

**Adult Education and Literacy Advisory Committee
Discussion Paper**

Background

Texas Labor Code §315.005 and Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Chapter 805 Adult Education and Literacy rule §805.43 require TWC to establish an Adult Education and Literacy (AEL) advisory committee. Texas Labor Code requires the committee to meet at least quarterly, report annually to TWC’s three-member Commission (Commission), and advise the Commission on various policies related to adult education in the state. The advisory committee must:

- not be composed of more than nine members;
- include at least one representative of the business community; and
- include at least one representative of a Local Workforce Development Board (Board).

Members serve two-year terms and may be reappointed to a second term by the Commission.

Issue

There are currently five committee members, as shown in Table 1, and four vacancies, with another two vacancies occurring in April 2023. Table 2 lists nominees to fill three vacancies.

Table 1: Current Committee Members and Terms

Name	Geographic Location	Position Represented	Employment	Term Appointed and Expiration
Jauneen Maldonado	Fort Worth	Board (Required)	Director of Adult Education, Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County	Appointed November 23, 2021; term expires December 2023
Steve Banta (Presiding Officer)	Dallas/Fort Worth	Nonprofit	Executive Director, Literacy Texas	Appointed November 23, 2021; term expires December 2023
Brenda Schofield	Beaumont	AEL Provider	Director of Adult Education and Literacy, Region 5 Education Service Center	Appointed April 6, 2021; term expires April 2023
Rita Hernandez	Brownsville	Nonprofit/ Career School	President, Cameron County Education Initiative	Appointed April 6, 2021; term expires April 2023

Name	Geographic Location	Position Represented	Employment	Term Appointed and Expiration
Leslie Cantu	San Antonio	Business (Required)	Assistant Vice President, Toyotetsu Texas, Inc.	Appointed October 2022; term expires October 2024

1 **Table 2: Committee Member Nominees**

Name	Geographic Location	Position Represented	Employment	Two-Year Term Expiration
Dr. Ben Stafford	Port Arthur	Community College/Higher Education	Vice President, Workforce and Continuing Education, Lamar State College—Port Arthur	May 2025
Cindy Fisher	Austin	State Broadband Office	Broadband Senior Program Coordinator, State Broadband Office	May 2025
Kristina Hartman	Huntsville	Corrections Education	Superintendent, Windham School District	May 2025

2 **Decision Point**

- 3 Staff seeks direction on appointing individuals represented in Table 2 to serve on the AEL
 4 advisory committee for a two-year term that will expire in May 2025.