



**MEETING OF THE
TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION**

DATE

NOVEMBER 29, 2022

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Tuesday, November 29, 2022

CHAIRMAN DANIEL:[Inaudible]. Public
comment?

LES TROBMAN: [Inaudible].

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you very much. Good
afternoon, Ms. Miller.

MS. MILLER: Good afternoon, sir.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you. We're going to
take the briefest of breaks while we reset for the rest of this
meeting.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: [Inaudible] 2022 Workforce
Awards.

JOEL MULLINS: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman.
[Inaudible]. Good afternoon, Chairman Daniel, Commissioner
Alvarez, Commissioner Demerson, Mr. Serna. For the record, I'm
Joel Mullins with the Workforce Development Division. On
September 28, 2021, the commission approved objectively-based
monetary awards for Workforce Development Boards including the
Service to Employers Awards with the monetary award amounts of
\$100,000 for first place, \$75,000 for second place, and \$50,000
for third place. The calculation of the performance data to
determine the winners of the 2022 Service to Employers Award has
resulted in a tie for third place between two boards. Today
staff recommends budgeting an additional \$50,000 in Workforce
Innovation and Opportunity Act statewide funds for the Service

1 to Employers Award to allow each third-place winner to receive
2 the full award amount of \$50,000. That's all I have and I'm
3 happy to answer any questions.

4 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Any comments or questions?

5 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: No, thank you, Joel.

6 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: None here.

7 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Is there a motion?

8 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Chairman, I move that
9 we budget an additional 50,000 in Workforce Innovation and
10 Opportunity Act statewide funds for the Service of Employers
11 Award so both third-place winners receive the full amount as
12 recommended by staff.

13 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Second.

14 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's been moved and
15 seconded, and we are in fact unanimous.

16 JOEL MULLINS: Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: This is Agenda Item 9,
18 Child Care Local Match for Board Contract Year 23.

19 SANDRA WILLIAMS: Good afternoon, Chair
20 Daniel, commissioners, Mr. Serna. For the record, Sandra
21 Williams with the Workforce Development Division. The Texas
22 Workforce Commission allocates child care services funding from
23 the Child Care and Development Fund for local Workforce
24 Development Boards to, I'm sorry, for a portion of the funding.
25 Boards are required to secure and submit local matching funds to

1 TWC in accordance to federal regulations and TWC Chapter 809,
2 Child Care Services Rules, and TWC Chapter 800, Administrative
3 Rules. As noted in the discussion paper, the first BCY23 match
4 agreements are being brought forward for approval. Supporting
5 documents include 14 match agreements from five Workforce
6 Development Boards which are Central Texas, Coastal Bend,
7 Dallas, Panhandle, and Texoma totaling \$3,051,059. Boards have
8 secured 7.38 percent of the statewide child care local match
9 target for BCY23 with three boards securing at least 50 percent
10 of their local match and one board securing 100 percent. Staff
11 recommend accepting the child care pledges for donations,
12 transfers, and certifications of expenses for BCY23 in the
13 amount of \$3,051,059.

14 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Any comments or questions?

15 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Thank you, Sandra.

16 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: None here.

17 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Is there a motion?

18 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Chairman, I move that
19 we accept child care match in the amount of \$3,051,059 for Board
20 Contract Year 2023.

21 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Second.

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

24 SANDRA WILLIAMS: Thank you.

25

1 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Commissioner Demerson, it
2 occurred to me too late that while Joel was up there, while
3 technically he had spoken before a commission meeting, it was
4 never in this room. I think we [inaudible]. Next item. Let's
5 see. I'm showing nothing on Agenda Items 10 through 12. I don't
6 see that we're having a legislative report today. Mr. Serna, an
7 executive director's report?

8 MR. SERNA: Just a few brief items. First
9 off, I'd like to recognize our board colleagues who have joined
10 us for this very brief--interrupted their EDC meeting and joined
11 us for this very brief commission meeting here in Dallas so I
12 appreciate that very much. Second, I will say that Julia and her
13 staff have done outstanding in the preparations for not only the
14 commission meeting but the conference as well, and of course we
15 will discuss that and recognize that during the conference. I
16 did talk to Lowell because staff was already asking me if I
17 needed to authorize them to redo our commission meeting room to
18 match this one, at least the color scheme, and I told him, no,
19 that we wouldn't be doing that. We didn't have the ceiling
20 height for the chandeliers so--

21 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Can we appoint a committee
22 to look into that?

23 MR. SERNA: Maybe a commission subcommittee.

24 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: We'll work on that. Mr.
25 Trobman and I will work on that.

1 MR. SERNA: And then the last two things is
2 just in case anybody is interested since we are here, the United
3 States is leading Iran in the World Cup. That's a good deal. And
4 then the very last thing is while several of our staff are here,
5 I did want to assure the commissioners and everybody else that
6 the majority of the staff is still at--it looks like there's a
7 lot of people here and there are but the majority of our staff
8 are still at their offices or working from home, but they are
9 still conducting the state's and TWC's business. A lot of them
10 are still doing that from here too so even though it appears
11 that there are a lot of us that are here, things are still
12 moving forward in case you all were just kind of curious about
13 that. That's all I have to bring.

14 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you, sir. Is there
15 any other order of business to come before the commission?

16 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Chairman, I have a
17 few remarks I'd like to make. So for those who don't know, for
18 close to seven years I've been in this position. I had a
19 conversation with Governor Abbott's office again this morning,
20 and I just wanted to confirm with him and of course with you
21 that are in attendance that I will be stepping down on December
22 15th of this, of March, I mean of December, and so I thought it
23 would be appropriate that we would do this during the
24 conference. It's been a pleasure to serve each and every one of
25 you, the 14,000,000 working Texans of this great state, and

1 especially with the 28 boards that we have throughout the state
2 of Texas. I mean it's no wonder why everybody wants to do
3 business with us because of the great people like you. When I
4 started in 2016 with Governor Abbott, I knew nothing about Texas
5 Workforce Commission. As a matter of fact, when I got appointed,
6 I was hoping it was DPS commission because I knew about that but
7 what an honor it's been to serve with some of the greatest
8 commissioners in this state of ours, and what a pleasure it's
9 been to be able to represent each and every one of you. I mean
10 the ideas, the innovation, all the great things that have come
11 to fruition have been because of the hard work that all of you
12 all have certainly done. The ideas that have been brought forth
13 by my office were from stakeholder meetings back in 2016 when we
14 were able to travel the great state of Texas and listen to
15 stakeholders. I'd be remiss if I didn't acknowledge that it's
16 been a pleasure to work with 28 boards, and I know we have some
17 new ones that are joining us. And then of course we have Linda
18 Angel who I always cringe because she has the same name as my
19 ex-wife, so I just think that's funny, so I was [inaudible] this
20 here. But working with Ruth and Andres who I sat back and I
21 listened to for the time that they were here. I thought that was
22 so beneficial for me to just step back and listen, and then of
23 course the experience and the conversations that I had with each
24 and every one of you allowed me to kind of express what we
25 wanted to do, everything from converting a vacant health care

1 facility in Central Texas with the school district to the co-
2 located educational specialist to the expansion of what we do
3 for robotics with people with a disability as we explained
4 earlier this morning. It's just amazing what things we've done.
5 It did take some time. As you know, my dad is going to be 81 in
6 a couple weeks, and I look forward to working and spending a
7 little bit more time with my father. He's the only family that
8 I've got so, as you know, I have a place in South Texas.
9 Whenever I go down there, I like to stay with him and spend time
10 with my father as much as I can, but I've been very fortunate
11 that the governor had enough trust in me to pick a young kid who
12 just lives four miles from the local border to sit in a position
13 where I could represent the great people of Texas. So it
14 certainly has been a great pleasure but because I have many of
15 you that are in this room, I'd also be remiss if I didn't
16 acknowledge my great staff from Jason, Brent, we just hired
17 Holly who has been a treasure to us. We have Alaina who we call
18 the enforcer because she makes sure that we're on time on
19 everything, and of course the addition of Jade who works with
20 us. What a jewel she's been with a smiling face when people walk
21 into my office. But we all know who the real commissioner of my
22 office is and that's Jeanette Dela Cruz, and I'm super excited
23 to have someone like her at my side. Everybody knows her and I'm
24 just very humbled that you all allowed me an opportunity to work
25 with these two fine gentlemen that are sitting to my right. We

1 may have not always agreed on things, but we certainly respect
2 each other. At the end of the day, that's what it's all about,
3 is respect. So I just want to thank all of you for the great
4 work and for working so closely with my office, and for being so
5 innovative so with that said, I will see you at the rest of the
6 conference but on December 15th will be my last day working for
7 this—for the Texas Workforce Commission but who knows what's
8 going to happen in 2024. Just thought I'd throw that in there.
9 But we'll see what happens. Again, I look forward to working
10 with you maybe in a different capacity, but I continue on—like I
11 said, it's been a pleasure to represent each and every one of
12 you and to work closely with you. To my fellow commissioners, I
13 wish you luck and I have no doubt that whoever is in this
14 position, you'll fully support so thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Well, commissioner, that
16 certainly deserves a response, and this is what I'd say. You
17 mentioned that we didn't always agree because we were never
18 supposed to. We were supposed to come to the best answer for the
19 people of Texas, and I do have to say I have always felt like
20 your motives were aligned with the interests of Texans and how
21 they could really advance themselves. That's why we get into
22 public service. I mean it's not for the rewards for ourselves.
23 It's the reward that we get for helping people, and I certainly
24 think you exemplified that. I thoroughly enjoyed working with
25 you. On a personal level, we've had a great time in the brief

1 time that I've been here. I know that our paths will cross many
2 more times. Our economic development roots really, I think go
3 pretty deep, and I know that we'll have plenty of opportunities
4 to work together, and I really look forward to that. It's been a
5 joy and a pleasure to serve with you. Nothing's permanent in
6 this world and we always move on to the next thing, and it's an
7 exciting time for you and it's an exciting time to see kind of
8 where your next path takes you and I hope that we're on that
9 journey with you.

10 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Thank you, chairman.

11 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Chairman, I guess I
12 was going to second the motion. Commissioner Alvarez says my
13 voice is deep. I think it's the microphone here working but
14 appreciate the work. I call Commissioner Alvarez the Texas
15 Tornado, gave him that name a long time ago and it was because
16 of the work that he does and the way that he approaches a room
17 and takes care of business in a big, big way, and so nothing new
18 that I'm saying. I've always told you I admire what you do and
19 respect [inaudible] that I have for you. I was privileged to
20 work with you before becoming a commissioner, and we got a
21 chance to experience the work ethic and what you were doing to
22 make a difference at that seat level and then working with you
23 as a commissioner, you've been able to do some amazing things.
24 The chairman mentioned we don't always agree but I like to focus
25 on those moments when we do agree, and we have agreed on a lot

1 and have done a lot, and you have done some things that are
2 legacy work. You're going to see the results of that, and we're
3 going to continue to see the results of that, the work that
4 you've done on the apprenticeship side, the work that you've
5 done with the programs that a lot of individuals statewide but
6 particularly in the Valley are receiving. I will never forget
7 the work that was done with our JET program and high-demand job
8 training program, the TIP program and the results that we're
9 seeing as a result of some of the things that you've done
10 firsthand. I've been at that table to see that happen, and so
11 commend you on that work. We'll miss you. We appreciate the work
12 that's been done. As the chairman mentioned, it won't be goodbye
13 forever because we'll continue to make those rounds but wanted
14 to publicly just express my admiration and respect and
15 appreciation for what you've done over the years to make a
16 difference in our state, and you truly have done just that so
17 thank you for all that you've done.

18 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Thank you, both of
19 you.

20 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Any other item of
21 business?

22 MR. SERNA: No, sir.

23 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Hearing that, is there a
24 motion to adjourn?

25

