

**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 must serve for a staggered two-year term and may be reappointed to a second term by the Commission. The committee’s business community representative, Diana Contreras, who was reappointed to a second term on November 23, 2021, resigned from her role due to a change in her employment.

Issue

There are currently four committee members, as shown in Table 1, and five vacancies. Table 2 lists a nominee, Leslie Cantu, to fill the required business community representative position.

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	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

1 Table 2: Committee Member Nominee

Name	Geographic Location	Position Represented	Employment	Two-Year Term Expiration
Leslie Cantu	San Antonio	Business (Required)	Assistant Vice President, Toyotetsu Texas, Inc.	October 2024

2 **Decision Point**

- 3 Staff seeks direction on appointing Leslie Cantu to serve on the AEL advisory committee for a
- 4 two-year term that will expire in October 2024.