very close. So, that's  
2 what I have to share in terms of first quarter. And, I'm  
3 happy to answer any questions you may have.

4 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Commissioners, any  
5 questions?

6 COMM. HUGHS: No, thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Thank you, Adam. Good  
8 work. Larry, what else do you have in terms of the  
9 performance update?

10 MR. TEMPLE: That's all we have, unless you  
11 have any questions and we'll move on into IT.

12 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: No, we have no  
13 additional questions. let's move onto the IT performance --  
14 or the IT briefing.

15 MS. RICHARDSON: Good Morning, Chairman,  
16 Commissioners --

17 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Good morning.

18 MS. RICHARDSON: Mr. Temple.

19 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: I want to start by really  
20 thanking you for all of your work that you've been doing,  
21 collectively. Really appreciate, the updates, and fluidity  
22 which you're, really adjusting to, all these, different  
23 contingencies that you're facing. And, really appreciate  
24 the good work.

25 MS. RICHARDSON: Thank you, sir.

1                   CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Now --- now let's hope we  
2 have a good IT Briefing.

3                   MS. RICHARDSON: Of course, we will. For  
4 the record, I'm Lisa Richardson, IT Director. If you will  
5 turn in your notebooks to the table of contents, you will  
6 see that we have added three new projects this quarter.  
7 We've included, a new notation, which is an indicator of the  
8 project title so that you can -- so that these projects will  
9 stand out for you. The first one that you see is, for our  
10 BET Manager Monthly Reporting and BET Facility Equipment  
11 Systems Replacement. That is a very long name and maybe  
12 we'll come up with a better one, that -- so it's a  
13 replacement for the BET System. The next one is the CCRC,  
14 Consumer Tracking and Scheduling and Attendant's Systems  
15 replacement. And, in the third one that we have for you  
16 that's new this -- this quarter, is the -- our Enterprise  
17 Data Warehouse Phase Two. And, Adam is going to be --  
18 presenting on that project for us. The BET and CCRC will be  
19 implementing, new solutions to address aging systems and  
20 will improve the security and accessibility of those  
21 existing systems that are in place. Next quarter we'll be,  
22 kicking off three additional new projects. We are going to  
23 be re-starting our top tax project that had been previously  
24 been put on hold. We are going to be, launching our UI  
25 Short-Time Compensation Project. And then, Tom's team is

1 going to be working on Tracer 2 rewrite. So -- so, if you  
2 can turn in your tabs -- top -- turn in your notebooks to  
3 Tab 1.

4 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Before we get there, in  
5 terms of all the wonderful work that's ongoing; we continue  
6 to have these -- these long-standing partnerships, live  
7 through the, the data center contract. And, I understand  
8 that things have kind of stabilized a little bit in terms of  
9 cost. But, I'm still not quite sure that, we're realizing  
10 some of, the -- the benefits from what has occurred out  
11 there in -- in the private sector, and to that end, really  
12 like given that, we are in January already, and will be  
13 having a number of options in terms of how we position  
14 ourselves moving forward; notwithstanding the, significant  
15 work we have -- have ahead of us with work in Texas and some  
16 of the things in how those are progressing. But, I do  
17 believe that, given some of the, advantages that we're  
18 seeing with the -- with the cloud for example, and with the  
19 stated interest in our State to, really examine, those  
20 possibilities, would really like, you and the team to really  
21 analyze the additional possibilities that we might have;  
22 including, transforming -- we'll -- we -- get to it when,  
23 look at UI; what additionally could we do like for example  
24 in, the UI, overall, generally, in terms of how we offer the  
25 -- our applications. Are there, savings that can be

1 realized in terms -- or are there benefits that can be  
2 realized in terms of performance? what, advantages would we  
3 see in terms of security, and, what are some of the other  
4 considerations? so just a general discussion, love to  
5 follow-up, with, you and the team, once you've analyzed some  
6 of these possibilities and, see if, others have gone more  
7 aggressively than we have. But, I do believe that, given  
8 everything that we're seeing in terms of private sector  
9 investment, and those partnerships are being made, that  
10 that's something that we need to consider and maybe move  
11 forward more aggressively on.

12 MS. RICHARDSON: Yes, sir. And, this is the  
13 perfect timing for doing that. Our teams are already  
14 working with all of the other directors in the agency,  
15 pulling together project proposals for the next LAR, so this  
16 is the right time to be looking at that, so, we will -- will  
17 get on that.

18 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Think big.

19 MS. RICHARDSON: Yes, Sir.

20 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: All right, thank you.

21 MS. RICHARDSON: Okay.

22 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: I'm sorry Commissioners.

23 COMM. ALVAREZ: No, that's good. Thank you.

24 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Thank you.

25 MS. RICHARDSON: Good points. So, the first

1 project that you have in your notices are on our PC Refresh.  
2 project. I'm excited to say that we have deployed over  
3 5,800 devices, statewide. That was a challenging project  
4 and we were able to accomplish it and I believe everybody is  
5 very excited about the new devices that they have. This is  
6 the project close-out. We were a little bit behind schedule  
7 on doing this; we got a little thing called Hurricane Harvey  
8 that interrupted our roll-out down -- down south. but the  
9 team really pulled it together and got all the devices out.  
10 So, this is the close-out, project for PC Refresh.

11           The next, pages that you have in your  
12 notebooks; this is the IT Enterprise Support Initiatives.  
13 And, this is some of the, more general, initiatives that IT  
14 is working on, they don't rise to the level of having an  
15 individual status report, but there's a lot of work that's  
16 going and we would just like to share some of the other  
17 activities that we have. So, this last quarter, some of the  
18 key enhancements that we have completed, that would be the  
19 number 1, is our payday online wage claims. This was  
20 actually a legislatively mandated project. We had house  
21 bill 2443, and we were required to have, the ability to file  
22 claims online, effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018. And, we -- we  
23 met that -- that deadline, that target. To date we've  
24 received about, 268 claims have been filed online. And,  
25 that represents about 35 percent of all the -- the wage

1 claims that have been received. in talking with, Mr.  
2 Carmona, the -- the -- that -- that -- is -- we're standing  
3 about average for the month about how many we're receiving.  
4 It's not an increase; it's just a different filing method  
5 for -- at this point in time. And, again this is the first  
6 month that we can provide additional numbers on that, as we  
7 move forward.

8           The next project that I'd like to talk to you  
9 about is our WIOA Enhancements. In November and December,  
10 we completed sev -- several major releases, for six  
11 Workforce Applications; the biggest of those, of course, are  
12 including our work in Texas, our Twist system and then the  
13 team system. The team will continue to be working on some  
14 other WIOA Releases as we -- we continue adding some data  
15 elements. But, the majority of the system enhancements are  
16 completed, it's now working with Adam's team on -- on all  
17 the reporting components that still need to be done.  
18 Another item that I'd like to point out is Number 7, the  
19 data warehouse. So as I noted, we're going to be kicking  
20 off Phase Two, but wanted to report on Phase One; what we  
21 completed. So, in Fiscal Year '17, IT focused on the  
22 analysis and documentation of all of TWC's existing data,  
23 data sources, and we developed a lot of use cases. We  
24 actually went around and met with every division, and talked  
25 about; how are you using this data. And, what can we do to

1 provide data so that you can use it more efficiently and  
2 make better decisions in your organizations. So, this --  
3 all of this was in preparation for our upcoming fiscal year  
4 '18-19 Capital Project, which is actually to move forward  
5 with the actual creation of an Enterprise Data Warehouse for  
6 TWC.

7 Under our key initiatives in progress; one of  
8 the ones I'd like highlight for you is our Digital  
9 Signatures. That's Number 11. IT continues to assist with  
10 coronating digital signature pilots. Throughout the Agency,  
11 to improved -- efficiency and improve Customer experiences.  
12 For example, HR has revamped the way we collect new hire  
13 forms using digital signatures. This has reduced the time  
14 from days to get all the documents signed from all new  
15 employees, to just spending one hour to collect the forms  
16 back from individuals. This allows -- this has also cut  
17 down about 1.5 to 2 hours of document signing that used to  
18 happen when people have showed up on that first day, and  
19 allows HR Staff to review other important topics that  
20 previously could not be covered during NEO. We are  
21 receiving great feedback from all the New Hires and the TWC  
22 HR Staff. And, has been very positive; and that's just one  
23 example of one area of where we're rolling out Docu-Sign.  
24 But, pretty much right now, we're in almost every division,  
25 looking at Pilots. And, we'll see how much farther we can

1 roll this out throughout the agency.

2           COMM. HUGHS: And, on that Lisa, I found it  
3 very using friendly that you can also designate someone else  
4 to sign for a particular item. So, we are good to go on  
5 that. Thanks.

6           MS. RICHARDSON: Oh, excellent. Thank you.  
7 the next item is, Number 13, and I just wanted to point out,  
8 the Vocational Rehab application enhancements, are  
9 continuing to work on, are the VR programs, we have already  
10 implemented all the WIOA changes that we needed to do for  
11 VR, and additionally, we worked on the way that the -- the  
12 -- Staff initially log-in to the system. There were some  
13 issues as we're rolling our VR program staff into the board  
14 offices. They -- they were having to -- we were having to  
15 set-up separate network connectivity so that those Staff  
16 could connect back to the older system, with the older log-  
17 in; and so we're getting that all modified so that, we'll be  
18 able to use the resources in the board Offices and not rely  
19 on separate network connectivity. So, that should save us  
20 money and the board's money moving forward. Do you have any  
21 other questions about any of the -- kind of the  
22 miscellaneous projects that we have ongoing?

23           COMM. ALVAREZ: Great work.

24           MS. RICHARDSON: Thank you so much. At this  
25 point in time, I'd like to turn it over to Tab 2, and that's

1 going to be Mr. Glenn Neal, who is going to talk to us about  
2 Enterprise Contracting System, Phase Two.

3 MR. NEAL: Morning, Commissioners, Glenn  
4 Neal, Director of Business Operations. The Enterprise  
5 Contracting and Procurement System Phase Two, replaces our  
6 existing CAT System, and migrates, those contracts into one  
7 TWC Enterprise Contracting Solution. You'll recall that  
8 Phase One related to the transition of VR and moving off of  
9 the HHS CAT System, to TWC. As you can see, under project  
10 ratings, were green across the board in terms of budget  
11 timeline and scope, about 23 percent complete, as you see  
12 the milestones down there; we're anticipating, finishing the  
13 build-out of the system in July, but the -- and -- and --  
14 that relates to the actual completion of the build-out and  
15 -- and -- the requirements of -- for the system, but it  
16 doesn't necessarily relate to when we will cut over. We are  
17 still discussing the cut over date off CATS onto, the new  
18 DCPS System. And also that project end date --- the -- the  
19 actual project end date reported to QAT is 08-30-18. So we  
20 have a little bit of wiggle room on the back end of the  
21 project in case we need to make adjustments. That's all I  
22 have, unless there are any questions.

23 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Commissioners?

24 COMM. HUGHS: No, thank you for the update.

25 MR. TEMPLE: Commissioners, I'd like to, I

1 really want to, do a shout out here for all the people that  
2 work on getting out of HCATS, that was something we were  
3 having to -- MOU with, HHSC, it needed a lot of work, and we  
4 didn't want to have to, renew that and so Staff had that  
5 done basically in a year, had that completely done to where  
6 we were able to get off of HCATS. And, so this is beyond  
7 HCATS, but, the team did a great job and it was, well and  
8 above what their normal job were going to do -- would have  
9 to be -- so --

10 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Are we calling it TCATS  
11 now, or is it still CATS? what --- what are you guys  
12 calling it?

13 MR. NEAL: It's -- it's ECPS, the  
14 Enterprising Contracting Procurement System.

15 MS. RICHARDSON: Thank you, sir. And, next  
16 we have LaSha Lenzy to report on more UI Projects.

17 MS. LENZY: Good morning, everyone. For the  
18 LaSha Lenzy, Unemployment Insurance Division. Thank you so  
19 much. I'll continue with good news. On time, on budget,  
20 and completed seems to be the theme here, so, as we  
21 continue, the first item under Tab 3, I believe, our  
22 telecenter upgrade project. And, this one actually speaks  
23 to some of what, the chairman was referencing earlier;  
24 ensuring that we are looking at private sector benchmarks  
25 and ensuring that we are keeping up with our equipment

1 upgrades, and our software, and making us eligible for that  
2 maintenance that's out there. And, those new technologies  
3 will be easier for us to implement when we keep these type  
4 systems upgraded. It did come in on budget and on time,  
5 this will also allow us to see a reduction in our annual  
6 preventative maintenance costs. So, I do think that speaks  
7 to some of what the -- the Chairman was gearing us towards.  
8 This will also allow for adopting and implementing newer  
9 call routing and handling new technologies, as well. On our  
10 next project, so this one is completed and will come out of  
11 the book, by the way. our next project, also completed, and  
12 will come out of the book, is the Tax Audit Program. This  
13 was on-time and actually a little under budget. So had --  
14 had a little savings there. This system will improve the  
15 quality and efficiency of our Audit processes, for our Tax  
16 Examiners. It eliminated so many work-arounds that we were  
17 having to do. its completed. The staff are training on it  
18 and absolutely loving it. This is the compass system. So,  
19 very excited about this project.

20 Lisa did mention that we'll have two new  
21 projects that are coming up; already, she talked about top  
22 tax and also our short, shared work, short-time, project.  
23 Did anyone have any questions?

24 COMM. ALVAREZ: No questions.

25 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: How's this changing it

1 for our tax -- tax employees?

2 MS. LENZY: How's it --- say that one more  
3 time?

4 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Changing their daily  
5 requirements; how's it helping them, again? Could you go  
6 over some of that?

7 MS. LENZY: Yes, it was mainly the manual  
8 work-arounds, is what was really slowing them down. So,  
9 this is of the tools that they need to interact more  
10 professionally, and efficiently with their customers; with  
11 our employers.

12 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Okay, thank you.

13 MS. RICHARDSON: Thank you. At this time, I  
14 would like to call up Courtney and Cheryl and Adam.

15 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Thank you LaSha and  
16 Glenn. Have --

17 MS. RICHARDSON: Thank you all.

18 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Have a good day.

19 MS. RICHARDSON: If you turn into Tab 4 on  
20 your notebook, Courtney Arbour is going talk to us about,  
21 the workforce division projects.

22 MS. ARBOUR: Good morning, Chairman,  
23 Commissioners; Courtney Arbour, Workforce Division director.  
24 The first I'll report out on is the Work in Texas  
25 replacement. we have completed the evaluation of the

1 amended proposals, selected a vendor finalist, conducted on-  
2 site negotiations with the vendor and we're on track to have  
3 a contract signed by the end of this month. We have  
4 received approval of the data center services temporary  
5 hosting exemption request, also, which was good news. That  
6 was, the workforce replacement was part of the Work in Texas  
7 repla -- I'm sorry plan procurements for long-term  
8 solutions. And, as I've just stated, that was has been is  
9 -- is -- completed as planned. The other big piece of that  
10 is the Workforce and VR-RFI, which is intended -- we'll  
11 actually release that today. It's intended to gather market  
12 research information that will inform our LAR planning and  
13 for replacing any of our other legacy systems; including our  
14 case management system, and some other things that we'd like  
15 to know kind of what the market, has available for us as we  
16 consider replacing those.

17 Both of these I've just mentioned were on  
18 budget and on-time; to quote LaSha. the third, major  
19 project that we're working on is the Workforce and UI  
20 portal. That one, is on budget and we're -- the -- the  
21 scope, we're still within scope. We've got -- we're in the  
22 yellow on that one, on time-line because some of the efforts  
23 of Staff that were working on this had to be diverted with  
24 Harvey related activities. but the project is -- is going  
25 well. We have started a beta test with two boards; the

1 north central and capital area boards, and that started on  
2 the 17<sup>th</sup> of this month. In the five workdays that they've  
3 had that, beta testing -- or the -- the pilot in place,  
4 they've had 1,488 log-ins. And so, they're working on, a  
5 survey to get feedback in English and Spanish from users to  
6 inform any changes we might need to make, with that. So,  
7 other boards who are aware of this project are excited about  
8 it and we'll -- we'll roll that one out as soon as we can  
9 get our feedback and know when -- what changes we might  
10 need. Those are all the projects I have for Workforce.  
11 Happy to answer any questions.

12 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Commissioners? Thank  
13 you, Courtney.

14 MR. TEMPLE: Commissioners, if it's okay,  
15 I'd like to ask Karen Latta before we get off of the WIT;  
16 Karen is heading up the, transition, team for WIT. This  
17 will certainly be an enterprise, effort. And, similar to  
18 the VR, transition. We had a lot of teams, so we've asked  
19 Karen. And, I'm going to thank her for stepping up doing  
20 that, since all the Harvey stuff has been so easy to do, so  
21 -- Karen?

22 MS. LATTA: Thank you, for the record, I'm  
23 Karen Latta. So we are setting up a structure similar to  
24 what we did with the DARS transition, where we have a  
25 steering committee that will meet for the first time in

1 early February. And, that steering committee is made up of  
2 most of the executives of the agency, who will have some  
3 involvement in the WIT replacement project. And, then we  
4 also have three teams that will report to that committee,  
5 the steering committee; we have a communications team, a  
6 training team and then the technology team. The  
7 communications team will be responsible for all of the  
8 internal and external communications that are going to be  
9 needed as part of the WIT replacement. And then the  
10 training team will deal with all of the training needs that  
11 will be involved. And then the technology team is really  
12 Lisa's team and Courtney's team that have been involved with  
13 the procurement, and then we'll be involved with the vendor,  
14 and -- and actually rolling out and developing product.

15 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Larry, as a reminder, one  
16 of the things that I am very interested in is making sure  
17 that, we have, monthly meetings on this. so, as you plan  
18 this Karen, understand that, you'll be staffing for a,  
19 commission work session with the, vendors, to make sure  
20 that, we're all - and - on the same page in terms of how  
21 this is going to roll out, and what sort of additional  
22 investments we're going to make, and how we're going to use  
23 the dollars that are available. All right?

24 MR. TEMPLE: Thanks.

25 MS. FULLER: Good morning, Mr. Chairman,

1 Commissioners, MR. Temple. Cheryl Fuller, VR. I'm here to  
2 give you an update on two new projects for VR. The first  
3 one is -- and I'm going to shorten the title, so that I can  
4 get it out right. The BET, Manager Monthly Reporting and  
5 Facility Equipment Systems Replacement. That was still  
6 pretty long. this project will replace the Manager Monthly  
7 Reporting and Facil --- and the Facility Equipment systems.  
8 And, it will allow for submissions and updates from the  
9 license managers to monthly profit and loss statements. It  
10 will also, produce physical inventory reports. It will  
11 improve our accuracy for federal reporting. It's really  
12 some -- some great improved functionality over what the  
13 Legacy Systems have right now. And they are they're --  
14 definitely old and outdated. The system will interface with  
15 the Texas State Controller to deposit collected fees and  
16 disperse payments to our BET managers. this will also  
17 improve security and accessibility, and we're very excited  
18 about this system. Rolling out soon, project planning and  
19 analysis has started, and they have onboarded; the IT has a  
20 contracted business analyst; did that in December. And, our  
21 staff are starting to work with that person now, so we're  
22 just getting started.

23 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Great, any questions?

24 COMM. HUGHS: No, it's exciting.

25 MS. FULLER: All right, the Criss Cole

1 Rehabilitation Center consumer tracking and scheduling, and  
2 a test -- and -- attendant systems replacement is -- is  
3 similar, in that this system is also going to replace, older  
4 and outdated systems currently in use by staff. And, this  
5 system is going to support our CCRC staff as they provide  
6 quality and training to our customers. It's going to  
7 improve their ability to manage classes overall, and to  
8 track our Customers progress through their training at the  
9 Criss Cole Center. it will also improve security and  
10 accessibility, over the older systems we have now. Project  
11 planning and analysis have started, and, the project  
12 sponsor, our CCRC director, Roseanne DeMoss, has had a  
13 meeting with IT for project (indiscernible). So, I look  
14 forward to bringing you updates; getting started on both.

15 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Perfect, thank you.

16 MS. RICHARDSON: Thank you, Commissioners.  
17 Now, if you turn to Tab 5, Adam Leonard is here to report on  
18 our data warehouse, phase two.

19 MR. LEONARD: So, phase one was really, the  
20 obviously, kind of a preparation activity that was intended  
21 to, get some folks really, oriented around the landscape as  
22 it exists today. Phase two is actually starting to build  
23 something. So, it's going through, setting up the  
24 infrastructure, that allows us to, begin to store, stage and  
25 use this data in a variety of different ways. And, so the

1 key on this is going to be -- was -- was identifying some  
2 high value data assess that we could reasonably put in  
3 production for, an initial launch functionality in the data  
4 warehouse. And, we came up with four areas, that we wanted  
5 to look at. One had to do with child care data; another had  
6 to do with adult education data, then looking at the UI,  
7 date in benefits tax appeals, etc. And, then finally, the,  
8 data to support the, short-term, or, short-time compensation  
9 early warning system. And, this was part of the initial SVR  
10 grant proposal, that got us some of the money to help pay  
11 for the warehouse. It was this idea that in order to expand  
12 use of short-time compensation in Texas we have a system  
13 that would help us identify employers who might be good  
14 people to outreach for services and education around short-  
15 term compensation; and other types of lay-off aversion  
16 strategies. So, that's what we're looking doing over the  
17 rest of this buy in. And, I'll be happy to answer any  
18 questions you may have.

19 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: I do have one question.  
20 I just want to be clear in terms of my understanding. In  
21 terms of the data that's being collected any new data input  
22 requirements on the part of our customers, in terms of  
23 what's in vision here or the design of this?

24 MR. LEONARD: No.

25 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Okay, thank you. That's

1 good. That's the right answer.

2 MS. RICHARDSON: I think that's everything  
3 we're doing; other than everything that we're doing with  
4 WIOA, yeah.

5 MR. LEONARD: Now, that's a different thing.  
6 The data warehouse is taking the data that we collect  
7 everywhere else, and -- and integrating and connecting it  
8 together.

9 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: I mean, you can get rid  
10 of four data points and add one, but --

11 MR. LEONARD: Wouldn't that be nice? I  
12 mean, obviously, the, the twist, WIT replacement later may  
13 offer opportunities when -- when we get them started. We  
14 call it case management replacement later, that that may  
15 offer opportunities to streamline data entry, and align data  
16 better. that was really one of the reasons we didn't make  
17 that part of phase one; is even though there's a lot of  
18 value to that data, its undergoing so much change in the  
19 next two years, that there wasn't a lot of point to trying  
20 to do it now. So, I think over time we'll hopefully see  
21 what you're looking for.

22 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: All right, thank you,  
23 Sir. I really appreciate your good work; very thoughtful.

24 MS. RICHARDSON: Thank you. And, Tom? Your  
25 turn in Tab 6.

1 MR. MCCARTY: Thank you, Lisa.  
2 Commissioners, Tom McCarty, External Relations. I'm going  
3 to brief you, quickly on supply and demand, tool, Texas  
4 labor analysis, as well as a, Tracer 2, which is a new  
5 project that we're starting that Lisa mentioned in her  
6 opening, comments. I'm happy to report, much like, Lisa,  
7 and Courtney, and LaSha that we were on-time, within budget  
8 on this project. we did complete it, I believe you all got  
9 to see a demo prior to our launch of the tool; as well as  
10 some Staff yesterday received a demo, internally. features  
11 of the, product include gap analysis, labor supply analysis,  
12 labor demand analysis, top statistics report, regional  
13 occupational profile reports, charts and graphics, Excel  
14 downloads for display data and then PDF printable reports.  
15 And, it is accessible. we do have two enhancements that  
16 we're going to make, this coming year. One of them will be  
17 -- we're going to take them out of, our, Texas Industries  
18 Profiles application; which is an older application. and  
19 it's not accessible. And, these two features that we're  
20 going to have will work well with the, Texas Labor Analysis.  
21 It'll be location quotient, which is a way to -- that we can  
22 quantify, how concentrated a particular industry is in a  
23 Region. And, then also kind of compare it to the rest of  
24 the State or the U.S., and then we'll also add a labor  
25 availability estimator, which will, give us the, supply to

1 appropriately skilled workers in a particular region. So,  
2 we'll build those out. And, as we bring those online, we'll  
3 keep the -- keep your offices updated, on, just the progress  
4 where we're at with that. I will start doing our outreach  
5 efforts as well, with the boards, in setting up some  
6 training for them. And then I believe looking forward we're  
7 also going to do a demo with them, and have a section there  
8 -- for -- talk about this particular tool.

9                   CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: And, this tool allows us  
10 to complete another of the -- try -- or meets -- when --  
11 another of the tri-agency recommendations in terms of the  
12 ability to generate top 25, top 50, top of this; allows us  
13 to do it Statewide and right up report areas, and, and  
14 that's, another reason to say thank you for all the good  
15 work. You know, in terms of how we roll this out and  
16 whether or not we go to a data report that then allows the  
17 local partners to generate their own, we can talk about  
18 that. But if I -- if you, Doyle and the team will think  
19 about how we would launch that kind of effort. Let's follow  
20 up and see if we want to do that. Either way, a capacity is  
21 there to do it on a individual routine basis by any EDC any  
22 board member any -- any of our Partners. So, thank you for  
23 all the good work.

24                   MR. MCCARTY: Thank you.

25                   CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Larry?

1 MR. MCCARTY: I've got one more.

2 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Oh, sorry, Tom.

3 MR. MCCARTY: So on the Tracer 2 re -- re-  
4 route; real quick, we've started this one. We're, there's  
5 going to be 28, scheduled sprints. We've completed the  
6 first sprint, which was just the planning and laying this  
7 whole thing out. So, we're -- we're on the second sprint,  
8 and this is, one of four sprints to do the, local area  
9 unemployment statistics. after we have that, and kind of  
10 have the framework completed, we'll meet with your Offices,  
11 show you what we have, or see of any kind of input you have;  
12 and -- and take that and work that into, the -- the  
13 remaining billed item, and give you additional updates  
14 throughout the year on this one. So, we are scheduled to  
15 complete this one, at the end of December, as well, so we'll  
16 take this one out for the year. And, then that'll make --  
17 that'll pretty much bring, I think, all the OMCI's tools, up  
18 to -- you know, it'll upgrade them, make them accessible, to  
19 the public as well.

20 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Okay, any questions or  
21 comments?

22 COMM. HUGHS: I would say, once that's  
23 achieved, I look forward to working with, the -- the Skills  
24 to Work, and see what we can do to make it more accessible  
25 to employers; more employer friendly. So, look forward to

1 continuing those discussions, understanding there's a lot of  
2 priorities ahead of it right now. Thank you.

3 MR. MCCARTY: Okay, yes, Ma'am.

4 COMM. ALVAREZ: To those directors that made  
5 presentations; great work. I know there was a lot of  
6 preparation for today's meeting, so I appreciate that. I  
7 ask that you go back to your Staff and thank them as well,  
8 for all the great work they're doing. And, like you said  
9 they're all -- this is all great news. Thanks for making it  
10 very informative.

11 MS. RICHARDSON: Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Commissioner Hughs,  
13 anything else we can do to support your thinking on Skills  
14 to Work, and the sort of things we were contemplating there?

15 COMM. HUGHS: I think that the idea is just  
16 to figure out ways that it's more accessible for employers  
17 to really be able to use that as a tool in hiring veterans;  
18 and identifying what the, job skills are. So, it's a great  
19 tool now that people are taking advantage of; I think  
20 there's a lot of interest in continuing to see that type of  
21 work, where we make the language translation a little bit  
22 easier. And, it's just an easier tool for employers to  
23 access. We had some discussions, and I just want to share  
24 that I think that that would be an important rule to -- to --  
25 thing realize, as we finish up Tracer and other priorities.

1                   CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR:  If there's anything we  
2 can do to -- in terms of additional investment, in terms of  
3 resources, I'm very supportive of that effort.  is that it?  
4 Larry, we're back to you again.

5                   MR. TEMPLE:  I think we are completed, now.

6                   CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR:  Appreciate all the great  
7 work, Larry, and to everyone that's working on this.  I vote  
8 -- do we have a motion to adjourn this meeting?

9                   COMM. HUGHS:  I move that we adjourn.

10                  COMM. ALVAREZ:  I'll second that.

11                  CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR:  We're adjourned, have a  
12 good day.

13                               (Proceedings concluded at 10:34 a.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF TEXAS        )  
COUNTY OF TRAVIS    )

I, Kimberly C. McCright, Certified Vendor and Notary in and for the State of Texas, do hereby certify that the above-mentioned matter occurred as hereinbefore set out.

I FURTHER CERTIFY THAT the proceedings of such were reported by me or under my supervision, later reduced to typewritten form under my supervision and control and that the foregoing pages are a full, true and correct transcription of the original notes.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 12th day of February, 2018.

/s/ Kimberly C. McCright  
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