



**MEETING OF THE
TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION**

DATE

NOVEMBER 9, 2021

1 TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2021

2 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Good morning, everyone.

3 This meeting is called to order. Mr. Trobman, has anyone signed
4 up for public comment?

5 MR. TROBMAN: [inaudible]

6 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you, Mr. Trobman.
7 Good morning, Ms. Miller.

8 MS. MILLER: Good morning, sir.

9 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Well, thank you. This
10 brings us to the end of Agenda Items 3 through 7. We're gonna
11 stand in recess until we get the rest of the personnel in here
12 for the rest of the meeting, thank you. All right, we're back.
13 This is Agenda Item 8, ending the middle skills gap. This is
14 math family literacy initiative using AEL state leadership
15 funds.

16 MS. BALDINI: Good morning, Chair Daniel,
17 Commissioner Alvarez, Commissioner Demerson, and Mr. Nelson,
18 sitting in for Mr. Serna this morning. For the record, Mahalia
19 Baldini with the workforce development division, adult education
20 and literacy. On June 30 of 2021, the commission held a work
21 session on the statewide initiatives and earmarked \$500,000 in
22 AEL state leadership funds from budget year 2021 for math family
23 literacy services for AEL participants and their families. At
24 this time, staff seeks direction on implementing a math family
25 literacy initiative that enhances and develops math supports for

1 families in Texas through a request for application in the
2 amount of \$500,000. I'm happy to answer any questions that you
3 may have today.

4 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Comments or questions?

5 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Yes, Chairman. First
6 of all, I wanna congratulate you, Fabiana, for bringing the new
7 lady to the office and introducing her to the commissioners this
8 morning. So, congratulations, and welcome aboard.

9 MS. BALDINI: Thank you.

10 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Thank you, Mahalia
11 and staff. I think this is a great proposal and a way to
12 increase math literacy in families. Thank you for the hard work.

13 MS. BALDINI: Thank you, Commissioner.

14 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: No questions.

15 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Is there a motion?

16 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Chairman, I move that
17 we allow staff to issue an RFA for a math family literacy
18 initiative using the parameters described in the amount of
19 \$500,000.

20 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Second.

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

23 MS. BALDINI: Thank you.

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1 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: This is, let's see--
2 nothing on item 9, nothing on item 10, nothing on item 11. Item
3 12, board nominations.

4 MS. WILLIAMS: Good morning, Chairman,
5 commissioners, and Mr. Nelson. For the record, Shunta Williams
6 with the workforce development division, and for your
7 consideration this morning we have workforce board nominations
8 for Workforce Solutions Concho Valley, Golden Crescent, Middle
9 Rio Grande, North Texas, and the Rural Capital Area. Staff
10 recommends that all nominees be approved, and I'm here to answer
11 any questions you have.

12 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Any comments or questions?

13 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Other than nice to
14 see you again, no comments.

15 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: None here.

16 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right, is there a
17 motion?

18 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Chairman, I move to
19 approve the board nominees for Concho Valley, Golden Crescent,
20 Middle Rio Grande, North Texas, and Rural Capital Area.

21 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Second.

22 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's been moved and
23 seconded. We're unanimous.

24 MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you.

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1 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you. Legislative
2 report? Yeah.

3 MR. MCCARTY: Good morning, Chairman Daniel,
4 Commissioner Alvarez, Commissioner Demerson. Tom McCarty,
5 customer care division. Last Friday, the U.S. House voted to
6 concur with Senate amendments to H.R. 3684, the Infrastructure
7 Investment and Jobs Act. Included in the measure is a provision
8 to help offset the costs of the bill by terminating the employee
9 retention tax credit. This was due to expire on January 1. It'll
10 now be effective on October 1 of 2021 instead of January of '22.
11 Yesterday, also, Governor Abbott signed senate bill 8 from the
12 third call legislative session. This makes a supplemental
13 appropriation, including appropriating approximately 7.2 billion
14 to be used to retire the title XII advances and replenish the UI
15 trust fund to the statutory floor. This bill is effective
16 immediately, and I'm available for any questions you may have.

17 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Questions? Comments?

18 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: None here.

19 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: None.

20 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you very much, sir.

21 MR. MCCARTY: Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right, executive
23 director's report?

24 MR. NELSON: Nothing to report.

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1 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: This is your chance. You
2 have anything you'd like to get off your chest?

3 MR. NELSON: I'm on strict orders.

4 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Oh, you're on strict
5 orders?

6 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Maybe we could talk
7 about the budget a little bit, Chris.

8 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: [Inaudible] commission.

9 MR. NELSON: Uh, no.

10 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: I think we should do
11 that, Chairman. Why don't you test him out?

12 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Okay.

13 MR. NELSON: No.

14 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: See if he's been
15 doing his homework.

16 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right, on page seven,
17 line 11, what is the number that we would find there?

18 MR. NELSON: It's always two.

19 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Always two? I would have
20 said "eleventy billion." That's what I would have said.

21 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Good job, Chris.

22 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: You don't wanna ask
23 him about the budget, you wanna ask him about something else. He
24 knows the budget.

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1 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: That is true. All right,
2 no executive director's report. So, you'll see a camera here. I
3 just wanted to get this next part of the meeting on camera. It's
4 actually a nice announcement that I get to make. This is a
5 proclamation from the Office of the Governor. If you would, I'll
6 just read it. "As we continue to face challenges of an ever-
7 changing world, the need for skilled workers to bolster our
8 robust workforce has increased. For generations, registered
9 apprenticeships have helped us meet this demand across the Lone
10 Star State. As new workers look to join the vibrant and growing
11 Texas economy, a registered apprenticeship operates as an earn-
12 while-you-learn vocational training model. By allowing
13 apprentices the opportunity to earn more while they receive
14 hands-on training for in-demand jobs, this system cultivates a
15 skilled and valuable workforce that gives Texas a competitive
16 advantage in today's global economy, and also supports Texas'
17 continued economic development and provides sustained growth for
18 the future. Ever year, a week in November is dedicated to
19 recognizing the importance of registered apprentices and the
20 companies and organizations that support and participate in
21 these cutting-edge training programs. At this time, I encourage
22 my fellow Texans to learn more about the apprenticeship programs
23 and how they can further our economic development and benefit
24 the hardworking members of the Texas workforce. By supporting
25 apprenticeships and the workers who benefit from them, these

1 programs will continue to strengthen the Texas economy as we
2 work to build the Texas of tomorrow. Therefore, I, Greg Abbott,
3 governor of Texas, do hereby proclaim November 15 through the
4 21, 2021 to be Apprenticeship Week in Texas, and I urge the
5 appropriate recognition whereof." Very nice of the governor to
6 do this, a big week. We have something else big going on next
7 week, I think. We're not having a commission meeting. So, wanted
8 to be sure that we took a chance to recognize apprenticeship
9 week and all that that means for the state of Texas.

10 Commissioner Alvarez has long been a champion of
11 apprenticeships, and I think rightly so. Commissioner Demerson's
12 voiced his support, and I certainly wanna add my sort of full-
13 voiced support to this. I last week had the opportunity to
14 attend a graduation ceremony at Bombardier Aircraft for their
15 first apprenticeship class. It's a big deal. There were 10
16 people in that class, and they anticipate graduating about 90
17 more soon. It puts that business on the map globally, and they
18 credit the work that they've done through our apprenticeship
19 program and Texas State Technical College, TSTC, in the area for
20 what they're doing. I would love to see more employers do
21 exactly what Bombardier has done and make an apprenticeship
22 program specific and unique to their company. We've got a lot of
23 great registered apprenticeship programs in the state. Some
24 train electricians generically, some train other trades
25 generically. But the fact of the matter is is that it is the

1 specific employers that are there participating in those
2 programs that ultimately make those programs successful. And so,
3 for us to take a week out of the year and celebrate apprentices
4 and Apprenticeship Week, particularly next week at the annual
5 meeting, and for--I'm kinda new to the game. I know other folks
6 have been working with this a lot longer. But the fact is is I
7 don't think we can deny the success, and I think all of our
8 efforts to increase participation in apprenticeship programs in
9 this state I think will ultimately benefit the state of Texas.
10 So, commissioners, I appreciate you giving me a little bit of
11 time to read that into the record, and I appreciate the governor
12 for designating next week Apprenticeship Week here in Texas.

13 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Yes. [applause]
14 Chairman, if I may add, since we are gonna be busy at the
15 conference next week, we do have the same proclamations that you
16 do, and some have already been sent out. I wanna acknowledge
17 some of the programs that we've done, but before I do that, I
18 think it'd be appropriate for me to simply put on the record
19 that I am so grateful to have folks, great directors, in this
20 agency. But I am very grateful to have folks like Desi Holmes
21 and her team, who does such a great work with the apprenticeship
22 program. As you know, she's got apprenticeship navigators now
23 that are gonna be implemented in various board areas, which is
24 amazing--very similar to the co-located educational specialists.
25 She's expanded the programs into childcare. We were just there,

1 where those individuals that are attending the childcare
2 apprenticeship programs are receiving up to 33 college credit
3 hours at Tarleton State University. How amazing is that? And
4 then the brew master class that's taking place in Mission,
5 Texas, where two brothers graduated and opened up their own
6 brewery, and a group of veterans are actually doing the same
7 thing, and hopefully will have their graduating class as well.
8 And then just up the street with [sounds like] Ventana glass
9 here in Round Rock--first of its kind. The three that I just
10 referenced are the first of its kind, not just in Texas, but in
11 the country. And in the ability to expand it into IT, I'm very
12 grateful that we got the opportunity and support to allow the
13 department to look at ways that we can expand the apprenticeship
14 model in the IT area. And of course, we're doing that with St.
15 David's, with the healthcare industry. So, I'm very grateful. I
16 did get a chance to present a proclamation to local 68 UA
17 plumbers in Corpus at their annual banquet, and we'll be
18 presenting some at the conference next week in Houston, since
19 some of them will be there. So, I am very grateful. There is so
20 much momentum right now, not just in apprenticeship but pre-
21 apprenticeship, and I think people not just in Texas but in
22 other parts of the country are certainly looking at what we are
23 doing with the help of Desi Holmes and her team to expand
24 apprenticeship. But most of it has been just--I think a large
25 part of it has been to educate the people and the advantages of

1 hiring these individuals and training them. And I do agree with
2 the TSTC graduation that you attended. One of the young ladies
3 that we spoke there to was out of work as a result of the
4 pandemic, is going through the program, and we took her out of
5 poverty. And so, I appreciate the continued support of
6 apprenticeship, and I just wanted to take this opportunity to
7 also thank the governor for the proclamations that he's allowed
8 us to present throughout the state of Texas.

9 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: And Mr. Chairman, I
10 think the apprenticeship program provides employers with another
11 choice, another tool to develop their talent pipeline, and we
12 appreciate the support of the governor and your support with
13 Bombardier, and going out there to recognize that talented
14 pipeline.

15 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Just the momentum--
16 Commissioner Alvarez, I think, mentioned a really good component
17 of this, which is the momentum that so many of these programs
18 have built up. And the opportunity, I think, for TWC to really
19 continue to use that momentum to find more success. And so,
20 Commissioner Alvarez, Commissioner Demerson, I continue to
21 appreciate your support for the things the agency's doing,
22 obviously. But I think there's a lot of work we can do here, and
23 a lot of opportunities for a lot of Texans. And so I'm pleased
24 to be here at this agency at this time, because it's a good time
25 to be working with the Texas Workforce. We have so many things

1 we can do to strengthen that, and I'm glad we're taking
2 advantage of all of those. Is there any other business to come
3 before the commission today?

4 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: None here, Chairman.

5 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: None here.

6 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Is there a motion to
7 adjourn?

8 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Chairman, I move that
9 we adjourn.

10 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Second that motion.

11 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's been moved and
12 seconded to adjourn. We're adjourned.

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