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TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS  
BEFORE THE  
TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION  
AUSTIN, TEXAS

PUBLIC MEETING )  
FOR THE TEXAS )  
WORKFORCE COMMISSION )

COMMISSION MEETING  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 5, 2016

BE IT REMEMBERED THAT at 9:00 a.m. on  
Tuesday, the 5th day of January, 2016, the above-entitled  
matter came on for hearing at the Texas Workforce  
Commission, TWC Building, 101 East 15<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 244,  
Austin, Texas, before ANDRES ALCANTAR, Chairman; RUTH R.  
HUGHS, Commissioner

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

PAGE

PROCEEDINGS, TUESDAY, JANUARY 5, 2016

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 ..... 3  
CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2 ..... 3  
SHERRI MILLER and TOM MANN

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3 ..... 3  
TOM MANN

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4 ..... 3  
TOM MANN

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5 ..... 3  
SHERRI MILLER

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6 ..... 3  
SHERRI MILLER

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7 ..... 3  
PAUL N. JONES

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8 ..... 4  
DAVID JOHNSON and ADAM LEONARD

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9 ..... 6  
COURTNEY ARBOUR and REAGAN MILLER

AGENDA ITEM NO. 10 ..... 6  
JOHN FULLER

AGENDA ITEM NO. 11 ..... 11  
LISA GIVENS and TOM McCARTY

AGENDA ITEM NO. 12 ..... 8  
TOM McCARTY

AGENDA ITEM NO. 13 ..... 8  
LARRY TEMPLE, LISA RICHARDSON  
JEFFERY PEDEN, CLAY COLE and REAGAN MILLER

AGENDA ITEM NO. 16 ..... 12  
ADJOURNMENT

REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE ..... 13

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
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P R O C E E D I N G S

TUESDAY, JANUARY 5, 2016

(9:01 a.m.)

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1

CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Good morning, everyone.  
This meeting will now be called to order. Happy New Year.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2

CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Believe we have no cases  
of continuing jurisdiction under Agenda Item 2.

AGENDA ITEM NOS. 3, 4, 5 and 6

CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: That will bring -- bring  
us to Agenda Items 3, 4, 5 and 6. I move to have Agenda  
Items 3, 4, 5 and 6 continued until the next scheduled  
Commission Meeting.

COMM. HUGHS: I second that motion.

CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Thank you.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7

CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: We're now going --  
proceeding to Agenda Item 7, Public Comment. Mr. Jones, has  
anyone signed up for public comment this morning?

MR. JONES: No one has -- we'll have no  
public comment today.

CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Okay. There is no public  
comment.

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AGENDA ITEM NO. 8

CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Item 8. Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action Regarding Program Year 2016 -- Program Year 2017 Performance Target Proposals for the Combined State Plan for WIOA 2014 for Program Years 2016-19, Adam Leonard. Good morning, Adam.

MR. LEONARD: Good morning, Commissioners. This morning we're here to present staff recommendations for proposed targets for PY16 and 17 that would go out for public comment today with the due date for comments on the 19th so that we can incorporate input and any recommendations into the final WIOA State Plan which is planned to be presented for your approval and submission to TWIC on the 25th.

I'm happy to answer any questions you may have about the material that we briefed before. There have been a few changes since -- in -- the earlier one went one to try to make it a little more focused on the issue of -- the specifics of the targets and a little less about the latest ICR that they came out with.

CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Mr. Leonard, could you -- or Adam, could you talk to us about the ICR and the respond -- response times required under -- under that?

MR. LEONARD: Sure. So on the 23rd, the Federal Register published the second WIOA State Plan ICR

1 for a 30-day comment period with comments due on January  
2 22nd. And there are a number of changes from the original  
3 State Plan ICR that went out for 60-day comments.

4 In particular, from my area of focus, the  
5 changes had to do with performance. In the original  
6 document, it simply had a blank grid for states to fill out  
7 with the targets and the measures and the programs listed in  
8 it without any guidance. In the newer version, they've now  
9 indicated that they've decided some measures should be  
10 treated as baseline, meaning that we would report them, but  
11 they wouldn't have targets on them.

12 Generally speaking, this makes a lot of sense  
13 because states don't have all the data necessary to  
14 calculate some of the history. But for some reason, some of  
15 their specific measures they've suggested being -- not being  
16 baseline are a bit of a mystery to us because we don't  
17 believe we have the data. And we've asked them for  
18 information about how to do it. And they haven't responded  
19 yet.

20 So we're a little concerned about the  
21 proposal there. And, in fact, in this document for two of  
22 those measures, measurable skills gain and credential rate  
23 as it relates to the -- the vocational rehabilitation  
24 program, we put "To Be Decided Pending Further Federal  
25 Guidance" because we weren't able to figure out how they

1 thought we could do this.

2 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Well, based on -- on your  
3 comments, certainly think, Commissioner, that we need a  
4 staff to go develop a response to that and bring it before  
5 us in time for the submittal deadlines. Work on that, Adam,  
6 that'd be greatly appreciated.

7 MR. LEONARD: Absolutely.

8 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Commission Hughs?

9 COMM. HUGHS: I -- I move that we approve  
10 posting the Program Year 2016 - Program Year 2017  
11 performance target proposals for the Combined State Plan for  
12 the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 for  
13 program years 2016-2019 for public comment.

14 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: And I second. Thank you.

15 MR. LEONARD: Thank you.

16 AGENDA ITEM NO. 9

17 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Item 9. It will be  
18 deferred to the future docket.

19 AGENDA ITEM NO. 10

20 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Item 10. Discussion,  
21 Consideration and Possible Action Regard -- Regarding the  
22 Approval of Local Board Nominees, John Fuller. Reagan  
23 Miller.

24 MS. MILLER: All right. How do you pull it  
25 up? And, I apologize, I believe John probably isn't aligned

1 with the new timing for the Commission Meetings without a  
2 docket. So let me pull up the material.

3 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: That's okay.

4 MS. MILLER: This morning for your  
5 consideration we have nominees from the Capital Area  
6 Workforce Board, Deep East Texas Board, East Texas Board,  
7 Golden Crescent Board, Heart of Texas Board, North Central  
8 Board, North Texas, Permian Basin, Rural Capital and Tarrant  
9 County Boards for your consideration.

10 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: And it's my understanding  
11 that we -- that all of these Boards need to be approved so  
12 that they can remain in compliance --

13 MS. MILLER: Yes, sir.

14 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: -- for the next few  
15 weeks?

16 MS. MILLER: Yes, sir.

17 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Commissioner Hughs?

18 COMM. HUGHS: With that, I move that we  
19 accept the recommendations for the Local Workforce  
20 Development Board nominees for Capital Area, Deep East  
21 Texas, East Texas, Golden Crescent, Heart of Texas, North  
22 Central, North Texas, Permian Basin, Rural Capital Area and  
23 Tarrant County Workforce Development Boards as presented by  
24 staff.

25 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: I second.

1 MS. MILLER: Okay. Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Thank you, Ms. Miller.

3 AGENDA ITEM NO. 12

4 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Item 12. Report and  
5 Update on the Federal State Legislation. There is no  
6 update.

7 AGENDA ITEM NO. 13

8 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Item 13. Report and  
9 Update by the Executive Director. Mr. Temple, what do you  
10 got for us this morning?

11 MR. TEMPLE: I have two things. Well, I'm  
12 going to get Clay Cole to give us an update on the disaster  
13 areas. And while he's coming up, I'd like to -- Lisa -- we  
14 have a new team member. Lisa Richardson, would you  
15 introduce --

16 MS. RICHARDSON: Yes, I would.

17 MR. TEMPLE: Do you have the clown nose he  
18 has to wear for a week?

19 MS. RICHARDSON: No, sir. Can I come here?  
20 Good morning, Chairman and Commissioner Hughs.

21 MR. TEMPLE: Have a seat.

22 MS. RICHARDSON: For the record Lisa  
23 Richardson -- I think it's on -- for the record Lisa  
24 Richardson. Nice to see you this morning. I'm very pleased  
25 to -- to present to you Jeff Peden. Jeff has been hired as



1 our new Deputy IT Director. Jeff joins us from DARS where  
2 he was the CIO at DARS for many, many years -- I think  
3 seven.

4 MR. PEDEN: Eleven.

5 MS. RICHARDSON: Eleven years. So he's got a  
6 lot of experience within the IT world, within state  
7 government, and I think he's going to be invaluable to our  
8 team, especially with the transition activities that we have  
9 going forward. So just want to welcome him.

10 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Commissioner Hughs?

11 COMM. HUGHS: I've heard all good things.  
12 And we're happy to have on board. Welcome and Happy New  
13 Year.

14 MR. PEDEN: Thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Welcome aboard.

16 MS. RICHARDSON: Thank you so much.

17 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Thank you. Clay?

18 MR. COLE: Good morning, Chairman,  
19 Commissioner Hughs, Mr. Temple. For the record Clay Cole,  
20 Unemployment Insurance Customer Service and Operations. I'm  
21 here to provide a report on the Disaster Unemployment  
22 Assistance Program and specifically talk about two press  
23 releases that were issued last week and this week for  
24 providing the 30-day deadline for Disaster Unemployment  
25 Assistance for the counties impacted during the October 22nd

1 and 20 -- 31st period. Those counties included Bastrop,  
2 Brazoria, Caldwell, Coma -- Comal, Galveston, Guadalupe,  
3 Hardin, Harris, Hays, Hidalgo, Liberty, Navarro, Travis,  
4 Willacy, Wilson, and Cameron.

5 The deadline for the 15 counties is January  
6 6th, except for Cameron County, which was named a week  
7 later. Their deadline, 30-day deadline, is January 11th.  
8 TWC is still accepting applications through our self-service  
9 Internet application and our phone -- phone system through  
10 our Tele-centers.

11 To date, we've taken 288 Regular Unemployment  
12 disaster impacted claims and nine Disaster Unemployment  
13 Assistance claims. In contrast, looking at the sear --  
14 severe storms that took place over the Memorial Day holiday  
15 period, we took 1,285 Regular Unemployment disaster impacted  
16 claims and 182 Disaster Unemployment Assistance claims. Of  
17 course, this covered 47 counties compared to the 16 that  
18 were involved.

19 Based on notification from DOL and FEMA, we  
20 are anticipating a Federal Declaration for Disaster  
21 Unemployment assistance to be made sometime this week. Of  
22 course, Governor Abbot has issued a disaster declaration for  
23 five counties which include Collin, Dallas, Ellis, Rockwall,  
24 and Wichita. And we have been monitoring the claim activity  
25 in these county -- counties to date. And we estimate we've

1 taken 92 disaster impacted claims. And this concludes my  
2 report.

3 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Commissioner Hughs?

4 COMM. HUGHS: Thank you.

5 MR. TEMPLE: Commissioners, Reagan's going to  
6 talk about our -- the NEG opportunities at the local level.

7 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Great.

8 MS. MILLER: So in addition to -- sorry. For  
9 the record Reagan Miller. So in addition to counties being  
10 designated for individual assistance, when counties are  
11 designated for public assistance declarations, they have the  
12 ability to apply for NEG Disaster funds. So we have 16  
13 counties that meet that criteria.

14 We're reaching out to those Workforce areas  
15 to determine if they have a need to apply for National  
16 Emergency Grant funds which can be used to help with  
17 disaster clean up. And we'll keep you posted as we hear  
18 from those Workforce areas.

19 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Thank you, Reagan. I  
20 appreciate that.

21 MR. TEMPLE: And we need to go back, Mr.  
22 Chairman, to Number 11, the Annual Report with Tom McCarty.

23 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Oh, yes. I'm sorry.

24 AGENDA ITEM NO. 11

25 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Item 11. Discussion,

1 Consideration and Possible Action Regarding submission of  
2 the 2015 Annual Report to the Governor and Legislature.

3 Tom, I believe we're deferring this?

4 MR. McCARTY: Yes, sir. We're going to defer  
5 it.

6 MR. TEMPLE: Oh.

7 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Okay, thank you. And  
8 Larry, I -- is there anything else, Larry?

9 MR. TEMPLE: No.

10 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Is there a motion to  
11 adjourn?

12 COMM. HUGHS: I move that we adjourn.

13 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: And we are adjourned.

14 Thank you.

15 (Proceedings concluded at 9:11 a.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF TEXAS       )  
COUNTY OF TRAVIS    )

I, Kimberly C. McCright, Certified Vendor and Notary in and for the State of Texas, do hereby certify that the above-mentioned matter occurred as hereinbefore set out.

I FURTHER CERTIFY THAT the proceedings of such were reported by me or under my supervision, later reduced to typewritten form under my supervision and control and that the foregoing pages are a full, true and correct transcription of the original notes.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 12th day of January, 2016.

/s/ Kimberly C. McCright  
Kimberly C. McCright  
Certified Vendor and Notary Public

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