



**MEETING OF THE  
TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION**

**DATE**

**AUGUST 11, 2020**

1 TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2020

2 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Good morning, everyone.  
3 This meeting is called to order. Mr. Trobman, is anyone signed  
4 up for public comment?

5 MR. TROBMAN: No, Commissioners, we have no  
6 request for public comment this morning.

7 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you  
8 [unintelligible]. Good morning, Ms. Gonzalez.

9 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Motion passes with the  
10 exceptions noted. This brings us to the end of Agenda Items 3  
11 through 7. Let's pause for a few moments to reset for the rest  
12 of the meeting. Thank you.

13 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: How are you doing,  
14 Chairman?

15 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: I'm doing all right. How  
16 are you doing?

17 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: I'm doing good.

18 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Good. Good. All right.  
19 Agenda Item 8 is up next on the list, but we're going to  
20 postpone this item to a future meeting. That brings us to  
21 Agenda Item 9. This is discussion, consideration, and possible  
22 action regarding the submission of the Texas Workforce  
23 Commission non-discrimination plan of the non-discrimination and  
24 equal opportunity provisions of the Workforce Innovation and  
25

1 Opportunity Act to the U.S. Department of Labor Civil Rights  
2 Center.

3 BOONE FIELDS: Hi. Good morning, Mr.  
4 Chairman, Commissioner Serna. For the record, I'm Boone Fields,  
5 Deputy Director of the Regulatory Integrity Division, and also  
6 the State Equal Opportunity Officer. [Unintelligible] Austin.  
7 And if it preases--pleases the commission today, I'm presenting  
8 for your approval the WIOA Section 188 Non-Discrimination Plan  
9 for the assurance of non-discrimination and equal opportunity in  
10 the WIOA one-stop delivery program. Upon your approval, this  
11 non-discrimination plan will be signed by Mr. Serna, TTWC, the  
12 executive director, also the governor designee pursuant to 29CFR  
13 [unintelligible] 38-4 and 38-55. And, after that, we will  
14 deliver to the U.S. Department of Labor Civil Rights Center.  
15 Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Comments or questions?

17 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: No, Chairman.

18 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: None here.

19 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Do we have motion?

20 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Yes, sir. Hey,  
21 Boone, it's nice to hear from you again. I move that we approve  
22 the non-discrimination plan for submission to the Department of  
23 Labor.

24 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: I second.

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1 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Moved and seconded.

2 We're unanimous. Thank you.

3 BOONE FIELDS: Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Item 10, discussion,  
5 consideration, and possible action regarding statewide  
6 initiatives funded with Workforce Innovation and Opportunity  
7 Act, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Adult Education  
8 and Literacy, child care or other state level funds. I have up  
9 first Adult Education and Literacy, Match Assistance Call Center  
10 RFA.

11 COURTNEY ARBOUR: Correct. Good morning,  
12 Chairman, Commissioners, Mr. Serna. For the record, Courtney  
13 Arbour, Workforce Division. The Math Assistance Call Center  
14 solicitation procurement was conducted to help eligible adults  
15 and students in preparing for the math portion of the Texas  
16 certificate of high school equivalency exam. Assistance will  
17 also be available to AEL students who lack sufficient skills in  
18 math to participate effectively in society. Last week staff  
19 brought forward a request to execute an award for the AEL Math  
20 Assistance Call Center and commissioners asked staff for  
21 additional briefing. Those reviews were completed this last  
22 week and today staff request approval to award the grant for the  
23 AEL Math Assistance Call Center. I'm happy to answer any  
24 questions you may have.

25 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Comments or questions?

1 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Chairman, I have a  
2 few comments, if I may. Commissioners, moving forward on these  
3 AEL grants, and, first of all, I wanted to thank Courtney and  
4 Jen Troke for putting this together and meeting with the staff  
5 multiple times regarding this specific grant. I ask that the  
6 commissioners, moving forward on these AEL grants, if we could  
7 ask that solicitations contain a requirement that eligible  
8 applicants be Texas-based entities since they are delivering re-  
9 -delivering services to Texas students if allowable by law. In  
10 this case, a grantee will assist Texas AEL students with  
11 preparation for Texas certificates of high school equivalency  
12 exams. So that was just a comment that I wanted to make  
13 regarding this specific agenda item.

14 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you. Any  
15 additional comments or questions?

16 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: None here.

17 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Do we have any motions?

18 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Yes, sir. I move  
19 that we approve the recommended applicant and issue one grant  
20 awarding totaling 477,000 for the AEL Math Assistance Call  
21 Center RFA 32020-00214.

22 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Second.

23 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Been moved and seconded.  
24 We're unanimous.

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1 COURTNEY ARBOUR: Thank you, Commissioners.  
2 And I'll be happy to bring the procurement contract staff to  
3 your offices this week to brief on what the law allows for any  
4 Texas preferences in procurement.

5 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Thank you.

6 COURTNEY ARBOUR: And have discussion on  
7 any other flexibilities.

8 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Thank you.

9 COURTNEY ARBOUR: Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Okay, that's it for  
11 Agenda Item 10. Let's move to Agenda Item 11, consideration and  
12 possible action regarding guidance on resource utilization and  
13 implementation of services and strategies to target disaster  
14 relief efforts and public health emergencies, including those  
15 funded with the Department of Labor's Dislocated Worker grant.  
16 The first one I have is Enhanced COVID-19 Skills Development  
17 Fund grant funding across FY 2020 and FY 2021.

18 CHRISTINA RAMOS: Good morning, Chair  
19 Daniels, Commissioners, and Mr. Serna. This is Christina Ramos  
20 for the, I'm sorry, for the record, Christina Ramos, Workforce  
21 Development Division. Today under Agenda Item 11 we have two  
22 items for your consideration. I will present the first one for  
23 your consideration and then Reagan Miller will present the  
24 second one.

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1                   At the April 14, 2020 meeting Commissioners  
2 approved a series of funding recommendations including up to \$10  
3 million in [unintelligible] fund to support training in high  
4 demand occupations in direct response to needs identified by  
5 COVID-19. To date, 50 grants have been awarded totaling  
6 9,947,500 across a variety of sectors. These grants are  
7 projected to train over 5,300 workers with 1,006 workers  
8 currently in training and 743 workers that have already  
9 completed training since these grants began in early May.

10                   We are continuing to receive new  
11 applications pushing the amount of funding needed in excess of  
12 the \$10 million that has already been approved. Staff seek  
13 commission approval for up to \$5 million for use across FY 2020  
14 and FY 2021 Skills Development Funds for COVID-19 skills grants.

15                   CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Comments or questions?

16                   COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: No questions or  
17 comments, Chairman.

18                   COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Yeah, Chairman, I'd  
19 just like to say that Texas Restaurant Association and the  
20 Dallas Community College, I know they're utilizing this program  
21 through their Texas Res Promise Certification program. They've  
22 been pretty excited about it, and so I hope that we're--we'll  
23 continue to get activities through this program. And good job,  
24 team, with it.

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1 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Well, you know, it had  
2 been my hope as we made these training dollars available earlier  
3 this spring that we would see this kind of use so very, very  
4 happy to see that community colleges and others are able to  
5 utilize these funds to get the kind of training that I think  
6 will be beneficial for folks as they're progressing in the  
7 workforce or reentering the workforce so do appreciate that.  
8 Any additional comments or questions? Do we have any motions on  
9 this?

10 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Yes, Chairman. I  
11 move that we approve up to \$5 million for fiscal year 2020 and  
12 fiscal year 2021 in skills development funding for COVID-19  
13 Skills grants.

14 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Was that million--

15 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: I second that  
16 motion.

17 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: You said million, right?

18 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Yes, sir. I said  
19 move that we approve up to \$5 million for fiscal year--

20 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Okay.

21 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: --fiscal year--

22 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you.

23 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: --2020 and 2021.

24 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you. Commissioner  
25 Demerson, I heard you second it.



1 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: I did second that.

2 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: We're unanimous. Thank  
3 you.

4 CHRISTINA RAMOS: Thank you.

5 REAGAN MILLER: And I believe next on the  
6 agenda is child care under this COVID item, so, Chairman,  
7 Commissioners, for the record, I'm Reagan Miller with the Child  
8 Care and Early Learning Division. This morning for your  
9 consideration are adjustments to the board contract year 20  
10 Child Care Local Match Targets for four workforce boards. As a  
11 result of COVID, some boards have identified challenges in  
12 securing local match. Boards derive much of their local match  
13 from entities that were also impacted by COVID, such as colleges  
14 and schools, and when these entities closed, the services that  
15 were provided and were previously used as match were no longer  
16 available. We surveyed all of the boards to determine how much  
17 match they would not be able to certify in board contract year  
18 20, and based on this, we have recommendations for the four  
19 boards listed in the discussion paper totaling \$891,710.

20 Several other boards are still working with  
21 their educational institutions to determine if they will be open  
22 and providing match-qualifying services this fall. If those  
23 educational institutions remain closed or provide a reduced  
24 level of services that would qualify as child care match, we may  
25 have some future recommendations for your consideration. Also,

1 we have worked with finance to confirm that we can make these  
2 local match adjustments while still allowing the boards to  
3 access their full amount of federal matching funds. And I'd be  
4 happy to answer any questions.

5 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Comments or questions?

6 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: No, Chairman.

7 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: None here. Thank  
8 you.

9 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Do we have any motions?

10 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Chairman, I move  
11 that we reduce the board match target for Panhandle by \$23,268,  
12 North Central by \$381,982, Dallas by \$385,261, and Texoma by  
13 \$101,199 for the board contract year 2020.

14 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: I second.

15 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Been moved and seconded.  
16 We're unanimous. Thank you.

17 REAGAN MILLER: Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: I don't believe we have  
19 anything additional under this item, is that correct?

20 MR. SERNA: Yes, sir, that's correct. We  
21 have nothing additional.

22 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right, do we have a  
23 legislative report today?

24 TOM MCCARTY: Yes, sir. Good morning,  
25 Chairman Daniel, Commissioner Alvarez, Commissioner Demer--

1 Demerson, and Mr. Serna. For the record, Tom McCarty, External  
2 Relation. On Saturday President Trump signed an executive order  
3 to authorize an additional weekly payment of \$400 per week for  
4 individuals receiving at least \$100 in unemployment bene--  
5 insurance benefits with the state covering 25% of that cost.  
6 We're currently waiting further guidance from the U.S.  
7 Department of Labor on how this program is to be implemented.

8           As a reminder, Reagan Miller will be  
9 presenting in a virtual town hall being hosted by House  
10 Committee on International Relations and Economic Development  
11 Chairman Rafael Anchia tomorrow morning at 9:00 a.m. on the  
12 topic of child care as economic development. Chairman Anchia  
13 has requested that TWC speak on several points, including the  
14 importance of child care in relation to economic development,  
15 how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected child care operations and  
16 exposed vulnerabilities, and what the state can do to ensure  
17 high-quality child care is available for parents throughout the  
18 state. The town hall will be broadcasted on YouTube and  
19 Facebook Live. The virtual town hall will be open to all  
20 members of the Texas Legislature.

21           While there are not formal committee  
22 meetings with the COVID-19 pandemic preventing House committees  
23 from holding formal in-person meetings, House committee chairs  
24 are making use of these virtual town halls to hear reports from  
25 the public and experts on topics of importance to their

1 committee and the legislature. This concludes my remarks, and  
2 I'm happy to answer any questions you may have.

3 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Comments or questions?

4 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: None here, Chairman.

5 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: None here.

6 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you.

7 TOM MCCARTY: Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Mr. Serna, do we have an  
9 executive director's report today?

10 MR. SERNA: No, sir, I have nothing to  
11 report this week.

12 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right. Thank you  
13 very much. We have one item of business that needs to come back  
14 before the commission. I've been asked to clarify  
15 [unintelligible] Agenda Item 6. This is wage claim cases. I  
16 had a motion to accept staff recommendations on the remaining  
17 wage claim cases on Docket 32. Could you please confirm your  
18 vote on this issue, Commissioner Alvarez?

19 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Chairman, I second  
20 the motion except for those cases on which I am dissenting as  
21 reflected on the wage claim short form dissent list for Docket  
22 32.

23 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you, Commissioner  
24 Alvarez. Commissioner Demerson?

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1 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: And I'm going to  
2 concur with the Chairman's motion except for the cases on which  
3 I am dissenting as reflected in the wage claim short form  
4 dissent list for Docket 32.

5 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you very much,  
6 gentlemen. I appreciate that. We just needed to clarify that  
7 for the record. Is there any other business that needs to come  
8 before the commission today?

9 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: None here, Chairman.

10 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: None here.

11 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Can we have a mo--thank  
12 you. Do we have a motion to adjourn?

13 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Chairman, I move  
14 that we adjourn.

15 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Chairman, I also  
16 second that motion with Commissioner Alvarez's nice tie and  
17 shirt there. The combination. I second that motion to adjourn.

18 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Well, with the two of  
19 you, the pressure is on to be a sharp dresser [unintelligible].  
20 I feel the pressure over here.

21 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Alvarez.

22 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: I hang it up here  
23 every week. [Unintelligible].

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CHAIRMAN DANIEL: We do have a motion and a second to adjourn, and I'll take you up on that. We're unanimous and [unintelligible].

COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you.