

# **Attachment 4**

**Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities`  
Executive Committee**

**Date:** 4/02/13

**Review of Proposed Activities & Budget**

**ITEM: D**

**Grantee:** The Arc of San Angelo

**Year: 3 of 3**

**Project Title:** Alternatives to Guardianship: Volunteer-Supported Decision-Making

**Project Location:** Tom Green County

**TCDD RFP Intent:**

The project intent is to demonstrate how volunteers can provide appropriate supports to help individuals with intellectual and other developmental disabilities to make decisions concerning their own lives. In 2009, the Texas Legislature passed HB 1454 directing the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to develop and evaluate two Volunteer-Supported Decision-Making Advocate pilot programs that will provide supported decision-making services to persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities and other cognitive disabilities. The Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) was directed by HHSC to develop and implement the pilot program and to provide the legislature with a report and recommendations. TCDD has partnered with DADS to implement the pilot. TCDD has approved funding of up to \$75,000 per year for up to three years.

**Project Goals and Accomplishments for Year(s) 1=2:**

**Goal:** To provide supported decision-making services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and other cognitive disabilities to increase their self-determination, power, and control of their own lives through recruiting, training, monitoring, and supporting volunteers.

*Accomplishments per goal:*

Diversion was established as the priority with education and execution of advanced directives identified as secondary activities. The project successfully diverted Court-initiated guardianships for 4 individuals. As of December 2012, 17 volunteers received training and participated in presentations. Barriers to the role of volunteers were identified and possible solutions explored, but the conclusion was volunteers are not adequate and effective for those needing substantial decision-making support. A Leadership Academy, consisting of a model similar to Partners in Policymaking (including People First Language, History of People with Disabilities, and the Self-Determination Movement) and involving problem-solving scenarios was held for 12 individuals.

**Proposed Goals and Objectives for Year 3:**

**Goal: Same as above.**

**Objectives:** Leadership will be held across 5 consecutive days, 3 hours each day for 15 individuals. Groups will be formed to address problem-solving with real-life, complex scenarios. Participants will be trained on what constitutes Informed Consent, Best Interest, and Supported Decision Making. Training will include information on the risks of establishing a guardianship.

**Council Considerations:** Public Policy Considerations: In trying to implement supported decision-making, the project identified legal, procedural and cultural barriers preventing volunteers from supporting decision-making of individuals with developmental disabilities. In Texas, the individual with disabilities must have capacity to consent to the surrogate or support. The project found other states that promote alternatives to guardianship, not available in Texas policy and practice. Changes in practice and education on the project advisory committee from court and attorney fields inform future policy change to advance alternatives to guardianship and self-determination. No staff concerns; Council to consider continued funding for this project.

<b>Continuation Budget Detail Summary</b>			
	Federal	Match	Totals
<b>Amount expended in Year 2</b> (\$0 consultants) (based on 7 months) Award amount \$73,941	\$35,304	\$13,844	\$49,148
<b>Amount requested for Year 3 budget:</b>			
<b>I. Personnel Services</b>	70,854	12,219	83,073
<b>II. Travel</b>	0	0	0
<b>III. Purchased Services</b> (\$0 consultants)	1527	3890	5417
<b>IV. Property/Materials</b>	0	950	950
<b>V. Rental/Leasing</b>	0	14,550	14,550
<b>VI. Utilities</b>	2619	1821	4440
<b>VII. Other (Indirect Costs)</b>	0	0	0
Budget period totals	\$75,000	\$33,430	\$108,430