



MEETING OF THE
TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION

DATE

OCTOBER 28, 2025

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Tuesday, October 28, 2025

CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Good morning, everybody.
It's, uh, 10, 10:00. Uh, this meeting is called to order. Uh,
Mr. Trobman, anyone sign up for public comment?

MR. TROBMAN: Good morning, commissioners,
Les Trobman, general counsel. We have one person registered, uh,
this morning. Uh, it is on Item number 14 so when we get to Item
14, we will hear from our registrants. Thanks.

CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Thank you, Les,
appreciate it. Uh, now turning the meeting over to Commissioner
Connett to preside over Agenda Items 3 through 10, so, Mr.
Connett.

COMMISSIONER CONNETT: The motion passes
with the exceptions noted. Uh, that concludes, uh, our work on
the Agenda Items 3 through 10. Uh, Chairman Esparza, I hand the
meeting back over to you.

CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Thank you, Commissioner
Connett. Thank you, all. Sherri, thank you for keeping us
organized. We're getting close to the end there so thank you,
all. We're going to pause for the shuffle.

MS. MILLER: Thank you, gentleman, very
much.

CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: OK, thanks everybody.
We're back. Uh, we're going to take up Item 11, uh, possible
action regarding local Workforce Development Board performance.

1 JENNIFER COLEHOWER: Good morning, Chairman,
2 commissioners, Mr. Townsend. For the record, Jennifer Colehower,
3 Information Innovation and Insight Division. Today for your
4 consideration is the discussion paper for board contract year
5 2026 career and training choices and reemployment and employer
6 engagement measure performance targets and expectations for
7 local Workforce Development Boards. These are also known as the
8 non-WIOA and non-child care measures. For the following
9 measures, the recommendation is to maintain the same methodology
10 and targets used in board contract year 25 for the upcoming
11 board contract year 26, and those, uh, four that would stay the
12 same are Active Job Seeker New Employment Connection Rate,
13 Maintaining Employment Connection Rate, Successful Texas Talent
14 Assistance Rate, and Choices Full Engagement Rate. There are
15 three measures for which staff recommends changes to targets or
16 methodology for board contract year 2026, uh, as set out in the
17 discussion paper, and those three are Credential Rate—all Career
18 and Training Participants, Number of Employers Receiving Texas
19 Talent Assistance and Claimant Reemployment within 10 Weeks. And
20 with that, staff recommends the approval of the targets and
21 methodologies for board contract year 2026 as detailed in the
22 discussion paper in your meeting materials. I'm happy to answer
23 any questions you may have.

24 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Thanks, Jennifer. Uh,
25 commissioners, any questions or comments?

1 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Uh, none here.

2 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: No, thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Thank you for the
4 presentation and recommendations, uh. Is there a motion?

5 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Uh, Chairman, I move
6 that we approve the local Workforce Development Board
7 performance targets and methodologies for board contract year
8 2026 as described in the discussion paper and recommended today
9 by staff.

10 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: I second.

11 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: I also vote yes. The
12 motion passes. Thank you.

13 JENNIFER COLEHOWER: Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: On to Item 12, possible
15 action regarding certifications and recertifications, uh, of
16 rehabilitate programs.

17 JUAN GARCIA: Good morning, commissioners,
18 Mr. Townsend. Juan Garcia with the Voc Rehab Division. This
19 morning for your consideration we have, uh, two CRPs that are
20 applying for first-time certification and three CRPs that are
21 applying for recertification. The two new CRPs are as follows:
22 Hild Foundation Corporation in Texas City and the Veterans
23 Advocates Services and Training in Houston. The three CRPs that
24 are applying recertification are as follows: Goodwill Industries
25 of San Antonio in San Antonio, On Our Own Services, uh, in

1 Houston, and the EB Foundation in Corpus Christi. Uh, staff
2 recommends, uh, certifying the two new CRPs and recertifying
3 three existing CRPs for participating in the, uh, PPD program.
4 So with that, I can answer any questions you may have.

5 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Thank you, Juan. Any
6 questions, commissioners?

7 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Uh, none here.

8 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: No, thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Is there a motion?

10 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Uh, Chairman, I move
11 that we approve the certifications and recertifications of the
12 following community rehabilitation programs for participation in
13 the Purchasing from People with Disabilities Program as
14 recommended today by staff: The certification of Hild Foundation
15 Corporation, and Veterans Advocates Services and Training, and
16 the recertification of Goodwill Industries of San Antonio, On
17 Our Own Services Incorporated, and EB Foundation.

18 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: Second the motion.

19 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: I also vote yes. The
20 motion passes [inaudible].

21 JUAN GARCIA: Thank you [inaudible].

22 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Item 13, public comment
23 for proposal review of purchasing products [inaudible].

24 REED O'BRIEN: All right, I think we've
25 still got a couple more minutes here to say good morning, so

1 good morning, commissioner, Chairman Esparza, Commissioners
2 Treviño and Connett and Mr. Townsend. For the record, I'm Reed
3 O'Brien with the Office of General Counsel. Uh, Texas Government
4 Code Section 2001.039 requires state agencies to review their
5 rules every four years and, uh, determine if the rules should be
6 readopted, revised or repealed and whether the original reasons
7 for adopting them continues to exist. This process also ensures
8 that our rules are not obsolete, they remain aligned with
9 current law and policy and continue to reflect the commission's
10 procedures. Chapter 806, Purchase of Products and Services from
11 People with Disabilities is due for its four-year review, and
12 before you today for your consideration is TWC's notice of
13 intent to review those rules. Staff requests the commission's
14 approval to submit the notice for publication in the Texas
15 Register for a 30-day public comment period and once the comment
16 period ends, staff will return to present our findings of the
17 review and any recommendations. This concludes my presentation.
18 I'm available for any questions.

19 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Any comments or
20 questions?

21 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Uh, none here.

22 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: No, thank you.

23 REED O'BRIEN: Thank you.

24 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Thank you, Reed. Is there
25 is a motion?

1 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Chairman, I move that
2 we approve the proposed rule review for 40 Texas Administrative
3 Code Chapter 806, Purchases and Products and Services from
4 People with Disabilities and the production or publication for
5 public comment as recommended today by staff.

6 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: I second.

7 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: I also vote yes. The
8 motion passes. Thank you, Reed.

9 REED O'BRIEN: Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Next is Item 14, possible
11 action regarding approval of local Workforce Development Board
12 nominees.

13 PATRICIA MARTINEZ: Still good morning. Good
14 morning, Chairman, commissioners, Mr. Townsend. For the record,
15 Patricia Martinez, Workforce Development Division. Today for
16 your consideration we have Workforce Board nominations for
17 Workforce Solutions Northeast Texas, West Central Texas,
18 Southeast Texas. Staff recommends approval on the presented
19 nominees and I'm here to answer any questions you may have.

20 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: OK. I believe we have
21 public comment, Les, for this item.

22 MR. TROBMAN: Yes, sir. We do. We have
23 Samuel Garcia, uh. Mr. Garcia, if you could unmute yourself and
24 begin.

25 SAMUEL GARCIA: Can you hear me?

1 MR. TROBMAN: Yes, sir. We can.

2 SAMUEL GARCIA: OK. After watching, uh, the
3 last meeting on the 21st, uh, staff recommended that all board
4 member, board nominees be, uh, be approved as recommended. There
5 was a laundry list of them. Then Commissioner Brent Connett who
6 was appointed less than a month before this meeting on September
7 26th said I'd be in favor of moving forward on all these board
8 slate of nominees with the exception of West Central Texas. I
9 have some questions I'd like to pose with staff about that
10 particular group of nominees, that's what he called it, group of
11 nominees. He then made the following motion. I would move that
12 the [inaudible] that we postpone consideration of local
13 Workforce Development Board member nominees for West Central
14 Texas and that we approve nominees presented for Cameron, North
15 Central, Heart of Texas, Golden Crescent, Middle Rio Grande,
16 North Texas, Permian Basin, and South Plains. It was then
17 seconded by Commissioner Treviño and made unanimous by Chairman
18 Esparza. I was informed last Friday that my nomination was being
19 questioned, and that's—and when I asked why, I was told by our
20 local board staff that they did not know and they were not given
21 a reason. I watched the video of the meeting, uh, the next day
22 and I also saw the posting for today's meeting and saw that my
23 name had been removed from the list of nominees. As far as I
24 know I'm still a nominee and for another term as approved by our
25 local, local chamber of commerce, and approved by our local, uh,

1 county chair, uh, excuse me, county judges. They have both
2 signed off on my nomination, and the local staff does not have
3 the authority to withdraw my nomination. I want to know if the
4 commissioners asked about the entire slate of nominees of West
5 Central, uh, and also, uh, not once in this motion did he
6 mention me. I was not mentioned. It was a group. Why am I the
7 only nominee removed? I would ask if there was a discussion
8 between any of these commissioners outside of public meeting
9 that would have resulted in this change. I believe I deserve to
10 know what questions Commissioner Connett had about me or even,
11 or the other two commissioners. I assume that is why I was
12 removed. If it's my qualifications because I will put my
13 workforce employer experience, education experience, and
14 community involve again, community involvement up against any
15 nominee from our board or any of the other 28 boards. I was a
16 2018 National Association of Workforce Board Small Business
17 Leadership award winner. I was a finalist in the Texas Workforce
18 Commission's Small Employer of the Year. I was a winner of the
19 Abilene Chamber of Commerce Small Businessman of the Year. I'm a
20 two-term West Central Texas Board chair. I was the 2013 Small
21 Business Administration Minority Small Business Champion. I'm a
22 past two-term board, school board member. I have over 30 years
23 of being in business and a countless number of community service
24 roles. If you do not approve—if you do approve the other six,
25 when will my nomination come up for consideration? And is, and

1 is, since our board is still in compliance, I believe you should
2 vote for all of the board members as presented at once and quit-
3 and not single me out, and I am here if you have any questions
4 because I want to know what is it about me that caused you to
5 take it off. I have a reputation when it comes to Workforce
6 Board and just by the awards that I've won on being a very,
7 very, uh, diligent volunteer, and this is a volunteer position.
8 I've heard you discuss these cases over the last couple hours
9 and you're trying to use facts to determine your, your, the way
10 you vote but when it comes to voting on me as a, uh, to continue
11 on, another term on our local board which I have a great
12 relationship with our board, I don't-I don't have any facts. And
13 so I would love to hear the facts as to why my name was removed
14 and why the other-were the other board members looked at. What,
15 what's the reasoning behind this? Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Mr. Garcia, I appreciate
17 your experience and service to the board. Obviously, my
18 consideration is West Central Texas is seeing some critical
19 emerging technologies out there and I feel like there's an
20 opportunity and would like the opportunity to discuss with the
21 recommending, uh, recommending authorities there be it the
22 chamber of commerce or the county judge, uh, the opportunities
23 for those emerging, uh, industries to be recognized and to be,
24 uh, to have their experience on the board if that is, if, if,
25 if, there's the opportunity to do so, and, uh, we appreciate

1 your, appreciate your time and your service to the board and
2 appreciate your comments today. Thank you. Any questions?

3 SAMUEL GARCIA: So, you're saying—can I ask
4 a question?

5 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Is there a motion for
6 the—be considered?

7 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Uh, Chairman, I, uh,
8 move that we approve the local Workforce Development Board
9 member nominees presented today for the following: Workforce
10 Solutions Northeast Texas; West Central Texas; and Southeast
11 Texas.

12 COMMISSIONER CONNETT: Second the motion.

13 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: I also vote yes. The
14 motion passes. Item 15, possible action of Sunset Advisory
15 Commission, Item 15.

16 RANDY TOWNSEND: Nothing today.

17 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: OK, nothing today for 16.
18 No from Michael Britt or 17. Uh—

19 RANDY TOWNSEND: No director's report.

20 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: No director's report so
21 that's Item 18. Anything else for the week?

22 RANDY TOWNSEND: [Inaudible].

23 CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: Thanks, everybody. That
24 will conclude. Is there a motion?

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

COMMISSIONER CONNETT: I second the motion.

CHAIRMAN ESPARZA: [Inaudible]. The motion
is seconded and passes. The motion carries. We are adjourned.