



MEETING OF THE
TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION

DATE

JUNE 3, 2025

1 Tuesday, June 3, 2025

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

5 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right. Good morning,
6 Ms. Miller.

7 MS. MILLER: Good morning, sir.

8 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: That brings us to the end
9 of Agenda Items 1 through 8. We'll take a short recess. Agenda
10 Item 9, appointment of PPD new members and chairperson.

11 JUAN GARCIA: Good morning, commissioners,
12 Mr. Serna. Juan Garcia with the, uh, VR Division. Uh, four
13 members of the PPD advisory committee have completed their
14 second four-year term which is the, the limit stipulated in the
15 program rules. In response to our posting of, uh, vacancies we
16 received, uh, responses from several, uh, interested, uh,
17 applicants. After a review of their qualifications we are
18 recommending the following individuals be appointed to the
19 committee to a first four-year term ending in February of 2029.
20 Uh, these individuals are Genelle Sanders in the advocate
21 category, Robert Griffin in the CRP representative,
22 representative category, Ruth Davis in the CRP representative
23 category, and Cynthia Watson in the individual with a disability
24 employed by a CRP. In addition, the current chairperson of the
25 committee completed his second four-year term and is no longer

1 allowed to, uh, serve as chair. One sitting member, Mr. James
2 Meehan, uh, has expressed an interest in serving as chair. He is
3 currently the CEO of the Austin Lighthouse for the Blind. Should
4 Mr. Meehan be appointed chair, he will serve in the—in that
5 capacity until February of 2027, which is when he will complete
6 his, uh, second four-year term on the committee. Staff
7 recommends the appointment of Ms. Genelle Sanders, Mr. Robert
8 Griffin, Ms. Ruth Davis, and Ms. Cynthia Watson each to a first
9 year four term—first year four term on the PPD advisory
10 committee, uh, with such term to end in February of 2029. Staff
11 also recommends the appointment of James Meehan as chairperson
12 of the PPD advisory committee with his term ending in February
13 of 2027. With that I can answer any questions you might have.

14 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Comments or questions?

15 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Uh, none here.

16 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: No questions.

17 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Is there a motion?

18 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Chairman, I move that
19 we appoint the following individuals to serve on the Purchasing
20 from People with Disabilities program advisory committee for
21 four-year term expiring in February of 2029: Genelle Sanders;
22 Robert Griffin; Ruth Davis; and Cynthia Watson. And I move that
23 we appoint James Meehan to serve as chairperson of the
24 Purchasing from People with Disabilities program advisory
25 committee through February 1, 2027.

1 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: I second.

2 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's been moved and
3 seconded, and the motion carries. Thank you. This is Agenda Item
4 10, board nominations.

5 PATRICIA MARTINEZ: Good morning, chairman,
6 commissioners, Mr. Serna. For the record, Patricia Martinez,
7 Workforce Development Division. Today for your consideration we
8 have board-Workforce Board nominations for Workforce Solutions
9 Cameron County, North Central Texas, Northeast Texas, and Rural
10 Capital Area. Staff recommends approval on the presented
11 nominees and I'm here to answer any questions you may have.

12 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Comments or questions?

13 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Uh, none here.

14 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: No questions.

15 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Is there a motion?

16 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Chairman, I move that
17 we approve the local Workforce Development Board member nominees
18 presented today for the following: Workforce Solutions Cameron
19 County; North Central Texas; Northeast Texas; and Rural Capital
20 Area.

21 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: I second.

22 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's been moved and
23 seconded, and the motion carries. Mr. Serna, you can feel the
24 energy in almost any room that you're in and today I'm feeling a
25 lot of energy from people who might be new to TWC, and they have

1 a lot of energy and they're focused on, you know, what they
2 might do this summer, and then I'm feeling some like equivalent
3 energy from some people who while they're tired, while they're
4 weary, they've been carrying out a lot of action, they're pretty
5 excited about the summer and the fact that it's here.

6 MR. SERNA: I think that's right. I think
7 that's absolutely right plus I think we've got a tie on in the
8 back.

9 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: I did notice that and it's
10 a tie I think I've seen maybe once or twice. It's a celebratory
11 tie.

12 MR. SERNA: Right, yeah.

13 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Is there a legislative
14 report today?

15 MR. SERNA: I think we can probably scrounge
16 something.

17 MICHAEL BRITT: Good morning, Mr. Chairman,
18 commissioners, Mr. Serna. It is indeed a celebratory tie. For
19 the record, I'm Michael Britt with Governmental Relations, and
20 the event we are celebrating yesterday the 89th Texas Legislature
21 Regular Session adjourned sine die. Uh, this morning I wanted to
22 take a few minutes and provide you with an overview of TWC's
23 appropriations, legislative initiatives, and a few of the major
24 bills that we monitored during this legislative session. Before
25 I get into that though, I did want to take a second and thank

1 everyone who was called upon to serve as a resource witness this
2 session. They were here early in the morning and in some cases
3 stayed well into the evening, uh, to carry out those duties. Mr.
4 Chairman, Mr. Serna, Mary York, Reagan Miller, Eric Holen, Chuck
5 Ross, Tammy Martin, Jennifer Colehower, Chris Nelson, Allison
6 Wilson, and Kerry Ballast all served as resource witnesses this
7 session, did a great job for us, and again, thank you, uh, for
8 all your efforts, and I apologize if I left anyone out of that
9 list but I think I covered everyone. Uh, this session the agency
10 tracked about 1,100 bills and agency staff prepared well over
11 2,000 impact and cost analysis on legislation so I did want to
12 thank all of the agency staff for all their efforts on—in
13 preparing those ICAs and of course the finance staff who worked
14 in many cases longer hours than the GR staff, uh, to take those
15 analysis and prepare agency cost estimates for the LBB. For
16 appropriations for the upcoming 2026-2027 biennium, Senate Bill
17 1, the General Appropriations Act, appropriated 2.98 billion for
18 fiscal year 26 and just, and 3.08 billion for fiscal year 27 in
19 all funds. Senate Bill 1 approved most of TWC's exceptional item
20 requests including additional general revenue for matching
21 dollars for the VR program, an additional 10 million for the
22 Chapter 133 apprenticeship program which was a slight reduction
23 from the agency's full request, general revenue funding for the
24 Texas Veterans Leadership Program, general revenue funding for
25 the Texas Veterans Network, additional funding for the Older

1 Individuals who are Blind program, and additional funding for
2 the—for the Civil Rights Division. Senate Bill 1 also included
3 an additional 100 million in general revenue for the child care
4 program, one million for an expansion of the Senior Keys to
5 Independence program, funding to implement enhanced workforce
6 data system requirements, uh, that were enacted through Senate
7 Bill 1786, 2.5 million for an EMS staffing program, and five
8 million for each year of the biennium for industry-recognized
9 apprenticeships related to the broadband industry. Most all of
10 TWC's capital budget item requests were adopted between both
11 Senate Bill 1 and House Bill 500 which was the supplemental
12 appropriations bill. House Bill 500 also included 68 million
13 dollars in general revenue funding for the unemployment
14 insurance trust fund and 30.8 million in general revenue to
15 fully match the VR program for the current fiscal year.

16 Regarding TWC's legislative proposals, the legislature passed
17 six of TWC's 13 adopted legislative proposals for this session.
18 The proposals passed were House Bill 2788 and Senate Bill 765.
19 Both of those bills were TWC's legislative proposal related to
20 the confidentiality of fraud detection and prevention
21 information. House Bill 2788 applies solely to TWC, and Senate
22 Bill 765 applies to all state agencies. Senate Bill 765 was
23 signed by the governor on May 19th and becomes effective on
24 September 1st, and House Bill 2788 is awaiting action by the
25 governor. House Bill 2791, this is TWC's legislative proposal

1 relating to preserving procurement authority for goods and
2 services for the VR program, and House Bill 2791 is currently
3 awaiting action by the governor. The legislature also passed
4 House Bill 3260 by Representative Keith Bell. This is TWC's
5 proposal related to amendments to the industry-recognized
6 apprenticeship program and it is currently waiting action by the
7 governor as well. Uh, House Bill 3698 is TWC's legislative
8 proposal related to RESEA, and that bill was signed into law on
9 May 29th and becomes effective on September 1st. Uh, House Bill
10 3699 was also passed, and that is TWC's legislative proposal
11 relating to modifying the definition of last work, and that bill
12 is awaiting action by the governor. And finally House Bill 3700
13 is TWC's legislative proposal that establishes fraud, waste and
14 abuse detection and prevention for all TWC programs, and that
15 bill was signed on May 29th and becomes effective on September
16 1st. A few of the major pieces of legislation that the agency,
17 uh, monitored this session related to child care, we had House
18 Bill 117 by Representative Schoolcraft, and this bill
19 establishes the governor's task force on the governance of early
20 childhood education and care, and that task force is comprised
21 of officials from the Health and Human Services Commission, TEA,
22 and TWC along with members appointed by the governor who
23 represent the Head Start Collaboration Office and those who have
24 expertise in early childhood education and care. House Bill 2294
25 by Representative Senfronia Thompson, uh, allows for the full

1 reimbursement rate to be paid to child care providers by local
2 boards, uh, regardless of the provider's published rate so long
3 as doing so does not impact the board's ability to meet its
4 performance targets for children served, and this bill is also
5 awaiting action by the governor. House Bill 4903 by
6 Representative Harris Davila, this bill creates the Quad-Agency
7 Child Care Initiative, which is comprised of TWC, the Health and
8 Human Services Commission, Department of Family and Protective
9 Services, and TEA to improve the child-to improve child care
10 through coordinated policy and regulatory efforts, and this new
11 initiative is designated to be-to be chaired by the chair of
12 TWC. Senate Bill 462 by Senator Kolkhorst creates a priority
13 services group within the child care program for children-for
14 the children of child care workers, and this bill was signed by
15 the governor on May 28th and becomes effective on September 1st.
16 Uh, Senate Bill 1265 by Senator Alvarado requires the agency
17 also to post on its website a comprehensive list of resources
18 for employers helping parent employees access child care and
19 other child care options and services, and this bill was signed
20 by the governor on May 28th and becomes effective on September
21 1st. Uh, as I mentioned the legislature also passed Senate Bill
22 1786, and this bill requires TWC to coordinate with the Texas
23 Education Agency and Higher Education Coordinating Board on
24 grant programs including JET program awards to ensure they're
25 aligned with the state's workforce development goals. The bill

1 also requires TWC to collect enhanced wage records that include
2 wage, industry, occupational fields, and other items. Uh, and
3 the bill further requires TWC to conduct a biennial assessment
4 on a—on available regional labor demands across the state, and
5 that bill was signed into law on May 27th, and the bill became
6 effective on that date. Uh, the legislature passed two bills
7 related to the JET program. House Bill 322 by Representative
8 Guillen which allows funding under the JET program to be used
9 for the acquisition and ongoing maintenance of technology
10 solutions necessary to support programs created by the JET
11 program, and Senate Bill 728, 1728, excuse me, by Senator Perry,
12 and this bill adds Tex—the Texas Juvenile Justice Department,
13 juvenile boards, and juvenile probation departments to the list
14 of eligible grantees under the JET program. The legislature also
15 passed Senate Bill 856 by Senator Flores which adds the Texas A—
16 the Texas A&M engineering experiment station to the list of
17 eligible entities, uh, who can apply for Skills Development
18 funding, and that bill was signed into law on May 20th and is
19 effective September 1st. Uh, the legislature finally passed a few
20 bills related to our workforce programs. House Bill 3800 by
21 Representative Orr directs TWC to establish an advisory board to
22 develop a resource guide that facilitates collaborations among
23 health care providers and institutions of higher education more
24 closely identifying and addressing local health care workforce
25 needs. Senate Bill 1143 by Senator Blanco, and this bill

1 requires that, uh, government entities offering financial
2 incentives that create at least 100 jobs are to notify TWC and
3 the relevant—relevant Workforce Development Board and also
4 requires TWC to annually evaluate the effectiveness of its
5 federally funded youth programs and provide best practices for
6 local boards, and this bill was signed into law May 27th and is
7 effective September 1st. Senate Bill 1535 by Senator Zaffirini
8 establishes an advanced nuclear energy workforce development
9 program at TWC to meet the urgent skilled labor needs of the
10 advanced nuclear energy industry in Texas, and Senate Bill 2448
11 by Senator Sparks establishes a rural workforce development
12 program at TWC that emphasizes high-wage and high-demand careers
13 aligned with regional labor demands, and Senate Bill 2448 was
14 signed into law by the governor on May 30th and is effective
15 September 1. In closing I did wish—want to take one moment and
16 recognize the GR team who joined me in the back of the room. Uh,
17 they have done a lot of hard work this session and most of which
18 had been with the agency less than a year so it was—it was a
19 learning opportunity for them. They did a great job. I wanted to
20 recognize Joe Dyer, Chelsey Thomas, Maggi McClanahan, Jen
21 Shugert, and Ted Raab, and of course holding down the fort for
22 us in DC, joining us online is Allison Robertson, but they all
23 did an outstanding job, uh, coordinating agency resource
24 testimony, monitoring legislative hearings and floor activity,
25 and of course covering just over 100 committee hearings this

1 session. It is truly the—my privilege to work alongside them
2 each and every day, and with that, this concludes my remarks.
3 I'm happy to answer any questions.

4 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Mr. Serna, I ask that
5 these remarks be reduced to writing.

6 MR. SERNA: We will do that. [Inaudible].

7 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: I just wanted to
8 thank you, Michael, and your team for all the work you did. I
9 thought we were the only ones that worked weekends and nights
10 but, uh, getting emails even on holidays just keeping us up to
11 date, uh, is commendable, and, uh, even you going above and
12 beyond to wear different attire, uh, if you had to in a hearing
13 was great but, uh, thank you all for what you've done for the
14 session and what you've done for the workers in Texas.

15 MICHAEL BRITT: Thank you, sir.

16 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: I second that,
17 Michael. Congrats and, uh, well deserved, well deserved on, on
18 good wins on continuing our mission here so thank you all so
19 much for all the hard work you [inaudible] did, and I don't—I
20 don't work weekends.

21 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: I do sometimes, and these
22 guys will sneak up on you in the hallway. You've got to, you've
23 got to keep your eye out for them at all times. Mr. Britt, in
24 terms of resource witnesses, you had a long list of resource
25 witnesses.

1 MICHAEL BRITT: Yes, sir.

2 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Uh, have you done an
3 analysis of, of which, which of our resource witnesses created
4 the most sort of conversation in their service as a resource
5 witness?

6 MICHAEL BRITT: I do believe the most
7 memorable was, was Mary York.

8 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Mary York.

9 MICHAEL BRITT: He had a—she had a very
10 memorable appearance in the Senate Economic Development
11 Committee toward the end of session.

12 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: We'll—we'll take that up
13 at a separate time as a commission.

14 MICHAEL BRITT: I'd be happy to distribute,
15 uh, clips to your offices [inaudible].

16 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you very much.
17 Michael, you guys, like if you don't, if you don't do, uh, if
18 you don't do legislative work for a living, it is, it is an
19 interesting pace. A hundred and forty days and they mean days,
20 not business days. They—they mean calendar days and the
21 legislature often works through the weekend, through the night,
22 and, and I think for people who don't really pursue that line of
23 work, I, I think they're probably not as thankful as they ought
24 to be for the people that do. It's such an interesting thing.
25 This is—I was trying to come up the other day. I think it's the—

1 this is my 13th legislative session that I've gotten to
2 participate in. They're all interesting. They're all unique but
3 there's this underlying thing that's the same, and we don't, we
4 don't tell you we appreciate you enough. We wait for the end of
5 the session to see how we did with the—see if we're going to
6 tell you we appreciate you, and when we did this year, uh,
7 wholeheartedly but I always do. I've done what you've—I have
8 done what you do for a living, and it is, it is such an
9 interesting job, and there's so much on the line. There are so
10 many rules about, about how we have to do it, and you do that
11 with an incredible amount of good cheer, and I, I genuinely
12 appreciate that. I, I think your attitude helps us strike a
13 better attitude as a commission, and, you know, we should be
14 glad we get to work with the legislature because, uh, they do
15 listen and they do care, this legislature particularly, and the
16 governor's office, lieutenant governor as well, you know,
17 they've asked really good questions and I, I think that's
18 because we've done our work carefully about getting those issues
19 in front of them and so I'm glad that we have a chance to do it
20 and I'm glad I get to work with you to do that as well.

21 MICHAEL BRITT: Well, thank you, sir.

22 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Absolutely.

23 MICHAEL BRITT: Appreciate you and everyone
24 else.

25

1 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Anything else for Mr.
2 Britt?

3 MR. SERNA: I, I would like his staff to
4 stand so we can at least recognize them.

5 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Absolutely. You know, it's
6 interesting because there's a, there's a, there's a—you all can
7 sit down. You don't have to stand up for this part. Uh, there's
8 a person I work with that's named Kelsey Thomas, and then
9 there's somebody [inaudible] person's name Chelsey Thomas, and,
10 and so Chelsey three or four times I've saved you from getting
11 an email about why I was unhappy with what I was unhappy about
12 but I'm not always going to catch those so I hope you have Mr.
13 Britt's good attitude about that. Just send it back to me and
14 tell me I got the wrong Thomas, all right? All right. Anything
15 else, guys? Thank you.

16 MICHAEL BRITT: Thank you again.

17 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Mr. Serna, an executive
18 director's report.

19 MR. SERNA: Very quickly, one thing I would
20 like to add that Michael, uh, left off, and I thought you were
21 going to ask maybe was which one of our, uh, staff was up the
22 most for hearings and exactly—

23 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Oh, that's a good one.

24 MR. SERNA: It's actually a contest between
25 Mary York and Reagan Miller, and then in their respective

1 divisions, Kerry Ballast and Allison Wilson. I think they spent
2 the most time there, uh, down at the, uh, down at the
3 legislature. We'll take a count so we can have the official
4 record of which one was down there, uh, longer or not longer but
5 more times than the other. Uh, the other thing I want to make
6 sure that, uh, you all are aware of is, of course we have all
7 our—a lot of our interns, uh, in the audience. You may want to
8 recognize them, uh, depending on, uh, whether they're in each of
9 y'all's offices but we have—several had the opportunity, uh, to
10 greet them at their, uh, new employee orientation, uh, and have
11 seen several of them, uh, working already and in the halls and
12 all so I'm very glad that they've joined us for the brief period
13 of time that they'll be with us. Hopefully some of them will
14 return, uh, already thinking of the future, uh, as, uh, as
15 employees or consider TWC as a, as a place for, for employment
16 so I wanted to make sure you're aware of that. And then the last
17 thing I wanted to make sure, I know that Michael mentioned
18 Allison Robertson in Washington but one of the things that she's
19 been doing is monitoring, uh, all the activity that's been going
20 on that's been affecting the Department of Labor and the changes
21 in the budget, etc., etc., etc. We have a lot of questions
22 coming to us from the boards, uh, for obvious reasons, uh. Right
23 now everything is preliminary. We hate to say these are the
24 numbers because they keep, you know, they're going to be
25 changing. The House has passed out a budget but the Senate

1 hasn't yet, uh, but we'll keep you all informed and the boards
2 as informed as we can with regard to the progress, especially
3 when it becomes final but right now preliminary looks like it
4 will be a reduction in several of our grant sources with the
5 exception right now of maybe child care. Uh, they'll be a
6 reduction in several of our grant sources that we'll have to
7 work through, and Chris and his staff and Mary and her staff are
8 already doing that. With that, that's all I have to report.

9 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right. Is there any
10 other order of business to come before the commission?

11 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: One, just to
12 recognize the, uh, intern in my office, Elena Pacheco, if you
13 want to stand. She's a, uh, law student at St. Mary's University
14 in San Antonio. Welcome her to the office, thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Normally, I'd invite her
16 to the podium to give three to five minutes.

17 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Yeah.

18 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: But, but I don't, I don't
19 think we're prepared for that.

20 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: If I could do the
21 same, chairman. Our—we also have a, uh, a legal intern from St.
22 Mary's. Katie Austin who hails from Austin, lives in San Antonio
23 so we appreciate her being here, and David Rodriguez, not the
24 catcher from Tampa Bay but the amazing intern that we have so I
25

1 offer an ask that you impart your wisdom and experience to, to
2 either of them at will. Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: At will?

4 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: At will.

5 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Katie tried to retreat
6 when you called her name. We're definitely not doing—we should
7 let her do her three to five minutes first, and likewise
8 Nicholas Gallardo and David Bruce back here, uh, are in our
9 office. They, they I think over the last week or so have
10 discovered, uh, what other duties as assigned means, and so
11 that's always a good learning curve, uh, when you hit the place.
12 Uh, summer interns in this agency, uh, in my office and I know
13 the other commission offices and around the agency, you know,
14 we're going to, we're going to make sure interns get to do
15 actual work. We want you to come back. I, I got two former
16 interns, uh, working in my office now, Lauren and Lauren.
17 Neither one of you guys' name is Lauren but I still think you
18 got a good shot if you, if you work hard and, and you're able to
19 do that. Uh, it works out. You learn some things. You learn you
20 like some things. You learn some things you don't like. You
21 finish school and, uh, there's opportunity to hire. I read a
22 statistic the other day that said, uh, 70 something percent of
23 people's first job is the—is as a result of their internship.
24 It's why we're so focused on that here at TWC. I think we have a
25 great internship experience. I'm glad, uh, we're able to attract

1 such quality interns. I, you know, I looked who's working where
2 and what they're doing, and honestly, I think we're in real good
3 shape in terms of our ability to bring some folks in that want
4 to learn some things, uh, and then it really gives our staff an
5 opportunity to kind of expand everyone's horizons and let us
6 move forward so it's an exciting time. Glad you guys are here. A
7 lot of opportunities this summer. Is there anything else to come
8 before the commission? If not, we'll take a motion to adjourn.

9 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Chairman, I move to
10 adjourn.

11 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: I second.

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

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