



MEETING OF THE
TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION

DATE

JANUARY 28, 2026

1 Wednesday, January 28, 2026

2 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Ok, it's 10:00. Good
3 morning, everyone. This meeting is called to order. Mr. Trobman,
4 has anybody signed up for public comment?

5 MR. TROBMAN: Good morning, commissioners.
6 Les Trobman, general counsel. We do have one individual
7 registered for public comment this morning. We have Ketra
8 Hunter. Ms. Hunter, if you could unmute yourself and then begin.

9 KETRA HUNTER: Hi. My name is Ketra Hunter.
10 How's everyone doing?

11 MR. TROBMAN: Great. Go ahead, proceed.

12 KETRA HUNTER: So, I just wanted—I know I
13 was given the chance to speak about why I was, uh, late calling
14 in for my initial, uh, meeting with unemployment, and it's, I've
15 already submitted the paperwork. It's really when I was sent the
16 paperwork my daughter was having a medical emergency. She was
17 back and forth to the doctor several times and she had to have
18 an emergency procedure and then three days after that my mother
19 was also, had to have, not emergency but my mother had surgery
20 and I, I was just—when I received the paper from, uh,
21 unemployment I just noticed the time and the date and that was
22 really about it. Like I said, I was just going through—my
23 daughter and my mother were just going through some medical
24 issues and by the time I recognized my, uh, my mistake, I did
25 put, I believe I put in a good-faith, uh, attempt to call

1 because if you check I called in at 11:01. I was a few minutes
2 late calling in but I do not feel like that should be why my
3 unemployment has been stopped.

4 MR. TROBMAN: OK, thank you, Ms. Hunter.
5 Appreciate that. Uh, commissioners, that's what we have for
6 public comment this morning.

7 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Very good, uh, I'll now
8 turn over the meeting to Commissioner Connett to preside over
9 Agenda Items 3 through 8. Commissioner Connett.

10 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: The motion passes
11 with the exceptions noted, and that concludes our business on
12 Agenda Items 3 through 8. Chairman Esparza, I turn the meeting
13 back over to you.

14 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Thank you, Commissioner
15 Connett. Uh, we will pause for the shuffle, and, uh, thank you
16 very much [inaudible].

17 MS. MILLER: Thank you, commissioners.

18 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: OK, let's restart with
19 Item 9 regarding recertification of community rehabilitation
20 programs. Mr. Garcia.

21 JUAN GARCIA: Good morning, uh,
22 commissioners, Mr., uh, Townsend, oh, Chris, I'm sorry. I
23 thought Randy was here. Uh, Juan Garcia with the Voc Rehab
24 Division. This morning for your, uh, consideration and, and
25 approval, we have four CRPs that are applying for

1 recertification to continue participating in the, uh, Purchasing
2 from People with Disabilities program. The CRPs are as follows:
3 Uh, Texas Alcoholism Foundation or otherwise known as Texas
4 House, uh, out of Houston; the San Antonio State Supported
5 Living Center in San Antonio; the Lufkin State Supported Living
6 Center in Lufkin; and the Corpus Christi State Supported Living
7 Center in Corpus Christi. Uh, staff recommends the, uh,
8 recertification of the four CRPs as presented in the, uh,
9 discussion paper. With that I can answer any questions you might
10 have.

11 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Thank you, Juan. Uh,
12 commissioners, anything, comments or questions?

13 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Uh, none here.

14 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: Uh, [inaudible],
15 Chairman, I'd just like to thank Mr. Garcia for the work you and
16 your office have done in, in preparing this and getting it, uh,
17 to the commission for our ultimate approval. Thanks as well, I
18 had a number of questions in advance of this meeting and you
19 were very responsive and helpful with those so thank you.

20 JUAN GARCIA: All right, thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Thank you, Juan. Uh, is
22 there any, any, uh, do I have a motion?

23 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Uh, Chairman, I move
24 that we approve the certifications and recertifications of the
25 following community rehabilitation programs for participation in

1 the Purchasing from People with Disabilities program as
2 recommended today by staff: the recertification of Texas
3 Alcoholism Foundation; San Antonio State Supported Living
4 Center; Lufkin State Supported Living Center; and Corpus Christi
5 State Supported Living Center.

6 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: I second the motion.

7 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: I'll vote, I also vote
8 yes. The motion passes. Thank you, Mr. Garcia.

9 JUAN GARCIA: Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Reed, come on up. Uh, the
11 Item 10 regarding public, publication for public comment of
12 proposed amendments to the Texas Industry-Recognized
13 Apprenticeship Program [inaudible]. Hey, Reed.

14 REED O'BRIEN: Yes, uh, good, good morning,
15 Chairman Esparza, and Commissioner Treviño, and Commissioner
16 Connett, and Mr. Nelson. For the record, I'm Reed O'Brien with
17 the Office of General Counsel. Commissioners, before you today
18 for your consideration for approval are proposed rule amendments
19 to Chapter 838, Texas Industry-Recognized Apprenticeship Grant
20 Program. The proposed rule changes will implement House Bill
21 3260 passed by the 89th Texas Legislature, and that bill amended
22 Chapter 302 of the Texas Labor Code to allow TWC to issue
23 reimbursement payments to eligible grant recipients as program
24 participants achieve on-the-job training and employment
25 milestones instead of after they have completed the program. The

1 legislation also requires the commission to adopt rules
2 establishing a process for and criteria by which TWC recognizes
3 apprentice-able occupations and certifies training programs and
4 for setting performance metrics and making aggregated
5 performance data available via the agency's website. Staff
6 recommends submitting the proposed rule for publication in the
7 Texas Register for a 30-day public comment period, and staff
8 also requests the ability to make minor nonsubstantive changes
9 to comply with the Texas Register and the Office of the
10 Secretary of State's publication requirements. And that
11 concludes my presentation. I'm available for any questions.

12 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Thank you, Reed. Uh,
13 commissioners, any comments or questions?

14 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Uh, nothing here.

15 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: No, none here. Thank
16 you.

17 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Reed, I have, I have, uh,
18 some remarks and, uh, some questions but, uh, again, I, I think,
19 appreciate this and everything that we're doing to push this
20 program. Uh, I know that the legislature had, uh, uh, we worked
21 with the legislature to, to, to, to get it more access. I, in
22 the effort to make this more accessible and more agile, uh, for
23 the TIRA grant, uh, my question is specifically if we have a
24 process for certifying and recognizing, uh, occupations that are
25 not on the state's top 25 targeted occupation lists or the DOL's

1 registered occupations list, I know that, uh, TIRA is limited to
2 that top 25 list, is there any process for, for certifying, uh,
3 occupations outside of those two lists?

4 REED O'BRIEN: All right. Chairman, I'm
5 going to have to defer to the Workforce Development Division to
6 respond to that question. Uh, Mary York is coming up.

7 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Thank you, Reed.

8 MARY YORK: Good morning, commissioners.
9 Mary, for the record, Mary York with the Workforce Development
10 Division. Uh, so, Mr. Chairman, if I could, uh, I'm going to
11 restate the question and make sure I understand. Uh, are you
12 seeking greater clarity in terms of what occupations would
13 potentially be included for the TIRA program beyond those that
14 are available through the, the DOL-registered apprenticeship
15 list?

16 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Yes, ma'am. The, uh, the,
17 our ability to, to, our ability to certify, uh, occupations not
18 provided on those two, [inaudible] the top 25 lists and also
19 the, the DOL's registered occupation list, if we have a process
20 to access those, those, uh, occupations.

21 MARY YORK: So I believe that we, under the
22 new rules, we will be evaluating occupations to see if they meet
23 the, the, uh, the requirements of an apprenticeship so there are
24 some, some basic requirements that are laid out in the rule
25 before you in terms of, uh, it including, you know, obviously

1 on-the-job training which is, uh, a key part of an
2 apprenticeship, uh, you know, instruction, uh, you know, all of
3 the things that are leading to a recognized, uh, license or
4 credential. Uh, so we will go through a process to ensure that,
5 uh, an occupation or the training program meets those
6 requirements for an apprentice-able occupation. The, the other,
7 the other lists are sort of the foundation, uh, maybe the
8 starting point so to speak. Uh, the rules also contemplate a
9 guide, uh, where there will be, uh, the, the additional
10 information on processes that applicants might take in order to
11 seek a TIRA grant as well as the occupations that would be
12 included, uh.

13 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: OK.

14 MARY YORK: Uh, and I think, uh, it, it is
15 something that we would be consulting with the commission on as
16 we add additional occupations to the list.

17 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: OK. Uh, the, so
18 mechanically if we go forward with a motion to approve the
19 amendments, would we still be able to work and talk about
20 getting access to that?

21 MARY YORK: Yes, sir.

22 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: As, as, as—

23 MARY YORK: Absolutely.

24 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: OK.

25

1 MARY YORK: And just as a reminder for it,
2 for anybody observing the meeting today, this is really just the
3 first stage of the rulemaking process. Uh, these rules will now
4 be posted for public comment, uh, and we anticipate receiving
5 public comment from industry which is fantastic. So as we
6 receive that comment and, and take that into consideration,
7 we'll also be coming back to the commission, you know, and
8 reporting back on that as well. So we may receive industry
9 comment that also helps guide additional, uh, clarity in terms
10 of the occupation.

11 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: OK. So I know that the,
12 the discussion on the, the, our IBC Advisory comm, committees is
13 to, to, to help get this or help get, uh, help get access to,
14 to, to emerging occupations and so that we can make it a little
15 bit more agile. Uh, is there any way that we would be able to,
16 uh, to include, to include in the proposed rules, in those
17 rules, the process for evaluating new occupations or-

18 MARY YORK: We can certainly, uh, do that.

19 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: OK.

20 MARY YORK: We can provide a little bit more
21 clarity. Uh, we, we would in the interest of serving industry,
22 we would like to get the rules out for public comment sooner
23 rather than later so-

24 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: OK.

25

1 MARY YORK: I would need to confer with,
2 with Reed and the rest of the rulemaking team to determine, uh,
3 you know, how long that might take in terms of the process of,
4 of adding any additional information into the current document.
5 The other thing I might note is, uh, one of the reasons that we
6 wanted that process included in the guide was, uh, if we
7 determine that we need to modify the process in any way, that
8 the commission feels like we need to, you know, make some
9 changes, we would prefer not to go through the full rulemaking
10 cycle which obviously can take several, uh, several months so-

11 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: OK.

12 MARY YORK: Uh, we were hoping that we could
13 be a little bit more nimble and responsive to industry by, by
14 having that process outlined in, in the publicly available
15 guide.

16 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: OK. Is it, uh, is it
17 massively detrimental if we hold this for next week so that we
18 can kind of-

19 MARY YORK: I don't think so, sir.

20 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Get clarity on putting it
21 in.

22 MARY YORK: No, I think that we can hold it
23 for one week.

24 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Do I, do I need to make a
25 motion to do that just or do we hold?

1 LES TROBMAN: [Inaudible].

2 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: OK. Commissioners, if you
3 may, I, I'd like to move to postpone this, uh, this item to next
4 week so that we can look at, uh, what we talked about and try to
5 get access to, to, to off-the-list occupations.

6 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: OK, I'll second.

7 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: Yeah, I'll vote yes
8 on that motion. Thanks, thank you, Mary.

9 MARY YORK: Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: OK. Thank you. Uh, the
11 motion is, uh, the motion passes. Reed, thank you very much.
12 Appreciate it.

13 REED O'BRIEN: Yes, sir. Thank you, and I've
14 got the next one as well.

15 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Yes, you hang out there.
16 Thanks, Mary. She left. Uh, Item 11 regarding publication for
17 public comment on Chapter 858, Procurement and Contract
18 Management Requirements for Purchase of Goods and Services for
19 Vocational Rehabilitation Services. Reed.

20 REED O'BRIEN: All right, Chairman,
21 commissioners, and, uh, Mr. Nelson. Again for the record, I'm
22 Reed O'Brien with the Office of General Counsel. Commissioners,
23 before you today for your consideration for approval are
24 proposed rule amendments to Chapter 858, Procurement and
25 Contract Management Requirements for Purchase of Goods and

1 Services for Vocational Rehabilitation Services. The proposed
2 rule changes will implement House Bill 2791 passed by the 89th
3 Texas Legislature. The bill amended Chapter 352 of the Texas
4 Labor Code to provide TWC direct and explicit statutory
5 authority to procure goods and services for the vocational
6 rehab, rehabilitation program including the continued use of the
7 open enrollment solicitations and a new authority for direct
8 negotiation with qualified vendors. Staff recommends submitting
9 the proposed rule for publication in the Texas Register for a
10 30-day public comment and staff also requests the ability to
11 make minor nonsubstantive changes to the document to comply with
12 the Texas Register and the Office of the Secretary of State's
13 publication requirements. And, uh, that concludes my
14 presentation. I'm available for any questions.

15 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Thank you, Reed.
16 Commissioners, any comments or questions?

17 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Uh, none here.

18 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: No, none, thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: No questions from me.

20 Thank you. Is there a motion?

21 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Uh, Chairman, I move
22 that we approve the proposed amendments to 40 Texas
23 Administrative Code Chapter 858, Procurement and Contract
24 Management Requirements for Purchase of Goods and Services for
25

1 Vocational Rehabilitation Services for publication for public
2 comment as recommended today by staff.

3 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: Second.

4 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: I also vote yes. The
5 motion passes. Thank you, Reed.

6 REED O'BRIEN: Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: You may now depart. Uh,
8 Item 12 regarding AEL annual report.

9 MAHALIA BALDINI: Good morning, Chairman
10 Esparza, Commissioner Treviño, Commissioner Connett, and Mr.
11 Nelson. Uh, for the record, Mahalia Baldini, Workforce
12 Development Division. Texas Labor Code 315.005 requires that the
13 Texas Workforce Commission establish an Adult Education Advisory
14 Committee which is charged with reporting to the commission
15 annually and advising the commission on various aspects related
16 to the enhancement of adult education in Texas. I want to take a
17 moment to thank all of our advisory committee members for their
18 contributions over the last year that led to today's report. Uh,
19 I especially want to thank Jauneen Maldonado who served as our
20 presiding officer over the last two years and who was supposed
21 to actually present with me today, uh, but due to the weather
22 event and some scheduling conflicts, she was unable to join me.
23 Uh, over the past year our advisory committee has focused its
24 work on shaping the development of our new AEL strategic plan
25 which will come before the commission later this summer. This

1 year's report outlines the work of the committee to ensure that
2 our plan considers the landscape of workforce and economic
3 development in our state and the agency's commitment to having a
4 literate Texas. At this time I'm going to read some remarks, uh,
5 from our advisory committee, uh, for the commissioners. As
6 outlined in your notebook materials, the Adult Education, uh,
7 and Literacy Advisory Committee convened four virtual meetings
8 this year to advance strategies that enhance program
9 effectiveness and align the Texas Workforce Commission's
10 mission. The report identifies the major focus for this year was
11 to develop our new AEL strategic plan for fiscal years 2027
12 through 2031. The updated plan centers on three system
13 strategies, learners, employers, and partners each with, uh,
14 defined strategies, objectives, and measurable benchmarks to
15 ensure that accountability and quality improvement are at the
16 forefront. While all three areas share common objectives, the
17 action items will be tailored to specific needs and priorities
18 for each of these system strategies. Additionally, the
19 indicators and benchmarks will also be developed uniquely for
20 each area. Key initiatives discussed throughout the year
21 include, uh, the implementation of quantitative metrics and
22 creating a public-facing dashboard to track progress and promote
23 transparency. The committee also learned about a resource, the
24 Career Pathways Professional Development Center's Employer
25 Connect Hub. This is designed to promote AEL services,

1 strengthen partnerships and align workforce training with
2 industry needs. Uh, this employer connect hub was actually a
3 recommendation by the committee from last year, uh, so it's
4 showing that we are as an agency being responsive to the
5 committee's recommendations, uh, so we have launched that. And
6 the strategic plan is currently in the final stages and is
7 scheduled for completion by August of 2026. These initiatives
8 aim to improve learner outcomes, foster collaboration, and
9 ensure AEL programs meet Texas employer needs. Uh, that
10 concludes my remarks about the report and I'm happy to answer
11 any questions that you may have.

12 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Very good. Thank you very
13 much. Uh, commissioners, any comments or questions?

14 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: No, just thank you,
15 Mahalia, for all you do and for the committee. Great work.

16 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: Yeah, good. Chairman,
17 just a comment. Mahalia, I want to second your thanks for the
18 members of this advisory committee. The work of the agency and
19 the commission is much stronger, much more thoughtful, and, and
20 better for, for the Texans we serve thanks to their dedication
21 of time and energy effort and expertise so really appreciate all
22 that they do. Uh, also want to thank you and Mary. I had a
23 number of questions in the runup to this meeting about the, the
24 committee, its work, and AEL generally as you recall including
25 questions about accountability and quality. You all were very

1 prompt in response in answering those so I thank you for your,
2 your subject matter expertise and professionalism. Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Thank you, Mahalia. Uh,
4 no questions on this. Thank you for the presentation.

5 MAHALIA BALDINI: Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: [Inaudible]. Item 13
7 regarding approval of [inaudible] local workforce development
8 board nominees.

9 KARA LEVY: Good morning, Chairman,
10 commissioners, and Mr. Nelson. For the record, Kara Levy with
11 Workforce Development Division. Today for your consideration we
12 have Workforce Board nominations for the following boards:
13 Workshop Solutions Greater Dallas; and Workforce Solutions
14 Southeast Texas. Staff present these nominations for your
15 consideration. I'm happy to answer any questions you have.

16 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Very good. Uh,
17 commissioners, any comments or questions?

18 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Uh, nothing here.

19 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: No, none.

20 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Is there a motion?

21 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Chairman, I move that
22 we approve the local Workforce Development Board member nominees
23 presented today for Workforce Solutions Greater Dallas and
24 Southeast Texas.

25

1 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: And I second the
2 motion.

3 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: I also vote yes. The
4 motion passes. Thanks, Kara.

5 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Uh, Item 14 regarding
6 acceptance of pledges for board contract years, uh, and child
7 care matching funds.

8 STEVEN SAGER: Good afternoon, Chair,
9 commissioners, Mr. Nelson. For the record, sorry about that,
10 Steven Sager, Workforce Development Division. In accordance with
11 federal regulations and TWC Chapter 809, Child Care Services,
12 rule, TWC encourages local Workforce Boards to secure and submit
13 local matching funds to TWC in order to receive a portion of
14 CCDF funding. Today we bring our second round of BCY 26 match
15 agreements for commission approval. The supporting documents
16 will include 45 BCY 2026 match agreements from 13 boards:
17 Central Texas; Concho Valley; Golden Crescent; Greater Dallas;
18 Gulf Coast; Lower Rio Grande Valley; Panhandle; Permian Basin;
19 South Plains; South Texas; Southeast Texas; Tarrant County; and
20 West Central Texas totaling \$12,824,555. Boards have secured
21 43.35 percent of the statewide child care local match for BCY
22 26. I'm happy to answer any questions.

23 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Thanks, Steven.
24 Commissioners, any comments or questions?

25 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Uh, nothing here.

1 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: None here. Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Is there a motion?

3 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Chairman, I move that
4 we approve the acceptance of child care pledges for donations,
5 transfers, and certifications of expenses for board contract
6 year 2026 in the amount \$12,824,555 as recommended today by
7 staff.

8 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: And I second that
9 motion.

10 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: I also vote yes. The
11 motion passes. Thank you very much. [Inaudible].

12 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Move on to reports. Uh,
13 Michael, is there a lege report? Come on up.

14 MICHAEL BRITT: Good morning, Mr. Chairman,
15 commissioners, Mr. Nelson. For the record, Michael Britt,
16 Governmental Relations. Last week the U.S. House passed HR7148,
17 the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2026. This bill included,
18 includes funding for the remainder of fiscal year 2026 for the
19 Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education,
20 the Department of Defense, and Departments of Transportation and
21 Housing and Urban Development. This bill was combined with
22 several other appropriation titles, uh, also passed by the U.S.
23 House last week, and those were all sent to the U.S. Senate for
24 their action. Currently the U.S. Senate is scheduled to take a
25 procedural vote on this combined, uh, appropriations package

1 tomorrow, uh, for their consideration. Just as a reminder, uh,
2 current government, federal government funding expires at
3 midnight this Friday, uh, January 30th. If the Senate were to
4 make any changes to, uh, the appropriations package before them,
5 it will need to go back before the U.S. House for their
6 consideration, and as of right now the U.S. House is currently
7 in recess this week and is, and is currently scheduled to
8 reconvene on Monday so be keeping your offices up to date as
9 this package moves through the Senate, uh, the rest of this
10 week. That concludes my remarks. I'm happy to answer any
11 questions that you have.

12 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Thank you, Michael.
13 Commissioners, any comments or questions?

14 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Uh, nothing here.

15 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: No, nothing here.

16 Thanks for keeping a close eye on that.

17 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Yep, appreciate it. Thank
18 you, Michael.

19 MICHAEL BRITT: Thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Chris, we got anything
21 for Item 19?

22 CHRIS NELSON: We do. Good morning,
23 Chairman, commissioners. Uh, for the record, Chris Nelson
24 sitting in for Randy Townsend. Uh, we have a few updates this
25

1 morning for you. First off, Mary York is going to give an update
2 on the state of Texas application.

3 MARY YORK: Good morning again, Mr.
4 Chairman, uh, Commissioner Treviño, and Commissioner Connett and
5 Mr. Nelson. This weekend TWC rolled out a new version of the
6 state of Texas application on our workintexas.com job matching
7 site. So previously Texans applying for state jobs were required
8 to complete a lengthy form that included fields such as typing
9 speed and skill with office equipment. They were asked to
10 complete their education and employment history for the
11 application, often having to copy it off of an external résumé.
12 With the change this week we have streamlined the process to
13 remove outdated questions and are now requiring a résumé instead
14 of asking for that information on our own form. If an applicant
15 does not have a current résumé, the workintexas system offers
16 the option to create a résumé using a résumé wizard or using an
17 artificial intelligence-powered résumé builder. Our fellow state
18 agencies have received information on this update over the last
19 few months and many have expressed their appreciation for the
20 change. In 2025 there were approximately 88,000 applications
21 submitted for state jobs in workintexas and we believe that the
22 new process will make applying for state positions simpler and
23 help state agencies provide a hiring experience more comparable
24 to that of private employers which will hopefully increase that
25 number of applications even more. Uh, I'd like to acknowledge

1 the hard work of the team who worked on this project, uh,
2 including the staff and leadership in Workforce Automation, uh,
3 Information Technology, and Human Resources as well as our
4 partners in those other state agencies who gave us feedback
5 during the process on what was important to them. So between all
6 of the requirements, working with the vendor, communicating with
7 stakeholders, all of that was definitely a team effort and, uh,
8 I think that they did, they deserve, uh, some accolades. So with
9 that I am, uh, happy to answer any questions you may have.

10 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Commissioners, any
11 comments or questions?

12 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Uh, nothing but just
13 agree with you, Mary, if you could pass on accolades to the
14 staff and the team that worked hard on this.

15 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: Yeah, it's to second
16 that great work by you and the team, Mary. I don't mind stating
17 for the record that I don't know my typing speed and my
18 proficiency with a fax machine is probably mixed at best so this
19 modernization and simplification is very exciting. Thanks,
20 thanks for presenting it.

21 MARY YORK: Great.

22 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Thank you. Mary, just one
23 question. Uh, anybody that's current job seekers that are
24 currently involved in the process, are they, are they going to
25 have, are they up, updating their application or do, is it

1 mandatory that they fill out another application to get into the
2 system to, to update it?

3 MARY YORK: So, uh, there are a couple of
4 pieces of good news there. So obviously if they've already
5 applied for a job, then that application was already transmitted
6 to the state agency--

7 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: OK.

8 MARY YORK: To which they implied, they
9 applied. If they're applying for a new state job, uh, then they
10 will need to fill out a new application. However, one of the
11 things that we have programmed into the new format is it
12 prepopulates many of those fields for you.

13 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Right.

14 MARY YORK: So they, since they have already
15 applied for other state jobs, they would have completed their
16 user profile.

17 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Sure.

18 MARY YORK: And that includes things like
19 name and, uh, you know, contact information, things like that so
20 that's going to prepopulate in the system and all they're doing
21 is confirming. You know, it's really as simple as hitting a
22 button and just confirming the fields that are already in there.

23 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: OK.

24

25

1 MARY YORK: And then uploading that résumé
2 and again, uh, there are some AI tools that are available to
3 them if for some reason they don't have a résumé.

4 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: OK, great. Yep. Uh, I
5 join my commissioners in saying thank you all to all the hard
6 work that you guys are doing to, to improve our systems so,
7 Mary, thank you very much.

8 CHRIS NELSON: A couple other updates for
9 you. Uh, in coordination with Health and Human Services, we are
10 on track to submit the first report to the governor's office
11 regarding the child care program this weekend, this week as
12 required. Uh, and second, staff have been meeting and developing
13 an action plan to comply with the governor's directive issued
14 yesterday on H-1B visas and we'll keep you updated as we
15 continue to make progress, and as usual, I mean this agency is
16 full of dedicated employees that have been able to move quickly
17 to address these, uh, issues raised by the governor.

18 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Great. Thanks, Chris, and
19 all the work that you guys are doing, uh, in meetings to, to, to
20 answer these directions. We appreciate that. Commissioners,
21 anything else?

22 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: No.

23 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: I believe we have come to
24 the end of our agenda and surprise, we have no executive session
25 to, to announce so [inaudible] for that. Uh, is there a motion?

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COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Uh, Chairman, I move
to adjourn.

COMMISSIONER CONNETT: And I second.

CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: The motion is made and
seconded. I also say let's get out of here. Uh, agenda is over.
Thank you all.