



**MEETING OF THE  
TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION**

**DATE**

**JUNE 24, 2021**

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THURSDAY, JUNE 24, 2021

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right, good morning, everyone. The meeting is called to order.

COMPUTER: Recording in progress.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Did Siri just interrupt me?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Good morning, everyone. The meeting is called to order. Mr. Trobman, has anyone signed up for public comment?

MR. TROBMAN: [inaudible]

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you. Good morning, Ms. Miller.

MS. MILLER: Good morning, sir.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Let's take a quick break. We'll get set up for the rest of this meeting. This changes everything. I'm going to have get my other script out. All right, let's start with Agenda Item A. This is FY 2022-24 final, Child Care and Development Fund State Plan.

ALLISON WILSON: [Unintelligible]

CHRIS NELSON: My mic was off, so I know it wasn't me. Allison, are you there? Chairman, I suggest we move to the next item and come back once we resolve the technical difficulties.

1 ALLISON WILSON: Can you hear me? Can you  
2 hear me?

3 CHRIS NELSON: Yes, we can.

4 ALLISON WILSON: Okay. I apologize. I don't  
5 think I had the right link this morning, but I'm here now. So,  
6 good morning, Chairman, Commissioners and Mr. Townsend. For the  
7 record, Allison Wilson with the Childcare and Early Learning  
8 Division. Today for your consideration, we are bringing forward  
9 the final CCDF State Plan for federal fiscal years '22 through  
10 '24. The CCDF State Plan is the primary mechanism that the  
11 Administration for Children and Families uses to determine the  
12 state's compliance with the requirements of the Child Care and  
13 Development Block Grant Act. The plan is also a vehicle to  
14 publicly share state CCDF policies and quality improvement  
15 investments. During the development of the final plan, we sought  
16 and received input from the public and numerous stakeholders,  
17 including child care providers, advocacy organizations,  
18 workforce development boards and state partners. The final plan  
19 addresses much of this input, as well as changes that arose from  
20 the legislation passed during the recent 87<sup>th</sup> Legislative  
21 Session. Along with the final state plan, we also bring forward  
22 the Child Care Statewide Emergency Preparedness and Disaster  
23 Plan, which is a CCDF State Plan component. The disaster plan  
24 has been updated to incorporate lessons learned since the last  
25 publication in 2018. The Texas Department of Emergency

1 Management, HHSC's Child Care Regulation Division, the Texas  
2 Early Learning Council and local boards provided input to inform  
3 these revisions. We secured direction on submitting the final  
4 state plan to the Administration for Children and Families  
5 Office of Child Care on or before June 30<sup>th</sup>. We also request that  
6 staff have authority to make technical changes, as needed, prior  
7 to submission. And I'm happy to answer any questions you have.

8 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Comments or questions?

9 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Chairman, I have a  
10 comment regarding this particular agenda item. Before we take  
11 any action on this item, I wanted to discuss a recent exchange I  
12 had with the Houston delegation and specifically with Dr.  
13 Quianta Moore, a Huffington Fellow in Child Health Policy with  
14 Rice University. She explained the profound impact the language  
15 has on our child care program and what it has, along with its  
16 parents. The word subsidies can have a negative connotation. If  
17 we change that term to scholarships, we will find that we will  
18 not only change expectations for the child, but also find that  
19 the parent becomes invested in the program. For example, my  
20 child received a scholarship, rather than my child receives  
21 subsidies--subsidized care. By phrasing the financial assistance  
22 we provide as child care scholarships, we would help reinforce  
23 the idea that the parents are receiving something of value,  
24 something to be proud of, and it helps the parents to be  
25 invested in the child care they are receiving. It also

1 highlights the value of the education we are providing to our  
2 children. As our program continues to reinforce the importance  
3 of quality child care, we have an opportunity to drive home the  
4 point that we are investing in these parents and their children.  
5 I would ask staff to look at changing the language around the  
6 child care program to move away from subsidized to child care  
7 scholarships in our interactions with parents and our managing--  
8 our messaging with providers, parents, partners, children and  
9 the public. I look forward to having staff bring these--their  
10 ideas on how to implement this change.

11 ALLISON WILSON: Thank you, Commissioner  
12 Alvarez. We are certainly happy to look into that for you.

13 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: No other comments  
14 here. I think that's a good idea to have staff look into that. I  
15 had the pleasure of hearing her presentation, as well, and I  
16 think there's something to it, so it'd be good to have staff go  
17 out, look into it, look at the advantages of marketing the  
18 program that way and seeing if there's any inherent benefits  
19 for--of it.

20 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Are you asking for that to  
21 be changed in this report or just to bring it forward for action  
22 at a later date?

23 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Bring it back. Bring  
24 it back later on.

25 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Later--at a later date?

1 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: That's correct, sir.

2 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right. All right. So,  
3 any other comments on today's--

4 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: No comments.

5 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: So, staff will bring back  
6 at a later date some recommendations for a policy decision with  
7 regard to what we call the subsidy, and today I think we need to  
8 take action on this report and move it along.

9 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Okay. Chairman, are  
10 you ready for the motion? I move that we approve the CCDF and  
11 State Plan, and the Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response  
12 Plan and allow staff to make any technical corrections, as  
13 needed.

14 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Second.

15 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's been moved and  
16 seconded, and we're unanimous. Is that it on eight? Yes?

17 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Chairman, I believe  
18 that's it for tonight.

19 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right. I don't think  
20 we have anything on nine. Do we have anything on ten?

21 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: We do not have  
22 anything on ten.

23 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: We do not have anything on  
24 ten. Board nominations, Agenda Item 11.

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1 SHUNTA WILLIAMS: Good morning, Chairman,  
2 Commissioners and Mr. Nelson. For the record, Shunta Williams  
3 with the Workforce Development Division. And before you today  
4 for consideration, we have Workforce Board nominations from  
5 three areas. Staff recommends approval for Workforce Solutions  
6 Gulf Coast, Middle Rio Grande, and Texoma. That concludes my  
7 request, and I'm here to answer any questions you have.

8 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Comments or questions?

9 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: None here, Chairman.

10 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: None? Do we have a motion?

11 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Chairman, I move that  
12 we--to approve the board nominees for Gulf Coast, Middle Rio  
13 Grande, and Texoma.

14 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Second.

15 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's been moved and  
16 seconded, and we're unanimous.

17 SHUNTA WILLIAMS: Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you. Nothing on 12.  
19 How about--how about 13? No?

20 CHRIS NELSON: Nothing on 13.

21 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: How about 14?

22 CHRIS NELSON: Not from me.

23 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: This is your chance to  
24 have an executive director's report. They're letting you sit  
25 there.

1                   CHRIS NELSON: I may not be able to come  
2 back if I go too far.

3                   CHAIRMAN DANIEL: That's wisdom in action  
4 right there, is what we just saw. Is there any other order of  
5 business to come before the Commission?

6                   COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: None here, Chairman.

7                   COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: None here.

8                   CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Is there a motion to  
9 adjourn?

10                  COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Chairman, I move that  
11 we adjourn.

12                  COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Second.

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

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