Texas Special Education Continuing Advisory Committee Membership

- **Gwyn Boyter, Ph.D. (Austin)** Stakeholder: Charter School representative. Term expires: February 1, 2015. Dr. Boyter is superintendent of the University of Texas-University Charter School. She has over 30 years of experience in public education and public service to individuals with disabilities as a teacher and administrator in K-12 education. Dr. Boyter has also served as an administrator and taught graduate and undergraduate courses at the university level. She is a published researcher and author. She received her Ph.D. and her Master of Education in Educational Administration and her Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from The University of Texas at Austin.

- **Jana Burns (Saginaw)** Stakeholder: McKinney-Vento Homeless Act representative. Term expires: February 1, 2017. Jana Burns is the Assistant Director of Special Populations and the McKinney-Vento Homeless Act at Region 10 Education Service Center. Prior to the Education Service Center, she worked as teacher, coordinator, campus administrator, and Special Education Director in the Eagle Mountain – Saginaw Independent School District for over twenty-two years. Jana received her Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of North Texas; Master of Education from Texas Woman's University and completed the Superintendent Certification program at Tarleton State University.

- **Melissa Columbus Keller (Lakeway)** Stakeholder: Parent. Term expires: February 1, 2015. Melissa Columbus Keller is an advocate for children with special needs. She is a member of the National Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments, Deaf-Blind Multihandicapped Association of Texas, Texas Parent 2 Parent, and U R our Hope. Her professional career consisted of working for former U. S. Congressman Henry Bonilla and Texas Railroad Commissioner Charles R. Matthews. Keller received a bachelor's degree from the University of Texas of the Permian Basin and a master of business administration from St. Edward's University.

- **Debra B. Emerson (Austin)** Stakeholder: Representative from child welfare agency responsible for foster care. Term expires: February 1, 2017. Debra Emerson is the child protective services state director for the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services. She is a member of the National Association of State Adoption Programs, National Association of State Foster Care Managers, and Interagency Foster Care Committee. In Harris County, she formerly served on the Children's Assessment Center Partner Council and the Child Abuse Task Force. Emerson earned a bachelor's degree from Oregon State University and a master's degree from the University of Washington.

- **Julia Erwin (Montgomery)** Stakeholder: Parent. Term expires: February 1, 2017. Julia W. Erwin of Montgomery is a former sales representative for West Publishing Inc. She is a member of the State Bar of Texas and a past member of the Texas Young Lawyers Association. She is also an officer of the Stewart Creek Elementary Parent Teacher Organization and Autism Speaks, and a volunteer for Montgomery Little League. Erwin received a bachelor's degree from Texas Tech University and a law degree from the University of Houston.

- **Laurie Goforth (Dickinson)** Stakeholder: Special Education Director. Term expires: February 1, 2017. Laurie Goforth is in her 8th year as a special education director and is the parent of a high school child with a disability who receives special education services. She has been a general education teacher, a special education vocational adjustment coordinator / teacher and is a certified education diagnostician. She received her BS in secondary education from Oklahoma State University, her M.Ed. from University of Houston, and is ABD from Texas A&M. She is a board member for the Arc of the Gulf Coast and serves as the treasurer for the Gulf Coast Administrators of Special Education. She is on the project advisory council for Project SPEAK and is the educational representative to the HHSC Houston area Medicaid advisory group. She has been a Special Olympics coach for the past five years.

- **Susan 'Stormi' Johnson (Palestine)** Stakeholder: Teacher. Term expires: February 1, 2015. Susan 'Stormi' Johnson is a diagnostician and special education teacher in the Palestine Independent School District and Anderson County Juvenile Detention Center. She is a member of the East Texas Diagnostician Association and Texas Educational Diagnostician Association. She is also board secretary of Anderson Cherokee Community Enrichment Services. Johnson received a bachelor's degree from the University of Texas at Tyler and a master's degree in communication from Stephen F. Austin State University, and completed her educational diagnostician certification from the University of Texas at Tyler.

- **Robin Lock (Lubbock)** Stakeholder: Higher Education Representative. Term expires: February 1, 2017. Robin Lock is the Associate Dean for Graduate Education and Research at Texas Tech University College of Education. She has worked extensively with both graduate and undergraduate educator preparation programs both at Texas Tech University and at The University of Texas at Austin. Dr. Lock researches, publishes, and presents in the area of post-secondary transition for individuals with disabilities including learning disabilities, intellectual disabilities, and autism spectrum disorders. She is currently engaged in a transition-to-work research project that includes both young adults with a variety of disabilities and individuals who have been served in the foster care system. Dr. Lock holds three degrees from The University of Texas at Austin including a Ph.D. in Special Education with an emphasis on learning disabilities.

- **Vickie Mitchell (Montgomery)** Stakeholder: Special Education Consultant. Term expires: February 1, 2015. Vickie Mitchell of Montgomery has worked in public schools, universities, Education Service Center, and as a consultant. She is a member of the National Division of Career Development and Transition (DCDT) and past president of the Texas DCDT. She is a

member of the Texas A&M Project Advisory Committee for the Bridges to Career, the Institute for Person-Centered Practices a collaborative initiative between the University of Texas and Texas A&M, and past member of the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities. Dr. Mitchell received her bachelor's degree from Northwestern State University-Louisiana, her master's from Louisiana Tech University-Ruston, and doctorate from Texas A&M University-College Station.

- **Nagla Moussa (Plano)** Stakeholder: Parent. Term expires: February 1, 2015. Nagla Moussa is president of the National Autism Association of North Texas, chair of the Lifepath Systems Advisory Committee, and a member of the National Autism Association. Nagla is also a member of the University of North Texas Autism Task Force, and the Arc of Dallas Self Advocacy Grant Committee. She serves on the Easter Seals DARS Autism Project Human Rights Committee. She is also a volunteer for the Arc of Texas Governmental Affairs Committee. Moussa received a bachelor's degree from East Texas State University.

- **Nancy Shugart (Austin)** Stakeholder: Person with a disability. Term expire: February 1, 2017. Nancy Shugart taught at the elementary school level in the Austin Independent School District for twenty-one years. Today she is CEO of her company, Prove Them Wrong (www.ProveThemWrong.com). Nancy is an award-winning author, professional speaker and trainer, and community volunteer. She served on the Texas Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities for four terms (2000-2008) and is a former board member for the Austin Chapter of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. She is currently a member of the South Austin Lions Club, the Women's Chamber of Commerce of Texas, the National and Texas PTA, and the National Education Association and the Texas State Teachers Association. She earned her bachelor's degree from North Texas State University and her master's degree from Sam Houston State University.

- **Heather Shults (White Settlement)** Stakeholder: Private School representative. Term expires: February 1, 2015. Heather Shults is a paralegal at the Law Office of J. Frank Thompson. She is a volunteer with the Down Syndrome Partnership of Tarrant County. Pulido received a bachelor's degree from Kaplan University.

- **Jennifer Cantu (San Antonio)** Stakeholder: Person with a disability. Term expires: February 1, 2017. Jennifer L. Taylor of Houston is a student at the University of Texas at Austin (UT). She played UT Women's Club Volleyball and was a member of the Texas Exes Student Chapter. She also volunteered at the Dell's Children's Medical Center and Habitat for Humanity.

- **Debbie Unruh (Austin)** was appointed, by Governor Rick Perry, as the Chief Ombudsman of the Independent Ombudsman's Office of the Texas Juvenile Justice Department in November 2010. Prior to this appointment, she served as the Jail Administrator and Captain of the Randall County Sheriff's Office for over 12 years. Debbie has a long history of public service and currently serves as a Governor's appointee on the Crime Victims' Institutes Advisory Counsel and to the Continuing Advisory Committee for Special Education. She serves on the Prisoner Re-Entry Project Advisory Board and is a member of Texans Who Care for Children, the National Ombudsman Association, Texas Ombudsman Association, and the Juvenile Justice Association. Ms. Unruh holds a BS from Wayland Baptist University, a BS from Newport Beach University, a Master Peace Officers Certification from Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officers Standards and Education (TCLEOSE) and a certification in mediation from the University of Texas. She has been recognized by the Women's Network for Outstanding Career Achievement.

- **Paul Watson (Flower Mound)** Stakeholder: Parent. Term expires: February 1, 2017. Paul Watson of Flower Mound is a captain and safety analyst with Southwest Airlines. He is a founding board member, committee chair, and campus liaison for the Greater Lewisville Special Education Parent Teacher Student Association. He is also past committee chair and den leader for the Forest Vista Elementary School Cub Scouts. Watson served in the U.S. Air Force and received a bachelor's degree from the U.S. Air Force Academy, and a master's degree in international relations from Troy State University.

- **Erin Wilder (Pflugerville)** Stakeholder: Representative from an Agency providing transition services. Term expires: February 1, 2015. Erin is a Transition Specialist for the Division for Rehabilitation Services, where she has worked for 10 years. In this role, she supports counselors working with the transition population through consultation, training, and providing resources. She received her bachelor's degree in Psychology from Texas Tech University and a master's of education in Rehabilitation Counseling from the University of Texas. She is also a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor.

- **Myeshi Williams-Briley (Spring)** Stakeholder: Parent. Term expires: February 1, 2017. Myeshi Williams-Briley of Spring is a community liaison for the City of Houston Coast2Coast Rx Card program, and CEO of the Education, Support, Help and Intervention (ESHI) Therapy Center. She is a volunteer speaker concerning epilepsy/neurological disorders issues, a board member of A Heart Like Hers Foundation, and a past member of the Barbara Jordan Ambassador Program Health Communication and Media Partnership. She is also health and wellness coordinator at Fallbrook Church, and a board member of the Rotary Club of Northwest Houston Sunset. Williams-Briley received a bachelor's degree from the University of Phoenix, and a master's degree in human services from Springfield College. She is reappointed to the committee.