



MEETING OF THE
TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION

DATE

JUNE 23, 2026

1 Tuesday, June 23, 2026

2 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: All right. Let's go ahead
3 and get started, everybody. This meeting is called to order. Uh,
4 do we have public comment today?

5 MS. PATRICIO: Good morning, Jewell Patricio
6 for the Office of General Counsel. We have one individual who's
7 registered for public comment this morning. Kaila Linder [SP].
8 Ms. Linder is here in person. Come on up.

9 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Good morning.

10 UNIDENTIFIED: [Inaudible].

11 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: [Inaudible]. They both
12 work.

13 KAILA LINDER: I wasn't sure. My apologies.

14 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: No—

15 KAILA LINDER: I am not prepared today in my
16 normal fashion. Uh, so my apologies. Uh, I am here just to speak
17 on the Sunset Committee report that has come out for TWC, uh,
18 highlighting a couple of pieces, and so if you'll just give me
19 two seconds, uh, I was stuck in traffic this morning, so, my
20 apologies. OK, um, so I'm here this morning to talk about the,
21 uh, Sunset Commission report that has come out, and as you guys
22 look into that and reviewing that we really want to focus on
23 some pieces of the report that were not, um, included or some
24 pieces that were not included in that report. That [inaudible],
25 those pieces rely around the Texas, uh, PreK Partnerships so

1 there is not a ton of information on the, uh, time and energy
2 that TWC has spent on the Texas PreK Partnerships. Uh, there is
3 a whole committee within TWC that focuses on that. I believe
4 there's about 24 individuals, and that was not highlighted in
5 the Sunset Committee's report. Additional to that, uh, also not
6 highlighted in the report was the Texas Rising Star program
7 which is a large piece of TWC. Uh, the Texas Rising Star program
8 is the quality rating system for child care pre-uh, child care
9 providers across the state. This is a piece that is vital to
10 what we do. It, uh, affects our subsidy money, uh, as well, and
11 so that is two pieces that we would like to have added to the
12 report. We have, uh, submitted comment to the commission, the
13 Sunset Commission as well, uh, but wanted to highlight that for
14 you all this morning. And that's what I have because my internet
15 won't work.

16 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Very good.

17 KAILA LINDER: Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Thank you for that input.
19 Very good. I, uh, now turn it over to Commissioner Connett to,
20 uh, reside, preside over Items 3 through 8.

21 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: And the motion passes
22 with the exceptions noted. Uh, that concludes our work on Agenda
23 Items 3 through 8. Chairman Esparza, I pass the meeting back
24 over to you.

25

1 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Very good. Thank you so
2 much. We're going to go ahead and take a break for the shuffle.
3 Thanks.

4 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: All right. We'll go ahead
5 and commence. Uh, Item 9 regarding, uh, publication for public
6 comment, uh, proposed amendments to 40 TAC 815.

7 REED O'BRIEN: We start over. Good morning,
8 commissioners and Mr. Pier. For the record, I'm Reed O'Brien
9 with the Office of General Counsel. Commissioners, before you
10 today for your consideration are proposed rule amendments to
11 Chapter 815, Unemployment Insurance. The proposed amendments
12 specify physical and electronic mailing address requirements for
13 parties involved in a claim and delivery of TWC notices to those
14 parties, establish consistent procedures for commission
15 hearings, and to make other general clarifying changes to the
16 rules. Staff recommends submitting the proposed rule for
17 publication in the Texas Register for a 30-day public comment
18 period. Staff also requests the ability to make minor,
19 nonsubstantive changes to the document to comply with
20 publication requirements for the Texas Register and the Office
21 of the Secretary of State. That concludes my presentation. I'm
22 available for any questions.

23 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Thanks, Reed. Uh,
24 commissioners, any comments or questions?

25

1 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Uh, just thank you,
2 Reed and Lowell for answering some of the questions that we had.
3 Appreciate you.

4 REED O'BRIEN: You're welcome. Thank you.

5 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: None here. Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Uh, Reed, I had one,
7 couple, two clarifying, uh, items that I want to see if we can
8 get a little bit more conversation on. Uh, and thank you for
9 the, for, uh, as it is kind of a cleanup and clarity bill. Uh,
10 if you go to page 13 under Section .25, Approval of Training.
11 That's on 12. Flip the page over to 13, the, uh, Section C. That
12 paragraph looks, it looks, so basically it looks like there's
13 commission-approved training that falls off after the
14 dissolution of Workforce Innovation Act and that it is, it is
15 moved over. Uh, it seems everything has a place except for
16 [inaudible], the, uh, the, [inaudible] Department of Aging and,
17 and, uh, Disability Services, DADS. Uh, what I'm, what I'm
18 saying is there is commission-approved training in each of these
19 that was moved over into something. Is, it was, was there a
20 conversation on any training that was provided by DADS that got
21 assumed into maybe HHSC or anything that, that it, that it where
22 that would have, be addressed, I guess, if that's what I'm
23 talking about.

24 REED O'BRIEN: Right. I have to apologize. I
25 don't have a direct response immediately for that, that

1 question. Uh, that is, is something that we could look further
2 into unless, uh, several people are involved in this project, so
3 I'm not sure if we have someone here—

4 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: OK.

5 REED O'BRIEN: Who could, uh, respond to
6 [inaudible]—

7 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: That's OK. Uh, maybe we,
8 maybe we hold, just, the only thing I'm trying to do is make
9 sure that, uh, something just isn't left out in, in, in, in
10 addressing this. Let me, let me go over it one more time for,
11 for, for, for Lowell in the back. Uh, Workforce Investment Act
12 was dissolved. It went into the, it went into WIOA. Uh, the
13 Department of Assisted and Rehabilitative Services was, uh,
14 assumed into our Vocational Rehabilitation Services program but
15 there was the DADS part of that and I'm not sure if, if what I'm
16 asking is just if we make sure that it is being either it was
17 not needed or whatever training was involved in, in DADS, is
18 assumed somewhere. And just to get some clarity on that. I'm not
19 sure if that makes, if that gives the ability to hold this I
20 think functionally, I think. We don't have an answer for it. I
21 think we hold it until we get, we get that addressed.

22 REED O'BRIEN: Yes, I, I recall going over
23 that but I, I, without looking at it, I, I don't feel I can
24 comfortably—

25

1 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Yeah, that's why, yeah,
2 we don't want to assume that it had, it had, it had, that it was
3 assumed by HHSC. That's probably, it's logical to think that. I
4 just want to see if we can clarify it.

5 REED O'BRIEN: OK.

6 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Uh, the, uh, on page 15,
7 page 15, the first full paragraphs, Section 6, looks like it's—
8 what we're talking about is appearance. Uh, for the purposes of
9 this section the term appears shall mean participation by party,
10 uh, or parties' representatives. And then it lists actions that
11 may be considered as participation. The question that we're
12 asking is, is, is if there's discretion for what is considered
13 appearing, uh, or I think because it says—let's see. Uh, actions
14 that may be considered if that discretion is, is taken on by
15 the, the agency, uh, or is it only listed as those action items
16 as checking the box for making an appearance. I think it's
17 another one I want to talk about.

18 REED O'BRIEN: OK.

19 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: And I'm hoping that the
20 clarity in that makes, makes things easier down the road when it
21 comes down to it. But since we are—those are the two, two items
22 that I wanted to talk about there. Does this, does this force us
23 into any deadline, breaking a deadline or anything that, that we
24 can overcome if we, if we just table this?

25

1 REED O'BRIEN: No, that won't—that's not a
2 problem at all, sir.

3 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: OK. So we'll, we'll have
4 those conversations, those two items. Thank you, Reed and Lowell
5 for that.

6 REED O'BRIEN: All right. Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: So we'll just hold on to
8 that one. You're still here for Item 10.

9 REED O'BRIEN: I've got two more.

10 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: OK, cool, good, OK. Uh,
11 Item 10 regarding, uh, TAC 853.

12 REED O'BRIEN: All right. Commissioners, for
13 the record, again, I'm Reed O'Brien with the Office of General
14 Counsel. Before you today for your consideration for approval
15 are proposed rule amendments to Chapter 853, Independent Living
16 Services for Older Individuals Who Are Blind, or OIB. The
17 proposed amendments align rules with the updated OIB policy
18 manual and federal regulations to ensure conformity and accurate
19 program administration. The changes clarify minimal service
20 requirements, staff responsibilities, and terminology, and also
21 update procedures for Social Security beneficiaries. Staff
22 recommends submitting the proposed rule for publication in the
23 Texas Register for a 30-day public comment period. Staff also
24 requests the ability to make minor nonsubstantive changes to the
25 document to comply with publication requirements of the Texas

1 Register and the Office of the Secretary of State. That
2 concludes my presentation. I'm available for any questions.

3 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Very good. Thanks, Reed.
4 Commissioners, any comments or questions on that?

5 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Uh, none here.

6 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: No, nothing here.
7 Thanks.

8 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: No questions from me. Is
9 there a motion?

10 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Uh, Chairman, I move
11 that we approve the proposed amendments to 40 Texas
12 Administrative Code, Chapter 853, Independent Living Services
13 for Older Individuals Who Are Blind, for public, publication for
14 public comment as recommended today by staff.

15 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: I second the motion.

16 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Motion's been seconded
17 and made. I also vote yes, motion passes. Thank you. Reed, on to
18 Item 11. Am I keeping track? Item 11, uh, Chapter 858.

19 REED O'BRIEN: All right, commissioners,
20 once more, for the record, I'm Reed O'Brien with the Office of
21 General Counsel. Before you today for your consideration are
22 proposed rule amendments to Chapter 858, Procurement and
23 Contract Management Requirements for Purchase of Goods and
24 Services for Vocational Rehabilitation Services. The proposed
25 amendments set forth clear guidelines for a fair and consistent

1 recoupment system for the VR program and its contractors. The
2 proposed rule changes include the expansion of the Adverse
3 Actions rules under Section 858.9, a restructuring of rules
4 relating to suspension of contractors and debarment of
5 contractors in order to present those rules in a more distinct
6 and logical format and adding a definition for fraud. Staff
7 recommends submitting the proposed rule for publication in the
8 Texas Register for a 30-day public comment period. Staff also
9 requests the ability to make minor nonsubstantive changes to the
10 document to comply with publication requirements of the Texas
11 Register and the Office of the Secretary of State. That
12 concludes my presentation. I'm available for any questions.

13 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Thank you, Reed.
14 Commissioners, any comments or questions?

15 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Uh, none here.

16 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: No, none here.

17 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Is there a motion?

18 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Chairman, I move that
19 we approve the proposed amendments to 40 Texas Administrative
20 Code, Chapter 858, Procurement and Contract Management
21 Requirements for Purchases of Goods and Services for Vocational
22 Rehabilitation Services, for publication for public comment as
23 recommended today by staff.

24 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: I second the motion.
25

1 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Very good. Uh, motion's
2 made and seconded. I also vote yes. Motion passes. Thank you,
3 Reed.

4 REED O'BRIEN: All right. Thank you,
5 commissioners.

6 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Good. On to Item 12
7 regarding child care services and braided funding. Allison.

8 ALLISON WILSON: All right. Good morning,
9 Chairman, commissioners, Mr. Pier. For the record, Allison
10 Wilson with the Child Care & Early Learning Division. This
11 morning we are bringing forward recommendations regarding how
12 the child care services, how child care services funding can be
13 braided with Texas Education Freedom Accounts, or TEFA. TEFA is
14 the new school voucher program administered by the Comptroller.
15 We have worked with the Comptroller in the development of this
16 guidance. Under TEFA, eligible families can use their school
17 voucher to pay for pre, pre-K education and under TEFA high-
18 quality Texas Rising Star Three- or Four-Star certified child
19 care providers may be eligible, uh, for TEFA pre-K educate,
20 eligible pre-K education service providers. Currently, TWC has
21 policies about how child care services will pay for wraparound
22 child care for children who are co-enrolled in CCS and public
23 pre-K instruction in prekindergarten partnerships. These
24 partnerships offer a publicly funded pre-K education within a
25 high-quality Texas Rising Star child care provider. This

1 discussion paper will establish a similar policy but this policy
2 is focused on how CCS will pay for wraparound child care for
3 children who are co-enrolled in CCS and also enrolled in a TEFA-
4 funded pre, pre-K instruction at a high-quality Three- or Four-
5 Star Texas Rising Star child care provider. As outlined in the
6 discussion paper, TEFA is covering the costs associated with
7 delivering high-quality pre-K under the Texas Education Code,
8 which includes employing a certified or qualified teacher
9 utilizing a child progress monitoring tool and using a high-
10 quality curriculum. A parent may use their school voucher which
11 will pay for pre-K education at the full-day rate while CCS will
12 pay for the wraparound child care services that occur before or
13 after the pre-K instructional time. As outlined in the decision
14 point, for children with TEFA vouchers we are recommending that
15 CCS pay the blended rate during the school year and the full-
16 time rate during the summer. That concludes my remarks and I'm
17 happy to answer any questions.

18 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Very good. Thank you,
19 Allison. Uh, commissioners, any comments or questions?

20 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Uh, none here.

21 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: Uh, just one
22 question. Uh, Allison, I understand you all worked closely with
23 the Comptroller's office in developing this proposal.

24 ALLISON WILSON: That is correct.
25

1 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: Good. Thank you.
2 These, uh, education freedom accounts are uh, are, are very
3 exciting and provide great, great promise. They're, uh, much
4 more than a voucher in, in actuality in what they afford, uh,
5 families in terms of opportunities. So, thanks for working with
6 the Comptroller's office and presenting this to us.

7 ALLISON WILSON: Yes.

8 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Is there a motion?

9 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Chairman, I move that
10 we approve the Child Care Services Braided Funding Model for use
11 of the Texas Education Freedom Accounts program as described in
12 the discussion paper and recommended today by staff.

13 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: And I second the
14 motion.

15 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Very good. Uh, I also
16 vote yes. Motion passes. Thank you, Allison.

17 ALLISON WILSON: Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Uh, Agenda Item 13
19 regarding U.S. Department of Labor waivers to Workforce
20 Innovation Act. Shirley.

21 SHIRLEY JONES: Good morning, Chairman
22 Esparza, Commissioner Treviño, Commissioner Connett, Mr. Pier.
23 For the record, I'm Shirley Jones with the Workforce Development
24 Division. Commissioners, before you today for your consideration
25 and adoption are four requests for waivers of provisions of the

1 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. The waivers are
2 related to Performance Data Requirements for Eligible Training
3 Providers, Streamlined Adult and Dislocated Worker Enrollment,
4 WIOA First Choice Funding, and Streamlined Enrollment for Youth.
5 The Streamlined Enrollment for Youth and Adult and Dislocated
6 Worker waivers were developed in coordination with local
7 Workforce Development Boards and all waivers were developed in
8 accordance with federal regulation and guidance. This morning
9 staff recommends adoption of the waiver requests that are
10 included in your reading materials for submission to the U.S.
11 Department of Labor. That concludes my presentation and I'm
12 available to answer any questions you may have.

13 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Thank you, Shirley. Uh,
14 commissioners, any comments or questions?

15 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: None here.

16 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: So just one, Ms.
17 Jones. Thank you, uh, for this. Appreciate all the work that's
18 gone into these waivers and generally very supportive. As it
19 relates to the, uh, the, the WIOA First Choice Funds waiver, uh,
20 I intend to vote yes. I will vote yes on that waiver. I have a
21 potential concern that it could create a, a disincentive, uh,
22 for boards to be creative, go out and seek, uh, other funding.
23 Is there, is there any opportunity assuming that that waiver is
24 granted by the federal government, for us to provide guidance
25 and guard against that disincentive?

1 SHIRLEY JONES: Yes, uh, there, there
2 definitely is. Uh, this would be a new requirement for our
3 boards and so, uh, we would issue guidance to them. Ultimately
4 our goal is just to make sure that all of the waivers are
5 implemented in, in appropriate as well as a consistent manner.

6 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: Fantastic. Thank you.

7 SHIRLEY JONES: Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Very good. Anything else?

9 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: No.

10 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Nothing.

11 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Is there a motion?

12 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Chairman, I move that
13 we approve the waiver requests of requirements within Sections
14 122, 116, and 194 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity
15 Act, and the corresponding federal regulations requirements
16 within 20 CFR, Section 680.450, Part 677, Sections 680.230, and
17 680.910, and Sections 681.320 for submission to the U.S.
18 Department of Labor as described in the discussion paper and
19 recommended today by staff.

20 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: I second the motion.

21 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: I also vote yes. The
22 motion passes. Thank you, Shirley.

23 SHIRLEY JONES: Thank you.

24

25

1 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Uh, board, board
2 nominees. On to Item 14, uh, Local Workforce Board Developments.
3 Kara.

4 KARA LEVY: Good morning, Chairman,
5 commissioners, Mr. Pier. For the record, Kara Levy with the
6 Workforce Development Division. Today for your consideration,
7 consideration, we have Workforce Board nominations for the
8 following boards: Workforce Solutions Middle Rio Grande;
9 Workforce Solutions Northeast Texas. We present these
10 nominations for your consideration, and I'm happy to answer any
11 questions you have.

12 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Very good. Thanks, Kara.
13 Uh, commissioners, any comments or questions?

14 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Uh, nothing here.

15 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: No, thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Is there a motion?

17 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Chairman, I move that
18 we approve the local Workforce Development Board member nominees
19 presented today for Workforce Solutions Middle Rio Grande and
20 Northeast Texas.

21 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: Second.

22 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Motion's been made and
23 seconded. I also vote yes. Uh, motion passes, and Kara, you're
24 up for Item 15, Annual and Supplemental Reports. Oh, you're not
25

1 up for 15. I'm sorry. That's Amy. Come on, Amy. I'm sorry. I'm
2 just assigning you things [inaudible].

3 AMY LANDRUM: Good morning.

4 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Hi, Amy.

5 AMY LANDRUM: Good morning, Chairman,
6 commissioners, Mr. Pier. For the record, my name is Amy Landrum,
7 director of communications and media. Before you for
8 consideration are the Texas Workforce Commission Fiscal Year
9 2025 Annual and Supplemental Reports. The Annual Report has been
10 produced in compliance with Texas Labor Code 301.065 and for
11 submission to the governor and Texas Legislature. It contains
12 information about the Trust Fund, the Civil Rights Division, and
13 a message from you. The Supplemental Report has also been
14 produced in accordance with Texas Labor Code 301.065. It
15 requires TWC to submit a separate supplemental report which
16 contains information about College Credit for Heroes, Skills
17 Development Funds, Trade Adjustment Assistance, and Texas
18 Purchasing from People with Disabilities. This concludes my
19 presentation, available to answer any questions you may have.

20 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Thank you, Amy. Uh,
21 commissioners, any comments or questions?

22 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Uh, nothing here.

23 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: Uh, no questions.
24 Just want to say thank you. This was, these reports were a
25 significant lift. You've got three, three commissioners and

1 many, many other stakeholders to balance, so thanks for your
2 good work on this.

3 AMY LANDRUM: You're welcome. Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Second that. Is there a
5 motion?

6 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Chairman, I move that
7 we approve the Texas Workforce Commission Fiscal Year 2025
8 Annual and Supplemental Reports for submission to the governor
9 and legislature as recommended today by staff.

10 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: Second.

11 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: I also vote yes. Motion
12 passes. Thank you, thank you, Amy, appreciate it.

13 AMY LANDRUM: Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Agenda Item 16, our
15 statewide initiatives. Uh, who, I think it's Mary. Come on up,
16 Mary. [Inaudible]. Slide over, Steve. My first question is for
17 Steve Pier [inaudible]. Yeah.

18 MARY YORK: Am I on now?

19 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: You are.

20 MARY YORK: OK, all right. Uh, good morning,
21 Chairman, commissioners, and Mr. Pier. For the record, I'm Mary
22 York with the Workforce Development Division. Uh, thank you for
23 the opportunity to review the statewide initiatives budget with
24 you today. Uh, just to kind of level set where we are, uh, I
25

1 wanted to provide an overview of how the budget documents were
2 prepared and where we are as of today if that is OK with you.

3 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Yep.

4 MARY YORK: OK. Uh, as you are aware Texas
5 received \$13,000,000 less in our Workforce Innovation and
6 Opportunity Act funding for 2027 so we needed to consider how
7 this cut would affect planned initiatives. Staff began by
8 reviewing the available data for the initiatives funded in 2025
9 and 2026. Using that available performance data and considering
10 the available funding staff recommended continuing 17 of the 32
11 initiatives funded in 2026. This left a commission reserve
12 balance of \$2,045,194 for 2027. This year we also needed to
13 consider the proposed—how the proposed statewide initiative
14 amounts would be included in the agency's Legislative
15 Appropriations Request. In 2028 we added funding for two
16 initiatives in addition to what we were proposing for 2027
17 leaving a remaining balance of \$15,194 in commission reserve,
18 and then for 2029 the available, uh, projected available
19 balance, uh, would be \$315,194. Additionally, we added further
20 analysis this year to consider the duration of the existing
21 initiatives, alignment with the strategic direction of the
22 agency, and the ability to consolidate existing initiatives into
23 unified strategies with the goal of gaining efficiencies and
24 flexibility. As a result, staff recommended the consolidation of
25 proposed veterans initiatives into a single veterans pathway

1 initiative, and the creation of an internship initiative through
2 the combination of several existing internship tracks. At the
3 work session last week, we presented the staff-proposed budget
4 and the recommended consolidations. As you're aware,
5 Commissioner Treviño presented three concepts for consideration
6 by the commission and Commissioner Connett also presented three
7 initiatives for potential inclusion in the budget. Staff were
8 directed to consider these concepts and bring recommendations to
9 the commission for today's meeting. Since last week staff used
10 the proposed budget and the papers distributed, then continued
11 to review of the performance of exit, existing initiatives,
12 alignment with the recently adopted strategic plan and available
13 options based on the requested amounts. We have shared some
14 recommendations with you for proposed funding reductions to
15 accommodate the [inaudible], proposals presented last week. As
16 we pointed out during the briefings with your offices, these
17 were not easy recommendations, uh, as there were more worthwhile
18 initiatives than there were funds available. I also want to
19 point out we're currently reviewing older initiatives and
20 working with finance to identify those, melt, most well suited
21 for exceptional items. We know that the funds available for
22 statewide initiatives through WIOA are intended as a way for the
23 state to try new innovative approaches to serving the state's
24 employers and workers. As pointed out in the work session, if
25 there are initiatives that perform well and provide a benefit to

1 the state, we should consider whether these programs are better
2 funded through state general revenue. If this proach, approach
3 is adopted, then the commission would free up statewide
4 initiative funds for new proposals and give the state an
5 opportunity to develop proven models through innovation. The
6 commission would be asked to consider, uh, any types of
7 exceptional items as part of the LAR process. So that's where we
8 are as of today.

9 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Yeah.

10 MARY YORK: Uh, and we are happy to answer
11 any questions that you might have.

12 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: OK. Thank you, guys.
13 Thank you all so much for finding a way, and, commissioners,
14 these, the initiatives that were presented are, are, are
15 definitely worthwhile and, and meaningful and I get that,
16 appreciate that. Uh, I'm, I'm, just to kind of lay out how we,
17 some ground rules, uh, on what my thoughts are for this, uh,
18 this exercise and thankfully it sounds like we're, uh, would
19 like to give you all a definite answer on today if, if, if we're
20 able to come to some agreements. Uh, it's going to be about
21 money, uh, but the, uh, we do have a, we do have some
22 availability, uh, later next month to, to, to, to, to, to give
23 our staff some time to help, uh, figure out a little bit more of
24 a pathway forward. Uh, my decisions to not submit initiatives
25 was based on the 13-million cut and also the agency's, uh,

1 initiative to look at what we have, uh, what we have working,
2 what we have available and consolidate, and I appreciate the
3 consolidation for administrative purposes and that's, that's
4 going to play into another factor. Uh, my overall look is going
5 to be to reduce the asks and what I want to go, probably what
6 we'd start is starting with the initiatives, uh, that have the,
7 the bigger price tag, to look at, look at those forward, uh,
8 start, start with that which would be, uh, com, Commissioner
9 Treviño, yours, your concept one, uh, paper but again it's,
10 it's, but I also want to look at the weight of the, uh, the
11 weight of the urg, urgency of need so innovative, uh, that also
12 continues to give us flexibility with addressing, you know,
13 needs per year but also if we are asked by governor or
14 legislature to look at something specific that we still have the
15 ability to respond with a strategy. Uh, so urgency of need and
16 what our financial capabilities are kind of weigh heavy in what
17 I'm going to talk through, uh, once I've finished talking
18 through this what we have so again, I think the concept paper
19 one which is creating Texas Healthcare Work Initiatives, it,
20 there's, and I know you're not going to be stuck to, to holding
21 at the 7.5 million dollar price tag that, that would, would
22 respond to this, Commissioner Treviño, uh, so it may be
23 something that we, we want to consider, you know, if this has
24 specific initiatives that we can, uh, that we can start, uh, in
25 this annual cycle, uh, but I also want to consider, Mary, in, in

1 the, I want to consider the recommendations that come from the
2 agencies and, uh, commissioner, my thoughts are that the
3 recommendations for these sections that you want to compile have
4 been rec, have been recommended to, to, be zeroed out. Uh, and
5 also that there are a few, and, Mary, I think this is just to be
6 sure, uh, Track 74092 which is the Upskill Texas Healthcare,
7 that specific track in those, in the four tracks that are named
8 to be, uh, uh, uh, I guess combined, that would still be
9 available through the Upskill fund, correct?

10 MARY YORK: That is correct, Chairman, uh,
11 through Upskill Texas, uh, the main Upskill Texas fund, there is
12 not any limitation on the type of private industry that, that
13 could apply for Upskill Texas. So again, as we were making
14 difficult decisions even with the first iteration of this
15 budget, that was a consideration of kind of combining those two
16 together.

17 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: OK. So in the discussion
18 that we have to make to, commissioners, to make this happen, it
19 would require cuts on, uh, on, on programs that we both, we both
20 have, you know, support for and have supported in the past. I
21 want to, I want to hold this to possible more consideration
22 again because again the, the registered apprenticeship and
23 healthcare, and the healthcare internships, I'm not sure if
24 that's something that—I just kind of still feel that those still
25 can be addressed through larger, larger programs but, uh, I'm

1 asking if, if that, your consideration was to make sure that
2 these didn't get lost in the shuffle or if they were maybe,
3 maybe a way to get easier access to the funding for specific
4 purposes. Is that something you were after by, by consolidating
5 these four?

6 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Well, thank you,
7 Chairman, but I think what, uh, we were looking at as far as
8 those, uh, funding weren't presented in a way that they've, they
9 got the input that they needed to succeed, and since this is one
10 of the, uh, uh, big initiatives for, uh, you know, the
11 governor's office on healthcare for, uh, Texas workforce, we
12 wanted to make sure that they weren't, uh, just dissolved
13 because—

14 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Sure.

15 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: This is a big
16 important part of, uh, high-demand jobs here for Texas. We hear
17 that, you know, throughout the state that we need more
18 healthcare workers, uh, and we didn't want those funds just to
19 get rolled into the general one, general fund—

20 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Yeah.

21 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Or swept in when they
22 can be reapplied and, and readdressed and have, uh, Workforce
23 Development, uh, partners again like I had said with the help of
24 Mary and, and Kristie's team to push these initiatives, uh, out
25

1 and make it more accessible so that we can get that pipeline of,
2 uh, in-demand services for healthcare workers.

3 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: OK.

4 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: So, uh, we were
5 looking at the funds. That's where most of that, uh, uh,
6 estimated, you know, 7.5 million came from, was funds that were
7 already allotted for that and just to make sure that we used it
8 for this initiative.

9 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: OK. Uh, what I'm trying
10 to get—I'm trying to get past the, the notion of, of programs
11 that we have, uh, worked with staff on, well, basically what
12 they're, what they're doing is reviewing programs so reviewing
13 programs that are in existence that were getting funded but have
14 for whatever reason not pushed that money out into its use so I
15 want to, I want to hold, by holding this one to having any money
16 put into the, the concept itself and really look more into the
17 specific of supporting, for instance, the registered
18 apprenticeship. I believe it was, there was, there was money put
19 into it but not, uh, not a whole lot expended out of it, and I
20 want to make, I want to hold for better reasons of making sure
21 that there was, that there was something, a, a, a barrier for
22 it, uh, instead of, uh, allocating money specifically for that
23 cause under some other, under some other function, uh, it
24 that's, if that makes sense. I think the idea that, Chris, if
25 you can help me out here, uh, I'm asking, I'm asking for re, as

1 a resource. Healthcare registered apprenticeship, can, are you
2 able to look at what was funded, what it was initially funded
3 for?

4 CHRIS NELSON: Are you—and for the record,
5 Chris Nelson, chief financial officer. Are you talking about for
6 the 2026 amount or are you talking about for the way—

7 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Yeah.

8 CHRIS NELSON: Way back when this was
9 originally adopted?

10 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: [Inaudible] prior 79031.

11 CHRIS NELSON: So the, the 2026 budget is
12 just under 3.9 million and, and to date on the registered,
13 Healthcare Registered Apprenticeship which I believe is Row 42
14 that you're talking about, uh, the committed amount as of last
15 month was just under 300,000, 298,000.

16 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: OK.

17 CHRIS NELSON: Uh, and that is one that you
18 don't see it in '27, '28, '29, uh, to get the books to balance
19 in the out year starting with '27 because of that one, we just
20 assumed that that money isn't available in the out years and it,
21 it, you know, to date has not have a lot of commitment of, you
22 know, uh, activity yet so.

23 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: OK, and it's, one of
24 those reasons because I want to look at more, more reasons as
25 the why, uh, why that is, uh, and, and if there's a, a, a, you

1 know, just an initiative campaign that we can do on our end to
2 really start getting more to push that out, uh, I would, I would
3 want to look more into that, uh, to, to hold up because again it
4 is because of the cuts to what I would consider some successful
5 programs that would be, that would be taken, uh, to support
6 this, uh, and for that reason, I'm, I'm going, I'm not, I won't
7 support the, uh, your, your concept one respectfully.

8 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: OK.

9 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: OK.

10 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Could, uh, you also
11 provide a list of some of the, uh, programs that you think that
12 were cut, uh, that, uh, would affect, uh, workforce and how it
13 is so that we get an idea of what you're asking because I think
14 this is something that, uh, you know, has been in, uh, TWC's
15 strategic mission and as well as the governor's so it's
16 something that, uh, you know, I know you're not saying that—

17 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Yeah.

18 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: You don't want to
19 provide any education for healthcare workers—

20 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Yeah.

21 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: But, uh, it's
22 something that, you know, we asked staff to look for innovative
23 ways and of course they are going to be some hard cuts and like
24 I had said during the, uh, work session, uh, status quo is not
25 working anymore. We need to look at innovative ways and look at

1 things that, uh, may have worked in the past that aren't working
2 for the future but I, you know, I appreciate your, your comments
3 but I, I think it's something that is still important and I
4 would still like to have staff, uh, you know, work and, and move
5 forward with it, uh, and then—

6 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: I'm definitely open for a
7 lower, a lower request and maybe that's part of what we're going
8 to have to do.

9 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Yes, well, I mean
10 just so that you know that that 7.5 was what we saw was funded
11 for those initiatives and we used that. If it goes lower, well
12 of course, we're going to work with staff but, uh, uh, just so
13 that I can get an idea of, of what you're, you know, referring
14 to some of the, uh—

15 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Yeah.

16 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Other programs that
17 were cut, uh, some of those that we had looked at and that we
18 talked to staff with, uh, were already obsolete or they're not,
19 they're already being assigned by, uh, other agencies to take up
20 and fund like TEA, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

21 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: I didn't think, yeah, I
22 didn't think of the other agencies that were [inaudible].

23 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Right, so they're—

24 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: [Inaudible] list.
25

1 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Right, so that we're
2 doing the same thing and like I had said and that was in, uh,
3 Mr. Pier's, uh, message of trying to get away from silos and
4 everybody going in the same direction doing the same thing,
5 putting funds from different agencies to get to the same place
6 is not just fiscally responsible and I think that's what the
7 point is and I think that's the direction that we as a
8 commission need to start looking at and going to so, uh, I know
9 that we can work together to--

10 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Sure.

11 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: To come to a common
12 ground so, uh, but that's just where I was coming from.

13 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Yeah.

14 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: That number.

15 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: And I think you, you
16 might have had the, the, the number that you got was from, from
17 what was, what was prescribed--

18 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: On those, those four.

19 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: In the, in the--

20 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Correct.

21 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: You know, coming up to
22 this point so within '26, the, the working budget coming up, uh,
23 yeah, and I'm, I'm, I'm more than, I'm concerned with the,
24 obviously the recommendations of those programs not being
25 funded, uh, and also the cuts, and I think the, the, the list,

1 when it comes to the list what, what I'm looking at is wanting
2 to make sure that the conversations that we're continuing to
3 have, uh, for, in specific programs that we have that support
4 initiatives that are being discussed in, uh, you know,
5 [inaudible].

6 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Right.

7 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: With, with, with, the
8 tech industry, jobs council and things like that. I want to be
9 very careful that we're not saying one thing and then if the
10 budget, uh, for '27, '28, '29 is showing something different, it
11 that, uh, yeah, I think it's going to happen to have-if we do
12 start the consolidated initiative, it, it's going to have to go
13 on a, uh, on a lower amount to get it started and then
14 reevaluate in the, in the 2028 [inaudible].

15 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: Yeah, and Chairman,
16 and commissioner, I mean I, I, I, uh, agree with and support a
17 lot of actually what, what, what both of you are saying and
18 putting forward. To Commissioner Treviño's point, uh, Mariana
19 and Mary testified before House Public Health earlier this month
20 about the extraordinary demand, uh, in the healthcare, uh,
21 workforce space. Uh, wonder if, uh, and, Chairman, I, I, I would
22 support you in, you know, holding back with tremendous respect
23 in not moving forward on, uh, Commissioner Treviño's first
24 proposal, uh, because of the, the cuts that would have to ensue.
25 Uh, rather than an outright, uh, no on that for the sake of

1 consideration and conversation, would like to propose, uh, a
2 potential alternative solution. That being, uh, starting with
3 the baseline of the budget that staff put together for the
4 workgroup session, there was a commission reserve there. Some
5 portion of that commission reserve, round number is \$2,000,000,
6 could be used on a, a, a data analysis on, uh, this agency's
7 previous or current healthcare workforce related programs, what
8 has worked and what hasn't, and dialing in specifically a number
9 on what we could do as an agency and how, and also how we could
10 potentially place this in, in the LAR, whether as an exceptional
11 item or otherwise because it is a critically important issue and
12 I'm not necessarily comfortable leaving it up to the ebbs and
13 flows and whims of the federal WIOA budget.

14 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Right.

15 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: So I, I, I think we
16 could on the one hand do an analysis and second, we've got a
17 little bit more time to consider putting something of this
18 nature into our LAR request.

19 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: To be clear, there, some
20 of those sections are still accessible by--especially like the
21 Upskill, the Upskill Healthcare. Without that section, those
22 industries still could get access to the, to the Upskill fund is
23 what we're looking at. Uh, I'm, I would be willing to propose
24 funding at 1,000,000 to start off. I know that's a massive cut
25 to what, what, what you were, what your math was, was, was going

1 for if that, you know, unless there's more conversation that we
2 need to have again.

3 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Well, if I will, the
4 money that I had initially came up with was for fiscal year '27
5 that was cut, correct? And I think staff recommended 3.5 million
6 which is lower but higher than 1,000,000, uh, and I would
7 recommend maybe starting with that at least, uh, and to
8 Commissioner Connett, I know that, uh, you know, getting data
9 and information is, is good but we're already kind of behind the
10 curve as far as getting our healthcare workers there and-

11 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: We can already just
12 assume that the data is going to point to it.

13 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: And, and things,
14 things need to be, uh, moved on, and what my concept was, was to
15 incorporate all of them together instead of having those
16 individuals, kind of like what we did with, uh, the veterans
17 network, you know. We know that we need to assist the veterans
18 in getting jobs and why break them out into those specific
19 silos, just put it in one bucket if you will, uh, and I don't
20 know if I wasn't too clear on my, uh, uh, work session
21 description but that's kind of the concept, what I was going
22 with, uh, and I know that there are, uh, funding streams out
23 there that are already obsolete that we could have used, uh.
24 Some in staff had already done it so, uh, wasn't for us to take
25 from existing or very successful programs, uh, but to look at

1 which programs shouldn't be funded by us anymore because either
2 they're obsolete or they've moved to another agency to be
3 funded, and put those into initiatives that we all see are
4 beneficial for, uh, our agency and for the, uh, citizens of
5 Texas.

6 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: OK. Uh, I'm probably
7 going to go with a vote that keeps us at a 2,000,000 cap of
8 what's available. Uh, that, that, if there is consideration for
9 finding that fund, uh, then I guess that plan for where we're,
10 where we're cutting would have to come back to us to consider
11 because again I don't want to—if I could vote just straight down
12 to take the agency's recommendations, I would because some of
13 these are zeroed out, uh, and having, having that knowledge of
14 sustaining what we have and prioritizing special, you know,
15 very, very, very much needed initiatives through other, other
16 means of support through Upskill, through internships, through,
17 you know, general internship initiative stuff would, would,
18 would be, would be, I guess would be prudent to that. Uh, but I
19 think that we would just hold that until we can look at more of
20 the budget when it comes down to it. Otherwise I would propose a
21 motion to, uh, uh, uh, to, to vote, to, yeah, singlely,
22 singularly vote the concept one at \$1,000,000, to, to start it.
23 I'll make that motion. If there's a second or a vote.

24 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: So, so, Chairman, I
25 definitely concur with, with, with your premise of remaining

1 within the, the original, uh, \$2,000,000 commission reserve, uh,
2 with, you know, tremendous gratitude for the work that, Chris,
3 you and your team, Mary, you and your team, put, put, put into
4 it, and, and the work that you put into the cuts that were
5 proposed following the work session, were proposed at our behest
6 but like the chairman said, there, there are some deep cuts in
7 some programs there that, that I just, you know, can't, can't,
8 can't get behind so absolutely support the premise of sticking
9 with the \$2,000,000 and, uh, I would second your motion to, uh,
10 allocate \$1,000,000 to Commissioner Treviño's first proposal.

11 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: OK. The motion has been
12 made and seconded.

13 CHRIS NELSON: Chairman, just to confirm.
14 Uh, so the, Commissioner Connett had laid out two items. Are you
15 also approving for the two items? In the revised budget document
16 that you've been briefed on, are you approving the, the two, the
17 items that had been presented in that document as well and then
18 reducing, uh, the, uh, Commissioner Treviño's healthcare
19 initiative, uh, to the 1,000,000?

20 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: I'm sorry. Explain,
21 explain it again.

22 CHRIS NELSON: I believe, and, Mary, you can
23 correct me. I believe, uh, OK, OK.

24 MARY YORK: I think there—I was just
25 clarifying and please tell me if I'm incorrect that you were

1 just, uh, considering the one concept at this point and
2 proposing funding that at \$1,000,000, uh, and that was the only
3 proposal that was currently under consideration by-

4 CHRIS NELSON: For that vote, OK.

5 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Yeah, sorry.

6 CHRIS NELSON: OK.

7 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: OK, the motion was made
8 and seconded. Concept one moves forward with 1,000,000, uh, to
9 start on.

10 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Uh, well, can we have
11 a quick discussion on that real quick before the-

12 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: OK.

13 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Final vote is made.

14 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Before I bang the gavel
15 on that one?

16 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Yeah. Uh, well,
17 because they were recommending from the 7.5, 3.5, and you want
18 it capped at 2,000,000 but I do have some more recommendations
19 that I would like to ask, uh, that might fix some of these
20 problems if, uh, staff can, uh, work with us because they've
21 done some good work but I don't know if you want to start voting
22 or if we can kind of table this until we can kind of flesh some
23 of these issues out because there are other items that are going
24 to be coming up too that, uh, I think need to be looked at that
25 are going to be funded, uh.

1 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Other items, uh, in the,
2 your concept two and three?

3 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Correct, correct.

4 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: That would be—OK. Uh,
5 sure, is there any magic words that I need to do to retract my
6 motion and his second to make this not a thing just for now?

7 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: I retract my second.

8 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Legal? OK.

9 MARY YORK: There's the magic.

10 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Very good. There's the
11 magic. Thank you. OK. Uh, so, yeah, hold the, I'm going to hold
12 on to, to cap one for, uh, or concept one for 1,000,000 as a
13 motion and we'll hold on voting.

14 UNIDENTIFIED: Yep.

15 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Uh, concept two,
16 commissioner, you want to, you want to lay that out one more
17 time, give us an overview of concept two?

18 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Let me, let me kind
19 of go over what, uh, well, concept two is for, uh, staff to come
20 up with innovative ways to look at different funding streams
21 that, uh, are either obsolete, no longer viable or, uh, you
22 know, where we can, can get money for but, uh, if you will I'll
23 just, uh, present, uh, something that I had.

24 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: OK.

25

1 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Starting if, uh, if
2 you all will indulge me but it's starting off with the TANF
3 statewide initiatives and of course first I would like to thank,
4 uh, finance, Chris and Caitlin and, uh, Mary, Steven, you know,
5 Workforce staff for all that they did, uh, since the work
6 session to get us to this point today. While these latest budget
7 revisions get us closer, there's still more improvement that
8 needs to be made, and as the commissioner representing labor my
9 primary responsibility is to ensure that our decisions and our
10 dollars are directly supporting Texans. To do that effectively
11 we must always stay true to the core mission of the Texas
12 Workforce Commission, and sometimes staying true to that mission
13 requires us to make some very hard decisions, and it means
14 taking critical honest look at our budget and occasionally
15 reducing or eliminating funding in one area so that we can
16 prioritize another based on the actual immediate needs. And with
17 that principle in mind I propose, uh, the following for our
18 statewide initiatives. In Track 75031 which is STEM initiatives,
19 and let me be clear, STEM education is incredibly important but
20 while a great and successful initiative for many years that
21 aligns with more, uh, with TEA and the Higher Education
22 Coordinating Board, I recommend a phased reduction to reinvest
23 in direct employment services. So for fiscal year 2027, uh,
24 there's 3,850,000 the GAA level, and I would recommend in 2028
25 the LAR go to \$2,000,000 and then for, uh, 2029 LAR, uh, go down

1 to zero. A lot of those, uh, initiatives in STEM are being
2 addressed by the TEA and the Higher Education Coordinating
3 Board. For Track 75006 and 75006A, Foster Youth Transition and
4 Foster Youth Conference, I propose shifting some of those STEM
5 savings, uh, here to support these vulnerable population entries
6 to the workforce which would be 77506, the centers, for '27, uh,
7 3.25 million, for 2028, 3.5 million, and for 2029, 3.75 million.
8 For 75006A, the conference, fiscal year '27 would be 200K, 2028
9 would be 250,000, and 2029 would be 300,000, and that's to
10 expand the capacity reach and for the increased costs that
11 happen, uh, over time with the, with the budget costs and what
12 not. Now any additional reserve balance should be utilized for
13 75203, Internship Pathways or 79036, Chapter 133, Related
14 Instruction, and those are just my recommendations for TANF. Uh,
15 did you have a question?

16 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: I do have a question.
17 You, you've got some kind of very specific recommendations. How,
18 how, how did you arrive at those numbers? What were, what were
19 your criteria and, and, and what was the formula by which you
20 developed some of these specific reductions?

21 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: By working with
22 staff, uh, one, and looking at the budget items that they gave
23 us, what was moved over to different agencies or, uh, through
24 the governor's office in a letter that he had just, uh, sent out
25 yesterday detailing some of, some of those that are already

1 going to be assigned to different, uh, agencies like TEA and,
2 uh, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, things like
3 that, and I'll be willing to share all this information with,
4 uh, uh, staff, and then they can share it to the offices as they
5 see fit, uh, but, but that's how some of these, uh, initiatives,
6 and again this is just my recommendation. Of course we can all,
7 I'll discuss it later and see where we can move money but my
8 goal is to try to, uh, be more fiscally responsible with the
9 funds that we're using as an agency to make it where we're
10 putting people back to work, uh, where the high-demand jobs are.
11 So for, uh, the WIOA statewide initiatives, uh, I'd like to
12 transition to our WIOA statewide initiatives as I recommended
13 earlier or mentioned earlier, our duty is to working Texans, and
14 it requires us to make difficult decisions. Growth, progress
15 don't just happen by doing things the way we've always done them
16 or status quo. It requires us to make hard cuts and to phase out
17 certain programs to ensure that TWC's limited resources are
18 strictly focused on our core mission, putting Texans to work in
19 high-demand critical careers, providing resources to our most
20 vulnerable population. With that principle in mind, I propose
21 the following for our statewide initiatives. In Track 74046,
22 Teacher Externship, this is a very good program but its outcomes
23 align more closely with TEA's oversight of educators. To remain
24 responsible stewards, I recommend a phased elimination. So for
25 fiscal year 2027, I recommend 1.4 or that's what the GA level is

1 right now. For 2028 LAR, I would recommend 1.2 million, and then
2 2029 would be phased out. I recommend that the remaining balance
3 for 2027, uh, should be added to 74109, the Healthcare
4 Workforce, uh, and 74081, Upskill Texas which a lot of funds
5 were taken from Upskill Texas and we need to put back in. For
6 Track 79034, the Foster Youth Network, uh, using freed-up funds
7 I recommend that, uh, following investment be made. Uh, fiscal
8 year 2027, well, there's no funds needed because we're still
9 under the current grant process but for 2028 LAR, 2.5 million,
10 and 2029 LAR is 3,000,000. Now finally I would like to direct
11 staff to continue the work or during the work session to
12 continue identifying initiatives that could be recommended as
13 exceptional items or other ways to reduce funding as laid out in
14 the concept paper two and bring those forward to the commission
15 for consideration. Again, thank you and I look forward to your
16 support as usual.

17 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Was that all under
18 concept two?

19 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: No.

20 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: OK. Uh, I prob, yeah, no,
21 I think I'm following, uh, but with some, some calculations that
22 are needed, we'll probably want to see what that is, what that
23 looks like. Uh, I don't have.

24 MR. PIER: Chairman?

25 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Yeah.

1 MR. PIER: Uh, for the record, Steve Pier,
2 ED. Uh, we can assemble those recommendations and circulate them
3 out if you all would like with sort of a rebalancing so that—

4 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Yeah.

5 MR. PIER: You have an opportunity to
6 contemplate that if that would be helpful to the three of you.

7 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Well, I think it
8 would. I know that that's a lot of information, uh, to dump
9 right now and I'd be looking, you know, willing to, uh, table
10 this so that we can all work it out and then get, uh, some of
11 the recommendations that the chairman made earlier that he'll
12 get us a list of some of the, uh, uh, funding that was taken
13 from other initiatives, uh, uh, that he felt were, were
14 important or should have been taken so address those as well.

15 MR. PIER: Yeah, that—I think no problem
16 from, from our side and we could additionally, we can probably
17 break this down as to, you know, all of the different votes that
18 would need to be taken. Clearly some of those votes would cancel
19 out other votes, you know, but, uh, we could take each of them,
20 uh, and decide how it is that we're going to end up, you know,
21 at the, at a future meeting.

22 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: OK.

23 MR. PIER: With each of these in front of
24 you all.

25

1 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Yeah, with the changes to
2 the budget, we'd have to look at it, uh, specifically.

3 MR. PIER: Yeah, I, I don't know if
4 everybody else has the math anxiety that I have but, uh, you
5 know.

6 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: I assume that we were
7 given the same briefings for where budget cuts for certain
8 programs would have affected these, these types of programs so,
9 uh, we'll [inaudible] staff.

10 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Yeah, and, uh, you
11 know, I just wanted to make sure that, uh, my fellow
12 commissioners know that, uh, you know, this is just the first
13 step. It's, uh, uh, you know, a shakeup of course but like I
14 said, you know, to move forward, you know, we might have to make
15 some, some tough choices but I look forward to the discussion
16 and to the, uh, debate that'll, that will happen and, uh, I know
17 we'll come to a mutual agreement, uh, what's best for the agency
18 and for the citizens of Texas so, uh, I just, uh, want you all
19 to know that that's where, where I'm coming from and, uh, uh,
20 how staff, my staff especially worked so hard to, uh, look at
21 innovative ways to make sure that we, uh, move forward with some
22 of the grant processes and some of the, uh, things that are
23 needed for, for workforce that, uh, may be overlooked or just
24 keep going, uh, as, as we say before status quo just keep doing
25 the same thing over and over and we're not, we're not getting

1 anywhere and not doing a service to the citizens of Texas or the
2 employers and workers that have new jobs coming up, you know,
3 really daily that, uh, that need to be filled so, uh, just so
4 that you know, I look forward to, uh, working with you and staff
5 in the coming weeks.

6 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: OK. Appreciate it,
7 commissioner. Thank you. Uh, so is this going to affect the
8 other, I guess it would affect, uh, Brent's concepts as well as
9 far as funding on what it, what's available.

10 MR. PIER: I'll confess I've lost track of
11 where, yeah, thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: [Inaudible].

13 MARY YORK: I think, uh, what I just heard
14 and understood is that we will provide some updated documents
15 with now all of the proposals that we have received including,
16 uh, the very, the very specific information that Commissioner
17 Treviño provided today, and then you would be able to review
18 that, uh, take some time with it and understand all of the
19 implications of, of each, funding each initiative, uh, including
20 those that were presented by Commissioner Connett at last week's
21 work session.

22 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Yeah.

23 MARY YORK: And so it looks like our next
24 meeting is likely to be, uh, in July, later in July so that's
25 when we would bring these forward.

1 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Yeah, and in all
2 fairness, I thought that Commissioner Connett's, uh, proposals
3 were funded through, uh, the supplemental so I didn't know that,
4 uh, or I didn't mean to put that--

5 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: [Inaudible] I
6 intended that they were as well so, yeah, thank you.

7 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Yeah, yeah.

8 MR. PIER: Yeah, my, my concern would be
9 adopting any one today, removes some flexibility and choice from
10 you all as you're contemplating each of them for, you know, at
11 once.

12 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: OK.

13 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: OK.

14 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Appreciate the counsel.
15 Uh, so I guess we can just hold until next time then.

16 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: Yeah, and, and,
17 Chairman, Mr. Pier, I wonder--there's clearly a lot of moving
18 parts here and a lot of opportunity for staff and the three of
19 us to get on the same page. Uh, understanding that we have a, a,
20 a major holiday coming up, wonder if we could have another
21 workgroup session to discuss some of this in advance of having--

22 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Yeah, I think that's,
23 that's prudent, uh. We'll work with scheduling on finding when
24 and where.

25 MARY YORK: Can't wait.

1 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Another shot at it.

2 UNIDENTIFIED: [Inaudible].

3 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: OK, well, then that will
4 be tabled for work session at some point in the near future.

5 MR. PIER: Yep, although, uh, if there's any
6 others that we want to discuss, now would be fantastic, uh,
7 just, uh-

8 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: [Inaudible].

9 MR. PIER: So we can get all of them in
10 line.

11 UNIDENTIFIED: Right.

12 MR. PIER: And, yeah.

13 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: OK.

14 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: I did all mine so.

15 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: You want to-

16 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: Chairman, I do, I do
17 have understanding that we won't adopt it today.

18 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: OK.

19 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: I'm perfectly happy.
20 I think it's most prudent to press pause, take a deep breath and
21 reconsider. I do have a proposal I'd like to put forward, uh,
22 for the sake of conversation, consideration perhaps at our next
23 workgroup, uh, session. It's, a, a few moving parts but I think
24 I can, I think I can describe it succinctly and accurately. The,

25

1 the first would be the starting point, would be, uh, the budget
2 that staff put together for our group session.

3 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: OK.

4 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: Stemming from that as
5 I said already to Commissioner Treviño's proposal one and three
6 at a, at a premise level, at a foundation level, are, are very,
7 very important. I think there might be a, a, another way to
8 accomplish the, those very laudable goals, the first being I do
9 still support a data analysis or some kind of efficiency or
10 effectiveness audit to determine what we're doing in the space
11 of healthcare workforce, uh, and what would be most prudent,
12 pot, potentially pointing to an exceptional item in the agency's
13 LAR. Uh, that way the, the legislator, legislature is taking the
14 lead, the state of Texas is taking the lead on our, our
15 healthcare workforce rather than the ebbs and flows of the WIOA
16 budget. Uh, so that would be my proposal, uh, on-

17 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: [Inaudible].

18 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: You know, a
19 different, yeah, for consideration.

20 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Yes.

21 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: A, a different
22 approach to Commissioner Treviño's first proposal. As it relates
23 to Commissioner Treviño's second proposal, com, completely agree
24 the foundational or premise level that, that a, a, a deeper
25 dive, an outcomes-focused dive, uh, is good and necessary. Uh,

1 Steve and Chris and Mary I think all do that and so I, you know,
2 from everything I have seen from you all, every conversation
3 I've had with you all, you are good fiscal stewards of the
4 public resources that we have in this agency and I want to thank
5 you for that and get that on the record. I think Commissioner
6 Treviño's second proposal might be, uh, better implemented
7 rather than in the short term for this immediate cycle, we could
8 apply that thinking and that logic to next year's budget cycle
9 potentially going even as far as a zero-based approach. That way
10 we're, we're building in blocks from the ground, ground up and
11 focusing, uh, focusing the dollars on what works, what's proven
12 to work. As it relates to, uh, Commissioner Treviño's third
13 item, uh, foster youth initiatives, that, that did come out in
14 part in the directive, uh, yesterday from the governor's office.
15 Uh, there may be, may be some of the, the reductions, Mary and
16 Chris, you and your teams identified and briefed us on recently.
17 Uh, there may be some opportunities there, uh, for example,
18 moving the Texas Internship Initiative from WIOA to TANF, uh,
19 freed up some dollars seemingly without a, a, a reduction in
20 service, is that fair?

21 MARY YORK: It, it is fair but please note
22 that there would be additional requirements under TANF that may
23 not exist under WIOA. For instance, uh, interns may be, uh,
24 required to be TANF eligible so with different funding sources
25 come different requirements.

1 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Sure.

2 MARY YORK: So we would need to take that
3 into consideration in terms of whether that would have a
4 significant impact on the interns being served and the employers
5 being served through the program.

6 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Internship initiative
7 [inaudible] just to correct what I'm thinking, the internship,
8 the initiative itself was, was funded in TANF.

9 MARY YORK: At one time it was.

10 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: OK.

11 MARY YORK: There were some proposed federal
12 changes that, uh, made, uh, the commission make the decision to
13 move it.

14 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: OK.

15 MARY YORK: To WIOA, uh, so we do have
16 experience in operating it through the TANF funding and that's
17 why it was one of the options. Again, there were no easy options
18 here but that may have been the easiest one, uh, of the bunch
19 was to say, OK, well, we've done it before, we could do it
20 again.

21 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Sure.

22 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: Yeah, yeah, fair,
23 fair enough so, uh, as it relates to pot, potentially directing
24 additional funding to foster youth initiatives pursuant to the
25 commissioner's third proposal, I, I guess what I'm proposing is

1 that we find, uh, creative ways that would not result in
2 reductions and, and see what that dollar amount might be if, if
3 there is a dollar amount associated with that. Uh, and then as,
4 as we already discussed, the three proposals I put forward which
5 are geared toward efficiency and better service by the boards,
6 uh, via their usage of artificial intelligence and generating
7 career and technical, uh, education pipelines to increase CTSO,
8 uh, participation, those are funded again if, in, in this
9 exercise that I'm proposing, if we start with the, the staff
10 budget that was proposed for the work session, those could have
11 been funded within, uh, the reserve that was there. So that,
12 that, that was a lot but—

13 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: That's good structure.

14 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: I think it's a path.

15 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Yeah, right.

16 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: It's a path.

17 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: That's fine, and again,
18 I'm, uh, I want to be supportive to, to the commissioners and
19 their, their concepts. I just want to make sure that we're,
20 we're not cutting our legs off, uh, for anything specific and
21 we're efficient and it's, and it's not duplicated. Uh, but
22 appreciate the structure on it, uh, and I guess we'll, we'll,
23 we'll be able to meet for work session, uh, as soon as we can
24 figure our schedules out. OK. With that—

25 CHRIS NELSON: Chairman, one thing that—

1 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Oh, yeah, Chris.

2 CHRIS NELSON: Just conceptually that, that
3 may be helpful, so, in the first work session you had basically
4 a staff recommendation of, of the budget and then we had two,
5 two offices that brought forth recommendations and staff went
6 back and, and basically tried to take that base recommendation
7 and incorporate those two and make adjustments where they felt,
8 you know, they could.

9 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Yeah.

10 CHRIS NELSON: Does it make sense for a
11 future document to basically start with the base like the
12 original one and just show the rec, the requests from the
13 offices as individual, individual rows, and you'll be in the
14 negative.

15 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Yeah, yeah.

16 CHRIS NELSON: When we do that, and then the
17 three of you can say, OK, here's how we balance the zero, uh,
18 with those. You can either change the request or you can reduce
19 something but that will just show it. Instead of trying to
20 balance it to zero the way we did that we just show it, is it
21 better just to show all the requests in one document and then
22 let you balance—

23 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: With the descriptions of
24 just—we're just looking at base—

25 CHRIS NELSON: Right.

1 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Base requests with-

2 CHRIS NELSON: Right.

3 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: With the, with the, with
4 the price tag basically.

5 CHRIS NELSON: Right.

6 MARY YORK: Yeah, uh, I, I think we could
7 easily do that. I mean we could present a couple of different
8 options honestly.

9 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: OK.

10 MARY YORK: Uh, you know, again starting
11 from what was presented during the work session, uh, showing
12 what the requests at those levels would do and where, what
13 amount of funding would be necessary, uh, but then we could also
14 propose, OK, if we did a, a, a internship swap, this is how much
15 that would affect that balance and going back to Mr. Pier's
16 comments, I think, you know, if we are able to provide a
17 document that shows these are the actions that would have to be
18 taken, uh, that might, might be helpful as a working tool.

19 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Sure.

20 MARY YORK: For you, uh, as you're
21 considering what actions the commission would need to consider,
22 uh, in moving forward.

23 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: OK. I think we're in
24 agreement with that. OK, yeah, thanks for that. There is
25

1 structure and, uh, information and path forward for it too, so,
2 uh, you guys, good luck with that. Thanks for the effort.

3 MARY YORK: Thank you.

4 CHRIS NELSON: Thank you.

5 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Supporting us too,
7 appreciate it. Uh, and I think that would be Agenda Item 16, uh,
8 Michael Britt, he's shaking his head [inaudible], uh, and,
9 Steve, any executive director's report from Steve?

10 MR. PIER: OK.

11 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Yep.

12 MR. PIER: This chair doesn't roll very
13 well. Uh, all right, a couple things. Wanted to bring you all up
14 to speed on, uh, uh, the Governor's Job Council meeting
15 yesterday. Uh, had a great meeting. Uh, the governor of course
16 got together the, uh, uh, leaders from across Texas of organized
17 labor as well as numerous businesses to, uh, uh, present some
18 options that, uh, that they've come up with that fit into the
19 first category that is the regulatory changes, the changes that,
20 uh, uh, that agencies are able to make on their own, uh. Then
21 toward the end of summer, uh, we'll reconvene that group, uh,
22 and have the legislative proposals. So, uh, the things that
23 were, uh, that came out of yesterday that were directed by the
24 governor to TWC are as follows: There are four. First to expand
25 apprenticeship opportunities by identifying new apprentice-able

1 occupations across Texas industries so that's great. You know,
2 something that, uh, we're always interested in trying to do is,
3 uh, to, to expand that. Uh, create a one-stop online hub so
4 Texans can easily access all state career planning resources in
5 one place. Uh, my, uh, I'm excited about having an IT project.
6 You know, never, uh, never want to shy away from those so that
7 should be good to be able to have Texans able to, to, to look in
8 one spot. There's no reason for them to, to have to be all over
9 the place. Uh, uh, next to develop unified career pathways for
10 Texans facing barriers to employment including as we talk about
11 so much here veterans, foster youth, and of course people with
12 disabilities. Uh, and lastly to, uh, launch the digital learning
13 and employment records through the Tri-Agency Workforce
14 Initiative to streamline connections between employers and job
15 seekers. This of course is of critical importance. It's how we
16 keep up, uh, with, uh, with the technology of today to make sure
17 that, uh, uh, uh, workers are able to keep their records in one
18 place, able to move those around and, and employers are able to
19 verify those. This is, uh, uh, extremely important. It's not
20 going to be easy but it is going to be great and so we are, uh,
21 we're looking forward to that. Uh, so, uh, of course there are
22 an equal number of, uh, ideas for the other agencies, uh,
23 involved, TEA, Coordinating Board, and TDLR. Uh, we won't talk
24 about those today because we're far more important than the rest
25 of that crew so, uh. Next up I want to introduce, uh, Jenny

1 Jackson. Hopefully she's here. Yep, she's here, OK, excellent,
2 yeah, so, uh, you can sit down, it's all right because this,
3 this might be a second here. Uh, uh, so Jenny is a former
4 colleague of mine from, uh, the Office of Attorney General, and
5 then at DIR as well. Uh, she was most recently the chief risk
6 and compliance officer over there. Now, uh, we, uh, this is a
7 last-minute change she's not even aware of. We, we hired her to
8 be the, the deputy ED but we're going to change that title to
9 chief of staff because on the way down here Randy told me he's
10 going to stay for another year so I think we're good to go on
11 that. Do you want to gavel out, just make that official, uh, we
12 good? Uh, yeah.

13 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: [Inaudible].

14 MR. PIER: Yeah, no, sadly, yeah, yeah,
15 Randy's going to abandon us. Uh, so, no. Jenny is going to be
16 our new deputy executive director. Uh, we are thrilled to have
17 her, uh. She brought, she's an attorney, she brings a very
18 different set of, uh, experiences and, and skills to, uh, to the
19 job than, than where Randy was with, uh, as the former CFO but
20 in both cases, they balance me out, uh, because they cover so
21 many of the skills that I don't have so I'm, uh, really excited
22 to have Jenny here and she's, she's jumped in with both feet.
23 Uh, she came back today. Yesterday was her first day. She came
24 back today so we're excited.

25 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: [Inaudible].

1 MR. PIER: Uh, yeah. We're just taking it
2 day by day on this so we'll, we'll hope she sticks around. Uh,
3 so, uh, that brings me to something I've, I've been dreading
4 here, uh, and, uh, that is, uh, uh, to talk about Randy, and,
5 uh, to, to-

6 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Should we bring him up?

7 MR. PIER: Yeah, I think we should.

8 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Randy, come on up. Randy.

9 MR. TOWNSEND: Be a roast, huh?

10 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Yeah.

11 MR. PIER: Uh, no, I'm going, I'm going,
12 going to try to, try to get through this. Uh, you know, Randy's
13 been here a long time and, uh, there is absolutely no part of
14 this agency, uh, that he has not influenced. Uh, you know, he,
15 he, he was, he was CFO when I was here the first time 20 years
16 ago so when you, when you consider the fact that he has been in
17 leadership of this place, uh, for so long, it is, it is truly
18 remarkable and he has, he has touched it in absolutely every way
19 possible. Uh, keeping, keeping the money flowing in an immensely
20 complex place, making sure that, uh, that we have always had
21 what, what we needed as an agency, that all of these various
22 commissioners, I can't even begin to count how many you have,
23 uh, if this was later on this afternoon I'd say endured, uh,
24 but, uh, because we're at the commission meeting I'd say
25 enjoyed, uh, so, uh, uh, but, but then transitioning years ago,

1 uh, to the role of deputy ED and to assisting in the overall
2 management of this, uh, his, uh, his influence has, has really
3 been remarkable here. Uh, I mean allegedly he even created TWC
4 out of, out of, uh, you know, out of TEC. From what I've heard
5 it was all his idea so, no, I wasn't there. That's probably
6 right. Uh, you know, that influence and that impact has never
7 been greater, uh, uh, I think we'll see then over the last four
8 months. He has met with me every single day trying to bring me
9 up to speed, trying to help me understand what it is that I've
10 [inaudible] and there's a lot of it that I don't know about this
11 place, uh. He oftentimes comes in to my office and says, hey,
12 here's the other things that you, about that issue that you
13 haven't thought of yet, uh, that, you know, that you need to be
14 aware of. Uh, that institutional knowledge, uh, has really
15 helped me out and, uh, has gotten me to a point where I, uh,
16 don't feel wholly confident but I feel more confident than, uh,
17 I did before. Uh, but, you know, lastly, uh, I think Randy
18 really stands out as an unbelievable example of dedication and
19 loyalty to this agency, uh, and to the almost 5,000 staff people
20 here. Uh, everybody knows that he was going to retire in
21 December. He was all ready to roll, uh. That didn't work out
22 and, and he agreed to stick around, uh, until March I believe
23 thinking a new ED would be in place in December. That didn't
24 work out so, uh, so he then stretched it out until June, uh, or
25 through June I should say. Uh, that is, that is a deeply

1 personal commitment that you made to, to the state and to this
2 agency and to, to all of us. Uh, it's selfless, it's admirable,
3 uh, and it should be an inspiration to all of us because it
4 models absolutely everything that we should be as public
5 servants. Uh, you have embodied that and it is, it is really,
6 really impressive. Uh, I think that of all of the impact that
7 you have had, uh, on this place over all of these years, I hope
8 that that's the greatest part of it, that people will see that
9 even when you were long past ready to go, you stayed and you
10 helped, and, and I think that's deeply meaningful and I, I think
11 it just says volumes about you as, as a person. Uh, so I don't
12 think there's a way really to adequately say thank you, uh.
13 You've given more than anybody ever could have expected from,
14 from, uh, from you as, as a leader and as a, uh, as a public
15 servant, uh, but on a personal level, thank you. I appreciate
16 it. Uh, from the agency, all you've done for, for us all as an
17 agency, thank you. Uh, and on behalf of the state of Texas,
18 thank you for all of these years, all this dedication, and all
19 this hard work. We appreciate it immensely so.

20 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Randy, we celebrate you
21 today, dedicate everything we're doing here for you. We
22 appreciate it.

23 MR. TOWNSEND: Well, I definitely appreciate
24 it and looking forward to this afternoon, uh, on one level and
25 then, uh, not so much looking forward to it but, uh, I could

1 tell in the first month, Steve, that you were going to be fine
2 because you asked a lot of the same questions that I would ask,
3 and, uh, honestly I hope when we look back, it's not what would
4 Randy do but what would Randy ask because honestly all the
5 answers are with all the folks back here, uh, and across the
6 agency because, uh, it's, it takes a village to pull this off
7 and there's a lot of moving parts and pieces. It was, uh, kind
8 of trip down memory lane as I was watching the, watching the
9 three of you have this wonderful dialogue, setting the
10 priorities and the policy for the agency and the staff
11 supporting that, and, uh, that's really what makes this a very
12 special place, uh, to be. It's not always the easiest answer
13 emerges but after enough, uh, you know, hard work and, and
14 thought, and that sort of thing, I think we come up with some
15 really fantastic solutions for the, the people of Texas, and so
16 I hope you all will continue that. I'm sure you will and the
17 staff will do that as well so I am looking forward to the next
18 chapter but, uh, I will certainly look back fondly on the, the
19 past almost 30 years now, and, uh, plenty of stories but we
20 won't get into all that right now but it's been, it's been a
21 good, a good journey, and really wish all the commissioners, uh,
22 and the staff just a, all the best as we move forward in this
23 important, very important mission for the state of Texas so
24 thank you.

25

1 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Thank you, Randy. You
2 definitely earned it, more so so we appreciate it. Enjoy the
3 road.

4 UNIDENTIFIED: [Inaudible].

5 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Executive director's
6 report? Thanks very much. Commissioners?

7 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: No, just good luck,
8 Randy. I appreciate all your support and friendship, you know.
9 You helped more than just, uh, staff. You help everybody so, uh,
10 I know your honeydew list is getting long too, you got to get to
11 but, uh, enjoy your retirement and, uh, whatever you need, don't
12 hesitate to ask.

13 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: Yeah, Mr. Townsend,
14 best, best wishes in retirement. You've certainly, uh, earned it
15 and then some many times over with your dedication and your,
16 your, your fantastic work for this agency, and on a personal
17 level you have just been a, a total institution and ally and
18 friend to me as I in, I don't know, in the last nine or 10
19 months have come over to this agency so thank you for being so
20 welcoming and supportive as, as I have had a learning curve to
21 navigate. You've been a great friend in that regard so thank you
22 and best wishes.

23 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Very good. In honor of
24 Randy, is there a motion to adjourn?

25

1 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Uh, before that I
2 want to thank, uh, Mr. Pier for, uh, offering and approving, uh,
3 all TWC staff administrative leave to celebrate July 4th, uh, our
4 country's 250th birthday so, uh, from myself on behalf of all of
5 TWC's staff, thank you, Mr. Pier.

6 MR. PIER: Thank you, sir, and, uh, thank
7 you for a great idea.

8 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: So is there a motion?

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

11 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: I, I second that
12 motion. Wish everybody a very happy and safe Independence Day.

13 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: The motion is made and
14 seconded. I also vote yes. The motion, uh, the meeting is
15 adjourned. Thank you, guys.

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