



**MEETING OF THE
TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION**

DATE

NOVEMBER 24, 2020

1 TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2020

2 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right, the work
3 session (inaudible) force discussion, consideration, and
4 possible action regarding the 2020 Texas Workforce Commission
5 annual report to the governor and the legislature pursuant to
6 Texas Labor Code section 301.065. Let me open just by saying
7 thank you to staff for the work they've put into the document,
8 and our efforts going forward to get this refined and published.
9 I think we definitely wanna do this before the end of the year,
10 if not sooner, and so depending on what happens today in the
11 work session, you know, it may be a little bit of a fast track
12 to get any final edits done and get it moving. But I think we
13 have a good starting point, based on (inaudible) staff has done,
14 and I think we've gotten an opportunity to do that. You know, I
15 think this work session will be fairly important for us to just
16 tackle this issue as a single-issue item, and really understand
17 what we need to see for that. I have a couple of edits that I'm
18 gonna introduce. I'll introduce it as (sounds like) total
19 section edits. It's just a re-write of a couple of sections.
20 In fact, why don't I ask staff to distribute that information
21 now, so that my fellow commissioners can take a look at that.
22 Are you there?

23 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: We've got them,
24 Chairman.

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1 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Okay, excellent,
2 excellent, excellent. So what I've done is I've done a re-write
3 to the message from the commissioners. It is very brief. I
4 intended for it to be. I just wanna set up the rest of the
5 report. That is certainly open for discussion. That's my
6 opinion, and you'll see my thoughts there. And then I made some
7 edits also to the staff's COVID section. I emphasized, I think,
8 some different things than staff did in terms of our ability to
9 serve Texans during this time, and some things that we learned
10 along the way. It's just a--the facts are the same. I think
11 the presentation is a little bit different. And then I've
12 introduced a third component, which we did not discuss in our
13 outline that we talked about back in late October. This report
14 is--we do a lot of stuff, as reflected by this report, and I
15 think the thing that didn't get captured in the program-by-
16 program description, which I do think is important, is the way
17 those are interlinked and the way they work together to develop
18 and deliver programs to Texans. And so the third component of
19 my edits would be a--it essentially would serve as an executive
20 summary, and it highlights some specific items. I'm quite sure
21 I probably didn't get all the items that needed to be
22 highlighted in there, and so I think that's definitely open for
23 discussion. It's just a new element, and so I needed to bring
24 that to your attention, that I think between the COVID section
25 and the rest of the report, I just think we need something that

1 helps tie it all together. Those are the things that I've
2 proposed for consideration, and then certainly I definitely
3 wanna hear from you on where we might stand with things you'd
4 like to see and how you wanna proceed.

5 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: I'll defer to
6 Commissioner Demerson first.

7 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: (sounds like) As
8 your right to do so.

9 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: I wanna hear what
10 you have to say, buddy.

11 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: So basically,
12 Chairman, the commissioners' message that we received in the
13 draft, this has taken the place of the commissioners' message
14 that we had received in prior packages.

15 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: That would be my intent,
16 yeah.

17 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Okay. All right,
18 and then (inaudible) do this real quick. My quick read on this,
19 I looked at the items that were added, I'm fine with the
20 (inaudible) section in here on page 6 of the draft, where it
21 talks about maybe the last sentence on there, with the
22 guidebook. So I'll go ahead and read this, you guys, on page 6,
23 the first para up there. And I'll start at, you know, address,
24 employer info at TWC.state.tx to assist employers with questions
25 about employment law and (inaudible) me I want point this out,

1 at (inaudible) at the word "the," formerly Texas Business Today
2 publication, as well as the--and it's the Especially for Texas
3 Employers Guidebook. We've renamed the Texas guidebook for
4 employers, as well as the Especially for Texas Employers
5 Guidebook. Other than that, I'm fine with this message. I
6 think (inaudible) on the surface seem to be things that will
7 bring even more attention to what the agency's doing and really
8 highlight some of the efforts that we have out there. So those
9 are my comments. You got it.

10 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Chairman, so as you
11 know, at the beginning of each session or upon request,
12 legislators or people from the outside always wanna know what
13 services that we provide. And so as you know, we've been
14 working diligently on the changes that I wanted to make. And I
15 see your eyes open up wide, so don't let this scare you. But I
16 will tell you that the report that you've handed out is perfect.
17 Love it. The changes that you have made, you've made the
18 additions, you've shortened up the message. This is certainly
19 something that's user-friendly to our colleagues across the
20 street. So I wanted to commend you and your staff for putting
21 this together. In the short time that I've reviewed this, I
22 like it. Everything that we had, as far as additions or
23 anything that we had comments to, you certainly have put it in
24 your revision. So, we appreciate that. I wanna thank again
25 your staff for putting this together. On the specific area on

1 page 8, if I could just put maybe our 1-800 number, maybe our
2 email address to UI claimants that may have some questions. You
3 know, it's very simple. The other thing is I was wondering, on
4 page that Commissioner Demerson referenced where we talk about
5 the various grant opportunities that we have, Chairman, I've
6 noticed that in all the reports that we have, and I spoke to
7 Mary York about this yesterday, we do not indicate self-
8 sufficiency. So I understand that that's a different program,
9 but it's still a grant process, and it's part of our blended
10 services. So I was wondering if it was okay that in that
11 section where we talk about (sounds like) TIP and some of the
12 other programs that we have, if it's an opportunity for us to
13 include self-sufficiency as well.

14 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: I believe that would be
15 appropriate.

16 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Yeah (inaudible)--

17 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: But other than that--

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19 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: (Inaudible)

20 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Other than that,
21 like I said, your changes and what you've done here by
22 shortening it certainly is--by what I've seen, we like it. And
23 we can make any other changes. Like I said, I would just like
24 to put our labor information on my section, what my website is,
25 LaborInfo@twc again, our 1-800 number, and possibly even include

1 a Twitter, since we seem to be getting a lot of correspondence
2 that way.

3 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Absolutely.

4 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: If that's okay with
5 you, those are very minor changes.

6 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: They are very minor
7 changes, and they're very okay with me.

8 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: And Mr. Chairman, I
9 may just (inaudible) staff or whatever. On page 6 again, where
10 it says commissioner (inaudible) employer hosts Texas business
11 conferences, we may have renamed that. So it may be Texas
12 Conference for Employers or something along those lines. So
13 (inaudible) switch along that line.

14 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Okay. Commissioners, I
15 think we're in agreement here, and even in more than just
16 philosophy. I think we're all agreeing on the words. All the
17 changes that you are recommending, I fully support. What we
18 could do is just push final consideration of this to the next
19 available commission meeting, which is Tuesday, and that way,
20 you would have time to make a double-check and make sure that
21 all the email addresses are correct and that the correct names
22 of your individual office programs are there. We need to get
23 self-sufficiency added in there as an edit. I think that's a
24 great edit. If that works and that doesn't pose any kind of
25 impediment, that might be best for us to just be double sure

1 that everything's correct and it's the way we would wanna see
2 it.

3 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: I'm fine with that,
4 Chairman. Good report.

5 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: (Inaudible)

6 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Thank you and your
7 staff for putting it together.

8 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: (Inaudible)

9 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you. Commissioner
10 Demerson, I'm sorry, I missed what you were saying.

11 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: No, no, I was
12 agreeing. I appreciate--yeah, agreeing with that.

13 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right, so barring any
14 disagreement from my fellow commissioners, I think our
15 instructions to staff are compile these edits and bring it
16 forward for a final vote at the next available commission
17 meeting.

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you, Chairman.

19 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right. Is there
20 anything else with regard to that we need to consider?

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Inaudible)

22 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right. Gentlemen,
23 thank you so much. It's always a pleasure working with you
24 guys. Lots of great ideas and lots of things going on, and I'm
25 very proud of my crew for working on this. They've been working

1 on it for a couple of weeks now, trying to get these things on
2 paper so that folks that (inaudible) can read those and
3 understand what we're doing, and understand the direction we're
4 headed. And you know, as you said earlier, I think both of you,
5 us telling that story becomes increasingly critical, and I'm
6 really honored to be able to work with a group of folks, both in
7 my office, the staff that we've assembled here, and with you
8 guys and your offices to get this done. This is a benchmark
9 report for us, and one that I think we can be very proud of.
10 All right.

11 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Thank you, Chairman.

12 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: We have our moving
13 forward. I still wish everybody a happy Thanksgiving one more
14 time, because I don't think we (inaudible) enough. We have a
15 lot to be thankful for (inaudible).

16 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: I, as well, and we
17 look forward to seeing you in your bowtie in January.

18 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Great. (laughter) All
19 righty. (crosstalk) (Inaudible) we probably do need a motion to
20 adjourn.

21 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Chairman, I move
22 that we adjourn. Happy Thanksgiving, everyone.

23 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: I second that
24 motion.

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CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right, and I third
it. I vote for that, too. We're adjourned. Thank you,
everybody.