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TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
BEFORE THE
TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION
AUSTIN, TEXAS

PUBLIC MEETING)
FOR THE TEXAS)
WORKFORCE COMMISSION)

COMMISSION MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2019

BE IT REMEMBERED THAT at 9:00 a.m. on
Tuesday, the 21st day of May, 2019, 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, Commissioner.

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P R O C E E D I N G S

TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2019

(9:00 a.m.)

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1

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

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2

CHAIR HUGHS: Les, has anyone signed up for public comment?

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8

CHAIR HUGHS: All right, there are no cases to consider under Agenda Items 3 through 7, so we will proceed to Agenda Item 8. Wait for the monitor to catch up here. Thank you.

Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action Regarding the Report to the Governor and Legislative Leadership Offices Concerning the Estimated Unemployment Trust Fund Balance -- I'm just waiting for the monitor to warm up here. Pursuant to Texas Labor Code Section 204.061, and the Estimated Employment and Training Investment Holding Fund Balance Available for Transfer Pursuant to Texas Labor Code Section 204.123.

Good morning, Mr. Townsend.

MR. TOWNSEND: Good Morning, Chair Hughs, Commissioner Alvarez. For the record, Randy Townsend, Chief

1 Financial Officer.

2 This morning, presenting just a current
3 projection for our Unemployment Trust Fund balance estimated
4 for September 30th of this year.

5 I will start how I normally do, and just
6 explain we began with the beginning balance this past fall
7 of 1-billion 683-million. Just going to round that number.
8 We expect to collect from employers just under 2.4-billion
9 for the year. We add in the estimated interest that we'll
10 collect on the balance in the -- in the unemployment trust
11 fund will be 45-million added.

12 I do need to point out on the row that's
13 labeled Transfers and Adjustments, it's 1.04 as a reference
14 point. It's showing a reduction of 18-million. As we were
15 going through doing a review of our information, we realized
16 that back previously, a prior year, we had not properly
17 accounted for the balance as -- for the obligation
18 assessment, and it really should have been a reduction to
19 the balance in a prior year. So, we're showing this as a
20 one-time correction in the current year, and there's also
21 amounts that were being held in the trust fund for the
22 short-time compensation. A grant received from Department
23 of Labor that also is not part of the trust fund balance,
24 but it is in the same account with the U.S. Treasury.

25 So, we've been accounting for that now.

1 There's 18-million reduction to the balance. It's barely,
2 honestly, rounding, in this case, with the large amounts
3 we're talking about in the trust fund. But we have made
4 that adjustment here.

5 And then, continuing on, we expect to pay out
6 now just right around 1-billion 884-million at this point.
7 So under the 1.9-billion number that I think I've been
8 reporting for the past few months. That will leave a
9 balance in the trust fund of just about 2.2-billion on
10 September 30th, or October 1st of this year. When you
11 compare that 2.2-billion with what we estimate the floor t
12 be at 1 percent of taxable wages, 1-billion 156-million, we
13 will be almost a billion -- little over a billion dollars
14 over the floor this coming October 1st.

15 With the low-point balance in the trust fund
16 that occurred in mid-April, just right around 1.28-billion,
17 that would have paid for 35 weeks of benefits. If, you
18 know, I think at the rate we're paying. So the balance was
19 -- is in good shape as far as the unemployment trust fund
20 goes at this point.

21 Now let me move to the Employment Training
22 Investment Assessment, the holding fund. The balance in
23 that fund began the year last fall with 172-million. We're
24 going to add 114-million to the collection for the holding
25 fund when you account for the skills funding this next

1 biennium, 44-million. We expect to have a balance remaining
2 in the ETI Holding Fund of about 242-million. So that is
3 the status of that fund.

4 And I will finally wrap up by sharing the
5 trends for the Unemployment Trust Fund for the last six
6 weeks. This will be information we had as of the first part
7 of May. The weekly benefit payments we're averaging about
8 35.6-million weekly. That was a 2 1/2 percent reduction
9 from the one-year-ago weekly benefit payout. The claims,
10 the initial claims, were averaging just over 12,000. It was
11 about a 3 percent reduction from the one-year-ago average
12 for initial claims. And, finally, the continued claims
13 we're averaging about 104,000. And, again, that was a
14 reduction. In this case about 7.8 percent, 7.9 percent
15 reduction. So, all in all, everything continues to look
16 good as it relates to the unemployment insurance fund. And
17 that concludes my remarks this morning.

18 CHAIR HUGHS: Thank you. Commissioner
19 Alvarez, do you have any questions or comments?

20 COMM. ALVAREZ: No, madam Chair.

21 CHAIR HUGHS: All right. Thank you very
22 much.

23 AGENDA ITEM NO. 9

24 CHAIR HUGHS: All right. That brings us to
25 Item 9, Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action

1 Regarding the Acknowledgment of Gifts and Donations of \$500
2 or More in Value Given to the Texas Workforce Commission in
3 Accordance with Section 302.021 of the Texas Labor Code and
4 Chapter 575 of the Texas Government Code. Good morning.

5 MS. ORIA: Good morning chair, commissioner.
6 For the record, Nicole Oria with General Counsel.

7 Before you are the gifts and donations of
8 \$500 or more in value given to the Texas Workforce
9 Commission for the first quarter in calendar year 2019 for
10 your acknowledgement and acceptance. Last page of tab 9 is
11 a spreadsheet showing gifts and donations. Staff is
12 recommending approval of Items 1 through 7. Thank you for
13 your consideration. I'm available if you have any
14 questions.

15 CHAIR HUGHS: Thank you. I don't have any
16 questions. Commissioner Alvarez?

17 COMM. ALVAREZ: No questions. What item was
18 that number?

19 CHAIR HUGHS: Is there a motion? Item 9.

20 COMM. ALVAREZ: No questions.

21 CHAIR HUGHS: Okay. Is there a motion on
22 that now?

23 COMM. ALVAREZ: Yes, ma'am. I move that we
24 acknowledge the gifts and donations vowed at more than \$500.

25 CHAIR HUGHS: And I second that motion. We

1 are unanimous. Thank you.

2 AGENDA ITEM NO. 10

3 CHAIR HUGHS: Item 10, Discussion,
4 Consideration and Possible Action Regarding Deobligation and
5 Reallocation of Adult Education and Literacy Funds.

6 MR. GREEN: Good morning, Chair Hughs.
7 Commissioner Alvarez, Mr. Serna. For the record, Anson
8 Green, with Adult Education and Literacy.

9 On May 2, 2019, Denton Independent School
10 District submitted a written request to permanently
11 surrender Collin County from service delivery area and
12 requested to voluntarily deobligate \$300,000 of grant funds
13 in 2018 to help transition another AEL service delivery
14 provider in Collin County.

15 TWC Grant administration rule 879 and 80
16 outline the process for voluntary deobligation and
17 reallocation of grant funds. No grant recipient within the
18 North Central Texas Workforce area met the performance
19 criteria outlined in 880 to receive deobligated funds, thus
20 pursuant to that rule commission approval is required to
21 reallocate funds to a grant recipient outside the workforce
22 area.

23 Staff reviewed the performance of all
24 relevant grant recipients in the workforce areas contiguous
25 to Collin County, and approached the grant recipient with

1 the best performance, Grayson College. Grayson College has
2 agreed to accept grant duties in Collin County.

3 Staff seeks direction on reallocation of
4 \$300,000 in PY '18 ADL funds from Denton ISD to Grayson
5 College to support capacity building in Collin County. To
6 complete the transition of Collin County to Grayson College,
7 staff also seeks direction on granting PY '19 AEL allocation
8 and the associated PY '19 targets for Collin County to
9 Grayson College.

10 That concludes my remarks.

11 CHAIR HUGHS: Commissioner Alvarez.

12 COMM. ALVAREZ: No comments.

13 CHAIR HUGHS: All right. And I just want to
14 thank staff for their work on this, and Denton ISD
15 recognizing the need to make this transfer, and Grayson
16 College for accepting it, and we certainly hope it will be a
17 successful move. But do we have a motion on this?

18 COMM. ALVAREZ: Yes. I move that we
19 reallocate 300,000 in program year -- excuse me -- 2018 AEL
20 funds from Denton ISD to Grayson College and allocate
21 Program Year 2019 AEL funds and associated targets --
22 associated targets for Collin County to Grayson College, as
23 recommended by staff.

24 CHAIR HUGHS: And I second. We're unanimous.
25 Thank you.

1 MR. GREEN: Thank you.

2 COMM. ALVAREZ: Thanks, Anson.

3 AGENDA ITEM NO. 11

4 CHAIR HUGHS: Item 11, Discussion,
5 Consideration and Possible Action Regarding Apprenticeship
6 Training Program Funding for Fiscal Year 2020. Good
7 morning.

8 MS. BALLAST: Good morning. Good morning,
9 commissioners, Mr. Serna. For the record, Kerry Ballast,
10 Workforce Development Division.

11 For your consideration today is the Fiscal
12 Year 2020 planning estimates for apprenticeship training
13 programs. Each year the Texas Workforce Investment Council,
14 which we know as TWIC, makes recommendations regarding the
15 Chapter 133 Apprenticeship Training Program.

16 TWIC recommendations for FY '20 are a contact
17 hour rate not to exceed \$4.25, and a 5 percent reserve fund
18 for new programs, or established programs not currently
19 receiving funds. As in prior years, TWIC is no longer
20 recommending reserve funding for apprenticeship instructor
21 training for FY '20. A needs assessment showed that program
22 training directors were no longer needed. Send -- they were
23 no longer sending their instructors to this training. Most
24 had developed their own instructor training. Therefore, TWC
25 will no longer procure for apprenticeship instructor

1 training.

2 So, commission decision points are on the
3 following for FY '20 funding; a planning estimate of
4 4,517,784. This includes 2,867,784 in general revenue, and
5 1,650,000 in WIOA for FY '20 Registered Apprenticeship
6 Training Funds contingent on adoption of TWC's FY '20
7 operating budget. A contact hour rate not to exceed \$4.25.
8 And a 5 percent reserve for planning estimate funds for new
9 or established apprenticeship programs that did not receive
10 Texas Education Code Chapter 133 funds in FY '19.

11 As required by TIC rule 837.21, with the
12 commission's approval we will provide public notice of the
13 amount of funds available to support apprenticeship training
14 programs for FY '20.

15 That concludes my remarks. I am happy to
16 answer any questions.

17 CHAIR HUGHS: Commissioner Alvarez?

18 COMM. ALVAREZ: No questions.

19 CHAIR HUGHS: Okay. And the planning
20 estimate does not account for the current -- any legislative
21 decisions that are made currently. Is that right? But we
22 can evaluate where we are with the funding in August, I
23 guess.

24 MS. BALLAST: I believe we -- I'm going to
25 look to Randy. I believe the WIOA request, was that

1 approved prior?

2 CHAIR HUGHS: Right. Okay. Just wanted to
3 make sure.

4 MS. BALLAST: So, I think that's not
5 contingent, yes.

6 CHAIR HUGHS: Okay, thank you.

7 MS. BALLAST: Okay.

8 CHAIR HUGHS: Is there a motion?

9 COMM. ALVAREZ: Yes, ma'am. I move that we
10 approve, one, a planning estimate of 4,517,784 in general
11 revenue and WIOA for Fiscal Year 2020 registered
12 apprenticeship funds contingent on adoption of TWC's Fiscal
13 Year '20 operating budget. Two, an FY '20 contact hour rate
14 not to exceed \$4.25. Three, a 5 percent reserve fund for
15 new or established registered apprenticeship training
16 programs that did not receive Chapter 133 funds in Fiscal
17 Year 2019.

18 CHAIR HUGHS: I second the motion. We're
19 unanimous. Thank you.

20 MS. BALLAST: Thank you.

21 AGENDA ITEM NO. 12

22 CHAIR HUGHS: Item 12, Discussion,
23 Consideration and Possible Action Regarding Adoption of
24 Rules Relating to the Business Enterprises of Texas
25 Previously Published for Public Comment in the Texas

1 Register on December 14, 2018. Good morning.

2 MR. HOOKS: Good morning, commissioners.

3 Good morning, Mr. Serna. For the record, I'm Michael Hooks,
4 with VR. Today I'm presenting a proposed action regarding
5 the adoption of rule revisions related to the Business
6 Enterprises of Texas, Chapter 854.

7 The revisions were previously published for
8 public comment in Texas Register on December the 14th, of
9 2018. No changes to the previously approved rule revisions
10 are proposed as a result of public comments. The requested
11 action is that the proposed revisions be adopted and
12 presented to the Rehabilitation Services Administration for
13 approval prior to enactment. Thanks, and I'm open to any
14 questions you may have.

15 CHAIR HUGHES: Thank you. Any questions?

16 COMM. ALVAREZ: No ma'am.

17 CHAIR HUGHES: All right. Is there a motion?

18 COMM. ALVAREZ: Yes. I move that we adopt
19 the proposed changes to Chapter 854 rules relating to
20 Business Enterprise of Texas recommended by staff.

21 CHAIR HUGHES: I second the motion. We are
22 unanimous.

23 AGENDA ITEM NO. 13

24 CHAIR HUGHES: Takes us to Item 13.

25 Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action Regarding the

1 Expansion of the Texas HireAbility Campaign.

2 MS. FULLER: Good morning, Chair Hughs,
3 Commissioner Alvarez, Mr. Serna. For the record, Cheryl
4 Fuller with vocational Rehabilitation.

5 This morning I'm bringing for your
6 consideration and approval a proposed expansion of the Texas
7 HireAbility Campaign. And, as you are well aware, in 2016
8 when the Vocational Rehabilitation Programs transferred to
9 the Agency, the commission launched the Texas HireAbility
10 Campaign to really provide a state-wide brand, and a message
11 for employers and our partners alike about the importance of
12 hiring people with disabilities.

13 This campaign was conducted in partnership
14 with the Texas Committee -- Governor's Committee on People
15 With Disabilities, as well as our Texas Workforce Solutions
16 Network. The campaign is now in its third year, and it
17 coincides with National Disability Employment Awareness
18 Month each October. Although hireability activities do take
19 place year-round.

20 As part of the campaign, TWC and its partners
21 feature resources for employers and conduct a statewide
22 series of activities and hiring events for job seekers with
23 disabilities. These events and activities recognize
24 employers for hiring individuals with disabilities, creating
25 inclusive workplaces and partnering with TWC VR program to

1 implement strategies to provide training and employment for
2 both students and adults.

3 To build on the success of this campaign,
4 staff seeks direction on the addition of two strategies to
5 recognize employers and provide them with opportunities to
6 share effective practices with the broader employer
7 community.

8 The first strategy is that staff seeks
9 direction on a proposed strategy to recognize businesses and
10 have at least 10 percent of their Texas-based workforce
11 comprised of people with disabilities. To qualify the
12 businesses employees must be working in competitive,
13 integrative employment as defined by the Workforce
14 Innovation and Opportunity Act, and the employees must be
15 full or part-time. Part-time being at least 15 hours per
16 week. As proposed up to 100 employers would be recognized
17 each October in conjunction with National Disability
18 Employment Awareness Month.

19 Employers that meet the established criteria
20 would receive a decal and a certificate. The decal that
21 they could put at their place of business, as well as an
22 electronic version for their website and social media.

23 VR would coordinate the employer recognition
24 strategy, in partnership with Workforce Development and
25 External Relations Divisions, as well as the governor's

1 committee. If approved, staff will submit decal designs for
2 your selection with the goal of watching the strategy this
3 summer and recognizing the first group of employers in
4 October.

5 This second strategy is that staff seeks
6 direction on establishing an annual employer forum hosted by
7 TWC and the governor's committee, as well as Texas Workforce
8 Solutions and our community partners. The annual forum will
9 be patterned after the successful 2017 and 2018 employer
10 forums for coordinate by the Office of TWC's Commissioner
11 Representing Employers.

12 As proposed, the annual forum would be hosted
13 by the TWC commissioners and would feature both employers
14 and partnerships to promote hiring people with disabilities
15 and creating inclusive workplaces. The forum would also
16 include resources and information about effective and
17 innovative strategies for recruiting, training, hiring and
18 maintaining employees with disabilities.

19 If approved, staff will engage the governor's
20 committee to begin planning in coordination with your
21 offices. Staff believes both strategies, if approved, can
22 be conducted using the existing resources and partnerships.
23 And I'd be happy to answer any questions.

24 CHAIR HUGHS: Thank you. Commissioner
25 Alvarez, do you have any questions or comments?

1 COMM. ALVAREZ: No. I just look forward to
2 the decal options that you'll be providing to the offices,
3 and also, I appreciate the fact that you've accepted our
4 recommendation on somewhere on the decal that you would
5 identify that it comes from Texas and Workforce. Whether
6 it's through our logo, or just something that says that. I
7 love this whole idea.

8 CHAIR HUGHS: As do I. I'm really proud that
9 from the employer side of things, that we did recognize that
10 we needed to have forums that had employers really learning
11 about the benefits of hiring people with disabilities. I
12 was very grateful that Commissioner Alvarez agreed to come
13 to the forum, and I'm glad that now the agency will take it
14 over, so that it is something that we do together from the
15 employer side, from labor side, in public, et cetera, so
16 that's, I think, a really good transition of scaling
17 something in a way that it should be.

18 I'm also very supportive of the recognition
19 program. I know in taking from the veteran recognition
20 program, the time that it took to put that together, and the
21 joyful arguments that I would have with Larry about making
22 sure that we can verify they information, because if we're
23 putting a decal or recognizing an employer, and we don't
24 want that to somehow be controversial, because we learned
25 that they don't have 10 percent or, you know, something that

1 might even be inadvertent, but could be important in terms
2 of the credibility of the program.

3 So I'm really glad to see that we have
4 partnerships, and I think that making sure we have the right
5 verification process in place will be very important. And
6 that's why I'm not as sure about when we launch, that maybe
7 it should be a launch in October, but we can see how that
8 timing works out. I'm also excited to see the decal.

9 So, lots to be done, but very exciting. And
10 I think something that's going to create a lot of momentum,
11 so thank you for that. I think we need a vote. So, is
12 there a motion?

13 COMM. ALVAREZ: Yeah. It was really good. I
14 know that when we were in D.C. you met with the Office of
15 Disability and Employment Policy, ODEP, they loved it. We'd
16 be the first state to be doing this in the country, so I
17 appreciate that.

18 With that I move that we expand the Texas
19 HireAbility Campaign to include implementation of and
20 employer recognition strategy and an annual employer forum,
21 as recommended by staff.

22 CHAIR HUGHS: And I second the motion. We're
23 unanimous.

24 AGENDA ITEM NO. 14

25 CHAIR HUGHS: That brings us to Item 14,

1 Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action Regarding Two-
2 Year Modifications of Workforce Innovation and Opportunity
3 Act Local Board Plans for Program Years 2017-2020 for
4 Submission to the Texas Workforce Investment Council.

5 MR. O'BRIEN: Good morning, Chair Hughs,
6 Commissioner Alvarez and Mr. Serna. For the record, I'm
7 Reed O'Brien, Workforce Division. The Workforce Innovation
8 and Opportunity Act at Section 108 requires local Workforce
9 Development boards to conduct a two-year review of the four-
10 year local plans. And to make modifications as needed.

11 Additionally, as part of that process, TWC
12 requires the boards to submit their current target
13 occupations and in-demand industries list. All 28 boards
14 have completed this process, posted their board -- their
15 plans for public comment, and approved their modified plans
16 in open meetings.

17 TWC staff would review the plan modifications
18 and have determined that all plans satisfy WIOA and TWC
19 requirements, so staff now seeks direction on submitting it
20 to your plan modifications to the Texas Workforce Investment
21 Council for consideration and, ultimately, the governor's
22 approval.

23 CHAIR HUGHS: Thank you. Commissioner
24 Alvarez, do you have any questions?

25 COMM. ALVAREZ: No. Just a comment prior to

1 my motion.

2 CHAIR HUGHS: Go ahead.

3 COMM. ALVAREZ: I'm glad that the boards had
4 the opportunity to reassess their four-year plans. Whether
5 the boards were explaining struggles, such as Hurricane
6 Harvey, and the opioid crisis, or their success, such as
7 attracting new industries.

8 I appreciated the boards who took the time
9 thoroughly to review their plans. I especially appreciated
10 the boards who explained how grant opportunities offered by
11 the commission fit into their overall plans. With that,
12 Madam Chair, I move that we approve the two-year board plan
13 modifications for submissions to TWIC for consideration and
14 recommendation for approval by the governor.

15 CHAIR HUGHS: We are -- I second that motion.
16 We are unanimous. Thank you.

17 MR. O'BRIEN: Okay. Thank you.

18 AGENDA ITEM NO. 16

19 CHAIR HUGHS: All right. There is nothing
20 for Item 15. That brings us to Item 16, Discussion,
21 Consideration and Possible Action Regarding Statewide
22 Initiatives Funded with WIOA, TANF, AEL, Child Care or Other
23 State Level Funds.

24 MS. TROKE: Good morning Chair Hughs,
25 Commissioner Alvarez, Mr. Serna. For the record, Jenn

1 Troke. Workforce Division.

2 The commission approved a two-year initiative
3 in July 2018 called Workforce Career and Technical Education
4 Outreach Specialist Pilot Program. To ensure students get
5 the exposure to career resources that empower them to gain
6 degree certifications and graduate with marketable skills.

7 An RFA was issued in November to implement
8 this pilot program that places local workforce career
9 specialists in area, middle and high schools to provide
10 career guidance to students.

11 Local boards are the eligible applicants, and
12 the agency received 16 applications from boards, 14 were
13 eligible for review, all received evaluation scores in a
14 competitive range.

15 Awards to six boards will employ 23 workforce
16 career specialists, housing 63 independent school district,
17 and it's estimated that these grants will engage over
18 147,000 students through over 2900 workshops. Given the
19 quality and need for these specialists, as evidence by
20 volume of applications, additional grant awards could
21 increase the number of workforce career specialists and ISD
22 coverage across the state.

23 A key component of the program includes
24 training for the workforce specialists by TWC's labor market
25 and career information team. The training will cover all

1 TWC's online labor market tools and is scheduled for July 8-
2 10th here at TWC. If timely awarded, additional grantees
3 may have an opportunity to attend this training in time for
4 the 2019-2020 school year. The TANF reserve balance is
5 currently \$815,229 as of April 15th, 2019.

6 Staff seeks commission direction and approval
7 to expand funding for the award of additional workforce
8 career and education specialist applicants using TANF state-
9 wide reserve funds. Any questions?

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

12 COMM. ALVAREZ: I'm just glad to see that we
13 had so many boards apply for this. I was totally impressed.
14 And, again, as I referenced a couple of weeks ago, those
15 other industries that had indicated the value of this. And
16 so it's unfortunate that unless we were able to find
17 additional funding I would love to see, at some point, all
18 these boards that applied to receive the funding for these -
19 - for these co-locate specialists. And I'm specifically
20 impressed with you, Jenn, and your staff for working hard on
21 looking at ways, and behind the scenes working with Mariana
22 and her team, Lauri and I and Tom, who's in here, getting
23 ready for the July training. I'm totally excited about this
24 program.

25 CHAIR HUGHS: I think some things that came

1 to light through this process, too, sit hat maybe we could
2 have expanded the money looking at just funding the first
3 year, or having two rounds, or having a limit on how much
4 each board could get. That might be why we're not able to
5 spread funding as much as we would like, and I hope that
6 we'll look at that. I know our office will be looking at
7 that more closely going forward so that we can give more
8 opportunities to more boards. Because I know that it's very
9 popular and much needed type of connection that we want to
10 make earlier in a -- in a student's life when they're making
11 this types of decisions about careers.

12 I do want to note, though, for anyone
13 listening and potentially I'd be disappointed after today,
14 because we don't have the funding to support everyone, is
15 that we are continuing to support career outreach and career
16 awareness, so just want to highlight we have the Careers and
17 Industry Week, Jobs Yall. Our LNCI, Educational Outreach
18 Specialist for ISDs, our student hireability navigators, and
19 our Advise Texas Near Pear advisors that, as a commission,
20 we have supported and will continue to look at ways to
21 expand programs or support them where possible.

22 I also want to note that TEA is leading the
23 Beyond Rad initiative that's going to launch as a pilot
24 program in six location sites, and they're going to
25 collaborate with Texas Gear Up Program to engage in

1 activities that increase that academic rigor in
2 participating schools, and foster liberal alliances with
3 business partners, higher ed. So these are the types of
4 pilots that I think we're going to start to see more of, and
5 I hope for anyone listening in that these are opportunities
6 that they're not already looking into or taking advantage of
7 that they'll also consider. But I certainly support, to the
8 extent we can, funding the additional amount, which I guess
9 would be in one additional board.

10 Is there a motion on that?

11 COMM. ALVAREZ: Yeah. So, I do see that we
12 have -- currently there is 815,229 in TANF reserve. What
13 I'd like to see, if possible, is to fund the next-- would be
14 the next applicant, which scored very similar to number six.

15 And in contracting, cumulative, would be
16 794,272. So, if that's okay, I'd like to fund one more
17 board, up to number seven.

18 CHAIR HUGHS: Is that your motion?

19 COMM. ALVAREZ: That would be -- that would
20 be my motion.

21 CHAIR HUGHS: Okay. And I second that
22 motion. So, we're unanimous. Thank you.

23 MS. TROKE: Thank you.

24 COMM. ALVAREZ: Jenn, I'd also, at this
25 point, since I have you there, I'd also like to ask at the

1 Workforce Center an Education Outreach Specialist program
2 being placed on the Statewide Initiative List for 2020.
3 Since there is such an interest.

4 MS. TROKE: Okay. Will do. Thank you.

5 COMM. ALVAREZ: Thank you, ma'am.

6 CHAIR HUGHS: Thank you.

7 AGENDA ITEM NO. 18

8 CHAIR HUGHS: All right. There is nothing
9 for Item 17, Item 18, Discussion, Consideration and Possible
10 Action Regarding Approval of Local Workforce Development
11 Board Nominees.

12 MR. WOESSNER: Good morning, Chair Hughs,
13 Commissioner Alvarez, and Mr. Serna. For the record, my
14 name is Richard Woessner, Workforce Development Division.

15 Before you, for your consideration and
16 approval, are Workforce Development Board nominations for
17 Workforce Solutions Brazos Valley, Concho Valley, and North
18 Central Texas.

19 CHAIR HUGHS: Thank you, Commissioner
20 Alvarez. Do you have any questions or comments, or do you
21 have a motion?

22 COMM. ALVAREZ: Yes. I move that the -- we
23 move that we approve the -- hold on. Because I do not have
24 a matching.

25 Okay, great. Thank you. I move that we

1 approve the board nominees for Brazos, Concho and North
2 Central, as recommended by staff.

3 CHAIR HUGHS: And I second that. We are
4 unanimous. Thank you.

5 COMM. ALVAREZ: Thank you.

6 AGENDA ITEM NO. 19

7 CHAIR HUGHS: All right that brings us to 19,
8 Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action Regarding
9 Legislative Proposals by the Texas Workforce Commission to
10 the 86th Legislative Regular Session. Mr. McCarty, have you
11 gotten to sleep at all in the last few days?

12 MR. McCARTY: I've had a little bit more than
13 the VR team. Not much more. Good morning, Chair Hughs,
14 Commissioner Alvarez. Tom McCarty with external relations.

15 Last week the conference committee on HB 1
16 adopted budget decision that was related to TWC and the
17 conference committee adopted all of our exceptional items
18 and capital budget items. But we're funded with our capital
19 budget item at 35.1-million -- I'm sorry, exceptional items,
20 at 35.1-million in childcare funding for fiscal year 2021.
21 6-million in JET funding, and then also additional 1.3-
22 million in apprenticeship funding.

23 On the JET funding that is 6-million on top
24 of the 10 that we already have. The conference committee
25 also adopted a budget rider that was offered by

1 Representative Coleman that had previously been Article 11.
2 This was a rider that would fund a Skilled Workforce
3 Development and Training Program and a direct 250,000 in the
4 Skills Development Fund is used each fiscal year to fund
5 that.

6 And it would be a collaborative partnership with
7 organizations that are exempt from federal income taxation
8 and are composed of individuals or groups and have an
9 expertise in workforce development training.

10 Tomorrow we expect the Senate Bill 2296
11 by Senator Powell will be up in the House floor on the local
12 consent calendar. And then also, since we are in the last
13 week on session we have a number of deadlines that are
14 hitting today as the last day for the house to consider on
15 the general calendar second-reading senate bills.

16 Tomorrow is the last day for the house to
17 consider local consent bills, senate bills, on local consent
18 calendar. It's also the last day for the Senate to take up
19 any House bills. After that it will be just dealing with
20 what we call items eligible bills that are coming over from
21 either the House or the Senate, that they'll be dealing with
22 that point.

23 And then, come Monday, it will be sine die.
24 And that's all I have. Let me know if you have any
25 questions.

1 CHAIR HUGHS: Any questions?

2 COMM. ALVAREZ: No. I would just -- if you
3 could, Tom, if you could just -- you and your team could
4 keep me updated on 2784. That's I would just -- if you
5 could, Tom, if you could just, you and your team, could keep
6 me updated on 2784.

7 MR. McCARTY: Okay, yes, sir.

8 COMM. ALVAREZ: Because I'd really like an
9 opportunity to visit on this one.

10 The other thing, I wanted to take this
11 opportunity to thank you and Michael Britt, and everyone
12 that's here, staff, directors, Ed, for all your work during
13 this past legislative session. You all did a great job.
14 The fact that we're getting JET childcare and apprenticeship
15 is a true testament to your hard work. So, thank you for
16 those late hours that many of you worked, and I personally
17 want to thank you for everything that you do for this
18 agency. Thanks, Tom.

19 MR. McCARTY: Thank you.

20 CHAIR HUGHS: Great job. Thank you. All
21 right.

22 AGENDA ITEM NO. 20

23 CHAIR HUGHS: That brings us to Item 12,
24 Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action Regarding
25 Enacted, Proposed or Considered Federal -- no. That brings

1 us to 20 -- sorry. I'm having trouble with the monitor
2 today. Were you 19, Tom? So, we're at 20 now.

3 MR. SERNA: We're at 20.

4 CHAIR HUGHS: All right. Hold on, 20 -- how
5 about we get to 21. Mr. Serna. Any updates?

6 MR. SERNA: Yes, ma'am. Two things. One, a
7 not so -- not so happy piece of news. I wanted to
8 acknowledge Nichole Oria, who's done a great job for us in
9 our General Counsel's office. She'll be leaving to join
10 another state agency poached from us offering big bucks in
11 the big offices and all that kind of good stuff.

12 But, anyway, Nichole's done an outstanding
13 job for us, and I did want to at least acknowledge the work
14 that she's done for us. So, Nichole, thank you very much.

15 CHAIR HUGHS: Thank you, Nichole.

16 (Applause)

17 MR. SERNA: And then, on a much happier note,
18 also, we have the Star Awards to give out, several, for our
19 OGC Electronic Solutions Team, and I think that Les and --
20 is it just Les, or Les and Susana? Oh, Les and Susana will
21 be presenting -- or laying that out for us. So.

22 MR. TROBMAN: Good morning, Commissioners,
23 Mr. Serna. Les Trobman, also General Counsel. And it is our
24 privilege to lay the setting out for you this morning. The
25 Star Aware program is geared towards recognizing the agency

1 employees who have exceeded in following; promoting agency
2 systems and solutions, and project a positive image for the
3 agency, providing outstanding customer service and support
4 to meet these expectations for internal and external
5 customers, and performing above and beyond expectations by
6 contributing to the efficiency, economy, and effectiveness
7 of agency operations.

8 The group of winners that we recognize today
9 truly embody each of these lofty goals as much as, really,
10 any group could. We are proud to recognize the cross-
11 divisional teams responsible for creating and implementing
12 complex, electronic solutions to the business needs of the
13 Office of General Council. These transformative projects
14 illustrate the power of using cutting-edge technology and
15 collaboration among various agency disciplines for the
16 betterment of the Texas economy and its citizens.

17 The OGC legal services portal is a
18 comprehensive electronic platform which allows all TWC
19 customers to request and receive legal assistance in a
20 highly efficient and transparent manner.

21 Team members from the innovative technology
22 business transformation, business operations and OGC worked
23 diligently to create and watch this state-of-the art legal
24 services, technological solution in a manner that was well-
25 planned and expertly delivered.

1 The outstanding effort resulted in a smooth,
2 agency-wide launch met with stakeholder embracement and
3 within a timeframe that is astounding. This tool will
4 directly result in continuous improvements in the nature and
5 timeliness of legal services, which will impact the overall
6 product realized by TWC's teams, ultimate customer, the
7 citizens of Texas.

8 SUSANA ? : Additionally, the OGC Open Records
9 Divisions IT Solutions Initiative is a multi-project
10 project, which promises impressive efficiencies to the
11 agency's external stakeholders.

12 This project team partner dedicated
13 professionals from Information Technology Applications,
14 Development and Maintenance, or ADNMM, Business
15 Transformation, and open records to develop three
16 technological improvements; an electronic public information
17 request form that interfaces with existing records
18 databases, an electronic public information request status
19 tracker, and an online payment system. These three
20 enhancements will collectively make the processes and
21 timeliness associated with completing public requests for
22 agency information more reliable, more transparent, and
23 efficient for both internal and external stakeholders. We
24 are very grateful to the team members of both of these
25 groups.

1 Today's stars are as follows, and please hold
2 your applause until the end. And stars, please stand when
3 we call your name.

4 MR. TROBMAN: Martina Ordo (ph). Martina
5 Ordo. Jane Smithers (ph). Stephen Elliot (ph). Arturo
6 Gonzales (ph). Ed Schultz (ph). Jeff Dio (ph). Joan
7 Shuman (ph). Hugh Wilder (ph). Ryan Zane (ph). Judy
8 Wallace (ph). MarryElla Esserheimen (ph). Daniel Knude
9 (ph), Jonathan Conahe (ph), Connie Sanders (ph).

10 SUSANA: Nelson Kirk (ph), Sarah Hernandez
11 (ph), Nick Laylos (ph), Connie Garza (ph), and Roy Alejoweis
12 (ph).

13 (Applause)

14 CHAIR HUGHS: Congratulations to all of you,
15 and I hope that we'll be taking photos next. Wonderful.

16 MR. SERNA: And I have nothing else, on that
17 note.

18 COMM. ALVAREZ: I do have something on Item
19 21, if that's okay. Because I was asked by general counsel
20 this is the time to do it. So, Ed, I would like to ask
21 Cheryl Fuller, Courtney Arbour to poll the boards to
22 determine if there is any interest, any pilot program, to
23 train individuals with disabilities ages 18 to 34 years of
24 age in an industry-recognized credential. This type of
25 training would further support our tri-agency recommendation

1 to ensure students with disabilities acquire specific
2 training and certification opportunities in high-demand
3 occupations.

4 This is found on the second paragraph of the
5 tri-agency report, and disciplines that I'm looking at are
6 like cybersecurity or mixed reality headsets. Things like
7 that.

8 MR. SERNA: Yes, sir. And we can -- we can
9 certainly -- We'll certainly -- we'll be glad to look into
10 that.

11 COMM. ALVAREZ: Thank you.

12 CHAIR HUGHS: That sounds great. I'd love to
13 also know what we're already doing in that space with Summer
14 Earn and Learn, or other programs.

15 MR. SERNA: Yes ma'am.

16 CHAIR HUGHS: So if they have those types of
17 opportunities I think it's a great idea to try to gear
18 students towards those opportunities if they aren't already.
19 So that'd be great to hear.

20 I guess, on that note, too, I'm hoping to see
21 when we get to statewide initiatives, Commissioner Alvarez,
22 that maybe we look at some way to have some flexible funding
23 and let the boards decide what they want to spend that money
24 on, so that we can streamline the RFP process and then also
25 not run into what I think we continue to see, which is we

1 have these great initiatives, and then all these boards
2 apply and there's so much interest, and then not all of them
3 get it. But if they had some flexible funding then that
4 might be an area where if they value that particular program
5 they could put that funding towards that and --

6 COMM. ALVAREZ: I totally agree.

7 CHAIR HUGHS: -- have some independence. So,
8 hoping to kind of see things like that when we start getting
9 into state initiatives, and what that might look like.

10 MR. SERNA: Yes, ma'am. Yes, ma'am. And
11 also, we discussed it previously, I think I've discussed it
12 with each of you separately that we would look at how we
13 would target particular areas or populations that need to be
14 served that are underserved right now in particular parts of
15 the state as well.

16 CHAIR HUGHS: Right.

17 MR. SERNA: So, we'll put all that together.

18 COMM. ALVAREZ: Yeah. And I agree. I mean,
19 if we -- these are options. I know with the funding that
20 you're referencing there's also funding that we may be able
21 to be used and specifically comes from vocational rehab.
22 So, we're seeing programs throughout the state, and I think
23 that it's worthwhile, then, to look into them.

24 MR. SERNA: Yes, sir. Yes, sir.

25 COMM. ALVAREZ: Thank you.

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AGENDA ITEM NO. 21

CHAIR HUGHS: All right. I guess per our photos we'd like to consider a motion to adjourn.

COMM. ALVAREZ: I motion that we adjourn.

CHAIR HUGHS: And I second.

COMM. ALVAREZ: Great.

CHAIR HUGHS: Thank you. We are adjourned.

(Proceedings concluded at 9:40:11 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 25th day of May, 2019.

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

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