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TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
BEFORE THE
TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION
AUSTIN, TEXAS

PUBLIC MEETING)
FOR THE TEXAS)
WORKFORCE COMMISSION)

PERFORMANCE MEASURES
TUESDAY, JULY 21, 2015

BE IT REMEMBERED THAT at 9:30 a.m., on
Tuesday, the 21st day of July 2015, the above-entitled
matter came on for hearing at the Texas Workforce
Commission, TWC Building, 101 East 15th Street, Room
244, Austin, Texas, before ANDRES ALCANTAR, Chairman,
and RONALD G. CONGLETON, Commissioner; and the following
proceedings were reported by William C. Beardmore,
Certified Shorthand Reporter.

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

2 TUESDAY, JULY 21, 2015

3 (9:30 a.m.)

4 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Good morning,
5 everyone. I would like to begin the work session on
6 performance.

7 Good morning, Tom. Who do we have first?

8 MR. McCARTY: The first person up is
9 Doyle.

10 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Good morning, Doyle.
11 How are you?

12 MR. FUCHS: Good morning, Mr. Chairman,
13 Commissioner Congleton. Glad to be here. Doyle Fuchs
14 with LMCI with this month's economic briefing.

15 Once again, I would like to start out by
16 thanking our LMCI staff for all their hard work,
17 especially those that helped put together this
18 briefing -- the briefing materials for today.

19 Your briefing books include some
20 information -- or the economic situation reports for
21 April and May, I would like to bring that up to date
22 with a little information.

23 For June, we released our June employment
24 data last Friday. So most of this information is still
25 pretty fresh. We're releasing today the state

1 comparison. So those numbers aren't available yet.

2 The first table shows employment for
3 June 2015 compared to a month ago, and a year ago
4 notable changes there. We continue to see substantial
5 weakness in the good-producing sector. That's more than
6 offset by growth in the services sector. Mining and
7 logging, primarily oil and gas exploration, and
8 manufacturing are down on a year-to-year basis.

9 Energy turned negative a little quicker on
10 a year-to-year basis than we expected and it's still
11 kind of trending that direction. In the service sector
12 we saw some substantial growth in Education and Health
13 Services month to month and year to year.

14 Professional and business services are up.
15 Trade, transportation and utilities and financial
16 activities are down; a little bit of a tick down in
17 leisure and hospitality.

18 Looking at our good producing sector,
19 again, the sectors that showed the greatest weakness
20 over the last few months are indexed employment rates.
21 It shows again that big drop in mining and logging;
22 though it has turned around a bit this month.

23 Construction and manufacturing continue to
24 trend to lower. Annual growth rates in the next chart,
25 Texas' annual growth is still higher than the U.S. but

1 the gap is narrowing. The drop we saw earlier this year
2 is kind of continuing to kind of mirror that. It
3 accelerated right here primarily because of oil and gas
4 and related activities.

5 The next chart is our civilian labor
6 force. It's declining in relation -- as have
7 non-agricultural jobs in total. The -- some of that
8 could be people leaving Texas, you know, corresponding
9 to the drop in oil and gas. We saw some people in
10 migration to take advantage of those jobs, and this
11 could be some of those people leaving.

12 Also retirements and frustrated job
13 seekers could be part of that, but, you know, the exact
14 causes are somewhat difficult to nail down, but I
15 suspect that those three factors are likely the largest
16 reasons behind that decline.

17 Seasonally adjusted unemployment rates in
18 the next slide declined, again, a 10th lower for Texas
19 and a corresponding drop at the U.S. level.
20 Non-seasonally adjusted rates were up three-tenths of a
21 percent.

22 That's not as large an increase in normal
23 for June, and it contributed to that decline on the
24 seasonally-adjusted side. I would like to take a look
25 at initial and continued unemployment claims.

1 They've been up. Recently our three-month
2 moving average, the last couple of months we've seen a
3 little bit of a decline in the initial claims, and
4 that's starting to show up with a leveling off on
5 continuing claims also.

6 It kind of gives us a look at what maybe
7 the near future might look like. Taking a look at
8 growth rates and unemployment rates by MSA, Midland
9 continues to show the highest annual growth rates and
10 is, I think, the second lowest unemployment rate of any
11 MSA in the state.

12 It reflects some of the -- a little bit of
13 diversity in that area, but it also, more than anything,
14 probably reflects the high levels that they were at
15 previously. The very high growth rates they have there
16 have started coming down, and notable also that four of
17 the five largest MSAs in terms of number of jobs are
18 still in the top 10 in terms of growth.

19 So we've seen -- as for Austin we'll see
20 on the next slide it still continues to show some growth
21 primarily in the high tech sector. You know, the
22 service sector has made up for the drop in oil and gas
23 in some of the other metro areas.

24 The next slide shows help wanted online
25 job postings for the past three months. We did see a

1 they were rather than a drop in actual demand. There's
2 some quirkiness with these help wanted online features.
3 They just are help wanted online listings that could be
4 contributing to that.

5 I mean, the numbers aren't as solid as
6 some of the other data that we put out.

7 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Okay.

8 MR. FUCHS: So I don't know what the trend
9 is going to be, but I suspect that, you know, we'll
10 continue to see pretty strong demand for all of those
11 categories -- registered nurses, retail sales, customer
12 service and on down the line where there's been a little
13 bit of weakness here this month.

14 So I would also kind of like to take a
15 look at sales tax collections just to give us an idea of
16 where the overall economy may be headed. Consumer
17 spending is a good indication of our economic health.

18 We're seasonally lower on sales tax
19 collections, but on a year-to-year basis we're fairly
20 flat with where we were the last two or three years for
21 June. So...

22 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Okay.

23 MR. FUCHS: The consumer confidence index,
24 it bounces around a lot on a month-to-month basis, but
25 the trend has been sharply higher since the depths of

1 the recession.

2 It's been steadily growing at a good rate
3 or steadily higher at a good rate. It's kind of the
4 same thing when we look at housing permits. Those two
5 numbers are closely tied together.

6 They are influenced by the same kinds of
7 things, attitudes towards the economy -- the rates. The
8 housing permit growth has flattened out a little bit
9 recently but it's still showing strong growth.

10 The last couple of slides -- or the next
11 couple of slides take a look at --

12 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Doyle, do you have
13 a -- on the permits, do you have some sort of regional
14 breakdown in terms of the total, or is this just a total
15 number?

16 MR. FUCHS: It's just a total number.
17 I'll take a look at what we can do regionally, though.
18 I'm not sure. Taking a look at oil prices, prices came
19 up a bit in the last month or so. These are
20 month-to-month averages or monthly averages rather than
21 dailies.

22 So the last month available, prices came
23 up a little bit. Recently prices have fallen again.
24 The big wild card at this point is Iran. With the
25 nuclear deal they're reportedly sitting on quite a large

1 oil reserve that's ready to ship. So they're kind of
2 the wild card now with what's going to happen with that.
3 Once those deals become final and the boycotts are
4 lifted or embargoes are lifted, then we could see
5 some -- the fear is that we could see a substantial
6 amount of Iranian oil hit the market.

7 Some thoughts that we've probably seen --
8 we've probably absorbed already a lot of the impact of,
9 you know, these lower oil prices, and so it may not have
10 a huge dramatic increase in the longer term but it's
11 sure going to cause some short-term disruptions if they
12 do turn all that oil loose at once.

13 Also notable -- I saw this morning that
14 the Eagle Ford rig count fell below 100 for the first
15 time last week in five years. Texas overall is down
16 59 percent as far as their Baker Hughes rig count.

17 Some thoughts of that particular
18 statistics may not be as strong as it used to be simply
19 because, you know, a single rig can drill multiple wells
20 now and that's not necessarily reflected in those
21 numbers.

22 I'd also like to take a look at crude oil
23 prices versus annual job growth. One of the notable
24 things there -- and I think it's kind of a long-term
25 thing -- is that oil is sort of a lagging -- the oil

1 price trends into a lag of what's happening in the
2 general economy. So, you know, oil is a -- oil prices
3 are a reflection of what's happening in the economy and
4 not necessarily driving the economy as a whole.

5 In local areas it certainly does. It has
6 an impact on how those local economies do, but on the
7 overall job market for the state, you know, lower
8 employment tends to lead to lower oil prices and
9 vice-versa rather than the other way around. So it's
10 kind of an interesting kind of relationship.

11 The last chart, released for the first
12 time this month, the three-month moving average, total
13 nonfarm and total private employment, basically it's a
14 new feature in that release.

15 We highlighted it in our Texas Monthly
16 labor market review. It kind of smooths out some of the
17 volatility that we see in the monthly numbers and gives
18 us a little better idea of what the trend might be
19 without that volatility, and really it shows a little
20 bit more growth than the month-to-month numbers may
21 have.

22 So, anyway, that concludes my
23 presentation. Be glad to answer any questions you might
24 have.

25 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Commissioner

1 Congleton, do you have any questions?

2 COMM. CONGLETON: I have no questions.

3 Thank you, Doyle.

4 MR. FUCHS: Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Appreciate it, Doyle.

6 Good job.

7 MR. FUCHS: Thank you.

8 MR. TEMPLE: Randy.

9 MR. TOWNSEND: Good morning, Chairman
10 Alcantar and Commissioner Congleton.

11 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Good morning, Randy.

12 MR. TOWNSEND: I'm going to present under
13 Tab 2 our financial status as of May 31st. We're 75
14 percent complete at this point.

15 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Tim does do a good job
16 for us, doesn't he?

17 MR. TOWNSEND: He does.

18 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Thinking about him
19 when you were reading -- for years now he's been doing a
20 really good job for us.

21 MR. TOWNSEND: We're very fortunate.

22 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Like your right arm --

23 (Laughter)

24 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: -- or at least one of
25 the fingers in your right arm.

1 MR. TOWNSEND: That's right.

2 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Well, anyway -- I'm
3 sorry -- keep going.

4 MR. TOWNSEND: I appreciate those
5 comments. As of May 31st, again, 75 percent into the
6 year we had expended 70 percent of our budget.

7 Looking back a year ago we had spent
8 exactly 70 percent as well. So that is tracking as far
9 as percent expended. In terms of the dollars expended
10 over the first nine months of this state fiscal year,
11 841.7 million. Again, comparing that year over year we
12 were at 801 million a year ago. This is out of a total
13 budget of 1.2 billion.

14 Also as of May our FTE count was just
15 under 2800 FTEs -- 2794 to be a little bit more precise.
16 Everything is tracking overall when I look at the
17 trends. We did note in here when I provided
18 explanations of variance that in our other operating
19 indirect strategy, other support services, we had found
20 an adjustment that was appropriate.

21 We had made a charge to that strategy that
22 was incorrect. So once we take that into account that
23 particular strategy falls within the parameters between
24 70 and 80 percent for the year.

25 So all in all we're doing very well as of

1 May, and when I look at the June numbers on this we're
2 still tracking. We're still lagging just a little bit
3 in our self-sufficiency on those grants.

4 I think we're still trying to find the
5 best way to bring that to a little higher spending
6 level -- continuing efforts there. We had a couple of
7 areas where we're doing some additional research to see
8 what's going on in our technical assistance strategy.

9 But all in all we're where we would expect
10 to be at this point in the year as far as our budget
11 goes. The last observation in Tab 2 that you have
12 there, I've just been trying to keep you updated on a
13 quarterly basis where we are with our Fund 165.

14 This is our penalties and interest trust
15 fund. You know, that fund took a pretty good hit during
16 the last recession. This, of course, funds about
17 5 million a year in appropriation for the agency, but
18 then even more than that when the economy is not in very
19 good shape we see that that fund pays for 50 percent of
20 all state agencies' unemployment benefits that are
21 funded with state funds, and during the recession this
22 fund took a really big hit and was a little concerning
23 at times.

24 It got down to a balance that was in the
25 5-6 million range, and so I started tracking that on a

1 month-to-month basis. As of June we're back up in the
2 17 million range.

3 I expect to end the year right at
4 18 million. So we've brought that balance up, you know,
5 about four million or so from the past couple of years
6 or so. So we're sitting a little better shape, and so
7 that's a good sign to see.

8 That concludes my presentation this
9 morning, Commissioners. If you have any questions or
10 comments about our budget status or the 165 balance
11 report I'd be happy to address those.

12 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Commissioner
13 Congleton, do you have any questions?

14 COMM. CONGLETON: I have no questions.
15 Thank you, Randy.

16 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Thank you, Randy.
17 Appreciate it.

18 MR. TOWNSEND: Thank you.

19 MR. TEMPLE: Adam.

20 MR. ADAMS: Good morning. We'll be
21 talking about items in Tab 3 and Tab 4 as normal and a
22 few new items we've slipped in there that I wanted to
23 walk you through some of the new tools we're trying to
24 create for the Boards and others that were interested in
25 system performance.

1 Workforce assistance it would now show only six Boards
2 and all of those are fairly close to meeting. They're
3 in the ninety-two-and-a-half to 90 -- just under the 95
4 percent range.

5 So we're feeling that they're trending in
6 the right direction. Our literacy/numeracy gain numbers
7 only show two measures that are not meeting where one
8 is, again, just right under 95 percent of target. So
9 things are looking stronger there.

10 In terms of the overall Workforce services
11 and looking at some our LBB measures that we've got
12 there, we're missing four customer served and two
13 average cost measures.

14 Two of the customer-served measures, of
15 course, are the total number of job seekers and the ES
16 job seekers which are similar to each other. Our
17 employer-served numbers have been impacted we think by
18 the increase in recruitment options. So we have fewer
19 employers using the system, but as the chart on the
20 bottom of the handout shows they're using it more so --
21 those that are using it are using it more than they ever
22 have before.

23 We've got far more job openings available
24 in WorkInTexas than we've had at any time in the past
25 over -- since we launched WorkInTexas back in May of

1 2005.

2 In terms of our choices numbers, we're
3 missing the target there, but it's worth noting that
4 when we set the target for this we were basing it on
5 HHSC case load projections. They were projecting case
6 loads of about 49-and-a-half thousand per month for the
7 first three quarters of this year, and the reality has
8 been about 29,000 and change per month on average; so
9 much lower numbers of people's outreach.

10 Then when you look at that more than half
11 of the TANF case load is now exempted from participation
12 under state or federal standards. So when you kind of
13 look at it in that context the numbers look rather
14 stronger than their -P status would otherwise indicate.

15 I've been talking about the numbers of job
16 seekers served in the system for a while and how that
17 number has been trending down, down, down. Over the
18 last five years every rolling 12-month period we looked
19 at was lower than the 12-month period before that, but
20 that's now changed finally.

21 We think we've bottomed out. If you look
22 at that little table there on Page 2, for the last seven
23 rolling 12-month periods we're looking at data of
24 about -- or numbers of customers of about 1.25 million,
25 and even possibly trending up ever so slightly.

1 So we finally seemed to have reached the
2 bottom there, and that's certainly of comfort to me
3 because I just didn't see where the end was coming given
4 the trend before now.

5 So we're going to continue to monitor that
6 obviously and also continue to look to see whether or
7 not as the number comes up whether we have any shifts
8 and who we're serving some of the work we did for
9 you-all earlier.

10 In terms of skills development fund, we're
11 currently off target, but the contracted trainee counts
12 are up almost 10 percent over the same period last year,
13 and we did meet the target by the year-end last year,
14 and so I think we're probably going to be in good shape
15 on that one.

16 From talking to them, we are a bit above
17 target on the average cost, but we are well below what
18 the new year average cost -- as you'll remember we asked
19 the Legislature to increase the target slightly because
20 of the increased cost in training and the desire to do,
21 you know, more in-depth technical training, that costs
22 more money.

23 The skills -- or the self-sufficiency
24 performance is down on both the number to be trained and
25 the average cost, but, again, we are looking at a change

1 in the average cost there for next year. So we'd be
2 looking at -- that may provide more program design
3 options that could increase enrollment going forward.

4 The Adult Ed program, we don't have --
5 this data tends to be run once a year. So all we have
6 right now is customer-served numbers which are down
7 somewhat from last year, but as you know that's
8 something that's -- that the Adult Ed folks are focusing
9 on going forward.

10 This is kind of that first year that
11 these -- many of these grantees have had the program.
12 So it's not unusual to kind of see a bit of a dip there
13 as they kind of grapple with the program and get used to
14 its expectations.

15 When we look at our reemployment and
16 employment engagement measures we're seeing very strong
17 performance there; 10-week performances at 56 percent
18 over the last 12 months which is slightly up over the
19 prior year.

20 Even though we have a number of Boards
21 failing the numbers of job opening filled measures we
22 are seeing an increase in the state as a whole, but the
23 performance is getting better. Our employment outcomes
24 are also generally strong. Performance on federal
25 entered employment measure has increased by 18 percent.

1 Our employment retention has improved about 5.3 percent
2 and now exceeds the performance for Veterans in general,
3 which as well -- sorry -- for the -- we've seen
4 increases in performance with the Veterans, in general,
5 as well as the overall ES population; so some strength
6 there. With the entered employment for disabled
7 veterans, it has finally really jumped up quite a bit
8 compared to where it was, and so we're very pleased to
9 see that increase.

10 When we look at our choices participation,
11 what's interesting -- and there's a chart on the top of
12 Page 3 -- you can see that the case -- percent of the
13 case load continues to go up as I mentioned, but so,
14 too, does our all family participation through
15 employment.

16 So even though we've got a tougher case
17 mix to work with, we are still seeing general trends
18 upward overall in that performance. On the Board
19 version of that measure that we developed, 15 of the
20 Boards are already achieving 50 percent or better and
21 another four are between 45 and 50 percent; so a strong
22 performance in that area.

23 Turning to the unemployment insurance
24 division, we've got -- the division is meeting five of
25 the LBB measures. The one that's off right now is the

1 average wait time on hold. Where performance over the
2 last two quarters has been above target due to multiple
3 state holidays and some weather closures, the annual
4 cost for the 1099 tax forms, as well as kind of the
5 ratio of claims to call center staffing changed such
6 that we've got fewer people severing more right now, and
7 that's had an impact on wait time.

8 The Regulatory Integrity Division is
9 currently missing two of its four measures. In one case
10 the child labor unit is nearly at an MP status and
11 anticipates meeting that by the end of the year.

12 Payday law decisions has been affected by
13 staffing issues even more so, and that's something that
14 they are working on, but it is good to know that at
15 least the numbers of decisions -- or the numbers of
16 complaints that have come in are down also.

17 So we can kind of take a little bit of
18 comfort in that in terms of the difference in the
19 numbers. We've got the Civil Rights Division meeting --
20 or is missing two of their measures, but both of those
21 are scheduled measures, meaning that they tend to work
22 those on schedule and then expect to meet them by the
23 end of the year. That's the review of the fire
24 departments and the personnel policies.

25 The last thing that I wanted to talk about

1 was two new reports that we've developed for use by the
2 Boards and Workforce and your offices, to look at a
3 couple of different things.

4 One is the reemployment rates of oil and
5 gas claimants versus the regular -- or the non-oil and
6 gas claimants. You know that last fall we saw a
7 significant increase in the numbers of oil and gas
8 claims and a decrease in the reemployment rates for
9 those.

10 So this chart -- that will be in your
11 notebook behind tab -- at the end of Tab 3 -- every
12 month shows what the performance is with the red line
13 being the oil and gas claims, the blue line being the
14 non-oil and gas claims, and that's the percent
15 reemployed within 10 weeks.

16 You can see that historically the oil and
17 gas claims tended to run better -- anywhere from 5 to 10
18 percentage points better in terms of performance, and
19 that shifted towards the beginning of this calendar
20 year.

21 It started -- it started dropping last
22 fall, and now this calendar year we are actually seeing
23 lower reemployment rates for this population. But when
24 you look at what happened to the numbers of claims,
25 which is the green line, you can really see perhaps why

1 some of that is, that we really did see a significant
2 increase in the numbers of those claims, but, again,
3 those claim numbers are starting to drop as well.

4 So this is something we're looking at in
5 terms of trying to evaluate individual Board
6 performance. This report is available to the Boards
7 that they can select their own Board and get a version
8 of this chart with their data on it so that they can see
9 it over time and see the impact that these claims are
10 having on their overall performance and also have a
11 general sense of how they're doing in terms of serving
12 them and the challenge that it creates.

13 The other thing the new report that we
14 created has to do again with reemployment of UI
15 claimants and focusing on those who are reemployed
16 within 10 weeks versus those who are reemployed in 10 to
17 52 weeks, and here we are looking at wage replacement
18 rates, and this data is available at the back of Tab 4.

19 It shows the data by Board for, again, two
20 lines for each Board, one looking at the percent that
21 are reemployed within 10 and those reemployed after.

22 One of the things we were kind of curious
23 about -- and this is a question that we had been asked a
24 number of time -- was whether or not people who are
25 going back to work very quickly are perhaps going back

1 to work in a way that they're not earning as much as
2 they might earn if they were to wait.

3 So what we looked at there was we created
4 kind of a wage replacement rate that looked at the wages
5 in the base period prior to their filing of the claims
6 compared to the wages in the four calendar quarters
7 after the placement, whether that placement was within
8 10 weeks or after 10 weeks to try to see, generally
9 speaking, what was the change in the -- in the earnings.

10 In almost every case what we found is that
11 those who are reemployed within 10 weeks tend to have
12 higher or at least slightly higher wage replacement
13 rates than those that don't.

14 We've been tracking this over time now for
15 the last couple of years to play with, and we're going
16 to make this a standard report to have out there for the
17 Boards and others to look at.

18 So this will be out on quarterly basis
19 and you can look forward to it in the briefing book each
20 quarter. I'm happy to answer any questions you may have
21 about the material.

22 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Commissioner
23 Congleton.

24 COMM. CONGLETON: No questions.

25 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: On the -- I am a

1 little concerned about some of our numbers in Adult
2 Education and Literacy, and I know that Anson is working
3 on that and the team have a good plan to address that,
4 and I certainly want to make sure that we do all that we
5 can to staff back up in child labor and payday and make
6 sure that we accelerate whatever we need to do to get
7 that properly staffed.

8 Great. What's next, Larry?

9 MR. TEMPLE: (Mic off) Workforce, do you
10 have anything?

11 MS. BISCOE: Thank you, Larry. I'm
12 sitting in for Reagan Miller. There are a few things
13 that we would just like to highlight in addition to what
14 Adam has presented to you.

15 One of them is with regard to the SNAP E&T
16 performance. As you recall, we received additional
17 funding this year for serving ABAWDs and then we've
18 received an additional \$700,000 and 100 percent funding
19 and another 600 that we'll be bringing to you -- 600,000
20 that we'll be bringing to you for consideration next
21 week.

22 As we receive that additional funding, the
23 expectation was that we would be able to serve more of
24 the general population customers, and, indeed, we've
25 worked with the Boards. The Boards have been making

1 those efforts and we are seeing that increase.

2 So at this point we are seeing that we're
3 well ahead of the end of year target at this point in
4 the year, and so we're on the right track in being able
5 to use those funds and maximizing them to the greatest
6 extent possible.

7 Also, just of note as an opportunity to
8 give you an update on the Texas Rising Star
9 certifications, as you recall, the rules that went into
10 effect earlier this year, those new certifications go
11 into effect September 1st.

12 The Boards have been working hard on
13 recertifying all of their existing TRS certified child
14 care providers, and we are currently seeing that about a
15 third of them -- of the providers have been certified
16 under the new standards. About a third are in process
17 and a third are still to be done.

18 They're working and we're working with
19 them to make sure that we have that all in place by
20 September 1st. And then finally I would just note, one
21 of our new focus is going into this new year under WIOA
22 is the focus on serving out-of-school youth.

23 The new requirement under WIOA is that at
24 least 75 percent of expenditures in youth are for
25 out-of-school youth. We are fairly well positioned for

1 that new requirement. We're standing at about
2 69 percent of expenditures for the past year. For
3 out-of-school youth there are some areas where it's
4 significantly lower, and we are focusing our technical
5 assistance in those areas to ensure that as service
6 delivery design and strategy needs to be revised that
7 they make that happen and are able to put that into
8 effect to be able to meet that 75 percent threshold.

9 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Have you analyzed the
10 data enough to get a feel for what Boards are investing
11 in in terms of serving these out-of-school youth?

12 Is there certain patterns emerging that
13 you can identify or are you still in the early stages of
14 analyzing that?

15 MS. BISCOE: We're in the process of
16 working very closely with out-of-school youth, both here
17 in the state as well as we've been invited to a meeting
18 in D.C. in a couple of weeks with other states to also
19 hear about how they're working with out-of-school youth,
20 what their strategies are. I know NASWA and others are
21 looking at the same kind of thing.

22 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: If you could, in terms
23 of -- I mean, at 69 percent we have a pretty good feel
24 for what Boards have done over the past year.

25 If we could analyze that and see what kind

1 of investments are kind of leading the way. That's
2 really what I'm interested in in terms of what our
3 Boards have already put into place and what we need to
4 do to support that or understand how that's going to
5 work.

6 MS. BISCOE: Be glad to.

7 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: All right. Thank you.

8 MR. TEMPLE: LaSha, do you have anything?
9 When we were in Albuquerque meeting with DOL regional,
10 this "out-of-school youth" came up and the general
11 guidance that they are getting is that they will defer
12 to states' definition of "school."

13 There are a lot of different definitions
14 by state on what is "school." So Texas, it's secondary;
15 others isn't. So it's going to be interesting to see
16 what comes about on that definition.

17 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Okay. Good.

18 MS. LENZY: Commissioners, certainly if
19 you have any questions, but I just wanted to add, as
20 you-all know we had cut back on our FTEs in NUI in
21 anticipation of decreases in our workload, and despite
22 not seeing the decreased that we thought there would be,
23 we're still holding our own, and I think our measures
24 are reflecting that, hopefully.

25 I did want to add also, last week there

1 was an AFL-CIO constitutional convention and oftentimes
2 our UI field assistants are kind of working behind the
3 scenes and don't always get seen.

4 So I just wanted to let you-all know it
5 was very nice that at that convention they all did
6 receive recognition for their great outreach work that
7 they do throughout the state.

8 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: Commissioner, any
9 questions?

10 COMM. CONGLETON: (Mic off) No questions.

11 CHAIRMAN ALCANTAR: All right. Thank you,
12 LaSha. Appreciate the update.

13 (Proceedings concluded at 10:05 a.m.)

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1 C E R T I F I C A T E

2

3 STATE OF TEXAS)

4 COUNTY OF TRAVIS)

5 I, William C. Beardmore, Certified Shorthand
6 Reporter in and for the State of Texas, do hereby
7 certify that the above-mentioned matter occurred as
8 hereinbefore set out.

9 I FURTHER CERTIFY THAT the proceedings of such
10 were reported by me or under my supervision, later
11 reduced to typewritten form under my supervision and
12 control and that the foregoing pages are a full, true,
13 and correct transcription of the original notes.

14 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand
15 and seal this 28th day of July 2015.

16

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WILLIAM C. BEARDMORE
Certified Shorthand Reporter
CSR No. 918 - Expires 12/31/16
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7800 North MoPac, Suite 120
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