

House Bill 1230 Workgroup

Members: Advocates and Stakeholders

Rosemary Alexander,	Austin Independent School District
Renee Borders,	Austin Independent School District
Consuelo Castillo	Texas Advocates
Maria Cordero	Parent Representative
Laura Griebel	Goodwill Industries
Albert Hergenroeder	Physician
Colleen Horton	Children's Policy Council
Deirdre Hunt	Employer
Opal Irvin	Parent Representative
Norine Jaloway	Imagine Enterprises
Melvin Johnson	Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities
Kristen E. Jones	Texas State Independent Living Council
Mary Klentzman	Parent Representative
Angela Lello	Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities
Sarah Mills	Advocacy, Inc.
Monique Munoz	Parent Representative/RN
Cynthia Peacock	Physician
Daniel Scarborough	National PASS Network
Rona Statman	ARC of Texas
Pamela Thomas	National Association of Mental Illness
Alan Velis	Transitioning Student
Tanya Winters	Texas Advocates

Albert Hawkins
Executive Commissioner
Health and Human Services Commission
P.O. Box 13247
Austin, TX. 78711-3247

August 13, 2008

Dear Mr. Hawkins:

House Bill (H.B.) 1230, 80th Legislature, Regular Session, 2007, was enacted to improve the services provided to Texas youth with disabilities as they transition from school to adult living. Section 3 of the bill directs the establishment of a workgroup to develop a plan to:

- ensure that a youth with a disability who is transitioning into post-school activities, services for adults, or community living has choices about work and career, and the opportunity with necessary supports, to seek individualized, competitive employment in the community;
- improve the collaboration between HHS agencies, other state agencies, the community, and local service providers to maximize existing supported employment resources; and
- increase the quality and quantity of available supported employment services and opportunities.

Albert Hawkins, Executive Commissioner
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In accordance with the legislation, you established a workgroup and appointed its members. The workgroup began meeting in September 2007 and is pleased to file this recommended plan with you, as required by HB1230.

This plan and the recommendations herein were developed by the stakeholders who participated in the workgroup. The participants included recognized experts in supported employment, advocates, family members, physicians, providers of 1915(c) Medicaid waiver services, employers currently offering supported employment opportunities, and others. State agency members of the workgroup provided technical assistance and program information to the stakeholder group

The workgroup recognizes that some of the recommendations will require additional funding or legislative direction. The workgroup requests, however, that the agencies implement those sections of the plan or portions of the recommendations that do not require additional resources or legislative directions. We also ask that you adopt rules if necessary to implement those sections of the plan.

HB 1230 further requires that you submit a report, not later than January 1, 2009, to appropriate legislative committees describing the actions taken by HHS agencies and any actions the agencies intend to take during the next biennium. We look forward to the report to the legislative committees and to continuing to work co-operatively with the HHS agencies to improve the services to youth transitioning to adulthood.

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Judith Zaffirini
The Honorable Eddie Rodriguez
DADS Commissioner Adelaide Horn
DARS Commissioner Terrell I. Murphy
DFPS Commissioner Carey Cockerell
DSHS Commissioner David L. Lakey, M.D.
Commissioner of Education Robert Scott
Texas Workforce Commission Executive Director Larry E. Temple