



**MEETING OF THE
TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION**

DATE

SEPTEMBER 22, 2020

1 TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2020

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

5 MR. TROBMAN: Good morning, Commissioners.
6 No, we have no one signed up for public comment this morning.

7 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you. Good morning,
8 Ms. Miller.

9 MS. MILLER: Good morning, sir.

10 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Well, thank you. This
11 brings us to the end of Agenda Items 3 through 7. Let's pause
12 for a few minutes to reset for the rest of the meeting.

13 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right, we're back.
14 Let's move to Agenda Item 8, discussion, consideration, and
15 possible action regarding publication for public comment and
16 proposed rules relating to the repeal of 40 TAC chapter 841 and
17 new 40 TAC chapter 840, new 40 TAC chapter 842, and new 40 TAC
18 chapter 802.

19 DAWN CRONIN: Good morning, Chairman
20 Daniel, Commissioner Alvarez, Commissioner Demerson, and Mr.
21 Serna. For the record, my name is Dawn Cronin, director of
22 workforce program policy. You may notice I'm not Joel. He is
23 not available today. TWC's chapter 841 Workforce Investment Act
24 rule set forth provisions related to the maintenance of a one-
25 stop delivery system, training provider certification,

1 nondiscrimination and equal opportunity, and appeal provisions
2 for denial of local workforce development area certifications.
3 On March 17, the commission approved the policy concept,
4 outlining the repeal of TWC's chapter 841 Workforce Investment
5 Act rules to eliminate rules that are specific to implementation
6 of the Workforce Investment Act, and to update and maintain in
7 new and existing chapters elements of chapter 841 that remain
8 relevant to agency operations. The rules package before you
9 today contains the proposed rules for the chapters that were
10 tabled during the September 8 commission meeting. The repeal of
11 chapter 841 Workforce Investment Act, new chapter 840 on
12 eligible training providers, new chapter 842 on [inaudible]
13 nondiscrimination and equal opportunity, and new chapter 802,
14 subchapter J, local workforce development area appeals. This
15 rule package was tabled to allow staff an opportunity to make
16 changes to chapter 840, eligible training providers, to address
17 comments and feedback received during the September 8 commission
18 meeting. Staff is seeking approval to post the proposed rules
19 in the Texas Register for public comment. Staff further
20 requests the ability to make nonsubstantive technical
21 corrections prior to submission to the Texas Register. That
22 concludes my presentation, and I'm happy to answer any questions
23 you might have.

24 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Any questions?

25 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: No, Chairman.

1 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: None here.

2 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Do we have a motion?

3 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: I move that we
4 publish the proposed rules to the Texas Register regarding the
5 repeal of chapter 841, the creations of chapter 840 and 842, and
6 the amendment of chapter 802, as discussed.

7 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Second the motion.

8 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's been moved and
9 seconded, we're unanimous, thank you.

10 DAWN CRONIN: Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: [inaudible] to Agenda
12 Item 9, discussion, consideration, and possible action regarding
13 business Enterprises of Texas customer satisfaction survey and
14 cost analysis report to the governor and legislative budget
15 board, as provided in the General Appropriations Act.

16 MIKE HOOKS: Good morning, Commissioners,
17 Mr. Serna. For the record, I'm Mike Hooks with the VR division.
18 Today I submit for your consideration the 2020 Business
19 Enterprises of Texas customer satisfaction survey and cost
20 analysis report. This report, if approved, will be submitted to
21 the LBB and the Office of the Governor, pursuant to TWC rider
22 37, as a part of TWC performance reporting for the BET program
23 for the 2021 biennium. This year, the survey was unusual due to
24 the pandemic. It was conducted for a condensed period, from
25 August 3 to August 14. The adjustment resulted in 25 of the 46

1 available agencies responding, and 1,881 customer responses--
2 frankly, better than we thought, considering that most people
3 were at home. The response is down considerably from last year.
4 However, we were able to gain some insight through the survey as
5 to the effects of the pandemic on the BET program by the
6 introduction of some new questions to the survey to survey the
7 effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as maintaining some of
8 the regular questions from prior years, to keep our trend
9 analysis going. Some of the observations based on survey
10 responses include reaffirming that bringing food from home was
11 the largest competitor to sales in BET food service facilities.
12 Over 48 percent of all the respondents noted that they would not
13 be comfortable dining in food service--in BET food service
14 facilities due to the pandemic, primarily due to concern about
15 crowds indoors, but also indicated some safety measure that if
16 implemented would help alleviate some of their concerns. Also,
17 over 62 percent of the respondents noted that they will be more
18 likely to bring cooked food from home in the wake of the
19 pandemic. So, we've got work to do, from what we've learned on
20 our businesses as we move into the future. Today we're seeking
21 the commission's approval to present this report to the LBB and
22 the governor. That completes the information I have to present.
23 I'm certainly open to any questions you may have.

24 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Comments or questions?

25 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: No, sir.

1 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Mike, just one
2 quick question. The survey was from August 3 to August 14.
3 What's your time period normally for surveys? How long do you
4 allow folks to do that?

5 MIKE HOOKS: The time period normally is a
6 one-month period. We do it for 30 days. It's more involved,
7 normally, where you have posters up in the facilities and, you
8 know, there's a lot more procedure to it. In this case, this
9 was purely a virtual survey, if you will. We used Survey
10 Monkey, and it was all done by email.

11 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Okay, thanks.

12 MIKE HOOKS: Sure.

13 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: [sounds like] No
14 other questions here.

15 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Do we have a motion?

16 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Chairman, I move
17 that we approve Business Enterprises of Texas customer
18 satisfaction survey and cost analysis report 2020 for submission
19 to the governor and the legislative budget board, as recommended
20 by staff.

21 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: I second.

22 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's been moved and
23 seconded. We're unanimous. Let's move to item 10, discussion,
24 consideration, and possible action regarding adoption of rules
25 relating to 40 TAC chapter 815.

1 JASON STALINSKY: Good morning, Chairman
2 Daniel, Commissioner Alvarez, Commissioner Demerson, and Mr.
3 Serna. For the record, I am Jason Stalinsky, [sounds like] RID
4 policy, planning, and prosecutions. Before you today is a
5 proposal to amend the chapter 815 unemployment insurance rules
6 to address the Emergency Unemployment Insurance Stabilization
7 and Access Act of 2020, also known as EUISAA, and the
8 Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security Act, otherwise
9 known as the CARES Act. The rules before you address areas
10 including waiver and adjudication of federal extended
11 unemployment compensation overpayments, employer notification,
12 and extended benefits. These rules also create a new subchapter
13 G in chapter 815, which covers program coordination, appeals
14 waiver, overpayments, and fraud under the CARES Act. The
15 proposed rule is posted for public comment in the Texas
16 Register. One comment was received. The commenter provided
17 four points in favor of the proposed rules and two against. In
18 favor, the commenter supported making the rules generally
19 applicable, including those for extended benefits, the waiver of
20 provisions, and the clarity subchapter G provides. We
21 appreciate these points in response. For points against, first
22 the commenter does not support removing the presumption of
23 financial hardship. The commenter suggested instead our rules
24 presume financial hardship after 26 weeks of regular state
25 unemployment benefits. Our response notes that this is

1 problematic, as not all claimants are entitled to 26 weeks of
2 benefits. Neither the number of benefits weeks nor the
3 financial hardship factor itself are solely dispositive when
4 determining a waiver. One of our goals with these proposed
5 rules is to make them more generally applicable. Part of making
6 these rules generally applicable requires incorporating
7 flexibility for the different programs involved, and other
8 situations that may arise. Second, the commenter also believed
9 the rules provided for a reduction of extended benefits during a
10 high-employment period. Our response clarifies that the
11 proposed rules governing extended benefits during a high
12 unemployment period do not result in a decrease in benefits and
13 are required by federal law. Therefore, no changes have been
14 made in response to these comments. The U.S. Department of
15 Labor did not identify any conformity issues with the proposed
16 rules. As a result, there have been no changes between the
17 proposed rule as published in the Texas register and what is
18 before you today. Staff seeks commission action regarding the
19 adoption of these rules, as included in your notebooks and
20 published on the agency's website. If these rules are adopted,
21 staff requests the ability to make minor, nonsubstantive changes
22 to the document in order to comply with publication requirements
23 of the Texas Register and the Texas secretary of state. I am
24 here this morning as a resource if you have any questions.

1 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Any comments or
2 questions?

3 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: No, sir.

4 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: None here.

5 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Do we have any motions?

6 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: I move that we adopt
7 the proposed chapter 815 rules relating to the EUISAA and the
8 CARES Act, as previously published in the Texas Register, with
9 permission for staff to make minor, nonsubstantive changes.

10 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Second the motion.

11 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's been moved and
12 seconded. We're unanimous. Thank you.

13 JASON STALINSKY: Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: This is item 11,
15 discussion, consideration, and possible action regarding
16 approval of adult education and literacy advisory committee
17 membership.

18 MAHALIA BALDINI: Good morning, Chair
19 Daniel, Commissioner Alvarez, Commissioner Demerson, and Mr.
20 Serna. For the record, my name is Mahalia Baldini with adult
21 education and literacy. Senate bill 307 of the 83 Texas
22 legislature regular session required TWC to establish an adult
23 education and literacy advisory committee. The advisory
24 committee must not be composed of more than nine members, and
25 must include at least one representative of the business

1 community and one representative of a local workforce
2 development board. Additionally, TWC chapter 805, adult
3 education and literacy rule, allows for the appointment of
4 members to an additional two-year term. One committee member,
5 Mignon Lawson [SP], director of adult education at Abilene
6 independent school district served a term which ended in June of
7 2020. At this time, staff seeks direction on reappointing
8 Mignon Lawson to a second term, which will end September of
9 2022. Thank you, and I'm available for any questions that you
10 may have.

11 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Chairman, I'd like
12 to just congratulate Ms. Mahalia again on her recent new job
13 role, and congratulations on a great AEL conference last week.

14 MAHALIA BALDINI: Thank you so much,
15 Commissioner.

16 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: You're welcome.

17 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: No questions or
18 comments.

19 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Do we have any motions?

20 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: I move that we
21 reappoint Mignon Lawson to serve on the AEL advisory committee
22 for an additional two-year term, as discussed.

23 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Second the motion.

24 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's been moved and
25 seconded, and we're unanimous. Thank you. [Inaudible] Agenda

1 Item for discussion, consideration, and possible action
2 regarding the Texas [inaudible] fiscal year 2021. Itemized
3 operating budget and 2022/'23 legislative appropriations
4 request.

5 CHRIS NELSON: Good morning, Chairman,
6 commissioners, Mr. Serna. For the record, Chris Nelson, chief
7 financial officer. [Inaudible] presenting the program rankings
8 that will be part of the program level request schedule for our
9 '22/'23 legislative appropriations request. The program level
10 request instructions issued by LBB as part of their '22/'23
11 instructions require agencies to rank programs by priority. The
12 schedule before you represents the proposed rankings based on
13 mission centrality, statutory authority, relation to workforce,
14 GAA objective, and the size of the program. That concludes my
15 comments. I would be happy to answer any questions.

16 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Comments or questions?

17 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: None here, Chairman.

18 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: None here. I just
19 wanna thank Chris for the--and his team [inaudible]. I
20 appreciate the information.

21 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Yes.

22 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: He beat me to it, I was
23 gonna thank him for the work, too [inaudible] process, and
24 stretches out over some period of time. I don't think a lot of
25 folks from the outside looking in understand the complexity of

1 the budget, with our balance between both state and federal
2 funds, and all the things that go into that. And I know they've
3 spent quite a bit of time on it, and I too would like to thank
4 you for just a really good work product here.

5 CHRIS NELSON: Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: That being said, with no
7 additional comments or questions, is there motion?

8 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Yes, Chairman. I
9 move that we approve the LAR program rankings as described by
10 staff.

11 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: [Inaudible] motion.

12 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: So moved and seconded.

13 We're unanimous. Thank you. We have nothing to report or
14 present under Agenda Item 13. Agenda Item 14 is discussion,
15 consideration, and possible action regarding guidance on
16 resource utilization and implementation of services. This is
17 our COVID-19 Agenda Item. Is there anything to report under
18 Agenda Item 14?

19 MR. SERNA: Yes, sir, we have one update
20 from Clay Cole in unemployment insurance.

21 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you.

22 CLAY COLE: Good morning, Chairman Daniel,
23 Commissioner Alvarez, Commissioner Demerson, and Mr. Serna. For
24 the record, Clay Cole, unemployment insurance division. I have
25 three quick updates for you. The first, the Department of Labor

1 notified Texas last Friday that we had triggered off the high
2 unemployment period, as the state unemployment rate had dropped
3 below the 8 percent threshold for federal high unemployment
4 period assistance. This occurred as of our reporting period in
5 August. But back in June I had come forth, on June 30, exactly,
6 and shared with you Texas had triggered [inaudible] the high
7 unemployment period effective July 5. And what the high
8 unemployment period does is it increases your regular, extended
9 benefit program from a maximum of 13 weeks to 20 weeks. And
10 although there are no Texans currently receiving high
11 unemployment period benefits, unemployment Texans are no longer
12 eligible, since we've triggered off for the additional seven
13 weeks of benefits that the high unemployment period provides,
14 effective after week ending October 10, 2020. UI and external
15 relations will be issuing a press release, if not today, very
16 soon, and other messaging will be going out to customers,
17 advising them of the fact that we've triggered off the high
18 unemployment period. Second item, UI claims and payment
19 activity update. To date, TWC has processed over five million
20 claims and paid out over 30.9 billion in unemployment benefits.
21 As the unemployment rate has recently improved, we're seeing
22 improvements across the board in terms of our number of inbound
23 calls handled. Where last week we set a record for handling
24 over 250,000 calls, which was more than any number that we've
25 seen since the COVID-19 period. And it was the first time ever

1 we've really been trying to close the gap between our unique
2 callers and just calls handled, and we were able to do that. So
3 that was a big achievement. Also, additionally, we had an
4 assignment campaign going where we're really trying to reduce
5 our inventory, and over the last approximately 30 days, we were
6 able to see a net reduction of over 140,000 assignments. And
7 we're still not finished, but really seeing great improvement.
8 So we wanna continue to see us handle more calls each week, and
9 handle more assignments. And we're gonna keep strategically
10 pursuing new ways to continue that improvement. And I'll tell
11 you, as you know, the unemployment insurance program is a very
12 complicated program, and it takes time for new resources to be
13 trained for providing the comprehensive services, and we are
14 starting to see very positive trends, and we just wanna see that
15 continue. And looking forward to just continued improvement. I
16 just wanna thank our UI teams, and all our volunteers from TWC,
17 and external volunteers, for their tireless efforts in further
18 improving our service delivery. And finally, I just wanna let
19 you know that UI continues to track Hurricane Laura disaster
20 impacted claims. However, claims have dropped off and really
21 flattened out. As of today, TWC has processed approximately
22 2,300 disaster impacted claims. However, there has still not
23 been a disaster declaration made for individual assistance,
24 which triggers the disaster unemployment assistance benefit. So
25 we'll continue to monitor, in case there is a disaster

1 declaration made for Hurricane Laura. And this concludes my
2 update, and I'll be happy to answer any questions you might
3 have. Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Any comments or
5 questions?

6 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Chairman, I'd like
7 to also take this opportunity to thank Clay and the UI team and
8 the external volunteers for all the work they've done. Not only
9 are we facing COVID-19, but as expressed by Mr. Cole, we're also
10 dealing with individuals that have been affected by the
11 hurricanes and recent heavy flooding. So thank you, Clay, and
12 please extend that thank you to your team. Just wanna let you
13 know that.

14 CLAY COLE: We'll do that, thanks,
15 Commissioner Alvarez.

16 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: You're welcome, very
17 welcome.

18 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: And similar to
19 Commissioner Alvarez's comments, just Clay, Lashea [SP], Chris,
20 and the entire team, the work that you guys are doing, we don't
21 take it for granted. Similar to Chris with the budget, it's
22 complex, and we appreciate what you're doing day-in and day-out,
23 especially for the employers of the state.

24 CLAY COLE: Thanks, Commissioner Demerson.

25

1 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: I had a question. I just
2 wanna clarify. So, on your first point regarding the additional
3 unemployment benefits that had been triggered by our
4 unemployment rate, now that it's fallen to the 6.8, that
5 [inaudible] all--that's not a discretionary thing that we have,
6 right? That is a trigger, and it's either on or off.

7 CLAY COLE: That's it, that's exactly
8 right, Mr. Chairman.

9 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Okay. I do encourage
10 you, and I know you said so, but I do encourage you to make sure
11 all relevant parties know and understand what's going on there.
12 There's so many different things happening as a result of, as
13 Mr. Alvarez pointed out, some hurricanes [inaudible] the COVID-
14 19 pandemic, we've got new programs and old programs and
15 unexpected programs and unfamiliar programs, and I just wanna
16 make sure that everyone's able to keep that in context
17 [inaudible] not as well-versed as perhaps we are in having to
18 monitor this situation. So this is one of those moments. I've
19 probably taken this moment multiple times. During this time
20 period, this is one of those moments where I do not believe you
21 can communicate too much, and I would encourage you to do that.
22 I also wanted to say that your discussion on phone calls
23 answered and some things related to volume, I would note that
24 our numbers are not necessarily down right now. They've been
25 consistent and consistently high. Not peaking, like they were

1 in April, but we've seen consistently high numbers for what
2 appears to me to be about the last 60 days. And so your report
3 on number of calls answered and certainly number of assignments
4 [inaudible] included would indicate real progress toward
5 whatever backlog we might be experiencing. And to me, it
6 indicates you finding new strategies to deal with what remained
7 sort of unexpectedly high initial claims and claims paid. And
8 so, I appreciate your crew continuing to grind out new solutions
9 to what now seem like old problems. I hope you'll keep up that
10 level of ingenuity and innovation, because I think that
11 nimbleness and that flexibility will help us continue to meet
12 the needs of Texans. And I want to continue to meet the needs
13 of all the Texans [inaudible] who are working with the workforce
14 commission right now.

15 CLAY COLE: No doubt, yeah. There's a lot
16 of work ahead of us still, but I hear you loud and clear
17 [inaudible].

18 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: But that's real progress,
19 and I don't want you to minimize the progress that you made. I
20 understand there's more work ahead, and I agree with you. But
21 that's real progress, and I appreciate you bringing that up.
22 Because it's continuously showed the dedication of your team,
23 your full-time team, plus the teams that we've brought on to
24 deal with the higher numbers of customers. Those teams who were
25 new to us have perhaps found their stride, and are understanding

1 the agency mission now, and we're able to do some things. So to
2 everyone, thank you for working hard on that, and I know we'll
3 continue to pursue that.

4 CLAY COLE: Thanks, Chairman.

5 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Yeah, thank you.

6 Anything else for Mr. Cole?

7 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: No, sir, nothing
8 else.

9 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: The only thing I'd
10 like to add is I agree with the remarks that you made, Chairman.
11 And I look forward to any of the press releases or any
12 literature that's gonna come out of the agency, so that we can
13 be prepared for the responses. So, thanks, Clay, for working on
14 that. I'm looking forward to that messaging.

15 CLAY COLE: You bet.

16 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Thanks, buddy.

17 CLAY COLE: You're welcome, thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: And Mr. Serna, there's
19 nothing else [inaudible].

20 MR. SERNA: No, sir, there's nothing else
21 on that Agenda Item.

22 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Do we have a legislative
23 report today?

24 MR. SERNA: Yes, sir, we do today. Michael
25 Brett will provide that.

1 MICHAEL BRETT: Morning, Mr. Chairman,
2 Commissioner Alvarez, Commissioner Demerson, and Mr. Serna. For
3 the record, Michael Brett, governmental relations. Yesterday,
4 U.S. House leadership released legislative language for H.R.
5 8319, the Continuing Appropriations Act of 2021 and Other
6 Extensions Act. This bill would extend federal funding at
7 current levels until December 11 of this year. As you know,
8 federal government funding currently expires on September 30.
9 The U.S. House is expected to take up this measure this week,
10 and then it will go to the U.S. Senate for action. Also this
11 week, we will be monitoring the U.S. House Education and Labor
12 Committee's hearing on Thursday at 9:15 a.m. During their
13 hearing they will mark up H.R. 8294, the National Apprenticeship
14 Act of 2020. That concludes my remarks, and I'm happy to answer
15 any questions you may have.

16 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Any comments or
17 questions?

18 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Thank you for the
19 report, Michael.

20 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: None here, thank
21 you.

22 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you. All right,
23 Mr. Serna, anything additional for [inaudible]?

24 MR. SERNA: No, sir, nothing to report.

25

1 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right, thank you. Is
2 there any other order of business that needs to come before the
3 commission?

4 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Not here, Chairman.

5 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Mr. Chairman, I
6 just had a quick question first.

7 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Yes, sir?

8 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: I wanted to--I know
9 unemployment rates have gone down, and that's great, as we
10 safely and strategically reopen, and good to see that we're
11 about [inaudible] below the national average. In terms of the
12 number of jobs posted on our website, what is that number? Are
13 we still advocating talking about that number that's out there?
14 I know it used to be about 500,000 jobs that are available. Is
15 that still being marketed?

16 MICHAEL BRETT: The number, as I understand
17 it, the number is slightly higher than that.

18 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Mm-hmm.

19 MICHAEL BRETT: Plus, in addition, we're
20 reaching out to other job-matching sites, as well as other
21 solutions, to bring additional jobs both into our system, and
22 then just make them available to our job-seekers. But the
23 number is a little bit higher than what it had been running, so
24 there has been an increase in the number of postings.

25

1 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Okay. So, I'll be
2 paying particular attention to that, in the sense of making sure
3 that those employers are matched with a skilled labor force
4 that's out there, so that we can actually make sure that those
5 jobs that are posted, folks are going into those positions. So,
6 thanks for that information, but just note I'll be paying
7 attention to that. Because I wanna make sure that those
8 employers are getting folks into those jobs.

9 MICHAEL BRETT: Yes, sir.

10 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: You know, I think
12 Commissioner Demerson hits on a good point here. Mr. Serna,
13 could it be possible for someone to the workforce division to
14 bring a report at our next commission meeting to speak to what
15 Commissioner Demerson just referenced, in terms of job-matching
16 efforts? And then additionally, in the same report, I think
17 it's probably time for us to do a little check on where our
18 skills enhancement efforts are [inaudible] trainings. I think
19 those are related. So [inaudible] if it works out schedule-
20 wise, for the next commission meeting, a report and update on
21 those two topics, I think, would be pretty useful.

22 MICHAEL BRETT: Yes, sir. I'm smiling,
23 because I'd already talked to Courtney about providing an update
24 at the beginning of October. It seems like a good benchmark on
25 all of our workforce activity, both skills training, the call

1 centers, the job postings, the additional efforts with outside
2 job-matching sources, as well as our own efforts to enhance work
3 in Texas. So, yes, sir, we will do that at the first meeting in
4 October.

5 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right, thank you.
6 Anything else for Mr. Serna? No. Do we have a motion to
7 adjourn?

8 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Chairman, before we
9 adjourn, I'd just like to thank, I mean, everyone at the agency.
10 I mean, it's good to hear that the unemployment rate right now
11 is at 6.8. You know, we have over 699,000 job openings or
12 listings on our [inaudible]. That's amazing. And so I just
13 wanna thank everyone before I close and motion to adjourn. I
14 just wanted to take this opportunity to thank everyone who's
15 listening in, and everyone in our extended family for all the
16 work that they've done. And so just wanted to say that before I
17 adjourn. And I look forward to hearing on Thursday H.R. 8294.
18 I look forward to hearing the results of that committee hearing.
19 So, thank you for that, allowing me to speak.

20 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: That was the
21 motion, so I'm gonna second that motion to adjourn.

22 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Well, the motion is
23 to adjourn. I apologize. I motion that we adjourn.

24 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: I heard it loud and
25 clear, even if [inaudible]. [laughter]

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COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: [Inaudible] that's
right.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's been moved and
seconded to adjourn, and I think we're unanimous on that. And
so, we're adjourned. Thank you all.