



MEETING OF THE  
TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION

DATE

JUNE 17, 2025

1 Tuesday, June 17, 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: Thank you, sir.

6 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you. We'll take a  
7 short recess.

8 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: And we're back for Agenda  
9 Item 9, statewide initiatives. Chris is walking serious. This is  
10 going to be serious.

11 CHRIS NELSON: Good morning, chairman,  
12 commissioners, Mr. Serna. For the record, Chris Nelson, chief  
13 financial officer. This morning you have a packet before you,  
14 uh, including the statewide initiatives for the 2026, uh,  
15 operating budget. I'll give you a brief background of the—where  
16 we are in the process. So last September the commission approved  
17 the legislative appropriation requests to submit to LBB, uh, for  
18 inclusion in our, uh, general appropriations request. Uh, the  
19 commission approved that, went through the legislative process.  
20 We now have basically an approved General Appropriations Act but  
21 also after September 3<sup>rd</sup>, the commission had a work session to  
22 approve additional, uh, uh, statewide initiative programs after  
23 we submitted the LAR so what you have before you is a document  
24 that encompasses what you approved last year either in, in, in  
25 last summer during a similar session as this or in a follow-up

1 work session in September, uh, uh, and in this case of child  
2 care you have additional documentation on any increases or, or  
3 decreases in the child care program including, uh, uh, uh,  
4 rescinding any programs or, uh, increasing any amounts or  
5 decreasing any amounts. Uh, one thing to note, uh, as, as the  
6 general layout is very similar to what we've done before, you  
7 have the yellow highlighted for your commission reserve balance.  
8 For WIOA just to make sure you're aware, uh, applies to TANF as  
9 well but specifically with WIOA you have to add the 2.2 million  
10 available in the 2026 operating budget plus the 6.9 in the 25 so  
11 staff have not, because the year's not over, haven't UB'd that  
12 amount forward to 2026 so your operating budget amount for  
13 statewide initiatives because I, I seriously doubt anything's  
14 going to get approved in, in the contract before August 31<sup>st</sup> is  
15 9.2 million for WIOA. Uh, that concludes my comments and I'd be  
16 happy to answer any questions.

17 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Comments or questions?

18 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: No, none right now.

19 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right, I think our  
20 game plan is to push a decision on all this to the work session  
21 which is scheduled for Monday which is coming up. Um, I think it  
22 looks like about a million in TANF, about 9 million in WIOA. Is  
23 that about right?

24 CHRIS NELSON: 9.2 million.

25

1 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: And that's assuming we  
2 take all of staff's recommendations as they're presented. I  
3 think all of that is open for discussion though. Um, then  
4 commissioners have traditionally brought any new initiatives or  
5 initiatives that they'd like to consider at the work session. I  
6 have three. I brought them today. I'm going to distribute them  
7 so I can get these, uh, into the meeting record. Obviously,  
8 we'll come back up and discuss them in any kind of detail--

9 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: OK.

10 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: On Monday. I don't, I  
11 don't intend to take action before Monday. I just want you guys  
12 to have them before we roll up in there on Monday so you can see  
13 kind of what I'm thinking about. If, if you have ideas that  
14 you're ready to present today, I'd, I'd like to do that. I--let  
15 me distribute these to you guys. There are three here. The first  
16 one is a proposal, uh, to help senior military leaders. These  
17 are, these are sort of upper-level officers as they transition  
18 to civilian employment. This would deal with internships,  
19 mentoring with high-level civilian leaders, business outreach. I  
20 had a really good conversation with some senior, uh, officers  
21 at, uh, Joint Base San Antonio. I did consult with Bob Gear on  
22 this so I, I, I have included our military experts here at the  
23 commission in our discussion and, in full disclosure, Bob helped  
24 me, Bob helped me write the paper. That's why there's big words  
25 in here so if you, if you have questions, you can certainly talk

1 to Bob. Commissioners, we can't talk about it until Monday but  
2 I'll—I'm happy to discuss this Monday as well. My second one,  
3 uh, this is—uh, I've been hearing about this a lot as I've been  
4 out and about. I'm sure you hear about a lot of things too. This  
5 is late-stage career shifters. These are people who are trying  
6 to make a career change kind of midway through their career.  
7 They're not really in a position to go back to school. I, I  
8 would like to discuss additional tools for mid- or late-career  
9 shifters and, and this is mostly about career exploration. This  
10 is mostly about awareness. This may involve some internships as  
11 well. And then the last one is a rotating industry internship.  
12 Uh, plainly put and I remember when my own kids did this, they  
13 roll them up eighth grade and tell them they got to pick their  
14 major for high school which is ridiculous, and, uh, we're, you  
15 know, I mean if anybody in here feels like you were a better  
16 decision maker at 14 than you are today, let's talk after the  
17 meeting because I would love to talk to you about that, and if  
18 any of you feel like you were a better decision maker at 17 than  
19 you are today, I'd like to talk about that too. Um, I think one  
20 of the ways we can really help Texas's school kids is to really  
21 kind of develop an internship program that lets them do multiple  
22 career explorations through internships throughout their high  
23 school career. Let's don't lock them into one thing. Let's give  
24 them the opportunity to really see for themselves what all these  
25 different jobs do. I think we can do this through CT. I think

1 there's a lot of ways we can do this. Um, I think we probably  
2 just need to come up with the best way. So those are my three  
3 concepts. These will come back up Monday for additional  
4 discussion but just to make that discussion more productive on  
5 Monday I wanted to lay those out today. Commissioner Treviño,  
6 were you thinking about anything that you might want to lay out  
7 today and certainly we can do this again on Monday as well.

8 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Uh, yes, I've got a  
9 couple of them that I'd like to hand out today and then go  
10 there. And for Chris, you said 9 million-ish?

11 CHRIS NELSON: In WIOA, there's no ish.

12 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Oh, there's no ish,  
13 OK.

14 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: Bam.

15 CHRIS NELSON: Doesn't exist in the  
16 accounting vocabulary.

17 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you.

18 CHRIS NELSON: 9.2 million is—

19 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Got it.

20 CHRIS NELSON: If you want the exact number,  
21 it's—

22 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Thank you. OK. Well,  
23 the first one that I wanted to point out was emerging industry  
24 workforce development, uh, program dealing with nuclear energy.  
25 Uh, nuclear energy is an important area of growth for our

1 workforce. We must ensure that we provide the necessary skills  
2 and training to maximize the potential of this vital industry  
3 which will serve the workers of our state by providing new jobs  
4 with high earning potential. Senate Bill 1535 recognizes this  
5 reality and has directed us to create in collaboration with the  
6 Tri-Agency Workforce Initiative and the Public Utility  
7 Commission an advanced nuclear energy workforce development  
8 program. While no fundings were approved for this program, I  
9 would like to propose a pilot program to identify ways in which  
10 we can support workforce development in this area. I am  
11 requesting that we use, uh, 1.5 million in WIOA, uh, statewide  
12 funds to create this pilot program which will work to establish  
13 that, uh, talent pipeline for this industry. Uh, the second one  
14 is, uh, in reference to a rural workforce development. This  
15 commission has recognized the challenges of rural communities  
16 that they face with workforce development. Rural school  
17 districts and community colleges often lack the resources to  
18 address these issues to properly develop the needed workforce.  
19 Senate Bill 2448 directed the creation of a workforce  
20 development grant program to provide grants to nonprofit  
21 organizations that will provide technical assistance and support  
22 rural colleges and school districts but did not appropriate any  
23 funds for this program and requires formal rulemaking prior to  
24 the implementation. I believe that engaging in an eligible  
25 public or private research institution to develop a pilot

1 program to assist these rural community colleges and school  
2 districts with grant applications, uh, facility upgrades,  
3 partnership development, and aligning education with employer—  
4 with what the employer needs will help us identify skill gaps,  
5 expand training programs, and facilitate private partnerships,  
6 and I'm requesting one million dollars in WIOA, uh, funds to  
7 create this pilot program. Uh, those are the two that I, uh,  
8 wanted to present today.

9 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you, commissioner.  
10 Commissioner Esparza.

11 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: Yeah, just one. Uh,  
12 mine is in the area of parent educator child care, uh, a pilot  
13 program that would allow qualified parents to receive child care  
14 financial assistance while also volunteering as caregiving staff  
15 at eligible, uh, CCS providers where their child attends, and  
16 I'd like to thank Reagan and Allison for their help in working  
17 out some of the details, and we would need to continue to work,  
18 uh, work out this plan. Uh, getting right to the money, we're  
19 asking for 4.7 million in this pilot program but it's  
20 [inaudible] utilizing funds that are made available through the  
21 agency staff proposed discontinuation of the child care  
22 investment partnerships program, uh, in fiscal year 26. So we'd  
23 like to look at a little bit more about what that money is and  
24 if we can allocate or rededicate that money, uh, so to not to  
25 impact that 9.2—



1 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Ish.

2 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: I, I continue to, uh,  
3 be a proponent of this model. I think it's a creative model  
4 that, that, that I've been able to, to view in action and, uh, I  
5 hope to see a pilot program in other parts of the state would  
6 benefit to those communities in, in that location. Again, like I  
7 said, I'd be, I'd be, like to have that discussion to talk  
8 about, uh, you know, the pros and cons. This has kind of been  
9 worked in the past. I don't feel that it's been worked in this,  
10 in this type of way to where we're actually training fully  
11 dedicated caregivers. Therefore, somebody volunteers a day and  
12 then they get a subsidy for, or a scholarship for the rest of  
13 the week but I mean they're, we're basically training them that  
14 if they wanted to be full time, uh, child care givers, they have  
15 the--they'll have the training and the ability to do so. So  
16 there's, there's my proposal.

17 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right, very good.  
18 Thank you. Gentlemen, we're going to table all this. We're going  
19 to bring it back Monday in its entirety. Everything will be  
20 eligible for discussion on Monday. All the, all staff proposals,  
21 all staff recommendations, our recommendations. We just got to  
22 get the dollar amounts right, uh. Child care discussion on that  
23 day as well so this will include all AEL, all WIOA, all TANF,  
24 everything that's in the whole entire seven-volume set of, uh,  
25 materials that they gave us preparing for this. We'll just talk

1 about it all at one time, and also, you know, I would encourage  
2 us as commissioners, uh, and I've been reading this year with a  
3 much more critical eye. This, I think part of our responsibility  
4 as commissioners is understanding things we've done and trying  
5 to understand if they continue to be effective so I think that's  
6 part of the discussion on Monday, and I don't think we should—I  
7 don't think we should shy away from discussing making changes to  
8 things that we're doing especially if we think that can improve  
9 it and so I anticipate all of this will be wrapped up on any one  
10 discussion. Everybody, everybody good? Chris, good?

11 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: I have one question,  
12 chairman. Just administratively, does—do these proposals have to  
13 be submitted like today and this would, can be adjusted just as  
14 long as they're posted?

15 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Um, well, really what  
16 we've entered on the record today, um—

17 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: Advance warning.

18 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: We, yeah. This is just I  
19 think an opportunity for us to understand. It's the only venue  
20 that we really have for us to know what each other—

21 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: OK.

22 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Are thinking. If you think  
23 of more ideas, supplemental ideas, obviously that will come out  
24 in the discussion on Monday. I think that's part of what that  
25 discussion is.

1 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: OK.

2 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: We may on Monday get into  
3 a discussion and, and invent a whole new thing that none of us  
4 even actually thought of before, and we can do that too because—

5 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: OK.

6 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: A work session is the same  
7 kind of open meeting as a commission meeting so we can do  
8 everything that we can do in a regular commission meeting.

9 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: OK, thanks, chairman.

10 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Yeah. All right. Let's  
11 see. I don't think there's a legislative report today. There's  
12 somebody sitting in the legislative report chair but she does  
13 not appear as if she's prepared to give a legislative report in  
14 any way, shape, form [inaudible]. Now she's looking at me like  
15 she doesn't like me very much for having said that. So, Mr.  
16 Serna I'll turn it over to you for the executive director's  
17 report.

18 MR. SERNA: Uh, one quick report delivered  
19 by Eric on our recent South Texas disaster unemployment.

20 ERIC HOLEN: Good morning, Eric Holen with  
21 the Unemployment Insurance Division. I have an update on  
22 declared disaster 4871 for the severe storms and flooding that  
23 occurred between March 26 and March 28, 2025. On May 21, 2025,  
24 federal disaster aid was authorized for individual assistance  
25 which included disaster unemployment assistance or DUA benefits.

1 The declared counties for individual assistance include Cameron,  
2 Hidalgo, Starr, and Willacy. The deadline to apply for DUA  
3 benefits is July 21, 2025, and the last payable week is the week  
4 ending November 22, 2025. As of this morning customers have  
5 submitted 39 DUA claims, and that completes my update.

6 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Comments or questions?

7 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Uh, none here.

8 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: None, chairman.

9 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right. Thank you very  
10 much.

11 MR. SERNA: Nothing else, sir.

12 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you, Mr. Serna. Is  
13 there any other order of business to come before the commission?

14 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: No.

15 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: None.

16 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Is there a motion to  
17 adjourn?

18 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Uh, chairman, I move  
19 to adjourn.

20 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: Second.

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

23

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