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TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
BEFORE THE
TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION
AUSTIN, TEXAS

PUBLIC MEETING)
FOR THE TEXAS)
WORKFORCE COMMISSION)

COMMISSION MEETING
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2018

BE IT REMEMBERED THAT at 1:00 p.m. on
Thursday, the 1st day of November, 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 RUTH R. HUGHS, CHAIR; and JULIAN
ALVAREZ, Commissioners.

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P R O C E E D I N G S

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2018

(1:00 p.m.)

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1

COMM. HUGHS: Good Afternoon. This meeting is called to order. I now turn the meeting over to Commissioner Thomas to preside over Agenda Items 2-6.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2

Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action Regarding Whether to Assume Continuing Jurisdiction on Unemployment Compensation Cases, Wage Claim Cases, and/or Tax Liability Cases and Reconsideration of Unemployment Compensation Cases, Wage Claim Cases, and/or Tax Liability Cases, if any.

No Discussion.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3

Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action Regarding Tax Liability Cases Listed on the Texas Workforce Commission Dockets 35, 36, and 37.

Cases will be heard for Dockets 35, 36, and 37.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4

Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action Regarding Fair Housing Cases listed on the Texas Workforce Commission Dockets.

1 No cases will be heard.

2 AGENDA ITEM NO. 5

3 Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action
4 Regarding Higher Level Appeals in Wage Claim Cases Listed on
5 the Texas Workforce Commission Dockets 35B, 36B, and 37B.

6 Cases will be heard for Dockets 35B, 36B, and
7 37B.

8 AGENDA ITEM NO. 6

9 Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action
10 Regarding Higher Level Appeals in Unemployment Compensation
11 Cases Listed on the Texas Workforce Commission Dockets 35B,
12 36B, 37B

13 Cases will be heard for Dockets 35B, 36B, and
14 37B.

15 AGENDA ITEM NO. 7

16 COMM. HUGHS: Thank you, Commissioner Thomas.
17 Mr. Trobman, has anyone signed up for public comment? Okay,
18 no has signed up for public comment. Thank you. We will
19 pause for a moment to allow staff to enter.

20 AGENDA ITEM NO. 8

21 CHAIR HUGHS: Okay, we're back on the record.
22 Agenda Item 8, Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action
23 Regarding the Acceptance of Pledges for Board Contract Year
24 2019 Child Care Matching Funds.

25 MR. WEAVER: Good afternoon Chair Hughs,

1 Commissioners, Mr. Serna. For the record; Travis Weaver,
2 Workforce Development Division.

3 Annually local workforce development boards
4 in the local match pledges to secure federal childcare funds
5 pursuant to commission rule 800.73. This will be a
6 standing agenda item as boards may continue to submit match
7 agreements through January 31st, 2019.

8 Today staff request commissioner acceptance
9 of childcare pledges, and for donations, transfers, and
10 certifications of expense in the amount of \$6,571,970.
11 Thank you.

12 CHAIR HUGHS: Thank you. Are there any
13 comments or questions?

14 COMM. THOMAS: No, chair.

15 CHAIR HUGHS: Is there a motion?

16 COMM. ALVAREZ: Yes, ma'am. I move that we
17 accept childcare match in the amount of \$6,571,970 for board
18 contract year of 2019.

19 COMM. THOMAS: Second.

20 CHAIR HUGHS: We are unanimous. Thank you,
21 Travis.

22 MR. WEAVER: Thank you.

23 AGENDA ITEM NO. 9

24 CHAIR HUGHS: Okay, Item number 9,
25 Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action Regarding

1 Approval of the Fiscal Year 2019 Internal Audit Plan.

2 MS. SAGEBIEL: Good afternoon, commissioners.
3 For the record; Ashley Sagebiel, Internal Audit. I'm here
4 to present the Proposed Fiscal Year 2019 Audit Plan for your
5 consideration and approval.

6 Starting on Page 6 of your materials you'll
7 find the proposed projects as briefed with your offices.

8 CHAIR HUGHS: Thank you, Ashley. Are we --
9 do we have any comments or questions?

10 COMM. ALVAREZ: No questions, Madam Chair.

11 COMM. THOMAS: No questions.

12 CHAIR HUGHS: Is there a motion?

13 COMM. ALVAREZ: I move that we approve Fiscal
14 Year 2019 Audit Plan as presented.

15 COMM. THOMAS: Second.

16 COMM. ALVAREZ: We are unanimous, thank you.

17 AGENDA ITEM NO. 10

18 CHAIR ALCANTAR: Item 10, Discussion,
19 Consideration and Possible Action Regarding Local Workforce
20 Development Area Performance Measures and Targets for Board
21 Contract Years 2018, '19 and 2020.

22 MR. LEONARD: Good afternoon. For the
23 record; Adam Leonard, Operational Insight. I'm here today
24 to present to you what is, essentially, Part 3 of the local
25 board targets for year '19, and at the same time looking

1 forward to year '20, and doing the end of your adjustments
2 for '18 as required by WIOA, which has us negotiating
3 targets up front based on assumptions, and then using the
4 regression model to make changes at the end of the year
5 based on the actual case mix and the actual economic
6 conditions that we found.

7 In addition, as part of our recommendations
8 today, we're proposing an adjustment to the way that we
9 determine meeting participation standards. In the past we
10 have -- not participation, meeting performance standards.
11 In the past we've typically set it between 95 and 105
12 percent target, but as a result of the use of this
13 statistical model, and also the way that WIOA tends to
14 anchor around the 90 percentile for 90 percent of target to
15 not meeting, we're recommending that we make an adjustment
16 here and follow suit here with something closer to what the
17 feds do.

18 What that'll mean for year '18 is we would
19 set it at 90 percent of the target would be not meeting and
20 105 percent would be Plus P, positive performance. Then in
21 year '20 we would open it up to 90 percent to 110, so it'd
22 be a 10 percent on either side of the target.

23 I'm happy to answer any questions you may
24 have regarding these recommendations.

25 CHAIR HUGHES: Any questions?

1 COMM. ALVAREZ: No questions, Madam Chair.

2 COMM. ALVAREZ: Is there a motion?

3 COMM. ALVAREZ: I move that we approve the
4 Workforce Development Area Performance Measures and Targets
5 for Board contract years 2018, 2019, and 2020 as recommended
6 by staff.

7 COMM. THOMAS: I -- I don't have any
8 questions. Second.

9 CHAIR HUGHS: Okay. We are unanimous. Thank
10 you, Adam.

11 MR. LEONARD: Thank you.

12 COMM. THOMAS: Madam Chair, I -- give me a
13 chance. Just in case. I'm moving slow since this is all.
14 I may have some questions to --

15 CHAIR HUGHS: Sure. Of course, and please
16 speak up if you do. That's why I asked, so thank you.

17 COMM. THOMAS: Okay, thank you.

18 AGENDA ITEM NO. 11

19 CHAIR HUGHS: Item 11, Discussion,
20 Consideration and Possible Action Regarding the Annual 2018
21 College Credit Heroes Report to the Texas Legislature and
22 Governor Greg Abbott Required by SB 806 of the 86 Texas
23 Legislature, Regular Section.

24 MR. GEAR: Good afternoon Chair Hughs,
25 Commissioner Alvarez, Commissioner Thomas, Mr. Serna. I'm

1 Bob Gear, Director of Texas Veterans Leadership Program and
2 I'm here at -- seeking the commission's approval on an
3 Annual 2018 College Credit for Heroes Report to Governor
4 Abbot and the Texas Legislature.

5 CHAIR HUGHS: Are there any questions or
6 comments?

7 COMM. ALVAREZ: No ma'am.

8 COMM. THOMAS: No, thank you. I appreciate
9 this briefing. This really is good stuff.

10 MR GEAR: Thank you, Commissioner Thomas.

11 COMM. ALVAREZ: Uh-huh. Good report. Read
12 it last night. I was on the tarmac for many hours, so I
13 read it multiple times.

14 (laughter)

15 I move that we approve the 2018 College
16 Credit for Heroes Report.

17 COMM. THOMAS: Second.

18 COMM. ALVAREZ: All right. We are unanimous,
19 thank you.

20 AGENDA ITEM NO. 12

21 CHAIR HUGHS: Item 12, Discussion,
22 Consideration and Possible Action regarding How to Help
23 Participating Schools and Boards Cover the Cost of Skills
24 for Transition Program and Increase the Skills for
25 Transition Eligibility Period.

1 MR. GEAR: Once again, good afternoon, Chair
2 Hughs, Commissioner Alvarez, Commissioner Thomas, Mr. Serna.

3 I'm Bob Gear, Director of Veterans Leadership
4 Program.

5 Skills and Transition program was created
6 under Texas Operation Home Program back in July of 2016.
7 The core value, the core thing of this program, is it
8 assists -- it assists transition service members and
9 recently separated veterans in obtaining training to target
10 demand occupations here in the State of Texas.

11 Since the program -- since the last two years
12 we ran a program working with our boards, our community
13 colleges, our military partners, a couple issues -- talking
14 with them with the feedback has brought up a couple of
15 issues.

16 Issue number 1, is that with the limited --
17 with the amount that is set, ceiling at \$2000, it causes
18 services members in transit and recently separated veterans
19 to maybe go in and take -- pull money out of their own
20 pockets, or it takes them to start using their GI bill where
21 the time will run, we'll (indiscernible) to their GI bill or
22 -- and it forces local workforce boards to look at other
23 types of funding, like -- such as WIOA.

24 The staff is seeking guidance. We are
25 seeking guidance on repealing the \$2,000 ceiling and

1 establishing a more flexible target of \$2,750 as a cost per
2 student. This will allow the flexibility for the boards,
3 for the ED, for the boards, and it'll allow flexibility for
4 the students; for the veterans who receive the training.

5 CHAIR HUGHS: Okay, and Bob, as you're
6 presenting these are you looking for three votes, are you
7 going to go through each, and then you want one vote?

8 MR. GEAR: We're looking for each decision
9 point, ma'am. The first, Decision Point 1 --

10 CHAIR HUGHS: Is the funding amount.

11 MR. GEAR: Is the decision and guidance of
12 repealing the \$2,000 ceiling and looking for a more flexible
13 target of \$2,750 training cost per.

14 CHAIR HUGHS: Okay, and with respect to that
15 I'll just share. I've heard from Central Texas College, El
16 Paso Community College, Alamo Community College, The Soldier
17 for Life, Fort Hood programs that sometimes work with us to
18 support these programs, as well as many boards; Central
19 Texas, Gulf Coast, et cetera, that it is challenging to be
20 able to provide the funds because of the amount.

21 And I know that TSTC, for example, who
22 usually is to -- very -- tries to be very accommodating in
23 setting their prices. A lot of their programs are closer to
24 the 2750. Some are 25 or 24, so I -- I appreciate that --
25 that staff has raised this concern and has listened to the

1 community and the response that we've gotten from trying to
2 roll this out. And I certainly would be supportive of it,
3 but I want to give me fellow commissioners the opportunity
4 if they have any comments or questions before taking a vote.

5 COMM. THOMAS: I do. Could you please give
6 me a little clarity around the 2750? I have no problem with
7 the number, I'm just trying to understand. I couldn't get a
8 much -- good sense from you why that was a target and how
9 that correlates to statutory or other type of regulatory.

10 MR. GEAR: Yes, Commissioner. 2750, a more
11 flexible targets 2750 means that in different parts of the
12 state we're looking for an average, and so some training at
13 one part of the state may be \$2,000, where other parts of
14 the state it may be closer to \$3200, and so it's a average,
15 2750. So we have a -- we have the training where some 22
16 and so forth, so it'll average -- it's an average that we're
17 trying to meet, but it's just because Texas is so large, so
18 many colleges and the -- and so many regions with different
19 prices.

20 COMM. THOMAS: Thank you. So effectively
21 you're moving the number up from an average -- thank you --
22 average base to be able to give the regions flexibility in
23 being able to make sure that they -- they utilize the funds.

24 MR. GEAR: Yes, commissioner.

25 COMM. THOMAS: Thank you. Thank you.

1 CHAIR HUGHS: Any other questions?

2 COMM. ALVAREZ: Bob, I have a lot of
3 questions.

4 MR. GEAR: Yes, sir.

5 COMM. ALVAREZ: Bob, I'm going to share with
6 you. I got a list of the colleges here in front of me that
7 were awarded the grants, and I don't think I have enough
8 information to make a clear decision on what I want to do at
9 this point. I'm certainly not ready.

10 I have two pages of questions that I would
11 like to ask. You referenced the 2750. If I'm not
12 mistaking; skills, AEL, and apprenticeship, maximum award is
13 1800. Maximum award, I mean, at least that's what the
14 average is, if I'm not mistaking it. And so we're making an
15 exception for this.

16 I have also -- that's just one point. I
17 didn't even really know about this grant, to be quite honest
18 with you, besides the conversations. I've never been
19 briefed. I look at the grants that we award, and none of
20 it's on here. So I didn't have access to this information
21 prior to this -- this meeting. I should say maybe a couple
22 of days prior to it.

23 But I have a list of questions. How many
24 people have you trained? According to the briefing that I
25 have here, of the 4-million, and this was new to me, I

1 didn't know that 4-million came out of Skills Development.
2 So do we have \$19-million starting off with Skills, or do we
3 have 15-million? It's -- we have blocked off \$4-million
4 according to the discussion papers, that we have allocated
5 for this type of funding, or for this type of initiative.
6 And so I would like -- I don't feel comfortable making a
7 decision at this point for approving this specific item. I
8 would like to discuss this with the staff, as well as with
9 you, to see if you can get me or persuade me to go to 2750.

10 CHAIR HUGHS: Commissioner Alvarez, I know we
11 vote on a lot of things over the last few years, but if
12 you'll recall our Tri-agency Report specifically one of the
13 recommendations to the governor was Skills for Transition
14 funding and so we put that in as one of our priority items,
15 specifically the Skills for Transitioning Veterans and then
16 we voted on allowing up to 4-million of -- of the Skills
17 Development funds to be used and allocated for Skills for
18 Transition.

19 And thanks to your support and our unanimous
20 vote at the time we actually were able to roll a program out
21 where, unlike the -- the larger Skills for Transition where
22 an employer has to train a large number of existing
23 employees and create new jobs, we realized we weren't going
24 to have that type of scenario for veterans that are
25 transitioning out where one employer is going to train the

1 block. So we created this different type of program
2 identified in the Tri-agency efforts that benefits the
3 individual veteran.

4 But having said that, I'm open to -- to more
5 briefing, because I want you to be comfortable with whatever
6 we do.

7 I think what Mr. Gear is bringing forward to
8 us is a concern we've been hearing that the money is not
9 enough to have the impact that we were hoping it would have.
10 I think we have examples of programs, and in fact we've had
11 some really nice highlighted stories of people who've used
12 it to go into the Police Academy, to go into pharmacy tech,
13 management. I don't know if Bob has the list, but it's
14 certainly something that we want to get right.

15 COMM. THOMAS: Madam Chair?

16 CHAIR HUGHS: And so I'm fine with either
17 voting and if --

18 COMM. THOMAS: -- I have a motion --

19 CHAIR HUGHS: -- we have a majority, or
20 waiting.

21 COMM. THOMAS: -- I have a motion to withdraw
22 Issue Number 1 pending additional staff briefing on this
23 particular issue. Issue Number 1 only. And -- and I'm sure
24 you'll have all of the background information you need to
25 get us all comfortable?

1 MR. GEAR: I do, commissioner.

2 COMM. THOMAS: Great.

3 CHAIR HUGHS: I think we're in agreement,
4 then, to wait on that decision point, thank you.

5 MR. GEAR: Decision point issue number 2, was
6 the length of time. When we developed the Skills for
7 Transition Program it was a brand-new program, and so we had
8 to work a lot with the transition centers and the boards and
9 the -- and the schools. And so as we move forward with this
10 we realized that six months prior separation to six months
11 post separation was really creating a limited pool, a
12 limited eligibility time, for transition service members to
13 take advantage of the skills program. And the same goes for
14 the -- the separated veterans.

15 So staff is seeking guidance on Decision
16 Point 2, to expand the eligibility period to 12 months prior
17 to separation, to 12 months post-separation. This will
18 allow more transition services members to take advantage of
19 the Skills for Transition Program, as well as recently
20 separated veterans once they return to their city or
21 location in Texas.

22 CHAIR HUGHS: Okay. Any questions or
23 comments? Commissioner Alvarez?

24 COMM. ALVAREZ: Bob, you know I'm a big fan
25 of yours, and I appreciate everything you do for our service

1 veterans and those transitioning. Again, I don't have
2 enough information to extend the -- the time allowed for
3 these veterans to essentially be eligible for this funding
4 at this time.

5 COMM. THOMAS: Motion to withdraw this agenda
6 item subject to additional staff approval -- staff briefing.

7 CHAIR HUGHS: Okay, that's fine.

8 MR. GEAR: Thank you.

9 COMM. THOMAS: Thank you.

10 CHAIR HUGHS: Those are the decision for
11 number 2, okay.

12 AGENDA ITEM NO. 13

13 CHAIR HUGHS: That brings us to Agenda Item
14 13, Discussion, Consider -- and, by the way, Mr. Gear, thank
15 you for updating my office during the policy meetings and --
16 and, of course, please continue to update and brief the
17 other offices as well.

18 Item 13, Discussion and Consideration --

19 COMM. THOMAS: Let me -- for the record, let
20 me --

21 CHAIR HUGHS: Not you. You're new. (laughs)

22 COMM. THOMAS: No, no, no. For the record --
23 for the record, I mean, look. Here's the bottom line, for
24 the record, thank you very much. My office was briefed. I
25 appreciate it. I didn't -- I'm -- because I'm drinking from

1 a fire house and -- and taking lot of stuff home every
2 night, I don't necessarily have a full appreciation for the
3 diversity of our programs, et cetera. I think staff are
4 doing a great job, but I just want to let the staff know I
5 have great respect for my colleagues on the dais, and so
6 when I have a colleague that, for whatever reason, has a
7 concern it's my desire typically to try to support them in a
8 way that allows us to make sure we've got some comfort.

9 So it -- I don't mind -- my motions in that
10 regard are in no way meant to send a message that I do not
11 support the hard work of the staff, and just understand that
12 I think it's critical for me, as I get up to speed, to give
13 myself a chance to slow down and understand what one of my
14 colleagues might be concerned about. Thank you all.

15 CHAIR HUGHS: And we all agree with that, so
16 -- Item number 13, Discussion, Consideration and Possible
17 Action Regarding the Acknowledgment of Gifts and Donations
18 of \$500 or More in Value Given to the Texas Workforce
19 Commission in Accordance with Section 302.021 of the Texas
20 Labor Code and Chapter 575 of the Texas Government Code.

21 MS. ORIA: Good afternoon, Chair, and
22 commissioners. For the record; Nicole Oria with the Office
23 of General Counsel.

24 Before you are the gifts donate -- gifts and
25 donations of \$500 or more in value given to the Texas

1 Workforce Commissions for the 3rd quarter of calendar year
2 2018 for your acknowledgment and acceptance. The last three
3 pages of Tab 13 is a spreadsheet showing gifts and
4 donations. Staff is recommending approval of Items 1-8 and
5 anticipates bringing item number 9 up for consideration at a
6 later date. Thank you for your consideration. I'm
7 available if you have any questions.

8 CHAIR HUGHS: Are there any questions?

9 COMM. THOMAS: No, thank you.

10 CHAIR HUGHS: Is there a motion?

11 COMM. ALVAREZ: Yes, ma'am. I move that we
12 acknowledge and accept the gifts and donations of \$500 or
13 more given to the Texas Workforce Commission as noted by
14 staff.

15 COMM. THOMAS: Second.

16 CHAIR HUGHS: Okay, we are unanimous. Thank
17 you, Nicole.

18 MS. ORIA: Thank you.

19 AGENDA ITEM NO. 14

20 CHAIR HUGHS: Item Number 14, Discussion,
21 Consideration and Possible Action Regarding Approval of
22 Proposed Rule Reviews Under the Texas Government Code
23 section 2001.039, relating to General Administration (40
24 Texas Administration Code (TAC) Chapter 800), Local
25 Workforce Development Boards, Skills Development Fund,

1 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment and
2 Training, Unemployment Insurance, Child Labor, Texas Payday
3 Rules, and Job Matching Services. Jason.

4 MR. VADEN: You've got a long list there,
5 huh? (laughs)

6 CHAIR HUGHS: Decided to cut all the -- the
7 specific reference to where it was found in the code. It
8 would be rather long.

9 MR. VADEN: Good afternoon, commissioners.
10 Yeah. Good afternoon, commissioners. For the record; Jason
11 Vaden, Workforce Division.

12 COMM. THOMAS: Good afternoon.

13 MR. VADEN: Commissioners, as you're well
14 aware, state agencies are required to review their rules
15 every four years. During this review process an assessment
16 is made as to whether the reasons for adopting or re-
17 adopting the rules continue to exist.

18 Additionally, the assessment includes a
19 determination of whether the rules are obsolete, whether
20 they reflect current legal and policy considerations, and
21 whether they reflect the commission's current procedures.

22 In accordance with rule review requirements
23 staff is seeking direction on publishing notice in the Texas
24 Register notifying the public of our intent to review
25 Chapters 800, 801, 803, 813, 815, 817, 821, and finally 843.

1 After the public comment period concludes staff will bring
2 forward the results of the -- of the recommendations.

3 Commissioners, that concludes my remarks
4 today and I'm happy to answer questions if you have any.

5 CHAIR HUGHS: Thank you. Do we have any
6 questions?

7 COMM. ALVAREZ: No questions at this time.

8 CHAIR HUGHS: Do you have a motion?

9 COMM. ALVAREZ: I move that we file a motion
10 for intent for rule -- for rule review with Texas Register
11 -- or with the Texas Register for chapters 800, 801, 803,
12 813, 815, 817, 821, and 8 -- 843.

13 COMM. THOMAS: Seconded.

14 CHAIR HUGHS: All right, we're unanimous.
15 Thank you, Jason.

16 COMM. THOMAS: Quick point of clarification,
17 Madam Chair. I really like not having to make a bunch of
18 motions, but is there a protocol that we follow that
19 automatically one of us makes a motion? I mean, I'm happy -
20 - I know on -- on my -- on my last two boards it was whoever
21 was passionate about something. But I -- my point is,
22 Julian, I'm not asking you to carry the load on, unless
23 that's just something everybody's comfortable with.

24 COMM. ALVAREZ: I'd rather not. You can do
25 it.

1 COMM. THOMAS: I'm not --

2 COMM. ALVAREZ: No, I'm just kidding. I'm
3 just kidding.

4 (laughter)

5 COMM. THOMAS: No. I'm just -- I'm just
6 trying to figure out so no more toe stepping, everybody make
7 room for everybody. If -- if we're going to follow a bunch
8 of protocol, if this is one of them I'm going to try to make
9 sure that that's what I'm following.

10 CHAIR HUGHS: So historically the Chair asks
11 if there's a motion and then based on seniority that next
12 person votes, and then the third person who's joined the
13 commission seconds. And so I was making the motions and
14 Commissioner Alvarez was seconding -- was seconding the
15 motions prior to your arrival.

16 Once I became chair, he then has seniority
17 and is the person who makes the motions. Having said that,
18 certainly it's something we can revisit if either of you
19 want to revisit it at a later time. I don't think it's on
20 an agenda item where we can actually be discussing it right
21 now.

22 COMM. THOMAS: No, no. I'm not asking to
23 discuss it, I'm asking a point --

24 CHAIR HUGHS: Your question is, is there a
25 protocol, yes, and that's what we're following.

1 COMM. THOMAS: That -- that's what my
2 question was. I -- my point is --

3 CHAIR HUGHS: But can it change? Yes.

4 COMM. THOMAS: Well, I mean, I don't think
5 we're violating -- and I'm not asking a substantive, I'm
6 asking from a procedural standpoint to our general counsel,
7 if --

8 CHAIR HUGHS: Okay, yes.

9 COMM. THOMAS: I just know that my other
10 colleagues on two other different boards hated it if we got
11 stuck. I didn't realize a seniority thing, so thank you for
12 the clarification. I just didn't know.

13 CHAIR HUGHS: Yeah. I know. I understand.

14 COMM. THOMAS: Okay.

15 CHAIR HUGHS: Commissioner Alvarez, we can
16 change that practice if we decide to at a later date, just
17 let us all know.

18 COMM. ALVAREZ: Yeah.

19 CHAIR HUGHS: Okay. So Chapter -- I'm sorry,
20 chapter. Item 15, Discussion, Consideration and Possible
21 Action Regarding Approval of Local Workforce Development
22 Board Nominees.

23 MR. BELL: Good afternoon Madam Chair,
24 commissioners, Mr. Serna. I -- I'm Cameron Bell; Workforce
25 Development Division.

1 Before you for consideration and approval are
2 Workforce Development Board Nominations for Workforce
3 Solutions Gulf Coast, Pan Handle, Rural Capital Area, South
4 Plains, and Southeast Texas.

5 CHAIR HUGHS: Thank you, is there a motion?

6 COMM. ALVAREZ: I move that we approve the
7 board nominees from Gulf Coast, Pan Handle, Rural Capital
8 Area, South Plains and Southeast Texas.

9 COMM. THOMAS: Second.

10 CHAIR HUGHS: We are unanimous, thank you,
11 Cam. Okay, there's nothing for Item 16.

12 AGENDA ITEM NO. 17

13 CHAIR HUGHS: Okay. Item 17, Discussion,
14 Consideration and Possible Action Regarding Guidance on
15 Resource Utilization and Implementation of Services and
16 Strategies, Including Those Funded with the Department of
17 Labor's Disaster Dislocated Worker Grant, in Response to
18 Hurricane Harvey.

19 MS. TROKE: Good afternoon, Chair Hughs,
20 Commissioners and Mr. Serna. For the record; Jen Troke,
21 Workforce Development Division.

22 For your consideration today is a discussion
23 paper on request for disaster, dislocated worker funds from
24 boards. To date TWC has approved and awarded grants
25 totaling \$21,524,000 to eight local boards to serve

1 individuals impacted by Hurricane Harvey.

2 TWC and boards have been in frequent contact
3 throughout the grant period to determine when additional
4 funds might be needed to continue providing services and we
5 will continue to bring these funding requests forward to the
6 Commission for approval.

7 Today I bring forward two requests for your
8 approval; Southeast, and Deep East Workforce Boards are
9 requesting additional funds to continue implementing
10 Dislocated Worker Grant funded strategies.

11 Staff seeks your direction on the following:
12 Approval of an increase for the Southeast board in the
13 amount of \$500,000 and approval of \$975,000 for Deep East's
14 board. Do you have any questions for me?

15 CHAIR HUGHS: Are there any questions?

16 COMM. ALVAREZ: Nope.

17 COMM. THOMAS: No, thank you.

18 CHAIR HUGHS: And a motion?

19 COMM. ALVAREZ: I move that we approve the
20 additional Disaster Dislocated Worker Grant funding for
21 Southeast and Deep East board as discussed by staff.

22 COMM. THOMAS: Second.

23 CHAIR HUGHS: We are unanimous, thank you,
24 Jennifer.

25 MS. TROKE: Thank you.

1 AGENDA ITEM NO. 18

2 CHAIR HUGHS: Okay, I have 18. Are there any
3 updates regarding enacted, proposed, or considered federal
4 or state legislation? I see that there is not. Thank you.

5 AGENDA ITEM NO. 19

6 CHAIR HUGHS: And Item 19, it looks like we
7 are now going back to Executive Session. And -- well,
8 right? Let me look.

9 MR. SERNA: I don't have anything.

10 COMM. ALVAREZ: I think you forgot Ed.

11 CHAIR HUGHS: I'm sorry, Ed. I didn't mean
12 to overlook your important role in giving us any updates.

13 MR. SERNA: No, ma'am. I have -- I have no
14 updated. All I was going to say is our Executive Director
15 has been transported to Houston Methodist via ground
16 transport. He did try to get the ambulance to stop in La
17 Grange to buy Kolaches, he said he would pay, but he
18 couldn't get them to do it, so -- But he -- he's doing fine
19 there.

20 COMM. ALVAREZ: Okay. And as far as updates
21 I do want to make a note. We had a few agency staff that
22 were recognized at the Central Texas Workforce Board at
23 their annual board awards last week. I'm not sure if
24 they're still here with us, but Adam Leonard won an Alumni
25 Professional Award recognized for his influence on the

1 national conversation about the use of data in the workforce
2 system serving on the WIOA IT Steering Committee. Adam are
3 you still here in the room? Yes. If you -- congratulations.

4 (Applause)

5 CHAIR HUGHS: And Travis Weaver won the
6 Alumni Professional Award recognized for his unwavering
7 support of Workforce Solutions of Central Texas and its
8 customers; thank you, Travis.

9 (Applause)

10 CHAIR HUGHS: And, finally, Cameron Bell won
11 the Distinguished Service Award being recognized for his
12 efforts to advance innovative solutions to complex
13 employment and training problems. So thank you, Cam, and
14 thank you all for the great work that you do (indiscernible)
15 of us.

16 (Applause)

17 AGENDA ITEM NO. 20

18 CHAIR HUGHS: All right. And now, without
19 further ado we will go into Executive Session under
20 Government Code Section 551.074(a)(1) to Discuss the
21 Appointment, Employment, Evaluation, Reassignment, Duties,
22 Discipline, or Dismissal of the Executive Director, Internal
23 Auditor, Executive Staff, and other Personnel. Thank you.

24 (Pause)

25 CHAIR HUGHS: All right, the time is 4:50, we

1 are back on the record. Are there any motions?

2 COMM. ALVAREZ: Madam Chair, I motion that Ed
3 Serna assume the role as the acting Executive Director of
4 the Texas Workforce Commission effective November 1st,

5 COMM. THOMAS: Second.

6 CHAIR HUGHS: All right, the motion passes
7 unanimately. Do we have a motion to adjourn?

8 COMM. ALVAREZ: I motion that we adjourn.

9 COMM. THOMAS: Second.

10 AGENDA ITEM NO. 21

11 CHAIR HUGHS: Do we have a motion to adjourn?

12 COMM. ALVAREZ: I motion that we adjourn.

13 COMM. THOMAS: Second.

14 Okay. We are adjourned, thank you.

15 (Proceedings concluded at 4:52:01 p.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 5th day of November, 2018.

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

Verbatim Reporting & Transcription, LLC
1322 Space Park Drive, Suite C165
Houston, Texas 77058
281.724.8600