



MEETING OF THE
TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION

DATE

MAY 13, 2025

1 Tuesday, May 13, 2025

2 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right. Good morning,
3 everyone. This meeting is called to order. Mr. Trobman, has
4 anyone signed up for public comment?

5 MR. TROBMAN: Good morning, commissioners.
6 Les Trobman, general counsel. We have one individual who has
7 registered for public comment. We have Kristi Lowrance. Ms.
8 Lowrance, if you're there, go ahead and unmute yourself and
9 begin.

10 KRISTI LOWRANCE: Hi, good morning. I'm not
11 sure how this process works, but, uh, this comment is due to the
12 findings and facts and Jay Killion's [SP] decision on my appeal.
13 I would like—I feel like my evidence and my exhibits, see three,
14 four, and five in my previous writeups in November of 2023 that
15 were dismissed by the board of directors for being false
16 allegations a few months prior to this was no interest to the
17 hearing officer, Jay Killion [SP]. I felt like I couldn't rebuke
18 the accusations from Ms. Pearson [SP] when she stated them or
19 when he asked me to ask her questions and she wasn't telling the
20 truth. She was not truthful throughout the whole hearing. I do
21 not believe that is a fair hearing. The facts on this reprimand
22 are not true. I believe that is why Josie [SP] altered the
23 writeup with the last paragraph on the reprimand that if I
24 refused to sign, then I am resigning my position before it was
25 sent to the president of the board on May the third, four days

1 after I requested a copy of it. And that is why it was dated
2 April 30th, the day I requested it from her. I believe that may
3 be why the board didn't grant my grievance because they were
4 told and believed I resigned. I honestly believe that by filing
5 a grievance and bringing the facts about the false incident
6 listed on the reprimand, it would have been dismissed and the
7 retaliation from the office manager would have been addressed
8 and that is why I refused to sign it because this is not her
9 first time doing this. Also, in our employee policy it states
10 that a written reprimand in your personnel file can inflict on
11 raises, bonuses, and promotions. It does not state that you can
12 and will be terminated if you refuse to sign a written
13 reprimand. An employee has rights and shouldn't be forced to
14 sign a falsified document or lose their job. If I had the
15 opportunity to have gone before the board I believe they would
16 not have allowed her to terminate me and I would still have my
17 job. Thank you.

18 MR. TROMAN: Thank you. Commissioners, those
19 are the comments we have this morning.

20 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you, sir.

21 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: The motion passes with the
22 exceptions noted. We'll take a short recess.

23 MS. GONZALES: Thank you.
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1 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: And we're back. This is
2 Agenda Item 9, WIOA local Workforce Development Board plans for
3 program years 2025 through 2028.

4 JOEL MULLINS: Good morning, chairman,
5 commissioners, Mr. Townsend. For the record, I'm Joel Mullins
6 with Workforce Development. Under Workforce Innovation and
7 Opportunity Act Section 108, each of the 28 local Workforce
8 Development Boards must develop and submit a comprehensive four-
9 year plan, and the plans must be approved by the governor. Texas
10 Labor Code Section 302.042 requires the commission to review
11 local plans and rec-make recommendations to the Texas Workforce
12 Investment Council regarding the implementation of those plans.
13 Uh, TWC staff members have reviewed the submitted local plans
14 and provided feedback to boards, uh, and staff have concluded
15 that, that full review process and have determined that all 28
16 of the local plans comply with all federal and state
17 requirements. This morning staff recommends submission of the 28
18 local plans to the Texas Workforce Investment Council for
19 consideration and recommendation to the governor for approval,
20 and I'll be happy to answer any questions.

21 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Any comments or questions?

22 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Uh, none here.

23 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: No, no questions.

24 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Uh, a couple, couple
25 questions. So as, as I understand the law and I want to make

1 sure you understand the same way, under both WIOA and the
2 government code, the commission's role here is to review these,
3 uh, and then recommend them to the governor for approval. Is
4 that basically correct?

5 JOEL MULLINS: That is exactly correct.

6 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: So the approval will
7 actually come from the governor. The commission's not approving
8 them. We're just simply passing these along and saying these are
9 ready to be approved.

10 JOEL MULLINS: Correct, yes.

11 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: As we reviewed these, I, I
12 am assuming, uh, I guess in keeping with both the labor code,
13 looks like the government code, looks like some federal
14 regulation, also some federal law that one of the things we've
15 done is to review these for basic compliance with all relative
16 laws, and I just want to make sure that we have done that part.
17 I read through several of them. They seem to comply to me, uh,
18 that we had an eye for that but in particular I want to know
19 were we also thinking about, so you've got, you know, obviously
20 federal and state law, you've got federal and state regulation.
21 I just want to make sure also that we covered any gubernatorial
22 or presidential executive orders, particularly those concerning
23 the distribution of government services and, and for whom
24 government services would be provided.

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1 JOEL MULLINS: Uh, yes, we did review all
2 that, reviewed to ensure that they were complying with all of
3 the, the requirements in federal, uh, statute and regulation
4 and—

5 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Perfect.

6 JOEL MULLINS: State statute and we looked
7 at the presidential executive orders and directives from the
8 governor and—

9 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Great. Thank you very
10 much.

11 JOEL MULLINS: And ensured that all plans
12 were compliant.

13 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Good. Any other comments
14 or questions? Is there a motion?

15 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Chairman, I move that
16 we approve the 28 local Workforce Development Boards' four-year
17 plans for submission to the Texas Workforce Investment Council
18 as recommended today by staff.

19 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: I second.

20 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's been moved and
21 seconded and the vote is unanimous, motion carries.

22 JOEL MULLINS: Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Agenda Item 10, JET
24 Advisory Board recommendation for fiscal year 2025 JET grant
25 awards.

1 LORI KNIGHT: Good morning, chairman,
2 commissioners, Mr. Townsend. For the record, I'm Lori Knight
3 with the Workforce Development Division. Uh, the Texas Workforce
4 Commission was appropriated approximately \$15,000,000 for fiscal
5 year '25 for use with the Jobs & Education for Texans or JET
6 grant. On April 30th of this year the JET grant advisory board
7 met to determine recommendations, uh, to the commission, and
8 they want to direct staff to move forward with awarding grants
9 based on the final evaluation scores with ability to move down
10 the list for all applicants scoring 600 points or above should
11 any additional funds become available during the contracting
12 phase. Staff recommends approval for the FY25 JET grant program
13 awards as recommended by the JET Advisory Board, and I can
14 answer any questions.

15 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Any comments or questions?

16 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Uh, none here.

17 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: No questions.

18 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right. Is there a
19 motion?

20 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Chairman, I move that
21 we approve the Jobs & Education for Texans grant awards for
22 fiscal year 2025 as recommended by the JET Advisory Board and in
23 conformity with the final evaluation scoring and allow staff the
24 ability to move, move down the list of applicants scoring 60
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1 points and above as funds become available during the con,
2 contracting phase.

3 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: I second.

4 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's been moved and
5 seconded and the vote is unanimous, the motion carries. This is
6 Agenda Item 11, JET Advisory Board recommendation for FY 2026
7 program parameters.

8 LORI KNIGHT: Once again, Lori Knight, for
9 the record, with Workforce Development. So as the JET Advisory
10 Board met on April 30th, they also discussed, uh, the following
11 recommendations for FY26, uh, JET program parameters and funding
12 allocations. They wanted to split the funding available, 30
13 percent for, uh, institutions of higher education, and 65
14 percent towards open-enrollment charter schools and school
15 districts. They want to keep the minimum and maximum grant
16 request amounts at 40,000 and 375,000 respectively. They would
17 like to continue to allow only one application submission per
18 eligible applicant, and finally to keep the minimum score
19 threshold for award eligibility at 60 percent of all possible
20 points. Staff recommends the adoption and implementation of the
21 program parameters for FY26 as recommended by the JET Advisory
22 Board.

23 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Comments or questions?

24 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: None here.

25 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: No questions.

1 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: A motion?

2 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Chairman, I move that
3 we adopt the Jobs & Education for Texans program funding and
4 parameters for fiscal year 2026 as recommended by the JET
5 Advisory Board and described in the discussion paper presented
6 today by staff.

7 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: I second.

8 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's been moved and
9 seconded, the vote is unanimous, and the motion carries.

10 LORI KNIGHT: Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you. Agenda Item 12,
12 Adult Education & Literacy Advisory Committee membership.

13 KERRY BALLAST: Good morning, Chairman
14 Daniel, Commissioner Treviño, Commissioner Esparza, and Mr.
15 Townsend. For the record, Kerry Ballast, Workforce Development
16 Division. Texas Labor Code Chapter 315.005 and Texas
17 Administrative Code Chapter 805.43 require the Texas Workforce
18 Commission to establish an Adult Education & Literacy Advisory
19 Committee. The advisory committee must not be composed of more
20 than nine members and must include at least one representative
21 of the business community and one representative of a local
22 Workforce Development Board. There is also latitude for the
23 commission to approve an additional two-year term for any
24 member. For your consideration today, staff recommends the
25 reappointment of two members, Dr. Ben Stafford, vice president

1 of workforce and continuing education at Lamar State College,
2 and Kristina Hartman, superintendent of Windham School District.
3 If approved, their terms will be extended to May of 2027. This
4 concludes my remarks and I'm happy to answer any questions.

5 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Any comments or questions?

6 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Uh, none here.

7 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: No questions.

8 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Is there a motion?

9 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Chairman, I move that
10 we appoint the following individuals to serve on the Adult
11 Education & Literacy Advisory Committee for a two-year term
12 expiring in May of 2027, Dr. Ben Stafford and Kristina Hartman.

13 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: I second.

14 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's been moved and
15 seconded, the vote is unanimous, and the motion carries. Thank
16 you. This is Agenda Item 13, local Workforce Board nominations.

17 MR. TROBMAN: Good morning, chairman,
18 commissioners, Mr. Townsend. For the record, Les Trobman,
19 general counsel. Today for your consideration we have Workforce
20 Board nominees for Workforce Solutions Concho Valley, Heart of
21 Texas, North Texas, Coastal Bend, and Texoma. Staff recommends
22 approval on the presented nominees and I'm here to attempt to
23 answer any questions which you may have. Thank you.

24 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Are there any comments or
25 questions?

1 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Uh, since you offered
2 to attempt to answer any questions, as we discussed earlier, Mr.
3 Trobman, how do you remove a tick?

4 MR. TROBMAN: I think there's a tool for
5 that.

6 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: OK. That's all I
7 have.

8 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: So, the somewhat evasive
9 answer, commissioner.

10 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Very evasive.

11 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Poor Mr. Trobman had to
12 substitute at the last minute to do the nominations, and now
13 we're treating him like this is his first time to appear before
14 the commission.

15 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: Don't they teach that
16 in law school?

17 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Do they teach that in law
18 school?

19 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: Remove a tick.

20 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: I don't know.

21 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: If it's a good law
22 school.

23 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Did they cover that at
24 Tulane law school?

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1 MR. TROBMAN: You just have to learn the
2 hard way.

3 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Oh, that's like a lot of,
4 a, a, good lessons in life. I think you just have to learn them
5 the hard way. All right, is there any other questions or
6 comments.

7 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: No questions from me.

8 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right. Is there a
9 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 Concho
13 Valley; Heart of Texas; North Texas; Coastal Bend; and Texoma.

14 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: I second.

15 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's been moved and
16 seconded, and the vote's unanimous, and the motion carries.
17 Thank you.

18 MR. TROBMAN: Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Mr. Townsend.

20 MR. TOWNSEND: Since it would be so hard to,
21 uh, top that one, I think I'll just say no director's report.

22 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: No executive director's
23 report?

24 MR. TOWNSEND: No.

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1 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: I was thrown off by a
2 minute because there is sort of a mysterious figure sitting on
3 the back row wearing a tie today which sort of triggered me to
4 believe we were going to have a legislative report but then I
5 realized it was Lowell and I—he's declined so many times in the
6 past to come give a legislative report so I think we will
7 respect his wishes and not call him up today to do that. Is
8 there any other order of business to come before the commission
9 today?

10 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: None here.

11 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: None?

12 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: No.

13 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Is there a motion to
14 adjourn?

15 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Chairman, I move to
16 adjourn.

17 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: I second.

18 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's been moved and
19 seconded to adjourn. That vote's certainly unanimous and we are
20 adjourned.

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