



MEETING OF THE
TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION

DATE

May 19, 2026

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Tuesday, May 19, 2026

CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Good morning, everybody.
This meeting is called to order. Mr. Trobman, has anybody signed up for public comment?

MR. TROBMAN: No, sir.

CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: No public comment. Uh, I'll now turn the meeting over to Commissioner Connett to preside over Agenda Items 3 through 8. Commissioner Connett.

COMMISSIONER CONNETT: The motion passes with the exceptions noted. Uh, that concludes our work on Agenda Items 3 through 8, and I hand the meeting back over to you, Chairman Esparza.

CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Thank you, commissioner. Uh, we'll go ahead and pause for the shuffle. Thanks, everybody.

CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: OK, Agenda Item 9, proposed amendments to Texas Administrative Code Chapter 809. Come on up, Reed.

REED O'BRIEN: Good morning, Chairman Esparza, Commissioner Connett, Commissioner Treviño, and Mr. Pier. For the record, I'm Reed O'Brien with the Office of General Counsel. Commissioners, before you today for your consideration for adoption is a final rule amending Chapter 809, Child Care Services. This rulemaking's purpose is to strengthen the integrity of Texas's child care services program by enhancing fraud detection, prevention, and enhancement of

1 enforcement mechanisms. On March 10, 2026, the commission
2 approved the proposed rule for publication in the Texas Register
3 for a 30-day public comment period. The proposed rules received
4 comments. In response, Section 809.113 has been amended to
5 remove provider board members from the list of people who TWC or
6 a local Workforce Development Board could prohibit from future
7 eligibility to provide commission-funded child care services or
8 participate in the management, ownership or operation of a
9 provider engaged in commission-funded child care services. Staff
10 recommends adopting these amendments to Chapter 809. Should the
11 commission adopt the rules, staff requests the ability to make
12 minor nonsubstantive changes to the document as needed to comply
13 with publication requirements of the Texas Register and the
14 Secretary of State's office. And that concludes my presentation.
15 I'm available for any questions.

16 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Thanks, Reed. Uh,
17 commissioners, any questions or comments?

18 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Uh, nothing here.

19 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: None here.

20 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Is there a motion?

21 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Chairman, I move that
22 we approve the amendments to 40 Texas Administrative Code
23 Chapter 809, Child Care Services, related to enhancing fraud
24 detection, prevention, and enforcement as recommended today by
25 staff.

1 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: Second.

2 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: I also vote yes. The
3 motion passes. Agenda Item 10, also Reed.

4 REED O'BRIEN: Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Uh, regarding publication
6 for public comment on Chapter 809. Reed?

7 REED O'BRIEN: Yes, uh, thank you, Chairman,
8 commissioners, Mr. Pier. Again, for the record, I'm Reed O'Brien
9 with the Office of General Counsel. Commissioners, before you
10 today for your consideration for approval are proposed rule
11 amendments to Chapter 809, Child Care Services. The purpose of
12 this rulemaking is to streamline some rules, simplify Texas
13 Rising Star parameters, and to make staff-identified
14 improvements to the rules. Additionally, this proposed rule
15 includes the review of Chapter 809 rules as required under Texas
16 Government Code Chapter 2001. Staff also requests the ability to
17 make minor nonsubstantive changes to the document to comply with
18 publication requirements of the Texas Register and the Office of
19 the Secretary of State. And that concludes my presentation. I'm
20 available for any questions.

21 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Commissioners, any
22 comments or questions?

23 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Uh, none here.

24 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: Yeah, just one
25 comment. Reed, I want to thank you and your team for your work

1 on both the, the, uh, the final rules on Item 9 and these
2 proposed rules under Agenda Item 10. Uh, I want to extend that
3 thanks as well to Reagan and Allison and their team. I had a
4 number of questions and clarifications for them and they could
5 not have been more helpful and responsive on, you know, things
6 like what happens when an information breach happens that's
7 contemplated by these rules amendments, uh, responsiveness to
8 providers, uh, very thorough and responsive in their answers so
9 my gratitude to you and also Reagan and Allison. Thanks.

10 REED O'BRIEN: Oh, thank you, commissioner.
11 I appreciate that.

12 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Yeah, same goes, uh, just
13 second the remarks from Commissioner Connett, and Reagan and
14 Allison, your team, child, uh, your child care team, uh,
15 especially on the blended pay rate. Uh, that, that issue, a lot
16 of back and forth with providers. You guys have been receptive,
17 uh, to their response and, and you've answered a lot of
18 questions over the last, uh, years. Uh, thank you guys for doing
19 that and this is welcome, welcome rule change so do I have a
20 motion?

21 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Chairman, I move that
22 we approve the proposed amendments to 40 Texas Administrative
23 Code Chapter 809, Child Care Services, and the review of the
24 rules in accordance with the Texas Government Code Section
25

1 2001.039 for the publication for public comment as recommended
2 today by staff.

3 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: I second.

4 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Good [inaudible], yeah,
5 great clarification on that. I vote yes. The motion passes.
6 Thanks, Reed.

7 REED O'BRIEN: All right. Thank you,
8 commissioners.

9 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: I think that's it.
10 Eleven, Item 11, regarding development and adoption of Workforce
11 Commission Strategic Plan. Uh, it says Jennifer. Don't know.
12 Come on up, Jennifer. You can do this one. Did I skip one?

13 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: I don't think so.

14 JENNIFER COLEHOWER: Good morning, Chairman,
15 commissioners. Jennifer Colehower, for the record, Information,
16 Innovation, Insight. Uh, so for Item 11, uh, we are in the
17 process of finalizing, uh, the plan for presentation at the
18 commission meeting for next week. Uh, there'll be briefings this
19 afternoon, uh, on the current state of the plan so that's the,
20 the update for that.

21 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: OK.

22 JENNIFER COLEHOWER: OK?

23 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Great, thank you guys.

24 MR. PIER: Just to follow on with that, uh,
25 yeah, so the schedule is to have that finalized and the vote a

1 week from today, uh, which is the last possible moment so please
2 don't get sick or win the lottery and quit.

3 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Yeah.

4 MR. PIER: Uh, that'd be, be really a
5 problem for us but, uh, but, yeah, I think today those, uh,
6 today, maybe tomorrow, uh, those briefings will happen and, and
7 we will have the rest of the time to make any follow-up changes
8 that you all have and have it all set and ready to go for you a
9 week from today.

10 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Commissioners, you all
11 have anything?

12 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: No, none here, thank
13 you.

14 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: No, nothing.

15 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Very good. Uh, Steve, is
16 there any reports following that?

17 MR. PIER: Nope.

18 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Michael? Sorry, I should
19 have went with Mike first. He's shaking his head.

20 MR. PIER: He's good.

21 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: [Inaudible]. That will
22 bring us to, uh, the end of our agenda, I think. Anything left
23 unsaid. No? Is there a motion to adjourn?

24 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Chairman, I move to
25 adjourn.

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COMMISSIONER CONNETT: Second.

CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: I also vote yes. We're
adjourned. Thanks, everybody.