

# Texas Workforce Press Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **TWC Holds First Meeting of the Purchasing from People with Disabilities Advisory Committee, Announces Appointment of Membership**

AUSTIN – The newly formed Purchasing from People with Disabilities Advisory Committee held its first meeting in Austin on Friday, Jan. 22. The 13-member Advisory Committee will provide recommendations to the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) on matters related to the Texas Purchasing from People with Disabilities program, which assists individuals with disabilities in achieving independence through productive employment opportunities.

“We are pleased to welcome the advisory committee members as they begin this important work,” said TWC Chairman Andres Alcantar. “The committee brings a wealth of experience and expertise and we look forward to their insight and recommendations.”



Members of the Purchasing from People with Disabilities Advisory Committee were introduced on Friday, Jan. 22, at an inaugural meeting in Austin, Texas.

From left: Kevin Jackson, Brandye Lacy, Larry Johnson, Sean Quigley, Dave Wells, Russell Capers, Nicky Ooi, Chair Jean Langendorf, Linda Logan, Ron Pigott, Michelle Wilkinson, (Not pictured) Judy Zavala and Brook Hohfield.

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The Texas Purchasing from People with Disabilities program is dedicated to furthering the state's policy of encouraging and assisting people with disabilities to achieve independence by engaging in useful, productive employment activities. Under the program, individuals with severe disabilities produce products or perform services through Community Rehabilitation Programs (CRPs). The Advisory Committee members assist in establishing performance goals for the Purchasing from People with Disabilities program and establish criteria for certifying CRPs. Legislation passed by the 84th Texas Legislature transferred oversight of the program to TWC.

“We are extremely excited about this advisory committee and the knowledge and talent that each member brings,” said TWC Commissioner Representing Employers Ruth R. Hughs. “We look forward to working with the committee for the betterment of the Purchasing from People with Disabilities program and the individuals it serves.”

Committee members will serve staggered four-year terms and may not serve more than two terms. TWC issued a call for volunteers and committee members were selected after careful consideration of qualifications. Members were introduced at the inaugural meeting and individual terms were established. Members of the Purchasing from People with Disabilities Advisory Committee and terms are as follows:

#### Two-year terms expiring February 2017

- Chair Jean Langendorf, Advocate, Disability Rights Texas
- Russell Capers, Carpenter, Pride Industries
- Kevin M. Jackson, President, Greater Austin Chapter of the Blinded Veterans Association
- Linda Logan, Advocate, Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities
- Dave Wells, Executive Director, West Texas Lighthouse for the Blind
- Michelle Wilkinson, Director of Counseling for Employment Services, Easter Seals Central Texas

#### Four-year terms expiring February 2019

- Brooke Hohfield, Vice President, Texas Advocates
- Larry Johnson, Advocate
- Brandye Lacy, Sales and Marketing, Travis Association for the Blind
- Nicky Ooi, President and CEO, South Texas Lighthouse for the Blind
- Sean Quigley, Executive Director, On Our Own Services Inc.
- Judy Zavalla, Advocate, Brazoria County Children's Protective Services board member

#### Statutory appointment

- Ron Pigott, Deputy Executive Commissioner for Procurement and Contracting Services, Texas Department of Health and Human Services

The committee will meet at least twice annually and meeting notices are filed with the [Texas Register](#).

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*The Texas Workforce Commission is a state agency dedicated to helping Texas employers, workers and communities prosper economically. For details on TWC and the services it offers in coordination with its network of local workforce development boards, call 512-463-8942 or visit [www.texasworkforce.org](http://www.texasworkforce.org). To receive notifications about TWC programs and services subscribe to our [email updates](#).*