



**MEETING OF THE  
TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION**

**DATE**

**MARCH 1, 2022**

1 Tuesday, March 1, 2022

2 [No public comment was given during Agenda Item #2.]

3 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: The motion passes with the  
4 exceptions noted. That brings us to the end of Agenda Items 3  
5 through 7. We'll take a short break.

6 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: OK, we're back. Agenda  
7 Item 8 has been postponed to a future meeting. This is Agenda  
8 Item 9, WIOA statewide funds for WIOA customers and  
9 cybersecurity.

10 BENJAMIN HOLQUIST: [inaudible]

11 BENJAMIN HOLQUIST: Commissioners, before  
12 you today for your consideration for approval is a discussion  
13 paper regarding a one-time distribution of 2.7 million WIOA  
14 statewide dollars to the boards to pay for cybersecurity  
15 improvements or if the board does not have a current  
16 cybersecurity need, to support additional direct services as  
17 Texans continue to return to work. The 2.7 million would be  
18 distributed to boards as indicated in the discussion paper with  
19 the distribution proportional to the board's size after a  
20 baseline amount of the funding is assigned to every board.  
21 Boards will determine whether they can use the money best on  
22 cybersecurity strengthening or direct services. Staff recommends  
23 distributing 2.7 million of WIOA statewide funding to the boards  
24 as shown in the discussion paper to support cybersecurity

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1 acceleration or client service delivery. This concludes my  
2 presentation. I'm happy to answer any questions you may have.

3 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Comments or questions?

4 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: None here, chairman.

5 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: None.

6 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Tell me more about the  
7 cybersecurity. What—any kind of cybersecurity improvements?

8 BENJAMIN HOLQUIST: This is to fund any kind  
9 of cybersecurity improvements, physical, hardware that is  
10 needed, cybersecurity consulting, other things like that that  
11 are needed to improve the maturity scores.

12 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Have we done a recent  
13 assessment with boards on their cybersecurity needs?

14 BENJAMIN HOLQUIST: We've been doing work  
15 with cybersecurity. I don't know if we've done a recent  
16 assessment. There is a maturity score.

17 BENJAMIN HOLQUIST: Mr. Chairman, we have  
18 done an assessment that we funded of all the boards. We have a  
19 ranking. Of course, that report is protected under state statute  
20 because of the nature of the report but based on that, then we  
21 are allocating—we came up with the idea to allocate funds to  
22 those boards that had significant—not significant deficiency but  
23 deficiencies to address those to protect our data.

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1 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: So boards would have an  
2 idea of like a prioritization of cybersecurity needs that these  
3 funds could definitely help address.

4 BENJAMIN HOLQUIST: Yes, sir.

5 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right, thank you. Any  
6 other questions or comments?

7 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: The only comment I  
8 want to make is Courtney needs to be a little quicker.

9 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Commissioner, I wasn't  
10 going to point that out but since you brought it up, I will tell  
11 you what I [inaudible].

12 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: I was reading your  
13 mind, chairman.

14 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right. Is there a  
15 motion?

16 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Chairman, I move that  
17 we distribute 2.7 of WIOA statewide funding to the boards to  
18 support cybersecurity acceleration and/or client services  
19 delivery as discussed by staff.

20 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Second the motion.

21 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's been moved and  
22 seconded. We're unanimous. Thank you. This is Agenda Item 10,  
23 RESEA State Plan 2022.

24 DAWN CRONIN: Good morning, Chairman Daniel,  
25 Commissioner Alvarez, Commissioner Demerson, Mr. Serna. For the

1 record, my name is Dawn Cronin, and I have for your  
2 consideration this morning the Reemployment Services and  
3 Eligibility Assessment State Plan update or the RESEA State Plan  
4 for program year 2022. This plan provides our annual update for  
5 the RESEA program as required by DOL, and has been required  
6 since 2020. The plan also serves as Texas's application for the  
7 RESEA formula funds for the program year 2022 allotment. For  
8 Texas it will be \$16,860,815. This is roughly a 5-million dollar  
9 increase over program year 2021. Texas program year 2022 State  
10 Plan is due to the DOL or Department of Labor on or before March  
11 7, 2022. DOL guidance for this year's plan update encourages  
12 states to continue to grow their RESEA programs and encourages  
13 the state to continue increasing outreach for UI claimants, to  
14 establish reemployment services as well as increasing the number  
15 of permanent state staff, and the additional funding will be  
16 used to do those two things. I'd like to highlight the changes  
17 for this year's plan over last year's plan, the updated funding  
18 request. Last year's amount was a little over—it was like 11.7  
19 million, a little under 12. Updates to the staffing time and  
20 cost for conducting an RESEA appointment at the Workforce  
21 Solutions office, this is a composite rate. Updated estimates  
22 for the total number of RESEA appointments to be scheduled, the  
23 total number of appointments to be completed which includes the  
24 required RESEA services, and the number of claimants that will  
25 fail to report which is roughly a little less than 25 percent.

1 Updates on the actions that the state has taken to reduce the  
2 claimant failure rate which includes things like allowing the  
3 claimants to self-schedule appointments, automated reminders,  
4 and then structuring of notifications and other communications  
5 for readability. The updated information, the statutorily  
6 required evaluations for the RESEA program as well as statements  
7 to address equitable outreach and service to underserved  
8 populations and communities such as those in rural communities,  
9 and underserved groups. Staff recommends the approval of the  
10 RESEA program year 2022 State Plan update and submission to the  
11 Department of Labor by or before March 7<sup>th</sup>. That concludes my  
12 presentation and I'm happy to answer any questions you might  
13 have.

14 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Comments or questions?

15 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: None here, chairman.

16 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: None here.

17 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Is there a motion?

18 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: I move that we  
19 approve the PY2022 RESEA grant State Plan for submission to the  
20 Department of Labor.

21 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Second.

22 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: We're unanimous. Thank  
23 you. We have nothing under Agenda Item 11. We have nothing under  
24 Agenda Item 12. We have nothing under Agenda Item 13. Agenda  
25 Item 14, board nominations.

1                   CHERIE DUDLEY: Good morning, chairman,  
2 commissioners, and Mr. Serna. For the record, Cherie Dudley with  
3 the Workforce Development Division. For your consideration this  
4 morning we have Workforce Board nominations for Capital Area,  
5 South Texas, Lower Rio Grande Valley, and West Central Texas.  
6 Staff seeks guidance on the presented nominees, and I'm here to  
7 answer any questions you may have.

8                   CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Comments or questions?

9                   COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: None here, chairman.

10                  COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: None here.

11                  CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Is there a motion?

12                  COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Chairman, I move that  
13 we approve the board nominees for Capital Area, South Texas,  
14 Lower Rio Grande Valley, and West Central Texas.

15                  COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: I second.

16                  CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's been moved and  
17 seconded. We're unanimous. Thank you. Nothing under Agenda Item  
18 15. Legislative report? How about an executive director's  
19 report? None?

20                  MR. SERNA: Nothing to report.

21                  CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Is there any other order  
22 of business to come before the commission?

23                  COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Chairman, if I may I  
24 just wanted to introduce to everyone our new attorney that's  
25 working with us. He comes over from Ms. Miller's office. Greg

1 Harper is joining our office. Today is his first day with us.  
2 I'd also like to recognize from the Coastal Bend Workforce  
3 Solutions office, Ken Treviño, is here with us today. I know  
4 they are here for the TAWB, and Leila Melendez so welcome to  
5 both of you.

6 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: I tell you what. That's  
7 dedication to task. When you sit through all the TAWB meetings  
8 and then you come to a commission meeting, that's somebody who's  
9 really interested in workforce development.

10 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: They want that  
11 cybersecurity money, chairman.

12 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Well, they got it. It was  
13 some intense lobbying pressure. I could see out in the crowd.

14 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: My only comment, in  
15 Courtney's defense, I think she moved up here pretty quick.

16 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Maybe we can get on the  
17 next agenda.

18 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: See how fast.

19 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Some debate about that.  
20 All right. Anything else.

21 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: None here, Chairman.

22 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Is there a motion to  
23 adjourn?

24 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Chairman, I move that  
25 we adjourn.



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COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Second the motion.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Moved and seconded to  
adjourn. We are adjourned.