

PRESS RELEASE

Join the Texas Workforce Commission and the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services at an important workforce planning meeting next week!

Tyler, TX, August 20, 2015: – 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. The meeting in the East Texas region will be held in Tyler on Thursday, August 27th, from 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM at the R. B. Hubbard Center located at 304 E. Ferguson Street. Information on the additional meetings held throughout the State may be viewed on the [Joint Stakeholders Meeting Webpage](#).

“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.”

“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.

For more information, please contact ETCOG's Director of Workforce and Economic Development, Doug Shryock, at (903) 218-6425. You may also contact the Director of Communications at TWC, Lisa Givens, at (512) 463-8556.

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About Workforce Solutions East Texas

It is the mission of the Workforce Solutions East Texas Board to improve the quality of life in this area through economic development by providing a first-class workforce for present and future businesses. The Board works in partnership with chief elected officials of the region and is the primary source of local workforce policy. The Workforce Solutions East Texas Board is one of 28 local Workforce Solutions Boards located throughout the state. The board serves Henderson, Van Zandt, Rains, Wood, Upshur, Camp, Marion, Harrison, Panola, Gregg, Rusk, Cherokee, Anderson and Smith counties. The East Texas Council of Governments (ETCOG) serves as the administrating agency of the Workforce Solutions East Texas Board.

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