



**MEETING OF THE
TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION**

DATE

JANUARY 19, 2021

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2021

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right, well, good afternoon, everyone. This meeting is called to order. Mr. Trobman?

MR. TROBMAN: Good afternoon, Commissioners. We have no one registered for public comment this afternoon.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you. Ms. Miller?

MS. MILLER: Yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Well, good afternoon.

MS. MILLER: Good afternoon, sir.

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

COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: [Unintelligible].

MS. MILLER: Thank you, Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right, we're back. Under Agenda Item 8, staff does not have anything to present under Agenda Item 8. This will bring us to Agenda Item 9, discussion and consideration for [unintelligible] program year 2020 Adult Education Literacy Grantee performance, measures, and targets.

ADAM LEONARD: Good afternoon. For the record, Adam Leonard, Operational Insight. Excuse me. I'm here

1 today to present targets for the program year 20 Adult Education
2 Grantees in Texas. There are three sets of targets that I'm
3 presenting today. The first has to do with participants served
4 by the different types of Adult Ed programs that are offered.
5 We negotiate these directly with the grantees. The second is
6 the measurable skills gain where we aligned the targets with
7 those we negotiated with the U.S. Department of Education. And,
8 lastly, we have several WIOA exit-based outcome measures, and
9 these, the targets, are based on the numbers that were included
10 in our legislative appropriation request from October.

11 In going through, there are a couple things
12 I wanted to note for you that are differences from past and, in
13 addition, there was one technical correction that I need to make
14 where we transposed a number. So I'll highlight that one in a
15 moment. The first key is under participants served, in a normal
16 year we would typically have what we call carry-forward targets
17 where if a grantee did not serve as many people as expected and
18 such, we would kind of roll that forward into the new year. But
19 given that this year was rather a bit different than what we've
20 seen in other years in terms of programs having to move from
21 maybe some partial distance learning to nearly complete distance
22 learning, having to help their students navigate technology
23 challenges, access to good broadbands, computers, et cetera, it
24 just made sense to staff that this year perhaps we go ahead and

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1 suspend the carry-forward targeting just for this one year and
2 that we would assumedly reinstitute it next year.

3 While I'm on the participants served, the
4 targets themselves are shown on page 4, but there was a
5 correction for Ysleta ISD in their basic EL civics target. They
6 had submitted--we had proposed 307, they agreed to 307, and
7 somehow I got 607 in the final document. So this impacts the
8 total number that they would serve across all their programs,
9 and then the system as a whole, basically those numbers drop by
10 300.

11 The second part, having to do with
12 measurable skills gained, we have a--we set targets based on the
13 12 educational functioning levels that we negotiate with the
14 Department of Labor, but, ultimately, the final target that goes
15 to the grantees is essentially a weighted average depending on,
16 you know, how many people they serve in each of these population
17 levels. The adjustment that we've recommended here is that in
18 prior years we wou--had developed a set of two sub-targets, one
19 for people served in the first part of the year and the other
20 for people served in the last quarter of the year.

21 The intent was to try to address the fact
22 that in the latter part of the year, it is harder to get a gain.
23 The measure runs July to June, so if you enroll somebody at the
24 beginning of June or middle of May, there's just less time for
25 them to have an achievement. And, ultimately, what we really

1 found after a few years of using this is that this seems to have
2 been more confusing than anything else, and so we're
3 recommending that we just go with the straight numbers as
4 negotiated with the Department of Education. And if it turns
5 out that an individual grantee has a big shift in their
6 enrollment patterns and they have a larger than expected late
7 year adju--enrollment pattern, we can go back and revisit
8 whether we need to look at their individual targets to account
9 for that.

10 And then, lastly, we've got the WIOA exit-
11 based measures, which are listed on page 3 of the handout. And
12 today I'm requesting Commission to approve staff recommendations
13 for PY20 Adult Ed Grantee performance measures and the outlined
14 target methodologies. And I'm happy to answer any questions
15 that you may have.

16 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Comments or questions?

17 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: None here, Chairman.

18 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: None.

19 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Do we have a motion?

20 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: I move that we
21 approve staff's recommendations for program year 2020 AEO
22 grantee performance measures and the outlined target
23 methodologies.

24 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: I second.

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1 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's been moved and
2 seconded, and we're unanimous.

3 ADAM LEONARD: Thank you. And apologies
4 for the jacket. You guys moved on a little quickly and I didn't
5 grab it. The lack of a jacket.

6 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: I was only mildly envious
7 since I--

8 ADAM LEONARD: Okay, well.

9 CHAIRMAN DANIEL:--[unintelligible] of
10 one. So.

11 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Your
12 [unintelligible] work out.

13 ADAM LEONARD: It's over here, I promise,
14 but, yeah.

15 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Well, it's casual Adam,
16 you know.

17 ADAM LEONARD: Yes. No, you should see
18 casual Adam.

19 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: No, I don't want to see
20 any.

21 ADAM LEONARD: Thank you for your time.

22 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Moving on. Agenda Item
23 10, staff doesn't have anything to present on Agenda Item 10.
24 Let's [unintelligible] discussion and consider possible action
25 regarding guidance on resource utilization and implementation of

1 services and strategies to determine [unintelligible] in public
2 health emergencies including those finding with the Department
3 of Labor's Disaster Dislocated Worker Grant.

4 MR. SERNA: Reagan Miller up for one item
5 under this agenda item.

6 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Great.

7 REAGAN MILLER: Thank you. Good morning,
8 Chairman, Commissioners. For the record, Reagan Miller with the
9 Child Care and Early Learning Division. This afternoon we are
10 seeking your direction on extending and phasing out the
11 temporary enhanced reimbursement rates, which are currently set
12 at 25%. You previously authorized a 25% enhanced reimbursement
13 rate through December 2020. This enhanced rate is intended to
14 assist subsidy child care providers in covering the higher
15 operating costs they are experiencing during COVID.

16 Today we are proposing that we extend this
17 temporary enhanced rate and that we also implement a phased out
18 reduction over the next few months concluding this temporary
19 measure in July 2021. As noted in the discussion paper, subsidy
20 providers will receive 25% enhanced reimbursement rate in
21 January to cover the entire month of January, and we will
22 continue with the 25% in February and March. Beginning with
23 April we will implement a 5% reduction each month, so we will
24 pay 20% in April, 15% in May, 10% in June, and concluding with
25 5% in July.

1 Our initial calculations estimate that
2 approximately 81.5 million would be needed through July 2021.
3 However, final amounts for each board will be based on actual
4 enrollments and actual billing. We're seeking the Commissions
5 direction on approving these funds and authorizing staff to make
6 funds available to the boards to support the actual costs of the
7 enhanced reimbursement rates through July as described. I'm
8 happy to answer any questions.

9 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Any comments or
10 questions?

11 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Thanks, Reagan.
12 None here, Chairman.

13 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Chairman, Reagan,
14 there's been a lot of interest in this particular item, and so
15 I'm glad to see it moving forward.

16 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Yeah, there are a lot of
17 calculations that go into this and a great deal of time has been
18 spent trying to find the most workable formulas. And so, I
19 can't say enough about the time and effort that Reagan and her
20 team's put into this. We appreciate it very much. Do we have a
21 motion here today?

22 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Chairman, I move
23 that we approve the use of approximately 81.5 million of CCDBG
24 Cares Act Funds to extend the enhanced reimbursement rates
25 through July 2021 as outlined in the discussion paper and

1 reimburse the boards based on the actual costs and demonstrated
2 need as presented.

3 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Second.

4 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Been moved and seconded,
5 we're unanimous.

6 REAGAN MILLER: Thank you.

7 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Mr. Chairman,
8 before Reagan leaves, I just wanted to acknowledge her good
9 morning to us and then she moved quickly from good morning to
10 this afternoon.

11 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: That'll tell you
12 something, Commissioner Demerson. That's how her day is going
13 over there. It's [unintelligible]. It goes from morning to
14 night just that fast every day.

15 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: That quick.

16 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Every day. And she
17 clicked off before we were through talking about her. See?
18 That's smart. That was good.

19 MR. SERNA: That's all I have under this
20 agenda item.

21 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you, Mr. Serna.
22 Let's move to Agenda Item 12, board nominations.

23 SHUNTA WILLIAMS: Hello. Good afternoon,
24 Chairman, Commissioners, and Mr. Serna. For the record, Shunta
25 Williams with the Workforce Development Division. And before

1 you for consideration are Workforce Board nominations for two
2 areas today. We have Borderplex and Heart of Texas, and staff
3 recommends that all nominees be approved. And I'm here to
4 answer any questions you may have.

5 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Any questions or
6 comments?

7 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: None here, Chairman.

8 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: None.

9 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Do I have a motion?

10 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Chairman, I move
11 that we approve the board nominees for Borderplex and Heart of
12 Texas.

13 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: I second that
14 motion.

15 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Seconded and, again,
16 we're unanimous. Staff doesn't have anything to present under
17 Agenda Item 13. Is there a legislative report today? I'm not
18 sure?

19 MR. SERNA: No, sir, there's not.

20 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Well, how about an
21 executive director's report?

22 MR. SERNA: No, sir, I have nothing to
23 report either.

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1 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: And we're just moving
2 through this. Is there any other order of b--any item of
3 business that should come before the Commission?

4 MR. SERNA: Not from staff.

5 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Not here, Chairman.

6 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: I'm quiet on this
7 end.

8 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right. Well then,
9 would we entertain a motion to adjourn?

10 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Chairman, I move
11 that we adjourn.

12 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Second that motion.

13 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Been moved and seconded
14 to adjourn and we are adjourned. Thank you all.

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