



**MEETING OF THE  
TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION**

**DATE**

**JUNE 11, 2024**

1 Tuesday, June 11, 2024

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 had  
7 signed up for public comment, Ms. Leah Kelly. If you could  
8 unmute yourself and begin.

9 MS. KELLY: Thank you. My name is Leah  
10 Kelly. I am the parent of a 17-year-old autistic young adult,  
11 and I'm commenting today regarding the services that we have  
12 received from the Texas Workers Commission. I am speaking to  
13 express my frustration with the difficulty that I have faced in  
14 trying to receive vocational rehabilitation services for my  
15 daughter who is autistic. My daughter's goal is to achieve  
16 independent living but the delays in receiving services are  
17 hindering her progress towards this goal. I have tried to seek  
18 information on whether there is an ombudsman who can assist us,  
19 but despite reaching out to multiple staff members yesterday, at  
20 least four, I have received no response, been told that there is  
21 not an ombudsman, been told that I am seeking to communicate to  
22 the wrong person, and that I should speak directly to our unit  
23 manager. So I urge the commissioners to address these issues  
24 promptly and ensure that families like mine are able to access  
25 the vocational rehabilitation services that are crucial to our

1 children's future successes. I thank you for your attention. I  
2 do believe that it is a consumers right to have access to the  
3 ombudsperson and I was very disappointed in the responses that I  
4 received yesterday. I had to take an entire day off of work to  
5 facilitate communication and have no confidence that it will  
6 move us any closer towards our goal.

7 MR. TROBMAN: Thank you, Ms. Kelly, and  
8 we'll have someone from our vocational rehabilitation department  
9 reach out to you today. We have your contact information.

10 MS. KELLY: Thank you. I appreciate it.

11 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you. We'll take a  
12 short recess. All right, moving on to Agenda Item 9, this is  
13 statewide initiatives for fiscal year 2025 operating budget and  
14 fiscal year '26 and '27 legislative appropriations request.

15 IRENE TANGUMA: Good morning, chairman,  
16 commissioners, Mr. Serna. For the record, Irene Tanguma, TWC  
17 budget director. The document presented are staff  
18 recommendations for the statewide initiatives 2025 operating  
19 budget and the 2026 through 2027 legislative appropriations  
20 request. Later this summer we'll bring the remaining operating  
21 budget and LAR items to you for approval once the LBB releases  
22 the LAR instructions. The document has been briefed,  
23 [inaudible], represents the requested statewide initiatives  
24 budgeted amounts for fiscal year 2025 through fiscal year 2027  
25 for child care, TANF, Choices, WIOA, adult education and

1 employment services program along with any projected commission  
2 reserve balances for each program. As this packet represents the  
3 statewide initiatives budget, there are intertwined programmatic  
4 aspects to this discussion. For that reason, program staff are  
5 also available to help answer any questions, any program-related  
6 questions that you may have. That concludes my remarks and at  
7 this time I would open it up to you for any comments, questions  
8 or actions.

9 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right, any comments or  
10 questions?

11 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Chairman, we have  
12 seen a continued growth and interest in the apprenticeship  
13 programs with an increase of more than 28 percent from fiscal  
14 year '23 to fiscal year '24. To meet that demand I propose  
15 allocating an additional \$2,088,527 to Chapter 133  
16 Apprenticeship program. This funding will allow TWC to continue  
17 to support the same number of contact hours in fiscal year '25  
18 while preserving the contact hour rate at four dollars. Also,  
19 attending the foster youth conference last month affirmed the  
20 critical need for the Foster Youth Network. I am requesting an  
21 additional \$200,000 in fiscal year '25 for outreach efforts to  
22 promote the website and ensure foster youth are aware of this  
23 valuable resource, and that concludes my remarks.

24 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: Chairman, I've got  
25 two proposals. First, I propose to set aside funds for specific

1 initiatives. Proposal one, I'd like to request 1.5 million in  
2 WIOA funds to be set aside to support transitioning service  
3 members specifically focused on Central Texas boards, Fort  
4 Cavazos, since there is the largest need for this program. The  
5 dislocated worker program that supports transitioning service  
6 members and their families, this is what that money would go  
7 towards. I've drafted a discussion paper that builds on previous  
8 steps, a special paper that expands the current military family  
9 support program statewide initiative essentially expanding that  
10 initiative for specific reasons. Commissioners, I ask for—here's  
11 the proposal, I ask for your consideration in this initiative  
12 again to use 1.5 million supporting the transitioning service  
13 members in Central Texas area. Proposal two revolves around  
14 child care for small business. I'd like to request setting aside  
15 five million in child care funds for a Texas small business  
16 family support program that could provide financial assistance  
17 to small business owners to help them cover the costs of child  
18 care services. Intent would be to enable small business owners  
19 to focus on the growth and success of their businesses while  
20 ensuring their employees have access to affordable child care.  
21 I'd like to request staff to help develop the discussion paper  
22 for my fellow commissioners to consider at a future policy  
23 agenda meeting. My idea of this program would provide much  
24 needed financial assistance to small business owners again and  
25 enable them to access reliable child services. The intent would

1 be to provide financial assistance for eligible small business  
2 owners to cover child care expenses for employees. Thank you for  
3 your consideration, chairman, commissioner.

4 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right, any other  
5 comments or questions?

6 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: None from me.

7 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: So, there's a couple ways  
8 we can do this. I'm going to vote no on all these because I  
9 haven't had a chance to review them or I'll second all of them  
10 and we can table them and bring them back at a subsequent  
11 commission meeting to give me time to think about them.  
12 Specifically on apprenticeship, just full disclosure, I'm  
13 opposed to setting aside additional WIOA funds for Chapter 133  
14 apprenticeships unless we take that into context with what our  
15 legislative appropriations request would be for legislative, in  
16 this case, general revenue funds to fund that. I am interested  
17 in having a discussion about what we might do for one more year  
18 while we work with the legislature to see if there's any  
19 interest legislatively to increase the appropriation for that. I  
20 think us doing it unilaterally, I actually think that's  
21 problematic. I think it's a good conversation to have with the  
22 legislature, one that I'm certainly willing to engage in. I do  
23 support the program and I completely understand where you're  
24 coming from. I think we need to probably have a little longer-  
25 range kind of plan for that, and I'd like to discuss that

1 further. With regard to the 200,000 for the foster youth  
2 networker conference—

3 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: No, it was to make  
4 the youth aware of it so in talking with the different network  
5 providers, they say that you need to put it out there to have  
6 everybody know where to go to it, otherwise the network is just  
7 there by itself. For the first one I think we weren't just  
8 talking about WIOA funds. We were talking about having staff  
9 look at wherever we could get that from, maybe general so.

10 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right, here's what I  
11 think. Do we have any problems with what staff's already  
12 presented in terms of is there anything we want to get rid of  
13 that has been presented by staff at least in terms of commission  
14 reserve dollars and statewide initiatives? We probably should  
15 vote these out today so they can get busy on that because I  
16 think there's a July 1<sup>st</sup> deadline on that. So it would be super  
17 cool if we could help them like that. I don't think adding money  
18 to these things which we may do at the next meeting or the  
19 meeting after that, I don't think that causes a problem if we  
20 beef something up later like your request on the foster youth  
21 stuff or military family support. We can come back and add money  
22 later. I've never—Mr. Serna, have you ever heard anybody  
23 complain about us adding money to something?

24 MR. SERNA: No.

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1 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Yeah, I haven't either,  
2 and so we should probably vote out statewide initiatives so  
3 staff can work on that so is there a-

4 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: Those are existing-

5 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Yeah, the existing things  
6 that are-

7 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: [Inaudible] certain  
8 limit both those up here.

9 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Yeah, is everybody-I'm  
10 kind of talking off the cuff here. I want to make sure everybody  
11 is understanding what I'm saying. So what I would say is the  
12 four amendments that we heard today, I would second those and  
13 then immediately move to have those tabled to a subsequent  
14 meeting, presumably the next commission meeting which I don't  
15 think is next Tuesday. I think it's the Tuesday after that. Do  
16 we have one next Tuesday? Do I have it reversed? We'll bring it  
17 back next Tuesday, those four amendments. So I would move we  
18 approve the statewide initiatives as part of the fiscal year  
19 2025 operating budget as presented today by staff. We'll hear  
20 the amendments next week. Is there a second for my motion?

21 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: I second.

22 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: I concur.

23 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's been moved and  
24 seconded. Some real quick commentary on what was presented by  
25 staff. There were several statewide initiatives that were



1 approved in September of 2023 and several of those initiatives  
2 are pending performance data before we would make a decision on  
3 future funding. I understand that. I was for that. I still think  
4 that's a good idea but a question I would like answered, doesn't  
5 have to be answered today, you can answer it sometime this week,  
6 is why has there been such a long delay in some of these  
7 initiatives being launched, and what are some things we can do  
8 to reduce these types of delays on launching initiatives? So if  
9 somebody will come by and answer that question for me, I would  
10 very much appreciate it. All right, any other comments or  
11 questions regarding statewide initiatives as presented by staff?  
12 Is there any objection to the statewide initiatives as presented  
13 by staff? Hearing no objection, that motion carries. We will  
14 pick up the four proposed amendments from today next week at  
15 that commission meeting.

16 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right, moving on to  
17 Agenda Item 10, discussion, consideration, and possible action  
18 regarding an order to adopt program year '24 and fiscal year '25  
19 allocations and distributions for WIOA, AEL, child care and  
20 rapid response.

21 IRENE TANGUMA: Chairman, commissioners,  
22 again for the record, Irene Tanguma, TWC budget director. This  
23 morning you have before you the fiscal year 2025, program year  
24 2024, WIOA, adult, youth, and dislocated worker allocations and  
25 associated rapid response distribution along with the TANF

1 allocations and child care allocations. Using the recently  
2 released Department of Labor WIOA state allotment and updated  
3 data factors, TWC will be allocating \$220,899,514 in combined  
4 WIOA, adult, youth, and dislocated worker funds along with an  
5 additional \$936,173 in rapid response funding. This represents a  
6 three percent increase over the prior year allocation. The rapid  
7 response funding is equal to 1.25 percent of the statewide  
8 dislocated worker allotment, the same as fiscal year 2023. We're  
9 also bringing forward the fiscal year 2025 child care allocation  
10 in the amount of \$1,319,162,553 and \$74,481,190 for the TANF  
11 allocation. That concludes my remarks. Without any objection I  
12 will post these planning estimates on our website, and I'd be  
13 happy to answer any questions.

14 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Any comments or questions?

15 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: None here.

16 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: No questions.

17 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Is there a motion?

18 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Chairman, I move to  
19 adopt the program year 2024, fiscal year 2025, allocations and  
20 distributions for the Workforce Initiative and Opportunity Act  
21 adult education and literacy, child care, and rapid response  
22 programs as recommended today by staff.

23 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: I second.

24 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's been moved and  
25 seconded and this motion carries. Thank you so much. Is there an

1 executive director's report today? All right, is there any other  
2 order of business to come before the commission?

3 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: I've got something to  
4 propose. Forgive me, Les, if I'm out of place here. I didn't  
5 want to add this to any statewide initiative, wasn't ready for  
6 it yet but this is just kind of a request for staff to assist  
7 me. Related to WorkinTexas, basically the platform that  
8 businesses and job seekers use to search and find jobs, I'd like  
9 to see if I can get the staff to get a history about the recent  
10 replacement that we did. I think it's fairly new or maybe a  
11 couple years old. Anybody can jump in and correct me while I'm  
12 saying this. I want to see what that usability is currently,  
13 whether or not it's meeting the standards, whether it's meeting  
14 our standards for what we should see as a platform that provides  
15 the basic service that this agency represents, and if there's  
16 any plans in the future to optimize its use and uses again,  
17 ideally for usability for job seekers and also usability for  
18 employers that are growing, continue to grow, continue to post  
19 jobs and whether or not we can partner with other platforms that  
20 have kind of figured it out. Again, I'm just throwing it out  
21 there, happy to work with you guys and try to see what we can do  
22 for that.

23 MR. SERNA: Yes, sir. We'll be glad to do  
24 that. Just for clarification, I think that WIT was replaced in  
25 2018.

1 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: OK.

2 MR. SERNA: 2018, 2019, that timeframe but-

3 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: [Inaudible].

4 MR. SERNA: Yeah, but we'll provide—we'll  
5 get with your office, provide that information and then talk  
6 about alternatives and then visit with the other offices as well  
7 before we move forward. We were already talking about that.

8 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: OK.

9 MR. SERNA: Now we will need to do  
10 something, just a little bit of a preview. We will need to do  
11 something in the interim before we move to something new because  
12 that would be a major procurement or a build or something like  
13 that but, yes, sir, we'll get with your office. That's not an  
14 issue at all.

15 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: OK. Thank you, sir.

16 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right, any other order  
17 of business to come before the commission?

18 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Chairman, I just  
19 wanted to thank and welcome all the new faces that are here in  
20 TWC and the commissioner meeting, and welcome Regina Macias who  
21 is our intern to the labor office. She's been doing outstanding  
22 so far and hope you all have a great internship summer.

23 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: Same.

24 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: I think we're going to  
25 meet with all the interns here in just a second. You could sort

1 of feel the energy in the room. We're used to Mr. Trobman's  
2 lethargy on commission mornings but you could feel the new  
3 energy in the room. I'm kidding of course. Mr. Trobman never has  
4 lethargy but I'm just prolonging the adjournment so the interns  
5 can build some anticipation for all the photographs that Jimmy's  
6 about to force us to take so they thought I didn't see him  
7 lurking back there but I did. With that, is there a motion to  
8 adjourn?

9 COMMISSIONER TREVIÑO: Chairman, I move we  
10 adjourn.

11 COMMISSIONER ESPARZA: I second.

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

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