



**MEETING OF THE
TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION**

DATE

DECEMBER 21, 2021

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2021

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Good morning, everyone.

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

MR. TROBMAN: Good morning, commissioners. Les Trobman, general counsel. We do have some folks who would like to address the commission at this time. We have Ms. Camargo, if you could go ahead, unmute yourself, and state your name for the record, and go ahead. Thank you very much.

MS. CAMARGO: Hello and good morning. How are y'all this morning?

COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Morning.

MR. TROBMAN: Fine.

MS. CAMARGO: [Inaudible] do I just begin? You all ready?

MR. TROBMAN: Go for it.

MS. CAMARGO: All right, good morning, and thank you for the opportunity to speak. After reviewing discussion topic 10, there were a couple of items that really stood out, some of which I am for, and some I am opposed. One thing I am for is the matching of the age groups. This will better create consistency with billing and just simple communication with our local office. As for some items that I am opposed, I would like to discuss the time limits for entry-level rating. For a new school, this is not feasible. With a new

1 school having to wait 12 months before [inaudible] the TRS
2 process, the timeframe proposed only gives these schools six
3 months to become certified. This is setting unrealistic
4 expectations for new providers. Yes, they do have the additional
5 six months; however, during which time they will be unable to
6 accept any new CCS children. Not being able to accept any new
7 CCS children is hard on an established provider, much less any
8 new one. We are all for growing the quality of care throughout
9 Texas. However, if providers are limited to be able to accept
10 new children yet are expected to prepare fully for a TRS
11 assessment with no startup funding, funding in general would be
12 very limited, which would make it impractical for a provider to
13 prepare for a successful assessment. Again, I do appreciate this
14 time to speak and voice concerns and address as needed. Thank
15 you.

16 MR. TROBMAN: Thank you. Brooks Jones?

17 BROOKS JONES: Cool. Can you hear me?

18 MR. TROBMAN: Yes, sir.

19 BROOKS JONES: My name is Brooks Jones. I'm
20 with Christian Preschool Centers. We have 12 facilities,
21 childcares between South Plains and Panhandle workgroups. There
22 are--I'd like to make the comment on the policy concept changes
23 that have been placed on Agenda Item number 10. There's
24 actually--we see lots of positive from this Agenda Item, but I
25 won't be able to get all those. But some of the things I'd like

1 to get to are on page three, which is the eligibility considered
2 for entry-level star, lines 26 through 28. One of the ways that
3 we see the technical assistance given is through [inaudible].
4 [Inaudible] is a negative aspect to a provider, and can cause
5 them to use their TRS star level. So, we do wanna make sure that
6 when this is getting implemented and in place, that is done more
7 so on the mentor side, but there's also concerns there. With the
8 TRS [inaudible] is becoming consolidated under one government
9 entity, or governing maybe contractor entity out of Austin or
10 wherever. That transparency and those relationships that's built
11 with them are gonna be harder to found. And so, we're just kind
12 of concerned about that [inaudible] might be given, which is
13 [inaudible] versus actually mentoring and working with a
14 facility to get them to those standards that is being asked of
15 them. Also on page three, line 10, the adoption of current,
16 basic requirements for pre-star. Pretty much how I read that was
17 we're just adopting what was already approved last year about
18 this time for the pre-star. We have lots of concerns with
19 already the pre-star stuff. So, the current adoption of it,
20 again, just makes us more concerned with that. It just sounds
21 like a blanket adoption versus going through it. Now, one of the
22 things that is brought out in this is the scoring of the entry-
23 level, and how they can get there. We believe that that was very
24 well heard from the providers and from TWC, and that that is a
25 reasonable number of the 75 points system and the five and

1 three. We're glad to see that they did listen to feedback and go
2 through those. That was very exciting to see on this side. But
3 there are still some things with the pre-star, so the blanket
4 adoption exposure of the pre-star is concerning for us. We just
5 would like to have open comment or do something on that. On page
6 four, with the time limits for entry to the level Rising Star,
7 as Ms. Kamargo has spoken, we are very concerned with that. It
8 sounds like a long time, 24 months, but in reality, you're not
9 even able to request to be on the TRS program certification
10 until the 12-month mark. So in reality, you're only getting--
11 that's why we see that we're only getting six months to get on
12 the TRS mark, and that's concerning for us because we personally
13 have experienced that to get onto TRS, between six--four and
14 nine months to get onto the program. So, due to not even the
15 providers' availability to do it and the exemptions of
16 extensions not there to produce that, we do see that this is a
17 very big detriment to our providers and to our sustainability.
18 Because we're already getting--we're gonna get punished at the
19 six--the 18-month mark because we get on the TRS, which might be
20 out of our control. It just doesn't leave any leeway. So,
21 there's a whole lot of ways that we could do that. We could do--
22 as a TRS, if we wanna get on it we could do six months after
23 having the contract with TWC, or maybe not--just the total of 24
24 months without the loss of losing the children for new parents
25 and so forth. So, just kind of--it's like you're cutting our

1 legs out from under us before we even get started. So, it's
2 really negative for us to go into a new area that needs support
3 for children that are in this demographic. It's not gonna
4 require--it's gonna prevent lots of schools from wanting to go
5 into these areas. So, it's just the barrier of entry's becoming
6 harder. So, we'd just like to see that changed. It's 36 months
7 for a reason, so working to get maybe 12 months and then a six-
8 month after that, after the 12 months, or there's just lots
9 there. And then on page five, Texas [inaudible] losing
10 certification. So, this is if the facility has lost their
11 certification with TRS. So, one citation can help you
12 potentially get you on this track. I think they've done a decent
13 job coming up with an idea of how to get you off this track, but
14 the two-star facility, which most facilities will come into as a
15 two-star requisite, if they get one citation or two citations,
16 they are no longer a TRS and they're going back to the entry
17 level. Now, you might as well sign their businesses to close,
18 because they can't accept new CCS families for 12 months. Again,
19 this is an unrealistic time, because you're not even able to
20 request to be in the TRS program for at least six to nine months
21 after the citations or the loss of the star level. So, again, it
22 sounds like a long time, but in reality, the other requirements
23 there are going to push this over where it's not realistic for
24 providers to get. So, two-stars are the ones at most in
25 jeopardy; a three-star, they have the ability from the three-

1 star to the two-star, then to the pre-level. So, the higher the
2 stars, the better you are. But I do believe that this is gonna
3 be detrimental to many facilities in our area. The last thing I
4 have is on page 13, issue number nine, automation of attendance.
5 I do believe--I would really like to see a workgroup formed on
6 this that includes providers versus just the TWC staff, because
7 the last implementation was very hard on implementation for
8 providers. I've been around long enough that I know how that
9 implementation went, and how it changed throughout the years.
10 I'd like to see providers have some voice on that automation and
11 procurement process of a new assessment to gain access and
12 attendance for families and facilities. And so, those are the
13 things that I would like to bring to the table. Thank you.

14 MR. TROBMAN: Thank you. Saharah Solis?

15 SAHARAH SOLIS: Can you hear me?

16 MR. TROBMAN: Yes, ma'am.

17 SAHARAH SOLIS: Okay. My name is Saharah
18 Solis. I am with Christian Preschool Centers. I am wanting to
19 discuss the topic--discussion topic 10, for Texas Rising Star
20 providers losing certification. It says to require that they
21 lose their certification, to require that certified providers
22 losing certification must continue to meet entry-level standards
23 and be recertified within 12 months of losing certification.
24 Now, in the TWC guidelines you are not able to even reapply or
25 be eligible for this until six months after losing your

1 certification, so it really only gives us six months to get
2 recertified. This is an unrealistic timeline, especially right
3 now, given the limited resources that the assessors and TRS
4 have. So, I would like to point that out. In addition too, the
5 provider will not be able to receive referrals from any new
6 family during that 12-month period. This is going to take a toll
7 on not just our facilities, but also our community. Our
8 community and our families who are applying and looking for
9 those resources that CCS is providing them. If they are choosing
10 and wanting to choose that school but not able to go to that
11 school because that school is not--or that provider is not able
12 to accept that new referral, that puts a strain on that family,
13 that puts a strain on that facility, but it also puts a strain
14 on that relationship between the school and that facility. In
15 addition to that, like Mr. Jones said, it puts a financial
16 strain on that provider, and that could potentially cause issues
17 with their livelihood and shutting that school's door. That
18 could also cause strain between the relationship between TRS and
19 new providers or current providers. So, my proposal or my
20 suggestion with this is as a provider loses a certification,
21 that they continue to receive referrals from new families;
22 however, would not be eligible for enhanced reimbursement, as
23 they would be on the entry level. Thank you so much.

24 MR. TROBMAN: Thank you. And finally, Cassie
25 Willis.

1 CASSIE WILLIS: Good morning. Can you hear
2 me?

3 MR. TROBMAN: Yes, we can.

4 CASSIE WILLIS: All right, thank you so
5 much. Good morning, Chairman Daniel, Commissioner Alvarez and
6 Demerson, and Mr. Serna. My name is Cassie Willis, as you said.
7 I'm the director and owner of Willis Early Learning Center in
8 Garland, and we provide high-quality learning environment for
9 children from birth to 13 years and up, if needed. We are deeply
10 committed to our children, our families and our local workforce,
11 and our community. We have achieved national accreditation and
12 participate in the Texas Rising Star that the others were
13 speaking of. We are a four-star center, which is the highest
14 rating in the state of Texas. We are one of 55 centers in
15 Garland. Only five are nationally accredited. We are one of the
16 three that are privately owned. The other two are Head Starts.
17 Thank you for this opportunity to speak today. I wanted to thank
18 you all for your leadership and [inaudible] helping us in
19 effective initiatives that TWC's healthcare and early learning
20 division has implemented for all of the centers that have been
21 struggling. Without the continued, thoughtful support from the
22 Texas childcare, we'd have collapsed during this pandemic. We
23 would have not been able to make it without your help, and we
24 appreciate that. Currently, one of our most significant
25 challenges is the current state of our childcare staffing

1 crisis. Like many other industries, childcare programs across
2 the state are desperate to recruit and retain staff. Unlike many
3 other industries, though, even including schools and Head
4 Starts, childcares never closed at any point during the
5 pandemic. We were clearly here, and we were essential for the
6 economy. We go to work so the parents can go to work. We have
7 here daily to make sure that you guys are able to keep your
8 jobs, so we wanna make sure that we can give our staff jobs that
9 they can keep and that they're paid fairly. Despite everything
10 that our industry does, our childcare workforce receives very
11 little benefits or perks. Between the lack of benefits and
12 extremely low wages, finding and keeping staff is incredibly
13 challenging. In fact, 86 percent of Texas childcare centers are
14 experiencing staffing shortages at this time. Although most
15 childcare providers are qualified for subsidies, we cannot
16 receive these for most of our staff. They're all on waiting
17 lists. It would be a lot easier time for us to be able to retain
18 staff and be able to have better quality and be able to accept
19 more children if our own staff was able to have childcare. For
20 us personally, we do have three staff members that do not
21 receive childcare subsidy. Our center alone does allow them to
22 come for free until they get off the waitlist and are able to
23 get it. But on a mindset of that's six children that are coming
24 to our center that are not--we are not getting paid for at this
25 time, which is not the way to run a business. But it's also the

1 only way we're being able to get people to come to work. So, we
2 would really appreciate if you guys would help us with making it
3 more essential for childcare industry employees to be able to
4 get childcare subsidy dollars. One of the things that we believe
5 that we are doing is providing this at a feasible amount for our
6 staff, so that they can then return, come back, and work harder
7 for us. Thank you for your time.

8 MR. TROBMAN: Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you. Let's move to
10 Agenda Item 3. Good morning, Ms. Gonzalez.

11 MS. GONZALEZ: Good morning.

12 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: This brings us to the end
13 of Agenda Items 3 through 7. We'll be back in 90 seconds for the
14 rest of the meeting. This is Agenda Item 8, PPD program state FY
15 2022 central nonprofit agency management fee.

16 JUAN GARCIA: Good morning, commissioners,
17 Mr. Serna. Juan Garcia with the voc rehab division. The Texas
18 Workforce Commission administers the Purchasing from People with
19 Disabilities program. Texas human resources code 122.019
20 authorizes TWC to contract with a central nonprofit agency to
21 perform certain administrative duties for the program. Sections
22 122.019(c) and (f) allow the CNA to charge a management fee for
23 services provided to community rehab programs and require that
24 the fee be reviewed annually. TWC chapter 806 Purchase from
25 People with Disabilities rule 806.31(n) requires that as part of

1 the annual review process, TWC must consider public comment from
2 CRPs participating in the program. Additionally, 806.31(b)
3 requires TWC to approve the method of calculation of the
4 proposed management fee. On August 3, 2021, TWC's three-member
5 commission approved a 60-day public comment period posting over
6 the following proposed management fee rates for state fiscal
7 year 2022: 6 percent of sales price for products, 6 percent of
8 the contract price for services, and 5 percent of the contract
9 price for temporary services. The proposed rates are consistent
10 with rates applied in prior years. The public comment period
11 ended November 10, 2021, with three CRPs submitting comments.
12 The comments and responses are summarized in the supporting
13 materials. All comments were positive and supportive of the
14 proposed management fee rates. Staff proposes no changes to the
15 rates or method of calculation, based on the comments received.
16 The method of calculation of proposed management fee rates is as
17 follows: CRP costs divided by 100 percent, minus the management
18 fee rate, equals the product or the selling price. This method
19 of calculation is consistent with the one applied in prior
20 years. Examples of this calculation method using both dollars
21 and percentages are provided in the supporting materials of this
22 discussion paper. Staff seeks direction on approving the
23 following proposed management fee rates and method of
24 calculation for state fiscal year 2022 as proposed by the CNA: 6
25 percent of the sales price for products, 6 percent of the

1 contract price for services, 5 percent of the contract price for
2 temporary services. And a calculation method using the following
3 formula: CRP costs divided by 100 percent, minus the management
4 fee, to equal the product or service selling price. With that, I
5 can answer any questions you might have.

6 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Questions or comments?

7 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: None here, Chairman.

8 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: None.

9 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Do we have a motion?

10 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: I move that we
11 approve the central nonprofit agency's management fee for the
12 Purchasing from Peoples with a Disability state use program at 6
13 percent on the sales price for products, 6 percent on contract
14 prices for services, and 5 percent on the contract price for
15 temporary services, with the calculation method for management
16 fee rates as presented by staff.

17 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Second.

18 JUAN GARCIA: Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's been moved and
20 seconded. Motion passes. This is Agenda Item 9, policy concept
21 chapter 835, self-sufficiency fund rules.

22 ABBY AUSTIN: Good morning, Chairman Daniel,
23 Commissioner Alvarez, Commissioner Demerson, and Mr. Serna. For
24 the record, my name is Abby Austin with the outreach and
25 employer initiatives division. Commissioners, before you today

1 for your consideration for approval is a policy concept relating
2 to the potential rule amendments to chapter 895, self-
3 sufficiency fund. Chapter 835 self-sufficiency fund rules
4 provide the structure and administrative procedures for the
5 self-sufficiency fund, or SSF, program. In 2021 the 87th Texas
6 legislature passed senate bill 770, which amended Texas labor
7 code 309.002(a) to specify eligibility as individuals who are
8 identified by the commission as being low-income or at risk of
9 becoming dependant on public assistance benefits. The purpose
10 for this policy concept is to implement that change. In order to
11 implement senate bill 770, staff has identified the need to
12 define low-income and include the federal Temporary Assistance
13 for Needy Families, or TANF, low-income guidelines to define low
14 income. The four-year rule review required by Texas government
15 code 2001.039 is due in 2022. Staff will review the rules to
16 ensure that they align with current program processes and
17 procedures. Staff seeks direction on amending chapter 835 to
18 implement senate bill 770 defining low income and to ensure the
19 rules align with SSF. This concludes my presentation. I'm
20 available to answer any questions you may have.

21 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Questions or comments?

22 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Chairman, I do have
23 comments, if I may. I would like to caution staff against
24 setting a policy direction that limits uses of self-sufficiency
25 grants. Any proposed changes that limits training to jobs that

1 provide self-sufficiency wages is too restrictive. Training for
2 low-income individuals should provide career pathways, even if
3 the resulting job is an entry-level job. This concept was noted
4 in a 2016 policy guidance memo from ACF, TANF-ACF-IM 2016-05,
5 published October 20 of 2016. This states the Administration for
6 Children and Families, ACF, has a strong commitment of providing
7 low-income youth and adults acquired marketable skills and
8 industry-recognized credentials that can launch them on a long-
9 term career trajectory. Career pathways do just that. A career
10 pathway provides access to interconnected education programs and
11 support services for students and workers to help them advance
12 in their chosen career's path to jobs, with family-sustaining
13 wages. For TANF recipients, participating in a career pathway
14 can help pave the way towards economic security, even if the
15 starting point is an entry-level job. We have plenty of examples
16 where entry-level training has placed a participant onto a
17 career trajectory such as OSHA 10 and CCER training. Or on a
18 recent 2019 example of an individual who, upon release from
19 prison, entered basic training with COC in Fort Worth, obtained
20 a level one welder job paying \$13 per hour, but has now
21 progressed to a level three welder, making \$22 per hour. By the
22 way, this graduate has regained custody of his child and
23 purchased a home. Any rule change should allow for entry-level
24 training that is part of a career pathway. Those are my
25 comments.

1 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Additional comments or
2 questions?

3 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: No comments. Well, a
4 comment. It's my understanding that the rules that are being
5 placed or put up for adoption, or for public comments on, is
6 really expanding the eligibility requirements for the self-
7 sufficiency fund program. It's providing more opportunities for
8 more individuals is the way that I understand it.

9 ABBY AUSTIN: Yes, I believe that's the
10 intent. I know with TANF stipulations for funding we cannot
11 expand eligibility past having a dependent child. So,
12 eligibility, you still have to be a dependent child, or have a
13 dependent child.

14 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: So, you still would
15 have to have a dependent child.

16 ABBY AUSTIN: Mm-hmm.

17 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Yeah, okay, okay.
18 Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Any other questions or
20 comments? Is there a motion?

21 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: I have a question on
22 that dependent child portion of your comment. Let me see, let me
23 check something real quick on this TANF funding and who's
24 eligible for that.

25 ABBY AUSTIN: Mm-hmm.

1 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Because I'm trying to
2 think of other programs that we have that award TANF funding
3 that do not require to be eligible to have a dependable [sic]
4 child.

5 ABBY AUSTIN: Okay.

6 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Okay. Hm. I just want
7 clarification. I know Mary's there.

8 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Chairman, may I
9 address Commissioner Alvarez?

10 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Yes, go ahead.

11 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: On the discussion
12 paper, on line 10, it says, "The 87th Texas legislature passed
13 senate bill 770 to expand eligibility for self-sufficiency fund
14 participants by removing the requirement that the participants
15 have dependent children or be on public assistance prior to
16 starting the program," et cetera, et cetera. So, it's
17 represented there, and then comes the conversation, I guess,
18 about the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, the TANF
19 requirements and the like. So, I think that may be the
20 difference there.

21 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Mary, do you have a
22 question--or do you have any comments?

23 MARY YORK: Good morning, Mary York, the
24 outreach and employer initiatives division. So, there are
25 multiple purposes for TANF. Currently, the two purposes that are

1 approved in the TANF state plan for self-sufficiency fund are
2 related to having a dependent child, either custodial or non-
3 custodial. There are uses for TANF that do not require you to
4 have a child, but currently, those are not approved for self-
5 sufficiency fund in the TANF state plan. So, these changes to
6 the rules, to the Texas Administrative Code, related to self-
7 sufficiency, would bring us into compliance with SB 770 as well
8 as operate according to the current approve TANF state plan.

9 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Thank you for that,
10 Mary. Okay. I think my comments were clear, that I understand
11 the challenges that we have with self-sufficiency and I know at
12 the end of the day we wanna make sure that folks make good
13 wages, right? But I also wanna keep in mind what the mission of
14 this agency is, and what we've stated multiple times on these
15 career pathways. And it's been indicated in the tri-agency
16 report and other things. So, that was really my main concern, is
17 I understand the intent of this policy concept. So, with the
18 explanation you gave, Ms. Austin, and with Mary's clarification,
19 I'm okay with that. No further comments.

20 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Is there a motion?

21 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Yes, Chairman. I move
22 that we post a policy concept onto website for informal comment
23 period, but should instruct staff to review the reference memo
24 from ACF regarding career pathways for TANF self-sufficiency
25 participants, and incorporate any changes in the draft rules.

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COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Second.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's been moved and seconded. The motion carries. This is Agenda Item 10, policy concept chapter 809, childcare services rules.

ALLISON WILSON: Good morning Chairman, commissioners, Mr. Serna. For the record, Allison Wilson with the childcare and early learning division. Commissioners, before you today for your consideration is a policy concept relating to the potential rule amendments to chapter 809, childcare services. The 87th Texas legislature regular session enacted several bills related to TWC's childcare program that require amendments to chapter 809. Additionally, TWC staff identified several potential rule amendments to improve program service delivery, consistency, and efficiency. These potential rule amendments address three pieces of legislation. The first is house bill 2607, which requires all subsidized providers to be certified as a Texas Rising Star provider, including an entry-level rating, and requires time limits for providers to be at the entry-level rating. Staff are proposing that the entry level be based upon a cut-off score that is based on high and medium-high licensing deficiencies cited within a provider's most recent 12-month history. This approach ensures that the health and safety standards that are most related to the quality of the program are considered. Additionally, staff are proposing a two-year timeframe for requiring providers to move up from the entry

1 level to at least a two-star within two years. Proposed rule
2 changes will also address house bill 2607's requirements for
3 boards to inform school districts and open enrollment charter
4 schools of opportunities to partner with childcare providers for
5 pre-kindergarten programs. And the change to reporting
6 requirements for contracted providers from every six months to
7 every 12 months. The second piece of legislation is house bill
8 1792, which requires TWC to select a statewide entity for Texas
9 Rising Star assessors. Under current rules, this function is
10 performed by the boards. Proposed rule changes will align with
11 the structural changes required by house bill 1792. And third,
12 senate bill 1555 requires graduated reimbursement rates that
13 align TWC's age groups with the Texas health and human services
14 childcare regulations ratios and group sizes, and requires
15 higher rates in age groups with the lowest childcare giver
16 ratios. Proposed rule changes outlined in the policy concept
17 will revise age group and reimburse the policies to comply with
18 SB 1555 by December 1, 2023. Additionally, staff and
19 stakeholders have identified potential amendments to chapter 809
20 for program improvements that will standardize statewide
21 policies currently developed by boards, streamline the list of
22 board policy requirements, codify the current TWC waiver to
23 allow job search at initial eligibility, update language
24 regarding automated attendance reporting, strengthen childcare
25 provider payment requirements to align with industry practices,

1 include federal reporting requirements for providers charging
2 parents above the copay, and make technical changes and
3 clarifications. Staff seeks the commission's direction on
4 publishing the policy concept as described, and inviting
5 stakeholder input to inform the development of proposed
6 amendments to chapter 809. And that concludes my presentation.
7 I'm happy to answer any questions.

8 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Questions or comments?

9 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Thank you, Allison. I
10 think the only thing I wanna say is I appreciate the comments
11 that were made earlier by those that were present today from the
12 public, and I also wanna encourage everyone that we do--are
13 accepting written comments during this period. This is a work in
14 progress, so thank you for that.

15 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: I wanna echo the
16 same sentiments, those employers that provided and took the time
17 to testify this morning. I know staff will take those under
18 consideration, and they'll have an opportunity to weigh in again
19 through this process.

20 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Is there a motion?

21 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Chairman, I move that
22 we approve the policy concept for amending chapter 809 as
23 discussed, and post the policy concept for a three-week public
24 comment period.

25 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Second.

1 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's been moved and
2 seconded. We're unanimous, thank you. This is--where are we--11,
3 childcare development block grant with COVID-19 federal funding.
4 This is a fourth tranche discussion.

5 ALLISON WILSON: Okay. Still me. For the
6 record, Allison Wilson, childcare and early learning division.
7 On November 2, the commission approved several new childcare
8 stimulus-funded initiatives in the fourth tranche discussion
9 paper. One of the initiatives, as outlined in issue five, was
10 funding to support shared services alliances. Staff is bringing
11 this issue back to the commission to address some technical
12 corrections that are required to clarify the dollar amounts for
13 this initiative. Staff seeks direction on dedicating 25 million
14 for shared services, as outlined in the discussion paper. That
15 concludes my remarks. I'm happy to answer any questions.

16 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Questions or comments?

17 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: None here, Chairman.

18 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: None.

19 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Is there a motion?

20 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Chairman, I move that
21 we approve dedicating 24.1 million to support shared service
22 alliances, 450,000 for national best practices support and
23 technical assistance resources, and 450,000 for program
24 evaluation, as presented by staff.

25 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Second.

1 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's been moved and
2 seconded. Motion carries.

3 ALLISON WILSON: Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: This is Agenda Item 12, a
5 request to exceed TWC's capital budget transfer limitation.

6 CHRIS NELSON: Good morning, Chairman,
7 commissioners, Mr. Serna. For the record, Chris Nelson, chief
8 financial officer. TWC was appropriated \$5,549,568 in 2022
9 capital budget authority for the repair and rehab of buildings.
10 Due to unexpected repairs needed in its McAllen UI Center, HVAC
11 repairs affecting the living quarters at the Chris Cole
12 Rehabilitation Center, and drainpipe and HVAC repairs at the
13 Fort Worth UI telecenter, TWC would need an additional
14 \$2,354,535 to begin these repairs. TWC has authority to increase
15 its base appropriation by 25 percent, or up to \$6,936,960
16 without approval of the LPB or the office of the governor. This
17 request [sounds like] exceed by an additional 2.4 million needs
18 to be approved by TWC's commission in the case of TWC prior to
19 submitting to LBB and the governor. In your materials is a draft
20 letter of TWC's request to exceed its capital budget authority
21 and this morning I am seeking the commission of the approval to
22 submit this request. That concludes my comments, and I'll be
23 happy to answer any questions.

24 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Questions or comments?

25 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: None here, Chairman.

1 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: None here.

2 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Is there a motion?

3 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Chairman, I move that
4 we authorize staff to submit a request to the office of the
5 governor and legislative budget board to exceed our 2022 capital
6 budget for repair and rehabilitation of buildings and facilities
7 by \$2,354,545 above its 25 percent statutorily permitted, to
8 increase a total appropriations of \$9,291,501.

9 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: I second.

10 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's been moved and
11 seconded. Motion carries.

12 CHRIS NELSON: Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: This is Agenda Item 13,
14 2021 TWC annual report to the governor and the legislature. We
15 said we'd bring this back up this meeting, but I know staff is
16 still diligently working through edits that they have. We said
17 we'd bring it back up at this meeting, so we're bringing it back
18 up at this meeting. Is there any additional discussion on this
19 while staff's still continuing their work?

20 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: None here, Chairman.

21 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: None here.

22 MR. SERNA: No, sir, just to say that we'll-
23 -we've discussed with each office changes to the report. We'll
24 get those done and prepared for our next meeting. And then if
25 they're acceptable, we may not need the work session--

1 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Very good.

2 MR. SERNA: --that's scheduled [inaudible].

3 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right. Thank you.

4 Let's see, this is Agenda Item 14, acceptance of pledges for BCY
5 2021 and 2022 childcare matching funds. Nothing on that one.
6 Nothing on statewide initiatives, item 15. Is there anything on
7 Agenda Item 16, COVID-19 related reports? How about--I know
8 there's not a legislative proposal report, there's no
9 legislative report today. How about an executive director's
10 report?

11 MR. SERNA: [Inaudible] First off, I know
12 that you mentioned it previously, but I would like to point out,
13 and now we have the plaque to prove it, that the Texas Workforce
14 Commission is, in fact, the large business champion for Coats
15 for Kids. I wanna compliment our staff on their donations of
16 coats, both new and gently used, to the program. This is a
17 program that we participate in on a regular basis, and we did
18 very well this year, given that the majority of our staff are
19 still remote working. So, very pleased with that. That was
20 headed by--the effort was headed by Kim Watson out of your
21 office, Mr. Chairman. Second, we also had a very successful toy
22 and gift-raising campaign in support of children who are maybe
23 just a little less fortunate than some of us. Again, our staff
24 did really well in contributing significant amounts of gifts to
25 those children, and we're very pleased with our staff's

1 performance. Then the last thing that I'd like to do is express
2 my wishes for a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to the
3 three of you and your offices, but especially to the TWC staff
4 for a year very well done, given all the challenges that we had,
5 and we'll look forward to '22 maybe not being as challenging.
6 But we'll keep our fingers crossed and still address whatever
7 comes up, like we normally do. Nothing else to report.

8 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you, Mr. Serna. I
9 appreciate you fact-checking me by bringing the plaque to the
10 meeting so we could talk about this one more time. And I do
11 appreciate TWC employees. We put the collection boxes by the
12 elevators in this building, couple other buildings. The
13 generosity of the TWC group is impressive, and for all the
14 businesses that participated in Coats for Kids, for us to be the
15 winner in terms of donations, it really just speaks to the
16 generosity of our folks. We are kind of a people-helping agency,
17 so it's not shocking to me that there's this spirit of helping
18 others here. I mean, that's the essence of what we do. But at a
19 time of year when things are incredibly busy and people have
20 demands placed on them from their own families, from their work,
21 et cetera, to think of others at a time like that, it just
22 really increases my pride and getting to be a part of the
23 workforce commission and all the folks that are here. Kim
24 spearheads it and does a great job, and she's very active in
25 that, but it doesn't really happen unless everybody

1 participates. So, thank you from me as well to doing that. And
2 then I'll echo Mr. Serna's wishes for a Merry Christmas and a
3 Happy New Year, and a less eventful 2022, unless it's events we
4 like, and then we'll take those any time we can get them. Is
5 there any other order of business to come before the commission?

6 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: I would agree with
7 your comments, Chairman. I'd just like to add that I'd like to
8 wish everyone here, the TWC family, happy holidays and safe
9 travels for those that are traveling out of town.

10 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Again, Merry
11 Christmas to all, and also, Kim, in regards to the coats, I
12 remember seeing the boxes that were out there and thinking, wow,
13 we're not at the office. So, to hear that we really jumped in,
14 that's real good, because I was worried about that, kind of
15 concerned because we didn't have a lot of folks here. So, thank
16 you for the work there. Then thank Jennifer--at least that's one
17 name that I know with the gifts [inaudible] foster kids and
18 those that are less fortunate. We had an opportunity to
19 participate in that, so thank you, Ed, for the team jumping in
20 to provide services for others. So, let's have a great 2022.

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

23 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Chairman, I move that
24 we adjourn the last meeting for 2021.

25 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Second that motion.

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CHAIRMAN DANIEL: I think we're unanimous.
We'll see y'all in 2022.