



**MEETING OF THE  
TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION**

**DATE**

**SEPTEMBER 20, 2022**

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Tuesday, September 20, 2022

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: The motion passes with the exceptions noted. We're going to take a short break.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right. This is Agenda Item 8, Acceptance of a Donation from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

REAGAN MILLER: Good morning, chairman, commissioners. For the record, Reagan Miller with the Child Care and Early Learning Division. This morning for your consideration we have a \$160,000 donation from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to support an analysis of the Texas early childhood data landscape. As we previously briefed your offices the interagency early childhood agencies have been working together to examine the possible creation of an early childhood integrated data system or ECIDS. These types of systems coordinate early childhood data and is collected across multiple state agencies who are all serving young children but who have independent data systems, and ECIDS makes it possible to integrate and report information from early childhood programs across multiple agencies. The donation from Gates Foundation will assist with an analysis of the early childhood data landscape in Texas with this work being carried out by third sector intelligence or 3SI, again, in support of the interagency exploration of an ECIDS. The notebook item contains the grant agreement between the Gates Foundation and 3SI. We want to note

1 that only the 160,000 within this larger grant agreement is  
2 being donated. That concludes my remarks.

3 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Any comments or questions?

4 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: None here, chairman.

5 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: None.

6 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Do we have a motion?

7 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Chairman, I move that  
8 we approve, acknowledge, and accept a gift or donation of  
9 160,000 in value given from the Bill and Melinda Gates  
10 Foundation to the Texas Workforce Commission to analyze the  
11 early childhood data landscape in Texas as discussed by staff.

12 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Second.

13 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's been moved and  
14 seconded, motion carries.

15 REAGAN MILLER: Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you. This is Agenda  
17 Item 9, Rider 36, Business Enterprises of Texas Customer  
18 Satisfaction Survey and Cost Analysis Report.

19 JENNIFER COLEHOWER: Good morning, Mr.  
20 Chairman, Commissioner Alvarez, Commissioner Demerson, and Mr.  
21 Serna. For the record, Jennifer Colehower, interim director of  
22 Business Enterprises of Texas, Vocational Rehabilitation  
23 Division. Commissioners, before you today for your consideration  
24 for approval is the BET Customer Satisfaction Survey and Cost  
25 Analysis Report to the Governor and LBB pursuant to TWC Rider 36

1 as part of TWC performance reporting for the 22-23 biennium. The  
2 survey covers state host agencies' satisfaction of operational  
3 conditions such as pricing requirements, hours of operation,  
4 menu items, and product lines for cafeterias, snack bars, and  
5 convenience stores located in state agency buildings. This  
6 year's survey was conducted from June 6, to June 30, 2022, and  
7 received 615 responses. Of note, more than 89 percent of all  
8 respondents use the services that BET managers offer in the  
9 workplace, about 60 percent of respondents agree that healthy  
10 food options and prices are good, and 80 percent of respondents  
11 agreed the quality of food was three stars or better, 87 percent  
12 agreed the quality of service three stars or better, and 88  
13 percent of respondents feel comfortable eating in BET  
14 facilities. Staff is seeking commission's approval of this  
15 year's annual report for submission to the governor and the LBB,  
16 and permission to make nonsubstantive corrections to the final  
17 formatting of the report. That concludes my presentation.

18 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Any comments or questions?

19 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Thanks, Jennifer.

20 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Thank you. Lot of  
21 positive responses. The percentages were very high.

22 JENNIFER COLEHOWER: Yes, [inaudible].

23 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: According to my records, I  
24 don't have a record of you having presented before the  
25 commission. Is that correct?

1 JENNIFER COLEHOWER: It's been years.

2 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: But not during my tenure.

3 JENNIFER COLEHOWER: Like decades. I think  
4 my daughter who's a sophomore in college was three at the time.

5 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Three years old? I'd say  
6 then no, you haven't really presented in front of the  
7 commission. On page 36, line seven in the report, if you—I'm  
8 kidding. Do we have a motion?

9 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Chairman, I move that  
10 we approve Business Enterprises of Texas Customer Satisfaction  
11 Survey and Cost Analysis Report 2022, for submission to the  
12 governor and the Legislative Budget Board as recommended by  
13 staff.

14 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Second.

15 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's been moved and  
16 seconded. Motion carries.

17 JENNIFER COLEHOWER: Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: This is Agenda Item 13,  
19 Board Nominations.

20 CHERIE DUDLEY: Good morning, chairman,  
21 commissioners, and Mr. Serna. For the record, Cherie Dudley with  
22 the Workforce Development Division. Today for your consideration  
23 we have Workforce Board nominations for South Texas, Middle Rio  
24 Grande, Panhandle, and Permian Basin. Staff recommends approval

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1 on the presented nominees, and I'm here to answer any questions  
2 you may have.

3 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Any comments or questions?

4 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: None here, chairman.

5 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: None.

6 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Is there a motion?

7 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: I move to approve the  
8 board nominees for South Texas, Middle Rio Grande, Panhandle,  
9 and Permian Basin.

10 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: I second.

11 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's been moved and  
12 seconded. The motion carries.

13 CHERIE DUDLEY: Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you. We have a  
15 legislative person moving back here like there's a legislative  
16 report. Mr. Serna was giving me the, no, we don't have a  
17 legislative report signal but you clearly disagree, Christopher,  
18 so why don't you come up here and talk to us about what's on  
19 your mind.

20 CHRISTOPHER GRUNING: I was waiting for my  
21 number and name to be called. Good morning, Chairman Daniel,  
22 Commissioner Alvarez, Commissioner Demerson, and Mr. Serna. For  
23 the record, I'm Christopher Gruning with Government Relations.  
24 GR is monitoring one federal hearing this week. Tomorrow the  
25 U.S. House Education and Labor Subcommittee on Health,

1 Employment, Labor, and Pensions will be holding a hearing to  
2 examine the administration of the unemployment insurance system.  
3 Additionally, current federal government funding expires next  
4 Friday, September 30<sup>th</sup>. Congressional leaders are in negotiations  
5 regarding a continuing resolution to extend funding, and that is  
6 expected to be considered before the end of the month. We will  
7 update your offices as soon as an agreement has been reached.  
8 Regarding the state legislature, TWC's joint budget hearing has  
9 been scheduled for Wednesday, September 28, 2022, at one p.m.  
10 Mr. Serna and Chris Nelson will be testifying at this hearing on  
11 behalf of TWC. This concludes my remarks and I'm happy to answer  
12 any questions you may have.

13 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Any comments or questions?

14 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: None here, chairman.

15 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: None.

16 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you, sir.

17 CHRISTOPHER GRUNING: Of course.

18 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: An executive director's  
19 report?

20 MR. SERNA: Nothing.

21 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Not today. Is there any  
22 other order of business to come before the commission?

23 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Chairman, if I may I  
24 just wanted to—if you haven't had a chance to see this morning's  
25 Rio Grande Guardian, it's a blog in the Rio Grande Valley,

1 governor sent out a press release acknowledging the value of  
2 apprenticeship and some of the strides that have been made.  
3 Again, I would like to thank Desi and her team for that. He  
4 acknowledged Norma who is going through a superintendent's  
5 program, a single mother who went through the program and  
6 successfully completed it through the assistance of South Texas  
7 College which, by the way, we will be hosting—the agency will be  
8 hosting the sixth annual apprenticeship conference. I will tell  
9 you that this conference continues to get better and better, and  
10 I'm very excited of the speakers that have been asked to present  
11 at this year's conference, and I'm grateful to the governor and  
12 his team for acknowledging the great work that not only the  
13 Texas Workforce Commission is doing but all the colleges and  
14 employers to expand apprenticeship programs. Just this week we  
15 had an opportunity—I should say last week as well, we met with  
16 Boeing to look at their workforce needs and how we could  
17 implement apprenticeship programs there, and yesterday we were  
18 at Southwest Institute with the help of Kristie Caviness, and  
19 Sonya and Desi were all there so we also would like to  
20 acknowledge Adrian Lopez for the great work he's doing in  
21 expanding his program. We're in space now. We've been in space  
22 and now to be working with the Southwest Research Institute,  
23 that's a great thing. We had an opportunity to visit with what  
24 they're doing with NASA and again, Boeing, some of the planes  
25 and fighter planes that they're working on. It was a big treat,



1 and to know that students that we're going to be assisting are  
2 going to go through these programs, it's certainly gratifying,  
3 and makes me feel really good that the agency has been able to  
4 support these types of programs. So I look forward to seeing  
5 many of you at the apprenticeship summit, and again I want to  
6 take this opportunity to thank Kerry Ballast, Desi Holmes, and  
7 of course everyone who's been involved in expanding  
8 apprenticeship programs. Who knows? Pretty soon we're going to  
9 have that apprenticeship nurse that's going to be approved.  
10 We've got great momentum going forward and so we're just waiting  
11 for Department of Labor to see what we can do to approve those  
12 standards. Hopefully we'll get something approved soon. That's  
13 all I got.

14 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Commissioner  
15 Alvarez, good work in regard to the apprenticeship conference  
16 that's taking place on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. When I mentioned the  
17 agency was putting it on, we were looking at an internship  
18 conference and we decided to do that on the 21<sup>st</sup>, the day before,  
19 and so we're going to be in the Valley at what I have termed the  
20 Rally in the Valley so on the 21<sup>st</sup> we'll be doing our Texas  
21 Interns Unite! Rally in the Valley program in Brownsville, both  
22 Workforce Solutions of Cameron County and also the Workforce  
23 Solutions office, Pat Hobbs, and Francisco Almaraz. Frank and  
24 his team are helping out in that regard so we're looking forward  
25 to an exciting event. We have a dynamic lineup and appreciate

1 the support of the agency and the team in that regard. Lastly, I  
2 also had an opportunity to attend the Artie Lee Hinds Award  
3 ceremony. I met Ed there as well, and then Calvin and Juan and  
4 Marie were all there as well. Just a phenomenal program, and I  
5 guess you guys have participated in those programs and you see  
6 the benefit of a nonprofit organization of CRPs really standing  
7 up opportunities for folks to go to work. It means a lot to  
8 those individuals, and I was touched by what was happening with  
9 those individuals. We had the keynote speaker was Josh from our  
10 conference last year, and so he was actually attending there.  
11 Judy Maggio, the emcee, said she had never been to an event  
12 where she both laughed and cried so much as a result of what was  
13 happening there but, Ed, very well—the agency was very well  
14 received, and they respect you a lot just talking a bit with the  
15 folks there, and so I continue to appreciate the work that's  
16 being done in that area as well. That's it for me.

17 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right. Is there a  
18 motion to adjourn?

19 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Chairman, I move that  
20 we adjourn.

21 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: I second that  
22 motion.

23 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's been moved and  
24 seconded to adjourn and we're adjourned.

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