



**MEETING OF THE
TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION**

DATE

JANUARY 12, 2021

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Tuesday, January 12, 2021

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right. Good morning, all.

This meeting is called to order. Mr. Trobman, has anyone signed up for public comment?

MR. TROBMAN: Morning, Commissioners. We did receive one request for public comment. Cassandra Camargo. You're on the line. If you could unmute yourself and introduce yourself for the record. I'm not sure if Ms. Camargo has been able to join us. And that was our only request for comment this morning.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right. Thank you, Mr. Trobman. Morning, Ms. Miller.

MS. MILLER: Good morning, sir.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you. That brings us to the agenda items three through seven. Mr. Trobman, am I understanding that our commenter has (unintelligible) meeting?

MR. TROBMAN: Yes. Chairman, Commissioners, I believe that Ms. Camargo has joined the meeting. Ms. Camargo, if you are able to unmute yourself, introduce yourself for the record and provide your comment.

MS. CAMARGO: Hi. This is Cassandra Camargo.

MR. TROBMAN: Good morning.

MS. CAMARGO: Good morning, how are you?

MR. TROBMAN: Go ahead, yes, good morning. Doing well, please proceed.

MS CAMARGO: Okay. I wanted to speak on behalf of the TRS, changes that we have coming up. We've got a couple of different

1 issues that we're having with that. We're having, you know, the pre-star.
2 If we have to do the pre-star, does that mean that we come off of TRS? Does
3 it mean that we come off of CCS and lose our CCS contract if we have that
4 issue? Like, say some of the--sorry. Some of the items that are on that
5 pre-star registration list, like, say for example, they've got CPR and first
6 aid on there. There may be a, you know, you've got a new employee that may
7 have fell through the cracks. It was an accident, it was oversight and you
8 get that citation, that automatically takes you off of that pre-star, which
9 then loses your funds. And so if we lose our funding, do we also lose our
10 CCS funding? Because we lose our additional TRS funding but do we lose our
11 CCS funding and so that is a concern for us here. Another issue that we have
12 is, you know, some of the wording. The wording that we are changing to in
13 the TRS guidelines is things like we've got to use "never," and so the
14 wording is a lot stronger and a lot different, but also creating some gray
15 area if you continue to read through some of those things.

16 Another thing that we're having an issue with is
17 that the additional 25 percent--this is not TRS related but the additional 25
18 percent that we were receiving for Covid during the Covid time ended in
19 December, on December 31 of 2020 and so we are now not receiving that
20 additional 25 percent on our funding anymore, and so that value has dropped
21 and so we're trying to get that uplifted and upheld or even brought back.
22 That 25 percent is something that we're looking at, as well.

23 Sorry. I'm trying to cover everything in a short
24 time span. The biggest one was, like, the pre-star and then some of the
25 citations that are on that pre-star registration form. That brings concern
for us just because as a facility, I mean, that gives no room for the error

1 that may come from some of that and it's just not feasible for all schools.
2 As you look through majority of schools here in town, I know that we're
3 trying to bring the level of education up and bring that push for that level
4 of quality of care up but this is giving us no room to breathe within some of
5 this because, I mean, paperwork error is a lot of those things. And
6 paperwork error is a struggle as you can't always get it 100 percent, and so
7 you miss that 1 percent and you're now off TRS and you're losing that value
8 and that money within your school.

9 I really that that's all I have for now.

10 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right. Thank you very much.

11 MR. TROBMAN: That brings us to the end of the
12 public comments today.

13 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you very much, Mr. Trobman.
14 Commissioners, let's pause for a few moments before we tackle Agenda Item 8.
15 We'll take a quick break.

16 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Okay. We're ready to tackle the
17 rest of this. I'm not showing anything on Agenda Item 8. Let's move to
18 Agenda Item 9. Discussion, consideration, possible action regarding the
19 evaluation and effectiveness of the child care program report for fiscal
20 years 2019 and 2020 for submission to the 87th Texas Legislature.

21 MS. MILLER: Good morning, Chairman, Commissioners,
22 Mr. Serna. For the record, I'm Reagan Miller with the Child Care and Early
23 Learning Division. Section 302.0042 of the Texas Labor Code requires TWC to
24 submit a report to the legislature no later than January 9--excuse me,
25 January 15 of each odd-numbered year on the effectiveness of TWC's child care
program. The statute requires us to report on the wage and employment status

1 of parents receiving child care and proving the training of child care
2 professionals and how we are collaborating with TEA, Head Start, DSDS and
3 HHCS. The statute was also amended last session directing TWC to provide
4 additional information and data on Texas Rising Star and how our payment
5 rates allow providers to provide high quality child care and also ensure that
6 TWC meets our legislatively-established performance measure on the number of
7 children served per day. In the summary section of the report on page one,
8 we noted that we have increased the number of Texas Rising Star quality
9 rating child care providers almost 64 percent since 2015 and subsidized child
10 care is a critical economic support which allows families to enter and remain
11 in the Texas workforce. We see that 86 percent of TANF parents found
12 employment within 12 months of receiving child care and 86 percent of non-
13 TANF parents maintained employment 12 months after receiving child care.

14 Today, we're seeking your direction on approval of
15 the Child Care Effectiveness Report for submission to the Texas legislature
16 and ask for the ability to make any needed technical corrections prior to
17 submission. I'm happy to answer any questions.

18 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Any comments or questions?

19 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: No comments here, Chairman.

20 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: None here (unintelligible)
21 just appreciate you guys continuing to work in this space. It's been a very
22 important (unintelligible).

23 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Do we have a motion?

24 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Chairman, I move that we
25 approve the report as presented by staff.

COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Second.

1 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Been moved and seconded. The
2 vote's unanimous. Thank you. I'm showing staff does not have anything to
3 present under Agenda Item 10. I'm showing that under Item 11, Mr. Serna,
4 what do we have here?

5 MR. SERNA: I don't believe we have anything under
6 Item 11.

7 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Nothing under Item 11. Staff does
8 not have anything to present under 12. Is there a legislative report today?

9 MR. BRITT: Yes, there is. Good morning, Mr.
10 Chairman, Commissioner Alvarez, Commissioner Demerson and MR. Serna. For the
11 record, Michael Britt, Governmental Relations. Last Friday, representative
12 Hubert Beau agreed to file TWC's legislative proposal related to Fair Housing
13 Act amendments in the Texas House. We do not yet have a bill number on that
14 bill but we'll update you as soon as we do.

15 Also today, the 87th Texas Legislature convenes at
16 noon. Both the Texas House and Senate are expected to consider their rules
17 later this week and as these rules are adopted (unintelligible) how the
18 chambers will be operating this session. That concludes my remarks. I'm
19 happy to answer any questions you have.

20 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Any questions?

21 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: None here, Chairman.

22 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: None.

23 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Okay. Thank you very much.

24 MR. BRITT: Thank you.

25 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Mr. Serna, anything else on the
Executive Director's report?

1 MR. SERNA: The only thing I have to report is
2 unfortunately that we've lost two employees in 2021 to Covid-19. Both had
3 been teleworkers so there was no further exposure but unfortunately, we lost
4 two of our employees. One in Unemployment Insurance and one in Vocational
5 Rehabilitation services. So our thoughts and prayers go out to those
6 individuals and their families. Other than that, I have nothing else to
7 report, sir.

8 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: So thank you for bringing that to
9 our attention, Mr. Serna. Is there any other order of business to come
10 before the Commission today?

11 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Chairman, I'd also like to
12 acknowledge that we lost a close friend that's worked closely with the Texas
13 Science and Engineering Advisory Board, who we lost recently who was
14 committed to making sure that we provided every young Texan with an
15 opportunity to learn and advance their science and technology. So it was sad
16 to hear that our Chairman recently passed away from that. And I also wanted
17 to state that I'm looking forward to working with you and Commissioner
18 Demerson in the upcoming legislative session.

19 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you, Mr. Alvarez.

20 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to
21 echo Commissioner Alvarez's sentiments. I had the privilege in my prior
22 position working with (unintelligible) Exxon Mobile (unintelligible) support
23 of our science fair efforts over the years and Truman was a true champion in
24 that space (unintelligible) appreciate Exxon Mobile generosity towards our
25 science fair efforts. I look forward to carrying on those efforts down the

1 line. He will be sorely missed and was a champion for those students in that
2 science (unintelligible).

3 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Yeah, Chairman Truman Bell
4 was a great man and a great loss to the State of Texas, so just wanted to
5 acknowledge that.

6 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Thank you for doing that,
7 Commissioner Alvarez (inaudible) the opportunity to work with Truman
8 (unintelligible) Truman will be missed. UTSA UTexas AM University now is
9 very involved in (unintelligible) hard one to replace.

10 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you.

11 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Anything else? Is there a motion
13 to adjourn?

14 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Nothing else, Chairman.

15 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right. Is there a motion to
16 adjourn?

17 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Oh, yes, sir. Chairman, I
18 move that we adjourn.

19 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: I second that motion.

20 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Been moved and seconded to adjourn
21 and we're adjourned. Thank you everyone.

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