



**MEETING OF THE
TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION**

DATE

JULY 18, 2023

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Tuesday, July 18, 2023

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Good morning, everyone.

This meeting is called to order. Mr. Trobman, has anyone signed up for public comment?

MR. TROBMAN: No, sir.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you very much, Mr. Trobman. Good morning, Ms. Miller.

MS. MILLER: Good morning, sir.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you. Let's see. I think that's it for that. Let's take a short recess. We're back with Agenda Item 8, Certification and Recertification of Community Rehabilitation Programs to Participate in the Purchasing from People with Disabilities Program.

JUAN GARCIA: Good morning, commissioners, Mr. Townsend. Juan Garcia with the Voc Rehab Division. This morning for your consideration we have one CRP that is applying for first-time certification to participate in the Purchasing from People with Disabilities Program. The CRP is the Spanglish Foundation located in Temple. We also have five CRPs that are applying for recertification to continue in the program, and they are the Vocational Opportunities Center of Northeast Texas in Mount Pleasant, G&H Equitas Foundation in Corpus Christi, ReadyOne Industries in El Paso, The Homestead Community Development Corporation in Houston, and Bootstraps Occupational Services in Crawford. Staff recommends the certification of one

1 new CRP and five CRPs that are applying for recertification as
2 presented in the discussion paper. With that, I can answer any
3 questions you might have.

4 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Any comments or questions?

5 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: None here.

6 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: None here.

7 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Is there a motion?

8 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Mr. Chairman, I move
9 that we approve the certification and recertification of the
10 following community rehabilitation programs to participate in
11 the Purchasing from People with Disabilities Program as
12 recommended today by staff: The new certification of Spanglish
13 Foundation and the other five that were mentioned, Vocational
14 Opportunities Center of Northeast Texas, G&H Equitas Foundation,
15 ReadyOne Industries, The Homestead Community Development
16 Corporation, and Bootstraps Occupational Services Inc.

17 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: I second the motion.

18 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's been moved and
19 seconded, and the motion carries. Thank you.

20 JUAN GARCIA: Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: This is Agenda Item 9,
22 Fiscal Year 2025 Planning Estimate for the Child Care
23 Professional Development Scholarship Statewide Initiative.

24 ALLISON WILSON: Good morning, chairman,
25 commissioners, Mr. Townsend. For the record, Allison Wilson with

1 the Child Care & Early Learning Division. Last August the
2 commission approved the agency's legislative appropriations
3 request for the 2024-25 biennium which included a planning
4 estimate of 750,000 per year for the child care professional
5 development scholarships initiative. Then in June of this year
6 the commission approved the fiscal year 24 statewide initiatives
7 budget which included an increase in this initiative to
8 3,000,000 to help support implementation of TWC's 2023 child
9 care workforce strategic plan. Staff are currently in the
10 process of procuring a grantee and would like to issue a grant
11 that covers a two-year project period. A two-year period will
12 better align with the intended design and management of the
13 initiative. Staff recommends that the commission approve an FY25
14 planning estimate of 3,500,000 for the PD scholarship initiative
15 to align with TWC's strategic plans and support higher quality
16 grant applications. That concludes my remarks. Happy to answer
17 any questions.

18 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Any comments or questions?

19 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: None here.

20 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: None here.

21 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Is there a motion?

22 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: I move that we
23 approve a fiscal year 2025 planning estimate of \$3,500,000 for
24 the professional development scholarship project as described in
25 the discussion paper and recommended today by staff.

1 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: I second the motion.

2 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's been moved and
3 seconded, and the motion carries. Thank you.

4 ALLISON WILSON: Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: This is Agenda Item 10,
6 board nominations.

7 CHERIE DUDLEY: Good morning, chairman,
8 commissioners, Mr. Townsend. For the record, Cherie Dudley with
9 Workforce Development. Today for your consideration we have
10 Workforce Board nominations for Cameron County, Concho Valley,
11 North Central Texas, Heart of Texas, Gulf Coast, Central Texas,
12 and Southeast Texas. Staff recommends approval on the presented
13 nominees and I'm here to answer any questions you may have.

14 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Any comments or questions?

15 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: None here.

16 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: None here.

17 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Is there a motion?

18 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Chairman, I move
19 that we approve the local Workforce Development Board member
20 nominees presented today for the following areas: Workforce
21 Solutions Cameron County, Concho Valley, North Central Texas,
22 the Heart of Texas, Gulf Coast, Central Texas, and Southeast
23 Texas.

24 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: I second the motion.

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1 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's been moved and
2 seconded, and the motion carries.

3 CHERIE DUDLEY: Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you. OK, so Farmer's
5 Almanac tells me that if Michael Britt's wearing a tie that
6 there's a legislative report today, and he does in fact have on
7 a tie so-

8 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: He has a tie on.

9 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: We're going to have a
10 legislative report. Imagine his walkup music in your head.

11 MICHAEL BRITT: Good morning, Mr. Chairman,
12 commissioners, Mr. Townsend. For the record, Michael Britt,
13 Governmental Relations. The U.S. House Appropriations
14 Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education
15 released their draft fiscal year 2024 appropriations title last
16 week. The subcommittee also held a hearing last Friday to
17 consider the draft which would provide 147 billion dollars for
18 programs under the jurisdiction of the subcommittee which is
19 60.3 billion or 29 percent below the fiscal year 2023 enacted
20 levels, and 73 billion below the President's budget request. The
21 measure provides a discretionary total of 9.8 billion to the
22 U.S. Department of Labor which is four billion or 29 percent
23 below the fiscal 2023 enacted level. Under the subcommittee
24 draft, the majority of programs administered by TWC would see
25 level funding from fiscal year 2023 to fiscal year 2024,

1 however, the draft does include cuts to WIOA. The draft would
2 completely eliminate youth training programs under WIOA, and
3 proposed cuts to adult WIOA programs as well. The subcommittee
4 reported the draft bill favorably by a voice vote last Friday
5 and the bill now goes to the full U.S. House Appropriations
6 Committee for their consideration. It is also being reported
7 that the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee will release their
8 labor, health and human services, and education appropriations
9 title some time before the end of this month. This concludes my
10 remarks and I'm happy to answer any questions you have.

11 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Any comments or questions?

12 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: None here.

13 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: None here other than
14 it's a nice tie, Michael.

15 MICHAEL BRITT: Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right. Mr. Townsend,
17 this is your time to make a report, a recommendation, air any
18 grievances, get something off your chest, this is it.

19 MR. TOWNSEND: I've been waiting a long time
20 for this chance.

21 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Mr. Serna is not
22 here.

23 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Mr. Serna reads the
24 transcripts though.

25

1 MR. TOWNSEND: I do have a couple of items
2 under the heading of funding opportunities I wanted to mention
3 to the commissioners this morning. The first one deals with
4 unemployment insurance funding opportunity. This came out in a
5 UI, unemployment insurance program letter last Thursday. There
6 was a webinar on Friday with Department of Labor announcing
7 funding opportunity primarily in two areas. One—and we'd already
8 been working on one of these under a previous letter—one,
9 strengthening integrity of the UI system. That amount for Texas
10 is 3.—almost three and a half million. That is actually a cut
11 from in half from what it was previously. I believe you might
12 have been made aware of this by Mr. Serna previously but that
13 was one item in the funding opportunity, and staff is working on
14 options or proposals to use that funding to strengthen our
15 integrity of the UI system. The second deals with information
16 technology modernization. There are some categories the
17 Department of Labor has provided for states to complete. This
18 previously was going to be 11,000,000 or so for all states to
19 apply for. With the reduction in funding this new announcement,
20 it's still 11,000,000, up to 11,000,000 for states but the
21 funding available for all states is 200,000,000 so there's not
22 going to be enough funding for every state to get the up to
23 11,000,000. So with that being said, states can apply for this.
24 The deadline is mid-August, August 18th to submit a proposal and
25 interest and that sort of thing so just wanted to make the

1 commissioners aware of this competitive award essentially for
2 11,000,000 for IT modernization in the UI system so unless you
3 have questions or need more information, that was all I had to
4 report this morning on that funding opportunity for Texas. The
5 second item is an opportunity, I believe this came about maybe a
6 couple weeks ago, a few weeks ago, under the heading of partners
7 for reentry opportunities in workforce development grants, and
8 the funding range for this is between 4,000,000 minimum award up
9 to 10,000,000. This award is going to have a period of
10 performance of 48 months. It's a cooperative effort at the
11 federal level between Department of Justice and Department of
12 Labor. It's focused on folks that are incarcerated in federal
13 prisons I believe is my understanding of this. It has three
14 different stages to it which states would identify an
15 opportunity. You'd be essentially enrolling federal inmates,
16 there'd be a training component to it, and states have to
17 include in the submission, in the proposal, how you would plan
18 to do that. I think there's been one round before for states.
19 This is the second round of funding that's available, and so
20 just wanted to bring that to your attention this morning as well
21 as a potential funding opportunity.

22 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: I would like a further
23 briefing on that one just so I can understand it better. I might
24 have a few questions. If we could arrange for that to happen—

25 MR. TOWNSEND: Yes, sir.

1 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Sometime in the next few
2 days, that would be great.

3 MR. TOWNSEND: Absolutely, we'll do that.

4 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you.

5 MR. TOWNSEND: That concludes my report this
6 morning.

7 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right, thank you. Is
8 there any other order of business to come before the commission?

9 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Mr. Chairman, let me
10 go back and just ask Randy a real quick question on that first
11 option that you mentioned. Is that automatic or is it
12 competition.

13 MR. TOWNSEND: On the unemployment insurance
14 funding?

15 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Yes.

16 MR. TOWNSEND: That modernization, that's
17 going to be a competitive process, and so like I said, we've
18 been working on various projects for our system. I would think
19 that we could identify close to 11,000,000, and we'd probably do
20 it in individual projects when we submit that proposal
21 [inaudible].

22 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: All right, thank
23 you.

24 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: I just have, Randy,
25 appreciate all the work the staff is doing on those two

1 initiatives too but as they start getting closer and without
2 them stopping what they're doing, if they could just brief my
3 office on what they're going to present right before they do,
4 I'd appreciate that as well.

5 MR. TOWNSEND: Yes, sir, we can do that,
6 commissioner. Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right, if there's no
8 further business, is there a motion to adjourn?

9 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Yeah, I'm going to
10 make that motion. I have two quick points. I had the pleasure of
11 being in Laredo, Texas, this past week with four JET grants and
12 so, chairman, thank you guys for the work that you guys are
13 doing with the JET program as well as Dr. Ramirez on our
14 campuses, a gracious host, and they were pretty excited about
15 those opportunities, both the students and the employers that
16 benefit from those, and also in the city of Lago Vista
17 [inaudible] on their team bringing together the folks in the
18 economic development world with the workforce teams and then the
19 education entities that were there as well. That's it.

20 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: I have nothing.

21 MR. TOWNSEND: Commissioners, may I—I just
22 wanted to make sure I was clear on the previous point. Where
23 there's interest in getting additional information on the
24 partners for reentry opportunities, we'll arrange those
25 briefings as you requested. I just want to make sure is this

1 something you would like us to bring back as an agenda item for
2 additional opportunities for discussion, address questions or
3 what have you?

4 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: I don't know the answer to
5 that because I don't know enough about it.

6 MR. TOWNSEND: OK, yes, sir.

7 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right, any further
8 business?

9 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: None here.

10 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: None here.

11 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Shall we adjourn?

12 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: It's moved.

13 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: I second the motion.

14 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's been moved and
15 seconded to adjourn and we're adjourned. Thank you.

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