



**MEETING OF THE
TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION**

DATE

SEPTEMBER 27, 2022

1 Tuesday, September 27, 2022

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: Good morning, commissioners,
6 Les Trobman, general counsel. We have one individual who would
7 like to address the commission this morning. Mr. Muhammad, if
8 you could go ahead and unmute yourself, state your name for the
9 record, and go ahead.

10 MR. MUHAMMAD: OK, can you hear me?

11 MR. TROBMAN: Yes, sir.

12 MR. MUHAMMAD: Good morning, commissioners, chairman, I'm Risheem
13 Muhammad. I'm the founder of EDS here in Houston. It's a veteran
14 organization that was established in 2016. I'm here today to
15 just request consideration for a rule or regulation change to a
16 two-mile restriction put on our licenses for us to be able to do
17 everything we do in our industry, which is the telcom industry.
18 I'd like to make a recommendation that we kind of go to a mobile
19 license which allows us to not have to pay a licensing fee each
20 two miles that a school is registered. I would like to have
21 consideration for a fee waiver given that our school was
22 impacted by Hurricane Harvey, COVID, the freeze, and it has been
23 just a tremendous uphill battle to get our school recognized and
24 stay in compliance. I have any information that you need,
25 commissioners or chairman would like see regarding why I'm

1 making this recommendation or consideration to be considered by
2 the gentlemen on the, that sit before me today.

3 LES TROBMAN: Thank you, sir.

4 MR. MUHAMMAD: OK.

5 LES TROBMAN: Chairman, commissioners,
6 that's all we have this morning.

7 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you. Thank you very
8 much, Mr. Trobman. Good morning, Ms. Gonzales.

9 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: The motion passes with the
10 exceptions noted. We'll take a short break.

11 MS. GONZALES: Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: This is Agenda Item 10,
13 Resource Utilization for Target Disaster Relief Efforts and
14 Public Health Emergencies.

15 ALLISON WILSON: Good morning, chairman,
16 commissioners, Mr. Serna. Allison Wilson, for the record, Child
17 Care and Early Learning Division.

18 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Microphone?

19 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Either, yeah, I don't know
20 if it's on.

21 ALLISON WILSON: Is that better?

22 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Little bit.

23 ALLISON WILSON: Allison Wilson, Child Care
24 and Early Learning Division. This morning for your consideration
25 is the ninth tranche of child care stimulus funding initiatives.

1 First is funding to support the move to paying child care
2 providers prospectively. This is a one-time cost which is needed
3 to modify the payment schedule for reimbursing child care
4 programs. We currently pay providers based on enrollment, not
5 attendance, and this will not change. We will just modify when
6 the provider gets paid. This change was included in the Chapter
7 809 Child Care Final Rules that you adopted at the September 13th
8 meeting, and we estimate this will cost 50 million. Second is an
9 increase of 75 million to the child care industry expansion
10 initiative. You initially approved 75 million for this with a
11 majority of this funding to support new startup awards for new
12 child care programs. We've seen a huge response from entities
13 who are interested in applying so we are requesting funding to
14 increase the number of applications we can support. We are also
15 requesting to extend the application deadline for employer
16 partnership applications. These applications are the most
17 complex and take longer to develop so we'd like to extend their
18 application deadline to November 30, 2023, and we'd also like to
19 extend the deadline for all programs to expend funds to no later
20 than March 31, 2024. In the third issue, we are recommending 2.5
21 million to support enhancements to the Texas Early Childhood
22 Professional Development system or TECPDS as well as to the
23 engaged platform. Included in this is the TECPDS usability study
24 which is based on feedback we've received about looking for
25 opportunities to make the system more user friendly. We hope the

1 results of the study can inform future system enhancements.
2 Fourth are modifications to the amounts that we provide in the
3 2022 Child Care Relief Fund to account for updated information
4 on child care deserts that TWC received from the state
5 demographer, and to update Texas Rising Star certification
6 status. You already approved up to 3.4 billion for the 2022
7 CCRF, and these changes will be funded using those existing
8 amounts. We also recommend extending the time available for
9 providers to expend their funds through November of 2023. And
10 lastly, our fifth issue is requesting 500 million to provide
11 child care services providers with a fifth Child Care Relief
12 Fund payment. This additional one-time payment can help all CCS
13 providers who are now required to become Texas Rising Star in
14 improving their program's quality standards. As we transition
15 away from the temporary enhanced reimbursement rates, this fifth
16 payment can also serve as a one-time buffer to help in the
17 transition back to TWC's standard reimbursement rates. That
18 concludes my remarks, and I'm happy to answer any questions.

19 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Any comments or questions?

20 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: None here, chairman.

21 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: None here.

22 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Is there a motion?

23 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: I move that we
24 approve the plan and methodology for the distribution of the
25

1 ninth tranche of CCDF COVID-19 federal funding initiatives as
2 recommended by staff and described in the discussion paper.

3 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Second.

4 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's been moved and
5 seconded. We're unanimous. Thank you. Is there an executive
6 director's report today?

7 MR. SERNA: There is. I have two quick
8 items, Mr. Chairman and commissioners. First, I'd like to
9 mention—I think he was here but he stepped out—that Bob Gear was
10 awarded the 2022 Torch Professional of the Year award by Central
11 Texas Workforce Solutions, and he'll be honored in October at
12 their awards luncheon. Bob has done a great deal of work with
13 that board and all the boards in assisting our veterans and it's
14 nice that they recognized him for that. I wanted to make sure
15 the commissioners were aware of that, and then also I just want
16 to remind the commissioners and get it on the record for the
17 public that we will be having a commission meeting at our annual
18 conference on the 29th of November. That's a Tuesday at 1:30 at
19 the Hilton Anatole in Dallas, and we will have a docket as well
20 as a few policy items. That's all that I have.

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

23 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Chairman, I'd like to
24 take this opportunity to thank Desi and her team for last week's
25 successful apprenticeship conference, the sixth annual one. I

1 wanted to publicly acknowledge her great work and again the
2 folks that were there and some of the conversations that took
3 place were very meaningful and educational to the public that
4 attended. I think the Rio Grande Valley was very grateful that
5 we had a conference down in the area. I'd also like to thank
6 Julia and her team for the great work that they did. Julia,
7 thank you for that and making sure that all the things were
8 taken care of behind the scenes so thank you.

9 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Let me echo some of
10 the comments that have been mentioned. I also want to
11 congratulate Bob Gear as well. Bob does a tremendous job. I love
12 the way they handle our veterans [inaudible] so I wanted to make
13 sure that that was known. Also, Margie Henson, I want to
14 congratulate her. The Governor's Women's Commission are going to
15 award certain women, outstanding women in Texas government on
16 tomorrow and so Dr. Heather Hall on our team, and Margie is a
17 part of her team so that will be—she'll be recognized on
18 tomorrow at that ceremony. Also wanted to say congratulations to
19 Desi and her team. Commissioner Alvarez, the work that you've
20 done in the apprenticeship space to make that happen. We had a
21 couple events in the Valley, started off with what we termed the
22 Rally in the Valley, an internship conference on Wednesday I
23 believe, and then that was followed by a successful
24 apprenticeship conference on Thursday and Friday, and so you had
25 a lot of folks in the Valley very appreciative of the fact that

1 we took the time to hold those conferences in that particular
2 area or region of your state, and they were well attended and
3 well appreciated so congratulations on the work that you've done
4 in that space to truly make a difference. That's all the
5 comments I have.

6 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right. Is there a
7 motion to adjourn?

8 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Chairman, I move that
9 we adjourn.

10 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Second.

11 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's been moved and
12 seconded to adjourn and we're adjourned. Thank you.

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25