



**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.

25

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  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

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

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

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

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

COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Chairman, I move to adjourn.

COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: I second.

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