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TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
BEFORE THE
TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION
AUSTIN, TEXAS

PUBLIC MEETING)
FOR THE TEXAS)
WORKFORCE COMMISSION)

COMMISSION MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 2018

BE IT REMEMBERED THAT at 8:30 a.m. on
Tuesday, the 6th day of March, 2018, the above-entitled
matter came on for hearing at the Texas Workforce
Commission, TWC Building, 101 East 15th Street, Room 244,
Austin, Texas, before ANDRES ALCANTAR, Chairman; JULIAN
ALVAREZ and RUTH R. HUGHS, Commissioners

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PROCEEDINGS, TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 2018

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P R O C E E D I N G S

TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 2018

(8:30 a.m.)

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1

CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Good morning, everyone.

This meeting is called to order. Morning Ms. Miller.

MS. MILLER: Good morning.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2

Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action

Regarding Whether to Assume Continuing Jurisdiction on

Unemployment Compensation Cases, Wage Claim Cases, and/or

Tax Liability Cases and Reconsideration of Unemployment

Compensation Cases, Wage Claim Cases, and/or Tax Liability

Cases, if any.

No Discussion.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3

Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action

Regarding Tax Liability Cases Listed on the Texas Workforce

Commission Dockets 8, 9 and 10.

The Commission considered and took action on all tax liability cases listed on Dockets 8, 9 and 10.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4

Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action

Regarding Fair Housing Cases listed on the Texas Workforce

Commission Dockets 8, 9 and 10.

1 No Discussion.

2 AGENDA ITEM NO. 5

3 Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action
4 Regarding Higher Level Appeals in Wage Claim Cases Listed on
5 the Texas Workforce Commission Dockets 8, 9 and 10

6 The Commission considered and took action on
7 all wage claim cases listed on Dockets 8, 9 and 10.

8 AGENDA ITEM NO. 6

9 Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action
10 Regarding Higher Level Appeals in Unemployment Compensation
11 Cases Listed on the Texas Workforce Commission Dockets 8, 9
12 and 10.

13 The Commission considered and took action on
14 all unemployment compensation cases listed on Dockets 8, 9
15 and 10.

16 AGENDA ITEM NO. 7

17 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: All right. It is --
18 we're back in session. Les, has anyone signed up for public
19 comment?

20 MR. TROBMAN: No, sir.

21 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: We have no public
22 comment.

23 AGENDA ITEM NO. 8

24 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: So we're on Item 8,
25 Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action Regarding

1 pledges for Board Contract Year 2018 pledges. Jennifer?
2 But before we get to you, Jennifer, we have a very special
3 day that we want to recognize.

4 One of our colleagues is at another tipping
5 point where they're either younger or older, I'm not quite
6 sure. But could everyone please join me in recognizing Mr.
7 Alvarez's birthday and Ed, you get to lead the singing.

8 (Laughter)

9 COMM. ALVAREZ: No, that's my birthday wish
10 that Ed not do that.

11 (Laughter)

12 MR. SERNA: Granted.

13 (Applause)

14 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Happy birthday,
15 Commissioner Alvarez.

16 COMM. HUGHS: Happy birthday. We'll sing
17 later.

18 COMM. ALVAREZ: Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Jennifer?

20 MS. TROKE: Good morning, Chairman,
21 Commissioners and Mr. Temple. And happy birthday.

22 For the record, Jennifer Troke, Workforce
23 Development Division.

24 Annually, local workforce development boards
25 submit local match pledges to secure federal childcare

1 funds. Pursuant to Commission Rule 800.73, today Staff
2 requests Commission acceptance of childcare pledges for
3 donations, transfers, and certifications of expenses in the
4 amount of \$325,000. Once this action is approved, I am
5 pleased to report that all boards and the State will have
6 successfully secured childcare match for BCY-18. Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Commissioner Hughs.

8 COMM. HUGHS: I move that we accept the
9 pledges for Board Contract Year 2018 childcare matching
10 funds.

11 COMM. ALVAREZ: I'll second.

12 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: We're unanimous. Thank
13 you.

14 AGENDA ITEM NO. 9

15 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Item 9, Discussion,
16 Consideration and Possible Action Regarding Submission of
17 the 2017 TWC Annual Report to the Governor and the
18 Legislature. Lisa Givens. Good morning.

19 MS. GIVENS: Good morning, Chairman,
20 Commissioner Hughs, Commissioner Alvarez, Mr. Serna. For
21 the record, Lisa Givens, Communications Director.

22 You have before you the 2017 TWC Annual
23 Report for your consideration and approval. The report
24 highlights the successes of the Texas Workforce system for
25 the fiscal year 2017 and reflects the workforce solutions

1 provided by employers -- to employers and job seekers across
2 Texas by our Agency.

3 I'd like to thank members of your staff, as
4 well as other team members across the Agency for
5 contributing to the report. In conclusion, I'm requesting
6 your approval of the 2017 annual report, with your
7 permission to make technical corrections as necessary, prior
8 to final submission to the Legislature.

9 I'm happy to answer any questions.

10 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Commissioner Hughs?

11 COMM. HUGHS: Thank you. It's a well written
12 report. I do note, though, on page 5 if it's possible to
13 add something about the business partner's contributions to
14 the Skills Development Fund. We know that they certainly
15 contribute in wages, benefits, training facilities, et
16 cetera, and I think it's going to be important to note that
17 the employer also makes an investment in these trainings; if
18 we could do that.

19 MS. GIVENS: Absolutely.

20 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: That's a great
21 recommendation.

22 COMM. HUGHS: Thank you. So with that, I
23 move that we approve the 2017 Texas Workforce Commission
24 annual report and for Staff to add changes as discussed this
25 morning and for them to be able to make any technical

1 corrections before submitting it to the Governor and the
2 Legislature.

3 COMM. ALVAREZ: Lisa, good report, and I
4 second that.

5 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Thank you, Lisa. It's
6 unanimous.

7 MS. GIVENS: Thank you, Commissioners.

8 AGENDA ITEM NO. 10

9 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Item 10; we have no
10 update on Item 10.

11 AGENDA ITEM NO. 11

12 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Item 11, Discussion,
13 Consideration and Possible Action Regarding WIOA Combined
14 State Plan for Program Years 2016-2019. And that's Jason
15 Vaden. Good morning, Jason.

16 MR. VADEN: Good morning, Commissioners.

17 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Go ahead, Jason.

18 MR. VADEN: Good morning. For the record,
19 Jason Vaden, Workforce Division.

20 The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
21 requires states to submit modifications to their state plans
22 at the conclusion of the first two-year period of the four
23 year plan. June 30th of this year marks the end of that
24 two-year period.

25 The modifications are required to reflect

1 changes in the labor market and economic conditions or other
2 factors affecting the implementation of the plan. The
3 following updates in this plan modification include updated
4 labor market information, economic and workforce analysis,
5 information on the impact of Hurricane Harvey, information
6 related to the implementation, assessment and evaluation of
7 programs, requests for programmatic waivers, and specific
8 updates to the vocational rehabilitation adult education and
9 literacy and migrant seasonal farmworker sections of the
10 plan.

11 This morning Staff seeks direction on the
12 proposed WIOA state plan modification for posting for a 30-
13 day public comment period. At the end of the public comment
14 period, Staff will bring back those comments for your review
15 and consideration.

16 Commissioners, that concludes my remarks this
17 morning. I'm happy to answer questions if you have any.

18 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Commissioner Hughs?

19 COMM. HUGHS: I move that we approve the WIOA
20 Combined State Plan for Program Years 2016-'19 Two-Year
21 Modification to be posted for public comment.

22 COMM. ALVAREZ: I'll second that.

23 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: It's unanimous. I'm
24 sorry, let's go back to Item 10.

25 AGENDA ITEM NO. 10

1 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Item 10 is Discussion,
2 Consideration and Possible Action Regarding Statewide
3 Initiatives. Commissioner Hughs?

4 COMM. HUGHS: Okay. Thank you. I wanted to
5 bring up an initiative that's been previously approved by
6 the Commissioners and that's the Teacher Externship program
7 that I know we all support and we keep continuing to hear
8 what a great program it is across the state and how
9 successful it's been.

10 We've heard from our recent stakeholder
11 meetings that the demand for this program is great and that
12 more boards are interested in the idea. Commissioners
13 budgeted the initiative at 720,000 for this year's project,
14 but I think it's imperative we try to find as many proposals
15 as possible.

16 In FY-16, the incre -- the budget was
17 increased from 600,000 to 849,000, in '17 it went from
18 800,000 to 994,529. So I would move or that we at least
19 consider or have Staff bring back to us if we want to think
20 about it some more, funding at least maybe the top 10, which
21 would be an additional \$285,000, if you all are comfortable
22 considering that or if you'd like to bring it back for
23 further discussion, I would ask that we look at that.

24 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: I'm very comfortable with
25 it. Commissioner Alvarez?

1 COMM. ALVAREZ: I'm okay as well.

2 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: All right. Let's move
3 on. We agree.

4 COMM. HUGHS: So then I move that we approve
5 the top 10.

6 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Oh, sorry. Yes, ma'am.
7 Sorry.

8 COMM. HUGHS: Okay. So is he going to
9 second?

10 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: You second?

11 COMM. ALVAREZ: I second that.

12 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: We are unanimous. Thank
13 you. Thanks for bringing that to our attention,
14 Commissioner Hughs. Really appreciate it.

15 AGENDA ITEM NO. 12

16 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Item 13, Discussion --
17 no, we're on Item 12. We have no Hurricane Harvey update.

18 AGENDA ITEM NO. 13

19 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Let's go to Item 13,
20 Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action Regarding
21 Approval of Local Board Nominees. Cam, good morning.

22 MR. BELL: Good morning, Mr. Chairman,
23 Commissioners, Mr. Serna. Cameron Bell with the Workforce
24 Development Division.

25 Before you for consideration and approval are

1 Workforce Development Board nominations for Workforce
2 Solutions Capital Area, Deep East Texas, East Texas, Heart
3 of Texas, Gulf Coast, Lower Rio Grande Valley, Central
4 Texas, Permian Basin, Rural Capital Area, and Southeast
5 Texas.

6 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Commissioner Alvarez?

7 COMM. ALVAREZ: So just so you know, Cam,
8 there's one gentleman on the Workforce Solutions Lower Rio
9 Grande Valley. I was wondering if -- I'm okay with the --
10 all of them with the exception of one name that's listed on
11 there. I'm not sure if this is the appropriate --

12 MR. BELL: Which number, sir?

13 COMM. ALVAREZ: So it would be number 4 --

14 MR. BELL: Got it.

15 COMM. ALVAREZ: -- on Workforce Solutions
16 Lower Rio Grande Valley. But other than that, the other
17 ones are fine.

18 MR. BELL: We'll table that one and bring it
19 back at the next meeting after we check with your staff.

20 COMM. ALVAREZ: Thank you, sir.

21 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Thank you. And do we
22 have a motion, Commissioner Hughs?

23 COMM. HUGHS: Sure. With that amendment, I
24 would move that we approve local Workforce Development
25 Nominees for Capital Area, Deep East Texas, East Texas,

1 Heart of Texas, Gulf Coast, Lower Rio Grande Valley, Central
2 Texas, Permian Basin, Rural Capital Area, and Southeast
3 Texas.

4 COMM. ALVAREZ: I'll second that.

5 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: We are unanimous, so
6 we'll be bringing back that one item under number 4.

7 MR. BELL: Yes, sir. Thank you.

8 COMM. ALVAREZ: Thank you.

9 AGENDA ITEM NO. 14

10 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Item 14, we have no
11 Legislative update.

12 AGENDA ITEM NO. 15

13 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Item 15, report and
14 update by the Executive Director. Do we have some update?

15 MR. TEMPLE: Nothing to report.

16 AGENDA ITEM NO. 18

17 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Do we have a motion to
18 adjourn this meeting?

19 COMM. HUGHS: I move that we adjourn.

20 COMM. ALVAREZ: I'll second that.

21 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: We're adjourned. Thank
22 you.

23 (Proceedings concluded at 10:14 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 9th day of March, 2018.

/s/ Kimberly C. McCright
Kimberly C. McCright
Certified Vendor and Notary Public

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