



**OKLAHOMA STATE WORK PERMITS AND
VISAS TASK FORCE
2024**

Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION.....	2
EXECUTIVE ORDER 2024-08.....	3
FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS REPORT.....	4
JUNE 20, 2024, MEETING MINUTES.....	7
JULY 11, 2024, MEETING MINUTES	11
JULY 22, 2024, MEETING MINUTES	15
AUGUST 5, 2024, MEETING MINUTES	23
AUGUST 19, 2024, MEETING MINUTES.....	27
AUGUST 26, 2024, MEETING MINUTES.....	28



MEMBERS

TRICIA EVEREST,
SECRETARY OF PUBLIC SAFETY
APPOINTEE OF THE GOVERNOR
CHAIRMAN

EDURNE PINEDA
CONSUL OF MEXICO IN
OKLAHOMA CITY

MIGUEL GARCIA
APPOINTEE OF THE GOVERNOR

CYNTHIA JASSO
APPOINTEE OF THE GOVERNOR

XAVIER NEIRA
DESIGNEE OF THE
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE
SENATE

NIMA ZECAVATI
DESIGNEE OF THE CHANCELLOR OF
OKLAHOMA STATE SYSTEM OF
HIGHER EDUCATION

TRAE RAHILL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE
OKLAHOMA EMPLOYMENT
SECURITY SYSTEM

BRETT FARLEY
DESIGNEE OF THE SPEAKER OF THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JOE WILLIAMS, LIEUTENANT
COLONEL
DESIGNEE OF THE COMMISSIONER
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC
SAFETY

TOMMY HUMPHRIES, DA
APPOINTEE OF THE DISTRICT
ATTORNEY'S COUNCIL

AMANDA STORCK
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE
OKLAHOMA TAX COMMISSION

TASK FORCE STAFF:

TRACY OSBURN, OMES ATTORNEY

BEVERLY HICKS, OMES
ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR,
MEETING SECRETARY

Oklahoma State Work Permits and Visas Task Force

The Honorable Governor J. Kevin Stitt, Senate President Pro Tempore Greg Treat, Speaker of the House of Representatives Charles McCall, Minority Leader of the Senate Kay Floyd, and Minority Leader of the House of Representatives Cyndi Munson:

We would like to thank each of you for the opportunity to serve on the Oklahoma State Work Permits and Visas (OSWPV) Task Force. As the eleven voting members with diverse backgrounds and qualifications, we have taken our duties and responsibilities very seriously as a task force.

With [Executive Order 2024-08](#), Governor Stitt established the Oklahoma State Work Permits and Visas Task Force in response to the continued lack of action by the federal administration to address legitimate ways for global workforce to legitimately work in Oklahoma without diminishing public safety. The Order charged the Task Force to evaluate and make recommendations to allow immigrants to have the visas, permits and documentation to pursue the American Dream, contribute to our workforce and for Oklahoma Universities and industries to safely and legally recruit and retain global talent without fear of unnecessary deportation or separation from family.

The Task Force was directed to produce its report no later than August 31, 2024. The Task Force met six times between June 20, 2024 and August 26, 2024. The Task Force members significantly contributed to the discussions and topics at each of the meetings. Many of the members made additional contributions through presentations and bringing in special guests. We especially recognize Krystal Reyes from the City of Tulsa, Mayor's Office or Resilience and Equity, Natalie El-Deiry, Director of Immigration and Integration Utah Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity, and Rosa Diaz, Oklahoma Employment Security Commission for presenting to the Task Force.

We look forward to work with each of you to assist in implementation of the following recommendations and opportunities.

Respectfully,

The Oklahoma State Work Permits and Visas Task Force



J. Kevin Stitt
Office of the Governor
State of Oklahoma

FILED
April 30, 2024
Secretary of State
State of Oklahoma

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
EXECUTIVE ORDER 2024-08

WHEREAS, I recently signed House Bill 4156 into law as a direct result of the unprecedented border security crisis that has seen more than 52,000 Chinese Nationals along with terror organizations illegally infiltrate and wreak havoc on our great Nation and State due to the Biden administration's complete failure to offer even minimal protections;

WHEREAS, I have been clear that House Bill 4156 is not aimed at the honest, hardworking Hispanic or other international migrant populations here chasing the American dream, enhancing our communities, economies, and way of life, and otherwise significantly contributing to Oklahoma's tapestry;

WHEREAS, the current federal administration has refused to responsibly issue work permits or visas to thousands of immigrants who have long filled gaps in Oklahoma's workforce, and the Biden administration has instead chosen to altogether ignore any and all issues associated with the crisis at the southern border;

WHEREAS, unless and until the federal administration functions as designed, we must do our part to discover and provide pathways for migrant workers to legitimately contribute to our state without fear of being separated from their families and livelihoods and for Oklahoma businesses to hire and retain those valuable workers without unwarranted risk of deportation;

NOW THEREFORE, I, J. Kevin Stitt, Governor of the State of Oklahoma pursuant to the power and authority vested in me by Sections 1 and 2 of Article VI of the Oklahoma Constitution, hereby order the creation of the Oklahoma State Work Permits and Visas (OSWPV) Task Force:

The Task Force shall study, evaluate, and make recommendations regarding policies and programs and propose legislation that will:

1. Allow for immigrants here to pursue the American dream and contribute to our workforce to secure work permits, work visas or similar documentation permitting them, to remain for established timeframes without threat of separation from their families and livelihood and
2. Provide universities, aviation companies, farmers and ranchers, oil and gas companies, and other industries Oklahoma heavily relies upon as its economic engine, the ability to hire and retain immigrants who do not present a threat to communities.

The Task Force shall submit to the Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Oklahoma Senate, the Speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives, the Minority Leader of the Oklahoma

Senate, and the Minority Leader of the Oklahoma House of Representatives a report on or before August 31, 2024, detailing its findings and recommendations.

The Task Force shall be composed of eleven (11) members determined as follows:

1. Three (3) community members appointed by the Governor, at least one of whom shall have demonstrated knowledge of the process by which work permits and/or visas may be secured;
2. The Speaker of the House of Representatives or his designee;
3. The President Pro Tempore of the Senate or his designee;
4. The Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety or his designee;
5. The Consul of Mexico in Oklahoma City or her designee;
6. The Executive Director of the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission or his designee;
7. The Executive Director of the Oklahoma Tax Commission or his designee;
8. The Chancellor for the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education or her designee;
9. An appointee of the District Attorneys Council; and

A member appointed by the Governor shall serve as the Chair of the Task Force and shall have the authority to create committees and name committee chairs to facilitate the work of the Task Force and shall have the authority to appoint Task Force members and non-members to serve on committees. The Task Force shall meet as often as deemed necessary by the Chair allowing for timely completion of its work. A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of conducting the business of the Task Force. Members, including those appointed to committees who are not members of the Task Force, shall serve without compensation.

The Office of Management and Enterprise Services shall provide staff and administrative support for the Task Force. All Executive departments, officers, agencies, and employees of the State shall cooperate with the Task Force, including providing any information, data, records, and reports as may be requested.

This Executive Order shall be distributed to each member of the Task Force specifically identified herein and to each person appointed to a Task Force committee and to the Minority Leader of the Oklahoma Senate and the Minority Leader of the Oklahoma House of Representatives.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Oklahoma to be affixed at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, this 30th day of April, 2024.

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA

Kevin Stitt

ATTEST:



Josh Cockroft

Josh Cockroft, SECRETARY OF STATE

Oklahoma State Work Permits and Visas Taskforce Recommendations

This Taskforce recommends creating an Office of New Oklahomans to promote interagency coordination and collaboration on issues impacting non-citizens in state and federal government.

Issues related to non-citizens impact several state agencies. As such, we recommend establishing a dedicated office within the appropriate agency, as determined by the Governor and State Legislature, to ensure strong collaboration and coordination among agencies while optimizing efficiencies for non-citizens and employers.

According to the American Immigration Council, there are nearly 20 states with such offices including Utah, where the Office of Immigration and Integration has developed a comprehensive state plan to attract and retain global talent. Utah's Office of Immigration and Integration works alongside businesses in navigating the immigration process to hire global talent.

This Office could establish an Immigrant Advisory Council comprising of non-citizen advocates and agency leaders to advise local and state governments on issues affecting non-citizens communities.

In the short-term, this Office could serve as a wayfinding navigator for internationally trained talent seeking employment opportunities. Over time, this Office could create self-sufficiency guides, checklists and how-to videos to help individuals easily navigate state processes.

This Taskforce recommends empowering employers, internationally trained talent and migrant workers with the tools and information necessary to fill high-need sector jobs.

Oklahoma can lead the way in empowering employers as well as internationally trained talent with tools and resources to help navigate visa types, legal requirements, costs and the credentialing process. Creating a central repository of information on the state's website can help employers and internationally trained talent better understand pathways to employment. Examples such as Flourish Tulsa's employer guide and credential pathways guide for high-demand sectors can provide a blueprint for these resources. Leveraging existing portals such as OK Job Match and related sites can help international talent to get connected with employment opportunities.

States like Utah offer quarterly informational webinars for employers, community-based organizations, internationally trained talent and state agencies with topic-specific information.

This Taskforce recommends promoting policies which optimize efficiency for international talent navigating credentialing processes.

Optimize existing credential processes for high-demand sectors with labor needs that could be filled by international talent. Ensure streamlined policies in credential evaluation for work authorized non-citizens with valid credentials in their country of origin. One example is Georgia's Senate Bill 529 which temporarily grants provisional and restricted medical licenses to qualifying foreign-born physicians working in rural areas. Additionally, expanding access to occupational licenses to non-citizens can provide pathways to students with DACA status otherwise known as "Dreamers." Federal law prohibits issuing occupational licenses to non-citizens but does allow states to pass laws to make them eligible.

This Taskforce recommends piloting innovative solutions to increase work permits and visas issued to non-citizens seeking to move and/or living in Oklahoma.

Collaborate with community-based organizations, higher education institutions and other relevant agencies to increase the number of cap-exempt H1B visas in high-demand sectors.

Promote a J-1 intracompany exchange program between international locations where the State of Oklahoma has developed relationships (or can develop them) and where there are talent sources for in-demand occupations (whether it be teachers, STEM research scholars, nurses, etc.). According to Bridge USA, in 2022, Oklahoma had 1,069 J-1 visas compared to 11,435 in Texas.

Consider advocating for and implementing a state-issued visa program.

The Taskforce recommends issuing Driving Privilege Cards to qualifying non-citizens to address public safety concerns.

Utah and eighteen other states offer state issued Driving Privilege Cards (DPC) to non-citizens with specific restrictions and limited duration. Examples of these restrictions would be to prohibit voting and driving outside of Oklahoma. A DPC may only be issued to an individual with no criminal record and who provides certain documentation verifying their identity, residency, and nationality.

This state issued DPC offers a practical solution to public safety concerns in which a law enforcement officer may interact with an individual without identification. Issuing DPC can improve law enforcement interactions by verifying the identity of the individual. Added benefits include incentivizing non-citizens to enroll in auto insurance thereby, decreasing the number of uninsured drivers on Oklahoma roads.

In 2005, Congress enacted the Real ID legislation to standardize minimum security standards for state-issued driver's licenses and identification cards. It is within Oklahoma's Tenth Amendment authority to expand driver's licenses to non-citizens.

Beyond expanding access to state issued DPC, this taskforce recommends reviewing current Commercial Driver's Licenses requirements. Oklahoma's current minimum requirements exceed the federal requirements to obtain a CDL, exacerbating the Commercial Motor Vehicle driver shortage in the state. Non-citizens in some states can obtain CDLs if the state adheres to federal minimum requirements for issuing non-domiciled CDLs.

JUNE 20, 2024 MEETING MINUTES

MEETING DOCUMENTS

[Note from Deputy Consul Edurne Pineda](#)

**Oklahoma State Work Permits and Visas Task Force
Special Meeting Minutes
June 20, 2024, 9:00 a.m.
Oklahoma State Capitol
Governor’s Large Conference Room
2300 N. Lincoln Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73105**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tricia Everest, Chairman, Governor Appointee – Secretary of Public Safety
Miguel Garcia, Governor Appointee – Miguel Garcia PLLC
Cynthia Jasso, Governor Appointee – George Kaiser Family Foundation
Xavier Neira, Senate President Pro Tempore Appointee
Brett Farley, House Speaker Appointee – Catholic Conference of OKC
Lt. Col. Joe Williams, OHP/DPS designee
Carlos Padilla, Deputy Consul of Mexico in OKC
Amanda Storck, OK Tax Commission designee
Tommy Humphries, DA, District Attorneys Council designee

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Trae Rahill, Exec. Dir. of the OK Employment Security Commission
Nima Zecavati, OK State System of Higher Education designee
Eduarne Pineda, Consul of Mexico in OKC

STAFF/GUESTS:

Tracy Osburn, OMES, DGC	Mana Dolores Espinosa (Intern), COM OKC
Beverly Hicks, OMES	Sunne Day, DPS
Steven Birkes, OMES	Christopher O’Brien, VP-OESC
Lyna Mitchell, OMES, DGC	Shawn Ashley, Quorum Call
Robyn Rojas, OU Off. of IMM Services	

1. Announcement of filing of meeting notice and posting of the agenda in accordance with the Open Meetings Act. [Tricia Everest, Chair]

Chairwoman Everest confirmed that today’s meeting complied with the Open Meeting Act.

2. Call to order and establish a quorum. [Chair]

Chairwoman Everest called this special meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. A roll call was taken, and a quorum was established. A meeting notice was filed with the Secretary of State, and the agenda was posted in accordance with the law.

3. Welcome/Introduction of members. [Chair]

Chairwoman Everest welcomed members of the Task Force and guests to the meeting.

4. Presentation on the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act. [Tracy Osburn, OMES Deputy General Counsel]

Tracy Osburn, attorney for the task force, delivered an overview of the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act law, reminding members to confine discussions to the agenda items and adhere to the guidelines specified by Ms. Osburn in her presentation.

5. Review of Executive Order 2024-08 and discussion regarding goals, plans, and potential issues of the Task Force. [Chair]

Chairwoman Everest and Ms. Osburn provided an overview of Executive Order 2024-08.

Ms. Everest mentioned that Oklahoma is a workforce state with a very thriving Hispanic community. The governor deemed HB 4156 important enough to spend quantitative time engaging with stakeholders, participating in discussions, and gaining a deeper understanding of the matters moving forward.

Ms. Everest expressed her gratitude for the governor's initiative in issuing the executive order establishing the task force. She looks forward to the task force members' collective efforts in developing a template that can serve as a model for the nation or federal government. Oklahoma is known for its solution-based approaches, and using the executive order as a goalpost serves as a reminder of its purpose to create legal pathways for the betterment of the State's Hispanic communities.

The Task Force shall provide a report detailing its findings and recommendations to the Governor, President Pro Tempore of the Oklahoma Senate, the Speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives, the Minority Leader of the Oklahoma Senate, and the Minority Leader of the Oklahoma House of Representatives on or before August 31, 2024.

6. Discussion and possible action regarding Task Force subgroups and future presentations at Task Force meetings. [Chair]

The Task Force members deliberated on various topics for upcoming presentations deemed essential for accomplishing the task force objectives.

Topics discussed for potential presentations were:

- Matriculation process
- Current Visa status
- Flourish Tulsa program and other programs
- Population and tax identification numbers of documented/undocumented workers
- Identification and protection for the safety and well-being of individuals paying taxes
- Criminal statistics
- Improve communication with law enforcement

Discussion only. No action was taken.

7. Discussion and possible action regarding meeting schedule. [Chair]

The Task Force set the following meetings for July 11, July 22, August 5, and August 19, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

Discussion only. No action was taken.

8. Adjournment:

There being no further business, Xavier Neira made the motion to adjourn. Brett Farley seconded the motion. Seeing no opposition, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:49 a.m.

JULY 11, 2024 MEETING MINUTES

MEETING DOCUMENTS

[Flourish Tulsa Focus Group – Final Report](#)

[Flourish Tulsa NTI Presentation by Krystal S. Reyes](#)

[AIC Map the Impact-Oklahoma](#)

[New Tulsans Welcoming Plan](#)

[General webpage about Flourish Tulsa](#)

[Hiring guide](#)

[Career Pathways Guides](#)

[Upwardly Global Summary of their Bridging the Gap Report](#)

**Oklahoma State Work Permits and Visas Task Force
Special Meeting Minutes
July 11, 2024, 9:00 a.m.
Oklahoma State Capitol
Governor’s Large Conference Room
2300 N. Lincoln Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73105**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tricia Everest, Chairman, Governor Appointee – Secretary of Public Safety
Miguel Garcia, Governor Appointee – Miguel Garcia PLLC
Cynthia Jasso, Governor Appointee – George Kaiser Family Foundation
Xavier Neira, Senate President Pro Tempore Appointee
Brett Farley, House Speaker Appointee – Catholic Conference of OKC
Lt. Col. Joe Williams, OHP/DPS designee
Eduarne Pineda, Consul of Mexico in OKC
Amanda Storck, OK Tax Commission designee
Trae Rahill, Exec. Dir. of the OK Employment Security Commission
Nima Zecavati, OK State System of Higher Education designee
Tommy Humphries, DA, District Attorneys Council designee

MEMBERS ABSENT:**STAFF/GUESTS:**

Tracy Osburn, OMES, DGC	Lyna Mitchell, OMES, DGC
Beverly Hicks, OMES	Mana Dolores Espinosa, COM
Steven Birkes, OMES	Charles Lindsey-Outlaw, Legis-OK
Fred Mendoza, Gov. Hispanic Council	

◆ *Consule of Mexico in OKC (COM OKC)* ◆ *Deputy General Counsel (DGC)* ◆ *OK Employment Security Commission (OESC)*

1. Announcement of filing of meeting notice and posting of the agenda in accordance with the Open Meetings Act. [Tricia Everest, Chair]

Chairwoman Everest confirmed that today’s meeting complied with the Open Meeting Act.

2. Call to order and establish a quorum. [Chair]

Chairwoman Everest called this special meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. A roll call was taken, and a quorum was established. A meeting notice was filed with the Secretary of State, and the agenda was posted in accordance with the law.

3. Welcome/Introduction of members. [Chair]

Chairwoman Everest welcomed members of the Task Force and guests to the meeting. Task Force members introduced themselves and provided background information on their professional roles and the entity who appointed them to the Task Force.

4. Introduction of and presentation by Krystal Reyes from Flourish Tulsa regarding the program. [Chair]

Task Force member Cynthia Jasso introduced Krystal Reyes from Flourish Tulsa. Ms. Reyes began the presentation by providing the background on Flourish Tulsa which is part of the New Tulsans Initiative. Ms. Reyes spoke about Mayor Byum of Tulsa and his Office of Resilience and Equity. This office was established about eight years ago when Mayor Byum took office. Ms. Reyes provided background information on Tulsa's immigrant communities and presented on Flourish Tulsa's mission, goals, network, work accomplished, and work in progress. Ms. Reyes provided information on internationally trained talent challenges and the percentage of immigrants facing unemployment and underemployment. Ms. Reyes provided information on credential evaluations and translation services for job seekers with international training, education and credentials.

Task Force members were given the opportunity to ask questions. Chair Everest asked if all the individuals working through the Flourish Tulsa program had licenses to drive and how could the State/Task Force help. Ms. Reyes stated that Commercial Driver's Licenses (CDL) are restricted to U.S. citizens only which limits the job pool in Oklahoma. Ms. Reyes said that looking into this Oklahoma CDL restriction would be helpful. Task Force member Jasso referenced the handouts provided by Ms. Reyes and discussed the number of internationally trained teachers and their underemployment. Task Force member Neira asked about working around U.S. professional organization requirements. Ms. Reyes said that Flourish Tulsa is beginning the process of working with those organizations and looking into this topic/issue.

Materials provided to Task Force members to refer to during the meeting are available upon request and saved with the electronic copy of these minutes. These minutes contain the high points of the Flourish Tulsa presentation and is not a full transcription of the presentation.

5. Discussion and possible action on approval of special minutes from June 20, 2024. [Chair]

Xavier Neira moved to approve the special meeting minutes of June. Cynthia Jasso seconded the motion. The following votes were recorded, and the motion passed:

Mr. Garcia, aye; Ms. Jasso, aye; Mr. Neira, aye; Mr. Farley, aye; Lt. Col. Williams, aye; Consul Pineda, aye; Dir. Rahill, abstain; Dep. Dir. Storck, aye; Mr. Zecavati, abstain; DA Humphries, aye; Sec. Everest, aye.

6. Discussion and possible on what information to gather for Task Force report, and how such information will be gathered. [Chair]

Discussion only. No action was taken. A summary of the discussion is as follows.

Task Force member Jasso raised the driver's license issue as being a topic to have a presentation and include information in the report on. Office of Immigration Integration exists in Utah to coordinate resources for immigrants. Other states have something similar. Task Force member volunteered to get the full map of the United States with similar offices. Task Force member Raehill raised that measurable goals should be included and the institutional framework of the

state system regarding immigrants should be reviewed and discussed. Case studies could be included. Task Force member Neira said that the Task Force report should focus on public safety. Task Force member Garcia reminded the Task Force to focus on the Executive Order when preparing for the Task Force report.

7. Discussion and possible action regarding items to be presented at future Task Force meetings. [Chair]

Discussion only. No action was taken. A summary of the discussion is as follows.

Task Force member Garcia will present on Immigration 101.

Task Force member Rahill talked about OESC staff member coming to present on how OESC is connecting members of the public with workforce and how successful it has been.

Task Force member Consul Pineda will present on types of visas available for those who do not have work permit.

8. Adjournment:

There being no further business, Xavier Neira moved to adjourn. Trae Rahill seconded the motion. Seeing no opposition, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:21 a.m.

JULY 22, 2024 MEETING MINUTES

MEETING DOCUMENTS

[Rosa Diaz MSWF Community Outreach Coordinator Presentation](#)

[Notes from the Consulate of Mexico in Oklahoma City](#)

**Oklahoma State Work Permits and Visas Task Force
Special Meeting Minutes
July 22, 2024, 9:00 a.m.
Oklahoma State Capitol
Governor's Large Conference Room
2300 N. Lincoln Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73105**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tricia Everest, Chairman, Secretary of Public Safety, Governor
Miguel Garcia, Miguel Garcia PLLC, Governor
Cynthia Jasso, George Kaiser Family Foundation, Governor
Xavier Neira, Senate Pro Tempore Appointee
Lt. Col. Joe Williams, OHP/DPS
Eduarne Pineda, Consulate of Mexico in OKC
Amanda Storck, Deputy Dir. of the OK Tax Commission
Trae Rahill, Exec. Dir. of the OK Employment Security Commission
Nima Zecavati, JD, MPH, Dir. of Office of Immigration Services, RO/PDSO
Immigration Attorney
Tommy Humphries, DA, District Attorneys Council designee

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Brett Farley, House Speaker Appointee – Catholic Conference of OKC

STAFF/GUESTS:

Tracy Osburn, OMES, DGC	Lyna Mitchell, OMES, DGC
Beverly Hicks, OMES	Shawn Ashley, Quorum Call
Steven Birkes, OMES	Charles Lindsey-Outlaw, Legis-OK
Rosa Diaz, OESC	

1. Announcement of filing of meeting notice and posting of the agenda in accordance with the Open Meetings Act. [Tricia Everest, Chair]

Chairwoman Everest confirmed that today's meeting complied with the Open Meeting Act.

2. Call to order and establish a quorum. [Chair]

Chairwoman Everest called this special meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. A roll call was taken, and a quorum was established. A meeting notice was filed with the Secretary of State, and the agenda was posted in accordance with the law.

Please note that items 3 and 4 of the agenda were presented out of order. Item 3 was discussed after item 8, and item 4 was addressed after item 5.

3. Discussion and possible action on approval of special meeting minutes from July 11, 2024.

Xavier Neira moved to approve the special meeting minutes of July 11. Cynthia Jasso seconded the motion. The following votes were recorded, and the motion passed:

Mr. Garcia, aye; Ms. Jasso, aye; Mr. Neira, aye; Lt. Col. Williams, aye; Dir. Rahill, aye; Dep. Dir. Storck, aye; Mr. Zecavati, aye; DA Humphries, aye; Sec. Everest, aye.

This item was addressed later in the meeting, as Consul Pineda had to leave before the July 11 meeting minutes could be voted on.

4. Presentation by Task Force member Miguel Garcia on the topic of Immigration 101. Questions and discussion regarding and stemming from presentation topic by Task Force to follow.

Task Force member Miguel Garcia presented on the Immigration process, focusing on immigrants already in the United States.

Mr. Garcia provided an overview of Immigration 101, explaining the requirements for legal entry into the United States (U.S.) under the IIRA (1996). To become legal inside the U.S., one must meet the criteria on an INA 245(i), which involves being present on or before December 2000 with a petition filed on or before April 30, 2001. If these conditions are not met, individuals must leave the U.S. for one of two reasons: the illegal presence of more than six months but less than a year results in a three-year exit requirement, while the unlawful presence of more than one year leads to a ten-year exit mandate. There are waivers available for the ten or three-year exit requirements, but these waivers only apply to spouses or children of United States citizens or legal permanent residents.

Mr. Garcia discussed various types of legal statuses, including United States citizens who are either natural born or naturalized. They can sponsor family members for legal status, but some may face waiting periods based on the Visa Bulletin. Legal Permanent Residents (LPRs), also known as green card holders, are not U.S. citizens and can lose their status if they commit certain crimes. There are two types of LPRs: conditional and permanent. LPRs have the benefit of legal work authorization, the ability to petition for certain family members, and a path to U.S. citizenship in 3-5 years.

Asylum is granted to those who fear returning to their home country due to potential harm beyond their control. Applicants must apply within one year of entry, but approval rates are typically low. Work permits, such as work visas and specialty visas, allow individuals to work legally in the United States. DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) and Temporary Protected Status (TPS) are also available options.

Certain Visas, like the U-Visa for victims of violent crimes and VAWA (Violence Against Women Act) for victims of domestic abuse, provide immigration relief for noncitizens who have faced such situations.

Mr. Garcia, in his presentation, referenced the August 2024, Number 92 Volume X edition of the United States Department of State Bureau of Consular Affairs Visa Bulletin.

Discussion only. No action was taken.

5. Discussion and possible action on Presentation by Oklahoma Employment Security Commission Rosa Diaz on the following:

- OESC Foreign Labor Certification Program
- State Work Permits and Visas Task Force Targeted Goals & Challenges
- Application process
- OESC Oklahoma State Work Permits and Visas Recommendations
- Hispanic Employment – Data (Some statistics)

Questions and discussion regarding and stemming from presentation topic by Task Force to follow.

Task Force member Trae Rahill, the Director of the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission (OESC), introduced Rosa Diaz as the Community Outreach Coordinator for the Migrant Seasonal Farm Worker (MSFW) program at OESC. He emphasized her as a valuable asset to the agency. He appreciated the slide presentation she prepared for the meeting, acknowledging that the content reflects her work and expertise, as she closely collaborates with the Consulate's office and various others within the field. Both welcomed questions from members, encouraging open dialogue and diverse perspectives to ensure that the agency's work is comprehensive and effective.

Ms. Diaz gave an overview of the Foreign Labor Certification Program's roles and responsibilities. This program is designed to ensure that the admission of foreign workers into the United States on a temporary basis will not adversely affect the job opportunities, wages, and working conditions of U.S. workers. It is also designed to assist employers in filling jobs that are traditionally difficult to fill. The roles and responsibilities of this program are to monitor service delivery and the protections afforded by Job Service regulations. The program's outreach across the state includes cultivating relationships with farm owners, government agencies, and community organizations to provide services to the Agricultural Outreach Group, which meets quarterly to discuss events and available services. The program's oversight includes processing applications for the H-2A Temporary Agricultural Workers 122 applications and H-2B Temporary Non-Agricultural 126 applications (Jan. 1 – Jul. 9, 2024).

Ms. Diaz informed task force members about the resources available through the Migrant Seasonal Farm Worker Program. OESC operates twenty-seven (27) local offices across the state, offering services to individuals and employers in local communities in the Western, Central, and Eastern areas of the state.

Ms. Diaz informed task force members that in July 2024, Hispanics and Latinos made up a significant portion of the workforce in construction industries in the State of Oklahoma. Specifically, they represented 30% of the highway, street, and bridge construction industry, over 26% in other heavy and civil engineering construction, and over 20% in foundation, structure, and building exteriors contracting.

Ms. Diaz discussed the challenges facing the task force, including funding needed for visa categories, family reunification, rights, language, and skills training programs. She emphasized the importance of providing immigrants with access to legal resources and noted the lack of incentives for companies to hire and retain immigrants, especially in high-demand sectors.

The aim is to implement a state-level work permit program that offers undocumented immigrants a legal pathway to work and live in Oklahoma.

DA Humphries entered the meeting at 9:05 a.m.

Mr. Garcia entered the meeting at 9:10 a.m.

Discussion only. No action was taken.

6. Presentation by Task Force member Consul Pineda on the topic of recognizing the benefits of immigration and a review of the paths to address it. Questions and discussion regarding and stemming from presentation topic by Task Force to follow. [Chair]

Task Force member and Consulate Edurne Pineda from the Mexican Consulate in Oklahoma City led and engaged in discussions with the task force to analyze and understand the impact of migration on Oklahoma. The collective goal is to derive data-driven recommendations for shaping public policies that effectively address the migration phenomenon in the state.

Consulate Pineda's discussions focused on understanding the complexities of the United States' relationship with migration and how it influences attitudes towards migration in Oklahoma. This is particularly important given the state's promising growth potential and need for a larger migrant workforce. The objective is to explore pathways for Oklahoma to navigate its evolving relationship with migration and maximize benefits while addressing challenges for a more prosperous future.

Consulate Pineda shared the following key topics that she deems relevant to the analysis for the task force's consideration:

- i. Is migration positive or negative? Evidence clearly shows that immigrants provide significant economic benefits. However, there are local and short-term economic and social costs.
- ii. Historical migration flows in the USA are not extraordinarily high today. Although, in March 2024, the foreign-born or immigrant population (documented and undocumented) hit a new record high of 51.6 million, making up 15.6 percent of the total U.S. population, this compares to 13.9% of the population in 2022 and 14.8% of the population in 1890.
- iii. The number of undocumented migrants is not historically extraordinarily high. In 2007, there were 12.2 million undocumented immigrants in the U.S., constituting 4% of the total population. By 2021, this number had decreased to 10.5 million (3.1% of the total population) due to reduced Mexican immigration and pandemic-related disruptions. However, as of March 2024, the population of undocumented migrants had grown to 14 million people, representing 4.2% of the total population.

iv. Demographic trends in the USA show that the U.S. population is aging, with the number of people aged 65 and older projected to increase from 18% in 2024 to 23% by 2054. This is due to a combination of factors, including increasing life expectancies and a declining birth rate. The Congressional Budget Office this past January reported population growth generally slows over the next 30 years. Net immigration increasingly drives population growth and accounts for all population growth beginning in 2040.

v. Demographic trends in Oklahoma are similar. The population of Oklahoma is also aging. Between 2010 and 2022, Oklahoma's population grew by 6.9%. While this net population growth may seem positive initially, comparing it to other states reveals varying dynamics. For example, during the same period, Utah's population grew by 22%, Texas' by 19%, Florida's by 18%, and Colorado's by 15.%; Arizona's by 15%; South Carolina's by 14%.

Additionally, the age distribution matters. The 65+ age group was the fastest growing, with its population increasing 29.8%. The 0 to 4 age group declined the most, dropping 7.9%. Moreover, the percentage of children in Oklahoma with at least one foreign parent increased from 7% of the total population in 2000 to 14% in 2022. This indicates that without immigrants, the population's aging would have been more pronounced.

By ethnicity group, whites non-Hispanic decreased by 1.2%, American Indians grew by only .07%, while Asians grew by 53% and Hispanics grew by 46%.

These trends changed during the pandemic, as Oklahoma saw a large inflow of new residents in each of the past three years, resulting in the state's most significant population increase since 2013.

The state's economy has undoubtedly benefited from this bout of pandemic migration, but it remains to be seen whether this trend will continue as national migration slows.

vi. Oklahoma's undocumented immigrant population is smaller than the national rate and has not increased significantly in the last five years. According to the Migration Public Institute, in 2019, Oklahoma was home to 90,000 undocumented migrants, representing 2.3% of the state's population. In contrast, Texas had 6% of its population undocumented, California 6.7%, Florida 3.6%, and New York 4.3%.

In parallel, the American Immigration Council reported that in 2024, there were 82,700 undocumented immigrants in Oklahoma, which is only 2.1% of the population. Within this group, 92% are of working age.

vii. Recent migration crisis. Border Patrol apprehensions across the southern border are down threefold since December 2023. Across the southern border, Border Patrol agents apprehend 83,536 migrants in June, down from 249,785 in December. This marked the fewest monthly apprehensions since January 2021, when the pandemic was very present and naturally stopped migrants from trying to cross the U.S. These results are the result of, among other reasons, an increased collaboration with Mexico, increased presence of Homeland Security agents at the border, the issuance of new executive orders limiting asylum requests, and the easing of the pressure on the labor market in the U.S. as the pandemic disruptions clear out. Ms. Pineda elaborated more on this item.

- viii. Crime rates among migrant workers. The discourse that seeks, in a Manichean manner, to link migrant workers with security issues, drug trafficking, etc., permeates the public psyche because it exploits fears and makes it difficult to build effective public policies. Nevertheless, it does not rely on public data. Immigrants are 60% less likely to be incarcerated than U.S.-born citizens and 30% less likely relative to U.S.-born whites. Ms. Pineda elaborated more on this item.
- ix. Terrorism rates among migrants are extremely low, the CATO Institute reported. The annual chance of an American being murdered in a terrorist attack by a refugee is about 1 in 3.3 billion, while the annual chance of being murdered in an attack committed by an illegal immigrant is zero.

Consul Pineda concluded that this information she shared can serve as a basis for a thesis that considers migration a positive factor in Oklahoma's development. However, there are also voices that believe the stress and cultural disruptions that accompany migration are more costly than the benefits it may bring.

Ms. Pineda believes this is a core dilemma, and it would be useful for the task force to establish premises in one direction or the other. If it is considered desirable to increase migratory flows to Oklahoma, for example, to support certain industries in the economy and promote a healthier demographic growth, one could propose the creation of a government body that, as in the case of Tulsa and other states in the USA, works together to design and implement specific measures to:

Thoroughly analyze the current and estimated future needs of workers in different industries in Oklahoma.

Contrast these needs with the availability of local workers to evaluate the desirable number of migrant workers in each industry.

Create programs to assist potential employers in bringing migrant workers to their industries based on the available visas presented today in Attorney Garcia's presentation and the document shared in the first meeting.

Establish Exchange programs for workers in high-demand sectors, such as bilingual teachers, nurses, doctors, etc. In this regard, it is important to evaluate that, unfortunately, for the undocumented population already residing in the state, there are no alternatives to changing their immigration status while in the country, except for those who are married to a U.S. citizen, are children of a U.S. citizen, or have completed higher education studies in the USA, according to recently published executive measures by the federal government.

Discussion only. No action was taken.

7. Discussion and possible action on information currently gathered by Task Force members, information needed, and the organization, structure, and timeline for Task Force report.

Task Force members engaged in a discussion regarding the organization of the report. Chairwoman Everest requested that members Cynthia Jasso and Trae Rahill collaborate to create a broad outline as the working document for the report. Additionally, she recommended that all members share their visions for what the report should include or look like at the next meeting on August 5.

Discussion only. No action was taken.

8. Discussion and possible action regarding items to be presented at future task force meetings.

Discussion only. No action was taken. A summary of the discussion is as follows.

Task Force member Cynthia Jasso will contact Natalie El-Deiry from Utah Center, the Director of Immigration and New American Integration, to give a presentation at the next meeting.

Task Force member Trae Rahall will reach out to a workforce contact in Colorado to inquire if they would be willing to give a presentation at a future task force meeting.

Task Force member Deputy Amanda Storck will provide data and information from the Tax Commission to the members at the next meeting.

Consulate Pineda exited the meeting at 11:01 a.m.

Discussion only. No action was taken.

9. Adjournment:

There being no further business, Xavier Neira moved to adjourn. Trae Rahill seconded the motion. Seeing no opposition, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

AUGUST 5, 2024 MEETING MINUTES

MEETING DOCUMENTS

[New Americans Task Force 2023 Report](#)

[State of Oklahoma UCII Presentation](#)

[Internationally Trained Professionals Report](#)

[Sign up to receive the Utah Center for Immigration & Integration Newsletter](#)

[ITIN for OSWPV Task Force](#)

**Oklahoma State Work Permits and Visas Task Force
Special Meeting Minutes
August 5, 2024, 9:00 a.m.
Oklahoma State Capitol
Governor’s Large Conference Room
2300 N. Lincoln Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73105**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tricia Everest, Chairman, Secretary of Public Safety, Governor
Miguel Garcia, Miguel Garcia PLLC, Governor
Cynthia Jasso, George Kaiser Family Foundation, Governor
Xavier Neira, Senate Pro Tempore Appointee
Lt. Col. Joe Williams, OHP/DPS
Vice-Consul Claudio Uribe, Consulate of Mexico in OKC
Amanda Storck, Deputy Dir. of the OK Tax Commission
Trae Rahill, Exec. Dir. of the OK Employment Security Commission
Nima Zecavati, JD, MPH, Dir. of Office of Immigration Services, RO/PDSO
Immigration Attorney
Brett Farley, House Speaker Appointee – Catholic Conference of OKC
Tommy Humphries, DA, District Attorneys Council designee

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.**STAFF/GUESTS:**

Tracy Osburn, OMES, DGC	Lyna Mitchell, OMES, DGC
Beverly Hicks, OMES	Charles Lindsey-Outlaw, Legis-OK
Steven Birkes, OMES	

1. Announcement of filing of meeting notice and posting of the agenda in accordance with the Open Meetings Act. [Tricia Everest, Chair]

Chairwoman Everest confirmed that today’s meeting complied with the Open Meeting Act.

2. Call to order and establish a quorum. [Chair]

Chairwoman Everest called this special meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. A roll call was taken, and a quorum was established. A meeting notice was filed with the Secretary of State, and the agenda was posted in accordance with the law.

3. Discussion and possible action on approval of special meeting minutes from July 22, 2024.

Lt. Col. Williams moved to approve the special meeting minutes of July 22. Cynthia Jasso seconded the motion. The following votes were recorded, and the motion passed:

Mr. Garcia, aye; Ms. Jasso, aye; Mr. Farley, aye; Lt. Col. Williams, aye; Vice-Consul Uribe, aye; Dir. Rahill, aye; Dep. Dir. Storck, aye; Mr. Zecavati, aye; DA Humphries, aye; Sec. Everest, aye.

4. Presentation by Natalie El-Deiry from Utah Center on immigration and integration. Questions and discussion regarding and stemming from presentation.

Task Force member Cynthia Jasso introduced Natalie El-Deiry, who presented remotely at the meeting. Ms. El-Deiry is the Director of the Center for Immigration and New American Integration for the Utah Governor’s Office of Economic Opportunity.

Ms. El-Deiry promotes opportunities to grow a global workforce while advancing economic mobility and social inclusion for refugees and immigrants. She assists individuals and businesses in Utah with identifying pathways for recruiting and retaining international employees and the foreign labor process.

Ms. El-Deiry coordinates with state agencies to develop and administer policies and programs related to immigrant integration. She develops and implements a statewide strategy for immigrant integration that promotes economic opportunities for immigrant communities in Utah. She also convenes a task force to review and make recommendations regarding state policies on immigration and develops and sustains relationships with local officials, the business sector, and community stakeholders. In addition, she advises and makes recommendations to the governor, state agencies, and the legislature on immigrant integration and foreign labor issues.

Ms. El-Deiry discussed the top industries with the highest share of immigrant workers and shared that new Americans in Utah are vital to Utah’s fast-growing and robust economy. New Americans, or any foreign-born individual, arrive in Utah for various reasons, such as refugees fleeing conflict, families reuniting after years of separation, parents seeking a better life for their children, students pursuing their education, or workers seeking to fill an occupation or profession.

The Task Force members expressed their sincere gratitude to Ms. El-Deiry for her invaluable perspectives on immigration and insights on fostering a global workforce. Her information will significantly contribute to the development of the report.

Xavier Neira entered the meeting at 9:10 a.m.

Presentation and discussion only. No action was taken.

5. Presentation by Task Force member Amanda Storck on Individual Taxpayer Identification number filers by tax year versus Social Security number filers. Questions and discussion regarding and stemming from presentation topic.

Ms. Storck, Deputy Executive Director of the Oklahoma Tax Commission, provided data for task force members. The information included Individual Tax Identification Number (ITIN) filers as a percent of total taxpayers for 2018-2023.

Ms. Storck informed members that ITINs are given to taxpayers who do not have a Social Security Number (SSN). The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) issues ITINs to individuals who are required to have a United States (U.S.) taxpayer identification number but who do not have and are not eligible to obtain an SSN from the Social Security Administration (SSA).

*The 2023 numbers will change after the late filing deadline in October.

Tax year	Total Taxpayers	Total ITINs	Percent
2018	2,687,309	36,455	1.36%
2019	2,730,124	35,951	1.32%
2020	2,741,142	36,561	1.33%
2021	2,737,221	37,833	1.38%

2022	2,689,583	36,392	1.35%
2023	2,365,750	32,033	1.35%

Discussion only. No action was taken.

6. Discussion on occupational and professional license limitations.

Chairwoman Everest brought to the Task Force member's attention the significant changes brought about by HB 1804, a 2007 bill that reshaped the landscape of the Oklahoma Tax Payer and Citizen Protection Act.

Ms. Everest plans to address the bill's content with the members at the next meeting, expressing concerns about portions of the bill that could possibly be unconstitutional.

The members discussed some areas of the bill where the language may need to be modified to bring it up to date.

Discussion only. No action was taken.

7. Discussion and possible action on information currently gathered by Task Force members, information needed, and the organization, structure, and timeline for Task Force report.

Chairwoman Everest recognized Vice-Consul Claudio Uribe, the designee of the Consulate of Mexico in Oklahoma City. Consul Uribe read a statement on behalf of Consul Edurne Pineda, who was not able to attend today's meeting.

Task Force members discussed the objectives of finalizing the report, with the goal of getting it to the Governor, Senate President Pro Tempore, and Speaker of the House of Representatives by August 31, 2024.

Discussion only. No action was taken.

8. Discussion and possible action regarding items to be presented at the August 19 meeting.

The items to be discussed at the next meeting are:

- An update provided by Lt. Col. Joe Williams on Utah Driving Privilege's card.
- An update from Director Trae Rahill on federal advisor.
- A presentation from Nima Zecavati on barriers to employment and education.
- Clarification provided on HB 1804.

Discussion only. No action was taken.

9. Adjournment:

There being no further business, Xavier Neira moved to adjourn. Trae Rahill seconded the motion. Seeing no opposition, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:39 a.m.

AUGUST 19, 2024 MEETING MINUTES

**Oklahoma State Work Permits and Visas Task Force
Special Meeting Minutes
August 19, 2024, 9:00 a.m.
Oklahoma State Capitol
Governor's Large Conference Room
2300 N. Lincoln Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73105**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tricia Everest, Chairman, Secretary of Public Safety, Governor
Miguel Garcia, Miguel Garcia PLLC, Governor
Cynthia Jasso, George Kaiser Family Foundation, Governor
Xavier Neira, Senate Pro Tempore Appointee
Lt. Col. Joe Williams, OHP/DPS
Consul Eburne Pineda, Consulate of Mexico in OKC
Amanda Storck, Deputy Dir. of the OK Tax Commission
Trae Rahill, Exec. Dir. of the OK Employment Security Commission
Nima Zecavati, JD, MPH, Dir. of Office of Immigration Services, RO/PDSO
Immigration Attorney
Brett Farley, House Speaker Appointee – Catholic Conference of OKC
Tommy Humphries, DA, District Attorneys Council designee

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.**STAFF/GUESTS:**

Tracy Osburn, OMES, DGC
Beverly Hicks, OMES
Steven Birkes, OMES
Lyna Mitchell, OMES, DGC
Charles Lindsey-Outlaw, Legis-OK

1. Announcement of filing of meeting notice and posting of the agenda in accordance with the Open Meetings Act. [Tricia Everest, Chair]

Chairwoman Everest confirmed that today's meeting complied with the Open Meeting Act.

2. Call to order and establish a quorum. [Chair]

Chairwoman Everest called this special meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. A roll call was taken, and a quorum was established. A meeting notice was filed with the Secretary of State, and the agenda was posted in accordance with the law.

3. Discussion and possible action on approval of special meeting minutes from August 5, 2024. [Chair]

Item 3 was called on after Item 4.

DA Tommy Humphries moved to approve the special meeting minutes of August 5. Miguel Garcia seconded the motion. The following votes were recorded, and the motion passed:

Mr. Garcia, aye; Ms. Jasso, aye; Mr. Farley, aye; Lt. Col. Williams, aye; Consul Pineda, aye; Dir. Rahill, aye; Dep. Dir. Storck, aye; Mr. Zecavati, aye; DA Humphries, aye; Sec. Everest, aye.

4. Update on Utah Driving Privilege's card. [Lt. Col. Joe Williams]

Item 4 was called on before Item 3.

Chairwoman Everest briefly discussed the creation of a restricted Utah driving privilege card for those unable to establish legal/lawful presence. Changing the proposed final report to use privilege with restrictions over license was recommended. Mr. Garcia noted Oklahoma presumes driving privileges absent a license and changes may be made in regard to those policies.

Update only. No action was taken.

5. Update and presentation on federal advisor. [Trae Rahill]

Director Rahill is working with the Oklahoma Office in D.C., updating them on the progress of this Task Force. He also joined working groups that may be a resource with the National and Western Governors Associations.

Update only. No action was taken.

6. Update and presentation on barriers to employment and education. [Nima Zecavati]

Task Force member Nima Zecavati reported on complications with visa limitations from a university and medical provider standpoint. He especially focused on the addition of nursing and other occupations to the list of STEM fields to participate in Optional Practical Training (OPT) for three years rather than one for non-stem fields. This is an administrative ask through I.C.E.

There is a backlog of Green Card applications that may take years to complete. While waiting for a green card or other visa processes, individuals receive a Receipt Notice that may be used for appropriate documentation. Oklahoma does not recognize this for the renewal of driver's license privileges. Administrative efficiency and understanding are needed at the state and national levels. Social security may take over a month and often requires multiple levels of authentication, delaying students from getting on the payroll. International students often pay large fees to have services expedited.

H1 Visas are not capped as long as the individual continues to work at the sponsor University. If not, there are 500k applications annually, and only 85,000 H1 Visas Are accepted. J Visas operate similarly to exchange Visas, and without a waiver, the Visa holder must return to the Country of origin for two years before returning for work. Each State may offer 30 waivers a year. It is hard to train and work with oncologists and specialists who have to leave the Country because of the antiquated system.

Discussion continued about the difficulty of recruiting and training talent for a visa/green card system that is so out of date that people have to leave the country after a year instead of keeping the talent.

Xavier Neira entered the meeting at 9:12 a.m.

Update only. No action was taken.

7. Clarification on where HB 1804 stands. [Chair]

Mr. Garcia reported that HB 1804 is still in effect as Oklahoma law. The two exceptions are Sections 7(c) (firing an employee) and 9 (withholding taxes for those without proper documentation).

Discussion only. No action was taken.

8. Discussion and possible action on information currently gathered by Task Force members, information needed, and the organization, structure, and timeline for the Task Force report.
[Chair]

The Task Force reviewed the Draft recommendations and agreed upon 5 main points and the order of those to best lay out the “why” in presenting the final report.

Discussion only. No action was taken.

9. Discussion and possible action on report finalization. [Chair]

The final report will include an introduction, recommendations, an executive order, the minutes of each meeting, presentations, and/or links. Ms. Garcia and Director Rahill will prepare the recommendations for individual review and comments prior to the final meeting and vote on August 26, 2024.

Discussion only. No action was taken.

10. Adjournment:

There being no further business, Xavier Neira moved to adjourn. Brett Farley seconded the motion. Seeing no opposition, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

AUGUST 26, 2024 MEETING MINUTES

Oklahoma State Work Permits and Visas Task Force
UNOFFICIAL
Special Meeting Minutes
August 26, 2024, 9:00 a.m.
Oklahoma State Capitol
Senate Conference Room 4s.9
2300 N. Lincoln Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tricia Everest, Chairman, Secretary of Public Safety, Governor
Miguel Garcia, Miguel Garcia PLLC, Governor
Cynthia Jasso, George Kaiser Family Foundation, Governor
Xavier Neira, Senate Pro Tempore Appointee
Lt. Col. Joe Williams, OHP/DPS
Consul Eurne Pineda, Consulate of Mexico in OKC
Amanda Storck, Deputy Dir. of the OK Tax Commission
Trae Rahill, Exec. Dir. of the OK Employment Security Commission
Nima Zecavati, JD, MPH, Dir. of Office of Immigration Services, RO/PDSO
Immigration Attorney
Brett Farley, House Speaker Appointee – Catholic Conference of OKC
Tommy Humphries, DA, District Attorneys Council designee

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.**STAFF/GUESTS:**

Tracy Osburn, OMES, DGC	Lyna Mitchell, OMES, DGC
Beverly Hicks, OMES	Charles Lindsey-Outlaw, Legis-OK
Steven Birkes, OMES	Shawn Ashley, Quorum Call

1. Announcement of filing of meeting notice and posting of the agenda in accordance with the Open Meetings Act. [Tricia Everest, Chair]

Chairwoman Everest confirmed that today's meeting complied with the Open Meeting Act.

2. Call to order and establish a quorum. [Chair]

Chairwoman Everest called this special meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. A roll call was taken, and a quorum was established. A meeting notice was filed with the Secretary of State, and the agenda was posted in accordance with the law.

3. Discussion and possible action on approval of special meeting minutes from August 19, 2024. [Chair]

Lt. Col. Joe Williams moved to approve the special meeting minutes of August 19. Cynthia Jasso seconded the motion. The following votes were recorded, and the motion passed:

Mr. Garcia, aye; Ms. Jasso, aye; Mr. Neira, aye; Mr. Farley, aye; Lt. Col. Williams, aye; Consul Pineda, aye; Dir. Rahill, aye; Dep. Dir. Storck, aye; Mr. Zecavati, aye; DA Humphries, aye; Sec. Everest, aye.

4. Discussion and possible action to approve the Oklahoma State Work Permits and Visas Task Force proposed final report. [Chair]

Xavier Neira moved to approve the proposed final report with amendments discussed in the meeting. Cynthia Jasso seconded the motion. The following votes were recorded, and the motion passed:

Mr. Garcia, aye; Ms. Jasso, aye; Mr. Neira, aye; Mr. Farley, aye; Lt. Col. Williams, aye; Consul Pineda, aye; Dir. Rahill, aye; Dep. Dir. Storck, aye; Mr. Zecavati, aye; DA Humphries, aye; Sec. Everest, aye.

5. Final thoughts and closing remarks. [Chair]

The Task Force members extended their heartfelt thanks to the Governor, fellow Task Force members, and staff.

No action was taken.

6. Adjournment:

There being no further business, Xavier Neira moved to adjourn. Brett Farley seconded the motion. Seeing no opposition, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:58 a.m.