



**MEETING OF THE
TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION**

DATE

NOVEMBER 24, 2020

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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2020

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: (Inaudible) All right, well, good morning, everyone. This meeting is called to order. Susanna--there you are. Has anybody signed up for public comment?

SUSANNA HOLT CUTRONE: Good morning, Chair Daniel. No one has signed up for public comment today.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right, thank you so much. Ms. Miller.

MS. MILLER: Good morning, sir.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right, that's the end of Agenda Items 3 through 7. Let's pause for a moment to reset for the rest of the meeting. Is that Randy Townsend?

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Mm, thank you so much. Okay, are you guys ready to tackle the rest (inaudible)?

COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Yes, Chairman.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right, thank you (inaudible).

COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: (Inaudible) to it.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right, Agenda Item 8 would be next, but staff has nothing to (inaudible) on this item. Agenda Item 9 is the chapter 303 skill development fund effectiveness report, and I do believe we have a report on this one.

1 MS. RAMOS: Yes, I'm here. Good morning,
2 Chairman Daniel, commissioners, and Mr. Townsend. For the
3 record, Christina Ramos, workforce development division. This
4 morning I am here to present for your consideration the skills
5 effectiveness study due to the legislature on December 1.
6 During the last legislative session, House Bill 700 required
7 that a study be conducted on the skills development fund for the
8 purpose of developing recommendations for increasing the
9 effectiveness of the fund. The report you have before you today
10 is a summary of the analysis that was undertaken to respond to
11 this request. The three objectives identified--strategies for
12 better achieving the fund's purposes, improving outcomes, and
13 expanding participation in the opportunities available through
14 the fund, serve as the guidelines utilized in developing the
15 report, analyzing program data, surveying key stakeholders, and
16 developing recommendations increasing the effectiveness of the
17 fund. With your approval, we request to move forward with the
18 publication of this report for submission to the legislature on
19 December 1. Are there any questions at this time?

20 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Questions or comments?

21 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Chairman, I'd just
22 like to say that I wanna take this opportunity to thank Ms.
23 Ramos and her team. Great report, very informative, very well
24 laid out, and very easy to understand. So thank you, Ms. Ramos.

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1 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Chairman, I too
2 would like to thank Christina and the team, and actually,
3 employers continue to--and stakeholders alike continue to
4 support this program, and you'll probably see that support
5 coming forward in this next legislative session, based on
6 initial discussions. Thank you for the report.

7 MS. RAMOS: Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: You know, this report
9 does as good a job as I've seen of our ability to paint a
10 picture of a very functional program (inaudible) development and
11 that helps folks even beyond the workers that it's designed to
12 enhance their skills. It certainly helps employers. I think we
13 set out to do that, and I think we really see the impacts that
14 we can have on local economies, and the work that we do with
15 community colleges and (inaudible) frankly, in working through
16 these projects how much strength that gives us from an economic
17 development standpoint. And this particular report and the
18 opportunity we had to file this report resulting from
19 (inaudible) 700 on some recommendations that we could make to
20 improve the program. The thing I wanted to point out about this
21 report is staff took a critical look at this, understood not
22 what I would consider deficiencies with the program, but rather
23 than rest on the laurels of what's a good program, really
24 (inaudible) recommendations for improvement for the future. I
25 think they're good goals, I think they're achievable goals in

1 time, and I really applaud all of the staff--Christina, you and
2 Jen (inaudible) and others who worked on this. I (inaudible) a
3 deep look you took into the program and tried to understand ways
4 where we can continue to improve. That (inaudible) will be what
5 takes TWC to the next level in terms of being able to continue
6 (inaudible) enhance the workforce for the state to really create
7 opportunities for the state to continue to create those jobs.
8 So thank you for taking the time, and I know it must have been a
9 lot of time, necessary to do that kind of data--understand where
10 the program's good and understand where we can take good to
11 great. I think oftentimes, we don't take the time to do that,
12 and I'm so glad you did here. So thank you for that very much.

13 MS. RAMOS: Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: We do need to pass this
15 out. Gentlemen, is there a motion to move this report along?

16 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Yes, Chairman, I
17 move that we approve the skills development effectiveness study
18 as discussed.

19 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: And I second that
20 motion.

21 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: So moved and seconded,
22 and I also agree with that, and so we're unanimous on this one.
23 Thank you. On Agenda Item 10, this is our COVID-19 report. Mr.
24 Townsend, is there anything on this (inaudible)?

25 MR. TOWNSEND: No, sir, not this morning.

1 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: And I'm advised that
2 there's nothing on Agenda Item 11. I'm advised that there's
3 nothing on Agenda Item 12. Randy, are you gonna tackle an
4 executive director's report today?

5 MR. TOWNSEND: I will just say this--good
6 morning, Chairman, commissioners; Randy Townsend, deputy
7 executive director (inaudible) Serna this morning. There is no
8 report or update, but I did want to just wish everyone a safe
9 Thanksgiving holiday.

10 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Well, I'll echo that
11 comment. I hope everybody enjoys a safe Thanksgiving.
12 Interesting times we live in, and so I know each family's making
13 decisions. But whatever we can muster to get a little bit of
14 family time and a little bit of rest and relaxation, I hope
15 we're all able to do that.

16 MR. TOWNSEND: Yes, sir.

17 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Is there any other order
18 of business to come before the commission?

19 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Chairman, I, like
20 you and Randy, wanna wish everyone a happy Thanksgiving. And
21 just for the record, Randy, you look good on Zoom.

22 MR. TOWNSEND: (laughter) Thank you.

23 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Chairman, also,
24 happy Thanksgiving to everybody. Remember to exercise first,
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1 then you can eat, and then you exercise a little bit later, and
2 then you can come back for dessert, so. But enjoy the time off.

3 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Somehow I feel like your
4 form of exercise is different from mine. (laughter) I'll take
5 that under advisement, Commissioner.

6 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: And I don't know why
7 he was looking at you and I, Chairman. He was looking--

8 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It was straight at us.

9 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: --specifically at
10 us.

11 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Straight at us. He
12 blanked out every other screen, blanked all the screens out
13 except for ours. I don't understand. (laughter)

14 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: No good deed.

15 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: He does this every time.
16 Is there a motion to adjourn?

17 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Chairman, I move
18 that we adjourn.

19 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: And I second that
20 motion, gentlemen.

21 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's been moved and
22 seconded to adjourn, and we are adjourned. Happy Thanksgiving,
23 everyone.

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