

Texas Workforce Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TWC, DARS to Hold Seven Regional Public Meetings

Agencies to take public comment on WIOA State Plan and transition of DARS functions to TWC

AUSTIN – Members of the public are invited to upcoming meetings to be held at seven locations throughout the state to provide input to officials from the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) and the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) as the agencies prepare a combined state plan for core workforce programs governed by the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

The meetings will also provide the public the opportunity to make recommendations related to the transfer of some DARS programs to TWC effective Sept. 1, 2016. Those programs include: Vocational Rehabilitation, Business Enterprises of Texas and Independent Living for Older Individuals Who are Blind.

“TWC is committed to working with DARS and other partners to continue improving our workforce system in ways that improve Texans’ opportunity to achieve and sustain economic prosperity,” said TWC Chairman Andres Alcantar. “To be successful, we need stakeholders from across the state to help identify innovative ways to administer existing and transitioning programs while maintaining the highest level of service to the people we serve.”

The first public meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 21 from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Criss Cole Rehabilitation Center Auditorium located at 4800 N. Lamar Blvd. in Austin. Future meetings will be held in Dallas, McAllen, Houston, Tyler, Lubbock and El Paso. For information on all dates and locations, visit the [TWC Joint Stakeholder Meetings Webpage](#).

“Gaining this input from our consumers and stakeholders is important to us as we work together to develop and further improve specialized services to assist Texans with disabilities find the high-quality jobs or training needed to be successful and live independent and productive lives,” said DARS Commissioner Veronda L. Durden.

TWC and DARS officials will also take written comments on the combined state plan and program transfers until 5 p.m. on September 18, 2015. Written comments may be submitted electronically to WIOA.StakeholderInput@twc.state.tx.us or mailed to:

Texas Workforce Commission
Attn: Melody Dabney
101 E. 15th St. #426T
Austin, Texas 78778-0001

Persons who have communication or other accommodation needs and are planning to attend the public meetings should contact the DARS Inquiries Line at 1-800-628-5115 or by email at DARS.Inquiries@dars.state.tx.us. Requests for accommodations should be made five business days prior to the public meeting date.

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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. To receive notifications about TWC programs and services subscribe to our [email updates](#).

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