

**Appointments to the  
Advisory Committee of the  
Purchasing from People with Disabilities Program  
Discussion Paper**

**Background**

Texas Human Resources Code §122.0057(a) authorizes the Texas Workforce Commission’s three-member Commission (Commission) to form an advisory committee to help establish program performance goals and criteria for certifying community rehabilitation programs (CRPs) to participate in the Purchasing from People with Disabilities (PPD) program.

Section 122.0057(b) states that the advisory committee must be composed of 13 members appointed by the Commission, as follows:

- Four representatives from CRPs that participate in the PPD program
- Four representatives from organizations that advocate for individuals with disabilities
- The executive commissioner of the Texas Health and Human Services Commission or their designee
- Four individuals with disabilities, two of whom are employed by CRPs that participate in the PPD program

PPD Advisory Committee members serve at the will of the Commission and serve staggered four-year terms. A member may not serve more than two four-year terms.

**Issue**

The second four-year terms of four committee members expired in February 2023. Several applications were received. After a review of their qualifications, the following candidates are recommended to fill the vacancies:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Geographic Location</b>	<b>Position Represented</b>	<b>Employment</b>	<b>Term Expiration Date</b>
Veronica Estala-Gutierrez	El Paso, Texas	Advocate	The University of Texas–El Paso	February 2027
Manuel Fields	Houston, Texas	CRP Representative	David & Ivory Ministries, CRP	February 2027
Pamela Bullock	Rusk, Texas	Disabled, Non-CRP	N/A	February 2027
Michael Phillips	Austin, Texas	Disabled - CRP	Travis Association for the Blind	February 2027

**Decision Point**

Staff recommends the appointment of Mrs. Veronica Estala-Gutierrez, Mr. Manuel Fields, Mrs. Pamela Bullock and Mr. Michael Phillips to a first four-year term on the PPD Advisory Committee, with such term to end in February 2027.