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**PRESS RELEASE**  
**July 6, 2011**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Workforce Solutions Meets with County Judges**

*Community leaders gathered for biannual briefing and preparation for State of the Workforce*

**McAllen** – Today, Workforce Solutions (WFS) hosted its biannual Chief Elected Officials (CEO) Meeting at their Corporate Office in McAllen, TX. At this meeting Yvonne “Bonnie” Gonzalez, Chief Executive Officer of Workforce Solutions, briefed the three County Judges in Workforce Solutions’ service area on:

- Regional workforce and employment data, and other initiatives
- State and Federal funding impact
- WFS budget and program overview
- Texas Workforce Commission’s performance report
- WFS Board Members term expirations/nominations
- Rio South Texas Regional Cooperation Project
- State of the Workforce event slated for Wednesday, August 31<sup>st</sup>

All three County Judges were in attendance: Judge Eloy Vera, Starr County; Judge Ramon Garcia, Hidalgo County; and Judge John Gonzales, Willacy County. Also in attendance were John Fuller, TWC’s Director of Workforce Network Support; Dalinda Guillen, Chairwoman; Roy Sheneman, Board Member; Sonia Quintero, Board Member; and Rose Benavidez, Board Member. City of McAllen Mayor Richard Cortez was not in attendance due to a scheduling conflict.

The CEO Meeting was also an opportunity for the tri-county’s highest ranking elected officials to address questions and concerns regarding their respective county’s workforce and employment needs to Mrs. Gonzalez and Workforce Solutions’ Board of Directors.

A State of the Workforce event is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, August 31<sup>st</sup>. At this event, Workforce Solutions will share with community leaders and partners a comprehensive overview of the region’s workforce and economy, as well as the Rio South Texas Regional Cooperation Project findings; which includes both existing and emerging employment growth opportunities. Specifically, the Project identified the region’s six industry sectors, six key human resource challenges, and the ranking of local occupations, amongst other key items.

*Pictured (clockwise): Stephen Crain, Dalinda Guillen, John Fuller, Yvonne ‘Bonnie’ Gonzalez, Judge John Gonzales, Roy Sheneman, Sonia Quintero, Judge Ramon Garcia, Yolanda Chapa, Judge Eloy Vera, and Rose Benavidez.*

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