



SOON TO BE DISABILITY RIGHTS TEXAS

**APPLICATION FORM FOR
ADVOCACY, INC. BOARD MEMBERS**

**If you would like to be considered for Advocacy, Inc.'s Board of Directors,
please complete the application and return by September 10, 2010.**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Occupation: _____ Employer: _____

Please answer all of the following questions. You may attach additional pages if you need more room to answer.

What is your interest and motivation for serving as a board member?

Please explain your knowledge of the issues affecting persons with disabilities.

Describe your experience in community organizations, including service on boards or advisory committees.

Discuss your experience and/or knowledge working with specific underserved communities (e.g., Asian/Pacific Islander, African American, Native American, Spanish speaking, or rural communities).

Describe your experience advocating for people with disabilities.

Discuss your leadership or policy development experience.

Are you a member of other disability or civil rights organizations? If so, please identify those groups below.

I live in the following Advocacy, Inc. Region (please see attached map)

- Central Texas
- North Texas
- South Texas
- East Texas
- West Texas
- El Paso

Advocacy, Inc.'s Board values diversity. In order to assist the Board in selecting diverse Board members, please identify which of the following group(s) you belong to:

- African American
- Asian/Pacific Islander
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- Hispanic/Latino
- Alaskan Native
- Native American
- White
- Multi-racial
- Decline to state
- Other: _____
- Developmental Disability
- Psychiatric Disability
- Learning Disability
- Sensory Disability
- Physical Disability
- Other Disability: (please specify): _____
- Family member, guardian, advocate or authorized representative of an individual with a disability

No applicant will be granted or denied a seat on Advocacy, Inc.'s Board of Directors based solely upon his/her response to these questions.

Where to Send Your Application:

Shirley DeBerry
Operations Manager
Advocacy, Inc.
7800 Shoal Creek Blvd., Suite 171-E
Austin, Texas 78757
Phone: (512)454-4816
(800)252-9108
Fax: (512)458-0166

Thank you for your interest in serving on Advocacy, Inc.'s Board of Directors. Advocacy, Inc.'s formal Bylaws cover the make-up, duties, powers, terms of office and other details concerning our Board. The Board establishes the duties, powers and terms of office for other positions. The following is a less formal summary of information that is intended to answer frequently asked questions.

Questions about Advocacy, Inc.'s Board:

1. How many people serve on the Board of Directors?

Sixteen (16).

2. Who appoints members of the Board?

Fifteen are appointed by the Advocacy, Inc. Board and one is the Chairperson of the Mental Illness Protection and Advocacy Advisory Council (PAIMI).

3. How long are the terms of each appointment?

Each term is three years. Members may be nominated for a second term. Terms are staggered. The Chair of the PAIMI Advisory Council serves a one year term on Advocacy, Inc.'s Board.

4. What are the requirements of Board positions?

In general, members of Advocacy, Inc.'s Board of Directors reflect the diverse constituency served by Advocacy, Inc. We are mandated by federal acts to serve individuals with developmental, mental, and physical disabilities. Persons with disabilities, family members, and professionals are all represented on the Board. Advocacy, Inc. is also committed to appointing members representative of Texas' diverse ethnic and cultural communities and makes efforts to insure the Board reflects different geographic areas of the state.

5. How many Board meetings are held each year, and where are they held?

There are four meetings held a year. Generally, three meetings are held in Austin and the one is held in a different area of the state to be more accessible to our constituents.

6. How long are the meetings and what other time obligations are there?

Regular Board meetings are always on the fourth Saturday in January, April, July, and September. Committees of the Board usually meet by teleconference. Board members usually serve on at least one Committee of the Board. Committees include: Finance, Personnel, Bylaws and Policies, Planning, Labor Negotiations, Client Grievance, Nominations, and Executive.

7. What about expenses for Board members?

All travel, room, and board expenses connected with the Board meeting are paid by Advocacy, Inc. Advocacy, Inc. also covers reasonable accommodations for Board members with disabilities. Members are not paid an honorarium for their services.

8. Are there any prohibitions regarding appointments?

A small number of Board members may have an economic or loyalty conflict, and of course, must abstain from voting or deliberating in any action involving whatever causes the conflict.

9. How do I apply for a position on the Board?

You may fill out an application and submit it at any time. Notices of vacancies are placed on our website and sent to numerous organizations on a regular basis. In addition, the application may be obtained from our website: www.advocacyinc.org. In general, applications (or updates) are due by March of each year.

10. Where can I get more information?

Please feel free to contact Advocacy, Inc., (512)454-4816 or (800)252-9108.