



**MEETING OF THE  
TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION**

**DATE**

**MARCH 28, 2023**

1 Tuesday, March 28, 2023

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: No, sir.

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

8 MS. MILLER: Good morning.

9 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you. That brings us  
10 to the end of Agenda Items 3 through 7. We'll take a short  
11 recess.

12 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right, let's do Agenda  
13 Item 8, Internal Audit Charter.

14 ASHLEY SAGEBIEL: Good morning, chairman,  
15 commissioners. For the record, Ashley Sagebiel, director of  
16 internal audit. The Internal Audit Charter is a formal document  
17 that defines the internal audit activities, purpose, authority,  
18 and responsibility. This document should be reviewed and revised  
19 periodically to ensure all information is up to date and  
20 accurate. Today I'm here to present the Internal Audit Charter  
21 as discussed with your offices for consideration and approval.

22 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Any comments or questions?

23 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: None here.

24 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: None here.

25 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Is there a motion?

1 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Chairman, I move  
2 that we approve the Internal Audit Charter as recommended today  
3 by staff.

4 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: I second the motion.

5 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's been moved and  
6 seconded, and we're unanimous. Thank you.

7 ASHLEY SAGEBIEL: Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: This is Agenda Item 9,  
9 Postsecondary Education Services for Vocational Rehabilitation  
10 Customers.

11 RIKKA WEINTRAUB: Good morning, Chairman  
12 Daniel, Commissioner Demerson, Commissioner Treviño, and Mr.  
13 Serna. For the record, Rikka Weintraub, Vocational  
14 Rehabilitation Division. Postsecondary education services in the  
15 vocational rehabilitation program include but are not limited to  
16 assistance with tuition, fees, books, and supplies. The VR  
17 program supports postsecondary education services across the  
18 continuum of occupations and credentials, certificates or  
19 degrees as appropriate for the VR customer, and to assist the  
20 customer in achieving a quality employment outcome. Currently VR  
21 staff calculates the amount that may be paid toward the cost of  
22 tuition, fees, books, and supplies based on maximum rates. The  
23 issue is that not all public in-state schools are set at or  
24 below these rates. Similarly, the maximum rates for books and  
25 supplies do not always cover the total cost, and extra steps are

1 required to obtain an exception. Removing maximum rate  
2 requirements for public training institutions in Texas and for  
3 books and supplies has been cited as a way to address  
4 administrative inefficiencies and enhance opportunities for  
5 customers. Taking into account the impact to the program, this  
6 morning staff seeks direction on amending the current policy for  
7 postsecondary education services including to pay the amount  
8 published by the institution for in-state tuition and required  
9 fees at public training institutions in Texas after financial  
10 aid and any required customer contributions are applied, and to  
11 pay the entire amount for required books and course-related  
12 supplies if these are not already included in the cost of  
13 tuition and fees. Commissioners, before closing I do want to  
14 note that the program has the financial ability to absorb any  
15 associated fiscal impact related to these decision points. That  
16 concludes my remarks and I'm happy to answer any questions.

17 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Any comments or questions?

18 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: None here.

19 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: None here.

20 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Is there a motion?

21 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: I move that we  
22 approve amendments to the current policy for postsecondary  
23 education services for vocational rehabilitation customers as  
24 described in the discussion paper and recommended today by  
25 staff.

1 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: I second the motion.

2 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's been moved and  
3 seconded, and we're unanimous. Thank you. Agenda Item 10, Member  
4 Reappointments to the Purchasing from People with Disabilities  
5 Advisory Committee.

6 JUAN GARCIA: Good morning, commissioners,  
7 Mr. Serna. Juan Garcia with the Voc Rehab Division. This morning  
8 for your consideration and possible action we have two member  
9 reappointments to the Purchasing from People with Disabilities  
10 Advisory Committee. Members on the committee may be appointed up  
11 to two four-year terms. The two members up for reappointment  
12 completed their first four-year term in February and are  
13 interested in serving a second term. The members are Mr. James  
14 Meehan who is one of four CRP representatives on the committee,  
15 and Ms. Monica Mishaw who is one of four advocates for people  
16 with disabilities on the committee. If reappointed, their second  
17 term will end in February of 2027. Staff recommends the  
18 reappointment of Mr. James Meehan and Ms. Monica Mishaw to a  
19 second four-term on the Purchasing from People with Disabilities  
20 Advisory Committee as presented in the discussion paper. With  
21 that I can answer any questions you might have.

22 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Any comments or questions?

23 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: One, just let them  
24 know we appreciate their interest in being reappointed.

25 JUAN GARCIA: Yes, sir.

1 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Yes, and I agree with  
2 Commissioner Demerson. Appreciate all their service.

3 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Is there a motion?

4 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: I move that we  
5 approve the reappointment of James Meehan and Monica Mishaw to  
6 the Purchasing from People with Disabilities program Advisory  
7 Committee for terms expiring February 2027 as recommended today  
8 by staff.

9 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: I second the motion.

10 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's been moved and  
11 seconded, and we're unanimous. Thank you.

12 JUAN GARCIA: Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: This is Agenda Item 11,  
14 Fiscal Year 2023 Funding Allocations to Local Workforce  
15 Development Areas for the SNAP Employment and Training Program.

16 CHRIS NELSON: Good morning, chairman,  
17 commissioners, Mr. Serna. For the record, Chris Nelson, chief  
18 financial officer. This morning you have before you a FY23  
19 supplemental allocation for SNAP E&T funds. A few weeks ago, the  
20 food and nutrition service notified TWC through HHSC that TWC  
21 would not be eligible for SNAP able-bodied adult funding in  
22 FY23. The TWC estimated 3.4 million in ABAWD funding would be  
23 made available in FY23. In light of this decision, TWC has  
24 identified 600,000 of recaptured SNAP E&T general revenue funds  
25 that can be used to match available SNAP E&T 50/50 federal funds

1 to bring in another 600,000 in funds. This morning TWC is  
2 proposing to allocate another 1.2 million to the workforce areas  
3 based on the same methodology and factors used for the FY2023  
4 SNAP allocation. That concludes my remarks and I'd be happy to  
5 answer any questions.

6 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Any comments or questions?

7 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: None here.

8 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: None here.

9 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Is there a motion?

10 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Chairman, I move to  
11 adopt the additional Fiscal Year 2023 funding allocations to  
12 local Workforce Development areas for the Supplemental  
13 Nutritional Assistance Program employment and training program  
14 as recommended today by staff.

15 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: I second the motion.

16 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's been moved and  
17 seconded, and we're unanimous. This is Agenda Item 12, Program  
18 Year 2023 and Fiscal Year 2024 Planning Estimates.

19 CHRIS NELSON: Again, for the record, Chris  
20 Nelson, chief financial officer. This morning you also have  
21 before you the FY24, PY, Program Year 23 planning estimates  
22 prepared in accordance with the methodology described in Chapter  
23 800. Where we have updated factor data, it includes the updated  
24 factor data. The adult education planning estimate amounts  
25 represent the planning estimate allotments recently provided by

1 the Department of Education which go into effect July 1, 2023,  
2 when the contract year starts. We have not received the WIOA  
3 planning estimates at this time. So all remaining programs in  
4 the planning estimate amounts reflect the current budgetary  
5 amounts available for the FY24 allocations. As we build the 2024  
6 operating budget this summer, we will bring forward the final  
7 allocations for the remaining programs. At this time these  
8 amounts are just informational only, and we plan on placing  
9 these on our website for the boards. That concludes my remarks  
10 and I'd be happy to answer any questions.

11 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Any comments or questions?

12 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: None from me.

13 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: None here.

14 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you.

15 CHRIS NELSON: Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: This is Agenda Item 13,  
17 Redistribution of Adult Education and Literacy Funds.

18 MAHALIA BALDINI: Good morning, Chairman  
19 Daniel, Commissioner Demerson, Commissioner Treviño, and Mr.  
20 Serna. For the record, Mahalia Baldini with Workforce  
21 Development Division. This morning we have for your  
22 consideration an opportunity to redistribute approximately  
23 \$2,575,800 in available Adult Education and Literacy funds to  
24 six grant recipients who are currently meeting or exceeding  
25 staff-identified expenditure and performance benchmarks. As part



1 of receiving these additional dollars, we are also recommending  
2 additional enrollment targets be added to the receiving  
3 grantees' contract and performance measures for Program Year 22-  
4 23. The amounts of the available funds, the individual amounts  
5 being proposed for redistribution to select grantees and the  
6 additional targets associated with the available funds are all  
7 outlined in your notebook materials. I'm happy to answer any  
8 questions that you may have.

9 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Comments or questions?

10 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: None here.

11 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: None here.

12 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Is there a motion?

13 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Chairman, I move  
14 that we approve the redistribution of available funds to Adult  
15 Education and Literacy grant recipients and the adjustment of  
16 the Program Year 2022 through 2023 grant recipients' performance  
17 targets as described in the discussion paper and recommended  
18 today by staff.

19 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: I second the motion.

20 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's been moved and  
21 seconded, and we're unanimous.

22 MAHALIA BALDINI: Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: This is Agenda Item 14,  
24 RESEA State Plan for 2023 for Submission to the U.S. Department  
25 of Labor.

1 DAWN CRONIN: Good morning, chairman,  
2 commissioners, Mr. Serna. For the record, my name is Dawn Cronin  
3 with the Workforce Division. For your consideration this morning  
4 I have the Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment or  
5 RESEA state plan. This plan will also serve as the agency's  
6 grant application to fund the RESEA program for federal Fiscal  
7 Year 23 which is our Board Contract Year 24. The updates for the  
8 plan include the anticipation of a 20.9-million-dollar  
9 allocation for the next program year. This is 20 percent over  
10 the current year funding allocation from RESEA so the funding  
11 continues to grow as the program grows. DOL funding priorities  
12 for 23 included in the plan update address the states growing  
13 their RESEA program, hiring permanent staff and extending  
14 program services to more UI claimants, providing more intensive  
15 RESEA services to claimants with subsequent meetings, case  
16 management services, building evidence to support through  
17 evaluation and research studies that demonstrate programs and  
18 services have an effective impact on employment outcomes, and  
19 then automating processes. For this plan year, DOL has added a  
20 new requirement that 25 percent of the funding allocated to  
21 states have to be directed toward services that have a  
22 demonstrated positive impact on employment outcomes. They call  
23 this the causal rating, the high or moderate, and the percentage  
24 of funding associated with this requirement is going to  
25 increase. For 2023, the percent is 25. For Fiscal Year, federal

1 Fiscal Year 25 and 26, it will increase to 40 percent, and then  
2 from federal Fiscal Year 27 and on it will be 50 percent so half  
3 of the funding will have to be supported by evidence. Staff is  
4 seeking approval of the state's RESEA plan update for this  
5 Program Year to DOL. It is due April 4<sup>th</sup>, and I'm happy to answer  
6 any questions you might have.

7 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Any comments or questions?

8 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Now what was that  
9 rating you mentioned?

10 DAWN CRONIN: I'm sorry?

11 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: What was that rating  
12 you mentioned? A cost rating or—I couldn't hear.

13 DAWN CRONIN: Causal rating.

14 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Causal rating, OK.

15 DAWN CRONIN: Evidence supported research  
16 evaluation that the services and interventions that are being  
17 provided through this program have a positive impact on outcomes  
18 meaning they're getting the claimants back reattached to the  
19 workforce quicker.

20 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: OK, got it. Thank  
21 you.

22 DAWN CRONIN: Sure.

23 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: No other.

24 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: No questions.

25 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Is there a motion?

1 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: I move that we  
2 approve the 2023 Reemployment Services and Eligibility  
3 Assessment State Plan for submission to the U.S. Department of  
4 Labor as recommended today by staff.

5 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: I second the motion.

6 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's been moved and  
7 seconded, and we're unanimous.

8 DAWN CRONIN: Great. Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: This is Agenda Item 15,  
10 Youth Robotics Request for Applications initiative.

11 SANDRA WILLIAMS: Good morning, Chair  
12 Daniel, commissioners, Mr. Serna. For the record, Sandra  
13 Williams, Workforce Development Division. On July 5, 2022, 2.1  
14 million dollars was approved for the youth robotics initiative.  
15 On December 15<sup>th</sup>, an RFA was put out for that initiative. It is  
16 RFA 3202300097. We did have more applicants apply than we had  
17 funds for, and the additional funds that we are requesting today  
18 so that we can make all four of those applicants whole is  
19 \$235,830 which will bring the total for this initiative to  
20 2,335,830, and I'm happy to answer any questions.

21 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Any comments or questions?

22 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Outstanding  
23 initiatives with the youth robotics.

24 SANDRA WILLIAMS: Excuse me?

25

1 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Outstanding  
2 initiatives with the youth robotics programs. These are pretty  
3 neat initiatives.

4 SANDRA WILLIAMS: Yes, they are.

5 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: No questions or  
6 comments.

7 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: I have a couple questions.

8 SANDRA WILLIAMS: OK.

9 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: So, how have the other  
10 youth programs prepared—performed during the year? Did they  
11 overspend? Underspend? What are we seeing here?

12 SANDRA WILLIAMS: Currently we have eight  
13 youth initiatives, and we have as of—we budgeted \$465,000—  
14 4,650,000, and we have currently committed 386,250. Overall, we  
15 are expended 91.7 percent.

16 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: So close but not all of  
17 them spent everything that they had.

18 SANDRA WILLIAMS: Correct.

19 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Let me request that staff  
20 put together a proposal for the commission to consider to  
21 combine all the youth programs into one pool of money. Take the  
22 programs that we already have—I'm not asking you to delete or  
23 create—delete a program or create a new program. Take the ones  
24 we have, put them as one budget item for us to look at so that  
25 when we get ready to do our budgets later this year that we can

1 consider putting those in a program so that that money can move.  
2 Let's say youth robotics needed a little extra money and let's  
3 say another program wasn't as popular this year, that you would  
4 have the authority as staff to not have to bring that back here  
5 but you could just move that money among youth programs as you  
6 saw fit. So whatever that looks like, however you think that  
7 works best, my goal here is to get all the youth programs in one  
8 budget item—it's an internal thing. We can do whatever we want  
9 here, and that—take the programs that we already have. You might  
10 want to enumerate those, and then they're assigned kind of a  
11 budget amount now but what I'm thinking of is if there's four  
12 million dollars available or whatever it is, that anything  
13 that's in that box could use that money, and you guys could move  
14 that back and forth. We might set initial allocations. You might  
15 want to set initial allocations but we're never going to be able  
16 to control performance. Sometimes they're going to be more  
17 popular, some years they might be less popular. Until we reach  
18 the point where we're spending 100 percent consistently, I think  
19 I would just like to maybe see a proposal that would let us see  
20 some flexibility and let you guys be able to move money to kind  
21 of deal of kind of what's going on with the marketplace. So if  
22 you could do that and bring that back, that would be really,  
23 really helpful.

24 SANDRA WILLIAMS: Yes, sir.

25

1 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right. Any other  
2 comments or questions?

3 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: None here.

4 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: None here.

5 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Is there a motion?

6 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: I move that we  
7 approve increasing the amount of the TANF reserve funds in the  
8 Fiscal Year 2023 operating budget from the 2.1 million dollars  
9 to \$2,335,830 to fully fund the youth robotics initiative grant  
10 recipients as recommended today by staff.

11 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: I second the motion.

12 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's been moved and  
13 seconded, and we're unanimous. Thank you.

14 SANDRA WILLIAMS: Thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: This is Agenda Item 18,  
16 Board Nominations.

17 CHERIE DUDLEY: Good morning, chairman,  
18 commissioners, and Mr. Serna. For the record, Cherie Dudley with  
19 Workforce Development. Today for your consideration we have  
20 Workforce Board nominations for Capital Area, Concho Valley,  
21 Golden Crescent, Middle Rio Grande, Coastal Bend, West Central  
22 Texas, and Southeast Texas. Staff recommends approval on the  
23 presented nominees, and I'm here to answer questions you may  
24 have.

25 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Any comments or questions?

1 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: None here.

2 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: None here.

3 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Is there a motion?

4 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: I move that approve  
5 the local Workforce Development board member nominees presented  
6 today for the following: Workforce Solutions Capital Area,  
7 Concho Valley, Golden Crescent, Middle Rio Grande, Coastal Bend,  
8 West Central Texas, and Southeast Texas.

9 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: I think there might  
10 be a typo on one of the board noms. Instead of Central Texas,  
11 it's West Central Texas. Is that correct?

12 CHERIE DUDLEY: West Central Texas.

13 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: OK. I second the  
14 motion.

15 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's been moved and  
16 seconded, and we're unanimous. Thank you.

17 CHERIE DUDLEY: Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right. I have observed  
19 that Michael Britt has a tie on so we must have a legislative  
20 report today.

21 MR. SERNA: Today we do.

22 MICHAEL BRITT: Good morning, Mr. Chairman,  
23 commissioners, and Mr. Serna. For the record, Michael Britt,  
24 Governmental Relations. GR is monitoring several federal  
25 hearings this week. This morning at 10 a.m., the U.S. House



1 Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services,  
2 and Education is holding a hearing on the Fiscal Year 2024  
3 budget request for the Department of Health and Human Services.  
4 Also, this morning at 10:15 a.m., the U.S. House Education and  
5 Workforce Committee is holding a hearing titled Unleashing  
6 America's Opportunities for Hiring and Employment. Tomorrow at  
7 10:30 a.m., the U.S. Senate Homeland Security and Government  
8 Affairs Committee is holding a hearing to markup pending  
9 legislation before the committee, and at 2 p.m. tomorrow the  
10 U.S. House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Work and Welfare is  
11 holding a hearing titled Restoring Work Requirements to Lift  
12 Americans Out of Poverty. Finally, on Thursday at 9:30, the U.S.  
13 House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity will  
14 be holding a hearing to markup pending legislation as well.  
15 Regarding the Texas Legislature, yesterday the Senate Committee  
16 on Finance held a hearing to adopt work group recommendations  
17 for Senate Bill 1, the General Appropriations Act including  
18 those for Article 7 which includes TWC. The committee adopted  
19 all TWC exceptional item and capital budget requests with only  
20 two modifications. TWC's exceptional item request for increased  
21 funding for preapprenticeship pathways and additional funding  
22 for the Skills Development Fund were both adopted at a funding  
23 level of 50 percent of TWC's original request. The House  
24 Appropriations Committee adopted their subcommittee  
25 recommendations last week for the House version of the budget,

1 and the House adopted all TWC exceptional items and capital  
2 budget requests without modification. The House is expected to  
3 take up the budget first, and they are expected to consider  
4 House Bill 1 on the House floor sometime next week. This  
5 concludes my remarks and I'm happy to answer any questions you  
6 have.

7 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Any comments or questions?

8 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: None here.

9 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: None here.

10 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you very much. An  
11 executive director's report.

12 MR. SERNA: Two items today, commissioners.  
13 First, it was pointed out to me and I thought I would make sure  
14 that you all were aware that next week is recognized as Week of  
15 the Young Child started by the National Association for the  
16 Education of Young Children 50 years ago, and this recognizes  
17 the importance of early childhood, families, and the  
18 professionals that are providing that work to young children.  
19 Since we are engaged in child care and a lot of other activity,  
20 I thought I would at least point that out to the commissioners.  
21 And then second, I did want to point out that our own CFO, Chris  
22 Nelson, will be seeking to fill a vacant position on the ERS  
23 Board of Trustees. I guess we don't have enough work for him to  
24 do that he is volunteering to do other things. I think he would  
25 be very qualified for that and wanted to at least recognize him

1 for taking on this responsibility. It's very important to all  
2 state employees considering that the board of trustees oversees  
3 the retirement fund as well as healthcare benefits so we want to  
4 support him in that effort both in getting him on the ballot and  
5 then when the elections come up some time late spring, early  
6 summer, getting him on that board, and that concludes all my  
7 remarks.

8 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: You used the word  
9 volunteered in lieu of the word peer pressured. I thought that  
10 was a curious choice of words. I did.

11 MR. SERNA: Or voluntold.

12 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: I'm-voluntold-I'm going to  
13 tell him myself a little bit. I see that thing come every year  
14 to vote for the ERS board. I've generally been satisfied with  
15 the performance of my various retirement accounts, and I've  
16 never actually voted in that election so I'll be a first-time  
17 voter. I'm looking forward to just the different campaign swag  
18 and different receptions that Chris will be hosting around the  
19 building over the coming weeks as he approaches this campaign.

20 MR. SERNA: We do have another volunteer,  
21 Mary York, to sort of be his informal or formal campaign  
22 manager.

23 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: So why is Mary already  
24 chanting four more years back there. I don't know-that's bold.

25

1 That's kind of exciting to have somebody we know over there on  
2 the ERS board.

3 MR. SERNA: Right. He's got some stiff  
4 competition but I think he is probably the most qualified  
5 candidate.

6 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Well, campaign hard. You  
7 probably should try to visit with at least 50 percent of all the  
8 ERS employees in the state in person preferably. Phone won't  
9 work. Don't rely on your campaign manager to get you across the  
10 line. It takes hard work. Retail—it takes retail politics to get  
11 it done. Any other comments or questions? I do have one more  
12 thing before we move to general comments. Mr. Serna, could you  
13 ask staff—I know we have a teacher externship program, and sort  
14 of getting out ahead of kind of our budgeting process and  
15 understanding what resources are available to us, would you ask  
16 staff to put together a proposal to expand—what it might look  
17 like to expand our teacher externship program for the commission  
18 to consider? I would hope to have kind of a robust discussion  
19 here unless for some reason we all agree on it but I would like  
20 to see us expand the amount of funding available, and then for  
21 us to consider putting in place some—a little more structured  
22 kind of program components that would specify like the minimum  
23 amount of time that a teacher externship should occur, what  
24 follow-on should occur relative to both the teacher and the  
25 students, and then specifically what future commitments that

1 teacher externship might hold for both the employer who is  
2 participating and the teachers who participated in that program  
3 so that it doesn't just end with a week or two-week or six-week-  
4 long externship but this actually carries some sort of  
5 partnership into the future so we can continue to place  
6 students. I have observed some very successful teacher  
7 externships in this state, particularly with CTE teachers, high  
8 school CTE teachers where I think we are 100 percent improving  
9 the way the state's curricula in more than one CTE program are  
10 being delivered, and I have observed firsthand exactly how much  
11 that is increasing the employability of students who have  
12 participated in that CTE program, and that is really a very  
13 tangible kind of clue to TWC as to how our programs can work,  
14 how they can work moving forward into the future, and I just  
15 want us to in an organized way explore what an expansion may or  
16 may not look like. We may not decide that we want to do that but  
17 I at least want us to have the option of understanding something  
18 that I think observably has been working well for both students  
19 and teachers and particularly employers who are trying to hire  
20 those teachers. I mean we're talking wages for young people  
21 coming out of high school that can be, you know, 20, 22, 25  
22 dollars an hour. That's pretty significant in the marketplace  
23 and given our shortage of people with particularly trade skills,  
24 this is something I think we should at least talk about,

25

1 explore, understand, and then we'll decide the best way to move  
2 forward on that.

3 MR. SERNA: We'll do that. Yes, sir.

4 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Any other order of  
5 business to come before the commission?

6 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: None here.

7 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: None here.

8 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Is there a motion to  
9 adjourn?

10 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: So, moved.

11 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: I second the motion  
12 to adjourn.

13 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: And I vote aye. We are  
14 adjourned.

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