

Background:

Minutes of the October 24, 2013, Public Policy Committee meeting are included for your review.

Public Policy Committee

Agenda Item 3.

Expected Action:

The Committee will review, revise as appropriate, and approve.

**PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
DRAFT MINUTES
October 24, 2013**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Kristen Cox, Chair	Stephen Gersuk	Joe Rivas
Hunter Adkins	Jeff Kaufmann, DADS	Penny Seay, TCDS
Mary Faithfull, DRTx	Sara Kendall, DARS	Nancy Walker, HHSC

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Amy Sharp	Mateo Delgado
Cindy Johnson	Lora Taylor

GUESTS PRESENT

Anne Bradley, Sunset Advisory Commission	Susanne Elrod, Texas Council for Community Centers	Susan Murphree, DRTx
Garth Corbett, DRTx	Erick Fajardo, Sunset Advisory Commission	April Young, HHSC

STAFF PRESENT

Roger A. Webb, Executive Director	Belinda Carlton Celina Galván	Jessica Ramos Lucy Walker
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CALL TO ORDER

The Public Policy Committee convened on Thursday, October 24, 2013, in the Lake LBJ Room of the Wyndham Garden Hotel, Austin, Texas 78741. Public Policy Committee Chair Kristen Cox called those present to order at 1:35 p.m.

1. INTRODUCTIONS

Committee Chair Kristen Cox asked Committee members and staff to introduce themselves, and to get to know each other more personally she asked that those present share 1) about someone, other than family, who has informed your work on disability policy; or 2) a legislative issue that is affecting your current life. All Council members, guests and staff responded.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were offered to the Committee.

3. CONSIDERATION OF AUGUST 8, 2013, MINUTES

The Committee reviewed the minutes from the August 8, 2013, Public Policy Committee meeting.

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the August 8, 2013, Public Policy Committee meeting, as presented.

MADE BY: Hunter Adkins

SECOND: Joe Rivas

ABSTENTIONS: Mary Faithfull

The motion **passed** unanimously.

4. CHAIR'S REMARKS

This being Councilmember Joe Rivas' last meeting, Chair Cox presented him with a Certificate of Appreciation for recognition of 10 years of service, and outstanding and lasting contribution as member and chair of the Public Policy Committee.

5. MEMBER UPDATES

No additional member updates were offered.

6. SELECTION OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEMBER

Ms. Cox reviewed the procedure for the Public Policy Committee and Project Development Committee to each select a member of the Council's Nominating Committee. The Council selects the third member of the Nominating Committee at the Council meeting.

MOTION: To select Jeff Kaufmann as the Public Policy Committee's representative to the Nominating Committee.

MADE BY: Joe Rivas

SECOND: Stephen Gersuk

7. PUBLIC POLICY ISSUES

Public Policy staff provided updates regarding public policy activities including the implementation of legislation related to Senate Bill 7 Advisory Committee Appointments, PASRR interim settlement and guardianship advocacy activities.

Public Policy Director Jessica Ramos reported on SB 7 relating to the redesign of the long term services and supports system for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and the appointment of four advisory committees. Ms. Ramos reported that a number of self advocates had been appointed to the various advisory committees but indicated that more self advocates are needed. Mr. Ramos reported that self advocates had been contacted to determine their support needs, but that at the time of contact they all had plans in place. Ms. Cox expressed concern that the western region of the state was not well represented on advisory committees.

Ms. Ramos reported that the Employment First Task Force application process has not been initiated and that it was not clear how the task force would be implemented. Council member Nancy Walker reported that there were a number of options under consideration and expressed confidence that a final process would be approved by the Health and Human Services Commission soon.

Public Policy Specialist Belinda Carlton reported on interim advocacy activities on guardianship issues. Ms. Carlton reported that a Guardianship and Supported Decision-Making workgroup has been formed and is meeting monthly. Ms. Carlton reported on policy recommendations related to a bill of rights for wards, formalizing supported decision making agreements, alternatives to guardianship and a respectful language recommendation that would change the term ward to person in state law that addresses guardianship.

Ms. Ramos reviewed the Preadmission Screening and Resident Review (PASRR) interim settlement agreement that was finalized just prior to the August meeting. PASRR is a federally mandated process for persons admitted to, or at risk of admission to, Medicaid-certified nursing facilities. Three guest presenters provided context about PASRR in relation to the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Olmstead v. L.C.* 527 U.S. 581 (1999) and the Promoting Independence waiver services that were appropriated by the 83rd Texas Legislature for 360 people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, living in or at risk of admission to a nursing home.

Guest presenters were Susanne Elrod, associate director for Texas Council for Community Centers, and from Disability Rights Texas Susan Murphree, public policy director and Garth Corbett, general counsel. The presenters addressed how the redesign of the PASRR process had changed, their roles, the effects of PASRR on people with developmental disabilities in nursing facilities, barriers to achieving outcomes, and the next steps for the state's implementation.

Ms. Ramos updated the Committee on the State Supported Living Centers (SSLCs), reporting that 3,547 persons remained in SSLCs in Texas. Ms. Ramos highlighted the Council's work with the Institute for Person-Centered Thinking, a collaboration between the UT Center for Disability Studies and Texas A&M Center for Disability and Development, to support training for staff at SSLCs in an ongoing "culture change" effort.

Ms. Ramos updated the Committee on the effects of the Federal government shutdown, and acknowledged the potential cuts to current services in January 2014 because of sequestration.

8. TCDD POSITION STATEMENT REVIEW

Ms. Ramos reviewed a proposed Position Statement review schedule and led a preliminary discussion of the review process and the purpose of the position statements. Ms. Ramos indicated that the position statement review was a laborious process and she hoped to solicit substantive input from all Council members and staff. Ms. Cox asked members to review the Position Statements before the meeting instead of during the meeting. The Public Policy Committee expressed support for the proposed review schedule.

Ms. Ramos called attention to sample infographics behind Tab 18 of the binder. Infographics are graphic visual representations of information or data intended to present complex information quickly and clearly. Ramos hopes to develop an infographic as a companion document for each position statement.

9. PUBLIC INFORMATION REPORT

Ms. Ramos reported on recent public information activities including social media, articles, and materials distribution, and mentioned that the Higher Education Resource Guide continues to be TCDD's top requested item. Ramos indicated that TCDD staff are moving ahead with TCDD's social media strategy.

Ms. Ramos brought to the Committee's attention ADAPT's Disability Voting Action Project (DVAP), a new nonpartisan disability voting project that intends to increase the education and involvement of people with disabilities in the election process. The intent is not to duplicate other group's efforts, but to lead people to other helpful voting resources. Executive Director Roger Webb noted that

TCDD will not be facilitating voter education projects or voter organizing, but would instead be providing tools to local advocacy organizations.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Committee Chair Cox adjourned the meeting at 4:15 p.m.

Roger A. Webb
Secretary to the Council

Date