



MEETING OF THE
TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION

DATE

JUNE 2, 2026

1 Tuesday, June 2, 2026

2 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Good morning, everybody.
3 Uh, this meeting is called to order. Mr. Trobman, any, uh,
4 public comment?

5 MR. TROBMAN: No, sir.

6 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: No public comment. Uh, I
7 now turn the, uh, turn the commission meeting over to
8 Commissioner Connett, Commissioner Connett to preside over Items
9 3 through 8.

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

14 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Thank you, commissioner.
15 Uh, we'll go ahead and pause for the shuffle before going on to
16 Item 9. Thank you, all. We've got Reed, we've got Juan. I think
17 we got everybody we need here. OK, everybody. We'll go ahead
18 and, uh, kick it back up with Item 9, discussion, consideration
19 for possible action regarding certification and recerts,
20 Community Rehabilitation Program. Mr. Garcia.

21 JUAN GARCIA: Good morning, commissioners,
22 Mr. Townsend. Juan Garcia with the Voc Rehab Division. Uh, this
23 morning for your consideration and possible approval we have,
24 uh, one new CRP that's applying for first-time certification and
25 seven CRPs that are seeking to continue in the, in the, uh,

1 Purchasing from People with Disabilities program through
2 recertification. All CRPs pay minimum wage or, or higher. The,
3 uh, new CRP is, uh, InspiriTec, Inc., in Killeen. Uh, the seven
4 CRPS that are recertifying are A Brother's Keeper in, uh,
5 Arlington, uh, Heart of Texas Goodwill in Waco, uh, HIP Healthy
6 Innovative Processes in San Antonio, Oak Creek Day
7 Habilitation/Vocational Center in Lufkin, Vocational
8 Opportunities Center of Northeast Texas in Mount Pleasant, Work
9 Services Corporation in Wichita Falls, and the Austin State
10 Supported Living Center in Austin. Uh, staff recommends
11 certifying the one new CRP and recertifying seven existing CRPs.
12 With that I can answer any questions you might have.

13 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Very good. Uh,
14 commissioners, any comments or questions?

15 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Uh, nothing here.

16 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: None here. Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Is there a motion?

18 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Chairman, I move that
19 we approve the certification and recertifications of the
20 following Community Rehabilitation Programs for participation in
21 the Purchasing from People with Disabilities program as
22 recommended today by staff: The certification of InspiriTec,
23 Incorporated; the recertification of A Brother's Keeper; Heart
24 of Texas Goodwill; HIP Healthy Innovative Processes; Oak Creek
25 Day, uh, Habilitation/Vocational Center; Vocational

1 Opportunities Center Northeast Texas; Work Services Corporation;
2 and Austin State Supported Living Center.

3 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: I second the motion.

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

6 JUAN GARCIA: Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Agenda Item 10, uh, Reed,
8 come on up. Uh, Agenda Item 10 is, uh, regarding discussion,
9 consideration, action, uh, for UI insurance, uh, UI insurance
10 establishes rules.

11 REED O'BRIEN: Uh, good morning, Chairman
12 Esparza, Commissioner Treviño, Commissioner Connett, and Mr.
13 Townsend. For the record, I'm Reed O'Brien with the Office of
14 General Counsel. Commissioners, before you today for your
15 consideration are proposed amendments to Chapter 815,
16 Unemployment Insurance. This rulemaking intends to codify a
17 commission precedent that establishes good cause for a
18 petitioner's failure to appear at a hearing due to a time zone
19 discrepancy. Under this proposed rule, good cause is established
20 if the petitioner attempts to participate in the hearing at the
21 time specified in the hearing notice but is late only because of
22 the difference between their local time zone and the time zone
23 listed on the notice. Staff recommends submitting the proposed
24 rule for publication in the Texas Register for a 30-day public
25 comment period. We also request the authority to make

1 nonsubstantive changes and other changes necessary to comply
2 with the Texas Register and Office of the Secretary of State
3 publication requirements. That concludes my presentation. I'm
4 available for any questions.

5 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Good. Thanks, Reed. Uh,
6 commissioners, any comments or questions?

7 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Uh, nothing here.

8 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: No, thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Very good. Is there a
10 motion?

11 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Uh, Chairman, I move
12 that we approve the proposed amendments to 40 Texas
13 Administrative Code Chapter 815, Unemployment Insurance, for
14 publication for public comment as recommended today by staff.

15 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: I second that motion.

16 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: I also vote yes. The
17 motion passes. Thank you, Reed.

18 REED O'BRIEN: All right, thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Agenda Item 11 regarding
20 discussion, consideration, and possible action, uh, regarding an
21 order to adopt program year 2026.

22 CAITLIN PEARSON: Good morning, Chairman,
23 commissioners, Mr. Townsend. For the record, Caitlin Pearson,
24 budget director with the Finance Division. This morning you have
25 before you the fiscal year 2027 WIOA Adult, Youth, and

1 Dislocated Worker allocation and associated Rapid Response
2 Distribution, AEL allocation, child care allocation, AEL civics
3 distribution in accordance with Chapter 800 of the TWC rules
4 regarding allocations. Using Department of Labor WIOA state
5 allotment and updated data factors, TWC will be allocating
6 186,578,217 in combined WIOA Adult, Youth, and Dislocated Worker
7 funds along with an additional 760,129 in rapid response funding
8 and 870, uh, 978,035 in small board funding. The combined
9 allocation represents a decrease of 5.9 percent over the prior
10 year allocation. The rapid response funding is equal to 1.25
11 percent of the statewide dislocated worker allotment, the same
12 as fiscal year 2026. For child care, TWC will be allocating
13 1,436,426,444. This amount includes the required two percent
14 quality funds for the local workforce areas. Also included in
15 the packet is a four percent distribution of quality funds in
16 the amount of 59,851,102, a mentor distribution of 32,000,000,
17 and a board strategic planning funds distribution of 98,000. For
18 Adult Education and Literacy, TWC will be allocating 67,524,995.
19 The total reflects 90 percent of the allotted federal AEFLA
20 funds in general revenue and 100 percent of the TANF funds based
21 on data factors. For Integrated English Literacy and Civics
22 Education, EL civics program, TWC will be distributing 7,577,479
23 based on the procurement distribution. The total reflects 90
24 percent of the allotted federal funds. The remaining 10 percent
25 of AEFLA and EL civics funding will be distributed based on

1 performance at a later date. This concludes my remarks. I'd be
2 happy to answer any questions.

3 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Thanks, Caitlin. Uh,
4 commissioners, any comments or questions?

5 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Uh, nothing here.

6 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: Uh, just a thank you
7 on my part. Caitlin, you and Chris, as usual were very
8 responsive in helping answer questions about these allocations
9 and some of the criteria and, and formulas that underpin them so
10 thank you.

11 CAITLIN PEARSON: You're very welcome.

12 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Very good. Uh, is there
13 any, is there a motion?

14 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Uh, Chairman, I move
15 that we adopt the program year 2026, fiscal year 2027
16 allocations for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act,
17 Child Care Services, Rapid Response, and Adult Education and
18 Literacy programs as recommended today by staff.

19 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: Second.

20 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Good. I also vote yes.
21 The motion passes. Thank you, Caitlin. Uh, reports, Mikey B,
22 come on. He doth have a report. This better be good.

23 MICHAEL BRITT: No pressure. Good morning,
24 Mr. Chairman, commissioners, Mr. Townsend, for the record,
25 Michael Britt, Governmental Relations. I wanted to give a quick

1 update on a couple of legislative items for this week. This
2 Thursday TWC will testify before the House Committee on Public
3 Health on the committee's interim charge related to the health
4 care, to health care workforce shortages. Mariana Vega and Mary
5 York will be testifying on behalf of TWC at that hearing. And
6 then this Friday the U.S. House Appropriations Subcommittee on
7 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education will be marking
8 up the fiscal year 2027 Labor, Health and Human Services, and
9 Education appropriations title. We will of course keep your
10 offices up to date as that, uh, appropriations title moves
11 through the process. And that's it. I will be happy to answer
12 any questions.

13 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Good report. Uh,
14 commissioners, any comments or questions for Mike?

15 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Nothing here.

16 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: Thanks, Michael.

17 MICHAEL BRITT: Thank you, sirs.

18 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Thanks, Mike. Is there
19 anything from the executive director's report?

20 MR. TOWNSEND: Good morning, Chairman,
21 commissioners. Yes, sir. I have a quick report to, to share with
22 you this morning. There is a funding opportunity available, uh,
23 for states, uh, through the U.S. Department of Education. Uh,
24 it's a, as a part of the career pathway exp, exploration
25 program. Uh, the initiative is to provide competitive grants to

1 states to build their capacity, uh, to integrate career
2 exploration into statewide career pathways and workforce
3 readiness programs. Uh, Texas, uh, would just like all states
4 would be potentially eligible for up to nine million, be three
5 million over three years so it's a, a, you know, multiyear
6 opportunity. Uh, we're currently exploring this opp--this became
7 available, this announcement I think the early part of May, May
8 12th or so I believe. There's a deadline of June 9th and there's
9 coordination. There's only one applicant per state so there
10 [inaudible] there will have to be some coordination but we're
11 exploring that and we'll be prepared to give you some additional
12 information during your, your briefings, uh, in, if you'd like
13 to have a little bit more, uh, insight into this, uh, funding
14 opportunity so it is an exciting opportunity it sounds like, and
15 so we'll pursue it very quickly of course.

16 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Any concern with the
17 quick turnaround on the deadline of June 9th?

18 MR. TOWNSEND: As far as I know, staff is--I
19 talked to Mary early this morning. I think we're, we're all
20 coordinating and, uh, you know, with the fellow agencies and
21 other, uh, other folks to make sure that we are coordinated on
22 this one so, but it will be aggressive obviously.

23 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Great, yeah. Good
24 opportunity [inaudible]. Uh, commissioners, any comments or any
25 questions for that?

1 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: No. Thank you, Randy.

2 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: No. That sounds very
3 promising. I do have one item, Chairman, if it's appropriate
4 now.

5 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: [Inaudible].

6 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: For, for Mr.
7 Townsend.

8 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Also, thanks, Mary, for
9 that too for on top of that.

10 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: Yes, here, here. Uh,
11 so Mr. Townsend, I'd like to address some of the growing
12 interest we've seen regarding a federal program titled Social
13 Impact Partnerships to Pay for Results Act or SIPPPRA.
14 Stakeholders from various communities have sent in letters of
15 support expressing interest in SIPPPRA's outcomes-based financing
16 models, and they're asking that TWC apply to draw down, uh,
17 federal funds so to ensure that we're properly evaluating this
18 opportunity, I'd like to ask that staff be directed to develop a
19 discussion paper, uh, specifically outlining the feasibility of
20 TWC participation, uh, the potential impact on workforce
21 outcomes, and what the implementation requirements would look
22 like for the agency administratively and operationally meaning
23 to, in, in, in summary, our participation could be very fruitful
24 but this is a, you know, relatively novel and innovative program
25 that warrants deeper consideration before any commitments or

1 applications are submitted so a discussion paper seems to be the
2 right avenue to give SIPBRA some deeper consideration, please.

3 MR. TOWNSEND: Commissioner Connett, yes,
4 sir. We will get busy with the discussion paper and addressing
5 the comments you've addressed here this morning or outlined here
6 this morning.

7 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: Fantastic. Thank you,
8 sir.

9 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Very good. Anything else?

10 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: No, not on that. I
11 just wanted to, uh, we have a new law intern this summer. Uh,
12 Donovan Shackelford is going to be joining the labor office this
13 summer. He is a student at UT Law, uh, I'm looking forward to,
14 uh, working with him so he can, uh, progress in his, uh, future
15 law practice so thank you, Donovan, for joining the team.

16 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Awesome.

17 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: Chairman, if I may.

18 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Yeah, please.

19 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: We've got, we've got,
20 uh, two interns who I'd like to introduce this morning. First,
21 Max Corbett who is a rising 2L at the University of Mississippi
22 School of Law. He has interests in public policy and
23 administrative law. Uh, we're also fortunate to work, uh, this
24 summer with Tristan Jones who is a rising 3L at SMU Dedman
25

1 School of Law. He has interests in civil litigation and public
2 policy so we're real excited to be working with them.

3 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Well, good. Well, I'll
4 see you interns and I'll, I'll re, reintroduce Nuhan who was
5 with us in the spring and decided to hang out with us for a
6 little bit over the summertime to enjoy the great program. It's
7 summertime. Glad you guys are, uh, are, are scratching together
8 interns and, and you guys, welcome aboard. Like I said, it's,
9 it's, it's, it's a time to kind of understand what the agency
10 does and how it affects, uh, how it affects every day Texans and
11 how it works with, with other agencies and other government, uh,
12 yeah, really, uh, recommend you ask, ask questions, come out and
13 just get involved with everything and folks who are in and
14 about, uh, offer a hand and, uh, we appreciate all the agencies,
15 excuse me, all the, all the divisions that are, that are picking
16 them up. We've got Nuhan. He's going to hang out with us
17 [inaudible] kind of all-around good guy, uh. We appreciate him
18 coming back and hopefully had a good little break between the,
19 the, the semester and, uh, he's at, he's at, he's at UT as well
20 so a local guy. So thank you, everybody. Uh, I think that
21 concludes. Is there a motion to adjourn?

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

24 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: Second.
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CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: The motion is made and
seconded. We're adjourned. Thank you, everybody.