

TEXAS WORKFORCE INVESTMENT COUNCIL
APPRENTICESHIP AND TRAINING ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ATAC)
Microsoft Teams

Thursday, March 4, 2021
MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Paul Puente (Chair), Brandon Willis (Vice Chair), Randel Beal, Sabrina Campbell, John Gargotta, Don Masten, Nicholas Morgan, Servando Munguia, Keith Stanford, Julie Tucker, and Joyce Williams

MEMBERS ABSENT

Joseph Cooper, Randy Hunter, and Gary Strouz

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Paul Puente welcomed members, explained the logistics for the virtual meeting, and called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. He acknowledged Julian Alvarez, commissioner representing labor at the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), and invited him to address committee members. Mr. Puente also acknowledged guests Desi Holmes and Tara Cole from the ApprenticeshipTexas department at TWC; Duane Hiller from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB); and Lee Price from the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL).

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – ACTION

Mr. Puente asked if there were any changes to the minutes for February 27, 2020. Hearing none, he called for a motion. Sabrina Campbell moved to approve the minutes. Brandon Willis seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The minutes were unanimously approved by voice vote.

REPORTS, BRIEFINGS AND ACTIONS

Fiscal Year 2022 Funding Formulas for Apprenticeship Training Programs Funded Under Chapter 133 of the Texas Education Code (Action Item)

Mr. Puente called on Council staff Rafael González to brief the committee on the action item. Mr. González provided members with an explanation of the committee’s responsibility to recommend to the Council, for its consideration and approval, funding elements for the distribution of the next fiscal year apprenticeship program funding. Upon receiving approval from the Council, the formula recommendations are forwarded to TWC for implementation.

After the briefing, Mr. Puente called for a motion to approve the following funding formula recommendations:

- The contact-hour rate for apprenticeship training programs for fiscal year (FY) 2022 be set at a rate not to exceed \$4.25 per contact hour.

- Five percent of available funds be used to fund new or established apprenticeship programs that did not receive Chapter 133 funds in FY 2021.

Brandon Willis made a motion to approve the recommendations. Sabrina Campbell seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Texas Workforce Commission Update (Oral Report)

Mr. Puente called on Tara Cole of TWC to provide a briefing. Ms. Cole first provided an overview of an apprenticeship-related instruction cost study for fiscal years 2018-2019. She then reviewed with members two reports on the Chapter 133 apprenticeship training program: the FY 2020 performance summary and the FY 2021 apprenticeship final funding detail. After the briefing, Desi Holmes of TWC led discussion on staffing, grants, the annual ApprenticeshipTexas conference, and other topics.

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Update (Oral Report)

Mr. Puente called on Duane Hiller of THECB to provide an update to members. Mr. Hiller reviewed community college formula funding information for the 2020-2021 biennium, highlighting specific programs and funding examples. He noted that the information would be updated after the legislative session ends. After the presentation, discussion centered on program funding and contact hour rates.

U.S. Department of Labor Office of Apprenticeship Update (Oral Report)

Mr. Puente called on Lee Price of the U.S. DOL Office of Apprenticeship to give an update on federal apprenticeship initiatives. Mr. Price provided information on the recent growth in the number of registered apprentices and registered apprenticeship programs in the state. He reported on federal grants, discussed current federal legislation, and highlighted several new apprenticeship programs in Texas.

INFORMATION AND UPDATES

Updated Membership Information

Mr. Puente announced that ATAC members whose terms will be expiring in May would receive notice regarding their term of appointment.

Mr. Puente informed members that the next ATAC meeting would be held on Thursday, September 2, at 10:00 a.m., and that members will be advised as to the manner in which the committee will meet by the end of July.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Mr. Puente called for a motion to adjourn. Julie Tucker moved to adjourn the meeting. Keith Stanford seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 11:18 a.m.