WORK SESSION OF THE
TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION

DATE

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Wednesday, November 20, 2024

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Good afternoon, all. This work session is called to order. Mr. Trobman, has anyone signed up for public comment? Is there a legislative report? You have a tie, OK, all right.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Let’s move then to Agenda Item 2, statewide initiative reviews and recommendations. Plainly put, this is obviously it’s a public meeting but our goal here is to just work through some issues related to an outstanding balance in WIOA which is somewhere right around 20-ish million dollars. Is that correct?

CHRIS NELSON: Correct. It’s currently 20.1 million.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: 20.1 million dollars and this is balances in WIOA statewide. I'm assuming this is things we haven't allocated yet plus money that’s come back in off of other allocations.

CHRIS NELSON: Correct. It’s basically three grant years of WIOA funding that is either been approved for projects and we recaptured or like for the current program year that just hasn’t been, nothing’s been approved to expend those funds.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right, so last year, last July, I think it was, we have a very similar work session to this. I thought we made a lot of good progress and had some

really good, really good programs that came forth from the work session. Staff had recommended to me and probably to you too commissioners that it might be a good idea for us to do a similar type of meeting again and I'm in wholehearted agreement. I think we do really good work when we can just get together and talk through the issues. I have some proposals for some specific initiatives that I would like to propose. Obviously, I bet you do too. We can do this a lot of different ways but the way I'd like to do it unless you object is I'd like for us to get all of our ideas on the table then come back around and talk about what money looks like, how much we think it might be, do some things like that. Commissioner Treviño, let me put you on the spot and ask you to start things off and then whatever proposals you want to roll out, comments you want to make, anything that you might want to do, the floor is yours.

COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Thank you. As you know that we had proposed last time the Foster Youth Network. We are waiting for an RFA to come in. So I just kind of wanted to know if staff could give us an update on where that is or when are we going to get the answer on who accepted or got the award grant. Our foster youth conference, we didn't get any interest in it so I'm thinking still in line of foster youth internship so I'd like staff to maybe look into getting something where they could partner with private businesses or transition centers, provide transportation to and from the internship where

the foster youth and maybe possibly use it as a model after Project Search, something where they could have access to internship or different jobs in certain private businesses in the area. Still on the foster youth I know that in talking with Commissioner Mirth [SP] that it's difficult for foster youth to get IDs. If you're in prison they have you there to get IDs, but for foster youth there's a system that they have social workers that are supposed to help them but I think some of them get slipped through the cracks and they have a hard time getting their drivers license, Social Security cards, birth certificates, so if staff can look at ways in maybe partnering with DFPS or DPS or even Social Security Administration to help these foster youth that are going to age out of the system have access or kind of funnel them to ways or different agencies that they can get their identification. Lastly would be the GRACE conference. I know we had a big success on that. We've been having success. I know a lot of people have asked if we're going to have another one. I don't know if we have that funded but I would like to see if TWC can host another GRACE conference this coming-up year and maybe provide feedback on a post-conference survey as well. That's all I have right now.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you very much, commissioner. Commissioner Esparza.

COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: Thanks, chairman. Just on face value I'm definitely open to Commissioner Treviño's

ideas there. Happy to see those are being looked at. I guess what I'm—I've got, again, three ideas, but again, I think they kind of still live in the it depends type of area. In the first round I want to stay away from pilot programs in this round because I think we—as long as I've been at this, a year. We wanted to address specific needs that we knew and we understood. I asked them to put three million to civilian transition as a support program benefiting communities with a large population of veterans transitioning. I know myself and possibly other commissioners were approached about specific needs for this, so this is money that we put towards it. If it's being accessed and that's probably part of kind of the trying to update it. If we put the money out there and it's being used, if more money can be put into the program to support a larger transition need, and specifically parts of the state that are looking at this. So I want to reinforce the military to civilian transition support program. If the money's out there and nobody's taken out of it, I definitely want to know if they just don't need it or what's not being taken care of or if there's a hurdle for them to get access to this funding. I don't think there is. If so, then reinforce that if we can put more money towards that initiative. I did like—Mary, I think there were some ideas that we were into supporting, let's see, the idea of statewide initiatives to develop mobile training labs, meeting with different organizations across the state, even with our local Workforce

Development boards, some of the partners that they have, I've seen a lot of good that's being done to have these mobile labs especially beneficial to rural areas where testing facilities may take, require, two and a half hours to get to and from in rural areas. So we'd like to see some kind of—if that's a procurement or if that's something we post out for people to have, existing or some other program that isn't here in the state of Texas currently. And also, anything that we can develop to continue to explore our Texas Intern Challenge website that has a portal that I think may be stagnant, may be funky, for lack of a technical term. If there is an area where we can—what I would like to see—speaking of Louisiana hunting, I think Louisiana spirit added the ability to have like their hunting license connected to their driver's license so this is like a credential wallet. And I know this has been explored in a lot of different areas that have to continue. I think we're doing something with the Higher Education Coordinating Board with the Tri-Agency to have a library and to usher in that. I'd love to see some kind of connection or technology that runs interns that are getting into the program where some type of credentialing wallet can follow them or a locker, whatever we want to call it, can be implemented into this portal. So between the employers and our interns that want to get access to this to maybe put some money into making this platform more usable, more dynamic, help with connecting interns with employers, but also, more of

those wraparound services that provide interview questions types of stuff that interns can visit and get specific coaching and utilize watching AI, all the fun words that go into that, things I wish I had when I was looking for my first job. Those are my three. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you. Let me expand on your internship concept because I also have a concept relative to internships. I think that we see a couple of things coming out of internships. It's obviously a great way to do career exploration. It's a great way to really see what it is you think you might want to do in the workforce. I think you also gain some really tangible skills that can carry over. But I think the other big benefit of interns, the percentage of people who hire their interns are fairly high. I've hired two of my interns already since I've been here and it is a great way to get to know somebody. You can watch them in real time gaining the skills that they need, and I think that for employers it's an incredible tool as well. I think the strengths of the Challenge website and Texas Interns Unite and some of the other things that we've done. With all respect to you, Commissioner Esparza, and certainly former commissioner, there were some— we've done a lot in this space. I don't think we've done enough in this space. I don't think that we probably scratched the surface and I think since we're looking at a good balance of funds, my proposal would be this. When I look at the success of

our apprenticeship programs, when I look at what we've been able to do relative to—when you look at the unworkability of the Federal Registered Apprenticeship Program in terms of the paperwork and all the things they make people do, the number of employers that use it is a large number of employers. I think that's because TWC really helps coach them through this really lengthy, bulky federal process. That's a real testament to our team for them to be able to get that kind of interest from employers on the Registered Apprenticeship Program. I think we will see similar success on our state-based, industry-based apprenticeship program, and those are equal. I mean, if you want an apprenticeship program, get an apprenticeship program, whether you want it federally registered so you can work off of something else, you want a state-level one, it would give a lot of options for apprenticeship. You can't deny the success of apprenticeships. It's incredible for [inaudible]. It's an incredible program and we move a lot of people, but when we talk about certain other jobs, when we talk about jobs that really aren't craft trades or really aren't specific trade skills that you need, apprenticeships become a lot less useful to people training in those fields. I think internships become the tool that they're going to need. I would really like to see us increase our funding for internships, expand our eligible applications to include the educational institutions that are helping these students get these internships, work with local

businesses or any businesses who are hiring these interns. In other words, increase the stature of our internship programs so that it is in some ways proportional to what we're doing relative to apprenticeships. We can't deny our success in apprenticeships. I think we can learn from the things that we did relative to apprenticeships and take several of those tactics over to internships and see the same kind of success for people at universities whether that's state universities or community colleges, maybe even some other training programs, and really looking at things like what's the salary experience for interns. Is it a paid internship? How does that work? What courses are they getting credit for at school? How do these skills translate into the labor workforce? I wrote—I say I wrote. I had a great team that helped me write some papers here on just some basic thoughts on the expansion of this internship program. This is just a basic outline. Get this to Mary. This particular expansion really just lets us model things we've done in apprenticeship, bank off of things we've already done relative to internships, increase some money. I'm particularly interested in looking at wage supplements. I'm particularly interested in looking at significant and meaningful outreach programs. I'm particularly interested in looking at better outcomes for students. Both my kids graduated in May, one from law school. The law firm she works for today is one of the firms she interned with as a law student. She actually got her first

job because of one of her three or four legal internships. My younger daughter did some pretty incredible internships, one of which was a congressional internship in Washington. She actually got a job offer off of that, didn't want to move back to Washington, can't say that I blame her, lived there five years. I did my time. She would have, I think, gotten that. That internship experience really served for her to understand what she did want to do professionally. She didn't have a lot of options for internships at Texas Tech in the Ag Communications department, which actually is known for its internships and has a lot of internships for students.

COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: Yeah, they're increasing them now.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: They're having a hard time finding companies that want to do the internships in conjunction with the colleges so my sort of idea here, this concept here, is kind of based off some real-life experiences of my youngest daughter and her friends who did internships which would have led to jobs but they didn't have the full range of internships. In other words, she didn't get to do an internship if the subject matter she was actually interested in because they just didn't have a company that wanted to do that, and I think TWC can do an awful lot, whether it's UT or Texas Tech or A&M or UNT, just pick your school, Angelo State, I don't care, even Sam Houston State. We can go in there and really be able to help

those that want to be helped make connections with employers. The boards can help with this. We can really set up a program to do that so I think you see where I'm headed with that. It's really just us expanding our efforts on internships, not just limiting it to a—what's—it's a decent portal, you're right. We need to probably spruce that up but I think we can add some things to that that will really help move this in the right direction. The second thing I really want to talk about today, I'm passionate about those internships but I think the proof is in the pudding on this next one. Our teacher externships I think are more successful than we're probably even talking about. We do talk them up. I think staff's done a good job of really talking through what's going to happen here but I probably would say we're probably not really getting all the juice out of this squeeze that we probably should be. I think we've allocated about 1.3 million for teacher externships. My understanding is so far, we've had about 900 teachers participate or at least in the last round. That somehow translates to some, you know, five-figure number of students that have benefited from this. I believe that too but when I look at all the anecdotal and other data relative to teacher externships, one of the things that I see is that longer externships where they're in there for 10 days, 12 days, 15 days, it's not this three-day, you know, kind of in-and-done kind of thing that their classroom experience really does improve, and the things that they're teaching

students relative to a particular trade—I know of one course down in the Valley, it's construction. I've talked to the teachers. They really did come back, find the applicable TEKS and start teaching new techniques for their construction students because like this is a viable—this is a viable thing people can do for a living. I want my students to learn this, and the school is committed through their CTE program to make sure those students get the requisite certificates that they need and the various licensures so that they can actually start working in construction immediately. I think the schools that have participated in the longer externship programs and the teachers that have stayed committed to that I think are really showing some anecdotal results, enough that I would say TWC should really consider expanding this program, expanding the financing and perhaps even expanding what we expect from these teachers. I'd love to see the longer externship programs. Perhaps that requires some agreement on some summer stipends for teachers to do this. I'd love to see commitments by the school regarding their curriculum and how they'll move forward with the students. So I've captured all those ideas here in this quick little draft. It basically lays out everything I've just said. It's one of those things where I think we're doing something well. We had already moved from pilot to something more on teacher externship but like the internships, like the apprenticeship programs, I think this is where we're making a

meaningful difference and can move the needle on not a couple hundred students but several thousand students by talking to a few hundred teachers. So as we consider through this, I hope we'll consider that. My third idea was, we call them soft skills here. It's workforce readiness tools. I was at a Dallas Independent School District facility on Monday. They have incorporated soft skills into their CTE system. Dallas has four regional CTE campuses for students studying almost all CTE programs. Two things they require of their CTE track students, you have to get a license so you have to take the right number of courses where you can get a license. It helps them satisfy a state requirement. It also makes sense for the student. A real example, in their auto technician course, there are 14 certificates you need to go be an automotive technician. Dallas ISD ensures that students who complete that program have all 14 before they graduate from high school. They're actually ready to go to work as soon as they graduate. But two of the things they require is a course on soft skills for which there are already TEKS written. Schools can implement that immediately. The second thing they make them take a course in either—a full course of study for the entirety of their CTE program in either Spanish or German, reason being they have discovered that the technicians that work on machines that people use are either German or speak Spanish, and so they want them to be able to converse with the people who come in to fix their equipment or folks that are

working at the job site with them. I find that absolutely fascinating. I met one of the Spanish teachers who was from Argentina, and I met one of the German teachers who was from Germany. I met the automotive technician teacher, flight services instructor, construction people, welding, incredible campus. We've been talking about soft skills for some time here. We've been hearing from employers, I have so I know you have, you probably have too, on it's like the number one thing that they think that their young people that are coming into the workforce are really lacking, and it's this thing called soft skills. I asked the assistant superintendent in Dallas to send me the TEKS for that course. He did. I read it. It's all the things we've been talking about here at TWC. So high schools can already do this. High schools are already doing this. I don't think they're doing it in a broad enough way that the employers are seeing what they need to see in the pool that they're hiring from to fill their workforce, and so once again I think this is an opportunity for TWC to fill a role. It's a really good niche for government which is we don't have to distort the whole marketplace in order to make an intervention that speeds things up for the people in the marketplace. Here I'm talking about both employers and job seekers. If we can get at the high school and community college level, if we can put together a good course of study relative to soft skills, I think we can provide a module for both high schools and community colleges to use

that will increase the chances of job seekers filling one of the jobs that employers are desperate to fill. I think this is a good two-for. It's one that really helps us be able to move in and do that quickly. At the same time I think there's some other opportunities in the marketplace so while I think schools are doing a good job and it's an obvious kind of point of entry into this to provide this intervention to make everything more efficient. I think there's some good—they're nonprofit but private sector organizations that have some real good courses of study here as well. Junior Achievement has a really good course of study. The YMCAs are doing work in their afterschool programs relative to this, and I think this would be an opportunity for us to look at this two ways. I think one way we can look at this is making monies available to public school institutions, probably ISDs, community colleges, probably specific campuses, maybe educational service centers if that makes sense. I think it's a good avenue for school-based soft skills training but I also think there's another real opportunity for us here to do some type of application process where these verified third parties, if we like their curricula, if we like the way they're working with students, perhaps they're even working with students in some partnership with a local school district, I'd like for us to really look at a way to fund those types of enterprises as well because I think it gives us a second bite of the apple. So if they're not going to get it at school, they can

get it after school. Maybe they can get that kind of training at school and then get a really good refresher course after school or in the summer. What I've discovered is, you know, it's like not everybody had the benefit of my mom who made us straighten up and fly right. My mom, she's busy, she can't get around to all the schools in the state and teach this course so I think we're going to have to get something local, something where businesses can be involved, something where employers can help determine this curriculum and then schools can do what schools are really good at which is teaching students. Those three are kind of the main things. Workforce staff had circulated a couple other ideas to kind of kick this conversation off. There was a couple of those I liked. I guess not enough to like put them on my priority list but I think they're more complicated and I think they deserve a little bit more attention. One of the things I had jotted down is I think the Upskill Texas program has been working. I think if we wanted to increase funds to the Upskill Texas program, I think that would be warranted at this point. I think we all know what the Upskill Texas program is and we can see how efficiently they've spent the money and what we're getting for that so I think that's not a bad investment. And then we're hearing a lot about water/wastewater training and the need for technicians in the water/wastewater space. I'm probably not in favor of it if we just do water/wastewater. I think there's some other things we should combine with that that

are also kind of sometimes public sector, sometimes private sector jobs. I think emergency medical technician would fall into this category where communities, whether it's a volunteer fire department, volunteer ambulance service or a paid service, private, public, it occurs a lot of different ways. Like water/wastewater infrastructure, this type of emergency medical technician infrastructure is the kind of thing that you don't want to find out you don't have enough of at the moment you find out you don't have enough of it, you know? When I miss the last step on my deer stand and tumble all the way to the ground and need a ride to the emergency room, I don't want to find out there wasn't anybody to come. That's not the time for that. And I don't want to find out there wasn't any water to wash that wound a little bit before I got there. It's the kind of things I think about. It's a rural issue but I think it's also an issue in any rapidly growing community where they just don't have enough of these kinds of technicians so to me it's just not—it didn't seem right to me at this point but I don't want to lose this idea. I think this notion of hard-to-fill infrastructure kind of positions like water/wastewater technician, EMT, there may be others, I'm sure there's others, I think we just might want to think through that just a little bit more. There's more but I think that's probably enough for today. Let's circle back around on these and think about funding. We can do this a couple ways. We can sit here today and try to divvy up to 20 million

dollars or we can use a time-honored TWC tradition and that's where we kind of punt just a little bit and ask staff to go do the math for us and then bring it back to us.

COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: That's what I would do.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Well, that seems to be a popular position. I think that's fair because they can try to understand what the costs are, what the push-pull is between what we're trying to do here, understanding, guys, if there's tiebreakers, we're going to have to be the tiebreakers.

COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: Of course. I thought you were going to say arm wrestle with like the staff.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: I've been training. I've been training just in case we did that. I certainly don't mind doing that. I've laid out my three. It looks like Commissioner Treviño, I had three or four for you depending on how we approach that out.

COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: I think the first one was just like the information about the Foster Youth Network just to see where that was but I think my first one would have been the foster youth internships kind of like with Commissioner Esparza, you had said on internships, maybe they can be combined.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It sounds like they can be.

COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: And then just the other one was looking at staff to get ways for IDs for foster youth, and then again, the GRACE conference, and again staff can look at that and come up with how much funds they think they need for that, and we can arm wrestle for that later if you want.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Yeah, I actually, yeah. I think that's the way I had it unless you have a different opinion.

COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: No, I appreciate it. We're definitely aligned on the internship now that I've kind of seen how, like I said, a year works in here. We're going to be stepping up our initiatives for conferences, our intern conferences, and more align them with our conference for employers. We're probably not going to be able to do 16 or 18 like we did TCEs but if we were in areas that we can prioritize an internship conference prior to an employer conference, we're going to try to execute that and make good of our travel out to those areas. On top of that, the mobile labs and then TBD on what's being used with the veteran money right now, and that's it.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: I did have a question for you but I was going to ask it before we got out of here. So we'll let staff assemble this, combine these ideas where it makes sense to combine them. We assign a dollar value to it.

This will come back for our review and action in an upcoming meeting, probably not—Mr. Trobman, probably not another work session, probably we can just slide this into any regularly scheduled commission meeting that's appropriate. I do have a question for you though about mobile training labs. So I am concerned and I would not like to see us invest in third party kind of existing things.

COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: OK.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: If we have a choice and what I mean by that is this. If we're thinking to ourselves that we want to empower one or all of our Workforce boards to build some sort of mobile training facility, a mobile office facility, a mobile job counseling facility, whatever it is, and we think that's important, I think there's some reasons for that. I know of a couple of third-party kind of national deals that are going around the state trying to solicit dollars for their program. TWC is going to get almost no use out of that. TWC is not going to get any kind of training use out of that. The ones I've seen seem to be just simply awareness kinds of operations. I would not like to see us just funding some third party's operations so they can do what they were going to do anyway. I think then this business of industry does fund a lot of those. I think everybody's always looking for government money but if your concept is now we need like mobile labs that boards can take

around, we can go to a community, maybe do a course. We can go to a community and maybe do one-stop kind of stuff, yeah.

COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: I think if we maybe canvass what boards are doing already, if that was one thing. If there was any help in the system then to any boards that it would fit. Is this one-time dollars, I guess it would be, right? These are—this is discretionary funds.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Well, it's one-time dollars until it turns out to be a really good idea.

COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: OK.

COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: I think the mobile issue, most of the boards that can afford it are doing it. I know Alamo has got one but they're using it—

COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: Corpus has one.

COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Corpus has one because I had asked when the hurricane season hit who had mobile labs to help with displacement workers, and the ones that can afford it do.

COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: OK.

COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: The rural boards that need mobile labs, they don't have the infrastructure because they need a driver.

COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: Yeah.

COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: They need them certified but they're using libraries, city government buildings

that have internet access to put a computer where they can get access, people can get access to TWC stuff so I think the rural areas are already doing it so I didn't really even see that. I think it would be more of a problem if we got involved with the mobile labs. [Inaudible] going to be rough.

COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: Sounds good.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right, anything else? I've got a couple more things I just wanted to bring up but I'll give you guys, Commissioner Treviño, any—?

COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Are we going to talk about the ones we really don't like on [inaudible]?

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: You can talk about them, go right ahead.

COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: I mean like what I said about the mobile labs would be the only one. I wasn't sure or I didn't really understand the micro credentialing soft skills. I understand the soft skills aspect of it but I don't really agree with the micro credentialing.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: I agree with you on the disagreement on micro credentialing. The way I read that I think staff was looking at ways for students to be able to demonstrate that they had soft skills once they entered the workforce. I think there's some other ways to do that. I don't think you and I are very far apart on our feelings on micro credentialing.

COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Right.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: I am kind of leaving space in my mind if we find out that schools aren't able to give them some type of adequate proof that they've got it. We may want to look around on that a little bit but I don't—we've not really been in the credentialing process. I'm not exactly sure I want to jump in at this moment. Other concerns?

COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: I think that was it. Investing in the future of Workforce boards. I didn't really understand how that was going to work so I wonder if staff could do a further brief. It seems like they want to do a cohort for Workforce board staff to get trained, and then how are they going to—are they going to be statewide and then go to different areas. I just kind of wanted to know background on that because what I was reading here and what I looked at, there were a lot of questions about turnover too if you have somebody in a cohort and then they don't want to go to a certain area. That one just also didn't kind of make sense to me.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: I've got it on my list of concerns.

COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: All right. That's all I've got.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Commissioner Esparza, other comments?

COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: No comments here.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right. A few last thoughts then. I am asking, I am requesting staff to look into some kind of legitimate alternative for WorkInTexas. We need a good product mostly for state agencies to use. Obviously, we're going to make some amendments to the state application for a couple different reasons. We've been talking about the lack of both efficacy and efficiency for WorkInTexas for quite some time now and I think we really need to start looking at options. My request is we look into those options and come back to the commission with recommendations at such time that you've been able to investigate all those thoroughly. Secondly, at the appropriate time and that may not be soon but I would like to do a top-to-bottom in-depth evaluation of all of our programs funded with both WIOA and TANF, look at how they're performing, have a solid discussion on the performance of those programs, understand those that need funding increases, understand those that need funding decreases, and if we need to make some tough decisions about merging some programs or eliminating some programs, we need to do that. I'd like to have a work session at some appropriate point to go through all of these WIOA and TANF programs and have an honest and very informed discussion on how we want to proceed with all of these and look at our total body of work at TWC relative to these and how those are performing out in the state. A third thing, just looking for some kind of briefing on the MyTXCareer app, how that's being used by our

education outreach specialists in their work, particularly with high school seniors who are entering the job market and how that particular tool is being used as a way to help students do more career exploration but we can do that as a briefing. I don't think that needs to be in a commission. All right. Last chance for comments.

COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: I agree [inaudible].

COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: Yeah, fully support. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Anything else for us today?

CHRIS NELSON: Chairman, just a follow-up on Commissioner Esparza's comment about whether this is one-time money, just to give you background on how the funding actually works. So for WIOA adult dislocated youth, we get a federal grant every year. The grants last three years. For adult and youth, 85 percent has to go to the boards through the allocation process. Fifteen percent stays at the state level which five percent goes to state admin which is basically kind of us in the room, and then 10 percent usually goes to statewide activities. Every year you develop a budget and come up with a plan to spend most of that so this 20 million that we're talking about specifically to your question, it's a mix of both. Some of it is recurring money that you'll have a chance to speak at in the future and then some of it is funds that are at the third year

of life that we need to spend by July so you can almost think that it's one-time money so it is a mix of both.

COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: OK. I did have one question that you brought up since we can. Would it be July that this money has to be obligated by?

CHRIS NELSON: No. So our current—if you look at how much we spend on any given month and project that out through the end of June when the oldest grant will expire, we probably need—of this 20 million we probably need at least three million of expenditures by June 30th to fully spend the oldest pot of money but not all 20 million.

COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: No questions.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: The only pressure is on the finance staff who has to figure out what category that we put everything in. I mean right at the end of the fiscal year, that's why Chris is always grumpy.

MARY YORK: Mr. Chairman, commissioners, I heard a couple of requests for status updates on the Foster Youth Network, on transitioning our military service members so we will provide briefings to all three offices on the status of those items. That's the next update as well as to the point, Commissioner Esparza, if we would recommend additional funding for that particular item.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right. Mr. Trobman, I've got all my boxes checked. All right. One last thing and

I'm—this next part is possibly the most important part of this whole meeting. Our staff, whether it be workforce division, finance, any of the other divisions, our staff work on meetings like this one, discussions like this one, our overall discussion on spending priorities, budgetary decisions that we have to make as commissioners, our staff work on this is as good as I've ever seen it at TWC. I'm very proud to be able to work with these folks. We get good information. We get it timely. We get the hard facts that we need to know. We get it in an unbiased kind of way so I just want to—while I'm still on the record I just want—I definitely want this on the record. Staff, thank you for doing the kind of work that you're doing, to get us the kind of documents that we need for us to make the kinds of decisions that we're asked to make. This is not always an easy job. These two guys just make it look real easy, and it's because we get the kind of backup documentation that leads to that. We're not always going to agree with you. I'm not always going to agree with you but I am just in the little over five years that I've been here, the documents that I'm working from are quality documents. I'm able to make really good decisions and I appreciate the work that goes into that because I know it doesn't just happen in one lump.

COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: I agree.

COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right, is there is a motion to adjourn?

COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: I move to adjourn.

COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: I second.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It’s been moved and seconded to adjourn. That vote is unanimous and we’re adjourned.