



MEETING OF THE
TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION

DATE

APRIL 22, 2025

1 Tuesday, April 22, 2025

2 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Good afternoon, everybody.

3 This meeting is called to order. Mr. Trobman, has anyone signed
4 up for public comment?

5 MR. TROBMAN: Good afternoon, commissioners.
6 Les Trobman, general counsel. We have two individuals signed up
7 for public comment today. The first one is John Alexander. Mr.
8 Alexander, if you could unmute yourself and go ahead and begin.

9 JOHN ALEXANDER: Good afternoon. How are you
10 all doing today? My name is John Alexander. I'm a disabled
11 American veteran. I'm calling for case number 3793724. 3793724-
12 3. I just want to bring to you all attention. Me and a coworker
13 got terminated for [inaudible]. I was a witness in my coworker
14 termination case. He won his unemployment and likewise I wanted
15 him to be a witness in my case and I was denied that right. He
16 was on there, he was up, and he was ready to answer any
17 questions. Secondly, it was the hearing officer herself found,
18 I'll quote word for word. The hearing office does not find that
19 the claimant intentionally stole any merchandise as he was
20 dropping a bag off at a coworker house. She said I didn't steal
21 anything. Then when I was fired for stealing, she said I didn't
22 steal nothing. I quote what she said, however, I was still
23 denied my unemployment, sir. I don't understand. Can you all
24 please explain to me what the hearing officer mean when she said
25 I was found not guilty of stealing anything? Hello?

1 MR. TROBMAN: Yes, Mr. Alexander, the
2 commission is not able to engage in dialogue but if that's the
3 end of the comments, let me know. Otherwise, you can proceed.

4 MR. ALEXANDER: And then one other thing.
5 She said, however, the bag contained merchandise that belongs to
6 the employer. Not one picture of evidence was submitted that the
7 stuff that came out of the bag that the employee got. The bag
8 was never returned to the employer. So how did she determine
9 that there was in the bag? Sir, this decision changed my life
10 completely. I mean, it changed my life and she [inaudible] said
11 I was not found guilty for stealing. You cannot let them keep
12 changing the reason they fired me. You cannot let that happen.
13 Thank you. You have a great day.

14 MR. TROBMAN: Thank you, Mr. Alexander. The
15 second commenter is Anthony Ray, Jr. If you could go ahead and
16 unmute yourself and begin. Mr. Ray?

17 MR. RAY: Yes. Sorry. Hello. My name is
18 Anthony Ray. You guys can hear me correct, right?

19 MR. TROMAN: Yes, we can. Go ahead.

20 MR. RAY: OK. Yes, my name is Anthony Ray.
21 I'm also a coworker of Mr. John Alexander. I was, same thing,
22 was fired, was let go last year due to the reason of what the
23 company believed that was stealing, but due to unemployment they
24 found that there's no evidence that supports their claim. So I
25 pretty much wanted to be a witness for Mr. John Alexander to

1 prove that the case against us were wrong, which I have evidence
2 that can support the claim. However, I wasn't able to be on the
3 phone call with the person, the counselor that was in charge of
4 Mr. Alexander's case. When John managed to get me on the phone,
5 we both was able to speak to the person, however, she said I
6 will give you a call back and never called me back. And when
7 asked about it she told me, hey, we're just going to move on
8 with the case later on. Later on that day I was able to get a
9 phone, managed to call the lady again and she allowed me to
10 speak off record with her involving Mr. John Alexander's case.
11 The reason why I'm calling to you guys is I know that everyone
12 in this room has families and I'm just trying to do what's right
13 to help Mr. Alexander and I just pray that I can get another
14 chance to be able to help and just to help this man who worked
15 really hard for what he has done and give him another chance so
16 he can be able to get the things he deserves.

17 MR. TROBMAN: Thank you very much.

18 Commissioners, that's the comments we have this morning, this
19 afternoon. Thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right. Thank you, Mr.
21 Trobman.

22 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you. We'll take a
23 short recess. This is Agenda Item 9, AEL Integrated Education
24 and Training in Corrections Education.

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1 KERRY BALLAST: Good afternoon, Chairman
2 Daniel, Commissioner Esparza, Commissioner Treviño, and Mr.
3 Serna. For the record, Kerry Ballast, Workforce Development
4 Division. In August of 2022, the Texas Workforce Commission
5 entered into an interagency contract with Windham School
6 District to create and implement an integrated education and
7 training program for individuals who are within two years of
8 release of certain state correctional facilities. The initiative
9 also assists in connecting these individuals with services and
10 employment related to their training. Since its launch the
11 program has expanded to include two additional facilities and
12 two additional training program options. More than 500
13 individuals have been assessed as potential candidates for the
14 program and more than 250 have been enrolled. The cost per
15 participant has been higher than originally projected by Windham
16 School District but completions and outcomes are meeting
17 expectations. To continue to enroll participants through August
18 2025, staff recommend an additional 140,000 to serve
19 approximately 75 additional individuals this fiscal year. This
20 concludes my remarks and I'm happy to answer any questions you
21 have.

22 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Comments or questions?

23 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: None here.

24 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: I've got some
25 clarifying questions. I'm very supportive of this program and,

1 as I understand it, it's a positive execution by the group. We
2 can understand that there is a miscalculation or need to review
3 that. My clarification is I want to know where the method of
4 funding for the original 750,000 was from and what is the
5 additional--where does the additional 140, where would that go?

6 KERRY BALLAST: The original 750, sir, just
7 to be really upfront about it was this was so new to both TWC
8 and to Windham School District, it was our best estimate at what
9 would launch a robust program for this first time. When staff
10 and Windham School District staff were first talking about cost
11 per participants, we were working in theoretical and assuming
12 that cost per participant might be similar to what the
13 commission has adopted through our own programs. When Windham
14 School District launched this, they encountered startup costs
15 that they hadn't first expected and they also were learning the
16 ropes of this program too, and for that reason they learned that
17 cost per participant within Windham was going to be a little bit
18 higher than expected. You are right, outcomes are looking good.
19 It appears to be a very successful program. Based on what they
20 know now they anticipate that they can finish up these
21 individuals with an additional 140,000 to cover these remaining
22 costs.

23 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: OK. I may have missed
24 it but where does that 750,000 come from, the original
25 investment?

1 KERRY BALLAST: Oh, my apologies.

2 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: [Inaudible].

3 KERRY BALLAST: That is part of the AEL
4 commission reserve.

5 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: OK. Is that
6 statewide?

7 KERRY BALLAST: Yes, sir.

8 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: Good. OK, yeah, that
9 cancels out any other questions that I have.

10 KERRY BALLAST: Thank you.

11 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: Thank you, chairman.
12 Thank you, Kerry.

13 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Is there a motion?

14 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Chairman, I move that
15 we approve the allocation of \$140,000 in additional fiscal year
16 2025 funds to the current interagency cooperation contract with
17 Windham School District in support of the integrated education
18 and training program as recommended today by staff.

19 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: I second it.

20 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's been moved and
21 seconded. The motion carries. Thank you. This is Agenda Item 10,
22 board nominations.

23 DAWN CRONIN: Good afternoon, chairman,
24 Commissioner Treviño, Commissioner Esparza, and Mr. Serna. For
25 the record, my name is Dawm Cronin with the Workforce

1 Development Division. For your consideration this afternoon we
2 have the Workforce Board nominations for Workforce Solutions
3 Gulf Coast. Staff recommends approval on the presented nominees
4 as they appear in your materials and I'm here to answer any
5 questions you might have.

6 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Any comments or questions?

7 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: None here.

8 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: None from me.

9 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Is there a motion?

10 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Chairman, I move that
11 we approve the local Workforce Development Board member nominees
12 presented today for the following: Workforce Solutions Gulf
13 Coast.

14 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: I second.

15 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's been moved and
16 seconded and the motion carries.

17 DAWN CRONIN: Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you. Is there an
19 executive director's report today?

20 MR. SERNA: No, sir.

21 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Is there any other—before
22 we abandon the executive director's report, I don't know if
23 somebody five-finger discounted my pens or they got moved but
24 can I requisition one of those pens with like a cable on it like
25 you get at the bank, it's like on the table?

1 MR. SERNA: We can find one with a chain.

2 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: A chain would be nice
3 especially if it has one of those little cups that you put it in
4 when you're done. That feels very professional when you
5 [inaudible].

6 MR. SERNA: We'll get you something like
7 that.

8 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you, Mr. Serna. Is
9 there any other order of business to come before the commission?
10 Nothing? Is there is a motion to adjourn?

11 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Chairman, I move to
12 adjourn.

13 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: I second.

14 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's been moved and
15 seconded to adjourn and we're adjourned.

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