



**MEETING OF THE
TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION**

DATE

FEBRUARY 28, 2023

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Tuesday, February 28, 2023

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Good morning, everybody.
The meeting is called to order. Mr. Trobman, has anybody signed up for public comment?

MR. TROBMAN: Good morning, commissioners.
Les Trobman, general counsel. We don't have any general commenters this morning. We have one individual who would like to address the commission when we arrive at Item 13.

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

MS. MILLER: Good morning, sir.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: That brings us to the end of Agenda Items 3 through 7. Let's pause for just a moment, and we'll be back.

COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Mr. Chairman, let me enter one quick point.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Please.

COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: I wanted to thank Sheri and the team. We've been doing a bunch of dockets, double and triple and the like, and as we awaited the arrival of Commissioner Treviño. We've got him here and just appreciate the work that you guys put in to make a difference with all of this. I wanted to put that on record. Thank you.

MS. MILLER: Thank you very much. I'll pass it on to the team.

1 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you.

3 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right, we're back.

5 This is Agenda Item 8, Child Care Match.

6 SANDRA WILLIAMS: [inaudible] I'll repeat
7 myself so that it's on the record. Good morning, Chair Daniel,
8 commissioners, Mr. Serna. For the record, Sandra Williams,
9 Workforce Development Division. This morning Workforce
10 Development Division and Child Care & Early Learning are
11 bringing forth 38 Board Contract Year 2023 match agreements from
12 16 boards. Those 16 boards are Borderplex, Brazos Valley,
13 Greater Dallas, Deep East Texas, Golden Crescent, Heart of
14 Texas, Middle Rio Grande, Lower Rio Grande, North Central Texas,
15 Northeast Texas, Panhandle, South Plains, and Southeast Texas,
16 and Texoma, Tarrant County, and West Central Texas. Including
17 match agreements previously briefed as of January 31st, boards
18 have secured 104.44 percent of the statewide local match target
19 for BCY23 with 27 boards securing at least 50 percent of their
20 target and 50 boards—25 boards securing 100 percent of their
21 target. Staff recommends accepting child care pledges,
22 donations, and certifications of expense for BCY23 in the amount
23 of \$9,061,400.

24 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Comments or questions?

25 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: None here.

1 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Is there a motion?

2 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Chairman, I move
3 that we approve the acceptance of child care pledges for
4 donations, transfers, and certifications of expense for Board
5 Contract Year 2023 in the amount of \$9,061,400 as recommended
6 today by staff.

7 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: I second the motion.

8 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's been moved and
9 seconded. We're unanimous. Thank you.

10 SANDRA WILLIAMS: Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: This is Agenda Item 9,
12 Child Care Allocations and Target Adjustments.

13 REAGAN MILLER: Good morning, chairman,
14 commissioners. For the record, Reagan Miller with Child Care &
15 Early Learning Division. In the audience, Adam Miller is also
16 here. He's available if there are any technical questions about
17 the data because this morning, we're presenting a midyear review
18 of the BCY23 child care targets for the average number of
19 children served per day. When we initially set these targets
20 back in August of 2022, we used data from July of '21 through
21 June of '22, and we noted that we would conduct a midyear review
22 to update our model with updated data. We completed this review
23 using data from December '21 through November of '22, and the
24 results show that the average cost that boards are paying were
25 considerably higher. On average the daily cost is up by a \$1.33

1 per day, and board by board this ranges from a low of \$0.25 to a
2 high of \$2.48. Based on our updated analysis, we see that boards
3 are now paying 91.95 percent of the maximum rate versus 86.2
4 percent from the prior base period data that we reviewed. The
5 reasons for these changes vary. Parents could be picking more
6 Texas Rising Star providers. We could have a more expensive case
7 mix. We outlined these factors in the chart on page two. Under
8 the commission rules of Section 800.51(f), TWC may modify the
9 level of funding to a workforce area in order to respond to
10 caseload changes, and based upon the midyear review of the data
11 and in accordance with the rules, we are recommending that the
12 commission allocate an additional 19.5 million to the boards in
13 order to allow them to meet their BCY23 targets. This additional
14 funding provided for half the year will allow boards to meet the
15 140,000 children served per day target in the last half of the
16 year. We're recommending that the targets be adjusted and
17 funding distributed as outlined in additional detail on page
18 three of your documents, and I'm happy to answer any questions.

19 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Any comments or questions?

20 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: None here.

21 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: None here.

22 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Is there a motion?

23 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Chairman, I move

24 that we approve the allocation of the local Workforce

25 Development Board child care funds in accordance with 40 TAC,

1 Texas Administrative Code, Section 800.51(f), and reset the
2 Board Contract Year 2023 targets as described in the discussion
3 paper and presented today by staff.

4 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: And I second the
5 motion.

6 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: The motion carries.

7 REAGAN MILLER: Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: This is Agenda Item 10,
9 Board Performance Expectations.

10 COURTNEY ARBOUR: Good morning,
11 commissioners, Mr. Serna. Courtney Arbour, Workforce Division.
12 As briefed and reflected in the posted material for today's
13 meeting, today staff are presenting the BCY23 performance
14 expectations for six of the measures that are contracted to our
15 local Workforce Development Boards. Adam Leonard is also here as
16 he was for the child care measures if we need to call him up.
17 The first three of the measures that I'll mention are related to
18 nonfederal career and training measures and targets, all aligned
19 with the General Appropriations Act. These are measures of
20 participants served by the Workforce system who are employed or
21 enrolled in quarter two after they exit our services, and that
22 has a recommended target of 68.1. Participants who are employed
23 or enrolled from quarter two and continue to be employed or
24 enrolled into quarter four with a recommended target of 83.4,
25 and the credential rate with a target of 70.9. The fourth is the

1 Choices Full Engagement Rate which continues at a 50 percent
2 target in alignment with the federal target. And then the fifth,
3 Claimant Reemployment within 10 weeks, this uses a methodology
4 consistent with what we've done in previous years also. It takes
5 the case mix into account such as claim type and the different
6 reemployment patterns based on the area of the state. Each board
7 has a subtarget with those factors in mind with the state
8 working to ensure that 60 or more percent of all the claimants
9 return to work within 10 weeks. Last, I'll mention the Employer
10 Workforce Assistance measure. That's one that we've discussed
11 most thoroughly with your staff in recent weeks. We propose to
12 simplify that measure this year by focusing on the services only
13 provided locally to employers, only provided locally, and the
14 number that they're working with is the number of employers in
15 the local area. This simplifies the process by removing the need
16 for an end-of-year adjustment which we found to be pretty
17 confusing for the Workforce Boards this last year, and so we
18 believe that this will be a—gives them a hard target to work
19 toward, and every board has a slight increase in their target
20 this year because of the extensive growth that we've experienced
21 in the state, and the number of employers has increased in every
22 area of the state. So with that, I would ask your consideration
23 of those six measures and targets as described.

24 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Any comments or questions?

25

1 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Chairman, I wanted
2 to say thanks to Courtney and Adam and the team on the briefing
3 that we received on the previous item and this item in
4 particular. I know there's a lot of hard work that's put into it
5 so we appreciate the innovation, the facts that are coming out
6 there to make the processes that much better.

7 COURTNEY ARBOUR: Thank you.

8 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: That's it.

9 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: None here.

10 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Is there a motion?

11 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: I move that we
12 approve the local Workforce Development Board Contract Year 2023
13 performance expectations and underlying target methodologies as
14 described in the discussion paper and recommended today by
15 staff.

16 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: I second the motion.

17 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: The motion carries. Thank
18 you.

19 COURTNEY ARBOUR: Thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: This is Agenda Item 11,
21 Career School Waiver.

22 KERRY BALLAST: Good morning, Chairman
23 Daniel, Commissioner Demerson, Commissioner Treviño, and Mr.
24 Serna. For the record, Kerry Ballast, Workforce Development
25 Division. TAC Chapter 807 for Career Schools and Colleges, Rule

1 807.4, states that upon demonstration of extreme extenuating
2 circumstances a school governed by Chapter 807 may request a
3 waiver from one or more requirements detailed in the chapter,
4 and TWC may grant a waiver upon a specific finding of good
5 cause. Career Schools and Colleges staff received a request from
6 Central Texas Allied Health Institute located in Austin, Texas,
7 regarding opening of an additional classroom that exceeds the
8 one-mile radius rule established in TAC 807.14, Locations.
9 Greater detail about the waiver request is provided in your
10 notebook materials. In seeking the waiver, Central Texas Allied
11 Health Institute has met the conditions and requirements for
12 such waiver. Staff seeks direction on CTAHI's request that TWC
13 waive Rule 807.14(b) (2), and if granted, this waiver only
14 applies to Central Texas Allied Health Institute, and only to
15 this one specific request regarding location of an additional
16 classroom. That concludes my remarks. I'm happy to answer any
17 questions.

18 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Any comments or questions?

19 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: None here.

20 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: None here.

21 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Is there a motion?

22 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: I move that we
23 approve the Central Texas Allied Health Institute request for
24 waiver of 40 Texas Administrative Code, Section 807.14(b) (2)
25 requirements to enable the addition of a classroom without

1 applying for an additional certificate of approval pursuant to
2 40 Texas Administrative Code, Section 807.4.

3 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: I second the motion.

4 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: The motion carries. Thank
5 you.

6 KERRY BALLAST: Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: This is Agenda Item 12,
8 Modification to BCY23 Child Care Award.

9 ALLISON WILSON: Good morning, chairman,
10 commissioners, Mr. Serna. For the record, Allison Wilson with
11 Child Care & Early Learning Division. On September 28, 2021, the
12 commission approved the criteria for several workforce awards
13 including a child care award for local Workforce Development
14 Boards. The Board Contract Year 2022 Child Care Award was based
15 upon two components. One was 66.6 percent based on employment
16 connections, and two, 33.3 percent based on training
17 connections. The training connections component is based on
18 enrollment of job-seeking parents and WIOA-funded short-term
19 training. To date, however, boards have not expended a
20 significant amount of this WIOA distribution. Given the low
21 number of child care parents enrolled in short-term training,
22 staff recommends modifying the BCY23 Child Care Award to
23 eliminate the 33.3 percent training connection criterion. That
24 concludes my remarks, and I'm happy to answer any questions.

25 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Any comments or questions?

1 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: None here.

2 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: None here.

3 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Is there a motion?

4 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: I move that we
5 approve the modification of the Board Contract Year 2023 Child
6 Care Award as described in the discussion paper as recommended
7 today by staff.

8 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: I second the motion.

9 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: The motion carries. Thank
10 you. This is Agenda Item 13. This is Child Care Tranche X, the
11 final tranche of all the money that we have had. Is that
12 correct?

13 ALLISON WILSON: That is correct.

14 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right, proceed.

15 ALLISON WILSON: Again, for the record,
16 Allison Wilson with Child Care & Early Learning. Today for your
17 consideration we are bringing forward the tenth and final
18 tranche of child care stimulus-funded initiatives. We have 10
19 issues for you today. The first one is technical assistance for
20 employer-supported child care. Twelve million dollars would be
21 dedicated to this. These funds would go to qualified entities
22 that can provide technical assistance to employers interested in
23 exploring the development of on-site or near-site child care as
24 well as other strategies to support the child care needs of
25 their employees. Services funded may include employee needs

1 assessments, feasibility studies, and facilitating partnerships
2 with existing child care providers. The second issue is
3 modification of the already approved child care industry
4 expansion initiative. In two previous tranches the commission
5 dedicated 150 million for this initiative. The interest level
6 remains very high with over 100 million in awards and more than
7 500 applicants already approved. Staff recommends dedicating an
8 additional 84 million to support the estimated need, and in
9 addition, we recommend extending the deadline for awardees to
10 expend the funds through August 31, 2024. The third issue is a
11 pilot project for early childhood education teacher pipeline. To
12 support more robust early educator pathways, this pilot would
13 support more students in their pursuit of postsecondary
14 credentials. Dallas College proposed to develop a competency-
15 based online core curriculum geared towards the early childhood
16 education workforce. The material developed and funded through
17 this initiative will be open sourced and made available to other
18 institutions across Texas. Staff recommends approval of 2.7
19 million in stimulus funds for Dallas College to pilot this
20 model. The fourth issue is 150,000 for board strategic planning
21 for quality improvement. Beginning with the BCY23 contracts, the
22 commission increased boards' quality set aside for activities to
23 improve the quality of child care and early learning from two
24 percent to four percent of their allocation. Staff recommends
25 dedicating 150,000 for TWC to host a training and technical

1 assistance event that will focus on providing Workforce
2 Development Boards with assistance and strategically expending
3 those funds. Issue number five, child care program data
4 enhancements. Since 2019, TWC has published key data points
5 related to the child care program on Child Care by the Numbers.
6 This website provides a central point for stakeholders to view
7 information about the children and child care providers
8 participating in TWC's program. Staff recommends dedicating 1.03
9 million of stimulus funds to support data extraction and
10 transformation analytics and visualization through Fiscal Year
11 24 to implement an improved Child Care by the Numbers website
12 that provides greater data transparency and supports more robust
13 data analysis for our stakeholders. Number six is a modification
14 to our matching grant programs. The commission previously
15 approved 25 million for the Matching Investments and Child Care
16 Quality Improvement Initiative also known as MICCQI, which was
17 modeled after the existing Child Care Industry Partnerships
18 Program. To date we have not received any MICCQI applications.
19 Given the similarity between MICCQI and CCIP, staff recommends
20 retaining CCIP and discontinuing MICCQI, and modifying CCIP to
21 allow the donor match to be derived from any local partner.
22 Issue number seven is continuation of child care business
23 coaching. To continue supporting the child care industry which
24 continues to struggle post pandemic and to provide targeted
25 support for stimulus-funded initiatives, dedicating 18 million

1 to extend business coaching services through September 30, 2024.
2 Issue number eight is a modification to our pre-K partnership
3 expansion initiative. Staff recommends that the commission
4 eliminate the alternative teacher certification awards that were
5 planned from the pre-K partnership program and increase the
6 amount for classroom startup awards from 20,000 to 25,000. This
7 change will help offset the tax burden for child care providers
8 that receive those funds. Issue number nine, we're almost done,
9 is the low-income child care. Approximately 55 million of
10 stimulus funds remain, and staff recommends that the commission
11 invest this balance in direct care for low-income families. And
12 finally, issue number 10, staff recognizes that approved
13 stimulus initiatives may not all fully spend and recommends the
14 commission ensure full utilization of the approximately 5.9
15 billion awarded to Texas by authorizing staff to expend any
16 unspent funds on allowable and commission-approved child care
17 project services and activities. That is all of my remarks.
18 Happy to answer any questions.

19 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you. We're going to
20 hold off on that. Hang tight. We've got a public commenter so we
21 need to hear that, and then I actually have a couple questions
22 for you.

23 ALLISON WILSON: OK.
24
25

1 MR. TROBMAN: Commissions, we have Melanie
2 Rubin. Ms. Rubin, if you can go ahead and unmute yourself and
3 begin.

4 MELANIE RUBIN: Thank you. Thank you,
5 Chairman Daniel, Commissioners Demerson and Treviño, and Mr.
6 Serna. I am Melanie Rubin, director of the North Texas Early
7 Education Alliance which brings together large [inaudible] and
8 community-based child care early educators along with
9 researchers, local leaders, advocates, and service providers in
10 North Texas to work collaboratively to increase the
11 accessibility of high-quality early education to make sure our
12 Texas parents can go to work. As you know, the child care
13 industry is a crucial infrastructure that is important to Texas
14 and to Texans on three dimensions. One, to enable parents to
15 work. Two, to employ a workforce, and three, to provide an
16 environment in which children can build a successful foundation
17 and optimize their potential to later become Texas's next
18 workforce. We continue to hear about the serious challenges the
19 industry is facing due to serious staffing crises. This limits
20 both access to an already insufficient supply of quality early
21 learning experiences for young children and their parents'
22 ability to get to work. This crisis is compromising Texas's
23 economic growth. The recommendations today are smart and
24 strategic. The initiatives will be instrumental in developing a
25 pipeline of early educators, professionalizing the industry,

1 increasing access, and improving the quality and [inaudible] the
2 system. We are so very grateful that the Child Care & Early
3 Learning Division conscientiously researched obstacles and
4 thoughtfully and creatively developed the recommendations
5 presented today. As you have heard before, without their and
6 your leaderships, [inaudible] initiatives, programs would have
7 closed permanently and parents' ability to work would have been
8 even further restricted. The efforts presented today in tandem
9 with the strong base of existing programs will make a
10 significant impact on the child care system which is the force
11 behind Texas's work. Thank you very much.

12 MR. TROBMAN: Thank you, Ms. Rubin. That's
13 what we have.

14 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you. Any comments or
15 questions?

16 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Chairman, I want to
17 just again appreciate the work that Reagan and Allison and the
18 team have put into this. It's been a lot of work, the tranches,
19 and also appreciate the comments made by Melanie.

20 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: I agree with
21 Commissioner Demerson. Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: So a long time ago in a
23 place far, far away, which was the sixth floor conference room,
24 we had gotten a billion dollars of extra money to aid child care
25 entities during the pandemic, and we sat down and we said, all

1 right, what are some ideas that we have, and as I recall,
2 because this is like two years ago at this point, maybe three, I
3 suggested that we go watch the movie, Brewster's Millions, to
4 understand how difficult it is to spend money on a schedule and
5 do the absolute most good with that. That is when we had a
6 billion dollars. Before it was all said and done, there were six
7 billion dollars, actually a little more than that if I'm not
8 mistaken, and I've got to say through 10 tranches of funds,
9 through—and by the way, what a grand flourish to have 10 parts
10 to the tenth tranche, I applaud that wholeheartedly. Through all
11 these tranches of funds, I've got to honestly say that not one
12 single time do I think we resorted to be throwing money at the
13 problem approach in hopes that the money would make the problem
14 go away because just generally speaking, you just [inaudible]
15 the problem and want more money when you do that. We've made
16 strategic investments in a lot of businesses in this state,
17 three billion dollars. This is on top of the billion that we
18 spend annually on child care efforts. Three billion dollars was
19 placed directly with child care entities in this state to make
20 either capital investments, supplement their salary, do hiring.
21 They basically had the opportunity to do that, and I've got to
22 say that you guys, certainly Allison, you and Reagan, but I know
23 a lot of your team, you guys did this with—or at least seemingly
24 with good humor, a lot of work being done, a lot of research,
25 and a lot of seriousness, and I've been in and around government

1 for 25 years at this point and I can say that this—I'm going to
2 put this number one on my list of a group of people that
3 approached a problem seriously, took the solution seriously, and
4 put this agency in a really good position for us to help solve a
5 temporary problem that honestly put us on the track to dealing
6 with some of the more long-term issues that we're going to face.
7 I thought—certainly I appreciate Ms. Rubin's comments as to the
8 agency and our child care division and some others. There are
9 some very significant groups working on this including hers, and
10 the support that we've had throughout this has been really good.
11 I don't want my enthusiasm for having completed this task to
12 overshadow the task that has been completed. This has been a
13 phenomenal effort. I don't think we've always been happy with
14 each other during the process but I think we can a hundred
15 percent be happy with the result so thank you for what you guys
16 have done. Thank you for what your team has done. Please pass
17 the word because this is an incredible amount of work and I
18 think one that we'll look back on and be able to do that. With
19 that, if there is no other comments, we should probably
20 entertain a motion.

21 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Mr. Chairman, I move
22 that we approve the Child Care Development Block Grant COVID-19
23 Federal Funding X Tranche, the tenth tranche, of the new
24 initiatives dedicating the remaining \$173,034,579 in funding in
25

1 associated programmatic parameters as described in the
2 discussion paper and presented today by staff.

3 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: And I second the
4 motion.

5 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's been moved and
6 seconded and we're unanimous on that. Thank you very much.

7 ALLISON WILSON: Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: This is Agenda Item 14,
9 Board Nominations.

10 CHERIE DUDLEY: Good morning, chairman,
11 commissioners, and Mr. Serna. For the record, Cherie Dudley with
12 Workforce Development. Today for your consideration we have
13 Workforce nominations for Alamo, Borderplex, Capital Area, Deep
14 East Texas, Lower Rio Grande Valley, and Permian Basin. Staff
15 recommends approval on the presented nominees, and I'm here to
16 answer questions you may have.

17 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Any comments or questions?

18 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: None here.

19 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: No questions.

20 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Is there a motion?

21 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: I move that we
22 approve the local Workforce Development Board member nominees
23 presented today for the following Workforce Solutions: Alamo,
24 Borderplex, Capital Area, Deep East Texas, Lower Rio Grande
25 Valley, and Permian Basin.

1 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: I second the motion.

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

4 CHERIE DUDLEY: Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you. This is Agenda
6 Item 15. Let's take up the 15a, Short-Term Training Pilot
7 program.

8 BENJAMIN HOLQUIST: Good morning, Chairman
9 Daniel, Commissioner Demerson, Commissioner Treviño, and Mr.
10 Serna. For the record, I'm Ben Holquist with the Workforce
11 Development Division. Before you today for your consideration is
12 a discussion paper on the Short-Term Training In-Demand
13 Occupations Pilot partnership. This partnership with Texas State
14 Technical College would fund bringing existing training programs
15 to new areas to meet target occupation demand. These trainings
16 would result in an industry-recognized credential, support
17 target occupations in the region or statewide, and be completed
18 within 16 weeks or less. Participants would be WIOA eligible,
19 and TSTC would be able to provide additional supportive services
20 and conduct outreach directly or to subgrant funds to local
21 Workforce Development Boards to provide recruitment support and
22 supportive services or a combination of both. Staff recommend a
23 one-year pilot of up to three million dollars with a one-year
24 renewal option if the project is successful. This concludes my
25 presentation. I'm happy to answer any questions.

1 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Any comments or questions?

2 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Chairman, I continue
3 to appreciate the work that TSTC is doing and look forward to
4 this initiative.

5 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: No questions.

6 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: I would add my support to
7 that, Commissioner Demerson. TSTC continues to innovate and I'm
8 happy to have this opportunity to work with them. Is there a
9 motion here?

10 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: I move that we
11 approve funding for one-year pilot training program with Texas
12 State Technical College with the possibility of a one-year
13 renewal and dedicating up to three million dollars in WIOA funds
14 to support the target of training 500 individuals as described
15 in the discussion paper and recommended today by staff.

16 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: I second the motion.

17 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's been moved and
18 seconded, and the motion carries. Thank you. This is Agenda Item
19 15b, Short-Term Training Pilots. It's a different one.

20 BENJAMIN HOLQUIST: Just for the record
21 again, this is Ben Holquist, Workforce Development Division.
22 Before you today for your consideration is a discussion paper on
23 the Middle Skills Employment Supplies Project, pilot project.
24 This project would pay for specific items and required support
25 services to participants who have completed a training in a

1 field that requires specific supplies or additional steps before
2 they can start their employment. While this program would be
3 open to all WIOA-eligible Texans, TWC would encourage focusing
4 on priority populations and those Texans who will be leaving
5 incarceration within 60 days. Existing board WIOA customers
6 would be eligible to receive these funds if they have a letter
7 of intent to hire and have exhausted their available client
8 service funding. This project would have two million dollars
9 distributed to the 28 boards proportionally with a \$30,000
10 floor. Boards would be asked to develop a form to ensure
11 eligibility is documented. This concludes my presentation. I'm
12 happy to answer any questions.

13 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Any comments or questions?

14 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Chairman, I again
15 just applaud the efforts here. I think this is an opportunity
16 for employers, and we're going to make sure that I get the word
17 out to employers that they're in a position to take advantage of
18 these training opportunities be it through nonprofit
19 organizations or wherever the training comes from, those
20 employees will benefit employers in a big way.

21 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: No questions.

22 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Let me make sure I
23 understand this. So we're setting aside a pool of funds to be
24 distributed to boards. I guess we just chose that as an
25 administrative action but it's going to be distributed to boards

1 and then ultimately this will be for people who are trying to
2 get into some kind of work or training that requires equipment
3 as a way to assist them to buy the equipment.

4 BENJAMIN HOLQUIST: Yes.

5 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Yes, and you said
6 something about people who are leaving incarceration in 60 days.

7 BENJAMIN HOLQUIST: Yes. This program would
8 also specifically allow for people who are incarcerated, have
9 completed a training that would be for one of these occupations,
10 and will be released within 60 days to also receive this
11 support.

12 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: So, and others as well but
13 I mean, so broadly is it for folks that have completed their
14 training and this is a barrier for them to get work or would it
15 also apply to equipment needed for training?

16 BENJAMIN HOLQUIST: This would apply to
17 individuals who have completed training and this is a barrier to
18 their employment.

19 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Yeah, so this is good
20 because like I've been hearing some stories up in North Texas
21 about some folks that are able to complete automotive technician
22 training but you have to have a certain amount of tools to
23 complete that training so now they're in a pickle. They've got
24 the training, they need to get these tools but don't have a way
25 to buy them so we're saying that we, through our boards, could

1 assist with these funds, assuming they meet WIOA qualifications.

2 All right, very good. Is there any other comments or questions?

3 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: I think individuals
4 and employers will benefit vastly from this.

5 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: I think you're right,
6 Commissioner Demerson.

7 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: I agree.

8 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Is there a motion?

9 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: I move that we
10 approve the distribution of up to two million in WIOA statewide
11 funds with a \$30,000 base amount to the boards to fund the
12 Middle Skills Employment Support Pilot Project as described in
13 the discussion paper and recommended today by staff.

14 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: I second the motion.

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

17 BENJAMIN HOLQUIST: Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: So nothing under
19 legislative proposals today but I see, Mr. Serna, that Michael
20 Britt has his tie on, and it is tied which must mean we have a
21 legislative report.

22 MR. SERNA: Yes, sir, that's accurate.

23 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right. It's the
24 highlight of my Tuesday.

25

1 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: It's not an orange
2 tie.

3 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's not today.

4 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Not today.

5 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's a lot better looking
6 tie than the orange tie.

7 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: No comment.

8 MICHAEL BRITT: Good morning, Chairman
9 Daniel, Commissioner Demerson, Commissioner Treviño, and Mr.
10 Serna. For the record, Michael Britt, Governmental Relations. GR
11 is monitoring two federal hearings this week. This morning at 9
12 a.m., the U.S. House and U.S. Senate Veterans Affairs Committees
13 begin holding a joint hearing to receive a legislative
14 presentation from disabled American veterans. Tomorrow at 9
15 a.m., the U.S. House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees will
16 hold another joint hearing to receive a legislative presentation
17 from the American Legion and other veteran services
18 organizations. Regarding the Texas Legislature, this morning at
19 8 a.m., the House Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on
20 Article 6, 7, and 8, begin holding a formal meeting to discuss
21 budget recommendations for Articles 7 and 8 of the House
22 proposed budget. The subcommittee will also hold a second formal
23 meeting on Articles 7 and 8 budget recommendations tomorrow at 1
24 o'clock p.m. Also, tomorrow the Senate Committee on Natural
25 Resources and Economic Development has requested that TWC

1 testify at their organizational hearing at 9 a.m. to provide an
2 overview of the agency, an update on issues TWC anticipates this
3 session, and an overview of the Tri-Agency Work-Based Learning
4 Strategic Framework that was required by House Bill 1247 enacted
5 by the 87th Texas Legislature. Chairman Daniel will be testifying
6 on behalf of the agency at that hearing. This concludes my
7 remarks. I'm happy to answer any questions or take tie
8 recommendations for next week.

9 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: I'm not sure I'm the guy
10 to ask on that but are there any comments or questions?

11 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: None here.

12 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: No questions.

13 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thanks for everything. I
14 know it's a busy time. We appreciate it. Is there any other
15 order of business to come before the commission today? Mr.
16 Serna?

17 MR. SERNA: I do have one thing, Mr.
18 Chairman, and I apologize it being a last-minute thing but I do
19 want to recognize Ben for his efforts today. He will be leaving
20 the agency, moving out of state. We're going to retain him for a
21 little bit to work remote but then eventually he'll have to end
22 his employment with us because he'll be relocating to, I think
23 it's a state on the West Coast somewhere but anyway, he's done a
24 great job for us in Workforce, and I did want to at least
25 recognize that so thank you, Ben.

1 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right.
2 Congratulations, Ben. This is information I needed before I had
3 my last chance to question him in front of the commission.

4 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Mr. Chairman, I
5 think we call him back up.

6 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: I think there are so many
7 unanswered questions about West Coast states that we need to
8 probably—you said he will stay with us for a few more weeks.

9 MR. SERNA: He'll be working remotely for
10 us.

11 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: I mean I can ask questions
12 on Zoom too I'm pretty sure.

13 MR. SERNA: Zoom and Teams are still
14 available.

15 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Ah, perfect. Perfect.
16 Congratulations. Anything, any other order of business to come
17 before the commission?

18 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Two things here.
19 Last week or the week before I had an opportunity to host an
20 intern ability conference. It's providing opportunities for
21 students with disabilities, and well received. Appreciate
22 Commissioner Treviño for participating in that initiative. We
23 did it online and a number of folks with disabilities, students
24 with disabilities were on that call. It was [inaudible] Linda
25 and the team for the work there. And then secondly, on yesterday

1 I had an opportunity to participate in the human trafficking
2 program put on by the Texas Advocacy Project, and our very own
3 Courtney Arbour who is a member of the task force, the
4 governor's task force on these issues, spoke as well, and so I
5 appreciate the work that the Workforce Commission is doing in
6 that space. A number of industry associations, employers, really
7 taking a bold step to do our best to eradicate and eliminate
8 this thing called human trafficking so, Ed, wanted to share that
9 with you. Courtney's remarks and comments were well received in
10 the work that's being done in that area by Workforce as
11 supported by the governor, secretary of state's office, and a
12 lot of employers. It's truly appreciated.

13 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: I just wanted to make
14 a quick comment. I wanted to thank Mr. McCarty and Mr. Britt, my
15 entire staff, all the directors here at TWC that got me prepared
16 for my nominations hearing yesterday. I really appreciate it
17 from my heart. Thank you.

18 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Congratulations.

19 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's a lot of preparation.
20 I watched the hearing on the internet. It went very well. It was
21 very clear that you had a lot of good help with that, and
22 there's a little bit more to that process but I think the big
23 part of it has been accomplished, and we can wait and see what
24 the Senate is going to do. Good stuff. Anything else today? Is
25 there a motion to adjourn?

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COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: So moved.

COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: I second the motion
to adjourn.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's been moved and
seconded to adjourn and we are unanimously adjourned.