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TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS  
BEFORE THE  
TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION  
AUSTIN, TEXAS

PUBLIC MEETING )  
FOR THE TEXAS )  
WORKFORCE COMMISSION )

COMMISSION MEETING  
TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 2016

BE IT REMEMBERED THAT at 9:00 a.m. on  
Tuesday, the 5th day of April, 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, JULIAN  
ALVAREZ and RUTH R. HUGHS, Commissioners

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AGENDA ITEM NO. 5

Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action  
Regarding Higher Level Appeals in Wage Claim Cases Listed on  
the Texas Workforce Commission Docket 14.

The Commission considered and took action on  
all wage claim cases listed on Docket 14.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6

Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action  
Regarding Higher Level Appeals in Unemployment Compensation  
Cases Listed on the Texas Workforce Commission Docket 14.

The Commission considered and took action on  
all unemployment compensation cases listed on Docket 14.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7

CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Good morning, everyone.  
We are back in session.

Mr. Jones, has anyone signed up for public  
comment?

MR. JONES: No public comment, Mr. Chairman.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8

CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Item 8. Discussion,  
Consideration and Possible Action Regarding Modification to  
the Combined State Plan for Workforce Innovation Opportunity  
Act of 2014, Joel Mullins. Good morning.

MR. MULLINS: Good morning, Chairman,  
Commissioners, Mr. Serna. My name's Joel Mullins. I'm with

1 the Workforce Development Division. On January 25th, 2016,  
2 the Texas Workforce Commission approved the Combined State  
3 Plan for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act for  
4 program years 2016-2019. The plan was signed by the  
5 Governor's office and submitted to the U.S. Departments of  
6 Labor and Education on April 1st, 2016.

7 This plan was based on the draft Federal  
8 planning requirements issued in an Information Collection  
9 Request on July 27th of 2015 and changes to the requirements  
10 in the strategic and operational elements and in the  
11 agricultural outreach plan were issued in subsequent ICRs on  
12 December 9th, 2015, and February 18th, 2016.

13 The changes in this plan modification include  
14 how the State will conduct evaluations and research projects  
15 on activities on WIOA core programs, a description of the  
16 strategies the State will use to achieve improved outcomes  
17 for out-of-school youth, the State's proposed strategies for  
18 serving MSFWs and agricultural employers and various other  
19 changes that were included in those second two ICRs.

20 Before we seek approval, Adam Leonard would  
21 like to take a few minutes to talk about what we're doing  
22 with Adult Ed. targets.

23 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Okay. Good morning,  
24 Adam.

25 MR. LEONARD: Good morning, Commissioners.

1 Just briefly, I've -- I've explained this to your offices.  
2 But I just wanted to get on the record and give you the  
3 opportunity to provide any feedback that you wanted.

4           Subsequent to the Commission taking action on  
5 the State Plan back in January for submission, the  
6 Department of Education notified state agencies that are  
7 operating adult ed. grants of their proposed method to set  
8 targets in the negotiation process. And that -- what they  
9 put out was rather different than what we had expected.

10           This -- the Act provides for single  
11 measurable skills gain. And, yet, they want to continue  
12 setting targets for the 11 groupings within that -- the 11  
13 functional -- the educational functioning levels and then  
14 blend those targets together which is not what we did when  
15 we initially proposed our targets to you all because we had  
16 no idea that they might do that.

17           So they've provided this as draft guidance.  
18 It's in final clearance. It hasn't been issued yet which is  
19 why we didn't feel comfortable going forward today with  
20 recommendations based on what some -- what might change  
21 before the final version. And so were expecting that to be  
22 issued shortly, to go through the negotiation process and  
23 are hopeful that by the time this plan comes back to you --  
24 the modification comes back to you, we'll be able to include  
25 those negotiations in that final version.

1 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Commissioner Hughs?

2 COMM. HUGHS: I move that we approve the  
3 posting for public comment on the modification of the  
4 Combined State Plan for the Workforce Innovation and  
5 Opportunity Act of 2014 for program years 2016-2019.

6 COMM. ALVAREZ: I second.

7 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: It's unanimous. Thank  
8 you.

9 MR. LEONARD: Thank you.

10 AGENDA ITEM NO. 9

11 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Item 9. Discussion,  
12 Consideration and Possible Action Regarding Comments to the  
13 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, ACF, on the  
14 National Child Care Web Site and Hotline, Patricia. Good  
15 morning.

16 MS. MARTINEZ: Good morning, Chairman  
17 Alcantar, Commissioners. For the record, Patricia Martinez,  
18 Workforce Development Division. Child care devel -- oh,  
19 excuse me. The Child Care and Development Block Grant Act  
20 of 2014 requires the Administration for Children and  
21 Families, ACF, to develop a national website and toll-free  
22 national child care hotline. The website is intended to  
23 disseminate easy-to-understand information about quality  
24 child care and CCDF funded child care providers. The  
25 national ho -- hotline will link the new and existing CCDF



1 lead agency hotlines.

2 ACF requested that lead agencies comment  
3 regarding the design and requirements of the proposed  
4 National Child Care Web Site and Hotline. Staff has  
5 prepared a comment letter that encourages AFC to work  
6 closely with each state to identify the appropriate linkages  
7 to already existing publics (sic) databases such as TWC's  
8 child care consumer education website, Texas Child Care Solu  
9 -- Child Care Solutions.

10 Offices -- offices have been briefed. If  
11 approved, the comment letter will be submitted to ACF by  
12 April 7th. This concludes my presentation, and I'm prepared  
13 to answer any questions.

14 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Commissioners, any  
15 questions?

16 COMM. ALVAREZ: No questions.

17 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Commissioner Hughs?

18 COMM. HUGHS: I move that we approve the  
19 comments to the U.S. Department of Health and Human  
20 Services, Administration for Children and Families,  
21 concerning the National Child Care Web Site and Hotline as  
22 requested in Agenda Item 9.

23 MS. MARTINEZ: Thank you.

24 COMM. ALVAREZ: I second that, Chairman.

25 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: It is unanimous. Thank

1 you, Patricia.

2 AGENDA ITEM NO. 10

3 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Item 10. Discussion,  
4 Consideration and Possible Action Regarding Statewide  
5 Initiatives Funded with WIOA, TANF, AEL or Other State Level  
6 Funds, Patricia. Good morning.

7 MS. GONZALEZ: Good morning, Chairman,  
8 Commissioners, Mr. Serna. For the record, Patricia  
9 Gonzalez, with the Workforce Development Division. Today  
10 for your consideration is a discussion paper on a high-  
11 demand job training initiative.

12 On July the 8th of 2014 the Commission  
13 approved the dedication of \$1 million of Workforce  
14 Investment Act statewide funding to local Workforce  
15 Development Boards for the high-demand job training  
16 initiative. Texas employers continue to identify training  
17 needs to improve the individual skill sets for jobs in  
18 high-demand occupations in their communities.

19 To strengthen partnerships with communities,  
20 leverage available state and local resources and foster  
21 collaboration with economic development corporations to  
22 promote training for high-demand occupations in Texas, staff  
23 recommends the following: Fund the high-demand job training  
24 initiative with \$1 million in WIA or WIOA statewide activity  
25 funds over a two-year period; award funds to Workforce areas

1 and provide a 100 percent local spending match of up to  
2 75,000 per Board, and, to clarify, this is per Board not per  
3 project. There is no limit on the number of projects per  
4 year, only the match limit.

5 Staff also recommends implementing the  
6 program through a Request for Application process. This  
7 concludes my presentation --

8 COMM. HUGHS: I'm -- I'm sorry. You said per  
9 Board?

10 MS. GONZALEZ: Yes.

11 COMM. HUGHS: So is that an amendment to line  
12 11 on the first page?

13 MS. GONZALEZ: It's an amendment to line 36.

14 COMM. HUGHS: Okay. And 11?

15 MS. GONZALEZ: Yes.

16 COMM. HUGHS: Okay.

17 COMM. ALVAREZ: I -- I have a question,  
18 Patricia. Yesterday I had an opportunity to speak to Steve,  
19 and I appreciate him coming by the office, regarding the  
20 skills assessment, job training, does it take priority over  
21 actual jo -- priority -- I mean, job screening, does that  
22 take priority over job training?

23 MS. GONZALEZ: An assessment of the  
24 individual's needs --

25 COMM. ALVAREZ: Yeah.

1 MS. GONZALEZ: -- is conducted to customize  
2 whatever service fits best.

3 COMM. ALVAREZ: Okay.

4 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Can -- Aaron, can you  
5 come up here real quick? So this is a partnerships -- this  
6 initiative is intended to continue to augment the  
7 partnerships between our local Boards and our many partners  
8 out there. And when we were launching this, we met -- we  
9 met with the EDCs and -- a year ago -- and went over what --  
10 what the thinking was. The program has gone really well.

11 Could you give an example of some of the --  
12 how many projects and so forth have been funded and where we  
13 currently stand?

14 MR. DEMERSON: Okay. Aaron Demerson,  
15 Director of Office of Employer Initi -- com -- Employer  
16 Initiatives. Good morning, Commissioners.

17 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Good morning, Aaron.

18 MR. DEMERSON: As of today -- we actually  
19 started out with \$1 million. We have about \$70,000  
20 remaining in the fund. About 13 projects that have been  
21 funded throughout the State centered on initiatives centered  
22 around welding, health care, and a number of other -- other  
23 areas.

24 But it's been ver -- very well received by  
25 the economic develop -- development community. Visited with

1 Carlton Schwab and that team, and we've had nothing but  
2 positive feedback. As a matter of fact, I was with the  
3 delegation from Kaufman County on -- yesterday and they were  
4 expressing the interest in this particular program and  
5 asking if it was going to -- to be pushed forward again this  
6 year.

7 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Great. Well, I want to  
8 thank you, Aaron, and the team over in Workforce for all the  
9 hard work in rolling this program out. It was modeled --  
10 we're about to hit the road. Last time we were on the road  
11 doing these regional meetings, we saw a couple of Boards who  
12 had demonstrated their -- their showcase for partnerships  
13 with EDCs and that was the genesis -- the basis for us  
14 rolling out this program was these wonderful partnerships  
15 that are being creating out there and really proud of the  
16 progress we've been able to make with this.

17 And the fact that it leverages other local  
18 investment is really important because our dollars are  
19 matching dollar for dollar. And in many cases, the local  
20 investment far exceeds what we're putting into it. So I  
21 want to thank you guys for it.

22 Commissioners, when we look at line 36 and we  
23 see the \$75,000 amount per project, I would like to make a  
24 motion to amend that to 100,000 just to give them greater  
25 flexibility in terms of leveraging these dollars and

1 building those out. Obviously, you won't able to do a --  
2 we'll only do -- we'll do a couple, two or three, projects  
3 less. But I think it allows us to work -- work in a few  
4 projects that are big -- bigger in scale in some of the  
5 larger areas.

6 COMM. HUGHS: Chairman, my understanding is  
7 that per project has been changed to per Board. And so --

8 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Well, it's --

9 COMM. HUGHS: -- I just want to understand  
10 how that plays in. We're giving each Board then --

11 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: No, no, no.

12 COMM. HUGHS: Okay.

13 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: It's -- the es -- the  
14 100,000 would be the EDC would initiate the project. A  
15 local Board would agree to the -- to form a partnership.

16 COMM. HUGHS: Okay.

17 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: For that partnership, the  
18 current maximum amount under the current year program is  
19 75,000. The per Board is -- we try to limit one award per  
20 Board area to spread the money out. And so I think that's  
21 the -- the --

22 COMM. HUGHS: Intent.

23 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: -- the intent. The  
24 intent is up to -- up to currently 75,000, a Board may  
25 submit one proposal per fiscal year. But under this

1 amendment, the only change would be up to 100,000 an -- any  
2 Board can submit, first come, first serve, up to one project  
3 per fiscal year.

4 MS. GONZALEZ: That -- that was clarified,  
5 sir, that it is up to -- the cap is 100,000 per Board. But  
6 they can submit as many projects until they reach that cap  
7 match.

8 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: That's the way it's been  
9 implemented, right?

10 MS. GONZALEZ: Yes, sir.

11 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: All right.

12 MS. GONZALEZ: That is the way it's  
13 currently --

14 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: All right. So I proposed  
15 an amendment. Are -- are you guys comfortable with that?

16 COMM. ALVAREZ: I'm okay with that.

17 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Okay. Great.

18 Commissioner Hughs, do we have a motion?

19 COMM. HUGHS: I do. I do want to make a side  
20 note that while we're on the subject of statewide  
21 initiatives. I have asked staff to set up meetings with my  
22 office and DARS staff to talk about the 15 percent VR  
23 statewide funding.

24 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Perfect.

25 COMM. HUGHS: And I look forward to working

1 with staff to develop a summaries employment program for the  
2 disabled. I'm really interested to see the different  
3 options that we might have for this concept.

4 And with that, I move that we approve the  
5 statewide initiatives funded with the Workforce Investment  
6 Opportunity Act, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families,  
7 Adult Education and Literacy and other state level funds.

8 COMM. ALVAREZ: I second that.

9 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: It is unanimous. Thank  
10 you. Thank you, Aaron.

11 MR. JONES: As -- as amend -- as amended. As  
12 amended.

13 COMM. HUGHS: As amended. Thank you.

14 COMM. ALVAREZ: I second that as well.

15 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: As -- as amended. We're  
16 all unanimous.

17 COMM. HUGHS: He doesn't just sit in the  
18 front row and drink coffee.

19 (Laughter)

20 COMM. ALVAREZ: Wow. That was quick.

21 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Yeah, that's coffee this  
22 morning. We have a great general counsel.

23 AGENDA ITEM NO. 11

24 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Item 11. Discussion,  
25 Consideration and Possible Action Regarding Implementation



1 of a Dual Credit Project to Support Youth with Disabilities.  
2 We're deferring action on that.

3 MS. ARBOUR: That Item is going to be  
4 presented on the 19th.

5 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Okay. Great. Thank you.

6 AGENDA ITEM NO. 12

7 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Item 12. Discussion,  
8 Consideration and Possible Action Regarding Approval of  
9 Report on Alignment of Adult Ed. and Posted -- Postsecondary  
10 Education Under Texas Higher Ed. Coordinating Board's Rider  
11 27, Anson. Good morning.

12 MR. GREEN: Hi. Good morning, Chairman,  
13 Commissioners, Mr. Serna, Larry. Rider 27 of the General  
14 Appropriations Act -- I'm Anson Green, Adult Education and  
15 Literacy, for the record. Rider 27 of the General  
16 Appropriations Act House Bill 1 of the 84th Texas  
17 Legislature directs the Texas Higher Education Coordinating  
18 Board to collaborate with the Texas Workforce Commission and  
19 the Texas Education Agency to prepare a report on the  
20 alignment of adult education and literacy with postsecondary  
21 education.

22 The draft report before you today provides  
23 the status of and expands on recommendations made in a  
24 similar report requested under a previous Rider from the  
25 83rd Texas Legislature. This report discusses the State's

1 progress in integrating adult education and literacy  
2 students into postsecondary education and training programs  
3 with an emphasis on meeting the State's workforce needs  
4 through innovative service delivery in an integrated  
5 education and training models such as Accelerate Texas.

6 The draft report before you today will be  
7 brought to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board in  
8 its April 28th meeting for final approval. I'd be happy to  
9 take any questions.

10 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Commissioner Hughs?

11 COMM. HUGHS: I move that we approve the  
12 report on alignment of adult education and literacy and  
13 postsecondary education under Texas Higher Ede -- Education  
14 Coordinating Board's Rider 27 as requested in Agenda Item  
15 12.

16 COMM. ALVAREZ: I second that.

17 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: It is unanimous. Thank  
18 you, Anson.

19 MR. GREEN: Thank you.

20 AGENDA ITEM NO. 13

21 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Discussion, Consideration  
22 and Possible Action Regarding Proposed Rules for Adult  
23 Education and Literacy Relating to Allocations and Staff  
24 Qualifications, Carrie. Good morning.

25 MS. TUPA: Good morning, Chairman and

1 Commissioners. For the record, Carrie Tupa, Adult Education  
2 and Literacy. Today we bring before you proposed rule  
3 changes for Chapter 800 relating to the allocation  
4 methodology for Adult Education and Chapter 805 relating to  
5 staff qualifications.

6           These proposed rules were developed following  
7 input from adult education and literacy stakeholders on a  
8 policy concept that you approved late last year. Change to  
9 Chapter 800 includes the addition of a stop-gain provision  
10 in the AEL allocations to ensure adequate capacity building  
11 time for entities who receive substantial allocation  
12 increase in their Workforce area.

13           Changes to Chapter 800 provide more  
14 flexibility in staff qualifications and staff development  
15 requirements to align to an integrative service delivery  
16 system while promoting staff development requirements that  
17 ensure instruction meets the Commission's priorities in  
18 service delivery.

19           These proposed changes are up for action  
20 today and upon approval will be posted to the Texas Register  
21 for public comment. I'll be happy to answer any questions.

22           CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Do we have any questions?

23           COMM. ALVAREZ: No.

24           CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Commissioner Hughs?

25           COMM. HUGHS: I move that we approve the

1 proposed rules for Adult Education and Literacy program  
2 relating to allocations and staff qual -- qualifications as  
3 requested in Item -- Agenda Item 13.

4 COMM. ALVAREZ: I second that.

5 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: It is unanimous. Thank  
6 you, Carrie.

7 MS. TUPA: Thank you.

8 AGENDA ITEM NO. 14

9 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: I -- Item 14.

10 Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action Regarding the  
11 Adoption of Rules Relating to Unemployment Insurance Tax  
12 Previously Published for Public Comment in the Texas  
13 Register on December 4, 2015, Chuck. Good morning.

14 MR. ROSS: Good morning, Mr. Chairman,  
15 Commissioners, Mr. Temple. For the record, my name is Chuck  
16 Ross, with the Regulatory Integrity Division. This morning  
17 for your consideration staff is bringing forward final rule  
18 amendments to Commission Rule 815.111 related to a  
19 successorpredecessor joint application for transfer of  
20 compensation experience when certain partial acquisitions  
21 occur. These amendments conform the Commission  
22 Administrative Rules to the requirements of House Bill 1251  
23 which became effective September 1st, 2015.

24 The proposed rules were published in the  
25 December 4th, 2015 edition of the Texas Register. No

1 comments were received. As required, the U.S. Department of  
2 Labor reviewed the proposed the rule amendments and  
3 determined that they comply with Federal law.

4 Staff recommends adoption of the Chapter 815  
5 Tax Rule amendments. If approved today, they will become  
6 effective on April 25th, 2016. I'm happy to answer any  
7 questions you all may have.

8 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Commissioner Hughs?

9 COMM. HUGHS: I -- I just want to say I'm  
10 really pleased to see this final rule for HB 1251 go into  
11 effect. It represents a clear and tangible improvement over  
12 the previous law which left many employers unaware of the  
13 possibility that using that partial transfer of compensation  
14 provision could result in a lower unemployment tax rate for  
15 a company acquiring another entity.

16 This law simplifies what has been a very  
17 complication section of the law for everyone that's been  
18 dealing with it. And best of all, it improves the level of  
19 outreach and service to employers who are the ones paying  
20 the unemployment tax.

21 Ultimately, I believe this new rule, along  
22 with the underlying new rule, will result in fewer tax  
23 appeals being filed by employers. So I want to thank the  
24 Tax Department and the other program staff for their  
25 assistance in fine tuning the rule in order to make this

1 improvement a reality.

2 And with that, I move that we approve the  
3 adoption of rules relating to unemployment insurance tax  
4 previously published for public comment in the Texas  
5 Register on December 4th, 2015.

6 COMM. ALVAREZ: I second that.

7 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: It is unanimous. Thank  
8 you, Mr. Ross.

9 MR. ROSS: Thank you.

10 MR. TEMPLE: Mr. Chairman, I -- I would --  
11 and Commissioners, I'd like to recogni -- Chuck, of course,  
12 oversees all of our monitoring efforts. But in the previous  
13 light, he was in UI Policy. So we got him in the AAA  
14 league, and we pull him up every once in a while to the  
15 majors from UI Policy. And this is something he worked on  
16 with us during the session and appreciate him talking  
17 through and working with us, helping us out. Thanks, Chuck.

18 MR. ROSS: Thank you.

19 COMM. HUGHS: Thank you.

20 COMM. ALVAREZ: Thank you, Chuck.

21 AGENDA ITEM NO. 15

22 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Item 15. Discussion,  
23 Consideration and Possible Action Regarding the Approval  
24 Local Board Nominees, John Fuller.

25 MR. FULLER: Good morning, Mr. Chairman,

1 Commissioners, Mr. Temple. For the record, John Fuller,  
2 Workforce Development Division. Today before you,  
3 Commissioners, we have nominees from the Borderplex, Concho  
4 Valley, Deep East Texas, Heart of Texas, Golden Crescent,  
5 Gulf Coast, Lower Rio Grande, and North Texas for your  
6 consideration.

7 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Commissioner Hughs?

8 COMM. HUGHS: I move that we approve the  
9 local Workforce Development Board nominees for Borderplex,  
10 Concho Valley, Deep East Texas, the Heart of Texas, Golden  
11 Crescent, Gulf Coast, Lower Rio Grande Valley, and North  
12 Texas.

13 COMM. ALVAREZ: I move that -- I move that we  
14 approve the nominees from the Borderplex, Concho Valley,  
15 Deep East Texas, Heart of Texas, Golden Crescent, Gulf  
16 Coast, Lower Rio Grande Valley, and North Texas as well.

17 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: I move that approve all  
18 nominees. Thank you.

19 AGENDA ITEM NO. 16

20 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Item 16. We have no  
21 legislative update.

22 COMM. HUGHS: I'm sorry. No one seconded but  
23 that's okay. We all moved.

24 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: I wasn't -- I wasn't  
25 clear -- I wasn't -- I wasn't clear if Commission Alvarez

1 said --

2 COMM. ALVAREZ: Oh, yeah. I second it.

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: See, he --

4 COMM. HUGHS: Seconded?

5 COMM. ALVAREZ: I second it.

6 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: -- had -- had agreed

7 or -- or had left a Board out.

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: See, he does just sit

9 in the front row --

10 COMM. ALVAREZ: I second it.

11 COMM. HUGHS: I think he did say to at the

12 very end.

13 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: All right. Good.

14 AGENDA ITEM NO. 17

15 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: So Item 17. Report and

16 Update by the Executive Director. Larry?

17 MR. TEMPLE: Mr. Chairman, Commissioners,

18 one, I want to thank the workgroups on the transition. We

19 were able to have, I thought, a pretty good Legislative

20 Oversight Committee meeting last week for the -- for the

21 DARS transition. And we're on schedule and we were --

22 weren't up there very long. And the -- the committee seemed

23 informed as our staff have been working with them since --

24 since the session ended.

25 And second, I'd like -- we had -- Glenn Neal



1 and Reagan and I were in Amarillo yesterday doing the DARS  
2 transition regional offices. It went well. A lot of the  
3 same questions but a lot of the angst, I think, is out of  
4 the way. It seems to be just a lot of excitement. We had  
5 South Plains and Panhandle Board there. And as most of  
6 these meetings have gone, they know each other quite a bit  
7 so very, very happy with that.

8           And we -- we posted the org. charts, as those  
9 1,860-some-odd people are coming over, where they're going  
10 to be organizationally. We've put that on our -- on our  
11 transition site. And I -- I think that calmed the waters a  
12 lot where people can see where they're going to be. Field  
13 staff, there really wasn't a whole lot of difference at all.  
14 But that's gone well. And I want to thank the -- the  
15 workgroups who -- who've gotten us to this point.

16           And finally, but certainly not least  
17 important, Susanna? We have -- we have a recognition, and I  
18 think maybe Commissioner Hughs would like to maybe lead off  
19 on this?

20           COMM. HUGHS: All right.

21           MR. TEMPLE: And then Susanna.

22           COMM. HUGHS: Well, I just want to say that  
23 when I started with the Agency, I was incredibly impressed  
24 with everyone's dedication and commitment to their work and  
25 their mission. And then when the holidays came around, I

1 understood we have this Angel program with Salvation Army,  
2 and so I agreed to volunteer. But I had no idea kind of  
3 turning in my donations and recognizing the tremendous  
4 amount of work that goes into gathering all of the items.

5           And I'm so proud of the Agency for how many  
6 volunteers come into this and do work. And I know that Kay  
7 has lots of helpers and, you know, even Santa Claus needs a  
8 lot of elves. The morning that you were gathering the  
9 items, I was actually travelling and I think it was before,  
10 you know -- it was 7:00, 7:30. And the entire warehouse was  
11 full of these red bags that you had put together, so I  
12 really commend the Agency for supporting the program.

13           But we couldn't have it without someone  
14 spearheading it. And I think you've been doing it for five  
15 years silently, you know, hopefully with recognition along  
16 the way. But we certainly wanted to formalize that  
17 recognition of yourself and the entire team that puts it  
18 together to make these families' holidays better and to make  
19 us all have an easier way to -- to -- to donate without  
20 having to do all that legwork that you all do. So we  
21 really, really appreciate it and wanted to recognize you for  
22 that.

23           MS. CUTRONE: Thank you, Commissioner Hughs.  
24 I would like to mention the names of the individuals who  
25 have taken a leadership role in helping organize over 175

1 Angel Tree bags this past year. Kay Graves has -- has led  
2 the effort for the last 5 years. Sylvia McPherson started  
3 the Angel Tree program 20 years ago and at that time was  
4 recognized for a Star Award.

5 And we also have Tina Davis, Linda Johnson,  
6 Linda Joy (ph) from the UI Division; Debbie Holmes and Jill  
7 Kendall from Workforce; Margarita Shine, Linda Martin,  
8 Willette Wallace (ph) and Mary Helen Coy from the IT  
9 Division; Maria Cabio (ph) and Sylvia McPherson from HR; and  
10 Jennifer Moyer from Regulatory Integrity. So thank you very  
11 much.

12 (Applause)

13 KAY GRAVES: And I'd like to say we always  
14 have the largest --

15 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Why don't come on up?  
16 Please come on up.

17 KAY GRAVES: As I said, we always had the  
18 largest bag full of bags and tags. We used to have 250, but  
19 with staff decreasing we had to cut down the number of bags.  
20 But we hope to increase it again when DARS comes. These  
21 ladies, I don't know what I'd do without them.

22 I wish everyone could see the loading dock.  
23 We get the big mail cart and put the red bags in there, and  
24 it looks like Santa's sleigh. And then when we get them on  
25 the loading dock, it's just unbelievable. Everyone that

1 sees it says, wow. So hopefully, next year you all can come  
2 down and -- and see how wonderful it is.

3 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: All right. Thank you.

4 KAY GRAVES: And thank you very much --

5 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Appreciate all you do.

6 KAY GRAVES: -- for thinking about us.

7 MR. TEMPLE: And then at the end, if we could  
8 get everyone to -- I think we've got all but one person  
9 here. We'll get a picture with the Commissioners.

10 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: So tomorrow we go to  
11 Corpus. The -- you know, these four regional meetings --  
12 four regional meetings are really our -- one of our many  
13 opportunities to connect with our local partners and hear  
14 from them. We're going to use these meetings to really  
15 support our work in developing our compliance work --  
16 fulfilling our compliance work under the Strategic Plan  
17 requirements that we'll be getting.

18 But I intend for those to be more than that.  
19 We really want to listen in and begin to prioritize some of  
20 the things that we're going to be doing going into the next  
21 legislative session. They will be used to help build our  
22 budget.

23 And we kind of kicked it off a little bit  
24 prior to instructions with Randy last week. We're going to  
25 have a meeting during the work session where we do

1 performance and IT. We're going to end that meeting  
2 hopefully with the -- the next work session. That seemed to  
3 be the best date given our -- our trip to -- our visit to  
4 Killeen in a couple of weeks and then the subsequent ones to  
5 San Antonio that following Tuesday.

6           But what I want to do is begin -- you  
7 mentioned some of the things that -- Commissioner Hughs, you  
8 mentioned some of the things that you're looking at in terms  
9 of wanting to sit down with DARS. And -- and I know that  
10 Commissioner Alvarez will also be sitting down with DARS'  
11 staff. I sat down and visited with DARS' staff last week  
12 and instructed them to really develop a plan and to make  
13 sure they have a prioritized list of how we can move forward  
14 and respond to the flexibility that we have given the low  
15 spending levels within that 15 percent.

16           And it's my intent to incorporate that as  
17 well as the other DARS items within one process so that we  
18 don't have two separate processes, Larry, in terms of the  
19 Strategic Plan and LAR. And it's -- those programs will be  
20 submitted likely under our -- our LAR submission, and so we  
21 need to incorporate that into the process.

22           I went ahead and invited DARS' staff to  
23 attend our regional meetings that are coming up. So  
24 hopefully they'll be there, and we'll be -- be listening in  
25 to some of the panels which will include DARS' panels as a

1 part of what Tom has worked with the local partners to do.

2                   Then the final thing I want to do, Larry,  
3 is I'm going to be inviting some of the EDs and some Board  
4 members to come to that work session in April. I want them  
5 to sit down and give them another opportunity to share some  
6 additional thoughts at that meeting, and then we'll likely  
7 have them coming back over the next few weeks as we finalize  
8 this work and as we move forward with the tri-agency work  
9 with our partner agencies.

10                   So, Commissioners, any other questions or  
11 comments for Larry?

12                   COMM. ALVAREZ: No.

13                   COMM. HUGHS: I move that we adjourn.

14                   CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Keep up the good work.

15                   COMM. ALVAREZ: Just Paul. I just want  
16 him -- just Paul.

17                   CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Just Paul. All right.  
18 Larry, do you have anything else for us?

19                   MR. TEMPLE: That's all. And I apologize for  
20 being late.

21                   CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: No, you were on time. Do  
22 we have -- we can bring the folks up for the picture.  
23 That'd be great. Do we have a motion to adjourn?

24                   COMM. HUGHS: Yes. I move that we adjourn.

25                   COMM. ALVAREZ: I second that.

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CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: And we're adjourned.

Thank you.

(Proceedings concluded at 9:54 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 11th day of April, 2016.

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

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