

1                                   **Appointment to the Advisory Committee of the**  
2                                   **Purchasing from People with Disabilities Program**  
3                                   **Discussion Paper**

4   **Background**

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

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

- 12       • Four representatives from CRPs that participate in the PPD program
- 13       • Four representatives from organizations that advocate for individuals with disabilities
- 14       • The executive commissioner of the Texas Health and Human Services Commission or his  
15       or her designee
- 16       • Four individuals with disabilities, two of whom are employed by CRPs that participate in  
17       the PPD program

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

20   **Issue**

21 The second four-year term of a member representing the advocate community expired in  
22 February 2021. Recruitment efforts for candidates to fill that vacancy resulted in the following  
23 single application:

24

<b>Name</b>	<b>Geographic Location</b>	<b>Position Represented</b>	<b>Employment</b>
Lauren Gerken	Austin	Advocate	Public Policy Analyst, Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities

25   **Decision Point**

26 Staff recommends the appointment of Ms. Lauren Gerken to a four-year term on the PPD  
27 Advisory Committee as a representative of the advocate community, effective July 12, 2022 and  
28 ending February 1, 2025.