

TEXAS WORKFORCE INVESTMENT COUNCIL MEETING

Microsoft Teams

Friday, March 5, 2021

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mark Dunn (Chair), Rick Rhodes (Vice Chair), Gina Aguirre Adams, Joe Arnold, Adriana Cruz, Jesse Gatewood, Lindsey Geeslin, Lauren Gore, Thomas Halbouty, Michael Hinojosa, John Martin, Wayne Oswald, Paul Puente, Richard Rhodes, Wayne Salter [designee for Cecile Young], Ed Serna, Jarrad Toussant [designee for Mike Morath], and Brandon Willis

MEMBERS ABSENT

Harrison Keller, Mike Morath, and Cecile Young

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Mark Dunn welcomed members, explained the logistics for the virtual meeting, and called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m. Mr. Dunn also acknowledged the guests in attendance who would be participating as part of the presentation from the Dallas Independent School District that would take place after the business portion of the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – ACTION

Mr. Dunn asked if there were any changes to the December 11, 2020, minutes. Hearing none, he called for a motion. Paul Puente recommended approval of the minutes. John Martin seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The minutes were approved by voice vote.

REPORTS, ACTIONS, AND BRIEFINGS

Update on the Meeting of the Rehabilitation Council of Texas (RCT) (Oral Report)

Mr. Dunn asked Lindsey Geeslin, who represents the Council on RCT, to provide the report. Ms. Geeslin discussed the primary role of the Rehabilitation Council of Texas and reviewed highlights of the February RCT meeting. Topics discussed at the meeting included a demonstration project that supports customized pre-apprenticeship training, the Summer Earn and Learn program, customers served, service delivery, and other items.

Report from the Apprenticeship and Training Advisory Committee (ATAC) (Oral Report)

Mr. Dunn called on Paul Puente to provide a report on the ATAC meeting held the previous day. Mr. Puente reported that the committee heard updates on Chapter 133 apprenticeship training programs, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board programs, and federal apprenticeship initiatives.

Mr. Puente said that the committee also voted to recommend to the Council approval of fiscal year (FY) 2022 funding formulas for apprenticeship training programs funded under Chapter 133 of the Texas

Education code. He then stated the recommendations and asked that the Council approve ATAC's recommendations.

Fiscal Year 2022 Apprenticeship Funding Formula Recommendations (Action Item)

Mr. Dunn restated the following ATAC funding formula recommendations for Council consideration:

- The contact hour rate for apprenticeship training programs for 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.

Mr. Puente made a motion to approve the recommendations. Brandon Willis seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Skill Standards for Manufacturing Production (2020 Update) (Action Item)

Mr. Dunn called on Council staff Anne Dorsey to present the action item. Ms. Dorsey first reviewed with members the Council's overall legislative charge for the Texas Skill Standards system. She then reviewed the background and requirements for conditional recognition of the updated manufacturing production skill standards developed and endorsed by the Manufacturing Skill Standards Council (MSSC). She reported that Council staff reviewed the standards and verified that they meet the recognition criteria established in the Council's *Guidelines for the Development, Recognition, and Usage of Skill Standards*.

Mr. Dunn called for a motion to recognize the updated 2020 MSSC "Industry 4.0" skill standards for manufacturing production. Wayne Oswald so moved, and Gina Aguirre Adams seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Texas Skill Standards System: Program Recognition Update (Briefing Item)

Mr. Dunn called on Ms. Dorsey to present the item. Ms. Dorsey reminded members of the Council's mandate to validate and recognize skill standards to guide curriculum development, training, assessment and certification of workforce skills. She then reviewed the elements of skill standards and the criteria for program recognition approval. She closed the briefing with an update on the status of 2021 program recognition applications.

Local Workforce Board Plans (Briefing Item)

Mr. Dunn asked Council staff Kaki Leyens to provide the briefing. Ms. Leyens reminded members that the Council is charged in state and federal law with reviewing local workforce development board plans and recommending approval of those plans to the Governor. She provided an overview of the board plan modification process and timeline, highlighting Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act requirements and TWC guidelines for the process. She reported that the deadline for all 28 boards to submit their plan modifications was in March and that Council staff will review plans for alignment with the workforce system strategic plan. At the June meeting, the Council will take action to consider for approval the local board plans and submit a recommendation for approval to the Governor.

COVID-19 Labor Market Update (Briefing Item)

Mr. Dunn called on Council staff David Mass to present the item. Mr. Mass presented an overview of the research report, including key data sets that can be used to estimate the effects of the pandemic on the Texas workforce. He highlighted findings on unemployment change, industry employment trends, and regional hiring patterns, and noted that Council staff will add additional data sets before the report is published on the Council website. After the briefing, there was discussion on comparative regional impacts of the pandemic.

Veterans in Texas: A Demographic Study (Briefing Item)

Mr. Dunn called on Council staff Rafael González to present the item. Mr. González provided a brief overview of the 2021 demographic report on veterans, which is an update to a report that was published in 2019. He summarized data points for veterans across the nation and reviewed a breakdown of the Texas veteran population by region, by race and ethnicity, by age, and by education level. He noted that the full report will be published on the Council website.

The Texas 87th Legislative Session (Briefing Item)

Mr. Dunn asked Ms. Leyens to brief members. Ms. Leyens reviewed the timeline for the 2021 legislative session and the process used to track workforce-related bills during the session. She reported that the legislature had introduced 3,729 bills as of March 1. She discussed the bill status report that will be presented to Council members during the session and highlighted three bills of interest to the Council.

PRESENTATION

Mr. Dunn announced that the presentation would provide information on the Dallas Independent School District (ISD) P-TECH program and Career Institutes, and invited the presenters to introduce themselves:

- Michael Hinojosa, Ed. D., Superintendent of Schools, Dallas ISD
- Joe May, Ed. D., Chancellor, Dallas College
- Drexell Owusu, Senior Vice President, Education & Workforce, Dallas Regional Chamber
- Raamel Mitchell, Public Affairs and Citizenship Director, Microsoft

Dallas Independent School District – Career Institutes and Key Partners

Dr. Hinojosa made opening remarks on Dallas ISD's postsecondary partnerships and programs. Mr. Owusu discussed economics in the Dallas region, workforce equity challenges, and COVID-19. Dr. May discussed state and local realities and ways to address education options and employment pathways for those in the Dallas area. Dr. Hinojosa discussed the P-TECH program, which he defined as high school, college, and industry partners working together to prepare students to enter middle-skill level jobs. Mr. Mitchell discussed industry partner Microsoft's involvement with Dallas ISD, highlighting examples of student experiences. Dr. Hinojosa closed the presentation with an overview of Career Institutes. After the presentation, discussion focused on the following topics: apprenticeship, SkillsUSA, college and industry partnerships, and career readiness.

INFORMATION AND UPDATES

Mr. Dunn noted several items in the Information and Updates section of briefing book, including the expenditure report, the Texas Demographic Update, and the meeting of the Rehabilitation Council of Texas report. He announced that the next meeting of the Council would be held on Friday, June 4, and that Council staff will advise members as to whether the Council will meet virtually or in person.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Mr. Dunn called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Gina Aguirre Adams moved to adjourn. Paul Puente seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 11:42 a.m.