



MEETING OF THE
TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION

DATE

JULY 27, 2026

1 Monday, July 27, 2026

2 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Good morning. Happy
3 Monday, everybody. Uh, this meeting is called to order. Mr.
4 Trobman, has anyone signed up for public comment?

5 MR. TROBMAN: Good morning, commissioners,
6 Les Trobman, general comment. General comment, general counsel.
7 Uh, we do have, uh, folks here that are, uh, uh, going to be
8 presenting testimony on Item Number 14 when we get to that. Uh,
9 no, uh, general comment for, for the commission.

10 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Thanks, Les, appreciate
11 it. Uh, I now turn the meeting over to Commissioner Connett to
12 preside over Agenda Items 3 through 8. Commissioner Connett.

13 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: And the motion passes
14 with the exceptions noted. Uh, that concludes our work on Agenda
15 Items 3 through 8. Thank you, commission appeals team and, uh,
16 Chairman, I hand the meeting back over to you.

17 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Thank you, Commissioner
18 Connett. We'll go ahead and pause for a shuffle.

19 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: We'll go ahead and pick
20 back up, uh, starting with Agenda Item 9. Reed, come on down.
21 Uh, publication for public comment proposed to, uh, 40 TAC,
22 Chapter 800. Mr. Reed.

23 REED O'BRIEN: All right, good morning,
24 Chairman Esparza, Commissioner Treviño, Commissioner Connett,
25 and Mr. Pier. For the record, I'm Reed O'Brien with the Office

1 of General Counsel. Commissioners, before you today for your
2 consideration for approval are proposed rule amendments to
3 Chapter 800, General Administration. This rulemaking implements
4 changes that staff identified during a review of the rules, it
5 makes general technical clarifying and conforming updates
6 throughout the chapter, and also removes obsolete rules. Staff
7 recommends submitting the proposed rule for publication in the
8 Texas Register for a 30-day public comment period and staff also
9 requests the ability to make minor nonsubstantive changes to the
10 document to comply with publication and, uh, the requirements of
11 the Texas Register and the Office of the Secretary of State.
12 This concludes my presentation and I'm available for any
13 questions.

14 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Thanks, Reed.
15 Commissioners, any comments or questions?

16 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Uh, none here.

17 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: None here, thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: No questions. Is there a
19 motion?

20 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Chairman, I move that
21 we approve the proposed amendments to 40 Texas Administrative
22 Code, Chapter 800, General Administration, for publication for
23 public comment as recommended today by staff.

24 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: Second.
25

1 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: I also vote yes. Motion
2 passes. On to Agenda Item 10, uh, 40 TAC, Chapter 804, uh, Jobs
3 and Education for Texans. Reed.

4 REED O'BRIEN: Right. For the record, I'm
5 Reed O'Brien with the Office of General Counsel. Commissioners,
6 before you today for your consideration for adoption are final
7 rule amendments to Chapter 804, Jobs and Education for Texans,
8 JET Grant Program. This rulemaking implements Senate Bill 1728
9 as enacted by the 89th Legislature, which expanded JET grant
10 eligibility to include the Texas Juvenile Justice Department and
11 juvenile boards and probation departments as eligible grant
12 recipients. It also adds a reference to the JET Advisory Council
13 abolishment date. On April 14th the commission approved the
14 proposed rule for publication in the Texas Register for a 30-day
15 public comment period. No comments were received and no changes
16 were made to the text as originally proposed. Staff recommends
17 adopting these amendments to Chapter 804 and staff also requests
18 the ability to make minor nonsubstantive changes to the
19 documents in order to conform with the Texas Register and
20 Secretary of State's Office publication requirements. This
21 concludes my presentation. I'm available for any questions.

22 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Thanks, Reed.
23 Commissioners, any comments or questions?

24 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Uh, nothing here.

25 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: No. Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Is there a motion?

2 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Chairman, I move that
3 we approve the adoption of amendments to 40 Texas Administrative
4 Code, Chapter 804, Jobs and Education for Texans Grant Program
5 as recommended today by staff.

6 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: Second.

7 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: I also vote yes. Motion
8 passes. Thanks, Reed. On to Agenda Item 11, 40 TAC, Chapter 812.
9 Mr. O'Brien.

10 REED O'BRIEN: For the record I'm Reed
11 O'Brien with the Office of General Counsel. Commissioners,
12 before you today for your consideration is the adoption of new
13 Chapter 812 which establishes the Rural Workforce Development
14 Grant Program. These rules are required by Senate Bill 2448 as
15 enacted by the 89th Texas Legislature. The rules set forth TWC's
16 procedures for administering the new grant program. On March 3,
17 2026, the commission approved the proposed rule for publication
18 in the Texas Register for a 30-day public comment period. The
19 proposed rule received a public comment, however, no changes
20 were made to the rule language. Staff recommends adopting new
21 Chapter 812. Additionally, staff requests the ability to make
22 minor nonsubstantive changes as needed to conform with
23 publication requirements of the Texas Register and the Office of
24 the Secretary of State. This concludes my presentation. I'm
25 available for any questions.

1 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Commissioners, any
2 comments or questions?

3 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Uh, none here.

4 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: No. Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Is there a motion?

6 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Chairman, I move that
7 we approve the adoption of amendments to 40 Texas Administrative
8 Code, Chapter 812, Rural Workforce Development Grant Program as
9 recommended today by staff.

10 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: Second.

11 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Motion was made and
12 seconded. I also vote yes. Motion passes. One more for Reed.
13 Item 12, 40 TAC, Chapter 814.

14 REED O'BRIEN: For the record, I'm Reed
15 O'Brien with the Office of General Counsel. Commissioners,
16 before you today for your consideration is the adoption of new
17 Chapter 814 which establishes the Advanced Nuclear Energy
18 Workforce Development Program. These rules are required by
19 Senate Bill 1535 as enacted by the 89th Texas Legislature. The
20 rules set forth TWC's procedures for administering the new
21 program. The proposed rule received public comments. However, no
22 changes were made to the rule language. Uh, on March 3rd the
23 commission did approve these, uh, that proposed rule for
24 publication, in, uh, and as mentioned, it did receive comment.
25 Uh, staff recommends adopting new Chapter 814. Additionally,

1 staff requests the ability to make minor nonsubstantive changes
2 as needed to conform with publication requirements of the Texas
3 Register and the Office of the Secretary of State. This
4 concludes my presentation. I'm available for any questions.

5 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Very good. Commissioners,
6 uh, any comments or questions?

7 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Uh, none here.

8 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: No. Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Is there a motion?

10 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Chairman, I move that
11 we approve the adoption of amendments to 40 Texas Administrative
12 Code, Chapter 814, Advanced Nuclear Energy Workforce Development
13 Program as recommended today by staff.

14 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: Second.

15 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: I also vote yes. Motion
16 passes. Thanks, Reed.

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

18 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Now you can sit down.
19 [Inaudible] find a chair. Uh, Agenda Item 13 regarding the JET
20 program. Take it away, Matt.

21 MATT SNIADOCKI: Good morning, Chairman,
22 Commissioner Treviño, Commissioner Connett, Mr. Pier. Uh, for
23 the record, Matt Sniadecki, Workforce Development Division. On
24 July 10, 2026, the JET Advisory Board met to discuss program
25 parameters and funding allocation for Fiscal Year 2027. Those

1 recommendations include number one, the funding allocation, and
2 this is probably the most significant one, carving out a 10
3 percent allocation for correctional education entities that will
4 include Windham School District, Texas Juvenile Justice
5 Department, and Juvenile Probation Boards. That will leave 30
6 percent for institutes of higher education and 60 percent for
7 open-enrollment charter schools and independent school
8 districts. Next is minimum/maximum grant amount. That will
9 remain 40,000 and 375,000 as it was last year. Next is number of
10 applications per eligible entity. That will remain one per
11 eligible applicant. And, last is minimum score for award
12 eligibility and that will remain 60 percent of total points
13 available. Uh, staff recommends the adoption and implementation
14 of program parameters for FY '27 as recommended by the JET
15 Advisory Board. That concludes my presentation and I'm happy to
16 answer any questions.

17 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Thanks, Matt.

18 Commissioners, any comments or questions?

19 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Uh, nothing here.

20 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: No, no questions.

21 Thanks.

22 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Matt and Lori, again,
23 thank you guys for coordinating the Advisory Board, uh, that
24 needs to meets to decide, uh, what this is as far as adding, uh,
25 a few departments to, to the application process and really kind

1 of want to tell other, my fellow commissioners this is a
2 starting off point. I'm going to see what this looks like and
3 how well this grant is implemented, uh, we'll go from there, and
4 I think it was pretty, pretty pleased to all stakeholders
5 involved, uh, in the methods that we're funding this to move
6 forward with the added agencies to the, uh, to the bucket. So,
7 thanks again, Matt.

8 MATT SNIADECKI: Yes, sir.

9 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Is there a motion?

10 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Chairman, I move that
11 we adopt the Jobs and Education for Texans Program funding and
12 parameters for Fiscal Year 2027 as recommended by the JET
13 Advisory Board and described in the discussion paper presented
14 today by staff.

15 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: I second the motion.

16 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: I also vote yes. Motion
17 passes. Thank you, Matt. Appreciate it.

18 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: On Agenda Item 14
19 regarding Fiscal Year 2026 Social Impact Partnerships to Pay for
20 Results Act grant opportunities with Joel.

21 JOEL MULLINS: Good morning, Chairman,
22 commissioners, uh, Mr. Pier. For the record, I'm Joel Mullins
23 with Workforce Development. Uh, in the commission meeting on
24 June 2, 2026, Commissioner Connett asked that staff be directed
25 to draft a paper on the Social Impact Partnerships to Pay for

1 Results Act or SIPPPRA, uh, specifically outlining the
2 feasibility of TWC participation and what the implementation
3 requirements would look like for the agency, uh,
4 administratively and operationally. Uh, first of all I would
5 like to apologize commissioner, to Commissioner Connett and the
6 entire commission for the length of time it took us to bring a
7 paper back in response to this request. We should have, uh, been
8 quicker to respond and, and promise to do so in the future. Uh,
9 SIPPPRA is a pay-for-results program where the federal government
10 provides funding to state and local governments only if a
11 project achieves specific measurable social outcomes that result
12 in federal savings. Since 2018 the Department of the Treasury
13 has released two notice of funding opportunities for SIPPPRA. A
14 third NOFO is expected to be released, uh, in Federal Fiscal
15 Year 2026, and Treasury has notified states that workforce
16 development projects will be prioritized in this new round of
17 funding. Uh, staff believe that it is feasible to submit a
18 SIPPPRA application and implement a SIPPPRA grant in Texas. Uh,
19 due to the complexity and the expertise and qualifications
20 required, the most efficient model is the procurement of an
21 intermediary that would prepare the SIPPPRA application, uh,
22 recruit private investors, manage the investment portfolio,
23 raise and collect funds, partner with service providers and an
24 evaluator, and track and analyze project performance. This model
25 would greatly reduce the financial and operational impact to TWC

1 as the intermediary would carry a majority of the operational,
2 financial, and contractual responsibilities. Uh, staff's only
3 concern is that identifying and selecting an intermediary to
4 operate the SIPPRRA grant would require a competitive procurement
5 that would take six to nine months from initial project kickoff
6 to award execution and the application window in past NOFO is
7 only five months. Uh, depending on the NOFO release date which
8 is unknown at this time, there may not be enough time to
9 complete the procurement process before the applications are
10 due. Uh, however, in such a case, uh, TWC staff, uh, would need
11 to draft the application ourselves, uh, relying on our own
12 financial, legal, and evaluation expertise, uh, for that. This
13 con, concludes my remarks. Uh, we are not asking the, the
14 commission to take any action today, uh, but I am happy to
15 answer any questions that you have.

16 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: OK, Joel. Thank you so
17 much. Uh, commissioners, I understand we've got folks from the
18 public that would like to put in public comment. Uh, Les.

19 MR. TROBMAN: Commissioners, we have four
20 folks, three here in person, one, uh, virtually. We have Duane
21 Reid. If you can come up, introduce yourself, and go ahead and
22 begin.

23 DUANE REID: Good morning, Chair Esparza,
24 Commissioner Treviño, Commissioner Connett, and members of the
25 board. My name is Duane Reid and I'm representing Europe United

1 here in Texas. Uh, every employer in Texas is looking for
2 talent. At Europe United we believe one of the greatest
3 opportunities isn't finding new talent, it's connecting
4 employers with talented young adults who have historically been
5 overlooked. Our work is about ensuring more individuals have
6 access to high-demand skills and careers while helping employers
7 meet workforce demand. Here in Texas, Europe United serves in
8 both Austin and Dallas-Fort Worth through career pathways
9 aligned with employer's needs in business, information
10 technology, software development, and customer experience. Since
11 2000, we've served more than 53,000 young adults nationally
12 including more than 2,300 participants in Texas. Across our
13 Texas sites recent graduates have earned an average starting
14 wage of \$27.66 per hour or more than \$55,000 annually
15 demonstrating what's possible when employers invest in skills
16 and potential. Independent research through a randomized control
17 trial found Europe United participants earn 30 percent more than
18 their peers six years after completing the program with a social
19 return of approximately \$2.46 for every one dollar invested. Our
20 research doesn't end when a participant gets a job though our
21 partnership, through our partnership with Harvard University's
22 Opportunity Insights, we're following earnings year, years after
23 program completion to answer the question every organization and
24 policymaker should ask. Did this investment create lasting
25 economic mobility? Our national outcomes help to answer that

1 question. Seventy-five percent of our graduates are employed or
2 enrolled in higher education within four months of graduating
3 from our program. Sixty-four percent begin careers directly
4 aligned with their training and half of our young adults are
5 hired by the same employer where they completed their
6 internship. Just as importantly, 90 percent of employer partners
7 report satisfaction with the talent that Europe United prepares.
8 Early findings also show that our average one-year participant
9 earning increased from approximately \$4,000 to \$12,000 between
10 2008 and 2018 in comparison to young adults who did not have a
11 Europe United experience. A Texas SIPPPRA pilot creates an
12 opportunity to make these quality outcomes the standard. It
13 provides Texans the ability to identify workforce models that
14 consistently move people into careers, strengthen the talent
15 pipeline employers need, and reward organizations that deliver
16 measurable results. Most importantly, it helps ensure we invest
17 in programs that create lasting opportunities improve their
18 changing lives long after the training is complete. Thank you
19 for your consideration. Thank you for your leadership. I'll
20 answer any questions you may have.

21 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Thank you, Mr. Reed.
22 Commissioners, any questions for Mr. Reed?

23 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Uh, no questions
24 here. Thank you.

1 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: No, none here. Thank
2 you for being here this morning.

3 DUANE REID: Thank you.

4 MR. TROBMAN: Next we have Francisco
5 Martinez.

6 FRANCISCO MARTINEZ: Good morning, Chair
7 Esparza, Commissioner Treviño, and Commissioner Connett, and
8 members of the board. My name is Francisco Martinez. I'm
9 representing Project QUEST. Thank you for the opportunity to
10 testify in strong support of Agenda Item 14. Serving as
11 President and CEO, Project QUEST has spent 34 years preparing
12 Texans for high-demand, family-sustaining careers through
13 partnership with employers, colleges, and community
14 organizations. During that time we have served more than 14,000
15 Texans into careers in healthcare, information technology,
16 advanced manufacturing, and skilled trades. What distinguishes
17 QUEST is not simply the number of people served but the strength
18 of evidence behind the model. An independent, 14-year,
19 randomized-control trial found that participants earned
20 approximately \$54,000 more than individuals in the control group
21 over the study period. For participants age 35 and older,
22 earnings gained exceeded 138,000 and the evaluation found a
23 societal return on investment of \$2.34 for every dollar
24 invested. Few workforce programs have this level of long-term,
25 causal evidence demonstrating with sustained increases in

1 earnings and economic mobility. That evidence is referred in our
2 30-year economic impact study which presented before you. Using
3 participant wage data, the data, the study found Project QUEST
4 generated more than two billion in increased earnings, over 1.2
5 billion in regional economic impact, and an estimated four
6 billion in total economic impact over a 30-year period. The
7 study also found a return of \$27.24 for every dollar invested in
8 QUEST. These are the kind of measurable outcomes Texas should
9 examine making workforce investments in. Project QUEST continues
10 to build on that foundation through its partnership with Harvard
11 Opportunity Insights contributing more than three decades of
12 data to one of the nation's most comprehensive longitudinal
13 workforce analysis. That workforce policy make us better
14 understand data-driven investments that produce the greatest
15 return. We believe Texas is well positioned to lead a SIPPR
16 creative framework for scaling programs with demonstrated
17 success while encouraging innovation and ensuring accountability
18 for public resources. This opportunity invest in evidence,
19 reward-driven results that expand occ, economic opportunity for
20 Texans. Thank you for the time and I'm happy to answer any
21 questions.

22 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Thank you, Mr. Martinez.
23 Uh, commissioners, any comments or questions for Mr. Martinez?

24 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Uh, no questions.
25 Thank you, sir.

1 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: No, none here. Thanks
2 for being here. Thanks for your time and comments.

3 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Thank you, sir.

4 MR. TROBMAN: Next we have Michael
5 Bettersworth.

6 MICHAEL BETTERS WORTH: Good morning, Chair
7 Esparza, Commissioners Treviño and Connett, members of the
8 board. My name's Michael Bettersworth. I'm representing Texas
9 State Technical College today. Uh, TSTC a decade ago implemented
10 a funding formula where we're paid by the state of Texas based
11 on the earnings outcomes of our students. It's an entirely ROI-
12 based structure. In the last, last election, uh, the voters in
13 Texas passed the Permanent Technology Infrastructure Fund, uh,
14 for TSTC similarly based on an outcomes logic. The reason we
15 support this SIPBRA approach is effectively the federal
16 government is cut, is, uh, replicating what we in Texas have
17 already demonstrated is a good public policy position which is
18 instead of paying for activity, paying for outcomes. Uh, so this
19 would enable agencies like TSTC to accept private investment or
20 even our own foundation's investment to go towards training more
21 Texans. That re—that investment would be recouped only if we
22 deliver on the results. Uh, we've similarly partnered with
23 Harvard's Opportunity Insights so the administrative burden of
24 having to track the outcomes data is effectively outsourced.
25 That's good because we as a state, while we use the UI wage

1 record data, very useful for tracking benchmarking, uh, on a
2 federal level the Treasury Department is effectively setting up
3 a similar outcomes structure so TSTC supports this as an
4 additional investment arm to help us grow our training capacity
5 in the state of Texas and really appreciate the Workforce
6 Commission's consideration. Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Thank you, Mr.
8 Bettersworth. Uh, commissioners, any comments or questions from
9 us?

10 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Uh, no questions
11 here. Thank you.

12 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: No, sir. Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Thank you for your time.

14 MR TROBMAN: That brings us to those, the
15 end of those in person. We have, uh, Navi, [inaudible], Dhaliwal
16 online I believe. If you could unmute yourself and begin.

17 NAVI DHALIWAL: Yes, thank you so much, and
18 good morning, Chairman Esparza, Commissioner Treviño,
19 Commissioner Connett, and members of the board. My name is Navi
20 Dhaliwal and I'm representing Dallas College where I serve as
21 director of economic research and data strategy at our Research
22 Institute. My background includes analyzing Texas Workforce
23 Commission data at the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas and within
24 the state's education research centers. Thank you for the
25 opportunity to testify in strong support of Agenda Item number

1 14 that reinforces Dallas College's June letter of support to
2 the commission regarding a SIPPR pilot in Texas. Texas has an
3 opportunity to strengthen workforce policy by investing in what
4 can be measured and verified. The SIPPR pilot would provide a
5 framework for expanding workforce programs that deliver
6 measurable earnings and employment outcomes while ensuring
7 accountability for taxpayers. Dallas College serves as one of
8 Texas's largest workforce and higher education institutions
9 preparing students for high-demand, high-wage careers across our
10 state's economy. Every day we work with employers to ensure our
11 programs align with workforce needs and produce meaningful
12 results for students. Traditional reporting tells us how many
13 people complete a program, uh, but the approach we're striving
14 to take helps answer a more important question. Did that
15 investment improve long-term employment, earnings, and
16 ultimately economic mobility. Dallas College has also partnered
17 with Harvard University's Opportunity Insights, the research
18 center led by Dr. Raj Chetty to evaluate the earnings and
19 employment of students who completed workforce training with us.
20 This rigorous outcomes-based evaluation isn't just hypothetical,
21 it's already happening by linking our program records to Census
22 Bureau and federal administrative data through secure privacy-
23 protected methods. I work directly on this partnership and I can
24 tell the commission from firsthand experience that individual
25 data remain protected throughout and the resulting insight into

1 long-term earnings and employment outcomes goes well beyond what
2 traditional reporting systems can provide. By combining rigorous
3 outcome assessment with private investment and available federal
4 funding, Texas can expand proven workforce strategies while
5 minimizing financial risk to the state. The result is a model
6 that rewards performance, encourages innovation, and directs
7 resources towards programs that demonstrate lasting impact.
8 Dallas College looks forward to partnering with the Workforce
9 Commission, the Office of the Governor, and any others to help
10 advance this effort. Thank you for your leadership and
11 consideration and I'm happy to answer any questions.

12 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Thank you, Mr. Dhaliwal.
13 Commissioners, any comments or questions [inaudible]?

14 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Uh, no questions.
15 Thank you.

16 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: No, none here. I
17 would just say thank you for, uh, underscoring the, the data
18 integrity, uh, element. That's, that's critical any time we're,
19 we're dealing with, uh, a person-identifying information
20 [inaudible] whether at the federal level, the state or both so
21 thanks for underscoring that element.

22 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Navi, thank you. Les?

23 MR. TROBMAN: That concludes testimony we
24 have.

25

1 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: OK, commissioners, any
2 comments or questions for Joel on, uh, on SIPBRA?

3 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Uh, none here. Thank
4 you, Joel.

5 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: Yeah, Chairman. Thank
6 you. Just a quick comment and question. Uh, Joel, the paper's
7 exceptionally well done. It's thoughtful, uh, and, and thorough
8 so thanks to you and your team for your work on this. Uh,
9 question regarding the procurement, uh, element. Is, is that
10 decided and do we know, uh, which timeline, uh, the procurement
11 of the intermediary might follow?

12 JOEL MULLINS: Yes, in, in speaking with
13 staff last week, uh, we've learned that, uh, regardless of
14 whether it is a competitive procurement or a sole source, the,
15 the timeline might, would be relatively the same, uh, and
16 there's the belief that's, uh, that we would probably not get
17 approval for a sole source procurement so the competitive
18 procurement from six to nine months is, is the most likely.

19 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: OK, thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Thanks for clarifying
21 that.

22 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: No further questions.
23 Thank you, Chairman. Thank you, Joel.

24 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: OK, thanks, Joel,
25 appreciate it. I'm going—Agenda Item 15, uh, definitions,

1 regarding definitions on long-term and significantly
2 underemployed. Shirley.

3 SHIRLEY JONES: Good morning, Chairman
4 Esparza, Commissioner Treviño, Commissioner Connett, Mr. Pier.
5 For the record, I'm Shirley Jones with the Workforce Development
6 Division. Commissioners, before you today for your consideration
7 and adoption are the proposed definitions of long-term
8 unemployed and signif, significantly underemployed individuals
9 for the Disaster Recovery National Dislocated Worker Grants.
10 These grants fund temporary employment opportunities to help
11 with cleanup and recovery efforts after a qualifying event. For
12 the purpose of establishing participant el, eligibility for
13 these opportunities, the U.S. Department of Labor requires
14 states to define these terms. This morning staff recommends the
15 adoption of the proposed definitions as provided in your
16 briefing materials. That concludes my presentation and I'm happy
17 to answer any questions you may have.

18 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Thanks, Shirley.
19 Commissioners, any comments or questions?

20 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Uh, no questions
21 here. Thank you, Shirley.

22 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: No, none here. Thanks
23 for working with us as this was briefed and presented. I think
24 we had some questions and they were, uh, very promptly and
25 thoroughly answered so thank you.

1 SHIRLEY JONES: Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Is there a motion?

3 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Uh, Chairman, I move
4 that we approve the National Dislocated Worker Grant Eligibility
5 definitions as described in the discussion paper and recommended
6 today by staff.

7 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: Second.

8 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: I also vote yes. The
9 motion passes. Thanks, Shirley.

10 SHIRLEY JONES: Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: And, where are we, 20?
12 Item, 19, anything, Michael Britt, anything, Michael? He says
13 no. Uh, executive director's report for Item 20.

14 MR. PIER: Uh, just a couple of things here.
15 Uh, I'm going to recognize Jerry in just a moment but, uh,
16 before I do, uh, just wanted to kind of clarify a thing or two
17 on the SIPPPRA. Uh, obviously the, uh, report that was done, it
18 did take a little bit longer than anticipated but this is a
19 highly complex and very different way of doing things and we
20 wanted to be certain that we were looking at this, uh,
21 thoroughly. I think it's an exciting opportunity. We heard some
22 public testimony out there that, uh, there's a lot of folks that
23 are excited about it, uh, and just to clarify, a decision has
24 not been made as to what path we go down here. Uh, I know, uh,
25 the, as Joel mentioned, the procurement issue is tight. It is

1 difficult, uh, but we are still exploring how it is that we
2 could possibly, uh, jigger this so that, so that it works itself
3 out and we take, uh, on a partner rather than trying to do this
4 on our own for the first time. Uh, so I think given some of the
5 other things that are going on right now, uh, with Sunset and
6 session coming and whatnot, uh, that being able to take on a
7 partner, uh, could really alleviate some of the, some of the
8 effort and stress that would, uh, be placed on staff by trying
9 to accomplish something completely new for the first time so, so
10 we are still contemplating that. We're trying to figure out how
11 exactly we, we make that happen inside of the timeframe that we,
12 uh, that we have, uh, and as Joel said, those don't look like
13 easy solutions but, uh, but probably better solutions than just
14 trying to, uh, do it ourselves so, uh, just wanted to kind of
15 clarify that, that we're not there yet on the decision, uh, for
16 how to proceed. Uh, and with that, I will turn it over to—Jerry
17 was creeping up seat by seat there yeah. It's making me nervous,
18 uh, so, Jerry, will you please recognize our, uh, great Star
19 Award recipients?

20 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Thanks, Steve.

21 MR. PIER: Yep.

22 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: For that.

23 MR. WHITE: Chair Esparza, Commissioner
24 Treviño, Commissioner Connett, for the record, I'm Jerry White,
25 the HR director here at the Workforce Commission. I'm delighted

1 to be here to recognize the team that put together big changes
2 in how the State of Texas application, uh, is built and used
3 across Texas. Uh, as HR folks always want to know that—and
4 employers always want to know that their method of letting
5 people apply for their jobs, finding out about them and apply is
6 easy and seamless. I heard lots of things about the previous
7 version of the state app but those were not among the words I
8 heard so there is a, there was an effort to fix this that began
9 with our Workforce Division, uh, that included IT and that
10 included business operations, the HR area, and they have, they
11 came together, uh, and in January the new State of Texas
12 application rolled out. Lots of stakeholder communication to
13 understand what our other state agencies needed in this, uh,
14 lots of feedback on how it can be structured and built, fixing
15 the State of Texas application. Making it more, more, uh,
16 approachable for candidates wasn't just fixing the State of
17 Texas application, a printed PDF, right? It's tied to work in
18 Texas. It's tied to Taleo. It's tied to the CAP system used by
19 CPA and there's lots of stuff that had to happen and things tied
20 together for it to work in the aftermath, and, uh, we did that,
21 uh, and it really moved this into, uh, what are industry
22 standards for a state of Texas, uh, app. You need that. You can
23 apply now with an app, with a résumé. You can apply now with an
24 easier-to-fill-out state app, and if you don't have a résumé,
25 they've even built a résumé tool inside of WorkInTexas to be

1 able to do that so overall a huge, huge step forward and I'd
2 like to recognize the team that worked on this, uh. From
3 Workforce, uh, Mary York. Stand up. Uh, Michelle Kranes, OK. She
4 deserves a vacation. It's a lot of work. Greg [Inaudible]. Sarah
5 Rugo. Juana Quintanilla. Ebony Williams. OK, Janice Wilder [SP].
6 From IT, Mary Morales, [Inaudible], Richard [Inaudible], Laura
7 Guerra-Mullen, and from HR, Cassandra Moya, Molly Rosado, and
8 Jocelyn Zamora Cruz. Great work.

9 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Great teamwork, you all.

10 MR. PIER: So if I can just add-

11 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Yeah.

12 MR. PIER: Shortly after this launched, uh,
13 I got an email, uh, from a, a, uh, friend of mine at another
14 agency that said essentially, oh, my gosh, if you accomplish
15 nothing else while you're there, this will have been a success,
16 and I was like, well, bummer, because it happened before me,
17 right, but, uh, you know it, uh, it, it is that kind of impact
18 that, that people were emailing, friends that were emailing
19 saying this is, this is huge, this is such a big deal, thank you
20 so much, uh, and, and none of the credit of course goes to me
21 because it all, uh, was before and was by this great team, uh,
22 but, uh, it will have a tremendous, uh, impact in how much time
23 it takes HR professionals and, and applicants, and I really,
24 really wish it had gone live before I applied for this job

1 because it would have saved me a lot of time but, uh, oh, well,
2 so anyways, thanks to, uh, the team. That's awesome.

3 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Definitely. Thank you,
4 guys. I don't know what if, what amount of gratitude from the
5 people of Texas who are designated, you know, that are looking
6 to us, uh, to go through the process and the amount of
7 coordination between the, between the divisions, uh, I just want
8 to recognize that, that, that's, you know, ultimately what we're
9 in charge, what we're tasked to do is make things more
10 efficient, more easier for Texans to get to where they need and
11 get the information they need to but that's incredible work just
12 through the divisions of Workforce, IT, and HR, and Jerry, you
13 know, whatever whiteboards were, were, were put up to brainstorm
14 and to, to, to cut and paste or, or, you know, surgery on the,
15 on the application itself, we don't, we don't, uh, we don't hear
16 the gratitude oftentimes. Of course we know, we know when the
17 complaints come in because they come in pretty loud and, and
18 frequent in some, in some cases but this is what a great day to
19 do this and I appreciate all the teams and the individuals, uh,
20 that came here, uh, to, to be recognized and I think that's
21 important that we, we continue to recognize all the people that,
22 that worked really hard to get this done, uh, and that we can
23 kind of stand on, on a good product, uh, and always be looking
24 to improve and I think that's the Star award, is define
25 efficiencies and improvement in everything we do so that's

1 continued on for a great culture at TWC and it's, it's, not to
2 go without said so thank you everybody, uh, even, even,
3 especially some of the ones on vacation, the ones probably still
4 working and can't get [inaudible]. I think that's, that's a
5 great, great accomplishment so we're glad to see it.
6 Commissioners.

7 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Yeah, just to echo
8 what the chairman said, you know, congratulations to the team. I
9 know you all did a lot of great work and it's a great
10 collaboration, and especially to the leaders to let the team
11 have, uh, access to their ideas and make sure that they came up
12 with something that's going to benefit, uh, everybody with the
13 state of Texas so thank you all.

14 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: Yeah, thank you.
15 Thank you, Chairman, and kudos and congratulations to the team
16 and the many professionals who, who got us to this point. It is,
17 it's a pretty major victory for Texans, whether it's making the
18 life of someone who's applying for a job, uh, much easier.
19 That's incredibly important but this, this victory also serves
20 the taxpayers because you've made state government more
21 effective and efficient, uh, and that's really exciting. I'm
22 very grateful for your collaboration, for your good work, and
23 glad we have this well-deserved and hard-earned opportunity to
24 thank you and recognize you for this win.

1 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Thank you, guys. Jerry,
2 thank you so much. Anything else, Steve? OK. Gentlemen, is
3 there—that brings us to the end of our agenda. Is there a motion
4 to adjourn?

5 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Uh, Chairman, I move
6 to adjourn.

7 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: Second.

8 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: I also vote yes and we
9 are adjourned. Thank you, guys.

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