



**MEETING OF THE  
TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION**

**DATE**

**SEPTEMBER 28, 2021**

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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2021

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Good morning, this meeting is called to order. Mr. Trobman, has anyone signed up for public comment?

MR. TROBMAN: [Inaudible]

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you very much. Good morning, Ms. Miller.

MS. MILLER: Good morning, sir.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you. Let's pause for just a couple minutes while we get some additional personnel in for the rest of the meeting.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: This is item number 8, BET customer satisfaction survey.

LIZET HINOJOSA: Good morning, commissioner, Mr. Serna. For the record, Lizet Hinojosa, vocational rehab. Today I have the potential action--for potential action the 2021 BET customer satisfaction survey and cost analysis report. The Texas Workforce Commission is required to submit the report pursuant to TWC rider 37 as part of TWC performance reporting for the BET program for the 2020/2021 biennium. Rider 37 reads as follows: "The Texas Workforce Commission shall report by October 1 of each year of the biennium the following information to the legislative budget board and the governor. A, the result of this survey and the cost analysis report distributed to state host agencies on satisfaction of operational conditions such as

1 pricing requirements, hours of operation, menu items and product  
2 lines, and B, the total cost incurred by each state host agency  
3 for the operation of Business Enterprises of Texas cafeterias,  
4 snack bars, and convenience stores. This year, the survey was  
5 conducted from May 11 through June the 18. We did have 23 of 46  
6 state agencies that responded, for a total of 723 customer  
7 responses. This response was considerably lower than prior  
8 responses, obviously due to COVID and the majority of state  
9 employees still continuing to work from home. The categories in  
10 the survey remained pretty stable, with only one to two  
11 percentage points in each of the survey questions. BET survey  
12 respondents did report that they did see an improvement in BET  
13 operations overall, and survey responses also indicated that  
14 there are still some areas for improvement, specifically in the  
15 expansion of healthy offerings. As in 2020, the 2021 survey did  
16 include several questions that were directly related to COVID.  
17 These questions will assist us in helping us make informed  
18 decisions of potential new business models for BET. Staff seeks  
19 approval to present the report to the office of the governor and  
20 the legislative budget board. And this completes my report, and  
21 I'm happy to answer any questions.

22 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Any comments or questions?

23 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: None here, Chairman.

24 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: No, none here.

25 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Do we have a motion?

1 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Chairman, I move that  
2 we approve Business Enterprises of Texas customer satisfaction  
3 survey and cost analysis report 2021 for submission to the  
4 governor and legislative budget board, as recommended by staff.

5 LIZET HINOJOSA: Thank you.

6 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Second.

7 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's been moved and  
8 seconded, we're unanimous. Thank you. This is Agenda Item number  
9 9, We Hire Ability year-round cycle.

10 CHERYL FULLER: Good morning, Chair Daniel,  
11 Commissioner Alvarez, Commissioner Demerson, and Mr. Serna. For  
12 the record, Cheryl Fuller, vocational rehabilitation division.  
13 The commission established the We Hire Ability employer  
14 recognition program to recognize employers whose Texas-based  
15 workforce is comprised of at least 10 percent people with  
16 disabilities working in competitive, integrated employment. The  
17 program launched in April of this year, and staff have  
18 subsequently worked to raise awareness about this opportunity  
19 for employers to be recognized for their efforts to hire people  
20 with disabilities. Our outreach efforts have included social  
21 media posts, announcement to distribution lists of partners and  
22 stakeholders, providing information to our local VR staff and  
23 local boards, and most recently partnering with the workforce  
24 development division to co-brand and jointly promote We Hire  
25 Ability and We Hire Vets. Your offices have also been

1 instrumental in promoting We Hire Ability to stakeholders and  
2 employers, and we are very grateful for that. This morning,  
3 staff is seeking your direction to revise the nomination period  
4 that is part of the recognition cycle for We Hire Ability. In  
5 March, we proposed a biennial recognition cycle with a six-month  
6 period every other year in which nominations could be received  
7 from an employer or an organization nominating an employer. At  
8 that time, you provided feedback that an open nomination period  
9 would give more opportunity for employers to be recognized as  
10 the We Hire Ability program gains momentum. We are indeed  
11 beginning to receive more nominations as the result of our  
12 outreach efforts takes hold, and we believe that an open  
13 nomination period will best serve the recognition program by  
14 allowing an employer to be recognized with the We Hire Ability  
15 decal year-round, and as soon as their nomination has been  
16 determined to meet the criteria for recognition. Staff seeks  
17 commission direction to move from the six-month nomination  
18 period to a year-round nomination period, and I would be happy  
19 to answer any questions.

20 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Any comments or questions?

21 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: I'd just like to tell  
22 Cheryl that I'm glad to see that this is a year-round nomination  
23 period. I think there was some discussion on that when we first  
24 rolled this out, so I'm glad to see that.

25

1 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: I agree with  
2 Commissioner Alvarez. Very happy to see this, and Cheryl, just  
3 excited to work with your team. I was down in the valley about a  
4 week, two weeks ago, and the voc rehab team were there when I  
5 was meeting with disability chamber of commerce groups, and the  
6 work that they're doing down there is pretty phenomenal. And  
7 your staff member was pretty excited about it, and is looking at  
8 really pumping that up in a big, big way. It means a lot for the  
9 employees that Commissioner Alvarez represented; it means a lot  
10 for the employers that are making those decisions to hire those  
11 with disabilities.

12 CHERYL FULLER: Yes, sir.

13 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Thank you for your  
14 work.

15 CHERYL FULLER: Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right, is there a  
17 motion?

18 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Chairman, I move the  
19 We Hire Ability employer recognition program change from a  
20 defined nomination period to a year-round nomination period, as  
21 discussed by staff.

22 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Second.

23 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's been moved and  
24 seconded. We're unanimous.

25 CHERYL FULLER: Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you. This is Agenda  
2 Item 10, VR service rate increases.

3 JASON VADEN: Good morning, commissioners,  
4 Mr. Serna. For the record, Jason Vaden, vocational  
5 rehabilitation division. The 2020 vocational rehabilitation  
6 comprehensive statewide needs assessment, or CSNA, found a  
7 substantial decline in the number of active service providers,  
8 from around 9,500 at the start of federal fiscal year 2017 down  
9 to around 4,400 by the end of 2020. Given this significant  
10 decline, the CSNA identified recovering and maintaining a robust  
11 network of service providers as one of three overarching needs  
12 for the VR program in Texas. It's important that the VR program  
13 must have a robust provider network, both geographically and by  
14 service type, to deliver services to customers. The substantial  
15 decline in providers over time has limited options for customers  
16 and made the ongoing delivery of services challenging. To  
17 recover and maintain our provider base, the compensation paid to  
18 providers must be competitive and align with current market  
19 rates. This need has also been raised in stakeholder forums and  
20 we've heard feedback from multiple others. In addition, the 2020  
21 CSNA report cited a possible discrepancy between current VR  
22 program service rates and market values. For certain VR  
23 services, payment rates and fee structures have not been  
24 reviewed and updated since 2010. For VR services that have been  
25 added since 2010, payment rates were established using 2010-

1 based rates. Staff analyzed a number of different methodologies  
2 and determined that the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of  
3 Labor Statistics employment cost index, or the ECI, which is a  
4 quarterly economic series detailing the changes in the cost of  
5 labor for businesses in the U.S. economy, is the most applicable  
6 index for calculating changes in labor cost to employers. The  
7 change in the ECI from 2010 to quarter one of 2021 is 22.5  
8 percent. This morning, staff seeks direction on increasing the  
9 current rates that VR pays for certain services, including  
10 employment services, pre-employment transition services, and  
11 autism spectrum disorder support services by 22.5 percent,  
12 rounded up to the nearest dollar, effective October 1 of 2021.  
13 Commissioners, before closing, I do wanna note that given the  
14 significant increase in the federal portion of the VR grant  
15 since 2017, the program has the financial ability to absorb  
16 these rate increases and sustain them for the foreseeable  
17 future. This concludes my remarks, and I'm happy to answer any  
18 questions you may have.

19 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Any comments or questions?

20 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Chairman, I do have a  
21 comment, and thank you, Jason, for the report. I'm delighted to  
22 see these proposed rate increases. In the future, I hope that  
23 vocational rehabilitation will review rates yearly to ensure  
24 that TWC pays competitive rates and has sufficient providers to  
25 serve our customers.



1 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: No other comments. I  
2 think, Jason, you guys answered the questions that I had  
3 regarding the exact [inaudible].

4 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Is there a motion?

5 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Chairman, I move that  
6 we increase the current rates that vocational rehabilitation  
7 pays for employment services, pre-employment transition  
8 services, and autism spectrum disorder support services by 22.5  
9 percent, rounded up to the nearest whole dollar, effective  
10 October 1, 2021, as discussed by staff.

11 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Second.

12 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's been moved and  
13 seconded. We're unanimous. Thank you. This is Agenda Item 11,  
14 TWC annual report outline.

15 MARGARET HESSION: Good morning, Chair  
16 Daniel, Commissioner Alvarez, Commissioner Demerson, and Mr.  
17 Serna. For the record, Margaret Hession, director of  
18 communications. You have before you today the annual outline  
19 2021 report for your consideration and approval. For review, we  
20 are seeking only the approval of the outline on the titles of  
21 each section [inaudible] a quick overview. This outline will be  
22 used to guide the layout and the sections of the actual report  
23 itself that will presented at another date. The primary  
24 difference between this outline--last year's report and this  
25 year's report is that this year, instead of the style of report

1 we have historically produced, we today wanna tell the story of  
2 TWC in a manner that is visually engaging and appealing, in a  
3 more editorial fashion. The theme of the story is recovery, how  
4 TWC is a critical connector, how TWC plays a vital part in Texas  
5 in strengthening the economy. Selected programs, therefore, will  
6 be spotlighted or featured throughout each theme. Various  
7 success stories, achievements, and accomplishments will be  
8 interwoven with appealing infographics and informational write-  
9 ups to tell our story in a way that is informative yet easy to  
10 read. I am prepared to walk you through this outline if  
11 necessary, and I am prepared to answer any questions you all may  
12 have at this time. I welcome any edits, input, or changes. Thank  
13 you.

14 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Any comments or questions?

15 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Chairman, I would  
16 just like to say I appreciate Margaret and her team coming by  
17 the office to visit with us regarding this, and any input that  
18 we may have.

19 MARGARET HESSION: Thank you, Commissioner.

20 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: None here, thank  
21 you.

22 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Is there a motion?

23 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: I move that we  
24 approve the fiscal year 2021 TWC annual report outlined and  
25 discussed by staff.

1 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: I second.

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

4 MARGARET HESSION: Thank you very much,  
5 commissioners.

6 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: This is item 12, BCY 2021  
7 childcare local match.

8 TRAVIS WEAVER: Good morning, Chairman  
9 Daniel, commissioners, Mr. Serna. For the record, Travis Weaver,  
10 workforce development division. The Texas Workforce Commission  
11 allocates federal funding for childcare services from childcare  
12 development funds to local workforce development areas. For a  
13 portion of the CCDF funding, local workforce development boards  
14 are required to secure and submit local matching funds to TWC.  
15 Boards submit annual local match pledges from private and public  
16 entities to secure federal childcare funds pursuant to 80917,  
17 and to maximize resources for childcare needs in the community.  
18 Today, workforce and childcare early learning present five BCY  
19 '21 match agreements from four boards, including Borderplex,  
20 Capitol area, Dallas County, and Gulf Coast. With this action,  
21 all boards remain fully matched for BCY '21, with 13 boards  
22 exceeding their local match target. Boards have secured 108.24  
23 percent of the statewide childcare local match target for BCY  
24 '21 compared to 108.92 percent for BCY '20. At the end of the  
25 year, as match agreements are fully recognized locally, TWC's

1 three-member commission may be asked to approve adjusted  
2 amounts. Staff seeks direction on accepting childcare pledges  
3 for BCY '21 in the amount of \$1,320,279. This concludes my  
4 comments. I'll be happy to answer any questions.

5 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Any comments or questions?

6 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: None here, Chairman.

7 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: None.

8 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Is there a motion?

9 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Chairman, I move that  
10 we accept childcare match in the amount of \$1,320,279 for board  
11 contract year 2021.

12 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Second.

13 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's been moved and  
14 seconded. We're unanimous.

15 TRAVIS WEAVER: Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you. This is Agenda  
17 Item 13, childcare industry partnership donation.

18 TRAVIS WEAVER: Good morning. Again, for the  
19 record, Travis Weaver, workforce development division. On  
20 December 20, 2020, the Texas Workforce Commission's three-member  
21 commission approved \$5 million in the childcare development fund  
22 statewide funds for the implementation of the childcare industry  
23 partnership program. The childcare industry partnership program  
24 provides a 100 percent match for local cash contributions from  
25 industry partners such as corporate foundations and private

1 employers, leveraging funds for activities that improve the  
2 quality of childcare [inaudible] direct childcare services such  
3 as the following: Apprenticeship, family childcare, pre-K  
4 partnerships, business support, wage supplementation or  
5 stipends, COVID-19 response and recovery, program capacity  
6 expansion, and local childcare studies. Local workforce  
7 development boards partnering with a corporation or foundation  
8 may submit applications to TWC detailing how they would like to  
9 invest these funds in local efforts to expand and improve the  
10 quality of childcare. CCIP requires that local cash matching  
11 funds be donated to TWC and accepted by the commission as CCDF  
12 funds. This is in accordance with our rules in 80917(a). Today,  
13 workforce and childcare early learning present a partnership  
14 donation agreement between Permian Strategic Partnership, Inc.  
15 and Workforce Solutions Permian Basin, as well as a donation  
16 from Permian Strategic Partnership, Inc., in the amount of  
17 \$75,000. Workforce Solutions Permian Basin, along with their  
18 donor, will use CCDF matching funds to support local childcare  
19 studies that will center on family childcare, pre-K  
20 partnerships, business support, wage supplementation or  
21 stipends, and program capacity expansion. Staff seeks direction  
22 on accepting the \$75,000 matching donation and agreement from  
23 Permian Strategic Partnerships, Inc., and partnership with  
24 Workforce Solutions Permian Basin. Commissioners, this concludes  
25 my comments. I'll be happy to answer any questions.

1 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Are there any comments or  
2 questions?

3 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: None here, Chairman.

4 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Quick question,  
5 Travis. Is this the first one [inaudible]?

6 TRAVIS WEAVER: Yes, sir, it is.

7 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: [Inaudible] kudos to  
8 the Workforce Solutions Permian Basin. And then our thanks to  
9 the Permian Strategic Partnership for indulging in this effort.  
10 It should be something that's gonna be worthwhile and  
11 beneficial.

12 TRAVIS WEAVER: Thank you.

13 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Travis, will other  
14 boards have access to the report once it's completed?

15 TRAVIS WEAVER: Answer to your question, I  
16 can get back to you on that one.

17 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Okay.

18 TRAVIS WEAVER: Because it is a partnership  
19 between those two entities.

20 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Okay.

21 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right, any further  
22 comments or questions?

23 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: None here, Chairman.

24 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: None.

25 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Is there a motion?

1 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Chairman, I move that  
2 we accept the \$75,000 matching donation and donation agreement  
3 from Permian Strategic Partnership, Inc., in partnership with  
4 Workforce Solutions Permian Basin.

5 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Second.

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

8 TRAVIS WEAVER: Thank you. All right.

9 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: This is Agenda Item 14,  
10 AEL high school equivalency virtual provider.

11 MAHALIA BALDINI: Good morning, Chair  
12 Daniel, Commissioner Alvarez, Commissioner Demerson, and Mr.  
13 Serna. For the record, Mahalia Baldini with workforce  
14 development division adult education and literacy. On August--or  
15 I'm sorry, on July 7 of 2021, the commission held a work session  
16 on statewide initiatives, designated funding for a series of  
17 comprehensive statewide strategies. In this meeting, the  
18 commission approved a scalable and sustainable pilot project to  
19 expand remote and virtual access for those seeking a high school  
20 diploma or its equivalent through a virtual statewide high  
21 school equivalency provider. This initiative is funded with  
22 budget year 2022 state leadership dollars in the amount of \$3.8  
23 million. At this time, staff seeks direction on implementing  
24 this state leadership initiative for \$3.8 million through an  
25 interagency contract with two entities: The University of Texas

1 at Austin and Texas Tech University, as outlined in today's  
2 [inaudible] materials. With that, I'm available to answer any  
3 questions.

4 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Comments or questions?

5 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Chairman, I had  
6 questions, and Mahalia did a good job of responding back  
7 yesterday, so I appreciate that. Thank you for the  
8 clarification.

9 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: No questions here.

10 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Other comments or  
11 questions?

12 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: None here, Chairman.

13 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: None.

14 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you. None?

15 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: None here.

16 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Is there a motion?

17 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Yes, sir. I move that  
18 we approve the 3.8 million in AEL state leadership funds from  
19 budget year 2022 for interagency contracts with the University  
20 of Texas at Austin and Texas Tech University to implement a  
21 statewide high school equivalency virtual provider program.

22 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Second.

23 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's been moved and  
24 seconded. We're unanimous.

25 MAHALIA BALDINI: Thank you.



1 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you. This is Agenda  
2 Item 15, program year '21/'22 AEL grantee performance measures  
3 and targets.

4 ADAM LEONARD: Good morning, commissioners,  
5 Mr. Serna. This is--my name's Adam Leonard. I'm the director of  
6 information, innovation, and insight, and I'm here to present to  
7 you recommendations regarding PY '21 and '22, or PY '21  
8 performance targets for our adult ed grantees, as well as PY '21  
9 and PY '22 performance-based funding material. The process  
10 generally starts with getting with the program area, so while  
11 I'm the one who's standing up here, ultimately, this is  
12 something that is jointly developed between my division and  
13 workforce development, because obviously, they have to direct  
14 priorities, and where they see the program going, and the needs,  
15 as far as program and performance. So, we've had a set of three  
16 targets that we typically contract; one related to participants  
17 served, one related to measurable skills gained; another related  
18 to exit-based outcome measures. And we're recommending that we  
19 would, again, use those measures going forward. We made a slight  
20 tweak this year for participants served to simplify the number  
21 of different categories that we're tracking in our negotiations.  
22 We did negotiate those with the grantees. For measurable skills  
23 gains, we had negotiated with the Department of Education as  
24 part of the WIOA biennial process. Those are what we're  
25 recommending we go forward with for grantees this year. And then

1 we have our General Appropriation Act measures and their targets  
2 for the exit-based outcome measures. In terms of performance-  
3 based funding, we made a couple tweaks to try to better explain  
4 or lay out the ideas behind it, but they are the same as in  
5 prior years, basically. So, we have the one related to high  
6 school equivalency or ability to benefit enrollment and  
7 achievement, which is legislatively mandated. We also have one  
8 relating to rapid employment of students for the year, so trying  
9 to get ahead of the numbers to be served in the first part of  
10 the year, relative to the end of the year. And then finally,  
11 kind of an accelerated MSG process, where we are looking for  
12 achievement earlier in the year than just at the end of year.  
13 So, I'm happy to answer any questions you may have about this  
14 [inaudible].

15 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Comments or questions?

16 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: None here, Chairman.

17 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: None here. Adam,  
18 just gonna continue to appreciate the work that you guys put in  
19 this, with briefing the different offices. Thank you. Our office  
20 in particular.

21 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Is there a motion?

22 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Chairman, I move that  
23 we approve staff's recommendation for program year 2021 AEL  
24 grantee performance measures, and the outline targeting  
25 methodologies in the program year 2021 performance-based funding

1 measures, methodologies, and the fund release schedule,  
2 including committing program year 2022 performance-based funding  
3 to recognize program year 2021 achievements.

4 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Second.

5 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's been moved and  
6 seconded. We're unanimous.

7 ADAM LEONARD: Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you. This is Agenda  
9 Item 16, workforce awards.

10 JOEL MULLINS: Good morning, Chair Daniel,  
11 commissioners, Mr. Serna. For the record, my name is Joel  
12 Mullins with workforce development. TWC rules under title 40,  
13 chapter 802 of the Texas administrative code allow the  
14 commission to establish monetary and non-monetary awards  
15 presented annually at the Texas Workforce conference. On June 24  
16 of this year, the commission held a work session to discuss the  
17 future of awards, and at that time asked staff to develop  
18 recommendations for objectively based monetary board and AEL  
19 awards, as well as non-monetary awards for employers and other  
20 partners. There are three issues we are bringing forward to you  
21 today, and I will lay these out as a group for your  
22 consideration and discussion. First, issue number one--this  
23 issue presents the proposed workforce awards for 2022 as  
24 outlined in attachment one of your materials, including the  
25 criteria and monetary award amounts, if any. As requested by the

1 commission, all monetary board and AEL awards are based on  
2 objective criteria, and monetary amounts for each award are  
3 consistent. These monetary awards for the boards include the  
4 service to employers, service to jobseekers, childcare  
5 employment and training connections, vocational rehabilitation  
6 integration, and registered apprenticeship expansion. And for  
7 AEL grantees, the AEL best-in-class and AEL co-enrollment. We're  
8 also proposing a number of non-monetary awards. These are the  
9 large employer of the year, small employer of the year, the  
10 veteran-friendly employer of the year, Hire Ability employer of  
11 the year, local employer of excellence, as well as the Texas  
12 adult scholar of the year, and the all-star college award.

13 Moving on to issue number two, this is related to eligibility  
14 for board and AEL awards. Chapter 802 rules allow TWC to modify  
15 eligibility for an assignment of awards based on factors that  
16 the commission identifies as extraordinary circumstances, which  
17 includes corrective action. The proposed changes in your meeting  
18 materials clarify that technical assistance plans will not  
19 disqualify a board or AEL grantee from awards eligibility, and  
20 makes additional changes to simplify this process. And finally,  
21 issue number three is related to eligibility for the employer  
22 awards. Historically, employer awards have been presented to  
23 private-sector employers, both for-profit and nonprofit, but not  
24 public employers, such as governmental agencies. However, the  
25 commission has never adopted a formal definition of private-

1 sector employers. At this time, staff seeks direction on the  
2 following items: One presenting awards to boards, AEL grantees,  
3 colleges, and employers as set forth in the workforce awards  
4 overview attachment. Number two, considering extraordinary  
5 circumstances, specifically as related to corrective action when  
6 identifying boards for AEL grantees' eligibility to receive  
7 awards, as outlined in your materials. And number three,  
8 adopting the definition of private-sector employers as included  
9 in your meeting materials. And I'll be happy to answer any  
10 questions that you have.

11 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Any comments or questions?

12 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Joel, thanks for all  
13 the great work that you put into this. I know you've been  
14 working on it for some time, so I appreciate that.

15 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: No, no comments or  
16 questions here.

17 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Is there a motion?

18 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Chairman, I move--and  
19 correct me if I'm wrong Joel, when we do the recommendation here  
20 in the motion--I move that we modify the workforce awards for  
21 2022, as outlined by staff, on the workforce awards overview  
22 attachment, consider extraordinary circumstances, as outlined in  
23 the discussion paper, when identifying a board or AEL grantee  
24 eligibility to receive awards, and use the employer definition

25

1 recommended by staff when considering eligibility for employer  
2 awards. The three [inaudible].

3 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: I second.

4 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's been moved and  
5 seconded. We're unanimous.

6 JOEL MULLINS: Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you. Statewide  
8 initiatives, number 17? No? COVID-19 report, number 18? Item 19,  
9 workforce development board nominations.

10 SHUNTA WILLIAMS: Good morning, Chairman,  
11 commissioners, and Mr. Serna. For the record, Shunta Williams  
12 with the workforce development division. And for your  
13 consideration this morning is workforce board nominations for  
14 three areas: Workforce Solutions Tarrant County, Gulf Coast, and  
15 Middle Rio Grande. Staff recommends that all nominees be  
16 approved, and I'm here to answer any questions you may have.

17 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Any comments or questions?

18 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: None here, Chairman.

19 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: None.

20 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Is there a motion?

21 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: I move that we  
22 approve board nominees for Tarrant County, Gulf Coast, and  
23 Middle Rio Grande.

24 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: I second.

25

1 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's been moved and  
2 seconded. We're unanimous. Thank you. Legislative report?

3 CHRISTOPHER GRUNING: Good morning, Chairman  
4 Daniel, Commissioner Alvarez, Commissioner Demerson, Mr. Serna.  
5 Christopher Gruning, government relations department. We  
6 previously reported on the federal government funding expiring  
7 at midnight on Thursday, this Thursday, September 30. Yesterday,  
8 the U.S. Senate brought up H.R. 5305, the continuing resolution  
9 to fund the federal government from October 1 through December  
10 3, as well as a suspension of the federal debt limit. The  
11 resolution did not receive the necessary votes in the senate to  
12 pass. The U.S. House has announced that they will introduce a  
13 clean CR, which would only include federal government funding if  
14 the Senate is unable to approve that continuing resolution,  
15 House Resolution 5305, by Thursday, to avoid a government  
16 shutdown. As of now, the clean CR has not been introduced. Last  
17 week, it was reported that the U.S. House will take up the \$1  
18 trillion infrastructure package, H.R. 3684, this week. The U.S.  
19 Senate passed the bill in early August. This is the bill that  
20 includes a provision to end the employee retention tax credit  
21 early. This concludes my remarks, and I'm available to take any  
22 questions you may have.

23 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Any comments or questions?

24 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Thanks for the  
25 overview.

1 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: None here.

2 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right, thank you very  
3 much.

4 CHRISTOPHER GRUNING: Thank you.

5 MR. SERNA: There's no executive director  
6 [inaudible].

7 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Is there any order of  
8 business to come before the commission?

9 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Chairman, I would  
10 like to acknowledge a birthday today. Abraham Hussain [SP], who  
11 is our office in the back. We're celebrating, today is his  
12 birthday, so I appreciate what you do. [applause] That's all I  
13 have, Chairman.

14 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Commissioner  
15 Alvarez, you're not gonna sing?

16 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Am I gonna what?

17 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: He wants to know if you're  
18 gonna sing "Happy Birthday."

19 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Not until we get our  
20 uniforms.

21 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Get the megaphones.

22 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: There'll be a delay on  
23 that.

24 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: You can start it off,  
25 sir. You can start it off.



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COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: That's [inaudible].

We're good, we're good.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Let's let him have a happy birthday and us not [inaudible]. Anything else? Is there a motion to adjourn?

COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Chairman, I move that we adjourn.

COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Second.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's been moved and seconded to adjourn. We're adjourned.