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TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
BEFORE THE
TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION
AUSTIN, TEXAS

PUBLIC MEETING)
FOR THE TEXAS)
WORKFORCE COMMISSION)

COMMISSION MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26TH, 2018

BE IT REMEMBERED THAT at 10:00 a.m. on
Monday, the 26th 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; JULIAN ALVAREZ
and ROBERT D. THOMAS, Commissioners.

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P R O C E E D I N G S

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2018

(10:00 a.m.)

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1

CHAIR HUGHS: All right. Good morning. This meeting is called to order.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2

CHAIR HUGHS: Mr. Turbin, has anyone signed up for public comment?

MR. TURBIN: No.

CHAIR HUGHS: All right, thank you. And now I am turning the meeting over to Commissioner Thomas to preside over Agenda Items 3-7.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3

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. 4

Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action Regarding Tax Liability Cases Listed on the Texas Workforce Commission Dockets 47 and 48

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The Commission considered and took action on all tax liability cases listed on Dockets 47 and 48.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5

Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action Regarding Fair Housing Cases listed on the Texas Workforce Commission Dockets 47 and 48

No Discussion.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6

Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action Regarding Higher Level Appeals in Wage Claim Cases Listed on the Texas Workforce Commission Dockets 47 and 48

The Commission considered and took action on all wage claim cases listed on Dockets 47 and 48.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7

Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action Regarding Higher Level Appeals in Unemployment Compensation Cases Listed on the Texas Workforce Commission Dockets 47 and 48

The Commission considered and took action on all unemployment compensation cases listed on Dockets 47 and 48.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8

CHAIR HUGHS: All right. We are now back in session. Item 8, Discussion, Consideration and Possible

1 Action Regarding the Acceptance of Pledges for Board
2 Contract Year 2019 Child Care Matching Funds.

3 MR. WEAVER: Good morning Chair Hughs,
4 commissioners, Mr. Serna. For the record, Travis Weaver,
5 Workforce Development Division.

6 Annually local workforce development boards
7 submit local pledges to secure federal childcare funds
8 pursuant to commissioner rule 800.73. This will be a
9 standing agenda item as board may continue to submit match
10 agreements through January 31st, 2019.

11 Today staff request Commission acceptance of
12 childcare pledges for donations, transfers, and
13 certifications of expense in the amount of \$12,846,281.
14 Thank you.

15 CHAIR HUGHS: Thank you, Mr. Weaver.
16 Commissioners, do you have any comments or questions?

17 COMM. THOMAS: None, thank you.

18 CHAIR HUGHS: Is there a motion?

19 COMM. ALVAREZ: I move that we accept
20 childcare match in the amount of \$12,846,281 for Board
21 Contract Year of 2019.

22 COMM. THOMAS: Second.

23 CHAIR HUGHS: We are unanimous, thank you.

24 MR. WEAVER: Thank you.

25 AGENDA ITEM NO. 9

1 CHAIR HUGHS: Item 9, Discussion,
2 Consideration and Possible Action Regarding the Report to
3 the Governor and Legislative Leadership Offices Concerning
4 the Estimated Unemployment Trust Fund Balance Pursuant to
5 Texas Labor Code Section 204.051, and the Estimated
6 Employment and Training Investment Holding Fund Balance
7 Available for Transfer Pursuant to Texas Labor Code Section
8 204.123. Randy Townsend.

9 MR. TOWNSEND: Good morning Chair Hughs,
10 commissioners. For the record, Randy Townsend, Chief
11 Financial Officer.

12 This morning, commissioners, I'm providing
13 you a regular update to our unemployment trust fund balance
14 for next October. October of 2019. But this will, as you
15 know, keep us on generally for each -- each month.
16 Commissioner Thomas, I didn't have an opportunity to brief
17 you on this, so I'll go through the numbers with you this --
18 with all the commissioners with you this morning.

19 Under your Tab 9, what I'm referring to as
20 the -- it shows the 2019 estimate to the far right in column
21 and it shows historical information from 2014 through 2018.
22 With the beginning balance and there's a reference column to
23 the far left on this, 1.01, is the beginning balance row.

24 We started with a balance of 1-billion ,682-
25 million for this upcoming year. That was the ending balance

1 this past September 30th. We estimate the employer --
2 collections from employers for their assessments will total
3 about 2.3-billion for the year by the time we end the next
4 September 30th.

5 We also expect to earn interest around almost
6 44-million. On 1.06 we expect -- we're currently estimating
7 unemployment benefit payments out of the trust fund will be
8 just under 1.9-billion, 1-billion, 887-million, actually.

9 Based on all those estimates that would leave
10 an estimated ending balance next September 30th of 2-
11 billion, 141-million. That balance when you compare it to
12 the trust fund floor, which is what -- the floor of the
13 trust fund represents one percent of taxable wages. The
14 floor is on 2.01, the row 2,01. That estimated trust fund
15 balance that needs to be maintained for next October 1st is
16 1-billion, 127-million.

17 Therefore, our current estimate puts us a
18 billion dollars over the floor this next September 30th,
19 which is good news.

20 The low balance that we're estimating at this
21 point, which year occurs about mid-April each year, is
22 estimated to be about a billion, 244-million. Which at the
23 current payout would be about 34 weeks of benefit payments
24 currently.

25 So we have improved the position at the low

1 point we typically see for the trust fund from a year ago,
2 which was about 650-million, or about 17 weeks of benefits,
3 to over 1 billion, too. So we're definitely having
4 improvement in the trust fund balance.

5 To give you some idea, too, where we would be
6 with our Employment and Training Investment Assessment,
7 ETIA, Holding Fund; it's a ~~seperate~~separate fund. We assess
8 the employers' ten percent on their taxable wages that are
9 due, and that is estimated to bring in about 114-million
10 next -- this will be by next August.

11 We start the year with 170-million, 172-
12 million. Pay out a little bit for the collection expense
13 that's required by Department of Labor. At this point being
14 above the floor we would plan to -- plan to have an
15 estimated transfer to our skills program of 44-million.
16 Therefore, next August in that holding fund we think the
17 balance will be around 240-million at this point. So,
18 again, that's going to -- it's real good news in terms of
19 where we are with the -- both the trust fund and the holding
20 fund.

21 Finally, I'll just share some trends with you
22 this morning, commissioners. The benefits paid out of the
23 trust fund; this will be for the last six weeks ending
24 November 3rd at this point there's \$33-million. That
25 compares with one year ago weekly benefit payouts of almost

1 42-million. About a 20 percent reduction. Again, very good
2 news.

3 The initial claims for the unemployment
4 program was down to 11,360. That's about 19 percent below
5 the one-year-ago average for the initial claims that we're -
6 - we're taking. Continued claims was 99,399. That's,
7 again, a six-week average. That's 24 percent below the one-
8 year-ago average. So those are the -- those recent trends
9 are reasons that we're beginning to see improvement as it
10 relates to the Unemployment Trust Fund.

11 So there's no action required, commissioners,
12 this morning. But that just gives you a status update where
13 we are with regard to the Unemployment Trust Fund. If you
14 have any questions or comments be happy to address those.

15 CHAIR HUGHS: Commissioner Thomas, you have
16 any questions or comments?

17 COMM. THOMAS: No. Thank you, Randy.

18 CHAIR HUGHS: Commissioner Alvarez?

19 COMM. ALVAREZ: Thank you, Randy.

20 CHAIR HUGHS: Thank you for the update.

21 AGENDA ITEM NO. 10

22 CHAIR HUGHS: All right, Item 10, Discussion,
23 Consideration, Possible Action Regarding an Order to Adopt
24 Additional program year 2018 and Fiscal Year 2019 Funding
25 Allocations to local Workforce Development Areas for the

1 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Adult Program.

2 MR. TOWNSEND: Again, Chair Hughs,
3 commissioners. For the record, I'm Randy Townsend, Chief
4 Financial Officer.

5 This was an -- an update to our previously
6 approved commissions -- the commissioners have previously
7 approved allocations for the Workforce Innovation
8 Opportunity Act, WIOA, program, back in June. June 14th to
9 be specific.

10 As of the first part of November the agency
11 along with other states received a training employment
12 guidance letter, a TEGL, 16-17, change 1, that provided some
13 additional funds to the states. And Texas share of that
14 additional funding for the adult portion of WIOA and the
15 dislocated worker portion of WIOA totaled just over 140,000;
16 140,337, to be exact.

17 What the action of your -- is required this
18 morning is that for the adult portion all states, including
19 Texas, are required to allocate at least 85 percent of the
20 adult portion of the formula. And so if you look on page 2
21 under that Tab 10, you will see the original allocation was
22 \$61,121,066 of kept us at 85 percent of the amount that was
23 available back previously in June. With the additional 75,
24 almost 76,000 made available in this program for the adult
25 we now need to allocate 61,186,630.

1 This is consistent with the allocation
2 formula. It's a three-part formula. As you can see there's
3 relatively small amounts. It's about a 0.1 percent
4 increase. We are, though, required to make that -- that
5 allocation to bring that to the 85 percent amount. And then
6 I have included the amounts that would be available for
7 state-wide, and then -- and then admin.

8 There was no change to the youth on page 3,
9 because it is -- it only relates to the adult and dislocated
10 worker. Page 4 just the dislocated worker portion. Since
11 the commissioners had previously approved an allocation for
12 dislocated worker of 82½ percent, that's well above the 60
13 percent minimum for this formula. Staff is bringing forward
14 recommended no change per -- for this particular formula,
15 dislocated worker, but the -- put the balance in the state-
16 wide activity, statewide for the admin and for the rapid
17 response. So that would bring the rapid response balance up
18 from 2½ percent to 2.59 percent, essentially.

19 So the main act -- the primary action is just
20 to approve the WIOA adult formula this morning. And I'll
21 have to order if this is acceptable to the commissioners.

22 CHAIR HUGHS: Thank you, Randy. Commissioner
23 Thomas, do you have any comments or questions?

24 COMM. THOMAS: No. Thank you, Chair Hughs.

25 CHAIR HUGHS: Commissioner Alvarez?

1 COMM. ALVAREZ: No questions. With that I
2 move that we approve the additional allocations and revise
3 Fiscal Year 2019 Block Grant allocations to WIOA Title 1
4 Adult Programs as described by staff.

5 COMM. THOMAS: Second.

6 CHAIR HUGHS: And I -- I understand it's
7 required. We're unanimous. thank you. Sorry about that.

8 MR. TOWNSEND: No worries.

9 AGENDA ITEM NO. 11

10 CHAIR ALCANTAR: Item 11, Discussion,
11 Consideration and Possible Action Regarding Adoption of
12 Rules Relating to the Definition of Adult Education and
13 Literacy and Midyear Deobligation of AEL Funds
14 Previously Published for Public Comment in the Texas
15 Register on August 27, 2018.

16 MS. TUPA: Good morning Chair Hughs,
17 commissioners. For the record, Carrie Tupa, Adult Education
18 and Literacy.

19 Today we seek direction regarding final rules
20 chapter 800, session 800.2, and session 800.78 of the Texas
21 Administrative Code.

22 Proposed rules published to the Texas
23 Register on August 17 of this year aligned references, terms
24 and definitions with those described in the Workforce
25 Innovation and Opportunity Act and changed the months during

1 which expenditure thresholds are evaluated for adult
2 education literacy programs. We received no comments on the
3 proposed rules. Today we seek direction on these final
4 rules for Chapter 800 which reflects the proposed rules as
5 published in the Register. This concludes my prepared
6 remarks and I'll be happy to answer any questions.

7 CHAIR HUGHS: Any questions?

8 COMM. THOMAS: No questions, Madam Chair.

9 CHAIR HUGHS: Is there a motion?

10 COMM. ALVAREZ: I move that we amend the
11 Chapter 800 General Administration Rules relating to the
12 mid-year deobligation of AEL funds along with the alignment
13 of terms with the old language as recommended by staff.

14 COMM. THOMAS: Second.

15 CHAIR HUGHS: We are unanimous. Thank you, Carrie.

16 AGENDA ITEM NO. 12

17 CHAIR HUGHS: Item 12, Discussion,
18 Consideration and Possible Action Regarding Adoption of the
19 Rules Relating to AEL Previously Published for Public
20 Comment in the Texas Register on August 18, 2018. This time
21 under 40 TAC Chapter 805.

22 MS. TUPA: Sure. Commissioners, again, for
23 the record, Carrie Tupa, Adult Education and Literacy.

24 Today I bring before you final rules for
25 Chapter 800 of the Texas Administrative Code. I'm sorry,

1 Chapter 805 of the Texas Administrative Code.

2 Proposed rules published to the Texas
3 Register increased the commissioner discretion in the
4 development of performance benchmarks, removed high school
5 diploma requirements for adults that are no addressed in the
6 Texas Education Code, clarifying staff requirements for
7 instructional staff, modified other non-WIOA terms related
8 to grant solicitations, increased Advisory Committee
9 membership participation period allowability, and aligned
10 requirements for the use of funds collected from tuition and
11 fees to those found in the Workforce Innovation and
12 Opportunity Act. We received no comments on these rules.

13 Today we seek direction on the final rules
14 for Chapter 805, which reflect the proposed rules as
15 published in the Register. I'm happy to answer any
16 questions.

17 CHAIR HUGHS: Commissioner Thomas, any
18 questions?

19 COMM. THOMAS: None. Thank you, Chair Hughs.

20 CHAIR HUGHS: Commissioner Alvarez?

21 COMM. ALVAREZ: Madam Chair, no thank --

22 CHAIR HUGHS: Is there a motion?

23 COMM. ALVAREZ: -- that -- thank you

24 (indiscernible).

25 I move that we amend or repeal the Chapter

1 805 Adult Education and Literacy provisions and definitions
2 as recommended by staff in order to bring them into
3 alignment with WIOA.

4 COMM. THOMAS: Second.

5 CHAIR HUGHS: We are unanimous. Thank you.

6 MS. TUPA: Thank you.

7 COMM. THOMAS: Chair Hughs, I would just like
8 a lot -- I think on my conclusion of these two last agenda
9 items; staff did an outstanding job of briefing me and
10 getting me up to speed and helping me understand our
11 regulatory obligation here, and it was outstanding work.
12 Thank you so much, Carrie.

13 AGENDA ITEM NO. 13

14 CHAIR HUGHS: Item 13, Discussion,
15 Consideration and Possible Action Regarding Submission of
16 the 2018 Trade Adjustment Assistance Annual Report to the
17 86th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, Pursuant to Texas
18 Labor Code Section 302.008. Jason Vaden.

19 MR. VADEN: Good morning commissioners. For
20 the record, Jason Vaden, Workforce Division.

21 Section 302.007 of the Texas Labor Code
22 requires TWC to report annually to the Texas Legislature on
23 the federally funded Trade Adjustment Assistance Program.
24 The period covered by this report is State Fiscal Year 2018.

25 Some key facts from the report this year

1 include over 1500 workers participating in TAA supported
2 training, a 77 percent entered employment rate, and over a
3 90 percent employment retention rate.

4 The most common industry sectors in which
5 workers secured employment include manufacturing,
6 administrative and support, healthcare and wholesale and
7 retail trade.

8 This morning we're seeking your approval of
9 the report for submission to the Texas Legislature. This
10 concludes my remarks, and I'm happy to answer any questions
11 you may have.

12 CHAIR HUGHS: Is there questions?

13 COMM. THOMAS: No questions, thank you.

14 CHAIR HUGHS: Is there a motion?

15 COMM. ALVAREZ: Yes, ma'am. I move that we
16 approve the Trade Adjustment Assistance 2018 Annual Report
17 for submission to the legislature as discussed.

18 COMM. THOMAS: Second.

19 CHAIR HUGHS: We are unanimous. Thank you.

20 AGENDA ITEM NO. 14

21 CHAIR HUGHS: Item 14, Discussion,
22 Consideration and Possible Action Regarding Publication for
23 Public Comment of Proposed Rules Relating to the State
24 Agency Savings Incentive Program under 40 TAC Chapter 800.

25 MR. VADEN: Commissioners, again, for the

1 record, Jason Vaden, Workforce Division.

2 Senate Bill 132 was passed into law during
3 the 85th legislative session regarding the State Agency
4 Savings Incentive Program and requiring state agencies to
5 adopt rules to implement the program.

6 A policy concept was approved on June 14th
7 outlining potential rule amendments and was posted for a
8 three-week comment period. However, no comments were
9 received.

10 The proposed amendments before you add a new
11 subchapter C to the commission's chapter 800 General
12 Administration Rules including definitions of key terms and
13 the procedure for implementing the savings incentive
14 program.

15 This morning staff seeks direction on
16 proposed amendments to the commission's chapter 800 rules as
17 set forth in your materials. I'm happy to answer questions
18 if you have any.

19 CHAIR HUGHS: Commissioners, do you have any
20 questions?

21 COMM. THOMAS: No questions.

22 COMM. ALVAREZ: No questions, Chair Hughs.

23 CHAIR HUGHS: Is there a motion?

24 COMM. ALVAREZ: I move that we publish
25 through the Texas Register for public comment the proposed

1 rules relating to the State Agency Savings Incentive Program
2 as recommended by staff.

3 COMM. THOMAS: Second.

4 CHAIR HUGHS: We are unanimous. Thank you.

5 AGENDA ITEM NO. 15

6 CHAIR HUGHS: Item 15, Discussion,
7 Consideration and Possible Action Regarding Publication for
8 Public Comment of Proposed Rules Related to Historically
9 Underutilized Businesses Purchasing, 40 TAC, Chapter 800.

10 MR. VADEN: Okay, one last time for the
11 record this morning, Jason Vaden, Workforce Division.

12 TWC's Chapter 800 General Administration
13 Rules set forth provisions regarding historically
14 underutilized businesses as applicable to TWC. A policy
15 concept was approved on June 14th outlining potential rule
16 amendments that strengthened chapter 800 rules as they
17 pertain to historically underutilized businesses.

18 The policy concept was posted for a three-
19 week public comment period. No comments were received.

20 The proposed amendments before you align with
21 Texas Government Code 2161.002 related to the participation
22 of historically underutilized businesses in competitive
23 contracting awards.

24 This morning staff seeks direction on
25 proposed amendments to the Chapter 800 General

1 Administration Rules to be posted in the Texas Register for
2 a 30-day public comment period as set forth in your
3 materials.

4 Commissioners, this concludes my remarks and,
5 again, I'm happy to answer questions if you have any.

6 CHAIR HUGHS: Commissioner Thomas, any
7 questions?

8 COMM. THOMAS: No, thank you.

9 CHAIR HUGHS: Commissioner Alvarez, any
10 questions?

11 COMM. ALVAREZ: No questions.

12 CHAIR HUGHS: Is there a motion?

13 COMM. ALVAREZ: I move that we publish for
14 public comment proposed rules related to the historically
15 underutilized businesses as recommended by staff.

16 COMM. THOMAS: Second.

17 CHAIR HUGHS: We are unanimous. Thank you.

18 AGENDA ITEM NO. 16

19 CHAIR HUGHS: Okay. Item 16, Discussion,
20 Consideration and Possible Action Regarding Evaluation
21 Criteria and Performance Reporting for Eligible Training
22 Providers Under WIOA.

23 MR. MULLINS: All right. Good morning Chair
24 Hughs, commissioners, Mr. Serna. For the record, I'm Joel
25 Mullins, with Workforce Development.

1 For your consideration today are changes to
2 the eligible -- eligibility criteria for the initial and
3 continued eligibility of eligible training providers.

4 WIOA sets forth the factors that states must
5 consider when establishing this criteria, and it emphasizes
6 the importance of providing informed consumer choice in
7 selecting training providers.

8 Previously the commission approved criteria
9 for evaluating the initial and continued eligibility of
10 training programs. Those criteria include that the -- the
11 training providers must be an institution of higher
12 education, or a registered apprenticeship program, or an
13 adult ed provider. That the provider be appropriately
14 licensed, or regulated, or exempt from regulation. That the
15 training program align with the local board's target
16 occupations. That there is a documented partnership with
17 business in the local area. And then, though not required,
18 that the commission also established a number of performance
19 standards.

20 Based on a limited data that we currently
21 have the current commission-approved performance standards
22 would greatly limit the consumer choice. While staff
23 recognize the importance of putting WIOA training funds into
24 high-quality programs, we currently do not have enough data
25 from providers to establish a baseline for setting new

1 standards.

2 One September 20th of this year DOL approved
3 a waiver that allows TWC to only include WIOA funded
4 students in its annual performance reports, as opposed to
5 reporting on all students in the training program.

6 However, staff believe that it is important
7 to continue collecting data on all students in the training
8 programs for two reasons; one, so that we have data that we
9 can publish on the state-wide eligible training provider
10 list to provide perspective students with informed consumer
11 choice. And then, secondly, to use in establishing a
12 baseline for possible minimum performance standards in the
13 future.

14 This morning staff seeks direction on
15 removing the minimum performance standards from the criteria
16 for determining the initial and continued eligibility of
17 training programs. The other eligibility criteria would
18 remain in place, and staff would continue to collect
19 performance data from ETPs for research and informational
20 purposes as we consider the best ways to determine
21 eligibility in future years.

22 That concludes my remarks, and I'll be happy
23 to answer any questions.

24 CHAIR HUGHS: Thank you. Commissioner
25 Thomas?

1 COMM. THOMAS: No. Thank you, ma'am.

2 CHAIR HUGHS: Commissioner Alvarez?

3 COMM. ALVAREZ: No questions.

4 CHAIR HUGHS: Is there a motion?

5 COMM. ALVAREZ: I move that we remove the
6 minimum performance standards from the criteria -- criteria
7 for determining the initial and continued eligibility for
8 training programs as recommended by staff.

9 COMM. THOMAS: Is it necessary, Chair Hughs,
10 to include the need to continue performance data in that
11 motion?

12 CHAIR HUGHS: I believe so. Joel, that's
13 part your recommendation. Is that correct?

14 MR. MULLINS: Yes, I think so, yep.

15 CHAIR HUGHS: Right. And -- and I think
16 Commissioner Alvarez covered it by saying as recommended by
17 staff, partly, right? But it's -- it's always good to -- to
18 make sure we're voting on exactly what you're requesting to
19 the extent --

20 COMM. THOMAS: So a friendly amendment, then,
21 would to be able, Chair Hughs, to add to the motion staff
22 will continue to receive performance data from ETPs for
23 research and informational purposes as we consider best ways
24 to determine eligibility in future years. Friendly
25 amendment?

1 CHAIR HUGHS: Absolutely.

2 COMM. ALVAREZ: All right. Okay, yeah.

3 COMM. THOMAS: Thank you, and second.

4 CHAIR HUGHS: All right, and we're unanimous
5 as amended, thank you.

6 MR. MULLINS: Thank you.

7 AGENDA ITEM NO. 17

8 CHAIR HUGHS: All right. Item 17,
9 Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action Regarding
10 Changes in the Skills for Transition Program.

11 MR. GEAR: Good morning Chair Hughs,
12 Commissioner Alvarez, Commissioner Thomas, Mr. Serna. I'm
13 Bob Gear, Director of the Texas Veteran's Leadership
14 Program.

15 For you this morning is a bringing
16 consideration on two separate items regarding the Skills for
17 Transition Program.

18 As you know, the Commission approved the
19 Skills for Transition Program back in July of 2016. The
20 Skills for Transition Program compliments the efforts of our
21 military transition centers, and this is affecting -- this
22 is for transition service members remaining in Texas and
23 recently separated veterans.

24 And the training they're receiving is in
25 high-demand and -- or they're getting the skills in high-

1 growth, high-demand occupations on the Target Man Occupation
2 list across the state.

3 I could tell you from the recent numbers that
4 we have just received from -- from Central Texas and the
5 community colleges, that we're up to close to 231 service
6 members or recently separated veterans enrolled expending
7 over 300, close to \$320,000.

8 But most importantly is I was able to pull 61
9 wage records from what we had that has already completed
10 training; 12 show no wage records at all, 13 still show
11 military wage records, but 36 showed wage records and when
12 you look at the wage records, especially the ones for
13 quarters, you're seeing an average on some of these veterans
14 averaging an income of anywhere from 9500 to 14,000 a
15 quarter. And then a few are averaging about 3500 for just
16 starting a job, and these were, on these particular ones,
17 were through an autobody, auto tech program that they
18 finished in Central Texas.

19 But with any new program there are changes
20 that have to be -- that when you look, and we work with our
21 board partners, military transition centers, and the
22 community colleges, identified these two separate issues.

23 Issue number one, is the \$2000 limit that was
24 set from this program back in July of 2016; it impacts the
25 -- the different courses transition service members or

1 recently separated veterans can take. In many cases
2 transition service members may have to pay out of pocket to
3 cover the difference of the course. For junior -- for
4 officers and senioring [sic] CO's not so much of a problem,
5 but for junior enlisted it is.

6 Working with the boards and community
7 colleges we think that there -- working with the boards
8 community colleges we -- the staff seeks guidance on
9 decision point one on repealing the \$2000 cost perks
10 (indiscernible) established and establish a more flexible
11 target at \$2750.

12 Working with the community colleges and the
13 boards this seems to be a more average cost of training
14 state-wide.

15 CHAIR HUGHS: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Gear.
16 Commissioner Thomas, do you have any comments or questions
17 about that first request?

18 COMM. THOMAS: Just a motion.

19 COMM. ALVAREZ: So, first of all, Bob, I want
20 to thank you and Courtney for coming to the office multiple
21 times to discuss this topic. Because you know I'm very --
22 it's very, very dear to us. Especially I think it came
23 during -- right after Red, White & You, so thank you for --
24 for, again, your services.

25 I'd like to hear the second -- if we could

1 take both of them, the motions, at the same time, Chairman,
2 or do you want us to vote on increasing it to 2750 at this
3 point? Because I have some other things that I'd like to
4 share as far as the discussion paper that was shared with
5 me. And I have a couple of questions, and I think I
6 referred to those to you in the past, some of them.

7 I don't know if you want to discuss besides
8 that, and also extending the 12-month period from 6 months
9 to 12 months. Would it be appropriate at this time?

10 CHAIR HUGHS: I think we could take them both
11 off in one vote. Unless I hear otherwise from you all, I
12 think we can go ahead and hear from you on the second point
13 and then give everyone an opportunity to comment or ask any
14 questions.

15 MR. GEAR: Thank you, Commissioner. Thank
16 you, commissioners. Well, on the -- the issue number two is
17 the eligibility time period. Six months prior to six months
18 post is a -- is limiting the service -- transitioning
19 service members and -- and the military is opting to go for
20 transitioning service members out to 12 months to start the
21 training.

22 They do this for a couple reasons' military
23 still has a mission and they understand that service members
24 cannot take a complete 12-month period of time to
25 transition, so they allow them to do their training in that

1 12-month period of time, then a service member will be able
2 to exit the service with a skill while they can still help
3 accomplishing this mission.

4 This also plays into Wounded Warrior
5 battalions and units across the military. A lot of those
6 service members have medical appointments that they have to
7 attend, and especially joint base in San Antonio these
8 medical appointments are with specialists across the board.

9 The issues is the community colleges may not
10 have enough population to create classes in an evening or
11 weekends, so working with our partners there were the --
12 they recommended if we could increase and expand the
13 eligibility time frame it increases the veteran population
14 pool. And this also goes for our border areas such as Gulf
15 Coast, Greater Dallas and Tarrant County who do not have
16 large military installations. So they don't have those
17 TSMs, but they do receive a great number of recently
18 separated veterans from all over the world as returning to
19 Texas and expanding the eligibility period from 12 months
20 prior to 12 months post would greatly help them in their
21 efforts.

22 So the staff is seeking guidance on expanding
23 the eligibility time period from -- to 12 months prior
24 separation to 12 months post separation.

25 CHAIR HUGHS: Thank you. Commissioner

1 Thomas, do you have any comments or questions based on that
2 request? Commissioner Alvarez, any comments or questions?

3 COMM. ALVAREZ: No. Again, I want to thank
4 you, Bob and Courtney, for -- for sharing the information,
5 and thank you for the detailed information you've shared
6 with me.

7 MR. GEAR: Thank you, Commissioner Alvarez.

8 COMM. ALVAREZ: I do -- I do agree, if I can
9 elaborate on my comments. After talking about the important
10 -- the -- to increase to the 2750 or the \$750, which would
11 make it a total of 2750, right?

12 MR. GEAR: Correct.

13 COMM. ALVAREZ: From the 2000. And I know we
14 had this discussion last time, that 1800 was what we gave
15 AEO and apprenticeship, and all that. But after discussing
16 this with you I'm all in favor of the increasing it to 2750.
17 And also, Madam Chair, with the -- the expanding it to 12
18 months after the transition and prior. I'm okay with that
19 as well.

20 The only questions that I have, and I think I
21 -- I've shared these with you. I have a list here of
22 community colleges that were awarded, and at the time we had
23 talked about only 157 veterans had gone and actually even,
24 well, had received any training. And today you shared with
25 us 231, so I'm glad to see that we're increasing that.

1 What I'd like to see, though, is the set-
2 aside amount is what's a little concerning to me. I think
3 we had a little discussion paper talks about to set aside 4-
4 million at that we'd only used really \$900,000 for the
5 157,000 -- I mean 157 --

6 MR. GEAR: The original.

7 COMM. ALVAREZ: Yes, original.

8 MR. GEAR: Yes, Commissioner. Original
9 discussion paper set aside 4-million for FYs '17 and '18,
10 correct.

11 COMM. ALVAREZ: So what my question would be
12 that we have a target number of veterans that we would like
13 to see go through the training, just like we do for
14 apprenticeship, which we came up with the number of 6,700
15 for the contact hour rate. And so with that one of our
16 recommendations is that we would have a -- a set-aside
17 number of those we'd want to train every -- every year of
18 500, maybe. Just so we could have a target if that would be
19 okay. If you would be willing.

20 Right now we're at 231, and, I mean, 500 a
21 year seems like it'd be reachable, you know. I would be
22 willing to expand the amount as well.

23 COMM. THOMAS: Is there any reason that why
24 that number wouldn't be reachable?

25 MR. GEAR: Commissioner Thomas, I believe 500

1 is a great achievable benchmark, especially what we're seen.
2 We're -- we've really picked up on momentum in Central
3 Texas, and so forth and any other area especially -- if the
4 Commission approves these actions on this plan, I think it's
5 an achievable number.

6 COMM. ALVAREZ: I'd support that.

7 CHAIR HUGHS: Yeah. I'm in support of -- of
8 both decision points. Certainly, I defer to staff on what
9 you're hearing, what you're experiencing. I know this
10 started in 2016 and we set aside the 4-million, so it's 2-
11 million a year. And I think that that was an up to amount
12 that kind of covers the opportunity, and that now that we
13 have increased funding, I believe that the idea and the
14 intent is with the increased funding and with the additional
15 time period that we can cover we will see an increase in
16 numbers.

17 So I'm certainly not opposed to a target if
18 that's going to help us achieve those goals. I just wanted
19 to make sure the funding was there and that it's in place in
20 a way that we can really maximize on taking advantage of
21 those opportunities for our veterans, so thank you.

22 MR. GEAR: Chair Hughs, Chair Hughs, so I'm
23 guessing on a 500 targets at 2750 the amount per that
24 national number, which we'll find out here in a minute, but
25 that's what -- but -- what it would be set up for FY '19.

1 So --

2 COMM. ALVAREZ: I don't think it exceeds a
3 million, so I could check in my numbers.

4 CHAIR HUGHS: Oh, and let me get
5 clarification, then. Are you suggesting we set aside less
6 than 2-million?

7 COMM. ALVAREZ: Yes.

8 CHAIR HUGHS: Okay, so that I would not be in
9 favor of.

10 COMM. ALVAREZ: Well, not set aside less than
11 2-million, set aside less than 4-million which is on the
12 discussion table.

13 CHAIR HUGHS: Right. It's 4-million for two
14 years, and we have military spouses that we set aside 1-
15 million for. And on that one I think we voted on increased
16 spending through 2021. Not exactly sure on this one how we
17 might be revisiting the set-aside. I understand we might
18 need to confirm what it is, so I'm glad Commissioner Alvarez
19 has raised it. It sounds like there's an interest in
20 lowering it.

21 COMM. ALVAREZ: Plus the years.

22 COMM. THOMAS: Plus the what, Commissioner
23 Alvarez?

24 COMM. ALVAREZ: Plus the years. So, I mean,
25 on the discussion plate words it doesn't say anything like

1 '19-'20, or -- right now I have a current list of contracts
2 that are currently out for '17-'18. Are we talking about
3 '19 and '20 year? And I think we were going to talk to
4 Courtney and Bob about that as well.

5 MS. BALLAST: I think part of your motion
6 today could be to either allow the expenditures with a
7 target of 500 per year until a full 4-million is expended,
8 or the -- the numbers you were just talking about; if every
9 trainee came in at 2750 each, which we don't know that it
10 would, still might be slightly higher or lower, depending --
11 based on your vote today. That would be just under \$1.4-
12 million for that -- for 500 trainees should they all come in
13 at 2750 each.

14 So if there would -- if there is a new
15 flexible target of 2750 per veteran and a target of 500 per
16 year that would be as much as 1.375-million for the time
17 period for the -- for each year.

18 CHAIR HUGHS: And then at 500 they're cut-off
19 from receiving any additional funding if there're more
20 applicants.

21 MS. BALLAST: If -- if you agree on a dollar
22 amount today of the 1.3 for 500 veterans at the new cost --
23 the new target, then that would -- if you limited it to
24 1.375-million then at 500 we would need to stop enrolling
25 for the year.

1 CHAIR HUGHS: Any other comments or
2 questions? Do you share mine?

3 COMM. ALVAREZ: Well I'm -- do you think --
4 I'm sorry, Commissioner, go ahead.

5 COMM. THOMAS: No I'm -- I'm not getting
6 myself a little confused. So here's the bottom line for me.
7 I know that this is important to the governor, this has
8 obviously created some consternation on the dais for us all
9 and some bad communications, which need to stop. But the
10 bottom line is I'm trying to understand -- I want to support
11 this, I want to support this in my independent fiduciary
12 obligation with no meddling, no interference, but I want to
13 clearly understand these questions and what we'll be
14 agreeing to.

15 I'm prepared to make a motion to support what
16 I think you just heard. But my -- what you just said, but
17 my confusion is around the cap. Did we otherwise have a
18 pre-existing cap on -- on the dollar amount, and are we
19 adjusting that cap down or up, or at all?

20 MR. GEAR: We set aside -- original dollar
21 amount we set aside up to \$4-million for FY '17 and '18, for
22 two years. We're undergoing -- we're in FY '19 and so as of
23 this April coming all those contracts are currently out
24 there with the schools and if the training is complete. So
25 that's where we're at of how we move forward with this

1 program for -- for FY '19.

2 COMM. THOMAS: Okay.

3 CHAIR HUGHS: So if I may, I believe that
4 there was a previous cap set at 2-million per year. Now
5 it's 4-million for two years.

6 MR. GEAR: Right.

7 COMM. THOMAS: My confusion was the 1.3
8 versus the 2; that got my confused.

9 CHAIR HUGHS: So currently, as I understand
10 it, if I may, there was the 4-million, which I support
11 continuing, which means up to two -- up to 2-million a year.
12 Clearly, we haven't reached those numbers in training, and
13 it may not get there. We may need to revisit it later. But
14 to lower that amount when we're trying to increase access is
15 not something I'm currently in support of.

16 I would prefer that we stay at the 2-million
17 set aside, or that we confirm that we're going to do 4-
18 million for two years continuing, and that we agree to the
19 new target amount and the opportunity to provide services
20 the year before or a year out.

21 So we do have a disagreement on whether it's
22 a 500 person target or a 2-million set aside per year.

23 COMM. THOMAS: I don't see how the target has
24 to limit the 2-million. I don't see the correlation and the
25 connection.

1 CHAIR HUGHS: He's asking for that.

2 COMM. THOMAS: I understand. I will support
3 a target, because I think, like, if we're doing RPI's every
4 -- everywhere else we should be holding ourselves as a -- as
5 an agency accountable, and we should be helping these men
6 and women who make a difference for this country. So I
7 therefore believe that we have to have a target and you all
8 have to aggressively work towards it. However, I disagree
9 with limiting it below \$2-million. Therefore, I would make
10 a motion to support staff recommendation of increasing the
11 limit from \$2-millin -- \$2000 to \$2750. That we also
12 increase the eligibility period to 12 months before
13 separation for transitioning service members and 12 months
14 after separation for recently separated veterans, and the
15 staff work -- include a target of increasing service to 500
16 persons and no -- no reduction in the cap, or no reduction
17 in the amount of \$2-million per year.

18 CHAIR HUGHS: I -- I would agree with
19 maintaining a \$2-million set-aside and a -- a target of
20 \$2750, want to make sure we're using the same terminology
21 there, and with that I would say that, I mean, I agree with
22 the reasons you're saying that and the reasons that we
23 should support it. Set a target, but also make sure that we
24 make it something that is accessible by providing an average
25 that you have found to be adequate and providing more time

1 for that. Commissioner Alvarez?

2 COMM. THOMAS: Yes. Agree to the -- agree to
3 the -- to the modifications of the target of \$2750.

4 CHAIR HUGHS: Commissioner Thomas, just to
5 clarify, you were also in addition to the two points that
6 Bob brought forwards, also a target for '19 and '20 of 500
7 vets per year and no more than \$2-million to be spent for
8 '19 and '20 per year?

9 COMM. THOMAS: Agreed, yes. Thank you for
10 that clarification.

11 CHAIR HUGHS: Okay, and 4-million is for two
12 years, and the 2-million is for one year, so what you've
13 just said; I think will make it 1-million a year instead of
14 2-million a year.

15 COMM. THOMAS: I understood 2-million a year.
16 4-million total, 2-million for each year.

17 CHAIR HUGHS: Okay. Then I misunderstood.
18 Thank you.

19 MS. ARBOUR: Two million per year for '19 and
20 '20.

21 CHAIR HUGHS: We're saying the same thing.
22 Thank you. So I will second that motion as amended and
23 discussed on the record.

24 COMM. ALVAREZ: So I will agree to both my
25 Commissioner's vote. What I would like to see, though, and

1 -- and we will be unanimous on this, and thank you again,
2 both of you, for the hard work that you've put into this.

3 I would like to continue being briefed on
4 this specific issue, though. We did, at one time, have the
5 Skills for Veterans, and unfortunately the same results took
6 place with that grant, and I added as a one-pager with all
7 the other grants that we had available. And so this grant
8 provided funding for those veterans that had early
9 transition out and were working was somewhat like a
10 scholarship.

11 And so what I'd like to do, and I know this
12 isn't appropriate time to do it, but to bring that back; to
13 have something back where these veterans that have already
14 transitioned out, and already working, to bring this type of
15 initiative back. So if it's not done at this point we'll do
16 it as a state-wide initiative, or at least I'm bringing it
17 up.

18 MR. GEAR: Yes, Commissioner Alvarez.

19 CHAIR HUGHS: Thank you, and Bob --

20 MR. GEAR: We could put together.

21 CHAIR HUGHS: Are the Skills for Veterans
22 still active? My understanding is that that was an
23 opportunity to get grant money if an employer hires a
24 veteran, then after they've hired them, they can use that
25 funding to train them and --

1 MR. GEAR: That particular program is no
2 longer active, and we -- I can tell you from working that
3 for years; we've tried and tried and tries. It's just a
4 little too cumbersome for the employers and to get
5 everything to align.

6 I think there definitely is a way,
7 recommendations that we can make, or staff work for
8 Commissioner Alvarez, to put a good program into place.
9 That's why I'm kinda excited about Skills for Transition
10 Program, because of all the skills programs and veterans
11 were actually spending money on it, but we're getting there.

12 COMM. ALVAREZ: Well good work, Bob, you and
13 Courtney on this. And again, you have our full cooperation;
14 anything that pertains to veterans and -- and all the hard
15 work that you do. Again, this is just something that's a
16 little, you know, that I'm a little concerned with the
17 skills. I mean, the Skills for Veterans; it's a program
18 that was actually -- I know the spread of (indiscernible)
19 maybe not have been as -- as out there as the one you're
20 doing, but I'd certainly like to give it another shot.

21 MR. GEAR: Yes, Commissioner Alvarez.

22 COMM. THOMAS: And, you know, I think this
23 process ended up being way more cumbersome than it needed to
24 be. You know, the little telephone game stuff. It's hard,
25 because you guys have to brief all of us individually and we

1 can't share with each other's communications are to maintain
2 up to meetings and that's clear, and I think we need to do
3 that.

4 I think it's critical to note that there's
5 been unanimous support for this, and I think that
6 Commissioner Alvarez has made it clear from the dais he
7 absolutely supports our veterans, he supports our governor's
8 efforts to support our -- our veterans, and that is
9 unquestioned. I think what I now finally realized was his
10 concern is the totality of the efforts on behalf of the
11 State of Texas for our veterans in the other ways that they
12 could -- that we should be serving them. And based upon
13 your last clarification, Bob, I -- I want to let you know
14 that I support Commissioner Alvarez's request, and I'd like
15 to also be briefed on -- on that last piece of information.

16 MR. GEAR: Yes, Commissioner Thomas. Will
17 do.

18 CHAIR HUGHS: So it sounds like we're
19 unanimous in our support of veterans, our support of our
20 programs, and thankful to you for the time you've put into
21 this and that you continue to put into it. We'll wait to
22 see what other things we can do to support our veterans.
23 Thank you.

24 MR. GEAR: Thank you Chair Hughs,
25 Commissioner Alvarez, Commissioner Thomas and Mr. Serna.

1 Thank you.

2 CHAIR HUGHS: He's always been supportive.
3 You've always been supportive, so thank you.

4 AGENDA ITEM NO. 18

5 CHAIR HUGHS: All right. Item 18,
6 Discussion, Consideration an Possible Action Regarding
7 Publication for Public Comment of Proposed Amendments to
8 Existing Rules Relating to the Business Enterprises of Texas
9 Program 40 TAC Chapter 854.

10 MR. HOOKS: Good morning commissioner, Mr.
11 Serna. Now for the record, I'm Michael Hooks, of VR.

12 Today I'm bringing a proposed action related
13 to the revision of the Business Enterprises of Texas Rules
14 to include the following new proposed sections to TAC
15 Chapter 854. Subchapter A, B, C, D and E, and the proposed
16 repeal of Subchapter N related to the Legacy DARS Division
17 for bond services. The requested action is that the
18 proposed revisions be approved for publication in the Texas
19 Register to provide the public with an opportunity for
20 comment.

21 Thanks for your consideration. I'm certainly
22 open to any questions.

23 CHAIR HUGHS: Commissioner Thomas, do you
24 have any questions?

25 COMM. THOMAS: Thank you, Chair Hughs, no.

CHAIR HUGHS: Commissioner Alvarez?

1 COMM. ALVAREZ: Well first of all, Michael,
2 thanks for allowing me to speak last week we're in San
3 Antonio, so it was great. Sorry it was a little late,
4 though.

5 MR. HOOKS: Proud to have you sir. No,
6 we're proud to have you.

7 COMM. ALVAREZ: Thank you, sir. With that I
8 move that we approve the posting of the proposed changes to
9 Chapter 854 Rules Relating to Business Enterprises of Texas
10 to the Texas Register for public comment as recommended by
11 staff.

12 COMM. THOMAS: Second.

13 CHAIR HUGHS: We are unanimous. Thank you.

14 MR. HOOKS: Thank you.

15 AGENDA ITEM NO. 19

16 CHAIR HUGHS: That brings us to Item 18,
17 Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action Regarding
18 Publication for Public Comment of Proposed Amendments to
19 Existing Rules Relating to the Business -- nope that was 18.

20 COMM. THOMAS: Nineteen.

21 CHAIR HUGHS: I'm sorry. Flipping pages and
22 they're sticking together. Thank you, Commissioner Thomas.

23 Item 19, Discussion, Consideration and
24 Possible Action Regarding Approval of Local Workforce
25 Development Board Nominees.

26 MS. ARBOUR: Good morning Chair Hughs,
27 commissioners, Mr. Serna. And I failed to introduce myself
28 for that last item. I'm Courtney Arbour, Workforce

1 Division.

2 So today I wanted to bring for your
3 consideration workforce board nominations for the North
4 Central Texas Workforce Board and the Rural Capital Area
5 Workforce Board. I believe each of your offices have been
6 briefed on these individually, and I just request your
7 consideration today.

8 CHAIR HUGHS: Commissioner Thomas?

9 COMM. THOMAS: No questions, thank you,
10 Chair.

11 CHAIR HUGHS: Commissioner Alvarez, do you
12 have any comments or questions?

13 COMM. ALVAREZ: No questions.

14 CHAIR HUGHS: Is there a motion?

15 COMM. ALVAREZ: Yes, ma'am. I move that we
16 approve the board nominees from North Central Texas and
17 Rural Capital Area.

18 COMM. THOMAS: Second.

19 MS. ARBOUR: Thank you.

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

22 AGENDA ITEM NO. 20

23 CHAIR HUGHS: All right. Item 20,
24 Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action Regarding
25 Statewide Initiatives funded with Workforce Investment

1 Opportunity Act, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families,
2 Adult Education and Literacy, Childcare or Other State Level
3 Funds.

4 MS. TROKE: Good morning commissioners, Chair
5 Hughs, Mr. Serna. For the record, Jenn Troke, Workforce
6 Division.

7 Today I bring for your consideration a
8 discussion paper titled Building on Success: A Dual Credit
9 Project to Support Youth with Disabilities.

10 In recent years TWC has made significant
11 contributions in support of career and technical education,
12 or CTE, dual credit training opportunities for high school
13 students.

14 The Texas School for the Deaf is a state
15 agency and educational center that provides a continuum of
16 educational resources to students who are deaf or hard of
17 hearing and who may have additional disabilities.

18 School for the Deaf also offers students a
19 highly developed work-based program with sophisticated
20 equipment and software that provides hands-on training
21 giving the marketable job skills and preparing them for
22 success sin the workforce, additional training or college.

23 Austin Community College, or ACC, has a long
24 history of partnering with local ISDs to provide dual credit
25 coursework; including TT focused training.

1 In 2016 TWC funded an initial pilot with ACC
2 and School for the Deaf to provide support and funding for
3 the creation of dual credit programs in the fields of
4 Computer Programming and Welding for 25 students with 31
5 students completing and achieving marketable skills in both
6 programs.

7 Due to their initial success promoting dual
8 credit programs for students with disabilities School for
9 the Deaf and ACC are uniquely positioned to promote two
10 additional dual credit programs for their students;
11 Automotive Technology and Visual Communications have been
12 identified as appropriate and practical career pathways for
13 their students due to their interest and the favorable labor
14 outlook for both fields.

15 Today staff seeks guidance on providing a
16 second inter-agency contract through ACC to provide support
17 and funding for the creation of two new dual-credit programs
18 for automotive technology and visual communications with up
19 to \$500,000 in Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
20 statewide funds. Any questions?

21 CHAIR HUGHES: Commissioner Thomas, do you
22 have any questions?

23 COMM. THOMAS: No. I do have just a very
24 quick question of our general counsel. I don't think that I
25 have any issue, but I serve less as on the -- a volunteer on

1 the ACC Community Bond Oversight Committee overseeing its
2 implementation of its bond construction program.

3 I don't think I have that creates a conflict,
4 but I wanted to verify with you before I proceed.

5 GENERAL COUNCEL: Those seem very separately
6 focused, so...

7 COMM. THOMAS: Okay, thank you then. No. No
8 further questions. Thank you.

9 CHAIR HUGHS: Commissioner Alvarez, do you
10 have any questions or comments?

11 COMM. ALVAREZ: No. No questions. I --
12 well, I do have some. So those graduated from the Computer
13 Programing and Welding; are they employed? Do you know if we
14 keep records if they're employed following their training,
15 because they successfully completed like you said.

16 MS. TROKE: I don't have that data on hand,
17 but I can get that for you. That would be -- that would be
18 fine for us to grab for you.

19 COMM. ALVAREZ: Awesome. If you could.
20 Great success stories to share.

21 MS. TROKE: We're very excited about this
22 project.

23 COMM. ALVAREZ: So are we, thank you.

24 CHAIR HUGHS: I just want to thank staff for
25 taking the time to really work towards making sure that

1 these types of training and this integration extends to the
2 VR community, and we really are fully integrating even in
3 our training, so great job for -- for identifying this need.
4 Are there any motions on this?

5 COMM. ALVAREZ: I agree. Thank you, Madam
6 Chair. Yes. I move that we approve up to 500,000 WIOA
7 State Wide to support dual credit programs through ACC,
8 including purchase of equipment, training, mentorship and
9 student counseling, and authorize staff to enter into a
10 second inter-agency contract through ACC.

11 COMM. THOMAS: I second that.

12 CHAIR HUGHS: We are unanimous. Thank you.
13 Okay. There is nothing for Item 21. Item
14 22, are there any updates regrading enacted, proposed, or
15 considered federal or state legislation? There is not.
16 Okay.

17 And, Mr. Serna, do we have any updates?

18 MR. SERNA: No updates, but two things I
19 would like to make sure the Commission is aware of I'm real
20 proud of. First of all, Mike Hooks, who was just up here
21 earlier, received the President's Award at the National
22 Association of Blind Merchants Conference in San Antonio
23 earlier this month. Presented by the President of the
24 National Association of Blind Merchants for ongoing
25 contributions to the Ralph-Sheppard Program. And Mike's

1 only the third individual to receive the award.

2 (Applause)

3 CHAIR HUGHS: Congratulations.

4 MR. SERNA: He's been the director of that
5 program for 20 -- 21 years.

6 The other is Dale Robertson, who received the
7 Public Service Award from the National Forum for Black
8 Public Administrators. Dale's been in public service for 25
9 years for both state and local government, so we're very
10 proud of Dale.

11 COMM. ALVAREZ: Yes.

12 (Applause)

13 MR. SERNA: And then the last thing is, of
14 course, we will all be -- well, not all. A lot of the staff
15 management team will be at the conference this week. Look
16 forward to a -- we believe, a very successful conference
17 just from the program that's laid out and anything that I
18 can do to assist you all while we're there, feel free to
19 reach out or the staff.

20 And that's all I have, Madam Chair.

21 CHAIR HUGHS: Thank you. Comments or
22 questions?

23 COMM. ALVAREZ: I would like to say before we
24 take off, or before we adjourn; I want to wish everyone,
25 again, great holidays. I'm glad everyone came back safely.

1 That's for all the continued great work. I know many of you
2 were working during the -- the holiday season. Right?
3 Courtney, (indiscernible) and Jason. I know you guys were
4 working. But I also want to take this opportunity to tell
5 you to please travel safely and we look forward to seeing
6 you this week.

7 CHAIR HUGHS: Thank you.

8 COMM. THOMAS: Ditto.

9 AGENDA ITEM NO. 21

10 COMM. ALVAREZ: With that I move that we
11 adjourn.

12 COMM. THOMAS: Second.

13 CHAIR HUGHS: Thank you. We are adjourned.

14

15 (Proceedings concluded at 11:42:51 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 4th day of December, 2018.

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

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