



304 Texas Ave. Suite 1400 | El Paso, Texas 79901 | 915-887-2600 | borderplexjobs.com

---

## Special Populations Subcommittee Meeting

*Date:* Thursday, April 6, 2023

*Time:* 1:30 pm MST

**This will be a teleconference meeting, see Notes section below the enumerated Agenda items for further instructions.**

*Disability Subcommittee Members Present*

Chrystal Davis, Chair  
Robert Alcala  
Bruce Biegel  
Maricruz Chavez  
Bob Gear  
Maria E. Lopez  
Nena Rios  
Leah Wood

*Disability Subcommittee Members Absent*

Manuel Arias  
Oscar Lozoya  
Adam Tirres  
Rosalie Yañez

*Staff Members Present*

Dezeree Fraga  
Diana Velazquez  
Louis Castillo  
Michael Velez  
Myriam Guerrero  
Yvonne Lopez  
Zonia Sigala

---

## MINUTES

### 1. CALL TO ORDER AND NOTE OF QUORUM

*(Chrystal Davis, Special Populations Subcommittee Chair)*

*Ms. Dezeree Fraga, Student HireAbility Navigator called the meeting to order at 1:37 pm MST. Quorum was cited.*

### 2. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

**A:** HireAbility Activity and Program Updates (*Dezeree Fraga, Student HireAbility Navigator*)

- HireAbility Updates - Vocational Rehab, ISD and Education Service Centers Collaborations, and event updates
- Year-Round & Summer Earn and Learn
- Nextforce – Special Populations and Internship

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Relay Texas: 711 (Voice) or 1-800-735-2989 (TTY) Igualdad de oportunidades de Empleo/Programas. Equipo auxiliar y servicios de apoyo están disponibles para personas con discapacidad al ser requeridos. Relay Texas: 711 (Voz) o 1-800-735-2989 (TTY)

- Explore Apprenticeship Project

*Ms. Dezeree Fraga, Student HireAbility Navigator, discussed the networking event with the ISDs and the Education Service Centers, where students were able to practice their interviewing skills. Ms. Fraga said the staff would like to bring a Nextforce Internship – SPED with a disability at WSB. Regarding the Year- Round Work Experience FY23, the target is 75, there are currently 73 referrals received. The Summer Earn and Learn program is starting, the target is 95.*

**B:** Military Initiatives Update (*Michael Velez, Program Specialist*)

- Transitioning Service Members
- Healthcare Cohort (Military Spouses)
- Fort Bliss Spouses Association
- Ft. Bliss CSP (Career Skills Program)

*Mr. Michael Velez, Program Specialist, provided updates regarding the Pathway for Heroes grant, the Healthcare Cohort for military spouses, the continuing efforts to collaborate with the Fort Bliss Spouses Association and the Fort Bliss Career Skills Program.*

**C:** Foster Youth Updates (*Odette Flores-Ruiz, Youth Program Coordinator*)

- Foster Youth Conference

*Ms. Fraga mentioned that Ms. Odette Flores-Ruiz, Youth Program Coordinator, is at the Foster Youth Conference and will provide updates at the next meeting.*

**D:** Migrant Seasonal Farmworkers Update (*Yvonne Lopez, Rural Development Project Manager*)

*Ms. Yvonne Lopez, Rural Development Project Manager, discussed that the employment services liaison visited community-based organizations in January and provided updates.*

**E:** Report on the number of customers with disabilities served, employment for customers with disabilities, foster youth, MSFW, justice involved and veterans served (*Denisse Arrieta, Deputy Director*)

*Ms. Zonia Sigala, presented the numbers of customers with disabilities served from October 2022 through March 2023, along with the numbers of Re-Entry partnerships and stated that there were 71 participants placed in the Year-Round program.*

**F:** Area for discussion and feedback (*Dezeree Fraga, Program Specialist*)

### 3. ADJOURN

**A:** Committee Announcements

**B:** Discussion on items of interest for next agenda – June 1, 2023

*The meeting adjourned at 2:06 pm. MST*