

	PAGE
1	
	TABLE OF CONTENTS
2	
3	4
4	4
5	
6	4
7	4
8	
9	5
10	5
11	
12	6
13	NO UPDATE
14	
15	NO UPDATE
16	7
17	
18	NO UPDATE
19	9
20	
21	11
22	NO UPDATE
23	
24	
25	

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2015

3 (9:00 a.m.)

4 AGENDA ITEM NO. 1

5 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Good morning,

6 everyone.

7 It's a very exciting morning this morning,
8 working our way to the general docket to get into all of
9 that, but I would just like to start by welcoming our
10 new Commissioner.

11 Good morning.

12 COMM. HUGHS: Good morning. Thank you.

13 It's a pleasure to be here.

14 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: All right.

15 AGENDA ITEM NO. 2

16 Discussion, Consideration and Possible
17 Action Regarding Whether to Assume Continuing
18 Jurisdiction on Unemployment Compensation Cases, Wage
19 Claim Cases, and/or Tax Liability Cases and
20 Reconsideration of Unemployment Compensation Cases, Wage
21 Claim Cases, and/or Tax Liability Cases, if Any.

22 No discussion.

23 AGENDA ITEM NO. 3

24 Discussion, Consideration and Possible
25 Action Regarding Tax Liability Cases Listed on the Texas

1 Workforce Commission Dockets 26, 27, 28, 29, 30 and 31.

2 The Commission considered and took action
3 on all tax liability cases listed on Dockets 26, 27 and
4 28. All other dockets were carried over to future
5 dockets.

6 AGENDA ITEM NO. 4

7 Discussion, Consideration and Possible
8 Action Regarding Higher Level Appeals in Wage Claim
9 Cases Listed on the Texas Workforce Commission Dockets
10 26, 26a, 27, 27a, 28, 28a, 29, 29a, 30 and 31.

11 The Commission considered and took action
12 on all wage claim cases listed on Dockets 26, 26a, 27,
13 27a, 28 and 28a. All other dockets were carried over to
14 future dockets.

15 AGENDA ITEM NO. 5

16 Discussion, Consideration and Possible
17 Action Regarding Higher Level Appeals in Unemployment
18 Compensation Cases Listed on the Texas Workforce
19 Commission Dockets 26, 26a, 27, 27a, 28, 28a, 29, 29a,
20 30 and 31.

21 The Commission considered and took action
22 on all unemployment compensation cases listed on Dockets
23 26, 26a, 27, 27a, 28 and 28a. All other dockets were
24 carried over to future dockets.

25 (Off the record: 9:00 a.m. to 10:23 a.m.)

1 that work really hard to build strong partnerships with
2 our local Boards with the people that we serve and in
3 our local Boards equally bring a passion and a
4 dedication to the job that I think you'll really grow to
5 appreciate once you get on the road and see what they're
6 all about and how committed they are to the mission. So
7 welcome aboard.

8 COMM. HUGHS: Thank you. That's already
9 been very evident in all of my interactions with the
10 staff so far, and I appreciate your comments and I'm
11 happy to be here.

12 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Thank you,
13 Commissioner. All right.

14 AGENDA ITEM NO. 7

15 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Item No. 7, Discussion
16 and Consideration Regarding the Operating Budget.

17 We have no update.

18 AGENDA ITEM NO. 8

19 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Item 8, there is no
20 update on local -- we do have an update on local Board
21 allocations -- we do not have an update on local Board
22 allocations.

23 (Laughter)

24 AGENDA ITEM NO. 9

25 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Item 9. Discussion,

1 Consideration and Possible Action Regarding Negotiating
2 Program Year 2015 Performance Targets, David Johnson.

3 Good morning, David.

4 MR. JOHNSON: Good morning. Greeting,
5 Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, Mr. Serna.

6 My name is David Johnson with Operational
7 Insight. I'm here today to propose -- to present the
8 proposed Veterans' performance targets to recommend and
9 request your approval. Similar to the WIA measures
10 earlier this summer, the DOL via Veterans' letter --
11 program letter 06-14 has authorized us to carry forward
12 PY14 targets to PY15.

13 This is an acknowledgment of the
14 tremendous efforts states are making to implement WIOA.
15 Texas is meeting or exceeding its performance targets
16 for each measure; thus, we're comfortable recommending
17 the targets being moved forward.

18 I would like to also point out that it is
19 very positive to see that the entered employment rate
20 for disabled Veterans has increased quite a bit this
21 past year.

22 In the past it's been around at or below
23 50 percent; whereas, this year it's closer to 58
24 percent.

25 That concludes my prepared remarks. I'm

1 happy to answer any questions you might have.

2 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Any questions?

3 Commissioner Congleton.

4 COMM. CONGLETON: (Mic off) I move that
5 we approve the PY15 performance measure targets as
6 proposed by staff.

7 COMM. HUGHS: Second.

8 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: It's unanimous. Thank
9 you, David.

10 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you.

11 AGENDA ITEM NO. 10

12 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Item 10, there is no
13 update on the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act.

14 AGENDA ITEM NO. 11

15 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Item 11. Discussion,
16 Consideration and Possible Action Regarding Distribution
17 of SNAP Funding to Local Board areas, Jason Vaden.

18 Good morning, Jason.

19 MR. VADEN: Good morning. Good morning,
20 Commissioners. On July 22nd the U.S. Department of
21 Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service notified TWC
22 that its request for additional funding in the amount of
23 \$601,288 for federal Fiscal Year 2015 was approved.

24 The additional funding supplements TWC's
25 100 percent SNAP E&T federal allocation received from

1 FNS at the beginning of the fiscal year and allows
2 Workforce Boards to continue effectively serving SNAP
3 recipients classified as SNAP E&T general population
4 individuals.

5 The methodology for this supplemental
6 allocate is to allocate funds only to Workforce areas
7 who have met their May 2015 spending targets and who are
8 therefore not subject to a potential deobligation of
9 SNAP E&T funds, and, too, on the basis of this year's
10 expenditure levels stand the greatest chance of
11 achieving full utilization of any upwardly-revised
12 allocations.

13 This authority is provided under Texas
14 Administrative Code, Rule 800.51(f) that,
15 notwithstanding any other provision the rules, the level
16 of funding allocated to any Workforce areas may be
17 determined, modified or reallocated by the Commission to
18 ensure full utilization of the funding.

19 This morning staff recommends an
20 allocation of additional SNAP E&T funding in the amount
21 of \$601,288 to 12 Workforce areas using the allocation
22 methodology set forth above.

23 I'll be happy to answer any questions you
24 may have.

25 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Commissioner

1 Congleton.

2 COMM. CONGLETON: I move that we allocate
3 the \$601,288 in addition to the additional 2015 SNAP
4 funds to the boards in the manner presented by staff.

5 COMM. HUGHS: I second the motion.

6 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: It's unanimous. Thank
7 you, Jason. Appreciate all the hard work with the
8 Boards on that.

9 AGENDA ITEM NO. 12

10 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Item 12. Discussion,
11 Consideration and Possible Action Regarding Deobligation
12 and Reallocation of Board Contract Year 2015
13 Board-Allocated SNAP Funds, Courtney Arbour.

14 Good morning, Courtney.

15 MS. ARBOUR: Good morning, Chairman,
16 Commissioners, Mr. Serna.

17 Courtney Arbour, Workforce Division. The
18 Rural Capital and West Central Texas Workforce
19 Development Boards have respectfully requested a
20 voluntary deobligation of Commission-approved BCY15
21 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or SNAP funds.

22 Both Boards have made efforts to fully
23 utilize the Commission-approved funds for outreach in
24 providing services to individuals who qualify for these
25 services but find that a deobligation is necessary.

1 Staff requests Commission acceptance of
2 these two Board voluntary deobligations of BCY15 SNAP
3 grant funds in the amount of \$65,000 as reflected in Tab
4 12 of your Commission notebook.

5 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Commissioner
6 Congleton.

7 COMM. CONGLETON: I move that we
8 deobligate the SNAP funds in the amount of 35,000 for
9 West Central and 30,000 for Rural Capital as discussed.

10 COMM. HUGHS: Second.

11 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: It's unanimous. Thank
12 you, Courtney.

13 AGENDA ITEM NO. 13

14 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: We have no nominees
15 this morning.

16 AGENDA ITEM NO. 14

17 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Item 14, there is no
18 federal or state legislative update.

19 AGENDA ITEM NO. 15

20 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Item 15, Report and
21 Update by the Executive Director.

22 Ed, what do you have for us this morning?

23 MR. SERNA: Just very quickly, staff is
24 working to wrap up the fiscal year or prepared to wrap
25 up the fiscal year.

1 We've got less than a month in this fiscal
2 year. In addition, I think I reported previously that
3 we began reengaging with our DARS counterparts on the
4 transition, and we're -- we're going to be moving
5 forward with that.

6 We're looking at some different plans that
7 will help us -- help us there, as well as some changes
8 in our organization to be ready to receive those
9 functions. And then finally, on September 1st of this
10 year we will assume responsibility for the Purchasing
11 from People with Disabilities program.

12 We provided a brief overview to the
13 Commission previously with regard to the Advisory
14 Committee composition. We're getting a lot of good
15 feedback, good applications, for participation on that
16 advisory committee.

17 So we'll be prepared in the future to come
18 back to the Commission with some recommendations
19 concerning committee members.

20 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Great. Thank you, Ed.
21 Do we have any questions for staff?

22 Commissioners?

23 COMM. CONGLETON: No.

24 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: We have no questions.

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AGENDA ITEM NO. 18

CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Is there a motion to
adjourn?

COMM. CONGLETON: So made.

COMM. HUGHS: Second.

CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: We're adjourned.

(Proceedings concluded at 10:30 a.m.)

