



**MEETING OF THE
TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION**

DATE

December 19, 2023

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Tuesday, December 19, 2023

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right, good morning, all. This meeting is called to order. Mr. Trobman, has anyone signed up for public comment?

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

MS. MILLER: Good morning, sir.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you. That brings us to the end of Agenda Items 1 through 8. We'll pause for a short recess.

MS. MILLER: And Happy Holidays, commissioners.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you. Same to you. All right, this Agenda Item 9, Texas Industry-Recognized Apprenticeship Program Parameters.

KERRY BALLAST: Good morning, Chairman Daniel, Commissioner Treviño, Commissioner Esparza, and Mr. Serna. For the record, Kerry Ballast, Workforce Development Division. There's approximately 9,000—my apologies, \$9,876,000 available for the TIRA grant program for fiscal year 2024. Prior to publication of the application parameters for that FY24 TIRA grant program should be established. The guidance is in accordance with TWC Commission Rule 838.12. Today staff recommend the following: Applicants must not have received apprenticeship-related funding made available through TWC in

1 fiscal year 2024, and the cost per participant will be near or
2 equal to costs listed for comparable training programs on the
3 statewide eligible training provider list or when costs are
4 justified up to \$7,500 per participant. That concludes my
5 remarks. I'm happy to answer any questions.

6 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Any comments or questions?

7 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: I have a comment,
8 chairman. Regarding staff's first parameter recommendation, the
9 applicants may not have received apprenticeship-related funding
10 through TWC in fiscal year 2024. I would like to note that this
11 parameter appears to contradict the Texas Labor Code Section
12 302.255 which sets applicant eligibility and TWC Rule Chapter
13 838, part 3, of public comments responses which states TWC staff
14 have communicated with DOL's office of apprenticeship relating
15 to the flexibility for IRAPs or for RAPs, excuse me, to
16 participate in TIRA and determine such flexibility is allowable.
17 Since this is the first year of the TIRA grant program, it is
18 important to promote and encourage innovation and the
19 development of programs that meet the already defined TIRA grant
20 eligibility requirement. It would not be in the best interests
21 of the program to exclude applicants who are developing new and
22 innovative programs to complement existing RAP programs which
23 seek to build a pipeline for upskilling workers and
24 apprenticeship participants. I would be agreeable to parameters
25 which clarifies that an applicant may not simultaneously use

1 TIRA grant program funds with existing apprenticeship-related
2 funding made available through TWC in FY24 for TIRA grant
3 program participants. Now regarding staff's second parameter
4 recommendation, Texas Labor Code Section 302.256(b) (1) through
5 (2) clearly outlines that the amount award cost per participant
6 may not exceed the lesser of the total cost of the person for
7 training the participant excluding wages and benefits or
8 \$10,000. Under Labor Code Section 302.256(d), the commission may
9 establish limitations on the total amount of the grant funds
10 that the person may be awarded but does not authorize TWC to set
11 further limitations to the cost per participant outlined in
12 Section 302.256(b) (1) through (2).

13 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: I do have a question,
14 chairman. The legislature laid out the cap here at 10,000, and
15 we, Texas Workforce Commission, has amended that to 7,500. Would
16 you—is there a—could you give me just a quick explanation on
17 what the discrepancy is between what the legislature set out and
18 why we targeted a little bit lower?

19 KEERY BALLAST: Yes, sir. When staff, as you
20 are very well aware, when money is funded for a program such as
21 this, we also receive performance measures through the
22 Legislative Budget Board that we need to meet. In doing our
23 calculations, if we were to go with the full cap, it's very
24 likely we would not hit those performance measures. That's why
25

1 staff thought perhaps 7,500 would be a little bit more
2 attainable in us meeting those measures.

3 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: Are there—is there an
4 ability for if an applicant exceeds that, would they be
5 considered or is that the cap? Is that what we're setting and
6 nothing—no applicants would be considered at a higher level if
7 that was needed?

8 KERRY BALLAST: Most likely what we would do
9 is we would go back and negotiate with them to that 7,500.

10 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: OK.

11 KERRY BALLAST: If they were agreeable to
12 that.

13 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: OK, thank you so
14 much.

15 KERRY BALLAST: Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: So 7,500 is basically
17 whatever the performance measure is divided into the 9.8
18 million.

19 KERRY BALLAST: Yes, sir.

20 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: So you got the same money.

21 KERRY BALLAST: Yes, sir. Just about. We're
22 also anticipating some to come in slightly lower by virtue of
23 comparable trainings on the ETPL.

24 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Commissioner Treviño, you
25 present an interesting point. I want to make sure I understand

1 your initial point completely. So your concern is that you think
2 the staff recommendation on FY24 funds are prohibited if they
3 receive any apprenticeship funds, they would not be able to
4 participate in the program at all, and your suggestion is that
5 you are agreeable that if they have apprenticeship funds for a
6 specific apprenticeship program that you would not want them to
7 be able to stack new TIRA funds on their old program but you
8 don't want to prohibit them from coming forward with a new
9 program.

10 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Yeah, that's correct.
11 You know since this is a brand-new program where we don't know
12 who has applied yet and it would be wrong for us to deny those
13 that are coming up with innovative programs that could support
14 and, you know, train new workforce and have that pipeline of in-
15 demand workers.

16 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: I have not contemplated
17 that. Any other comments or questions? Is there a motion?

18 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Chairman, I move that
19 we amend the current discussion paper with my suggested edits.

20 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: I second.

21 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Can you go back over your
22 suggested edits one more time for me?

23 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Yes, that the
24 applicant may not simultaneously use TIRA grant program funds
25 with existing apprenticeship-related funding made available

1 through TWC and FY24 for TIRA grant program participants, and to
2 remove staff's second parameter.

3 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's been moved and
4 seconded. The motion carries. Thank you. All right.

5 MR. SERNA: Excuse me, does this also
6 include, Commissioner Treviño, the change from 75 to 10 or just
7 that first item?

8 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: No, it would change
9 that second item to allow it to be up to what the statute
10 requires of 10.

11 MR. SERNA: OK. All right. I just want to
12 make sure that it was on both items.

13 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right. Thank you. This
14 is Agenda Item 10, Statewide Initiative to Provide Upskilling
15 and Training.

16 JOEL MULLINS: Good morning, chairman,
17 commissioners, Mr. Serna. For the record, I'm Joel Mullins with
18 the Workforce Development Division. Before you today is a
19 proposal for the distribution of WIOA statewide funds to local
20 Workforce Development Boards. Staff has identified a significant
21 need to provide support for upskilling and training for
22 occupations in high-demand industries such as health care,
23 transportation, semiconductor and technology, broadband, and
24 construction. Local Workforce Development Boards are in an
25 excellent position to address this need by partnering with

1 employers, colleges, nonprofit and community organizations, and
2 training providers that support upskilling and training in high-
3 demand jobs. Today staff recommends the distribution to boards
4 of \$3,000,000 in WIOA statewide funds to provide upskilling in
5 high-demand occupations and/or training that leads to industry-
6 recognized credentials in high-demand occupations. The
7 distribution amounts include a \$50,000-dollar base amount and
8 align with the 2024 WIOA formula funds distribution methodology.
9 That concludes my remarks and I'm happy to answer any questions.

10 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Any comments or questions?

11 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: None here.

12 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: So with this
13 accounting for this allocation and the one for the gap funding
14 last week, do we know a number on how much is left for future
15 projects?

16 JOEL MULLINS: I believe that the reserve
17 balance as of yesterday was \$8,922,895 so I believe it would be
18 3,000,000 less than that. It would go down to 5.9 million.

19 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: Thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: So this concept did not
21 come up when we had our work session on programs for both WIOA
22 and TANF funding back during warmer weather. How is this
23 different or how does this complement a couple of the other
24 upskilling programs that we have? I'm thinking specifically of
25 like Upskill Texas. I'm thinking somewhat of the Skills

1 Development Fund. How is this both different and complementary
2 to those existing upskilling or reskilling programs?

3 JOEL MULLINS: In this case we're giving the
4 board—distributing the funds directly to the boards, and kind of
5 allowing them as much flexibility as possible to address their
6 regional demand.

7 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: And what do we think the
8 boards are going to do that the other programs don't do?

9 JOEL MULLINS: I think one of the things is
10 just quickly get individuals into training programs that are for
11 any in-demand industries in their area with these statewide
12 funds are, you know, more flexible than their formula funds so
13 they'll be doing a lot of the same things that they're doing
14 with their formula funds but just able to do it a little
15 quicker. Additionally, on the upskilling side of things, some
16 boards have existing partnerships with community colleges and
17 industry in their area where they are already putting
18 individuals through kind of short-term programs to get them OSHA
19 certificates and that sort of thing, and then getting them
20 quickly into jobs.

21 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right. Any other
22 comments or questions?

23 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: None here.

24 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Is there a motion?

25

1 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Chairman, I move to
2 approve the distribution to boards of \$3,000,000 in WIOA
3 statewide funds with the 50-dollar base amount to provide
4 upskilling in high-demand occupations and/or training that leads
5 to recognized credentials in high-demand occupations as
6 described in the discussion paper and recommended today by
7 staff.

8 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Commissioner, if I could,
9 I think you just took a pause for a breath. You said a 50-dollar
10 base, and I wanted to [inaudible] that.

11 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Oh, excuse me,
12 appreciate that. With a 50,000-dollar.

13 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: I'll second that.

14 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's been moved and
15 seconded, and the vote is unanimous. Thank you.

16 JOEL MULLINS: Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: This is Agenda Item 11,
18 appointments to the JET Advisory Board.

19 LORENA KNIGHT: Good morning, Chairman
20 Daniel, Commissioner Treviño, Commissioner Esparza, and Mr.
21 Serna. For the record, Lori Knight with the Education Outreach
22 Department at TWC. TWC's appointment to the JET Grant Advisory
23 Board has expired. Staff is recommending that we reappoint Scott
24 Norman to continue serving on the JET Advisory Board so staff is
25 seeking the commission's approval to reappoint Scott Norman to

1 the JET Grant Advisory Board. I'm happy to answer any questions
2 you may have.

3 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Comments or questions?

4 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: I have a quick
5 comment. I just want to take this opportunity to thank Scott for
6 his work and efforts which continue to strengthen and develop
7 the construction workforce in Texas.

8 LORENA KNIGHT: Thank you.

9 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: No questions.

10 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: He's been a very
11 [inaudible] member of the JET Advisory Board. He's done a great
12 job. Is there a motion?

13 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Chairman, I move to
14 reappoint Scott Norman to serve a two-year term on the Jobs and
15 Education for Texans Advisory Board.

16 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: I second.

17 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's been moved and
18 seconded and the vote is unanimous. Thank you. This is Agenda
19 Item 12, Annual Occupational Shortage Report.

20 MARIANA VEGA: Good morning, Chair Daniel,
21 commissioners, Mr. Serna. For the record, my name is Mariana
22 Vega. I'm the director for Labor Market Information at the Texas
23 Workforce Commission, and today for your consideration and
24 possible action, you do have before you the annual report on
25 growth occupations to the governor, lieutenant governor,

1 legislature, and this is regarding projected shortages in high-
2 wage, high-demand occupations. We did produce this report to
3 satisfy the legislative requirements of HB2478. Your offices did
4 receive a copy of the report and you were briefed. For this
5 report we did examine over 800 occupations and we did segment
6 them by the 13 major industries identified in the Texas Labor
7 Code. We did define high-wage, high-demand jobs as being those
8 occupations with an annual median pay that is estimated to be
9 more than the statewide annual median wage of \$43,463 a year,
10 and also with an expected employment change of over 400 jobs
11 over a 10-year period. We did use long-term projections to
12 inform where that strongest growth was to be expected, and as
13 well as other datasets just to give a little bit more context
14 and provide some economic highlights for each of the industries.
15 Today we're asking for commission approval of the report with
16 permission to make minor nonsubstantive changes as we prepare
17 the final layout that we will publish on our website. So that
18 does conclude my remarks. We appreciate your consideration. If
19 you have any questions, I'll be more than happy to try to answer
20 those.

21 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Any comments or questions?

22 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: I'd like to thank the
23 staff for their hard work in compiling this report and all the
24 data.

25 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: No questions.

1 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's a good report.

2 MARIANA VEGA: Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: The 10-year projection I
4 think looks very sound. I think it captures the reality of the
5 marketplace. I would ask that next year that we bring this 30,
6 45 days sooner to the commission because there's two things that
7 302.019 asked us to do that we're really not doing in this
8 report. The first of those things is it specifically gives us
9 the responsibility to make recommendations to the legislature
10 for legislative action regarding these long-term projections
11 that we're doing, and we're not doing that in this report. We're
12 out of time for this year. I don't see us being able to do that
13 in this report. I think if we would come 30, really 45 days
14 sooner in the year, I think the commission could then consider
15 some specific recommendations to the legislature, and I think
16 that might be helpful to the legislature. The second thing that
17 would take this already strong report, I think make it
18 significantly more useful to people who aren't necessarily doing
19 workforce development every day is if we did a little lookback
20 also at our projections, what really happened in real time,
21 what's already happened in the past. I think what we'll find is
22 that it will strengthen our 10-year projections moving forward.
23 I think it gives the report some context that makes it perhaps a
24 little more useful to people who don't do this every day or do
25 this for a living, and so that's an idea we can explore next

1 year as well just in terms of strengthening those projections,
2 strengthening our-look, we've been doing this for like 10 years
3 now so we've got a lot of lookback data that I think really
4 supports some things that we're looking 10 years down the road
5 from today at but more specifically I think it will support some
6 strong recommendations that we could make to the legislature
7 that would be well within our purview under this law, 302.019.
8 So nothing—I don't think there's time to do any of that this
9 year. I think it will enhance the report for next year. We'll
10 just get a little earlier start and be able to do that. Any
11 other comments or questions?

12 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: None here.

13 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: None.

14 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Is there a motion?

15 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: I move to approve the
16 Annual Occupational Shortage Report concerning existing and
17 projected shortages in high-demand, high-wage occupations as
18 recommended today by staff.

19 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: Second.

20 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's been moved and
21 seconded and we're unanimous. Thank you.

22 MARIANA VEGA: Thank you very much and we
23 appreciate the feedback, and we will take that into
24 consideration. Appreciate it.

25

1 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you very much. This
2 is Agenda Item 13, Proposed Amendments to 40 TAC Chapter 853.

3 KIRA HOLLYWOOD: Good morning, Chairman
4 Daniel, Commissioner Treviño, Commissioner Esparza, and Mr.
5 Serna. For the record, my name is Kira Hollywood, and I am with
6 the Vocational Rehabilitation Division, Older Individuals who
7 are Blind program. Commissioners, before you today for your
8 consideration for approval are proposed rule amendments to
9 Chapter 853, Independent Living Services for Older Individuals
10 who are Blind. The proposed rule will amend Chapter 853 to
11 update eligibility for the OIB program, clarify language for
12 consistency purposes, and complete its four-year review. The
13 main highlights of the revisions include updated eligibility
14 criteria, updated language to help clarify processes within the
15 program, and the addition of the OIB helpline phone number to
16 increase referrals for the program. Also, Texas Government Code
17 requires that every four years each state agency review and
18 consider for re Adoption, revision or repeal each rule adopted by
19 that agency. TWC reviewed the chapter as part of the proposed
20 rule in accordance with the statutory requirement. Staff is
21 recommending submitting the proposed rule for publication in the
22 Texas Register for a 30-day public comment period. Staff also
23 requests the ability to make minor nonsubstantive changes to the
24 document in order to comply with the publication requirements of
25 the Texas Register and the Office of the Secretary of State.

1 This concludes my presentation. I'm available to answer any
2 questions that you may have.

3 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Any comments or questions?

4 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: None here.

5 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: None.

6 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Is there a motion?

7 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: I move to approve the
8 proposal of amendments to 40 Texas Administrative Code Chapter
9 853, Independent Living Services for Older Individuals who are
10 Blind, for publication in the Texas Register and public comment
11 as recommended today by staff.

12 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: Second.

13 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's been moved and
14 seconded and we're unanimous. Thank you.

15 KIRA HOLLYWOOD: Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: This is Agenda Item 14,
17 Proposed Amendments to 40 TAC Chapter 801, Local Workforce
18 Development Board Rules.

19 JOEL MULLINS: Good morning once again. I'm
20 Joel Mullins with the Workforce Development Division.
21 Commissioners, before you today for your consideration are
22 proposed rule amendments to Chapter 801 on Local Workforce
23 Development Boards. These proposed amendments will amend Chapter
24 801 to address changes in Texas Government Code Section 2308.256
25 as the result of the passage of House Bill 1615 by the 88th Texas

1 Legislature. HB1615 requires that each board expand its
2 membership to include a representative of the child care
3 workforce. Staff recommends submitting the proposed rule for
4 publication in the Texas Register for a 30-day public comment
5 period. Staff also requests the ability to make minor
6 nonsubstantive changes to the document in order to comply with
7 the publication requirements of the Texas Register and the
8 Office of the Secretary of State. I'm available to answer any
9 questions.

10 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Any comments or questions?

11 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: None here.

12 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: None.

13 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Is there a motion?

14 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: I move to approve the
15 proposal of amendments to 40 Texas Administrative Code Chapter
16 801, Local Workforce Development Boards, for publication in the
17 Texas Register and public comment as recommended today by staff.

18 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: I second.

19 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's been moved and
20 seconded and we're unanimous. Thank you.

21 JOEL MULLINS: Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: This is Agenda Item 15,
23 Adoption of 40 TAC Chapter 800, Reporting Workplace Violence
24 rules.

25

1 JON POKORNEY: Good morning, Chairman
2 Daniel, Commissioner Treviño, Commissioner Esparza, and Mr.
3 Serna. For the record, I'm Jon Pokorney with Fraud Deterrence
4 and Compliance Monitoring. Commissioners, before you today for
5 your consideration and adoption are final rule amendments to
6 Chapter 800, General Administration. In an open meeting on
7 October 3, 2023, the commission approved proposed amendments to
8 add Subchapter N to Chapter 800 to provide the form and content
9 of the Reporting Workplace Violence poster as required by HB915.
10 The proposed rule amendments were published in the October 2023
11 issue of the Texas Register for a 30-day public comment period.
12 No comments were received. Staff recommends adopting the
13 amendments to Chapter 800. Should the commission adopt these
14 rules, staff requests the ability to make minor nonsubstantive
15 changes to the document in order to comply with the publication
16 requirements of the Texas Register and the Office of the
17 Secretary of State. This concludes my presentation. I'm
18 available to answer any questions you may have. Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Comments or questions?

20 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: None here.

21 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: None.

22 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Is there a motion?

23 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: I move to approve the
24 adoption of the new 40 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 800,
25

1 Subchapter N, Reporting Workplace Violence, as recommended today
2 by staff.

3 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: I second.

4 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's been moved and
5 seconded and we're unanimous. Thank you. This is Agenda Item 16,
6 Appointment of a Lone Star Workforce of the Future Fund Advisory
7 Board member.

8 COLLIN BRADLEY: Good morning, Chairman
9 Daniel, Commissioner Treviño, Commissioner Esparza, and Mr.
10 Serna. For the record, I'm Collin Bradley with the Outreach and
11 Employer Initiatives Division. Commissioners, before you today
12 for your consideration and approval is an advisory board
13 appointment for the Lone Star Workforce of the Future Fund.
14 House Bill 1755 which was passed during the 88th Texas
15 Legislature, Regular Session, requires the Texas Workforce
16 Commission to establish the Lone Star Workforce of the Future
17 Fund Advisory Board consisting of education and workforce
18 stakeholders to assist the commission in administering the
19 program. It's very similar to the Jobs and Education for Texans
20 program. This program has a six-member advisory board, one of
21 which is to be appointed by the commission. So staff recommends
22 the appointment of Mr. Edward Crawford, cofounder and president
23 of Coltala Holdings in Dallas as a Lone Star Workforce of the
24 Future Fund Advisory Board member appointed by the Texas
25 Workforce Commission. Mr. Crawford, a U.S. Navy veteran, holds

1 several advanced degrees in business, has a successful
2 professional career, and has participated on many boards,
3 councils, and committees. Mr. Crawford has a desire to enhance
4 workforce development efforts and brings experience in helping
5 businesses locate diverse talent including veterans. That
6 concludes my presentation. I'm happy to answer any questions.

7 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Comments or questions?

8 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: None here.

9 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: No questions.

10 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Is there a motion?

11 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: I move to appoint
12 Edward Crawford to serve a two-year term on the Lone Star
13 Workforce of the Future Fund Advisory Board.

14 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: I second.

15 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's been moved and
16 seconded and we're unanimous. Thank you.

17 COLLIN BRADLEY: Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: This is Agenda Item 17,
19 Rural Workforce Working Group Participant List.

20 COLLIN BRADLEY: Good morning again. For the
21 record, I'm Collin Bradley with the Outreach and Employer
22 Initiatives Division. Commissioners, before you today for your
23 consideration and approval is a rural working group participant
24 list. In an open meeting on September 11, 2023, while discussing
25 fiscal year 2024 statewide initiatives, the commission directed

1 staff to convene a rural workforce working group. The
2 commissioners asked staff to propose a list of working group
3 participants for approval by the commission. Staff recommends
4 the following organizations and community colleges be invited as
5 participants in the rural workforce working group as a part of
6 the previously approved fiscal year 2024 statewide initiatives.
7 For business and economic development organizations, staff
8 recommends the Texas Midwest Community Network, the High Ground
9 of Texas, Texas Rural Funders, Texas Forest Country
10 Partnerships, Association of Rural Communities in Texas, Texas
11 Organization of Rural and Community Hospitals, Texas Rural
12 Health Organization, and for community colleges, Lamar State
13 College, Orange, South Plains College, Ranger College, Kilgore
14 College, Texas State Technical College, Vernon College, and
15 Laredo Community College. That concludes my presentation. I'm
16 happy to answer any questions.

17 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Comments or questions?

18 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: None here.

19 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: I've got one. Collin,
20 do you—can I get a little bit more information on the operations
21 of these working groups and how many you think will be in the
22 next year? Are they around the state or are they going to just
23 be here in Austin kind of a thing, and also is this—is the end
24 result to have recommendations to the commission, to us, at the
25 end of these?

1 COLLIN BRADLEY: At the moment we have only
2 planned to have the one, and this is to influence what will be
3 discussed and considered at the rural workforce summit.

4 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: OK.

5 COLLIN BRADLEY: We do plan on holding it
6 here in this room actually just to get some more information
7 about what challenges are being faced by our rural workforce
8 partners.

9 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: So the commission took
10 action on this back during the summer. This is the only working
11 group that we've stood up so far and it's relatively specific to
12 rural workforce. This meeting I guess is going to be here but
13 there will be other meetings out and about, and yes, the end
14 result is to make recommendations to the commission.

15 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: Thank you for
16 catching me up.

17 COLLIN BRADLEY: Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Other comments or
19 questions?

20 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: None here.

21 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Is there a motion?

22 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: I move to approve the
23 following organizations and community colleges for participation
24 in the rural workforce working group as recommended today by
25 staff: Texas Midwest Community Network, the High Ground of

1 Texas, Texas Rural Funders, Texas Forest Country Partnership,
2 Association of Rural Communities in Texas, Texas Organization of
3 Rural and Community Hospitals, Texas Rural Health Association,
4 Lamar State College, Orange, South Plains College, Ranger
5 College, Kilgore College, Texas State Technical College, Vernon
6 College, and Laredo Community College.

7 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: I second.

8 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's been moved and
9 seconded and the vote is unanimous. Thank you.

10 COLLIN BRADLEY: Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right. I'm not seeing
12 a legislative report. Is there an executive director's report
13 today?

14 MR. SERNA: Just two items. First, I wanted
15 to recognize one of our HR professionals, Belinda Kimble, for
16 winning the augural HR Professional of the Year Award from the
17 Central Texas SHRM Chapter. We're very pleased about that and
18 just demonstrates our HR department's professionalism, the
19 individuals there. And then the second is a STAR Award to one of
20 our employees to be presented by our—by Chuck Ross, our FDCM
21 division director.

22 CHUCK ROSS: Good morning, Mr. Chairman,
23 commissioners, Mr. Serna. For the record, I am Chuck Ross,
24 director of TWC's Division of Fraud Deterrence and Compliance
25 Monitoring. It is my great pleasure to be able to present to you

1 a STAR Award winner from the Department of Information Insight &
2 Innovation, and I believe you have a narrative in your binders
3 about this but I am unable to talk to you about that because
4 essentially, it's a roadmap for committing unemployment
5 insurance ID fraud, and it talks about how Tannon Yu who is
6 receiving this award today stopped all of these efforts. Since
7 the pandemic in 2021, Congress enacted several responsive
8 unemployment insurance programs which while they helped in the
9 immediate instance of the pandemic when businesses were closed,
10 they unfortunately put a huge fraud target on the back of the
11 unemployment insurance program. And so during the height of the
12 pandemic we were seeing unprecedented amounts of identity fraud,
13 and that's when Tannon Yu joined TWC. He was instrumental in
14 helping us start from a place where we had limited experience
15 with combatting unemployment insurance ID fraud to really
16 finding it and shutting it down, and so you'll see now in the
17 reports that I send out on a monthly basis, we stop 99.8 percent
18 of all ID fraud claims that come in before they pay out, and
19 that's largely because of Tannon and the work that he does with
20 us. Lastly, I'll just—the only analogy I can think of is it's
21 with ID fraud, it's kind of like this never-ending game of whack
22 a mole. You have one come up here, you take care of it, another
23 comes up here, you take care of it, and so on and so on. So
24 Tannon Yu is essentially our giant hammer in whack a mole, and
25 without him we would not be successful so I am very grateful to

1 have this opportunity to commend to you Tannon Yu for the STAR
2 Award. He's done tremendous work. He's an astonishingly bright
3 young man and I hope we are able to keep him at TWC. That's all
4 I have. I'm sorry this is cloak and dagger but I'll try to
5 answer any questions you might have.

6 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: I'm glad to hear it.

7 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: I just have something
8 quick to say. I wanted to congratulate Tannon on receiving the
9 STAR Award, and I'm glad to see that his hard work is officially
10 being recognized. His list of work is impressive. He has made an
11 impact on so many TWC departments that helps us serve claimants
12 to the best of our ability so again thank you, Tannon, for all
13 that you do.

14 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: I hope he's teaching
15 his friends.

16 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you.

17 CHUCK ROSS: Thank you, sir.

18 TANNON YU: I didn't realize I had to make a
19 speech but I'm very grateful for the award from FDCM and Mr.
20 Ross, and Mr. Stalinsky. It's a pleasure to work with them on a
21 daily basis, and I do have to give my thanks as well to Adam
22 Leonard and Shu-ching, my real bosses, for their unwavering
23 support. They give me a lot of freedom to approach and innovate
24 to combat fraud for the Texas Workforce Commission so again I'm
25 very appreciative of this award. Thank you so much.

1 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: I'm glad Mr. Serna made
2 you come up here. Congratulations, an award well earned. Well,
3 congratulations to Tannon once again. Important work for the
4 agency. Important work for the things that we're doing even
5 moving forward. Is there any other order of business to come
6 before the commission? No? Merry Christmas. Happy Holidays. Get
7 some rest because January will be here before we know it, and
8 then the fun begins again. All right, is there a motion to
9 adjourn?

10 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: I move to adjourn.

11 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: I second.

12 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's been moved and
13 seconded to adjourn and we're adjourned.

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