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## Special Populations Subcommittee Meeting

*Date:* Thursday, June 1, 2023

*Time:* 1:30 pm MST

*Location:* Workforce Solutions Borderplex, Inc.  
304 Texas Avenue, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room, El Paso, Texas 79901

*Disability Subcommittee Members Present*  
Chrystal Davis, Chair  
Bruce Biegel  
Bob Gear  
Maria E. Lopez  
Oscar Lozoya  
Adam Tirres  
Leah Wood

*Disability Subcommittee Members Absent*  
Robert Alcala  
Manuel Arias  
Maricruz Chavez  
Nena Rios  
Rosalie Yañez

*Staff Members Present*

Abigail Ruiz  
David Cuellar  
Denisse Wiley

Dezeree Fraga  
Janell Valles  
Michael Velez

Odette Flores-Ruiz  
Phaedra Vasquez

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## MINUTES

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

*(Chrystal Davis, Special Populations Subcommittee Chair)*

*Ms. Chrystal Davis, Special Populations Subcommittee Chair called the meeting to order at 1:40 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
- Explore Apprenticeship 2.0

*Ms. Dezeree Fraga, Student HireAbility Navigator, discussed the Project Search Graduation and the 2023/2024 cohort. Ms. Fraga discussed that the Year-Round & Summer Earn and Learn programs have been maxed out and that staff has requested additional funds for SEAL to add a few more slots as there are 18 individuals on the waiting list.*

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)

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

- Transitional Assistance Program EXPO
- Military Spouse Medical Cohort
- Texas Transition Alliance Meeting in San Antonio
- HEROES Program (Walgreens)

*Mr. Michael Velez, Program Specialist, provided updates regarding military initiatives and discussed the Transition Assistance Program Expo along with the Healthcare Cohort for military spouses, the Texas Transition Alliance and the HERO Program.*

**C:** Migrant Seasonal Farm Workers (*Odette Flores-Ruiz, Rural Development Manager*)

- MSFW Updates

*Ms. Odette Flores-Ruiz, Rural Development Manager, discussed the Migrant Seasonal Farm Workers Graduation in partnership with Region 19. Ms. Flores-Ruiz announced that there were 85 graduates. The Business Services Unit was able to get employers and exhibitors at the graduation to connect to the next plan.*

**D:** Foster Youth Updates (*Janell Valles, Youth Program Manager*)

- Foster Youth Conference
- Onsite Service Delivery at PRIDE Center

*Ms. Odette Flores-Ruiz, discussed the Foster Youth Conference she attended in April. Ms. Flores-Ruiz also discussed the onsite service delivery at PRIDE Center where youth go for help and can connect with other foster youth. WSB provides in-person services weekly on Fridays.*

**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. Denisse Arrieta reported the number of customers served from October 2022 through May 2023; 242 individuals with disabilities served; 28 foster youth; 62 MSFW; 409 veterans; and 269 justice-involved customers served.*

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

### **3. ADJOURN**

**A:** Committee Announcements

**B:** Discussion on items of interest for next agenda – August 3, 2023

*The meeting adjourned at 2:29 pm. MST.*