



**MEETING OF THE  
TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION**

**DATE**

**JULY 21, 2020**

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TUESDAY, JULY 21, 2020

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Are you ready? There we go. Good morning. The meeting is called to order. Mr. Trobman, has anyone signed up for public comment?

MR. TROBMAN: Good morning. We have no public comments this morning.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you. Good morning, Ms. Miller.

MS. MILLER: Good morning.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you. This brings us to the end of Agenda Items 3 through 7. Let's pause for two minutes to reset for the rest of the meeting.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: We'll give Commissioner Demerson a chance to rejoin us. All right. There he is. Is everybody ready to tackle the rest of this agenda?

COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Yes, sir.

COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Ready, ready.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right. Then let's move to Agenda Item 8. Discussion, consideration and possible action regarding a policy concept on amendments to Chapter 809, 40 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 809, regarding local board policies related to child transfers between providers.

ALLISON WILSON: Good morning, Chairman, Commissioners, Mr. Serna. For the record, Allison Wilson, Childcare and Early Learning Division.

1                   This morning we bring forward a policy  
2 concept for your consideration regarding local childcare  
3 transfer policies. §98.453 of the [unintelligible] rule for  
4 CCDF requires states to ensure that payments for subsidized  
5 child care reflect generally accepted payment practices of  
6 childcare providers that serve children who do not receive CCDF  
7 subsidies. Providers generally require private pay families to  
8 give notice before withdrawing their child from a program.  
9 These policies help providers retain enrollment efficiency and  
10 manage their operating budgets. Childcare Services Rule 913  
11 requires boards to establish a policy for the transfer of a  
12 child between providers. However, the rule does not require  
13 boards to establish a waiting period for families that request  
14 to transfer a child to another provider. Staff seeks direction  
15 on amending Chapter 809.13 to establish a two-week waiting  
16 period in the board's transfer policy. The waiting period shall  
17 apply to transfer requests that are unrelated to a status with  
18 childcare regulation. Additionally, staff seeks direction on  
19 amending 809.13 to authorize boards to establish procedures to  
20 consider exceptions on a case-by-case basis. That concludes my  
21 remarks, and I'm happy to answer any questions you have.

22                   CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right. Thank you.  
23 Questions or comments?

24                   COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: No questions,  
25 Chairman.

1 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: None here.

2 [Unintelligible].

3 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Do we have any motions?

4 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: I move that we approve  
5 the policy concept for the amendments to Chapter 809 regarding  
6 subsidized childcare transfer policies as discussed by staff.

7 CHAIRMAN DEMERSON: Second.

8 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Entered and second. And  
9 we're unanimous. Thank you.

10 ALLISON WILSON: Thanks.

11 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Item 9, Chapter 800 AEL  
12 Rules is being deferred to a later time.

13 This will bring us to Item 10. Discussion,  
14 consideration and possible action regarding the addition of a  
15 vocational rehabilitation vocational adjustment training course  
16 entitled Exploring Postsecondary Education and Training.

17 JASON VADEN: Good morning, Commissioners.  
18 For the record, Jason Vaden, Vocational Rehabilitation Division.

19 Vocational adjustment training is designed  
20 to help customers develops the competencies and essential skills  
21 necessary to function successfully on the job in postsecondary  
22 education and training and in the community. Currently VR  
23 offers multiple vocational investment training courses for our  
24 customers which cover a wide variety of topics. However, given  
25 the importance of postsecondary education and training for VR

1 customers seeking need of entry or advancement in their chose  
2 career path, staff have identified the need for a new course  
3 designed to focus on the exploration of postsecondary education  
4 including highlighting postsecondary education programs,  
5 available disability support services, skills needed to succeed  
6 and applying and paying for college. This morning's staff seeks  
7 direction on expanding the vocational adjustment training  
8 options to includes the court's help exploring postsecondary  
9 education and training, and with the corresponding rate and  
10 requirements as reflect in your materials. Commissioners, this  
11 concludes my remarks, and I'm happy to answer questions if you  
12 have any.

13 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right. Thank you.  
14 Comments or questions?

15 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Good report. Thank  
16 you, Jason, for the update.

17 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: None here.

18 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Are there any motions?

19 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: I move that we expand  
20 the vocational adjustments training options to include a course  
21 called Exploring Postsecondary Education and Training as  
22 discussed by staff.

23 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Second the motion.

24 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's been entered and  
25 seconded. We're unanimous. Thank you.

1                   On Item 11, staff does not have anything to  
2 present for Item 11.

3                   Item 12, discussion, consideration and  
4 possible action regarding guidance on resource utilization and  
5 implementation of services and strategies to target disaster  
6 relief efforts and public health emergencies, including those  
7 funded with the Department of Labor's Disaster Dislocated Worker  
8 Grant. Ed, calendar this item.

9                   ED SERNA: I know I'm down for the item, but  
10 I think Courtney Arbour is going to actually present it.

11                   CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Great. Thank you.

12                   COURTNEY ARBOUR: That's right. Good  
13 morning, Commissioners. Courtney Arbour with the Workforce  
14 Division. Today I want to just provide an update on the status  
15 of the projects we've recently begun on the Workforce Recovery  
16 side. As you know, there's much work underway with Workforce  
17 [unintelligible], adult education literacy providers, and other  
18 grantees to support unemployed Texans in returning  
19 [unintelligible] with a focus here locally on job readiness, job  
20 matching, and upscaling. At the state level, the online  
21 learning project is also underway with more than 25,000  
22 unemployment recipients invited to the platform to participate  
23 in no-cost coursework, and over the next few days, all  
24 recipients of unemployment insurance will receive the invitation  
25 to participate. The coursework available to them includes more

1 than 4,000 courses in both technical and workplace skills  
2 content. As of today, 100 claimants have begun courses, and  
3 half of those have completed at least one. Those who haven't  
4 responded to the invitation will receive a nudge from TVC or a  
5 local board encouraging them to take advantage of the  
6 opportunity. The call centers are also up and running  
7 supporting claimants in their job search. More than 1200  
8 claimants have received help with resume development and  
9 developing their profile and work in Texas which will help them  
10 to match available jobs. We have some really good news. Of  
11 those that have been contacted, 634 have let us know that  
12 they've gone back to work, so we've been able to congratulate  
13 them and gather some details from them, and the work will  
14 continue. We will provide updates on these projects and the  
15 customers who are in training and being served going back to  
16 work during our regular briefings with you all.

17 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right. Thank you.  
18 Questions or comments?

19 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: No questions at this  
20 time.

21 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: I'm just looking  
22 forward to the updated reports. Good work.

23 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Great. Agreed. Thank  
24 you. Thank you, Courtney.

25 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Thank you, Courtney.

1 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Anything else under Item  
2 12?

3 ED SERNA: No, sir. That's all.

4 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: That's all.

5 Let's move to Agenda Item 13. Discussion,  
6 consideration and possible action regarding approval of local  
7 Workforce Development board nominees.

8 SHUNTA WILLIAMS: Good morning, Chairman  
9 Daniel--

10 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Good morning.

11 SHUNTA WILLIAMS: -- Commissioner Alvarez,  
12 Commissioner Demerson, and Mr. Serna. For the record, Shunta  
13 Williams with the Workforce Development division.

14 And before you for consideration we have  
15 Workforce board nominees for workforce solutions. Cameron  
16 County, South Texas, Heart of Texas, Middle Rio Grande, Central  
17 Texas, the Coastal Bend, and Permian Basin. Staff recommends  
18 that all nominees be approved, and I'm here to answer any  
19 questions you may have.

20 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right. Comments or  
21 questions?

22 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: No questions,  
23 Chairman.

24 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: None here.

25 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Do we have any motions?



1 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Chairman, I move that  
2 we approve the board nominees for Cameron County, South Texas,  
3 the Heart of Texas, Middle Rio Grande, Central Texas, the  
4 Coastal Bend, and Permian Basin.

5 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: I second.

6 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's moved and seconded.  
7 We're unanimous. Thank you.

8 SHUNTA WILLIAMS: Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Agenda Item 14. This is  
10 discussion, consideration and possible action regarding the  
11 Texas Workforce Commission Agency Strategic Plan for Fiscal  
12 Years 2021-2025.

13 MARGARET HESSION: Good morning, Chairman  
14 Daniel, Commissioner Alvarez, Commissioner Demerson, and Mr.  
15 Serna. For the record, I'm Margaret Hession, director of  
16 communications.

17 Commissioners, you have before you the  
18 fiscal year 2021 through '25, TWC's Strategic Plan for your  
19 consideration and approval. I'd like to say thank you and your  
20 members of your staff and other team members across the agency  
21 for contributing to the report. For the report as a whole,  
22 Commissioners, I'm requesting approval for a plan with your  
23 permission to make technical corrections as necessary prior to  
24 final solution. I'm also happy to answer any questions to  
25 accept any changes you might have.

1 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: I'll answer questions.

2 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Chairman, I have a--  
3 first of all, I'd like to make a comment, and I have a couple of  
4 things that I'd like to add if it's okay with the Commission.  
5 First of all, I'd like to thank Margaret and her team for  
6 putting this strat plan together and for all the work that  
7 you've dedicated by working with the offices on this. It's a  
8 really good message to our constituents, and I appreciate your  
9 cooperation on this.

10 There's a couple of things that I would  
11 like to see if it's possible. After reading it a couple of  
12 times, I'm glad to see that we shortened the remarks from the  
13 commission. On the tagline, we have it on Page 182 of the  
14 report, I was wondering if we could--where it says, "work in  
15 Texas," if it would be possible for us in agreement that we  
16 would include the tagline "where jobs find you" on Page 182 of  
17 the report, the body of the report. It's the TWC outreach to  
18 customers it says there "for employers and workers who work in  
19 Texas," around that line 19 of page--correction--on Page 181 and  
20 182, it's where the message body is, and I'd like to see, again,  
21 the tagline, "where the jobs find you." That would be one  
22 recommendation.

23 The other is the messaging--

24 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: [Unintelligible].

25 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Yes?

1 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: I'm trying to go  
2 back, trying to find. I want to make sure I'm keeping--

3 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: It's on Page 182.

4 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: So, I want to give  
5 Commissioner Alvarez an opportunity to lay out his potential  
6 changes. One point of clarification though, and I want to make  
7 sure we understand how we're gonna vote on this. So  
8 [unintelligible] one would be in part two, and my understanding  
9 of today's vote is we would be passing out part one, which is  
10 pages four through about 21. Four through 21. And that today  
11 we're not voting on anything that follows Page 21. Now, that's  
12 my understanding of this agenda item. If there's information to  
13 the contrary, please let me know right now.

14 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Chairman, I was not  
15 aware of that. I was informed that we would be working on the  
16 whole report today.

17 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: I see.

18 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: So, I'd be willing to  
19 revisit this. So, we've been working on this for some time, but  
20 that's not the message that we got from staff.

21 TOM McCARTY: Commissioners, this is Tom  
22 McCarty. Today before you is the entire report, but Part One  
23 and Part Two are up for consideration.

24 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: So what is Part One?  
25

1 TOM McCARTY: Part One, Commissioners, is  
2 the section that deals with from the Commissioners message, the  
3 parts just before that with the agency admission vision,  
4 philosophy, Commissioners message, the goals, internal and  
5 external assessments, and I think that's the last part--and then  
6 redundancies and impediments, and then after that begins Part  
7 Two. And Part Two is the data elements that are prescribed by  
8 the instructions LEB and Office of the Governor for the data  
9 elements that we have to include in there.

10 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Okay. So, Page 181 then,  
11 Commissioner Alvarez, you had indicated you would like to use  
12 the tagline from "work in Texas" there.

13 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Yes. So, on Page,  
14 and I'm corrected. I'm looking at my copy. Chairman, I  
15 received multiple copies, so I'm gonna look at the very last  
16 copy that we received from staff on Friday, and it was printed  
17 out to me. So on Page 182, that's why I apologize for my  
18 remarks earlier, Page 182, Line 1, there's a statement that  
19 says, "Work in Texas is supported by 180 Workforce Solutions  
20 offices around the state." If possible, and agreed with the  
21 Commission, we did spend a lot of money, and I know that we've  
22 been using the "Work in Texas" at our virtual town hall and our  
23 stakeholder meetings, and I have referenced the tagline "where  
24 jobs find you," multiple times. It was just a recommendation, a

25

1 suggestion on my part. And that would be, again, on Page 182,  
2 Line 1.

3 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: So your suggested changes  
4 are on Page 181 and 182 to include the "Work in Texas" tagline,  
5 "where jobs find you" in those specific references that you  
6 made.

7 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Yes, sir. So it  
8 would be in parenthesis following "work in Texas," if that's  
9 okay.

10 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Yeah.

11 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: And it would be  
12 referenced there. That was my first comment.

13 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Okay.

14 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: My other one, very  
15 simple. Anywhere where we reference "work in Texas," and we do  
16 have it on Page 5 of the summary and Page 182 of the body, we  
17 have the word "work in Texas" or the link. So, what I would  
18 like to see, if it's okay, is when we reference  
19 "workintexas.com" that it be in bold would be one, and the other  
20 that every time someone presses the hyperlink, it would direct  
21 them to our--our website.

22 MARGARET HESSION: And Commissioner Alvarez  
23 that will [unintelligible] when it's presented to legislature  
24 online. It will be linked.

25

1 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: I'm sorry, Margaret.  
2 I lost you.

3 MARGARET HESSION: That will happen on the  
4 online version, Commissioner, when it's--on the online version  
5 to the legislature, it will be linked. When they click on that,  
6 it will be linked.

7 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Perfect.

8 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: And again, the  
9 wording, the hard copy, I was just asking on the recommendation  
10 too, that--if we could put it in bold, just to highlight it on  
11 Page 5 of the messaging from the Commissioners, and Page 182  
12 where it's referenced. Those are the only two areas where it's  
13 referenced in the report.

14 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Okay.

15 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: But that's up to you  
16 guys. It's just a recommendation, Commissioner.

17 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Commissioner Demerson?

18 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Those sound fine. I  
19 don't see any [unintelligible].

20 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Okay. Yeah. I have no  
21 objection either.

22 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: And those are all my  
23 comments and recommendations, Chairman, at this time.

24 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right. Commissioner  
25 Demerson, do you have any further comments?

1 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Just the message  
2 from Commissioners, let's continue to work on that message  
3 and we'll get that squared away. [unintelligible] point  
4 out is in reference to the 28 local workforce boards. And,  
5 again, I think Margaret is asking for, I mean, technical  
6 adjustments [unintelligible], and so, I'll make sure that  
7 we reference that, the 28 local workforce boards in some  
8 capacity in that message that comes from us.

9 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: And when you say "continue  
10 to work on that," are you anticipating future or upcoming  
11 edits to that?

12 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: I would think that  
13 this would be edited in some form or fashion that's  
14 presented. This is our final adoption of this message, I  
15 mean, we may have some concerns with that or it seems that  
16 we want to probably add [unintelligible] to this document.  
17 Nothing substantial. Just the final look--so what we're  
18 gonna vote on today, this is it?

19 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: That's my understanding?

20 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Yes, sir, it is.

21 TOM McCARTY: Chairman, I apologize--  
22 Chairman, I apologize. I wasn't aware about sections that  
23 we were gonna take action so. So, again, I'm okay with  
24 revisiting this at any--at a further time, if you'd like.  
25

1 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Well, we're running out of  
2 time. This is due to--

3 MARGARET HESSION: Due August 1, Chairman.

4 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Yeah. It's due at the end  
5 of the month. So, today is the, what, the 21st? So there'd be  
6 one more meeting. That's cutting it awfully close if we bring  
7 it up for a bullet at the next meeting. I'm game to do that.  
8 I'm particularly concerned with--Commissioner Alvarez. Your  
9 suggestions are well taken and are included without objection,  
10 and I think that was appropriate to do today. I'm concerned if  
11 Mr. Demerson has additional edits that he would like to make.  
12 If we vote today, I don't know that will happen, and I don't  
13 know a mechanism to really sustain any significant edits that  
14 aren't, you know, grammar, syntax, punctuation, et cetera, if we  
15 take a vote today. I would be okay pushing it to Tuesday, but  
16 we gotta wrap it up next Tuesday and be done with it, if we need  
17 another week to do that. Does that cause any major problems for  
18 staff who actually have to coordinate the submission of this  
19 report?

20 MARGARET HESSION: I'll defer to Tom. I  
21 mean, we do have accessibility and layout, so all of that would  
22 have to be done and completed, everything completed by and  
23 submitted by August 1. Tom, do you have any thoughts?

24 TOM McCARTY: No. This is Tom. That covers  
25 pretty much what we need to do on the back end in order to



1 submit this. We have been taking steps to do as much as we can  
2 in advance of the layout just to be able to speed up that  
3 process, Commissioners.

4 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Let me do this.  
5 Basically, this--my concern--my concern, I think Commissioner  
6 Alvarez has gone over his, and so I'll go over what I have  
7 brought up on the message from the Commissioners. It's not  
8 [unintelligible] and that way we're not delayed on this part.  
9 Mr. Chairman, [unintelligible] all of that, we were instructed  
10 to look at only pages up to 21. Are you okay with the fact that  
11 we may not have even viewed the documents also?

12 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Yeah. I think we can move  
13 the whole thing out today.

14 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Okay.

15 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: All right. So let  
16 me go ahead and hit my points here and then that takes care of  
17 that, and so you guys can kind of--we'll kind of try to figure  
18 this out and maybe Margaret, you guys can kind of wordsmith  
19 this. But, we're getting to--on the message on the  
20 Commissioners, and we're about Line 11, we talk about what we're  
21 doing in terms of developing our call centers and those things.  
22 We may want to institute seven days a week. We're going from  
23 7:00 to 7:00 working seven days a week, we're going from 7:00 to  
24 7:00 working seven a days a week and the hours or whatever.  
25 That's not in there. And so I think something to that--that we

1 talk about we're doubling our call centers from four to eight,  
2 expanding server handling claims from five to 20, incorporating  
3 the artificial intelligence through award-winning chat boxes,  
4 and so we may want to say in addition we've increased our hours  
5 from 7:00 to 7:00, seven days a week, along those lines. That's  
6 not in there, and that's something that we may want to place in  
7 there.

8                   Moving to Line 17, where it says, "Thanks  
9 to the [unintelligible] resources of our state," we may put  
10 "that include our employers, workforce, and diverse industry  
11 sectors" and that's more grammatical [unintelligible]. On Line  
12 17, "Texas Workforce has more than 13 million individuals ready  
13 to meet the needs of more than the 550,000-plus employers." I  
14 don't think we have 13 million individuals right now, and so we  
15 may need to look at that number. Right now we're at 11 million  
16 at this point, but let's look at that to make sure we're factual  
17 there in terms of what our message is to anybody who's out  
18 there.

19                   Moving to line item, I guess it's 21. My  
20 pages are not numbered. [Unintelligible], where it's referring  
21 to, I think it's Line 20, "Continued efforts to meet the State's  
22 higher education 60 by 30 [unintelligible] will include  
23 initiatives to improve quality in their early childcare and  
24 increase postsecondary education successes." 60 by 30 is tied  
25 to certifications, and so I don't know if we want to place

1 anything with certifications in there. This is talking about  
2 improving early childhood education and increase postsecondary  
3 education successes, and so hopefully if that ties into  
4 certifications, we're fine, but if you think it does, then we  
5 need to do that.

6                   And then lastly, somewhere in here I want  
7 to add we continue to rely on our 28 local Workforce boards to  
8 deliver legendary customer service to our Texas employers and  
9 employees. And so, there's no reference to our 28 local  
10 Workforce boards anywhere in this message from the Commission,  
11 and I'd like it to reflect, that is, the rubber meets the road  
12 at the local level. I would like something along those lines to  
13 be placed here.

14                   And I said lastly, but actually, if you  
15 turn the page, the next to the last paragraph, "TWC will  
16 continue and expand valuable training opportunities for both  
17 rural and urban communities [unintelligible] through programs  
18 such as the Skills Development Fund." So, programs such as the  
19 Skill Development Fund which provides grants, et cetera.

20                   So those are my quick comments on Message  
21 from the Commissioners. And one other, since we're taking this  
22 document on Line Item 3 where it says, "Provide to Texas  
23 workers, employers, job seekers, and businesses," that should  
24 probably be "small businesses." Because we have employers there  
25 and businesses, and those are almost one in the same. Small

1 business kind of ties what we--another constituent base that we  
2 deal with, that we [unintelligible]. Those are my comments.

3 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right. Commissioner  
4 Alvarez, any concerns?

5 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Well, I understand  
6 that we needed to submit this pretty quick, and it's really for  
7 us to do this, you know, jointly, because of the document. You  
8 know, the only things that I addresses were just, I was looking  
9 at the strat plan that we submitted two years ago where we did  
10 reference Harvey, but there wasn't a big--an emphasis on Harvey.  
11 It was more what the agency was doing. And we have to keep in  
12 mind that this is a five-year strat plan. The suggestions and  
13 recommendations that Commissioner Demerson are valid. I mean,  
14 my only messaging was just to focus on the, you know, pretty  
15 much the positive and the actual things that were taking place.  
16 I agree with some of the line items that he referenced, on the  
17 13 million working individuals, but, again, this was prior to  
18 COVID. I didn't want the report to focus on just COVID  
19 responses, and I agree with the recommendations he made, but  
20 we've been working on this for about two weeks now and, I mean,  
21 I don't know what my position's gonna be next Tuesday on some of  
22 the recommendations because, again, my focus is--I did look at  
23 his Line 18--and I apologize. My hard copy has different pages  
24 and numbers than their PDF, and so, I'm just gonna go back to  
25 what I have here in front of me. And the 550,000, I know we

1 discussed that with staff. That was pretty accurate, and that  
2 was prior to COVID. My question about the 13 million  
3 individuals working, it was 14 prior to COVID. Chairman, I'll,  
4 you know, I'm up for discussion on how you want to handle and  
5 proceed.

6 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Yeah. Well, here's what I  
7 think. I think this is very difficult to do on Zoom, and I  
8 think that our numbers aren't even corresponding, and I think,  
9 unfortunately, what that means is, is that staff should take  
10 into account what you offered, Commissioner Alvarez, make those  
11 appropriate changes to the document. I heard you say that you  
12 had no objection with the, sort of, substance of Commissioner  
13 Demerson's edits. I would agree. I have no objection with what  
14 he's trying to do, but I would want to see the final wording on  
15 that before I voted, and so, I think what that means is, is this  
16 needs to be postponed to next Tuesday. We will have to vote at  
17 that time, and that we can see exactly what the document reads.  
18 So, I think that I heard no objection to anything that you or  
19 Mr. Demerson said, Commissioner Alvarez, and my recommendation  
20 would be that we bring this up for a vote next Tuesday, and that  
21 would be our final vote and then it moves forward.

22 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: I agree with that,  
23 Chairman. And, you know, the points that Commissioner Demerson  
24 brought out were valid. I could see a section in the body of  
25 the report where we would talk about what we did during COVID

1 like what the employment numbers were, the extending the hours  
2 of operation for our call centers. The points that he brought  
3 out were valid, and so, I see a section, if it's okay, somewhere  
4 in the body of the report to put there. During the COVID phase  
5 of the report, this is what we experienced.

6 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Yeah. So, staff has that  
7 information as he presented it. Let's let them make those  
8 changes. This will come back before the Commission for a vote  
9 barring any objection from either of my fellow Commissioners.

10 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: I'm okay with that,  
11 Chairman.

12 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Yeah. I don't hear an  
13 objection, so let's make those changes as agreed to today and  
14 bring this back for a final vote next Tuesday.

15 MARGARET HESSION: Thank you, Commissioners.

16 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right. Do we have a  
17 legislative report today?

18 TOM McCARTY: Yes, sir, Commissioners, we  
19 do. Getting those notes real quick. Good morning, Chairman  
20 Daniel, Commissioner Alvarez, Commissioner Demerson, and Mr.  
21 Serna. For the record, Tom McCarty, external relations.  
22 Yesterday, Comptroller Hegar released a version of the  
23 Comptroller's fiscal year 2019/2020 Certification Revenue  
24 Estimate. The comptroller advised the CRE from 121.76 billion  
25 to available revenue to 110.19 billion, which reflects a

1 reduction of 11.57 billion from last October's CRE. The two  
2 largest factors on the revised CRE is the ongoing impact of  
3 COVID-19, and the decline in oil prices. The primary impact of  
4 the revised CRE is that the Comptroller now projects a 4.58  
5 billion shortfall for the current fiscal year instead of the  
6 2.89 surplus projected in October. We are monitoring one  
7 federal hearing this week. This morning at 10:00 a.m. eastern,  
8 the U.S. House Veteran's Affairs Subcommittee on Economic  
9 Opportunity is holding a hearing titled, "Getting Veterans Back  
10 to Work After COVID-19." Congress has returned from recess and  
11 will be monitoring any of the COVID-19-related legislation that  
12 may come up during this time period. We'll keep you updated and  
13 advised as any legislation moves through that process. This  
14 concludes my remarks, and I'm happy to answer any questions you  
15 may have.

16 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Any comments or questions?

17 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: No, sir.

18 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: None here.

19 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right. Thank you. Ed,  
20 [unintelligible] executive director's report today.

21 ED SERNA: Just two quick notes that I would  
22 have mentioned last week, but we hadn't actually sprung the  
23 surprise on one of the individuals, but we did have two  
24 employees that won awards for their hard work. The first was  
25 Patricia Espinosa. She won the Government Technology Magazine

1 Outstanding IT Service and Support Award that goes to an  
2 individual that distinguishes themselves for exemplary service  
3 and support to an organization. And the other was to John  
4 Fowler who won the Task Trailblazer Award. Mr. Fowler was  
5 surprised in a presentation in-house by Heather, Clay Cole and  
6 I, and we hadn't talked to him before the Commission meeting and  
7 we wanted to spring the surprise on him first. But he won the  
8 Trailblazer Award by task, which is awarded to an individual who  
9 has impacted the organization through strong leadership and  
10 dedication, and also recognizing mentoring and bringing up other  
11 individuals within the organization with those same values. So,  
12 we're very pleased to announce that both John Fowler and  
13 Patricia Espinosa in our IT department have been award winners  
14 from two different organizations.

15 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right.

16 ED SERNA: And that's all I have, sir.

17 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right. Well,  
18 congratulations for exemplary service to TWC. That's awesome.  
19 Anybody else to come before the Commission? No. Is there a  
20 motion to adjourn?

21 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Chairman, before I  
22 move to adjourn, I want to congratulate Ms. Espinosa and Mr.  
23 Fowler for their accomplishments and their awards representing  
24 the agency well. We appreciate their hard work.

25 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Absolutely.



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COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: With that--with that  
I move that we adjourn, sir.

COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Second.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's been entered and  
seconded to adjourn. We're adjourned.

COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Thank you.