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TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
BEFORE THE
TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION
AUSTIN, TEXAS

PUBLIC MEETING)
FOR THE TEXAS)
WORKFORCE COMMISSION)

COMMISSION MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 24, 2018

BE IT REMEMBERED THAT at 9:00 a.m. on
Tuesday, the 17th day of April, 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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AGENDA ITEM NO. 5

Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action
Regarding Higher Level Appeals in Wage Claim Cases Listed on
the Texas Workforce Commission Docket 17.

The Commission considered and took action on
all wage claim cases listed on Docket 17.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6

Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action
Regarding Higher Level Appeals in Unemployment Compensation
Cases Listed on the Texas Workforce Commission Docket 17.

The Commission considered and took action on
all unemployment compensation cases listed on Docket 17.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7

CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Good morning, everyone.
We are back in session. Les, has anyone signed up for
public comment?

MR. TROBMAN: No.

CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: We have no public
comment. Thank you, Les.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8

CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Item 8, Discussion,
Consideration and Possible Action Regarding the Report to
the Governor and the Legislative regarding the Estimated
Unemployment Trust Fund Balance Pursuant to Labor Code
Section 204.061; Randy Townsend. Good morning, Randy.

1 MR. TOWNSEND: Good morning, Chairman,
2 Commissioners. For the record, Randy Townsend, Chief
3 Financial Officer. Commissioners, wanted to give you the
4 monthly update on our unemployment trust fund projection for
5 this October -- October 1st.

6 We begin the year, of course, with about 1.1-
7 billion in the trust fund. We're continuing to estimate
8 that the collections from employers will be about 2.4-
9 billion. The payout we're estimating now will be slightly
10 below 2.2-billion for the year, and that would leave an
11 estimated balance in the trust fund on October 1st or -- of
12 about 1.4-billion. That 1.4-billion would be approximately
13 300-million, 328-million, above the floor based on our
14 current estimates. That also would mean that in the
15 employment and training investment holding fund that we
16 would not have to make a transfer out, and that would leave
17 a balance as of September 30th in that fund ETI about 173-
18 million.

19 And let me just share with you some of the
20 recent trends for the trust fund. This will be for the six
21 weeks ending April 7th. Our weekly benefit payouts were
22 just under 38-million per week. That was about a 20 percent
23 reduction from the one year ago total for the benefit
24 payments. The initial claims we're averaging about 12,700
25 claims, about 10 percent below the one year ago total for

1 initial claims. And then finally, continued claims, we're
2 averaging just 117,000, and that was about 15 percent for
3 the -- as compared to the one year ago total for continued
4 claims.

5 And Commissioners, that concludes my remarks
6 this morning for the trust fund prediction.

7 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Commissioners?

8 COMM. ALVAREZ: No questions.

9 COMM. HUGHS: Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Thank you, Randy.

11 AGENDA ITEM NO. 9

12 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Item 9, Discussion,
13 Consideration and Possible Action Regarding an Order to
14 Adopt Program Year 2018 and 2019 program Allocations to
15 local boards. Randy.

16 MR. TOWNSEND: Again, good morning,
17 Commissioners. For the record, Randy Townsend, Chief
18 Financial Officer.

19 This morning we're presenting for the first
20 time our initial estimates, planning estimates, for our
21 fiscal year 2019, in a few cases our program year 2018; that
22 program year begins July 1st for a few of our programs.

23 At this point, we're still working with
24 estimates from the federal partners on our WIOA, our
25 Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act, as well as our Adult

1 Education and Literacy, and the numbers in here reflect
2 those estimates as they've been provided to us.

3 Page 1 and 2 are just a high-level summary by
4 board level. I was going to just move passed those two
5 pages. Page 3 would be a summary of the total allocations
6 and showing how the funding would be changing. And I'll get
7 into this a little bit more in the individual amounts, but
8 the really good news this -- this year, based on the
9 estimates provided by the Department of Labor if you're
10 looking at page 3, is that our Adult Youth and Dislocated
11 Worker programs, funding is expected to increase by
12 approximately 23, 24 percent, as compared to last year.

13 For the most part, the -- have not found the
14 actual data that -- that the Department of Labor used for
15 that. A lot are estimate amount, but it has to be related
16 to the relative share of unemployment in the state of Texas
17 as compared to other states as best we can tell.

18 If you would then turn to page 4 -- or excuse
19 me, page 5, you will -- we will begin with the WIOA adult
20 planning estimate, and I'll just briefly highlight a few --
21 few items on those pages.

22 So on page 5 of 19, this is where you will
23 see the formula amount for the 28 workforce areas, is
24 expected to increase to about 58.7-million, that's about an
25 11 and a half percent -- 11.5-million increase over last

1 year's allocation. Again, this is just a planning estimate.
2 That's a 24 percent increase in the WIOA adult.

3 And one of the things I'll -- and this will
4 be true for adult and youth. I think I -- I mentioned to
5 you -- this to you -- each of you individually when I was
6 doing the briefings, you will see that 24 percent increase
7 for the adult is not necessarily the same for every
8 workforce area, it's dependent on -- in both the cases for
9 adult and youth -- the relative share of unemployment. And
10 specifically, excess unemployment and unemployment that's
11 called areas of -- unemployment in areas of substantial
12 unemployment. And so, you will see some areas increasing by
13 as much as 40 percent, some that would be increasing by
14 something less than 10 percent, and that's just driven --
15 related to the relative share of those unemployment factors.
16 And that'll -- like I said, that will be the case for both
17 adult and youth.

18 And youth can be found on page 6. That
19 allocation is increasing -- or ex -- our estimate is showing
20 an increase of about 12.6-million for the workforce areas.
21 That would bring the -- the amount to 60 -- just over \$62-
22 million, that's a 25 percent increase for the youth. So
23 there's some funding opportunities for most of our boards
24 and in some cases, fairly significant increases from the
25 prior year.

1 Moving to page 7, this will be the dislocated
2 worker, and this is one I -- area I'll spend just a few more
3 moments to discuss an item here. This is an opportunity for
4 the Commissioners to make sure we have your direction as far
5 as the amount to reserve for rapid response activities and
6 how you'd prefer to move forward on that for the upcoming
7 year.

8 First, I'll point out that this is assuming
9 82 and a half percent of the available amount for -- in the
10 planning estimate is made available as a dislocated worker
11 formula. That's -- has been the case for the past several
12 years. That 82 and a half percent would result in 50-
13 million being made available based on the planning estimate
14 numbers to the workforce areas. That's about a nine and a
15 half million increase, almost 24 percent. That would
16 reserve about 1.5-million for rapid response based on that
17 two and a half percent. That's purely a decision the
18 Commissioners make as far as that percent to set aside, but
19 it is consistent with -- with last year.

20 To help make that a little bit easier to see
21 in context, I will move to page 8 and -- and provide to you
22 the rapid response or share with you the rapid response
23 funding distribution estimates if you decide to use that two
24 and a half percent and make available a similar amount in
25 rapid response funding as we did last year, about a million

1 dollars, we would only need to make 1.75 percent of the
2 dislocated worker funding to -- because of the increase to
3 make a million dollars or million dollars and sixty thousand
4 available to the workforce boards.

5 And Chairman, this is a question I know you
6 had asked in our briefings -- our -- when we had discussed
7 this, so I included a page 9 in the document, Commissioners,
8 for all of you to see how the -- the rapid response funding
9 has -- the trend lines. If you just look at a 12-month
10 moving quarterly average for the past -- I think I included
11 the past six quarters here, you can see the bottom line on
12 this is back in September '16, we were spending just under a
13 million dollars in total all workforce areas. That did
14 increase slightly to over a million dollars for the four
15 quarters ending December '16 and March of '17, and then it
16 started trending down more recently in the past three
17 quarters of the moving average.

18 The only two areas that would appear to me
19 that as you establish that initial contract amount for rapid
20 response if you adopt this approach, Tarrant County and
21 Heart of Texas, we'd have to look from -- at their actual
22 rapid response needs, and this is something we've done in
23 the past where if there is additional funding, that's
24 provided -- information is requested through our program
25 staff and I believe you're alerted to that, and then a

1 contract amendment can be processed to provide for that
2 additional need.

3 So we tried to balance between having enough
4 held back to address rapid response events, and then -- and
5 then having some reserve to -- for those unforeseen
6 instances where we just can't predict what might happen. So
7 that would be a decision certainly, Commissioners, that you
8 could consider if you wanted to, but I tried to lay that out
9 for your -- in a similar way as we have in the past. See if
10 you have any questions about that approach?

11 COMM. ALVAREZ: No questions.

12 MR. TOWNSEND: Okay. With that, then I will
13 move to Adult Education. And this I will have to have you
14 go back and refer to your replacement pages, because as I
15 think I had indicated to you during our briefings, there was
16 a pretty good possibility we would receive some updated
17 numbers from the -- from our federal partner and in fact we
18 did last Thursday morning. So I was able to update the
19 information based on the -- the -- and these are still
20 planning estimates, but the good news was that there was an
21 overall increase in funding, a little over 4 percent, for
22 Adult Education.

23 So I'm looking at the replacement page 10,
24 that's a high level summary by each of the workforce areas.
25 I will just move past that to page -- well, looks like it

1 got cut out, but it will be the second page there of your
2 new handout, and that's going to -- that's going to show you
3 the information by the federal funds, the state funds, and -
4 - and how that breaks out by workforce area.

5 The only thing at this point that's missing
6 in this is that we of course are going through a procurement
7 process in selecting the potentially new service providers
8 for Adult Education program and to the extent those
9 programs, new providers, are in some of these workforce
10 areas, there's multiple providers, we -- we would need to
11 provide that breakout to you. So once we get that
12 information, what we typically do is look at the counties
13 that those new providers are serving and then we'll do a, if
14 you will, a sub-allocation in those handful of workforce
15 areas. So you don't have that information in your packet
16 this morning.

17 I guess the only point I would make on the
18 Adult Ed is that by taking the approach in similar to last
19 year, this will be on your very last page, I believe it does
20 leave with the additional funding, and it's going to be
21 towards the very bottom of your page, just -- there's a -- a
22 green highlighted or green-shaded row above the admin that -
23 - for leadership funds. There's about 8.3-million that
24 we're estimating would be available for the upcoming year.
25 That compares to about 8.7 last year and that was due to

1 some carryforward funds we had. So it's a similar amount
2 for leadership activities. I know that's something that
3 you're interested in kind of seeing what that -- how that --
4 how that funding would break out for leadership activities.

5 So Commissioners, with the Adult Ed, I would
6 -- if you could, if you'd go back with me to page 14 in the
7 materials packet, this will be the childcare. We don't have
8 a whole lot to report this morning on this. I just simply
9 show you the -- on page 14, the amount of childcare as it --
10 as it compares to last year's using the same amount of
11 funding available. And as we all know, there's some
12 additional funds that we are expecting to receive with the -
13 - beginning in '18, but we've not yet received those final
14 amounts yet, so I didn't include any additional funding for
15 childcare at this point, but it could go up potentially
16 pretty significantly. And as soon as we have those amounts,
17 we'll -- we'll certainly run those for your consideration.

18 But as you can see, there's going to be some
19 fairly significant shifts in how some of the areas are
20 funded, just based on the factors that we're using that have
21 been updated now from the state data center. So wanted you
22 to at least be able to see that part.

23 And then the -- the other point on page 15 I
24 think that might be helpful is that we establish the local
25 match target as just a reference point. And I know the

1 boards typically like to have some early indication of what
2 their local match for the upcoming year would look like, so
3 it's -- I think it's similar to this current year amount,
4 41-million, and I know collectively the boards have raised
5 probably about 44, 45-million for this past year. So
6 hopefully they can continue being successful along those
7 lines, and but this would show that target amount. And as
8 soon as we get those amounts, we'll be updating these
9 numbers here for your consideration.

10 Page 16 is our supplemental and nutrition
11 assistance program, SNAP, E&T, just this mainly just showing
12 you how the breakout with updated data factors using the
13 same 12-million amount and the same would be the case for
14 employment services on page 17. So those we still have to
15 probably make sure we have -- we, you know, these amounts
16 are firm as far as the total amount available to allocate,
17 but it will show by area of what their funding's likely to
18 do based on updated factors.

19 And finally, the same would be the case for
20 CHOICES on page 18, using the same amount, the dollar change
21 and the estimated percent change, for each of those areas.

22 So, and then finally, on the planning
23 estimates, I included on page 19, we sometimes refer to this
24 as small board funding. Looking at the updated numbers, if
25 you average for employment services, SNAP, E&T, CHOICES and

1 WIOA, if you average the area -- six areas with the
2 smallest, lowest allocation amounts, and make sure that you
3 bring any area below that average up to it, this will show
4 which areas those are that get the additional funding with
5 that approach and how much that would result in additional
6 funding being needed.

7 So for example, on the far righthand page of
8 19, that's the WIOA column for additional funding and you'll
9 see three board areas. If you take -- use the -- continue
10 to use this approach, the North Texas, Concho and Texoma,
11 would receive a total of about 900,000 in additional funding
12 above -- and of course the amounts are different based on
13 what -- what it takes to bring them to the average in this
14 case, of about 1.5-million for the WIOA funding.

15 And so, we followed the same approach, same
16 methodology if you will, as we have in the past two to three
17 years, and give an idea of what that would look like. So we
18 wouldn't be able to finalize those amounts until we know,
19 you know, what the actual allotment amounts are and that
20 sort of thing.

21 And Commissioners, that concludes the
22 presentation of the fiscal '19 planning estimates as we have
23 the information currently and if you are -- find those
24 acceptable, then we would make sure the boards are aware of
25 those estimates and know that obviously, we're not going to

1 be establishing contract amounts or anything along those
2 lines, but for planning purposes it would be useful to --
3 for them to be aware of. Do you have any questions?

4 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Commissioners, do you
5 have any questions on any of the programs and allocation
6 amounts proposed?

7 COMM. ALVAREZ: No questions.

8 COMM. HUGHS: No. Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Do we have a motion?

10 COMM. HUGHS: Yes. I move that we approve
11 the discussed program year 2018 and fiscal year 2019
12 allocations, planning estimates, funding distributions and
13 performance targets for local workforce development areas,
14 as recommended.

15 COMM. ALVAREZ: I'll second that.

16 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: We are unanimous. Thank
17 you, Randy.

18 MR. TOWNSEND: Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Appreciate all the good
20 work.

21 AGENDA ITEM NO. 10

22 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Item 10, Discussion,
23 Consideration and Possible Action Regarding the
24 Acknowledgement of Gifts and Donations of \$500 or more in
25 Value Given to TWC in Accordance with Section 302 of the

1 Labor Code and 575 of the Government Code. Nicole?

2 MS. ORIA: Good morning, Commissioners. My
3 name is Nicole Oria from the Office of General Counsel.

4 Before you are the gifts and donations of
5 \$500 or more in value given to the Texas Workforce
6 Commissioner for the first quarter of calendar year 2018 for
7 your acknowledgment and acceptance. The last page is a
8 spreadsheet showing gifts and donations.

9 Are there any questions?

10 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Commissioners, do we have
11 any questions? Do we have a motion?

12 COMM. HUGHS: I move that we acknowledge and
13 accept the gifts and donations of \$500 or more in value
14 given to the Texas Workforce Commission.

15 COMM. ALVAREZ: I'll second that.

16 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: We are unanimous. Thank
17 you, Nicole.

18 MS. ORIA: Thank you.

19 AGENDA ITEM NO. 11

20 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Item 11, Discussion,
21 Consideration and Possible Action Regarding Approval of AEL
22 State Leadership Funds for Pell Grant Ability to Benefit
23 Capacity Building Projects. Anson, good morning.

24 MR. GREEN: Good morning, Chairman,
25 Commissioners. For the record, Anson Green, Adult Education

1 and Literacy.

2 Today we have for discussion, consideration
3 and possible action, a project for Adult Education and
4 Literacy State Leadership funding. The Agency has an
5 estimated reserve balance of state leadership funds
6 available and the Pell Grant Ability to Benefit project
7 helps colleges develop service delivery models and fund
8 training services for participants who lack a high school
9 diploma or high school equivalency, and who qualify to
10 participate in career pathway programs paid for Pell Grants
11 under some provisions in the Federal Higher Education Act
12 related to ability to benefit.

13 In program year 2015/16, TWC awarded two
14 grants for a total of just over \$600,000. For today's
15 decision point, staff seeks direction on using the reserve
16 funds to fund a grant solicitation of \$500,000 for the Pell
17 Grant Ability to Benefit Capacity Building Project. I'll
18 take any questions.

19 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Thank you.
20 Commissioners? Commissioner Hughs?

21 COMM. HUGHS: I move that we approve the
22 discussed recapturing AEL funds for the Pell Grant Ability
23 to Benefit Capacity Building Projects as recommended.

24 COMM. ALVAREZ: I'll second that.

25 MR. GREEN: Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: We are unanimous. Thank
2 you, Anson.

3 AGENDA ITEM NO. 12

4 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Item 12, do we have any
5 updates on item 12? We do not.

6 AGENDA ITEM NO. 13

7 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Item 13, Discussion,
8 Consideration and Possible Action Regarding Adoption of
9 Rules Relating to the Civil Rights Division Previously
10 Published in the Texas Register. Lowell, good morning.

11 MR. KEIG: Good morning. Lowell Keig,
12 Director of the Civil Rights Division. Staff is proposing
13 adoption of final revisions to the CRD Rules contained in 40
14 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 819.

15 Following publication of the proposed rules
16 revisions in the Texas Register on February 16, 2018, the
17 Agency received public comments from two fair housing
18 stakeholders. Their suggestions included correcting a
19 typographical error in the introductory sentence of Section
20 819.199(C) and making the following substantive changes:

21 One, amend Section 819.136 to incorporate the
22 following sentence from 24 Code of Federal Regulations
23 Section 100.600(a)(1) regarding quid pro quo harassment.
24 Quote, an unwelcome request or demand may constitute quid
25 pro quo harassment, even if a person acquiesces in the

1 unwelcome request or demand, close quote.

2 And two, amend Section 819.136 to incorporate
3 the following sentence from 24 CFR Section 100.600(a)(2)
4 regarding hostile environment harassment. Quote, hostile
5 environment harassment does not require a change in the
6 economic benefits, terms or conditions of the dwelling or
7 housing related services or facilities or of the residential
8 real estate transaction, close quote.

9 Staff recommends adopting these changes.
10 Staff also requests authority to make any administrative or
11 technical revisions for clarity in alignment.

12 Are there any questions?

13 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Any questions?
14 Commissioner Hughs?

15 COMM. HUGHS: I move that we approve the
16 adoption of rules related to the Civil Rights Division as
17 recommended.

18 COMM. ALVAREZ: I'll second that.

19 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: We are unanimous. Thank
20 you, Lowell.

21 MR. KEIG: Thank you.

22 AGENDA ITEM NO. 14

23 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Item 14, Discussion,
24 Consideration and Possible Action Regarding the Approval of
25 Services Offered by CRPs Under the Purchasing from People

1 with Disabilities State-Use Program. Howard, good morning.

2 MR. JOSEPH: Good morning, Mr. Chairman, Mr.
3 Serna, Commissioners. My name is Howard Joseph, Program
4 Manager Purchasing from People with Disabilities Program. I
5 have before you Item Number 14 for the approval of services.
6 In regards to services, there are 13 contracts completed
7 under temporary authority employing 60 individuals being
8 paid above minimum wage. There are 92 new and renewal
9 contracts employing 445 individuals being paid at or above
10 minimum wage. There are eight transferred contracts
11 employing 21 individuals, all are paid above minimum wage.
12 Staff recommends approval of all service contracts.

13 I'll be happy to answer any questions.

14 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Commissioner Hughs?

15 COMM. HUGHS: I move that we approve services
16 offered by Certified Community Rehabilitation Programs under
17 the Purchasing from People with Disabilities State-Use
18 Program, as recommended by staff.

19 COMM. ALVAREZ: I'll second that.

20 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: We are unanimous.

21 MR. JOSEPH: Thank you.

22 AGENDA ITEM NO. 15

23 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Item 15, Discussion,
24 Consideration and Possible Action Regarding Approval of
25 Products Offered by CRPs Under the Purchasing from People

1 with Disabilities State-Use Program. Good morning, Kelvin.

2 MR. MOORE: Good morning, Mr. Chairman,
3 Commissioners, good morning, Mr. Serna. For the record, my
4 name is Kelvin Moore, Program Manager Purchasing from People
5 with Disabilities for the Texas Workforce Commission.

6 I have before you Agenda Item 15, a listing
7 of new products and product price revisions that are being
8 offered by Community Rehabilitation Programs through the
9 State-Use Works Wonders Program. One CRP submitted two new
10 products and two CRPs submitted five products for price
11 revision. Staff recommend approval for all products
12 presented.

13 That concludes the recommendations, are there
14 any questions?

15 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Commissioner Hughs?

16 COMM. HUGHS: I move that we approve staff's
17 recommendations for products offered by Certified Community
18 Rehabilitation Programs under the Purchasing from People
19 with Disabilities State-Use Program.

20 COMM. ALVAREZ: I'll second that.

21 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: We are unanimous. Thank
22 you, Kelvin.

23 MR. MOORE: Yes, sir.

24 AGENDA ITEM NO. 16

25 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Item 16, Discussion,

1 Consideration and Possible Action Regarding Re-Certification
2 of CRPs. Ed, good morning.

3 MR. SERNA: Good morning, Commissioners. For
4 the record, Ed Serna, Deputy Executive Director, Texas
5 Workforce Commission.

6 We have before you the certification or
7 recertification of seven CRPs that participate in the
8 program. Staff recommends the normal three-year
9 certification for the following CRPs: Beacon Lighthouse in
10 Wichita Falls, Beaumont Product & Services, Inc. in
11 Beaumont, Texas, Burke Center dba Burke Industries in
12 Lufkin, Center for Recovery and Wellness Resources in
13 Houston, East Texas Lighthouse for the Blind doing business
14 as Horizon Industries in Tyler, and Gateway Community
15 Partners, Inc. in Austin.

16 With regard to the seventh CRP, A Lift for
17 Life Outreach Center in Dallas, Texas, staff recommends a
18 limited one-year certification for this CRP. This one-year
19 certification is based on that CRP owing approximately
20 \$80,000 in UI taxes. However, the staff feels that the CRP
21 has indicated and they have shown that they want to address
22 the tax issue. We also don't want to adversely affect the
23 employees with disabilities that are currently employed by
24 that CRP, so we're recommending a one-year certification.
25 During that period of time, staff will monitor the

1 activities of that CRP in paying back its UI debt. We'll
2 continue to work with our regulatory integrity division in
3 the collections department, as well as our general counsel's
4 office, and our unemployment insurance division, and that --
5 and that CRP to make sure that the issue gets addressed.

6 So staff recommends those certifications. If
7 you have any questions, I'll be glad to answer those for you
8 at this time.

9 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Any questions?

10 COMM. ALVAREZ: No questions, Chairman.

11 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Commissioner Hughs?

12 COMM. HUGHS: I move that we approve the
13 certification of the Community Rehabilitation Programs as
14 recommended by staff.

15 COMM. ALVAREZ: I'll agree to that.

16 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: And it's unanimous.

17 Thank you, Ed.

18 MR. SERNA: Thank you.

19 AGENDA ITEM NO. 17

20 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Item 17, Hurricane
21 Harvey. We have no update, correct?

22 MR. SERNA: Correct, sir. No update.

23 AGENDA ITEM NO. 18

24 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Item 18, Discussion,
25 Consideration and Possible Action Regarding Enacted or

1 Proposed State or Federal Legislation. Good morning,
2 Michael.

3 MR. BRITT: Good morning, Mr. Chairman,
4 Commissioners. For the record, Michael Britt. Governmental
5 Relations.

6 I want to start with tomorrow morning,
7 Chairman Alcantar will be testifying before the Senate
8 Committee on Higher Education on the Committee's interim
9 charge related to the 60X30TX Statewide Plan Review.

10 Moving on to Federal actions; last Wednesday,
11 the U.S. House Committee on Agriculture held a hearing to
12 markup HR 2, the 2018 Farm Bill. This bill makes changes to
13 and reauthorizes the SNAP Program. During the hearing --
14 during the markup hearing, the committee adopted several
15 amendments to the bill related to broadband access. The
16 committee reported the bill favorably to the full U.S.
17 House. A timeline for their consideration has not yet been
18 announced, but we will keep you updated as those details
19 become available.

20 GR will also be monitoring a couple of
21 congressional hearings this week:

22 The U.S. House Ways and Means, Subcommittee
23 on Human Resources will be holding a hearing tomorrow at 11
24 a.m. titled: Jobs and Opportunity: Employer Perspectives on
25 the jobs Gap; and

1 Also, on Thursday at 9 a.m., the U.S. House
2 Education and the Workforce Subcommittee on Health,
3 Employment, Labor, and Pensions will hold be holding a
4 hearing titled: Worker-Management Relations: Examining the
5 Need to Modernize Federal Labor Law.

6 That concludes my remarks and I'm happy to
7 answer any questions you may have.

8 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Any questions,
9 Commissioners?

10 COMM. HUGHS: No. Thank you.

11 COMM. ALVAREZ: Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Thank you, Michael.

13 AGENDA ITEM NO. 19

14 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Item 19, Report and
15 Update by the Executive Director. Ed.

16 MR. SERNA: Just a couple of things. First
17 of all, Mr. Temple has been released. I think I reported
18 this previously, but I have a little bit more specific
19 information. Mr. Temple's been released by his doctor to
20 return to work. He will start on May 1st part-time, working
21 up to full-time, but he will be in the office officially
22 beginning on May 1st. And I've been preparing a packet of
23 information that the Divisions are working on to get him up
24 to speed so he hits the ground running.

25 Second is with regard to our Work In Texas

1 replacement project, the vendor has been onsite working with
2 our staff gathering information, developing what they need
3 in order to begin to build that system. So we are
4 absolutely on track with that project as well.

5 Those are the only two things I have to
6 report.

7 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Great. Thank you.
8 Commissioners, anything further?

9 COMM. ALVAREZ: No, Chairman.

10 AGENDA ITEM NO. 22

11 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Do we have a motion to
12 adjourn?

13 COMM. HUGHS: I move that we adjourn.

14 COMM. ALVAREZ: I'll second that.

15 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: We're adjourned. Thank
16 you. Have a good day.

17 (Proceedings concluded at 10:00:56 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 1st day of May, 2018.

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

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