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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 30, 2019

BE IT REMEMBERED THAT at 8:30 a.m. on
Tuesday, the 30th day of April, 2019, the above-entitled
matter came on for hearing at the Texas Workforce
Commission, TWC Building, 101 East 15th Street, Room 244,
Austin, Texas, before RUTH R. HUGHS, Chair; JULIAN ALVAREZ
and ROBERT D. THOMAS, Commissioners.

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1 The Commission considered and took action on
2 all tax liability cases listed on Docket 18.

3 AGENDA ITEM NO. 5

4 Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action
5 Regarding Fair Housing Cases listed on the Texas Workforce
6 Commission Docket 18.

7 No Discussion.

8 AGENDA ITEM NO. 6

9 Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action
10 Regarding Higher Level Appeals in Wage Claim Cases Listed on
11 the Texas Workforce Commission Docket 18.

12 The Commission considered and took action on
13 all wage claim cases listed on Docket 18.

14 AGENDA ITEM NO. 7

15 Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action
16 Regarding Higher Level Appeals in Unemployment Compensation
17 Cases Listed on the Texas Workforce Commission Docket 18.

18 The Commission considered and took action on
19 all unemployment compensation cases listed on Docket 18.

20 AGENDA ITEM NO. 8

21 CHAIR HUGHS: This meeting is now called to
22 order. We're back in session. Item 8, Discussion,
23 Consideration and Possible Action Regarding an Order to
24 Adopt Program Year 2019 and Fiscal Year 2020 Allocations,
25 Planning Estimates, and Funding Distributions for Local

1 Workforce Development Areas. Good morning.

2 MR. TOWNSEND: Good morning Chair Hughs,
3 commissioners. For the record, Randy Townsend, Chief
4 Financial Officer.

5 Commissioners, I'm presenting this morning
6 our Program Year '19, Fiscal Year 2020 Allocations for WIOA
7 Adult, WIOA Youth, and WIOA Dislocated Worker, along with a
8 proposed funding distribution for the WIOA funded rapid
9 response.

10 Also was going to present this morning to you
11 for consideration the allocation for the Adult Education and
12 Literacy.

13 I'm going to, on that one, just as a preview
14 on that; Commissioner Thomas, you had asked me a question in
15 our briefing about the amount -- balance on the Professional
16 Development. I'd like to take that up separately, because I
17 failed to look at that, status of that, and it's a little
18 bit larger than I thought. So, I think that might actually
19 be a decision that you might want to reconsider what I'm
20 proposing for the allocation this morning on that. But I
21 will get to that in just a moment, as a highlight.

22 On your packet materials on page 1, for the
23 WIOA Adult, Youth and Dislocated Worker proposing very
24 similar approach to what we've done in the past. And that
25 is, propose to allocate 85 percent of the funds that are

1 available to the State of Texas for adults and youth. That
2 would be a proposed allocation to the workforce areas for
3 WIOA Adult of 55,071,441, for the Youth that would be an
4 allocation for Program Year '19, Fiscal '20 of a 58,187,282.
5 The Dislocated Worker the proposed allocation is based on a
6 couple assumptions. The assumption being that we would hold
7 back 2 percent for dislocated worker for -- out of the
8 formula funds for rapid response, to fund the rapid response
9 portion, which I'll talk about in a moment.

10 So, if you're comfortable with that decision,
11 of 83 percent of the allotted funds being available for the
12 Dislocated Worker Formula Funds, that would put the
13 allocation at 50,641,885. That 2 percent number compares to
14 -- holdback compares to about 2 1/2 percent for the prior
15 year, and looking at our spending levels for Rapid Response,
16 I believe this number is reasonable in light of what our
17 boards have been needing in terms of Rapid Response funds.

18 So, for this year for the Rapid Response
19 percentage, recommending that we use 1.25 percent of the
20 allotment amount, so about 70 percent of that set-aside for
21 the Rapid Response to make and allocate a funding
22 distribution to our workforce areas of 762,679.

23 If you want to look at page 4 of the packet
24 of the materials, what you can see on, I'm sorry, page,
25 well, it's going to be page 11, excuse me, page 11. If you

1 look at page 11, Rapid Response, what you will see there,
2 that 762,679 number that is being proposed, isn't deduct --
3 is a reduction from last year's total of almost 1.1-million.
4 However, if you look at the far two right columns, you will
5 see that the expenditures for the last 12 months was just
6 over 715, or just under 716,000. So, there's been a --
7 there's about a year's worth of funding in that 1 1/2
8 percent assumption.

9 In addition, there's also a contract balance
10 of Rapid Response as of March of about 780,000. So, there's
11 already two years -- basically that would be an extra year's
12 worth of funding at this point.

13 In addition, if you go back to your first
14 page, you'll see in the -- on row 18, that the balance with
15 all this taking into account, we have a balance reserved for
16 the current year coming up, and then the last year, of
17 849,000.

18 So, it appears to me that, you know, two
19 years' worth of balance at this point, of the Rapid Response
20 set-aside should be sufficient given all those
21 considerations. So that would -- that would address the
22 WIOA funding sources that we have for Adult, Youth
23 Dislocated Worker and Rapid Response.

24 You have planning estimates in the packet
25 that would be just used for preliminary planning purposes.

1 No contract decisions by the boards or anything like that,
2 to give them some reference point for consideration. For
3 the TANF choices; SNAP E&T, the employment services at this
4 point. Also included on page 15 is our WIOA smaller county
5 civilian labor force, which I'd like to just briefly talk
6 about here in a moment, and then our small workforce area
7 funding on page 16. Again, these are planning estimates
8 only. No decisions being made.

9 An ask this morning of the commissioners, but
10 just to make sure, if you have any questions or need more
11 information along those lines, we can certainly bring that
12 back in the future.

13 But if you wouldn't mind going to page 15.
14 I'll just show you the WIOA -- what the funding distribution
15 could look like for fiscal '20. This actually, if this were
16 to be something we want to consider, we probably would want
17 to start these contracts in October, this coming October,
18 fiscal '20.

19 But on that, page 15 or 20, what you'll see
20 is that assuming similar to last year that using the
21 civilian labor force in the aggregate starting with the
22 smallest county up to where you reach 3 percent of the
23 civilian labor force, and again, just the definition of
24 civilian labor force is number employed plus the number
25 unemployed. That's the definition. You'd essentially be

1 looking at any county falling, in this case I think, below
2 8100 or so in that civilian labor force count that we're
3 looking at.

4 That would equate to 129 counties. I think
5 last year we had done something similar, it was 128
6 counties, or something along those lines. 129 of the 254
7 counties would meet that definition. One -- using
8 assumption of 1 percent of the allotted funds for WIOA this
9 year, that would make just over a million-9 available for
10 this purpose, if that were something the commissioners would
11 want to do.

12 And so, I'm just showing you what those
13 numbers would look like again for -- just for consideration
14 this morning. So that's what I'm referring to as the WIOA
15 Funded Distribution, it's a planning estimate at this point,
16 but for local workforce areas with smaller counties. And on
17 that same page you can see of the 129 counties, by workforce
18 area, where those counties are actually are included out of
19 the total of 254 counties.

20 So, if you need additional information along
21 those lines down the road, we can certainly look into how we
22 bring that back for, you know, for your -- to make a
23 decision at some point as we develop the budget out for
24 fiscal '20.

25 On page 16 is, again, a planning estimate.

1 And this is the smallest workforce area, so we've probably
2 done this now four years, maybe. This a similar way, and
3 essentially, the approach on -- for -- all the funding
4 sources that are included in this are the WIOA, the TANF
5 Choices, the SNAP E&T, excluding any VOD, and then
6 employment services.

7 And what we essentially did, is we looked at
8 the allocated funds, in this case planning estimates, for
9 everything but WIOA, and we figure out what are the smallest
10 six workforce areas, and simply averaged those six together,
11 or averaged those six, and determined what that cutoff would
12 be. And then we proposed to add funding to bring any
13 workforce areas, it's usually three or four, up to that
14 funding level. And that's what this page is doing.

15 The only difference in this calculation that
16 it is included for WIOA, the -- assuming that there will be
17 a small county funding distribution on top of the
18 allocation. So, it's not doing that smaller county separate
19 from the small workforce area. So, it's a little bit
20 different than what we had done last year, but it is taken
21 into account total funding in this case if -- assuming you
22 make that decision.

23 If you decide not to do the small accounting,
24 then we can recalculate this when we get to that point. But
25 that would show you the amounts and, as an example, WIOA, it

1 would take about 713,000 to bring four workforce areas up to
2 that minimal amount, using that averaging approach. In all,
3 total, it takes just under a million-3, all funding sources.
4 So that's what you have on that page there.

5 If I could then -- let me just stop for just
6 a second and make sure you don't have any questions about
7 any of the allocations we've discussed so far for WIOA, or
8 the planning estimates that have been presented so far
9 before I get to the adult education.

10 CHAIR HUGHS: Commissioners, any questions?

11 COMM. ALVAREZ: Not at this time.

12 COMM. THOMAS: I'm going to want to circle
13 back with you. I don't want to take the time now, but make
14 sure that I appreciate on the rural, smaller counties, on
15 page 15.

16 MR. TOWNSEND: Yes, sir.

17 COMM. THOMAS: Please help me make sure I
18 understand to the extent we have development boards that are
19 areas that include counties that are rural and those that
20 are not?

21 MR. TOWNSEND: Yes.

22 COMM. THOMAS: I'm still not sure I fully
23 appreciate how we make this distinction.

24 MR. TOWNSEND: Okay. I can certainly do
25 that.

1 COMM. THOMAS: Thank you.

2 MR. TOWNSEND: What I'll also do for all the
3 commissioners, I'll provide that list by county name and
4 with the actual numbers in there, not just the count, so you
5 can see by workforce area those counties -- I think I'll do
6 -- what'll be helpful probably is to show you for this year
7 the numbers we're using, and then as compared to last year
8 where -- what that'll look like using that civilian labor
9 force count, and then I'll have the county name as well.

10 COMM. THOMAS: Thank you.

11 MR. TOWNSEND: So, as a starting point, and
12 then we can go from there as we need more information. So
13 I'll get all that together.

14 COMM. THOMAS: Thank you.

15 MR. TOWNSEND: So, we're good at that point
16 I'll -- let me move to Adult Education and Literacy, and
17 that's going to be found in page 17 and 18 in your packet.
18 So, the question, and I think the best place to start is on
19 page 18 if we can. And so, as you can see, now let me just
20 explain kind of the format of this page.

21 They have multiple funding sources, makes it
22 a little bit more challenging here. We have the Adult
23 Education Federal -- or Family Literacy Act funds, the
24 federal funds, so that's in the first column to your --
25 after the LWEA, just to the right of the LWEA there. So,

1 there was 48-million in that column in total.

2 There's also eight adult education and
3 literacy state matching funds. That's about 9 1/2 million.
4 And, if you'll recall, we pulled, of the total that's
5 available to the -- for the -- for the agency, there's 20
6 percent of it that's pulled into leadership funds. Just
7 under 2.3-million in the leadership, and then the rest is
8 made -- about 80 percent is made available as an allocation.
9 That's the state funds.

10 There's also TANF funds. And then this year,
11 there's normally about 5.8 million, but as you can see, that
12 6.9 for the TANF funds, so we actually have identified a
13 million-1 of carry-forward funds, so that's been added to
14 the allocation.

15 The performance-based funding, essentially,
16 what has been done for several -- a few years now is that
17 there is about 3 percent of the portion of the federal funds
18 that are available, of the -- which is 82 1/2 percent out of
19 that -- that has to be allocated to the workforce areas.

20 What we do, is we say 97 percent goes into
21 that first column I mentioned to you, the AEFLA Federal.
22 The other 3 percent of that 82 1/2 percent, so essentially
23 80 percent and 2 1/2 percent when it's all -- for all
24 intents and purposes.

25 The other portion is set aside for

1 performance based. If the criteria is met by the provider
2 on performance based, then they earn that part of the
3 allocation. Whereas the other part is just put into
4 contract and is part of the training available for adult
5 education and literacy.

6 The other portion they have to meet certain
7 benchmarks to satisfy certain contract criteria, to earn
8 that portion of the benchmark. Using discretion over
9 whether that would be 1 percent, 2 percent, 3 percent, I
10 think -- by rule I think we might go up to 10 percent. I
11 can't remember the exact cutoff.

12 We've traditionally used 3 percent as the,
13 kind of the starting point on this, but you certainly have
14 some discretion as commissioners of what you'd want to do on
15 that. But the 3 percent has seemed to work pretty
16 reasonable of -- or fairly well up to this point, but I did
17 want to make sure you were aware of that.

18 So, I combine all that to tell you what the
19 funding is available, not including the EL civics, English
20 Language Civics funding, which is a separate funding source.

21 And then, finally, historically, we've set
22 aside -- and this is where Commissioner Thomas' question in
23 for me. Pretty simple question I thought, until I started
24 looking at it, go a little bit more complicated.

25 Professional development, 1.3-million. What

1 the commissioners have done historically up to this point,
2 is you've -- you have agreed, the body's agreed, to take a
3 percentage of your -- of your leadership funds and have
4 those as professional development. That started to -- from
5 the very beginning when we transitioned -- the department
6 transitioned over here to Workforce Commission, mainly
7 because the funds had to be counted as admin. The
8 administrative funds were already limited, the grant was --
9 had been pretty much at the science funding level at that
10 point for the state, and so the commissioners at the time
11 started that tradition of using some of the leadership funds
12 to start the professional development.

13 So, what -- I've done a couple things since
14 then from the question, Commissioner Thomas. I've looked at
15 the balance for the professional development from the last
16 year. There was about the, you know, a similar amount set
17 aside last year. There's currently just under a million-
18 dollar balance that's in contract that hasn't been spent for
19 the last year, 600-and-some-thousand has been spent. I
20 think we added some funding to the --

21 COMM. THOMAS: Encumbered?

22 MR. TOWNSEND: Encumbered. Yes, sir. It's
23 in contract from -- started last July. So, there's almost,
24 essentially, a year's worth of funding in that contract
25 balance right now.

1 The other part that gets a little bit
2 difficult about this, is that that this program for the
3 Adult Ed starts in July. We're funding multiple -- we're
4 funding across state fiscal year, so try and figure out
5 exactly what year is funded, which federal year, which state
6 year. We need to go back and actually sort that all out,
7 because this has gotten pretty confusing over the last
8 couple of years as we funded some war initiatives and had to
9 wait until we get to July, in some cases, to fund the
10 remaining portion.

11 So, I would like to back up and take a look
12 and really take a good, close count of where we stand. But
13 the fact that we have, and I heard almost a million dollars
14 in balance, tells me there should be sufficient funds to get
15 started this year.

16 The other thing we could do, is we could take
17 out -- propose to take out this professional develop -- for
18 the time being, for the leadership funds, and save that for
19 a future decision for the commissioner to decide when you've
20 had a little bit more complete assessment of the leadership
21 funds that are available. And decide if there's the highest
22 priority of -- for this professional development. If you're
23 really getting -- if the investment is paying off, or we're
24 getting what we need out of that.

25 The other thing that's happened, we put a

1 million-1 of TANF funds into the mix, I already mentioned
2 that. The AEFLA -- the federal grant has now increased
3 about 3-million this year, which is up from 3-million the
4 year before. So, there's been about 6- 7-million added to
5 funding in the last couple of years in total already. And
6 so there could be the possibility that if we carve out the
7 existing allocation enough for -- with the balance in
8 professional development, plus the amount you could allow
9 the boards to -- or the providers to use out of the actual
10 allocation, might be more than sufficient for professional
11 development.

12 I think we just need to assess that a little
13 bit more carefully, and a little bit more closely. I had
14 just a brief, brief conversation with Anson (ph) about this,
15 and I think we just need to -- staff just needs to study a
16 little bit more. So, I -- my recommendation to you this
17 morning, for this one, little contrary to what I briefed to
18 each of you individually, is just to hold off on the
19 professional development portion on the leadership.

20 If you still decide that makes sense to do
21 that, there's still time to do it, and we'll have to amend
22 the contract in September, anyway, with the state funds.
23 But to hold -- to reserve your flexibility at this point
24 rather than committing those funds on top of a balance
25 that's already out there, and then increase grant amount.

1 CHAIR HUGHS: And then, just to confirm, so
2 you're indicating you'd like us to -- the green column, the
3 allocations, we'd be voting on, with the exception of the
4 1.321 -- I can't see that number, 845?

5 MR. TOWNSEND: That's correct. Yeah. And
6 I'll get that exact amount.

7 CHAIR HUGHS: Okay, for professional
8 development.

9 MR. TOWNSEND: Yes.

10 CHAIR HUGHS: Okay.

11 MR. TOWNSEND: I'll get that exact amount and
12 we'll redo this page as well. And then that doesn't mean
13 you still can't, obviously, decide later you want to use
14 some of the leadership funds for professional development,
15 or you may want to, you know, just maybe a different way to
16 approach there.

17 CHAIR HUGHS: But it sounds like there's a
18 sufficient balance where we wont leave anyone from being
19 able to get professional development while we're making the
20 decision on that portion.

21 MR. TOWNSEND: NO. It doesn't look like it to
22 me.

23 CHAIR HUGHS: Right.

24 MR. TOWNSEND: And then, like I said, we
25 could, if you're -- if you're okay with this, out of the --

1 out of the state mass column, we could allow some, you know,
2 the equivalent to the 1.3, just out of the allocation, to be
3 used for that purpose if they do run out. And so, there
4 could, I mean, just in case there's a -- would be any kind
5 of an emergency or anything like that, we could already
6 cover it.

7 So, I don't think there's going to be -- I
8 don't see where there would be a problem. If there happens
9 to be, then we can bring that back and revisit that
10 decision. But these contracts don't take effect until July
11 1st, and so I think by then, for sure, we would have a --
12 we'd have more information for you to consider.

13 COMM. THOMAS: And when staff comes back with
14 this, assuming that my colleagues all agree to carve this up
15 for the moment, would staff be able to give us both a
16 performance analysis of how the existing dollars have been
17 used, and the success of those, as well as a recommendation
18 on how these particular dollars might be better deployed, if
19 we decide not to add them to the professional.

20 In other words, what's the options for use
21 and the highest and best?

22 MR. TOWNSEND: I know we can tell you what
23 we've expended, for sure, on the professional development by
24 provider. I'm not as clear on if we have a count of how
25 many folks received the professional development training an

1 some of the specific details that you're asking for,
2 commissioner. We certainly can try. But I'm just -- I know
3 these measures, and I feel confident we can get you that --
4 those numbers without too much trouble at all. As far as
5 other alternatives and that sort of thing, certainly I think
6 Anson and his team would probably need to weigh in on some
7 of that as well as far as what the investments might be --
8 might be a better use of those leadership dollars.

9 COMM. THOMAS: Ed, do you think -- I'm sorry,
10 Randy. Ed, do you think you could help circle back? I know
11 Randy's more than confident, but I respect what he's saying
12 is he's telling me he wants to stay on the numbers side.

13 MR. SERNA: I understand, sir.

14 COMM. THOMAS: So, I think what he's saying
15 he's going to punt to you there to see about working with
16 this executive --

17 MR. SERNA: Yes, sir. And I'd taken the note
18 to get with Adam, and to get with Anson and the program area
19 to get that stuff for you?

20 COMM. THOMAS: Assuming that that's what my
21 colleagues want to do.

22 MR. SERNA: All right.

23 COMM. THOMAS: Thank you.

24 MR. TOWNSEND: So, as far as adult education,
25 that was quite a bit, I realize, is there anything else as

1 far as questions, or any thoughts on the numbers on that? I
2 have one more planning estimate. I'm just going to share on
3 childcare in a little bit. But I want to make sure you're
4 good on adult ed. Because I feel like I pulled a -- one
5 last-minute one on you there.

6 But, at the same time, I just didn't want you
7 to feel like you had to make a commitment today when you
8 really had some time to make that decision. It's not going
9 to hurt the program.

10 COMM. THOMAS: Thank you.

11 MR. TOWNSEND: The final planning estimate
12 number in your packet this morning is on -- can be found in
13 pages 19 to 20. And this is going to be on childcare.
14 Again, this is a planning estimate. The only thing I will
15 mention, so we've run this using the same factors we always
16 use. All the allocations have been done, by the way. What
17 this reflects is the amount that's included in our fiscal
18 '20 right now. What's in our big --w as in the introduced
19 House Bill 1 and Senate Bill 1, both were the same in this
20 case for childcare. We took the -- we took a reduction in
21 funding because of the decision that the legislature was
22 making with regard to funding, childcare funding, for
23 Department of Family Protective Services, so that's why you
24 see some reduction here.

25 This is just the planning estimate part here.

1 We still need to go back and bring forward, as we develop a
2 budget out, there's funding set aside for initiatives, for
3 quality initiatives, for those reserve funds in there for
4 some contingencies for childcare. Think we need to, as we
5 develop the budget out, we will need to take a look at that
6 with you and decide if -- what decisions you might want to
7 make.

8 But, for now, this will gives some sense -- I
9 don't -- we're not proposing to set any targets with these
10 numbers, but I think it will start giving some sense of
11 where the funding is headed in terms of -- with updated
12 factors for the boards.

13 But I don't think -- it would not seem
14 appropriate to me that any decisions about certainly
15 reducing any children in care, or freezing enrollment at
16 this point based on these. These are not the final numbers,
17 so I don't think we would want that to be the interpretation
18 here, just because, yeah, this is a planning estimate.

19 I think if that's -- there's some concern
20 that that's where a board would need to be headed, I think
21 we're going to have that discussion separately and see what
22 the situation is there. But simply a reference number at
23 this point, in comparison to last year's allocation. So I
24 hope that was clear enough that that number is not expected
25 to be, you know, written in stone at this point on

1 childcare, certainly, but any of the planning estimates, for
2 that matter.

3 So, commissioners, that concludes the
4 presentation this morning on the allocations. And I would
5 be asking for your consideration of WIOA Adult Allocation,
6 and WIOA Youth Allocation, Dislocated Worker Allocation and
7 Rapid Response Funding distribution, and then with the
8 reduction for the -- out of that professional development at
9 the Adult Education, the allocation for the Adult Education
10 as well. And, like I said, I will update those supporting
11 pages for the Adult Ed to match the numbers with the 1.3 out
12 for the time being. And if you're okay with that I believe
13 we're -- that's all that I have.

14 CHAIR HUGHS: Okay. All right, if there are
15 no other questions or comments, is there a motion?

16 COMM. ALVAREZ: I have a motion. I agree
17 that the Program Year 2017 Rapid Response Funds should be
18 converted to statewide funding. Randy, if these monies are
19 converted to WIOA statewide funding, what is our balance for
20 WIOA statewide? You can give it to me later. You don't
21 have to do it right now.

22 MR. TOWNSEND: Well, commissioner, you bring
23 up a good point. I'm sorry, I forgot to even mention the
24 WIOA converted -- if you don't mind.

25 COMM. ALVAREZ: No, not at all.

1 MR. TOWNSEND: If I could interrupt your order
2 -- your motion.

3 COMM. ALVAREZ: I have it on your page right
4 here, Randy.

5 MR. TOWNSEND: It was a test, commissioner.
6 You passed. I have it here.

7 Okay, on page 1, let me cover that. I
8 apologize. On line 20 there, on page 1, I've mentioned the
9 balance per the current year Rapid Response and then the
10 prior year. What I failed to mention was that we also
11 determined that Program Year '17, this is one that was
12 available to the state as of July 1, 2017, so it's couple
13 years -- approaching a couple years of life at this point.
14 We have one more year left. But there's just 1-million --
15 we've estimated 1,254,926 as being the PY '17 WIOA Rapid
16 Response balance. With reauthorization of WIOA a few years
17 back they allowed states the flexibility to essentially
18 convert that Rapid Response balance into statewide.

19 And so, we essentially would just -- we
20 probably would not propose to put that into contract,
21 honestly, at this point. Since it has just about one -- yes
22 than one-years' worth of life. Especially if that
23 contract's going to extend beyond, say, next March or April.
24 But we could essentially do expenditure adjustments to spend
25 it. That -- we'll take care of all that part.

1 But it would essentially have the effect of
2 adding to the WIOA statewide balance, which would -- we can
3 get you a number, I don't have that off the top of my head
4 this morning. But it -- but rather than hold that back and
5 then try to find expenditures to push into that balance, we
6 think it's -- at the staff level, we think it makes sense at
7 this point since it's approaching two years of life to go
8 ahead and just propose the conversion of that to statewide.

9 COMM. ALVAREZ: Great. Great. Thank you,
10 Randy.

11 MR. TOWNSEND: I apologize for not bringing
12 it up earlier.

13 COMM. ALVAREZ: That's okay by me. Okay,
14 Randy, I'll go ahead and say in my comments and in my
15 motion. Again, Randy, thank you for bringing that up. So -
16 - also, Randy, I would like for you to provide me with a
17 report on expenditures related to the Rural Workforce Board
18 statewide initiatives. We talked about those earlier, about
19 those counties that were 82 -- or 8100 labor force, which we
20 adopted on July 3, 2018 commission meeting, where we
21 allocated 2.6 million of which 1.9-million was WIOA and
22 663,552 was childcare funding.

23 Ed, I would also like for you to make sure
24 that TWC contract managers ensure the board contract
25 managers understood how funding is calculated for the

1 smallest workforce areas. Maybe this is a discussion during
2 contract process. So, you brought that up. Thank you,
3 Commissioner Thomas.

4 MR. TOWNSEND: Yes, sir. We will.

5 COMM. ALVAREZ: So, my motion is, I move that
6 we approve the allocations in funding distributions for WIOA
7 Adult, WIOA Youth, WIOA Dislocated Worker, Adult Education
8 and Literacy, and funding distribution for Rapid Response as
9 presented.

10 I also move that we confirm FY 2017 Rapid
11 Response balance to WIOA statewide funding in the amount of
12 1,254,926, which is located on page 1 of 2, line item number
13 20.

14 COMM. THOMAS: Did you get everything in
15 that, Randy?

16 MR. TOWNSEND: I'll believe so, yes sir.

17 COMM. THOMAS: Then I second.

18 CHAIR HUGHS: We're unanimous, thank you.

19 MR. TOWNSEND: And, commissioners, if I may,
20 thank you for that. If I may, I am pulling together the
21 information requested. Not just for the smaller county as
22 far as expenditure levels. I think, like we did for Rapid
23 Response, I believe showing you the expenditures for the
24 last, if we have 12 months, and so you have that as
25 information, I think, would be helpful. And we'll also get

1 the additional -- because I know a couple of you have asked
2 for that information as far as some additional details
3 regarding what is not the actual expenditure amount, but
4 just what are the -- some of the examples of those purchases
5 and that sort of thing. So, we're --

6 COMM. ALVAREZ: Yeah. And we'd just like to
7 know. I mean, we had them here, did they buy, you know,
8 they were facilitating the need of the rural communities,
9 and we're talking about broadband service.

10 MR. TOWNSEND: Yes, sir.

11 COMM. ALVAREZ: I'm curious.

12 MR. TOWNSEND: Yeah. Makes perfect sense, so
13 we'll pull that together for you.

14 COMM. ALVAREZ: Thank you.

15 COMM. THOMAS: Randy, I know we had a -- we
16 had a global conversation about statewide, and I know that I
17 was trying to see if I could quickly find the communication,
18 but is that -- that'll wrap into this discussion when you
19 provide that additional data. Right?

20 MR. TOWNSEND: I think, Commissioner Thomas,
21 I think you and Commissioner Alvarez had fairly similar
22 requests along those lines as far as just a little bit more
23 detail. And some of that is, you -- just give me some more
24 -- what has happened since you approved that initiative.
25 So, I think we usually go through this a little bit more in

1 -- right as we develop the budget out, and typically in the
2 budget months. But we'll go ahead and pull that together.

3 I mean, with this kind of hard thing to get
4 the actual year-to-date expenditures and some of those
5 examples might take a little bit longer to pull those, but
6 it's available.

7 COMM. THOMAS: Thank you.

8 MR. TOWNSEND: So, will do.

9 CHAIR HUGHS: Thanks for doing that.

10 Appreciate that. Look forward to the update.

11 AGENDA ITEM NO. 9

12 CHAIR HUGHS: We will move on to Item 9,
13 Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action Regarding New
14 Certification and ReCertification of Community
15 Rehabilitation Programs to Participate in the Purchasing
16 from People with Disabilities State Use Program. Good
17 morning.

18 MR. MOORE: Good morning. Good morning
19 Chair, commissioners, Mr. Serna. My name's Kelvin Moore,
20 Program Manager, Purchasing from People with Disabilities at
21 the Workforce Commission.

22 We have before you Item 9 for the new
23 certification of one community rehabilitation program, or
24 CRP, which is Healthy Innovative Processes of San Antonio,
25 and the re-certification of four CRPs, such as E.Q.U.I.P

1 Enterprise of San Antonio, Cen-Tex Association in Mexia,
2 Texas, Lighthouse for the Blind of Houston in Houston,
3 Texas, and On Our Own Services, Incorporated, in Houston,
4 Texas.

5 Staff has reviewed all of the materials
6 presented here for you. In addition, we also work with the
7 central nonprofit agency. Staff recommends certification of
8 these CRPs. Are there any questions?

9 CHAIR HUGHES: Any questions, Commissioner
10 Thomas? Commissioner Alvarez? Is there a motion?

11 COMM. ALVAREZ: So, I do have a comment,
12 though. I apologize for that. Just for the record, I would
13 like to postpone action regarding one of the entities
14 seeking CRP certification. We had some remaining questions
15 regarding whether the employer has a liable tax account, is
16 correctly reporting wages and whether the entity has passed
17 RID Review. And that would be the first on the
18 certification Community Rehabilitation Program one of them.

19 COMM. THOMAS: Quick clarification, you're
20 okay with the recertification of those? The one through
21 four?

22 COMM. ALVAREZ: I am. Yes, I am.

23 COMM. THOMAS: Okay. Then I would join that
24 we hold activity on the first certification question.

25 CHAIR HUGHES: All right. And short of that,

1 then, we've moved to approve the rest?

2 COMM. ALVAREZ: Yes, ma'am. That we move to
3 approve the recertification of the community rehabilitation
4 programs as recommended by staff, one through four.

5 COMM. THOMAS: Second.

6 CHAIR HUGHS: Okay. We are unanimous. Thank
7 you, Kelvin.

8 AGENDA ITEM NO. 10

9 CHAIR HUGHS: All right, that brings us to
10 Item 10, Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action
11 Regarding Approval of Products Offered by Certified
12 Community Rehabilitation Programs Under the Purchasing from
13 People with Disabilities State Use Program.

14 MR. MOORE: Okay. Item 10, for the record,
15 Kelvin Moore, Program Manager, Purchasing from People with
16 Disabilities at the Workforce Commission.

17 We have before you Agenda Item 10, the
18 listing of one product offered by one CRP and 17 product
19 price revisions that are being offered by three community
20 rehabilitation programs. Through the state use program,
21 products -- product price revisions for Item 7 is postponed
22 pending price research by staff.

23 Staff has recommended approval of all
24 products before you, except for product price revision of
25 item 7.

1 Are there any questions?

2 CHAIR HUGHS: Thank you. Are there any
3 comments or questions?

4 COMM. ALVAREZ: No, ma'am.

5 CHAIR HUGHS: All right. With that, then, do
6 we have a motion?

7 COMM. ALVAREZ: I move that we approve the
8 new product purchasing with CRPs as recommended by staff.

9 COMM. THOMAS: I'll second.

10 CHAIR HUGHS: We are unanimous, thank you.

11 AGENDA ITEM NO. 11

12 CHAIR HUGHS: Item 11, Discussion,
13 Consideration and Possible Action Regarding Approval of
14 Services Offered by Certified Community Rehabilitation
15 Programs Under the Purchasing with People from Disabilities
16 State Use Program Discussion.

17 MR. JOSEPH: Good morning, Chair Hughs,
18 commissioners, Mr. Temple. For the record, my name is
19 Howard Joseph, Program Manager, Purchasing from People with
20 Disabilities Program.

21 I have before you Agenda Item 11, for the
22 approval of services in regards to services to our 13
23 contracts, completed under temporary authority employing 58
24 individuals being paid above minimum wage.

25 There are 46 new and renewal contracts

1 employing 216 individuals being paid at or above minimum
2 wage. Through our 13 transferred contracts employing 36
3 individuals, all are paid above minimum wage. Staff
4 recommends approval of all service contracts.

5 I'll be happy to answer any questions.

6 CHAIR HUGHS: Any more questions?

7 COMM. ALVAREZ: No, Madam Chair.

8 CHAIR HUGHS: Okay. Is there a motion?

9 COMM. THOMAS: I move to approve the services
10 offered by community rehabilitation programs in the
11 Purchasing from People with Disabilities State Use Program,
12 as presented by staff.

13 COMM. ALVAREZ: I'll second that.

14 CHAIR HUGHS: We are unanimous.

15 MR. JOSEPH: Thank you.

16 CHAIR HUGHS: And thank you, Howard, for your
17 many, many years of public service. He just had a service
18 anniversary.

19 COMM. THOMAS: Is that right?
20 Congratulations.

21 MR. JOSEPH: That's right.

22 COMM. THOMAS: Thank you, Chair.

23 AGENDA ITEM NO. 12

24

25 CHAIR HUGHS: All right, Item 12, Discussion,

1 Consideration and Possible Action Regarding Approval of
2 Local Workforce Development Board Nominees. Cam Bell.

3 MR. BELL: Good morning, Madam Chair,
4 commissioners, Mr. Serna.

5 COMM. THOMAS: Short term.

6 MR. BELL: Cameron Bell, Workforce
7 Development Division.

8 Before you for your consideration and
9 approval are Workforce Development Board Nominations for
10 Workforce Solutions for South Texas, Heart of Texas, Gulf
11 Coast, Middle Rio Grande, North Texas, and Southeast Texas.

12 CHAIR HUGHS: Commissioners, any other
13 comments or questions on the motion?

14 COMM. ALVAREZ: No, ma'am.

15 MS. BERMAN: Do I have a
16 motion?

17 COMM. ALVAREZ: I move that we approve the
18 board nominees for South Texas, Heart of Texas, Gulf Coast,
19 Middle Rio Grande, North Texas, and Southeast Texas.

20 COMM. THOMAS: Second.

21 COMM. THOMAS: All right. Thank you.

22 MR. BELL: Thank you.

23 CHAIR HUGHS: And thank you so much for all
24 of your service to this agency and to the state and to our
25 country. I hope you enjoyed your commute to work today.

1 MR. BELL: the last one.

2 CHAIR HUGHS: And that you'll enjoy all the
3 mornings after.

4 MR. BELL: Thank you very much.

5 COMM. ALVAREZ: Great job, Cam.

6 COMM. THOMAS: Thank you, Cam.

7 (Applause)

8 AGENDA ITEM NO. 14

9 CHAIR HUGHS: All right, there is nothing for
10 Items 13, 14, 15 and 16.

11 COMM. ALVAREZ: Madam Chair, I do have
12 something for 14, if I may.

13 CHAIR HUGHS: Okay. Let's back up then.
14 Item 14, Discussion --

15 COMM. ALVAREZ: As -- I'm sorry, go ahead.

16 CHAIR HUGHS: I'm sorry. I'm wondering if --
17 okay. Because the numbers are a little different this week,
18 since we've had some items. But if you'd like to bring
19 something up under Item 14 that's fine. Otherwise we're
20 going to move on to updates from Tom and then from Ed under
21 --

22 COMM. ALVAREZ: Okay.

23 CHAIR HUGHS: Under Items 17 and 18. So I
24 just want to make sure --

25 CHAIR HUGHS: Okay, great. Yes.

1 CHAIR HUGHS: Do you want to wait, or do you
2 want to bring something up?

3 COMM. ALVAREZ: Yeah. I'll bring something
4 up. I do have something to discuss on Item 14.

5 CHAIR HUGHS: Under Item 14? Okay.

6 COMM. ALVAREZ: Agenda Item.

7 CHAIR HUGHS: Let me just read that into the
8 record.

9 COMM. ALVAREZ: Yes ma'am.

10 CHAIR HUGHS: It's, Discussion, Consideration
11 and Possible Action Regarding Statewide Initiatives Funded
12 with Workforce Investment Opportunity Act, Temporary
13 Assistance for Needy Families, Adult Education and Literacy,
14 Child Care or Other State Level.

15 COMM. ALVAREZ: Randy and Chris, I thank you
16 for coming by the office and discussing the distributions
17 and coming to our various office to discuss the way we fund
18 certain programs. With that, on Item -- on page 1 of 20,
19 which you shared with us earlier, line 20, Fiscal Year 2017
20 Rapid Response Balance, proposed WIOA statewide conversion.

21 I'm sorry that you all don't have one, but
22 Randy and Chris have one.

23 I would like to ask staff to bring forth a
24 policy concept paper which utilizes this funding and any
25 other available funding to support the additional applicants

1 of the Co-Locate Workforce Specialist Initiative. It would
2 take an additional 2.27159-million to fund the additional
3 eight applicants. If we use the Rapid Response converted
4 funds, we only need an additional 1. -- 1-million 16 --
5 1,016,665 in other statewide funding to support all the
6 applicants.

7 It is my understand in that training has not
8 yet begun, so I think this is a great time to bring these
9 additional applicants. As you know, we had applicants, and
10 we did inform those that were awarded with the Co-Locate
11 Specialist Grant.

12 At the Texas Regional Pathway Steering
13 Committee, which we held on April 12, 2019, representatives
14 from business, industry and educational institutions,
15 expressed praise over the vision and leadership in this
16 area. Many of our staff were present for this.

17 If you can also bring up -- that is -- so my
18 recommendation is, again, that the 1.254926 WIOA funding be
19 made available for additional Locate Specialist.

20 COMM. THOMAS: For the record, I join that
21 request.

22 CHAIR HUGHS: I would request that we
23 actually wait to see what the numbers look like. We're
24 going to be having a full evaluation of all of our programs
25 with all of our statewide initiatives this summer in

1 planning for our operating budget. I fully support the Co-
2 Locate Specialist, and voted to provide the funding, but
3 it's a pilot program that's starting in May, so we don't
4 know the results yet, before we looked to add another few
5 million dollars to it. And that's why I would ask to wait.

6 COMM. THOMAS: Well I'm okay with -- I'm okay
7 with that. I just -- since you -- since Commissioner
8 Alvarez listed it as a proposal, we -- that would be very
9 helpful to have the information going forward, going into
10 the planning. I'd like some additional information. At
11 least as I understood Commissioner Alvarez requesting it, to
12 be able to -- be able to evaluate that decision.

13 COMM. ALVAREZ: Yes. And I know this is
14 somewhat of a timely issue, and only because we are bringing
15 in those people who were awarded this grant to come in for
16 training, and so rather than do another contract, I would
17 prefer that we do it all at one time.

18 The training, I'm assuming, will be taking
19 place sometime in May, or June, Courtney? I'm not sure. I
20 mean, I know they were just awarded. We were overwhelmed by
21 the number of boards that applied for it, and everywhere
22 we've gone from TOB to the manufacturing's association, all
23 reference that this was a great initiative that came forth
24 through the commission.

25 So, all I'm trying to do here is since we do

1 have the 1.12-million out of WIOA, and we've had it there in
2 the reserve for over two years, I figured that we could use
3 some of this to at least fund some additional boards, and do
4 the training all at one time.

5 CHAIR HUGHS: So, to be clear, I think I'm
6 asking to consider the proposal. I think he's saying let's
7 vote now, so that there're more people funded. Is that
8 right? You're actually asking for a vote to make this
9 decision today?

10 COMM. ALVAREZ: I'd like to

11 COMM. THOMAS: Oh, that was -- I see.

12 CHAIR HUGHS: And I don't support that.

13 COMM. THOMAS: I'm sorry. Okay. I'm sorry,
14 then I did not understand. I thought that he was asking for
15 a proposal coming forward. You're asking for us to evaluate
16 that today?

17 COMM. ALVAREZ: NO. We could -- we could
18 wait. As long as -- my thing would be, and Courtney maybe
19 you can assist me with this, just so that we could get the
20 contracts early enough so that if we do agree to fund this,
21 that we do the training all at one time.

22 MR. SERNA: Commissioner, what I understood
23 you asking for was a policy concept concerning the use of
24 those additional funds.

25 COMM. ALVAREZ: Yes. Yeah.

1 MR. SERNA: We can put that together very
2 quickly. The training is -- that's what Courtney came up to
3 tell me. The training is scheduled to begin in July, so we
4 have time.

5 COMM. ALVAREZ: I'd be okay with that.

6 MR. SERNA: To have the commission provide
7 information to the commission, have you all evaluate the
8 possible reallocation of funds, still reach out to other
9 potential applicants and get them in to training, so that we
10 can accomplish that. We just -- we just hustle up on it.

11 COMM. ALVAREZ: I would be okay with that.
12 Brief our offices. Sure.

13 CHAIR HUGHS: In the context of that, I think
14 at that point we would want to see a briefing on all of our
15 statewide initiatives and the funding maybe we're going to
16 accelerate the timeline, then, if we're trying to meet some
17 kind of July deadline.

18 MS. SERNA: Yes, ma'am.

19 COMM. THOMAS: Sounds like that's what we've
20 been asking for a couple months now. At least out of my
21 office, so, I mean, my point is, it sounds like there's some
22 concern around -- or some desire for more global information
23 to see the bucket altogether. That is kind of what I'm
24 interpreting the chair to say. I think I agree with that.

25 MR. SERNA: Yes, sir. When -- I understand

1 what you're asking. We'll provide that information. I
2 think what the -- what the Chair had also mentioned was the
3 consideration of all this information with regard to the
4 planning sessions that are coming up with regard to those
5 allocations for statewide initiatives. We can accelerate --
6 as much as we can, we can accelerate providing that
7 information. In the context of staff putting things
8 together, I don't think, if it's okay with the commission,
9 that we -- we will provide a global view of the impact of
10 using the 1.24-blah-blah-blah-million, but we'll complete
11 Commissioner Alvarez's policy request for an analysis of the
12 funding and the benefit of that from what we know right now.
13 And then we'll provide as much information as we can on the
14 impact to other initiatives of the use of those funds.

15 But then more broadly, Commissioner Thomas,
16 just what you're -- what you've referenced, and we've had a
17 conversation about, which is sort of the global picture of
18 where all the funding's at and where all the pieces are at.
19 And then when you sort of pull the string here, what it does
20 to something somewhere else in -- this being an example of
21 that.

22 COMM. ALVAREZ: I'd be okay with that, Ed.

23 CHAIR HUGHS: Yeah. I think it makes a lot of
24 sense to see it on paper before we vote.

25 COMM. ALVAREZ: Mm-hmm, sure.

1 MR. SERNA: Yes.

2 CHAIR HUGHS: So, thank you for that. Thank
3 you.

4 All right, any other items under 14?

5 COMM. ALVAREZ: No, ma'am.

6 AGENDA ITEM NO. 17

7 CHAIR HUGHS: CHAIR HUGHS: Okay, then
8 moving on to Item 17, since there are no items for 15 or 16,
9 but are there any updates regarding enacted, proposed, or
10 considered federal or state legislation?

11 MR. McCARTY: Good Morning, Chair Hughs,
12 Commissioner Alvarez, Commissioner Thomas. Tom McCarty with
13 External Relations.

14 The U.S. House Appropriation Sub-Committee on
15 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education will hold a
16 markup of the draft Labor of Health and Human Services
17 Education Fiscal Year 2020 Appropriations Title this
18 afternoon.

19 The Senate will do a review of DOLs budget on
20 Thursday, the Senate sub-committee -- Appropriations Sub-
21 Committee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education,
22 and that'll be Thursday.

23 Tomorrow we have two hearings at the federal
24 level. The first is the U.S. House Veterans Affairs Sub-
25 Committee on Economic Opportunity. They will consider HR

1 444, the Reduce Unemployment for Veterans of the -- of All
2 Ages Act of 2019.

3 And then the U.S. House Education Labor
4 Committee will hold a hearing to examine policies and
5 priorities of the U.S. Department of Labor.

6 The Texas Senate yesterday passed out Senate
7 Bill 2296 by Senator Powell. This is TWC's legislative
8 proposal related to common paymaster. The bill will now go
9 to the Texas House for referral to Committee.

10 We have 28 days left in the 86th regular
11 session. Monday, May 6th, is going to be the first deadline
12 that we'll see from the constitutional deadlines. Thursday
13 being the big one, which is going to be second reading of
14 all House bills. And then after that, we'll start taking
15 down additional deadlines as the constitution outlines. I'm
16 available if you have any questions.

17 CHAIR HUGHS: Any questions? Thank you.

18 MR. McCARTY: Okay, thank you.

19 AGENDA ITEM NO. 18

20 CHAIR HUGHS: Okay. Item 18, do we have any
21 updates?

22 MR. SERNA: I had three things. I had three
23 things to update on. Two which have already been mentioned.
24 One was this was Cam's last meeting with us. Which we've
25 already acknowledge. The other was that Howard Joseph is

1 celebrating his 45 years with state service, which we
2 acknowledge, but it is 45 years and it's some of the staff
3 that were close with him and I are going to take him out to
4 eat at some point in the future, and give him a certificate.

5 The third thing is to let the commissioners
6 to know that I had, I believe, a very productive meeting
7 yesterday with the representatives from five boards. The
8 agenda, initially, was to talk about procurement --
9 potential procurement issues, but we'll -- the real intent
10 of it was just to have an open conversation about issues and
11 how we can improve our dialogue and our communication.

12 The conclusion of the meeting was that we
13 needed to, on both sides, both the board side and the TWC
14 side, need to work on our communications. Because there's
15 information that we're sending out that is being interpreted
16 by them one way, which is not an intended way. They are
17 reacting to that, which is escalating the work that they
18 have to do, which is unintended and not required.

19 So, we came to some really good
20 understandings about some things. They raised some issues -
21 - not issues, I'm sorry. Some points that we need to -- we
22 need to look at and we're going to continue to talk at EDC
23 and other things.

24 The other thing that we're going to do is
25 since we all kind of focused on communications and we have

1 all these other mechanism for communication. We have a
2 Friday call, we have an EDC, we have a Quan (ph), we have a
3 CFOs call or meeting that we're going to re-examine those
4 and see what kind of information we're exchanging with the
5 boards and what they're asking of us, and what information
6 they're providing to us. Because it's -- communications is
7 two way, and we agree to that.

8 Interesting to note one of the board ED's
9 said that, Well, at EDC they're, you know, we don't have
10 enough time to visit with you. And really that time is set
11 by the boards. So, we're going to re-examine some of those
12 things. So, I thought that was a very good meeting that we
13 had. So, I just wanted to report that. And other than
14 that, I have nothing else to say.

15 CHAIR HUGHS: Thank you for convening that
16 and thank you for that update.

17 COMM. THOMAS: Yes.

18 CHAIR HUGHS: All right. Is there a motion
19 to adjourn? Or is there anything else we ant to add in this
20 area? Sorry. Go ahead.

21 COMM. THOMAS: NO. NO. Thank you. Thank you,
22 Chair Hughs. I was just trying to find our communication,
23 Ed, that you responded to recently. But to make sure we can
24 comply with our process of putting our requests, you know,
25 coming to you from the dais, I'm formally requesting that

1 the Executive Director -- you guys are Executive Director
2 and the Executive Staff, develop a process to update the
3 commissioners from a governance and oversight perspective on
4 all initiatives. Whether it be legislative mandate, sunset
5 or otherwise, of process, programs et cetera, that are
6 ongoing. Similar to what our independent auditor does for
7 our monthly briefings of an implementation status.

8 And so, I understand that you already have
9 some of your staff working on some of those things to either
10 formalize it, create it, or otherwise.

11 MR. SERNA: Yes, sir.

12 COMM. THOMAS: But I'd like to see that on an
13 ongoing basis, knowing that global list of what we, as
14 commissioners, are responsible for of governing and
15 overseeing that the legislature tells us we're responsible
16 for.

17 Make sure that we're being -- that's being
18 reported to us on a monthly basis, and specifically
19 reporting the implementation status and hitting those
20 implementation status milestones.

21 MR. SERNA: Yes, sir. We will. When we did -
22 - yes, sir. We'll absolutely do that, and the conclusion of
23 the regular session will give us an opportunity to start
24 that process, but we'll also include -- which we were
25 already -- actually, we've already got done.

1 We'll also include the progress from the two
2 previous sessions. But we have, for example, a standing
3 item on our agenda after sunset to report on the progress of
4 sunset. We have a standing item on the transition that we
5 had for a while. And so, we'll establish another standing
6 item or a fixed item under my report that's monthly to take
7 about where we're at with those things that you -- that
8 you've mentioned.

9 COMM. THOMAS: I don't necessarily -- I'm not
10 specifically requesting that it'd have to be presented in,
11 you know, in our meetings. But I think we do have to have a
12 consistent, ongoing briefing similar to what we have with
13 the audit function of implementation status. And I would
14 think that that would also include then the executive team's
15 perspective on the implementation status of the audits as
16 well.

17 In other words, that's really the -- one of
18 the most important functions that we, as commissioners,
19 serve as, is the -- ensuring that happens.

20 MR. SERNA: Right.

21 COMM. THOMAS: And I know there's been
22 several things that have come up recently that we, the
23 staff, have learned about that we may or not have been
24 addressing.

25 MR. SERNA: Right.

1 COMM. THOMAS: So, I know you're working
2 heavily on that to get your arms around that.

3 MR. SERNA: Yes, sir.

4 COMM. THOMAS: But those kinds of things are
5 things that just fundamentally, I think, are where we -- be
6 great for me to be able to have, certainly, a monthly
7 briefing with you or whomever you designated on those
8 things.

9 MR. SERNA: Yes, sir.

10 COMM. THOMAS: So, I can't speak to my
11 colleagues.

12 MR. SERNA: Yes, sir. We can do that. We'll
13 do that.

14 COMM. THOMAS: Thank you.

15 COMM. ALVAREZ: Ed, that was great that you
16 had the meeting yesterday with the workforce boards. That's
17 good that we were able to get feedback from the way we
18 handle communications. So, I really appreciate that.

19 MR. SERNA: Yes, sir.

20 COMM. THOMAS: Thank you.

21 MR. SERNA: Appreciate it.

22 CHAIR HUGHS: So, if there's nothing else.
23 Before we adjourn, we would the honor of a photo with Mr.
24 Bell before he leaves us, and then with Howard. So maybe we
25 can just step down and do that real quick. Is that okay?

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(Whereupon photos were taken)

AGENDA ITEM NO. 19

CHAIR HUGHS: Is there a motion to adjourn?

COMM. THOMAS: So, moved.

COMM. ALVAREZ: I'll second that.

CHAIR HUGHS: We are adjourned. Thank you.

(Proceedings concluded at 9:39:40 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 15th day of May, 2019.

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

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