



**MEETING OF THE
TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION**

DATE

MARCH 5, 2024

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Tuesday, March 5, 2024

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

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you very much. Good morning, all.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: The motion passes with the exceptions noted. All right, we'll take a short recess.

MS.GONZALES: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: This is Agenda Item 9, Local Workforce Development Board nominees.

SHUNTA WILLIAMS: Good morning, chairman, commissioners, and Mr. Townsend. For the record, Shunta Williams with the Workforce Development Division, and today for your consideration we have Workforce Board nominations for Workforce Solutions in two areas, Deep East and East Texas. Staff recommends approval on the presented nominees, and I'm here to answer any questions you may have.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right, any comments or questions?

COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: None here.

COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: No questions.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Is there a motion?

COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Chairman, I move to approve the local Workforce Development Board member nominees

1 presented today for the following: Workforce Solutions Deep East
2 Texas and East Texas.

3 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: I second.

4 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's been moved and
5 seconded, and the vote is unanimous. Thank you. This is Agenda
6 Item 10, Child Care Match.

7 LISA GUZMAN: Good morning, commissioners,
8 Mr. Townsend. For the record, Lisa Guzman, Workforce Development
9 Division. In accordance with federal regulations and TWC Chapter
10 809, Child Care Services rule, TWC encourages the boards to
11 secure and submit local matching funds to TWC in order to
12 receive a portion of the CCDF funding. Supporting documentation
13 includes one BCY24 donation and 41 BCY24 match agreements from
14 19 boards: Alamo, Borderplex, Brazos Valley, Capital Area,
15 Coastal Bend, Dallas, Deep East, Golden Crescent, Gulf Coast,
16 Heart of Texas, Lower Rio, Middle Rio, Northeast Texas, Rural
17 Capital, South Texas, Southeast Texas, Tarrant County, Texoma,
18 and West Central totaling \$17,754,591. Boards have secured
19 109.21 percent of the statewide child care local match target
20 for BCY24 with all 28 boards securing at least 100 percent of
21 their target. Staff is recommending that TWC accept child care
22 pledges for donations, transfers, and certifications for
23 expenses for BCY24 in the amount of \$17,754,591. Happy to answer
24 any questions.

25 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Any comments or questions?

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COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: None here.

COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: No questions.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Is there a motion?

COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Chairman, I move to approve the acceptance of child care pledges for donations, transfers, and certifications of expense for Board Contract Year 2024 in the amount of \$17,754,591 as recommended today by staff.

COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: I second.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's been moved and seconded, and the vote is unanimous. Thank you. I believe we do have a legislative report today. Michael Britt is here, resplendent tie and a four-in-hand knot, perfect pleat. I mean.

MICHAEL BRITT: Good morning. I understood there was an imposter the last couple of weeks so I needed to come secure my spot.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: I'm glad you're here to defend your territory.

MICHAEL BRITT: Good morning, Mr. Chairman, commissioners, and Mr. Townsend. For the record, Michael Britt, Governmental Relations. Last week the U.S. Congress passed and the president signed House Resolution 7463, the Extension of Continuing Appropriations and Other Matters Act of 2024. This bill extends funding for the federal government beyond the previous March 1st and March 8th deadlines for funding titles that were previously set to expire on March 8th which includes the

1 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education title. Funding
2 has now been extended until March 22, 2024. As they move forward
3 on their budget matters, Congress must pass all the
4 appropriation titles by April 30, 2024. Under current law, if
5 Congress relies on a continuing resolution to fund the federal
6 government beyond that date, a one percent across-the-board
7 reduction in federal appropriations will go into effect. Also,
8 GR will be monitoring joint committees of the U.S. House and
9 Senate Veterans Affairs committees where they will be hearing
10 legislative priorities from veteran service organizations, and
11 these hearings will be taking place both at 9:00 a.m. on
12 Wednesday and Thursday of this week. This concludes my remarks.
13 I'm happy to answer any questions.

14 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Are there any questions or
15 comments?

16 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: None here.

17 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: No questions.

18 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right, thank you very
19 much.

20 MICHAEL BRITT: Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Is there an executive
22 director's report today.

23 MR. TOWNSEND: Good morning, chairman,
24 commissioners. Yes, sir. We have two updates for you this
25 morning. The first, I'm going to have Chris Nelson come up and

1 give you an update on where we are on the budget status for our
2 vocational rehabilitation program.

3 CHRIS NELSON: Good morning, chairman,
4 commissioners. For the record, Chris Nelson, chief financial
5 officer. This morning I'm going to give you an update on an item
6 previously briefed with your offices. With an increased level of
7 client services in the vocational rehabilitation program, TWC
8 has looked at opportunities to increase the amount of federal
9 funding available to the VR program. Through the course of its
10 review, staff identified that TWC is overmatched in its child
11 care program by approximately \$27,000,000 due to COVID FMAP
12 adjustments provided through federal legislation. During this
13 same period as TWC continues to close out its federal COVID
14 child care funding, we have identified some ARPA child care
15 funds that will not be spent on the projects previously approved
16 and will be available for use in our normal subsidized child
17 care program. These ARPA funds must be spent by September 30,
18 2024, and will allow TWC to serve more children than the 144,000
19 per day we are currently serving. On February 2nd of this year,
20 TWC submitted a letter in accordance with TWC Rider 33 to the
21 Legislative Budget Board and the Office of the Governor
22 notifying them 30 days in advance of TWC's intent to transfer
23 \$25,000,000 in child care general revenue to the vocational
24 rehab program. This would allow TWC to draw down an additional
25 92.4 million dollars in VR federal funds in support for the

1 delivery of VR services. TWC briefed staff with the Legislative
2 Budget Board, the Office of the Governor, and other legislative
3 offices after submitting this letter. On Monday, TWC met the 30-
4 day period and at this time plans to proceed with the transfer
5 as specified in Rider 33, our Rider 33 letter. That concludes my
6 update. I'd be happy to answer any questions.

7 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Any questions or comments?

8 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Thank you, Mr.
9 Nelson. No comments.

10 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: No questions.

11 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right, thank you.

12 MR. TOWNSEND: The other update, just wanted
13 to let you know that the governor is presenting an update on the
14 Texas wildfires later this morning, and I just wanted you to
15 know that TWC staff, particularly unemployment insurance and
16 workforce divisions, are closely monitoring the situation and
17 making sure that we're staying on top of that so just wanted you
18 to be aware of the activity we're taking here at the Workforce
19 Commission.

20 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Well, I'm glad to hear it.
21 I suspected as much. I mean unfortunately our job doesn't come
22 into play until after the fact, and there's been an incredible
23 amount of damage both to people's homes, a lot of businesses,
24 tremendous amount of livestock. I'm not even sure we have a full
25

1 accounting of what's been lost so do keep us apprised of what
2 we're able to do to help.

3 MR. TOWNSEND: Yes, sir.

4 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Is there anything else to
5 come before the commission today?

6 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: No, thank you, Mr.
7 Townsend. I was told earlier that you were going to be
8 presenting both the presentations but it shows a good sign of
9 your leadership to delegate to Mr. Nelson so that he could have
10 done that but thank you for your leadership.

11 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It was frankly like the
12 ultimate show of delegation.

13 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Very much so.

14 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Mr. Serna is absent so Mr.
15 Townsend showed up, and then delegated.

16 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: To Mr. Nelson, yeah,
17 that was—I can learn from that so I appreciate that.

18 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Any other order of
19 business?

20 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: No, none here.

21 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: No, sir.

22 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Is there a motion to
23 adjourn?

24 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Chairman, I move to
25 adjourn.

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COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: I second.

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