



**MEETING OF THE
TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION**

DATE

November 19, 2020

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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2020

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Perfect (unintelligible) meeting is called to order. Mr. Trobman, has anyone signed up for public comment?

MR. TROBMAN: Good afternoon, Commissioners. We have one registrant, Mr. Cohn. Chuck Cohn, if you're there, go ahead and unmute yourself.

FEMALE: He has not signed in, according to our records.

MR. TROBMAN: Okay. That's those that we have signed in today.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right. Thank you, Mr. Trobman. Good afternoon, Ms. Miller.

MS. MILLER: Good morning, sir. Good afternoon, sir.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you. And this brings us to the end of Agenda Items three through seven. Let's pause for a moment to reset for the rest of the meeting.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right, here we are. Let's pick back up with Agenda Item eight. This is acceptance of pledges and child care matching funds but staff has nothing to report for this item. Agenda Item nine, Skill Development (unintelligible) being postponed to a future meeting. This brings us to Agenda Item ten. This is the overview and discussion of (unintelligible) 2020 report as submitted to the Office of the Governor.

MS. BALLAST: Good afternoon, Chairman Daniel, Commissioner Alvarez, Commissioner Demerson and Mr. Serna. For the record,

1 Kerry Ballast, Workforce Development Division. As you are well aware, the
2 Tri-Agency initiative is a partnership formed across Texas Workforce
3 Commission, Texas Education Agency and the Texas Higher Education
4 Coordinating Board. The initiative dates back to 2016 and has served as a
5 powerful setting in which the three agencies come together to coordinate
6 activities geared towards alignment and success of education and workforce
7 initiatives. In February of 2020, Governor Abbott issued a new set of
8 charges for the Tri-Agency partners and since then, a workgroup made up of
9 representatives from the three agencies have met at least once a week to
10 create a report and response to those charges and to plan for the future
11 work. That report, which was published via a website, was made public
12 yesterday afternoon at Tri-Agency dot Texas dot gov. The report reflects
13 extensive stakeholder input, gathered through virtual meeting and surveys and
14 provides details on how the three agencies propose to meet the Governor's
15 charges. The report is organized under three priorities and I would say
16 these will be our three north stars for the next few years. Pathways,
17 support and infrastructure. And the report also provides details on how
18 those three priorities will be addressed. With the launch of the website,
19 the first round of this very important work is now complete and so it is now
20 time for the second round in which the three agencies will roll up their
21 sleeves to expand our current work and to begin new work. It is at this
22 action level that other divisions and departments will develop work plans
23 tailored to our diverse customers. These work plans will be published on the
24 website at a later date. Another step in the development is the development
25 of metrics by which the agencies will measure and report progress towards
meeting the Tri-Agency charges. These metrics will not only enable us to

1 measure our progress but also will allow our stakeholders to see where we are
2 headed and how we are doing. TWC staff welcome the opportunities to work
3 with each of your offices to ensure that our customers' needs and goals are
4 kept front and center in our work. We see the strong undeniable connection
5 between education and workforce and look forward to the work ahead. I'm
6 available to answer any questions you may have and thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you. Questions or comments?

8 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Chairman, I have some
9 comments. First of all, I wanted to thank Ms. Ballast for continuing to meet
10 with the other two agencies and to inform the offices of what's been going on
11 and the progress that they've made. And then I also wanted to take this
12 opportunity to thank you, Chairman, for taking the lead and for everything
13 that's in the report. We've read it a few times, it's a really good report.
14 So thank you for taking the lead on that. And the only question that I have--
15 --So Kerry, thank you and your team and, of course, Chairman, thank you, as
16 well. The only question that I have is we don't have a physical report, so
17 I'm assuming, I mean, even using the word report is a little--we got to be
18 careful. It's on a website. Is that available for us to download so that if
19 someone wants to see it, as we go around the state and promote what we did in
20 2016, published in June, do we have an opportunity to download this website
21 informational stuff so that we could inform employers or, you know,
22 claimants, customers, of what we're doing?

23 MS. BALLAST: Yes, sir. We do see that having a
24 downloadable version of this will be very helpful for many of us. I do not
25 believe it's available yet but it is one of the next steps and you will see

1 it on the website very soon. I'll make sure to notify you when that is
2 available.

3 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: And again, Ms. Ballast, thank
4 you for your hard work and for working so closely with all three offices, so
5 thank you for that.

6 MS. BALLAST: It was my pleasure, thank you.

7 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Again, thank you, Chairman.
8 Thank you and your team.

9 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: And I'd also like to thank
10 Kerry and the team for the work they're doing on this. I was around we did
11 Tri-Agency 1.0 and now we're 2.0 and we're taking it to even higher heights
12 and so I look forward to promoting and supporting for the recommendations and
13 (unintelligible) with those employers that are out there to make sure that
14 we're listening to their needs and addressing what we need to for that future
15 talent lifeline. Thank you for the work.

16 MS. BALLAST: Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Ms. Ballast, thank you so much for
18 coordinating these efforts on part of the agency. This was a difficult task
19 given the circumstances at hand, you guys--I know it was a team of people.
20 You're the spokesperson today and so please pass along my gratitude to
21 everyone who worked on it. Challenging times, excellent, excellent outcomes
22 for some very in-depth discussion items. Commissioner Alvarez, thank you
23 very much for your words of gratitude and encouragement. I appreciate that
24 very much, as well. Commissioner Demerson, this will help us chart a course
25 for the next at least couple years but, you know, understand that TWC leads
in our space and we will continue to do so. This particular report really

1 serves as our link to agencies that we really must work closely with for the
2 state to be successful. And so given the times we're in, given the
3 limitations we had on working on the report, I think the website really came
4 out very, very well. I think it's going to be a great place for us to put
5 information that we have right now and certainly a place for us to
6 memorialize our plans for the future. And so for all involved, thank you
7 very much. I think we've got a great product to show and I think we've got a
8 nice roadmap to bring us into what I hope will continue to be a very
9 successful future.

10 MS. BALLAST: Thank you sir. We look forward to the
11 work. Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you. All right. All right.
13 We'll move on to Agenda Item 11, which is Statewide Initiatives but staff
14 informs me they don't have anything to present for Agenda Item 11. For
15 Agenda Item 12, do we have anything for that, Mr. Serna?

16 MR. SERNA: No, sir, we do not.

17 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right. How about Agenda Item
18 13, Discussion with Consideration and Possible Action Regarding Approval of
19 Local Workforce Development Board Nominees?

20 MS. WILLIAMS: Good afternoon, Chairman Daniel,
21 Commissioner Alvarez, Commissioner Demerson and Mr. Serna. For the record,
22 Shunta Williams with the Workforce Development Division. And before you, for
23 consideration, are workforce board nominations for Workforce Solutions Concho
24 Valley, North Central Texas, Greater Dallas and North Texas. Staff
25 recommends that all nominees be approved. And I'm here to answer any
questions you may have.

1 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Any comments or questions?

2 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: None here, Chairman.

3 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: None.

4 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right. Do we have a motion on
5 this item?

6 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Yes, sir. I move that we
7 approve the board nominees for Concho Valley, North Central Texas, Greater
8 Dallas and North Texas.

9 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: I second that motion.

10 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Been moved and seconded. We're
11 unanimous. Thank you.

12 MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Agenda Item 14, Legislative
14 Proposals. Staff does not have anything to present for this item.
15 Legislative report today, Mr. Serna, do we still not have an Executive
16 Director's report today?

17 MR. SERNA: There is no Executive Director's report
18 today.

19 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you very much, Mr. Serna.
20 Is there any other order of business to come before the Commission today?

21 MR. SERNA: No, sir.

22 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: None. Do we have a mo--

23 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: None here, Chairman.

24 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Chairman, I'd like to
25 congratulate Bonnie Downs on my team for celebrating (unintelligible)
unemployment in state government. So Bonnie's a veteran and Communications

1 Director here and I want to congratulate her on reaching that ten-year
2 milestone.

3 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: I will join you in that
4 congratulations.

5 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Thank you.

6 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Very good.

7 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Any other items? How about a
8 motion to adjourn?

9 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Chairman, you got it. I move
10 that we adjourn and I'll see you in 30 minutes.

11 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: I second the motion.

12 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's been moved and seconded to
13 adjourn and we are adjourned. Thank you, everybody.

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