

**Purchasing from People with Disabilities
Advisory Committee Membership
Discussion Paper**

Background

Texas Human Resources Code Title 40, Chapter 122.0057, requires the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) to establish the Purchasing from People with Disabilities (PPWD) Advisory Committee consisting of 13 members appointed by TWC. The advisory committee must be composed of four representatives from community rehabilitation programs (CRPs) that participate in the PPWD program, four representatives from organizations that advocate for individuals with disabilities, four individuals with disabilities, of whom two are employed by a CRP participating in PPWD, and the executive commissioner of the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) or designee.

Twelve advisory committee members serve staggered four-year terms expiring on February 1 of the fourth year. No member other than the HHSC executive commissioner may serve more than two terms. The HHSC executive commissioner’s position does not have a set term.

Issue

The terms of members Sean Quigley, Brandye Lacy, and Brooke Hohfeld expire in 2019. These members would like to continue their commitment to the advisory committee for a second term.

Committee Members Whose Terms Expired in February 2019

Name	Geographic Location	Position Represented	Employment	Term Expired
Brooke Hohfeld Reappoint to February 2023	Houston	Disability Representative— Not Employed by a CRP	Self or Individual with Disability Not Employed by a CRP	February 2019 (Reappointment)
Brandye Lacy Reappoint to February 2023	Austin	Disability Representative Employed by a CRP	Travis Association for the Blind	February 2019 (Reappointment)
Sean Quigley, Vice Chair Reappoint to February 2023	Houston	CRP Representative	Own Our Own, Inc.	February 2019 (Reappointment)

1 Four vacancies exist on the PPWD Advisory Committee. The recommended nominees are listed
 2 in the table below.

3 **Recommended Nominees to Fill Committee Member Vacancies**

Name	Geographic Location	Position Represented	Employment	Two-Year Term Will End
Michael Swoboda	Manchaca	Advocate	President, Texas Association for the Deaf	February 2023
Monica Mishaw	Beaumont	Advocate	Director, Horizon Employment Specialist Services for Adults with Disabilities	February 2023
Giovianna Washington	San Antonio	Advocate	Advocate, Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities Services Employment and Education Analyst, Alamo Area Council of Governments	February 2021
James Meehan	Austin	CRP	CEO, Travis Association for the Blind (TAB)	February 2023

4 The following committee members will continue in their terms and require no action.

5 **Continuing Committee Members**

Name	Geographic Location	Position Represented	Employment	Term Will Expire
Platt Allen	Fort Worth	CRP Representative	Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth	2021
Charlie Graham	Austin	CRP Representative	Peak Performers	2021
Linda Logan	Austin	Advocate Representative	The Council on Developmental Disabilities	2021
Lee Tillson	Tyler	Disability Representative Employed by CRP	Horizon Industries	2021
Kay Molina	Austin	HHSC Representative	HHSC	Continuing Member

6 One advisory committee member recently resigned. The vacancy has been posted. This is an
 7 informational item and no action is required.

8 **Advisory Committee Member Resignation**

Name	Geographic Location	Position Represented	Employment	Effective Date of Resignation
Kevin Jackson, Chair	Austin	Disability Representative Not Employed by a CRP	Self or Individual with Disability Not Employed by a CRP	January 8, 2020

1 **Decision Point**

2 Staff seeks direction on reappointing advisory committee members Sean Quigley, Brandye Lacy,
3 and Brooke Hohfeld to serve on the PPWD Advisory Committee for an additional four-year
4 term, and on appointing nominees Michael Swoboda, Monica Mishaw, Giovianne Washington,
5 and James Meehan to serve on the PPWD Advisory Committee.

Listing and Ranking Applicants for Purchasing from People with Disabilities Advisory Committee

Ranking	Applicant Selected Committee Category and City of Residence	CRP or Advocacy entity (Title and/or Company name)	Education Relevant to Adult Disability Rehabilitation	Work Experience in Adult Disability Rehabilitation	Volunteer In Adult Disability Rehabilitation	Serving Experience on Advisory Boards, Councils etc...
1. Michael Swoboda	Advocate, Austin	President Texas Association for the Deaf	None presented	40 years	None presented	None Presented
2. Monica Mishaw	Advocate, Beaumont	Director, Horizon Employment Specialist services Adults with Disabilities	None presented	20 years	Parent of a young adult whom is disabled	None presented
4. Giovianne Washington	Advocate, San Antonio	Intellectual and Developmental disabilities Employment and Education Analyst, Alamo Council of Governments	BA and MSW in Social Work	18 years		Chair, Bexaar Technical Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities
3. Robin LeoGrande	Advocate, Dallas	CEO, Founder and President of Community for Permanent Supported Housing	None presented	5 years	None presented	None presented
5. Ricardo Rendon	Advocate, McAllen	Student Hirability Navigator, Workforce Solutions, McAllen	BA and Masters in Counseling. Cert	4 years	None presented	None Presented

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6. Nkechi Agwuenu	Advocate, Houston	Director of Employment Services, Career and Recovery Resources	None presented	6 months	None presented	None presented
1. Jim Meehan	CRP, Austin	President and COO of the Austin Lighthouse	None presented	21 years	None presented	None presented

Applicant Provided Qualifications and Motivations

Applicant's Name	Selected Committee Category	Location	Explanation of Qualifications & Description of Why Applicant Wants to Serve
Giovianne Washington	Advocate	San Antonio Tx	<p>Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities Services Employment and Education Analyst -²</p> <p>Would like to lend his educational and professional experiences to assist the committee</p> <p>Currently working with two grant projects to increase the number of individuals with disabilities to obtain integrated employment.</p> <p>Coordinating with local school districts and colleges to promote educational initiatives that result in certificates or CEU credits for IDD.</p> <p>Serves as a resource in the workforce development area to support and enhance pre-employment transition services provide through Workforce Boards.</p> <p>Serves as the Chair of Bexar Technical Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities (TACPD). Committee makes recomendation to Commissioners Court on issues concerning employment practices. He was elected as the Clergy Community Advisory Board, which promote the adoption of minority children.</p>
James Meehan	CRP;	Austin Tx	<p>President Austin Lighthouse</p> <p>Senior leadership position in three organizations; 16 years Virginia industries for the Blind; 3 1/2 years goodwill of San Antonio</p> <p>Successful growing business lines and and services to employ people with disabilities.</p> <p>While at the TAB increased upward mobility and competitive employment opportunities for employees with disabilities; His</p> <p>strategic focus aligns with the committee for purchasing from people with disabilities and his past postions ;</p>
Michael Swoboda	Advocate	Manchaca Tx	<p>President Texas Association of the Deaf</p> <p>Worked as a case manager deputy director over past 40 years</p> <p>He believes with his expertise he can contribute to accomplish the quality lives for the disable community;</p> <p>Worked with state agencies to improve the network and communication access for the deaf;</p> <p>Wishes to Improve working relationship with the deaf community, collaborate with various disability communities inTexas and give positive feedback to TWC to improve their goals.</p>

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Monica Mishaw	Advocate	Beaumont Tx	<p>Would like to serve on the Advisory Committee because of her passion in working iwth advocating for person with disabilities. Worked as a clients rights advocate for 20 years. Parent of a young adult with a disability. She believes in this program.</p> <p>Believes that her experience working on advisory boards for different agencies would make her a prime canidate that will help members accomplish goals.</p>
Ricardo Rendon	Advocate	McAllen Tx	<p>His role is to enhance the transition of students with disabilities to post secondary education</p> <p>Worked for a grant called Helping Individuals Reach employment which helped IDD individual obtain work and education.</p> <p>Education Background includes Bachelor of Science in Rehabilitative Services Master in Clinical RehabilitServed as a trainer for Tx Workforce individuals with disabilities.</p>
Robin LeoGrande	Advocate	Plano Tx	<p>Creates housing options with the North Tx community for adults with disabilities; CPSH wants people with disabiliteis to have choices of where they live and the services they need to live. He</p> <p>believes that financial independence from others is a key aspect of an independent life for individuals with disabilities. There is much work to do to increase employment stability for people with disabilities</p> <p>Retired from Texas Instruments after 32 years as an engineering manager. Has a son with a disability.</p>

