



**MEETING OF THE
TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION**

DATE

MAY 7, 2024

1 Tuesday, May 7, 2024

2 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Good morning, everyone.

3 This meeting is called to order. Mr. Trobman, has anyone signed
4 up for public comment? Thank you very much. Good morning.

5 MS. GUIYAB: Good morning.

6 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: The motion passes with the
7 exceptions noted. This brings us to the end of Agenda Item 8.
8 Let's pause for a few minutes to reset for the rest of the
9 meeting.

10 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: This is Agenda Item 9, the
11 Workforce Innovation Fund.

12 JOEL MULLINS: Good morning, chairman,
13 commissioners, Mr. Serna. For the record, I'm Joel Mullins with
14 the Workforce Development Division. As set forth in TWC rule at
15 40 Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 802, Subchapter I, TWC's
16 three-member commission may establish monetary and nonmonetary
17 workforce awards for local Workforce Development Boards and
18 other partners. At the commission meeting on March 18, 2024,
19 staff were asked to bring forward a discussion paper to replace
20 monetary board awards with an innovation fund to which boards
21 could apply to receive funding for innovative activities. Staff
22 have developed a proposal for an innovation fund using
23 \$1,000,000 in WIOA statewide funds to fund innovative projects
24 that are not within the scope of the board's existing
25 contractual obligations. This morning staff seeks direction on

1 the establishment of an innovation fund as presented here today
2 and as described in your meeting materials. This concludes my
3 remarks and I'm happy to answer any questions.

4 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Any comments or questions?

5 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: None here.

6 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: My only comment is I
7 appreciate this item coming up. I wasn't around for a full cycle
8 of how we formally were arranging these appropriations but I
9 definitely want to support it. It sounds like it's a great
10 innovative way—I think it's in there, the word is in the title—
11 to use this money to meet the needs of the boards but I also
12 appreciate the boards enjoying the friendly competition on the—
13 at the end of the year too so I appreciate whatever we can do to
14 identify the hard work that the boards do on those [inaudible]
15 so thank you for bringing this up and explaining.

16 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right, is there a
17 motion?

18 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Chairman, I move we
19 approve the creation of the Workforce Innovation Fund utilizing
20 \$1,000,000 in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
21 statewide funds as described in the discussion paper and
22 recommended today by staff.

23 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: I second.
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1 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's been moved and
2 seconded, and the motion carries. Thank you. Agenda Item 10,
3 funding for the Workforce Diploma Pilot Program.

4 KERRY BALLAST: Good morning, Chairman
5 Daniel, Commissioner Treviño, Commissioner Esparza, and Mr.
6 Serna. For the record, Kerry Ballast, Workforce Development
7 Division. Texas Labor Code Chapter 317 requires the Texas
8 Workforce Commission to establish and administer the Workforce
9 Diploma Pilot Program. The program allows eligible Texas high
10 school diploma-granting entities to be reimbursed for helping
11 adult students obtain high school diplomas and industry-
12 recognized credentials, and also helps in the development of
13 technical career readiness and employability skills. Today staff
14 seeks approval of the use of \$500,000 in AEL statewide funds for
15 the creation and implementation of the Workforce Diploma Pilot
16 Program. That concludes my remarks. I'm happy to answer any
17 questions.

18 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Comments or questions?

19 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: None here.

20 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: No questions.

21 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Is there a motion?

22 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Chairman, I move that
23 we approve the creation and implementation of the Workforce
24 Diploma Program utilizing \$500,000 in the Adult Education and
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1 Literacy statewide funds as described in the discussion paper
2 and recommended today by staff.

3 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: I second.

4 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's been moved and
5 seconded, and the motion carries. This is Agenda Item 11, Adult
6 Education and Literacy statewide needs assessment.

7 MAHALIA BALDINI: Good morning, chairman,
8 commissioners, Mr. Serna. For the record, Mahalia Baldini with
9 the Workforce Development Division. Workforce Innovation and
10 Opportunity Act, Section 223, outlines the use of AEL state
11 leadership funds to develop or enhance the adult education
12 system in Texas. One such required activity is monitoring and
13 evaluation of the quality of and improvement in adult education
14 and literacy activities as well as the dissemination of
15 information about models and proven or promising practices
16 within the state. This morning, we have for your consideration a
17 recommendation to approve \$500,000 in AEL state leadership funds
18 to conduct a statewide needs assessment of adult education and
19 literacy services to improve the statewide system over the next
20 several years. Staff proposes a comprehensive evaluation of AEL
21 services which may include but is not limited to analyzing the
22 following AEL program elements: Integration and co-enrollment
23 amongst WIOA Titles I through IV; student retention and skills
24 gains as well as credential attainment; program staffing and
25 organizational structures as well as effective service models.

1 This concludes my remarks and I'm happy to answer any questions
2 you may have.

3 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Comments or questions?

4 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: None here.

5 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: No questions.

6 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Is there a motion?

7 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: I move that we
8 approve the funding of a statewide assessment and evaluation of
9 Adult Education and Literacy services and needs utilizing
10 \$500,000 in fiscal year 2024 Adult Education and Literacy state
11 leadership funds as described in the discussion paper and
12 recommended today by staff.

13 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: I second.

14 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's been moved and
15 seconded, and the motion carries. This is Agenda Item 12,
16 distribution of Texas Rising Star Mentor funds for board
17 contract year 2025 and approval of funding for a fiscal year
18 2024 convening of the boards for strategic planning.

19 ALLISON WILSON: Good morning, chairman,
20 commissioners, Mr. Serna. For the record, Allison Wilson with
21 Child Care & Early Learning Division. For your consideration
22 today we have a discussion paper outlining two issues related to
23 child care quality improvement. First is the recommended
24 distribution of funds to Workforce Boards to support the hiring
25 and retention of Texas Rising Star mentoring staff. Staff

1 recommends 60 percent of the distribution be based on each
2 board's relative proportion of all child care services programs
3 and 40 percent be based on their relative proportion of license
4 capacity of all programs. Additionally, staff recommends
5 increasing the plan distribution by \$66,665 to ensure all boards
6 are funded at least at the level they were in BCY24. I also want
7 to note that this amount is about 5,000 higher than the amount
8 cited in the discussion paper as it was posted. We had some late
9 data corrections that led us to revise these numbers. Second is
10 a recommendation for \$150,000 for FY24 for Child Care & Early
11 Learning to conduct a board strategic planning for child care
12 quality improvement event. The commission has already approved
13 funding for a new statewide initiative beginning in fiscal year
14 '25. An event this summer will assist the boards in planning for
15 the use of the increased BCY25 child care quality funding. The
16 funding will be used to support the costs of the convening
17 including supporting board travel, and that concludes my
18 remarks. Happy to answer any questions.

19 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Are there any comments or
20 questions?

21 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: None here.

22 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: No questions.

23 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Is there a motion?

24 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Chairman, I move that
25 we approve the increase in the distribution for Texas Rising

1 Star Mentors in the amount of \$66,665 and distribute \$29,066,665
2 to boards using the methodology outlined in the discussion
3 paper, and further approve the utilizing of \$150,000 for the
4 board statewide planning for quality improvement convening to
5 take place in August of 2024 as recommended today by staff.

6 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: I second.

7 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's been moved and
8 seconded, and the motion carries. Legislative report? No.
9 Executive director's report?

10 MR. SERNA: Short report. Just to let you
11 all know that I know that you all visited with the Win Texas
12 group or the group called WIN Texas. The executive directors of
13 some of the Workforce Development Boards, myself, Courtney
14 Arbour, Allison Wilson, and other staff met with them on Friday
15 to go over more operational things. I think it was a very
16 successful meeting. We got some good feedback from the
17 participants, both the board EDs and some of their staff that
18 were there concerning our new TWIST replacement as well as the
19 child care system and then just some other conversation that we
20 had that I think was really worthwhile so just wanted to let you
21 all know that we continue to work with them, and we'll continue
22 to work with any of the groups that represent the boards as they
23 make themselves—as they ask us to be available to them. That's
24 it.

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1 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: I spoke on Thursday, and I
2 learned for the first time Commissioner Treviño has established
3 a protocol that I have to speak before him because I had it
4 arranged for him to go first, and then they reversed it on us.
5 He's somehow conspiring with the boards I feel like.

6 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: I don't know how
7 that—

8 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: A healthy conspiracy.

9 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Right, I don't know
10 how that happened but yeah, it happened.

11 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: You don't know. It was a
12 good meeting.

13 MR. SERNA: It was.

14 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Regardless of the umbrella
15 under which the boards engage in those kinds of conversations, I
16 do appreciate them doing that of their own kind of sort of idea
17 and exercise in that. I think those conversations go a long
18 ways. A lot of things that are going on that seem local or
19 regional but could definitely be adapted statewide, and we don't
20 have as many opportunities at the state level to plug into those
21 so it has been a good meeting. I'm glad they're doing it. All
22 right, is there any other order of business to come before the
23 commission? I have one quick thing. Kelsey Thomas, you may
24 recognize from having been on the communications team has joined
25 my office as a staff assistant so she'll be working with us now.

1 So if you see her sitting there, she's not dedicated to writing
2 press releases. She's actually doing our work. All right,
3 anything else? Is there a motion to adjourn?

4 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: I move to adjourn.

5 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: I second.

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

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