

**Appointments of New Members and New Chairperson
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.

In addition, Section 122.0057(d) requires the Commission to appoint an advisory committee chairperson from among the members serving on the committee. When the role of chairperson is vacant, PPD staff invites current PPD Advisory Committee members to submit their interest in serving as chair. PPD staff members then gather information about each interested member and consider factors such as the opportunity for a member of each group represented on the committee to serve as chairperson and the experience of each interested member in performing similar leadership roles.

Issue 1

The second four-year terms of four committee members expired in February 2025. Several applications were received. After a review of their qualifications, the following candidates are recommended to fill the vacancies:

Name	Geographic Location	Position Represented	Employment	First-Term Expiration Date
Genelle Sanders	Austin, Texas	Advocate	Communication Service for the Deaf	February 2029
Robert Griffin	Fort Worth, Texas	CRP Representative	Liberty Proclaimed Ministry	February 2029

Name	Geographic Location	Position Represented	Employment	First-Term Expiration Date
Ruth Davis	Tyler, Texas	CRP Representative	Goodwill Industries of East Texas	February 2029
Cynthia Watson	San Antonio	Individual with Disability Employed by CRP	San Antonio Lighthouse for the Blind	February 2029

1 **Issue 2**

2 Following the completion of the former PPD Advisory Committee chair’s term, PPD staff
3 surveyed committee members to determine which members were interested in being considered
4 for appointment as chairperson. One member, Mr. James Meehan, who represents a CRP,
5 expressed interest in serving.

6 **Recommendation**

7 Staff recommends the appointment of Ms. Genelle Sanders, Mr. Robert Griffin, Ms. Ruth Davis,
8 and Ms. Cynthia Watson each to a first four-year term on the PPD Advisory Committee, with
9 such term to end in February 2029. Staff also recommends the appointment of James Meehan as
10 chairperson of the PPD Advisory Committee for the period beginning May 27, 2025, and ending
11 February 1, 2027.