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TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
BEFORE THE
TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION
AUSTIN, TEXAS

PUBLIC MEETING)
FOR THE TEXAS)
WORKFORCE COMMISSION)

COMMISSION MEETING
TUESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2016

BE IT REMEMBERED THAT at 8:00 a.m. on
Tuesday, the 23rd day of August, 2016, the above-entitled
matter came on for hearing at the Texas Workforce
Commission, TWC Building, 101 East 15th Street, Room 244,
Austin, Texas, before ANDRES ALCANTAR, Chairman; JULIAN
ALVAREZ and RUTH R. HUGHS, Commissioners

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P R O C E E D I N G S

TUESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2016

(8:00 a.m.)

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1

CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Good morning, everyone.

This meeting will now be called to order.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2

Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action
Regarding Whether to Assume Continuing Jurisdiction on
Unemployment Compensation Cases, Wage Claim Cases, and/or
Tax Liability Cases and Reconsideration of Unemployment
Compensation Cases, Wage Claim Cases, and/or Tax Liability
Cases, if Any.

No Discussion.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3

Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action
Regarding Tax Liability Cases Listed on the Texas Workforce
Commission Dockets 33 and 34.

The Commission considered and took action on
all tax liability cases listed on Dockets 33 and 34.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4

Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action
Regarding Fair Housing Cases listed on the Texas Workforce
Commission Dockets 33 and 34

No Discussion.

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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 Dockets 33 and 34.

The Commission considered and took action on
all wage claim cases listed on Dockets 33 and 34.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6

Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action
Regarding Higher Level Appeals in Unemployment Compensation
Cases Listed on the Texas Workforce Commission Dockets 33
and 34.

The Commission considered and took action on
all unemployment compensation cases listed on Dockets 33 and
34.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7

CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Good morning, everyone.
Susanna, has anyone signed up for public comment?

MS. CUTRONE: No.

CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: We have no public
comment.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8

CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Item 8. Discussion,
Consideration and Possible Action Regarding Fiscal Year 2017
Operating Budget. Randy, could you come up?

MR. TOWNSEND: Good morning, Chairman,

1 Commissioners.

2 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Do we have anything on
3 this?

4 MR. TOWNSEND: We don't have anything on this
5 -- this item.

6 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: We don't have anything on
7 that, but we do have this fine young man. You know this
8 guy, Larry?

9 MR. TEMPLE: Vaguely, I've seen him in the
10 hall.

11 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: I remember back in 1996,
12 it seems like that far -- long ago, '95, '96, calling over
13 here and trying to get information and talking to somebody,
14 asking around and finally getting ahold of somebody who knew
15 what they were talking about.

16 MR. NESENHOLTZ: Well, thank you, sir. I
17 appreciate that.

18 COMM. HUGHS: Was that hard to find?

19 COMM. ALVAREZ: Has -- hasn't changed --

20 MR. TEMPLE: Oh, never mind. I didn't get
21 here till '97.

22 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Yeah, for the record, you
23 weren't here till '97. Randy, what do you think about this
24 guy?

25 MR. TOWNSEND: Well, obviously you weren't

1 talking about me there.

2 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Well, that -- that came a
3 couple a years later. It required a little bit of coaching
4 by the individual we're talking about.

5 MR. TOWNSEND: Yes, sir. Yes, I -- thank
6 you, Chairman. David Nesenholtz, and I would like to ask
7 him to come up here. It's -- it's a completely different
8 agency today, and a lot of that is due in part to the
9 contributions of this gentleman right here, David
10 Nesenholtz, 40 years of state service, 20 years with the
11 Texas Workforce Commission. David did start -- and we were
12 doing the math earlier -- in December of '96. I got here in
13 January so I did -- you're right. We -- finding someone who
14 could answer questions back then in all seriousness was
15 really the case.

16 And David had to do with the contributions
17 and turning -- and really, you know, making this the place
18 it is today, honestly. I mean, I can -- I can look through
19 the rules, I can see David's fingerprints certainly on the
20 allocations and all of that. In fact, he was just telling
21 me, he's got his to-do -- to-do list here still he wants to
22 work on, and David's planning to retire here at the end of
23 this month, so he's going to get 40 years of service and
24 going to retire, but he's still working the last couple of
25 weeks just as hard as he -- as he was back in the early days

1 of this -- of this agency coming together.

2 So I thought it was only fitting that we
3 recognize the contributions, the service, the dedication of
4 the 40 years of service, the 20 years with the Workforce
5 Commission. And I think it'd be appropriate in all honesty,
6 Chairman and Commissioners, if you would join me and let's
7 give a standing ovation and -- and our thanks to David
8 Nesenholtz.

9 MR. TOWNSEND: And we're going to take a
10 photo I think here.

11 (Whereupon pictures were taken)

12 MR. TEMPLE: I'm on the record. I'll tell
13 you, when we were going through WIOA at the -- in DC and
14 David was up there, there are so many things that David
15 caught in the policy and law prospective that --
16 inconsistencies and things and it really -- it really made a
17 big impact on how WIOA got through.

18 AGENDA ITEM NO. 9

19 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Item 9. Discussion,
20 Consideration and Possible Action Regarding Fiscal Year
21 2018-19 LAR. We have nothing on that.

22 AGENDA ITEM NO. 10

23 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Item 10. Discussion,
24 Consideration and Possible Action Regarding Fiscal Year 2017
25 Allocations for TANF, WIOA. We have no discussion on that.

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AGENDA ITEM NO. 11

CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Item 11. Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action Regarding the 2016-17 WIOA Targets, Adam Leonard. Good morning, Adam.

MR. LEONARD: Good morning, Mr. Chairman and Commissioners. This morning before you I'm here to present staff agreed upon targets between us and the Department of Labor on PY16 and PY17 WIOA-based measures for Title I and Wagner-Peyser. As you may remember, we did submit a set of targets as part of the State Plan earlier this year, but those proposals were developed before the final regulations had come out, before the final specs had come out, and before the statistical models that the law calls for were available.

And because of that, the Department of Labor gave States the opportunity to review their original proposals, and to propose changes if necessary, which we ended up doing in a number of instances. So before you today are the agreed upon targets that take into account the statistical models and our own work in Department -- or Division of Operational Insight, and I'm happy to answer any questions you may have.

CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Commissioner Hughs?

COMM. HUGHS: I move that we approve the targets agreed upon.

1 COMM. ALVAREZ: I second that.

2 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: It is unanimous.

3 MR. LEONARD: Thank you.

4 AGENDA ITEM NO. 12

5 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Item 12. Discussion,
6 Consideration and Possible Action Regarding WIOA, Jason.
7 Good morning.

8 MR. VADEN: Good morning, Commissioners. For
9 the record Jason Vaden, Workforce Development Division. The
10 Texas Workforce Commission's Combined State Plan for program
11 years 2016 through 2019 for the Workforce Innovation and
12 Opportunity Act was submitted to the U.S. Departments of
13 Labor and Education on April 1st. Since April 1st, the
14 Commission has approved a plan modification addressing items
15 that were not included in the -- the initial plan submission
16 and a plan amendment transitioning the designated state
17 agency for vocational rehabilitation services to TWC.

18 In the interim, the initial federal review of
19 our April 1st plan submission was completed and a few items
20 that were not addressed in the plan modification were
21 identified as needing further clarification. As such, an
22 additional plan amendment is needed, the details of which
23 are reflected in your supporting materials in addition to
24 the performance targets that you all just approved. This
25 morning staff recommends the approval of this amendment to

1 the WIOA Combined State Plan for submission to the U.S.
2 Departments of Labor and Education. And I'll be happy to
3 answer any questions.

4 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Commissioner Hughs?

5 COMM. HUGHS: I move that we approve this
6 amendment to the WIOA Combined State Plan for submission to
7 the U.S. Departments of Labor and Education.

8 COMM. ALVAREZ: I second that.

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

11 AGENDA ITEM NO. 13

12 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Item 13. Discussion,
13 Consideration and Possible Action Regarding for Publication
14 for Public Comment Proposed Rules for the JET Program,
15 Jason.

16 MR. VADEN: Good morning. Again, Jason
17 Vaden. On May 31st, the Commission approved a policy
18 concept regarding amendments to the Chapter 804 Rules
19 relating to the Jobs in Education for Texans or JET grant
20 program. The 84th Texas Legislature enacted House Bill 3062
21 which transferred administration of the program to TWC
22 effective September 1st of 2015. The legislation allows for
23 existing rules to remain in effect until the rules are
24 amended by the Commission. In order to align with statutory
25 requirements, staff are recommending rule amendments

1 concerning the make up of the advisory board membership,
2 revised meetings requirement provisions and including
3 independent school districts as eligible grantees.

4 The policy concept was posted to TWC's
5 website for a three-week public comment period. It was also
6 discussed on a conference call with the Board Executive
7 Directors. No comments were received in regards to the
8 policy concept. This morning staff recommends approval of
9 the proposed Chapter 804 Rules regarding the Jobs in
10 Education for Texans grant program so that they may be
11 published in the Texas Register for a 30-day day public
12 comment period. And I'm happy to answer any questions.

13 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Commissioner Hughs?

14 COMM. HUGHS: I move that we approve the the
15 proposed rules related to the JET grant program.

16 COMM. ALVAREZ: I second that.

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

19 AGENDA ITEM NO. 14

20 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Discussion, Consideration
21 and Possible Action Regarding Recertification of Community
22 Rehab. Programs to Participate in the Purchasing from People
23 with Disabilities State-Use Program, Kelvin. Good morning,
24 sir.

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

1 Commissioners, Mr. Temple. For the record my name is Kelvin
2 Moore, Program Manager Purchasing from People with
3 Disabilities with the Texas Workforce Commission. We have
4 before you Item 14 for the recertification of community
5 rehabilitation program, CRP, and the CRP name is MHMR of
6 Tarrant County Associate -- Association for the Blind dba
7 ABG Fulfillment.

8 Staff has reviewed all of the materials
9 presented by the CRP. In addition, we've worked with the
10 central nonprofit agency in receiving this application. We
11 recommend certification for MHMR dba ABG. Are there any
12 questions?

13 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Commissioner Hughs?

14 COMM. HUGHS: I move that we approve the
15 recertification of MHMR -- MHMR Tarrant County dba ABG
16 Fulfillment.

17 COMM. ALVAREZ: I second that. And I also
18 want to thank Ed and your team for briefing us on this,
19 thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: It is unanimous.

21 AGENDA ITEM NO. 15

22 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Item 15. Discussion,
23 Consideration and Possible Action Regarding Approval of
24 Products and Services Offered by CRPs. Good morning,
25 Kelvin.

1 MR. MOORE: Thank you. For the record,
2 again, my name is Kelvin Moore, Program Manager of
3 Purchasing from People with Disabilities, Texas Workforce
4 Commission. We have before you Agenda Item 15, a list of
5 new products and service contracts that are being offered by
6 community rehabilitation programs. Through the state-use
7 Works Wonders program, staff has recommended all the
8 materials presented the CRP. We are recommending approval
9 of all service contracts offered by the community
10 rehabilitation programs presented before you.

11 Also, we are presenting before you 43 new
12 products offered by the community rehabilitation programs.
13 We are only recommending approval of 35 of those 43
14 products. Items 8 through 12, 22, 25 and 27 are not
15 recommended at this time. Are there any questions regarding
16 those recommendations?

17 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Commissioner Hughs?

18 COMM. HUGHS: I move that we approve the
19 service contracts, and I further move that we approve
20 staff's recommendations for new products.

21 COMM. ALVAREZ: I second that.

22 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: It is unanimous. Thank
23 you, Kelvin.

24 AGENDA ITEM NO. 16

25 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Item 16. Discussion,

1 Consideration and Possible Action Regarding Delivery of
2 Services Funded with the Independent Living Services for
3 Older Individuals who are Blind Grant, Karen. Good morning.

4 MS. LATTA: Good morning, Commissioners and
5 Mr. Temple. My name is Karen Latta, and I'm with the
6 Workforce Development Division. You may remember back in
7 the fall we brought to you a decision about contracting with
8 the Health and Human Services Commission to send the
9 Independent Living Services for Older Individuals who are
10 Blind grant funding to them to pool with the rest of their
11 independent living services funding.

12 We had -- at that time, we had -- or in
13 December and January, we had talked with the Rehabilitation
14 Services Administration about this plan and answered several
15 questions they had about it. We then went on with our plan
16 and didn't hear from the Rehabilitation Services
17 Administration until July when they told us that they would
18 not approve of that plan. So now we're bringing forward an
19 alternative to that plan. We explored -- staff explored
20 several options for how to use the \$2.1 million from this
21 grant.

22 And so now we're bringing forward a
23 recommendation to -- for TWC to directly deliver the
24 services and -- and hire a group of staff of -- of IL
25 coordinators who would directly deliver the services to

1 consumers. And so that is the decision we have before you,
2 and I'd be happy to answer any questions.

3 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Well, it's always nice
4 when you get a timely response and an accurate response from
5 your fellow partners. Did we happen to get that in this
6 case?

7 MR. TEMPLE: We got two different answers,
8 both of them no, but it was like three weeks before we're
9 getting ready to make this transition so very timely.

10 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Yeah, given those
11 circumstances, this is the best recommended course of
12 action. Is there anything we can do, Larry, or should be
13 doing in terms of -- giving the change and what we had
14 proposed in terms of getting stakeholder input?

15 MR. TEMPLE: Yeah, I -- we -- we have
16 notified two of the major advocates but -- groups, but I
17 think it would be a good idea if we did have a --

18 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Stakeholder meeting?

19 MR. TEMPLE: -- stakeholder meeting. We can
20 have one prior to this. And what we're looking at would be
21 14 FTEs that we would be getting back from HHSC that they
22 were going to be hiring. So when we do whatever amendments
23 we do to the LAR in December, we'll add this and let the LBB
24 know, you know, because of this short notice we had to go
25 this route.

1 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Well, Karen, I really
2 appreciate your hard work on this and look forward to making
3 sure that we do this right. Commissioners, any additional
4 comments or questions? Do we have a motion, Commissioner
5 Hughs?

6 COMM. HUGHS: I move that we approve staff's
7 recommendation. Thank you.

8 COMM. ALVAREZ: I second that.

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

11 MS. LATTA: Thank you.

12 AGENDA ITEM NO. 17

13 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Item 17. Discussion,
14 Consideration and Possible Action Regarding the Child Care
15 Expulsion Policies Required by the CCD Block Grant,
16 Patricia. Good morning.

17 MS. GONZALEZ: Good morning, Chairman,
18 Commissioners, Mr. Temple. Patricia Gonzalez, Workforce
19 Development Division. This morning we bring forward for
20 your consideration a discussion paper recommending adoption
21 of a policy statement on expulsion of children receiving
22 subsidized child care services. The Child Care Development
23 Block Grant Act of 2014 requires that lead agencies certify
24 that they will disseminate state policies on expulsion of
25 preschool-aged children in early childhood programs

1 receiving services through the child care and development
2 fund.

3 The CCDF state fund also requires that States
4 have a written policy where the State describes how
5 information is made available parents, providers and the
6 general public. Staff is recommending adopting the
7 following the policy statement. TWC is committed to
8 providing support and resources to child care and early
9 education providers, care givers and parents to assist in
10 creating positive classroom climates and in developing
11 strategies to appropriately address challenging behaviors in
12 order to reduce suspensions or expulsions from the child
13 care setting.

14 Staff is also recommending that the policy
15 statement along with links to professional development
16 resources be made available to child care providers and be
17 posted on multiple TWC websites to ensure access by parents,
18 providers and the public. This concludes my presentation,
19 and I'm glad to answer questions, if any.

20 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Commissioner Hughs?

21 COMM. HUGHS: I move that we approve staff's
22 recommendations.

23 COMM. ALVAREZ: I second that.

24 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: It is unanimous.

25 MS. GONZALEZ: Thank you.

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AGENDA ITEM NO. 18

CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Item 18. Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action Regarding Suspensions. And that's been deferred.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 19

CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Item 19. Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action Regarding Voluntary Deob. of Adult Education and Literacy Program Year 2016 Funding, Courtney. Good morning.

MS. ARBOUR: Good morning. Courtney Arbour, Workforce Division. As discussed in rec -- recent briefings with each of your offices, Weatherford Independent School District has requested a voluntary deobligation from the program allocation and professional -- professional development AEL funds pursuant to Commission Rule 800.79. A reduction in performance target pursuant to Commission Rule 800.68 is also requested, and today staff request approval of these actions as reflected in your notebook document.

CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Commissioner Hughs?

COMM. HUGHS: I move that we accept staff's recommendations.

COMM. ALVAREZ: I second that.

CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: We are unanimous. Thank you.

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AGENDA ITEM NO. 20

CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Item 20. Report and Update Regarding Transition of Vocational Rehab. Services, Business Enterprises of Texas and Independent Living Services to TWC, Glenn. Good morning.

MR. NEAL: Good morning, Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, Mr. Temple. For the record Glenn Neal, Director of Business Operations. Well, 9/1 is fewer than 10 days away. And while I think it's a little too soon for confetti and high fives, I think we're on track for our -- for a successful transition. So far at this stage we've completed all of the systems changes, IT systems changes and interfaces between major IT systems supporting the programs. We've migrated HR and other key data from DARS to TWC. We've trained DARS staff across the state on HR processes and systems. We've moved all the DARS staff to the TWC email system. They're all on our active directory.

We've notified key audiences of the transition through various means including email, social media and a press release that went out last week. And we're awaiting approval from our federal partners at RSA on the transfer of the federal grants and the designation of TWC as the state agency for VR. We're very close to signing off on -- on some key MOUs and interagency agreements with HHSC. We're also very close -- I expect this week -- to

1 finish up the transfer of lease assignments for leased
2 facilities statewide for the -- for the transferring
3 facilities. And we're getting very good cooperation at this
4 stage from TFC and from HHSC, our -- our key partners on
5 this transition.

6 Turning your attention to the dashboard in
7 your packet, we have one deliverable that's off track for
8 this reporting under facilities and business operations, and
9 it has to do with business continuity plans for the
10 transferring facilities. This was due at the end of July,
11 and we're behind on that. As of today, all the documents
12 though that are associated with those business plans and
13 risk and security plans have been completed by a DARS and
14 TWC workgroup. We're -- we finished the editing on those,
15 and I expect those to be distributed to points of contact in
16 the region and into the field offices by the end of this
17 week. So I think we'll -- we'll show this is completed the
18 next time -- the next time we meet.

19 As you can see on the bottom of the flip side
20 of that handout, we're 53 percent complete on all the key
21 deliverables, two percent are not started, 43 percent are
22 started and on track, zero are slipping, and we have the one
23 that's off rack at two percent. So I think we feel very
24 good. And we had -- we had a good meeting with Mr. Temple
25 and Mr. Serna yesterday. All the -- all the team leads came

1 in and -- and presented an overview of where they're at on
2 transition, and I think we're where we need to be. So I'll
3 stop there and ask -- see if there are any questions.

4 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Any questions?

5 COMM. HUGHS: No. Great job.

6 COMM. ALVAREZ: Thank you.

7 MR. NEAL: Okay. Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Thank you.

9 AGENDA ITEM NO. 21

10 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Item 21. Discussion,
11 Consideration and Possible Action Regarding the Statewide
12 Initiatives Funded with TANF or WIOA, Patricia Gonzalez or
13 Clint Winters. Good morning, Clint.

14 MR. WINTERS: Good morning, Mr. Chairman,
15 Commissioners, Mr. Temple. I'm Clint Winters. I'm with the
16 Workforce Division, and I'm here today to discuss a
17 discussion paper for your consideration related to a foster
18 youth dropout recovery and a high school completion pilot
19 program. According to Texas Education Agency figures about
20 23,000 students in foster care attend public schools during
21 the year.

22 While there aren't overall dropout rates
23 available for Texas foster youth, it's clear how -- it's
24 clear now, there need -- a need exists to assist current and
25 former foster youth who have not obtained or lack credits to

1 earn a high school diploma or its equivalency and provide
2 them with pathways to post-secondary education and work. As
3 a result, staff recommends \$1.5 million in Workforce
4 Innovation and Opportunity Act or Temporary Assistance for
5 Needy Families funds be used to create at least three 18 to
6 24 month high school completion pilot programs for current
7 and former foster youth.

8 The purpose of the program is to identify and
9 assist current foster youth who are in high school but lack
10 sufficient credits to graduate, or youth formally in high
11 school -- formally in foster care who are out of school to
12 gaining a high school diploma or its equivalent and obtain
13 high-demand skills, mentoring and career advice -- career
14 guidance. At least 10 percent of the awarded funds will be
15 used to -- for internships and applied learning
16 opportunities.

17 Programs will also offer support services
18 including assisting program participants in understanding
19 how to access available tuition and fees, other financial
20 support for potential -- for additional post-secondary
21 education and training opportunities. Eligible offerors
22 will include independent school districts or Texas
23 institutions of higher education which can include public
24 junior colleges, public state colleges, public technical
25 institutes in partnership with an ISD.

1 The pilot programs will be located in local
2 Workforce Development Board areas where the foster youth
3 population is sufficient to justify the program. Partnering
4 organizations must include a foster youth -- a foster care
5 and youth transition center and a local Workforce
6 Development Board. Eligible population to be served will be
7 youth ages 16 to 25 who've not completed secondary education
8 and who are current or former foster youth. I'd be glad to
9 answer any questions you might have.

10 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Thank you, Clint. A very
11 vulnerable population, high rate of unemployment, high rate
12 of homeless -- homelessness, high rate of incarceration, a
13 very vulnerable, at-risk population, really. I'm excited
14 about this initiative. I think we need to continue to
15 explore, in addition with our investment in the transition
16 centers, other ways in which we can enhance the employment
17 opportunities and outcomes for these individuals.
18 Commissioner Hughs?

19 COMM. HUGHS: I move that we approve staff's
20 recommendation to use WIOA funds to create pilot programs
21 for out of school foster youth.

22 COMM. ALVAREZ: I second that.

23 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: And it's unanimous, and
24 it's both WIOA and TANF.

25 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Or -- or TANF.

1 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Or TANF.

2 COMM. HUGHS: Or TANF.

3 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: And we're all in
4 agreement on that. Yes? WIOA and TANF?

5 COMM. ALVAREZ: Yes, yes.

6 COMM. HUGHS: Yes.

7 MR. WINTERS: Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Okay, great. Thank you,
9 Clint.

10 AGENDA ITEM NO. 22

11 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Item 22. Discussion,
12 Consideration and Possible Action Regarding Approval of
13 Local Board Nominees, John Fuller. Good morning, John.

14 MR. FULLER: Good morning, Mr. Chairman,
15 Commissioners, Mr. Temple. For the record John Fuller,
16 Workforce Development Division. Commissioners, before you
17 today you have nominees from South Texas, Lower Rio Grande
18 and Southeast Texas for your consideration.

19 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Commissioner Hughs?

20 COMM. HUGHS: I move that we approve the
21 local Workforce Development Board nominees for South Texas,
22 Rio Grande Valley and Southeast Texas.

23 COMM. ALVAREZ: I second that.

24 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: We are unanimous. Thank
25 you, John.

1 MR. FULLER: Thank you.

2 AGENDA ITEM NO. 23

3 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Item 23. We have no
4 state or federal legislative update.

5 AGENDA ITEM NO. 24

6 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Item 24. Report and
7 Update by Larry. What do you have, Larry?

8 MR. TEMPLE: A couple things, one, Clay Cole
9 is going to give an update on our efforts to assist
10 Louisiana on their claim taking. Clay?

11 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Good morning, sir.

12 MR. COLE: Good morning, Chairman,
13 Commissioner Hughs, Commissioner Alvarez, Mr. Temple. For
14 the record, Clay Cole, Unemployment Insurance Customer
15 Service and Operations. I'm -- I'm here to provide an
16 update on the assistance the Texas Workforce Commission is
17 providing to our sister state, Louisiana, in taking calls
18 and claims for unemployment. We hope to begin taking claims
19 and calls today.

20 With the storms and chaos in Louisiana, we
21 immediately reached out to them to see how we could help.
22 Louisiana acknowledged being without half of their
23 unemployment staff, so clearly there was a big need there.
24 Our staff has stepped up in the past, and I really
25 compliment our team for being proactive and ready and

1 willing to help our sister state. Within a couple hours, we
2 arranged conference call with Louisiana to formulate a plan.
3 Within less than a day, we had conducted train the trainer
4 walkthrough of their Louisiana Workforce Commission HiRE
5 application.

6 We followed by conducting training of each
7 telecenter staff, about 50 CSRs, and we also submitted
8 security agreement forms of all of our CSR staff that plan
9 to help, implemented two free -- a new toll-free number for
10 Louisiana Workforce Commission to use for call routing. We
11 implemented a new Louisiana DUA skill. And for the
12 telephone system, we're working on adjusting staff to handle
13 the new -- the additional calls.

14 And also right now, we anticipate the calls
15 will take about 30 minutes because they're the disaster
16 claim, regular claim and work registration elements
17 involved. We're also working on the MOU with general
18 counsel and just looking forward start assisting Louisiana
19 today. Is there any questions?

20 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Thank you, Clay.
21 Appreciate all the hard work. Commissioners?

22 COMM. HUGHS: No questions, thank you.

23 MR. COLE: Thank you.

24 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Larry?

25 MR. TEMPLE: Two things, one, we had our DOL

1 regional meeting last week, and we had 11 of 14 states
2 there, and we met in Montana. And pretty much the -- the
3 whole conversation was on WIOA performance and the rules and
4 the plans, and I -- I have to say, you know, our regional
5 people have always been really good and supportive. And
6 they're asking all of us and all of the States to submit to
7 them examples of how this has become really more siloed than
8 it was before WIOA, both on the policy side and the -- and
9 the, you know, State plan submittals, all of the -- the
10 trouble that we had with the portals and those things and
11 the inconsistencies on performance. So they're going to be
12 providing a template, and we're -- we'll be filling that out
13 and submitting it, so we'll -- we'll brief your offices
14 on -- most -- very little of this will be any surprise.
15 You've -- you've heard it.

16 And the other thing is Glenn said we had a
17 good meeting yesterday. We had all of the transition teams
18 yesterday in kind of a dress rehearsal -- rehearsal --
19 rehearsal for next Thursday, and a couple little surprises
20 that we got worked out yesterday, but overall, you know,
21 it's great to work with such a talented team and dedicated
22 team. HHSC and DARS worked with us. Couldn't have done it,
23 you know, by ourselves. But I do want to thank and
24 recognize our staff and people who have -- they have a day
25 job and then they have this too, so it's -- it's quite a --

1 quite a feat, so I want to thank them and acknowledge that.
2 Thank you.

3 AGENDA ITEM NO. 25

4 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: The Commissioners will be
5 going into Executive Session under Agenda Item c) and d),
6 pursuant to Government Code 551.071(1) to discuss
7 contemplated litigation, and 551.074(a)(1) to discuss the
8 appointment, employment, evaluation, assignment of duties,
9 accomplishments, goals and responsibilities of executive and
10 other staff. Thank you.

11 (Off the Record 9:28 a.m. to 10:03 a.m.)

12 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: All right. It's 10:03.
13 We're back in session. Do we have a motion to adjourn?

14 COMM. HUGHS: I move that we adjourn.

15 COMM. ALVAREZ: I second that.

16 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: We are adjourned.

17 (Proceedings concluded at 10:03 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 29th day of August, 2016.

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

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