

Texas Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities

QUARTERLY MEETING AGENDA

February 23rd – 24th, 2023

Thursday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. and Friday 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Laredo College, Ft. McIntosh Campus

Falcon Executive Conference Center

1 West End Washington Street

Laredo, Texas

Videoconference Meeting via ZOOM; registration is required

Registration for the Committee meeting:

Feb 23 (Day 1): https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_uyDSOZrQHunEWZqEXF1EA

Feb 24 (Day 2):

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_eIO4t2JuQ_yZ2CJN6RN95A

A public meeting of the Texas Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities will be conducted under Texas Government Code Section 551.127, related to meetings involving members joining by videoconference call. It is the intent of the Committee to have the chairperson present at 1 West End Washington Street, Laredo, Texas. This location will be open to the public during the open portions of the meeting. Other members of the Committee will join by videoconference from separate locations.

Members of the public will also have access to a live audiovisual stream of the meeting in addition to the option to be physically present at the location. The Committee will record the video and audio of the meeting and make the recording available upon request. For questions, contact (512) 463-5739 or email gcpd@gov.texas.gov.

Meeting Materials Available at:

<https://gov.texas.gov/organization/disabilities/committee-meetings>

Day 1 – February 23, 2023

- 1. Call to Order/ Roll Call/ Introductions** – Richard Martinez, Chair.
- 2. Approval of Committee Member Absences as Submitted**
(*Discussion/Possible Action*)
- 3. Approval of Summary Minutes for October 10, 2022**

(Discussion/Possible Action)

4. **Public Comment** (3 minutes per presentation)
5. **Listening to the Laredo Disability Community**
 - a. Laredo Blue Ribbon Committee for People with Disabilities [Presentation](#) - Erika Martinez, Assistant Director of Operations, Health Department
 - b. Valley Association for Independent Living, South Texas - Mr. Ricardo Medina, Independent Living Program Manager
 - c. "Disability Advisory Committee for Emergency Communication and Disaster Preparedness with Hidalgo County" and "Perceptions of Persons with Disabilities in Emergency Preparedness" - Valley Association for Independent Living, Dr. Lydia Fonseca, Director of Programs
6. **Reports from Invited Exofficio Agency Representatives, includes follow up topics from previous meetings** *(Discussion/Possible Action)*
 - a. Texas State Independent Living Council – Eva Storey
 - b. Department of Family and Protective Services – Cheryl Gomez
 - c. Texas Dept. of Licensing and Regulation – Marsha Godeaux
 - d. Texas Education Agency – Kristin McGuire
 - e. Texas Workforce Commission – Claudia Peden
 - f. Health and Human Services Commission – Clair Benitez
7. **Policy Recommendation Development based on the Committee's Issue Areas** *(Discussion/Possible Action)*

(Access, Communications, Education, Employment, Emergency Preparedness, Health, Housing, Recreation, Transportation, and Veterans)

 - a. **Collecting Disability Statistics in Texas** - Kristi Avalos, President/CEO
 - b. **Back-up Power Solutions During Disasters for Texans with Power Dependent DME** – Tim Morstad, AARP of Texas
8. **Texas Association for the Deaf Policy Priorities for Deaf Texans** *(Discussion/Possible Action)*
9. **Executive Director Report and Staff Updates** – Ron Lucey *(Discussion/Possible Action)*
 - a. GCPD's Biennial Report to the 88th Texas Legislature
 - b. Bills of Interest and Legislative Tracking during the 88th Session
 - c. Outreach and policy activities
 - d. Performance Accomplishments for Fiscal Year 2022

5:00 p.m. Meeting Recess

Reconvene Meeting Day 2 – February 24, 2023, 8:00 a.m.

Day 2 – February 24, 2023

10. **Reconvene / Call to Order**
11. **Public Comment** (3 minutes per presentation)
12. **Policy Recommendation Development based on the Committee’s Issue Areas** (*Discussion/Possible Action*)
(Access, Communications, Education, Employment, Emergency Preparedness, Health, Housing, Recreation, Transportation, and Veterans)
 - a. **Promoting the Texas Driving with Disability Initiative in Texas Public Schools** – Jennifer Allen.
 - b. **Disparity of Services for Individuals with Autism and Intellectual Disabilities in Laredo** - Dr. Gerardo Mireles, Licensed Psychologist, Mireles Autism and Behavioral Center (MABC)
 - c. **Possible Policy Recommendations from Public Comment** (*Discussion/Possible Action*)
13. **Individual Member Reports on Outreach** (*Discussion*)
14. **Future Meeting** (*Discussion/Possible Action*)
15. **Adjournment** – Richard Martinez, Chair

Notice of Assistance at Public Meetings

The Committee will provide Communication Access Real-time Translation (CART) and American Sign Language Interpretation for this meeting. Persons with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and who may need assistance, such as materials in an alternate format, contact the Governor’s Committee on People with Disabilities at least five (5) working days prior to the meeting. 512-463-5739. Use the Relay Option of Your Choice. E-mail: gcpd@gov.texas.gov