

# **TEXAS WORKFORCE INVESTMENT COUNCIL MEETING**

Microsoft Teams

**Friday, September 4, 2020**

## **MINUTES**

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mark Dunn (Chair), Rick Rhodes (Vice Chair), Gina Aguirre Adams, Adriana Cruz, Jesse Gatewood, Lindsey Geeslin, Thomas Halbouty, Michael Hinojosa, Harrison Keller, 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**

John Martin, Mike Morath, and Cecile Young

### **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chair Mark Dunn called the meeting to order at 9:36 a.m. and explained the logistics of the virtual meeting to members. He noted that the Council meeting would be a business meeting only and that all presentation items have been postponed.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES – ACTION**

Mr. Dunn asked if there were any changes to the February 28, 2020, and April 6, 2020, meeting minutes. Hearing none, he called for a motion to approve the February 28, 2020, minutes. Jesse Gatewood recommended approval of the minutes. Gina Aguirre Adams seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The February 28, 2020, minutes were approved.

Mr. Dunn then called for a motion to approve the April 6, 2020, minutes. Lindsey Geeslin recommended approval of the minutes. Thomas Halbouty seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The April 6, 2020, minutes were approved.

### **REPORTS, ACTIONS, AND BRIEFINGS**

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

Mr. Dunn asked Lindsey Geeslin, who represents the Council on RCT, to provide the briefing. Ms. Geeslin discussed the primary role of the Rehabilitation Council of Texas and reviewed highlights on the May and August RCT meetings. Topics discussed at the meetings included customer service during the pandemic and regional meetings related to the comprehensive statewide needs assessment.

#### **Update on the Texas Talent Connection Grant Program (Briefing Item)**

Mr. Dunn asked Council director Lee Rector to provide an update. Ms. Rector informed members that, due to the pandemic, many Texas Talent Connection grantees have asked for extensions to their existing grants.

Because of this and other considerations, a new grant offering has been postponed until spring 2021. Ms. Rector then informed members about other workforce programs to which grant funds will be allocated.

**Consideration for Approval – Rule Review for 40 TAC, Chapter 901, Designation and Redesignation of Local Workforce Development Areas (Action Item)**

Mr. Dunn called on Lee Rector to present the item. Ms. Rector provided background information on the process and purpose of the rule review requirement of the Texas Administrative Code. She explained that rules must be reviewed every four years and that no public comments were received during the 30-day public comment period. She noted that if the Council approves the rule review, a Notice of Adopted Rule Review will be posted in the Texas Register. She then recommended that the Council adopt the rule review.

Mr. Dunn asked for a motion for the Council to approve the rule review for designation and redesignation of local workforce development areas. Richard Rhodes so moved. Thomas Halbouty seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

**Fiscal Year 2020 Council Work Plan Achievements and Consideration of the Fiscal Year 2021 Council Work Plan (Action Item)**

Mr. Dunn called on Lee Rector to brief the Council. Ms. Rector presented an overview of the Council's activities in fiscal year (FY) 2020, including updating the Texas workforce system strategic plan, publishing the fourth evaluation report under the system strategic plan, and updating a number of reports focused on data and demographics. She then presented the draft work plan for FY 2021, which is structured according to the six primary roles of the Council: strategic planning and capacity building; evaluation and performance measurement; research and continuous improvement; review; skill standards; and general administration.

Mr. Dunn asked for a motion to approve the FY 2021 Council work plan. Thomas Halbouty so moved. Gina Aguirre Adams seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

***Middle-Skill STEM Occupation Index (Briefing Item)***

After opening remarks from Ms. Rector, Mr. Dunn called on Council staff Rafael González to brief Council members. Mr. Gonzalez provided an overview of the *Middle-Skill STEM Occupation Index*, which includes demographic and occupational benchmarks that system partners and stakeholders can use to better understand how such occupations function within the Texas workforce system. He presented the context of the report, provided a summary of the methodology and data sources used for the index, and walked members through several examples of the data in the index. He noted that the index was developed prior to the COVID-19 outbreak and that the report may be updated in the coming years.

***Demographics of the Unemployed in Texas: A Snapshot Before the Pandemic (Briefing Item)***

Mr. Dunn called on Council staff David Mass to present the item. Mr. Mass briefed members on findings and data from the report, which focuses on unemployment in Texas before COVID-19 and includes demographic information for each of the 28 local workforce development areas. He reviewed three content areas in the report: alternative measures of unemployment, unemployment demographics, and unemployment climate. He noted that the Council will continue to monitor the unemployment data in the future to capture the effects of COVID-19. After the presentation, there was brief discussion on data relating to apprenticeship programs and technical colleges.

***Evaluation 2020: Accomplishments and Outcomes of the Texas Workforce System (Briefing Item)***

Mr. Dunn called on David Mass to provide the briefing. Mr. Mass reviewed with members the structure of the evaluation report, which will be presented to the Council in December. He reminded members of the

report's evaluation framework and balanced scorecard format, which is designed to support performance assessment and elevate the outcomes of the workforce system. He discussed the goal areas that will be addressed in the report and reviewed the project timeline. He closed the briefing by thanking the Council's partner agencies for assistance with the evaluation report data requests.

**Results for America: Evidence-Based Grant Making (Briefing item)**

Mr. Dunn asked Ms. Rector to update members. Ms. Rector provided information on the Results for America state and local workforce fellowship, which focuses on evidence-based grant making. She stated that the Texas fellowship team is continuing to work on three strategies to achieve evidence-based outcomes in the state. She also updated members on the significant work that has been accomplished, which includes the completion and incorporation of evidence tier definitions and requirements for discretionary grant applications.

**INFORMATION AND UPDATES**

Mr. Dunn announced that, following the business portion of the next Council meeting in December, Commissioner Mike Morath from the Texas Education Agency, Commissioner Harrison Keller from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, and Chair Bryan Daniel from the Texas Workforce Commission are scheduled to participate on a tri-agency leadership panel.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business, Mr. Dunn called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jesse Gatewood moved to adjourn. Lindsey Geeslin seconded the motion. The motion was approved. The meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.