

Background:

A. State Policy Issues

TCDD staff will provide updates relating to recent public policy activities, including the implementation of legislation.

Discussion topics include:

- Senate Bill 7 - Timeline for Transitioning to Managed Care
- Employment First Implementation

B. Update on State Supported Living Centers

The Committee will receive updates on two SSLC projects in which the Council is involved.

C. Federal Policy Issues

TCDD Public Policy staff will provide an overview of the status and implementation of various federal legislative initiatives that impact people with developmental disabilities.

Public Policy Committee

Agenda Item 7.

Expected Action:

The Committee will receive updates on these items and may make recommendations for consideration by the Council.

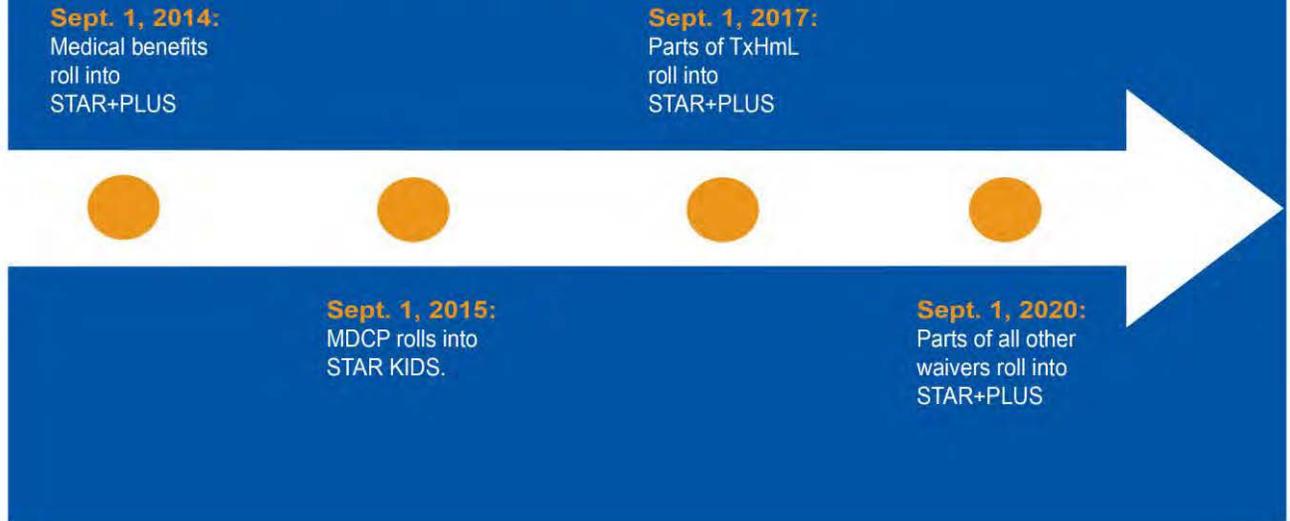
Council

Agenda Item 12. B.

Expected Action:

The Council will receive reports from the Public Policy Committee and consider any recommendations offered from the Committee.

Managed Care Initiatives What Happens Next?



- **September 1, 2014** - Waiver participants, 21 years and older, will begin to receive their medical benefits through the STAR+PLUS managed care program.
 - People currently using intellectual and developmental disabilities waivers [Home and Community-based Services (HCS), Community Living Assistance and Support Services (CLASS) and Deaf Blind Multiple Disability (DBMD)] may continue to receive long term services and supports from their waiver until at least 2020.
- **September 1, 2015** – Children and young adults, up to 21 years, receiving Social Security Income and children and young adults participating in waivers [Medically Dependent Children Program (MDCP), Youth Empowerment Services (YES), HCS, CLASS and DBMD] are expected to begin to receive their medical benefits from the STAR KIDS managed care program.
 - Children and young adults, up to 21 years, using the Medically Dependent Children Program (MDCP) will begin to receive long term services and supports from STAR KIDS.
 - Children and young adults, up to 21 years, using IDD waivers (HCS, CLASS, DBMD) may continue to receive long term services and supports from their waiver, but their medical benefits are expected to be provided by STAR KIDS.
- **September 1, 2017** – Parts of the Texas Home Living (TxHmL) waiver are expected to become entitlement services in the STAR+PLUS program. Persons with IDD with incomes up to 100% of SSI will have access to some long term services and supports without a wait. The services included as entitlements are currently unknown.
- **September 1, 2020** – Parts of the HCS, CLASS and DBMD waiver programs are expected to roll into the STAR+PLUS managed care program.

Speak Up About Jobs for People with Disabilities

December 9, 2013

Do you have something to say about jobs for people with disabilities in Texas? If your answer is “yes,” then your Texas leaders want to hear from you.

This summer, Texas leaders started talking about an important idea. The idea was that all people with disabilities in Texas should be able to find and keep a job if they want one. They called this idea “Employment-First” because having a job, or employment, should be every person’s first option.

Now it’s time to hear from you. People with disabilities and their family members know what people with disabilities need to find and keep jobs. Please think about signing up to be part of a group that will make suggestions about how to make getting a job and keeping a job easier for people with disabilities.

You do not need to be an expert to join this group. You do need to want to talk about jobs for people with disabilities and changes that will make things better. You also need to be able to come to Austin for meetings.

To sign up to be a part of this group, fill out this application: PDF Application (2 pages, 425KB) / Word Application (2 pages, 51KB).

Not everyone who signs up will be chosen for the group. To get help signing up to join the group or to get more information, contact Ginger Mayeaux at 1-800-252-9729, extension 7746.



Over head view of the State of Texas State Capitol building dome rotunda

For More Information

- Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services, [Call for Applications: Texas Employment First Task Force](#)
- The Arc Texas, [Speak Up for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities](#)

Trainers Instructed in Person-Centered Thinking

January 13, 2014

The Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services is partnering with the Institute for Person-Centered Practices and Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities so 58 individuals, who include staff from DADS, state supported living centers and local authorities, can become certified trainers in Person Centered Thinking. The individuals will be trained by the Institute for Person-Centered Practices, which is a collaborative initiative of the Texas Center for Disability Studies at The University of Texas and the Center on Disability and Development at Texas A&M University.

This training is part of a culture change initiative at DADS, which involves a long-term commitment to look at what services people want and where they want to receive services. The agency wants to increase the number of people trained in person centered practices to ensure that individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their legally authorized representatives are actively involved in determining how they live.



Laura Buckner explains how to use Person Centered Thinking to plan for an individual's future, based on personal needs, interests and desires. Buckner is one of the Mentor Trainers already certified in Texas.

The training started in December 2013 and will be provided over two years. Individuals who complete the training will be certified by the international Learning Community for Person

Centered Practices. Once certified, they can, in turn, train more people from their organization.

“There are about six to eight certified trainers in Texas now,” said Penny Seay, director of the Texas Center for Disability Studies. “This collaborative effort will help the people achieve desired outcomes, based on individual preferences and personal choices regarding what will make their life better. The critical piece in person centered practices is finding out what is important to and important for people, and figuring out the balance between them.”

“I believe that all people who work with persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities would benefit from PCT training, and I'm glad the training is being expanded,” said Susan Payne, president of PART, the association of family members supporting state supported living centers. About 3,547 individuals currently reside in SSLCs in Texas.

What Is Person Centered Thinking?

Person centered thinking is an ongoing approach in planning for an individual's future, based on personal needs, interests and desires. This includes how and where a person wants to live, as well as services and supports needed to reach the desired outcome. The individual must be involved in all aspects of the planning process, such as identifying what is important to the individual, personal preferences, abilities, choices, natural supports and services needed. This is usually done by talking with the individual, any legally authorized representative and other people who know and support the individual, such as caregivers, close family members, current provider staff, friends or teachers.

Who Will Be Trained?

The following individuals are targeted for training under the project

- 2 staff members from each of the 13 SSLCs
- 1 staff member from the Ombudsman Office at each SSLC
- 2 staff members from the DADS Office for Independent Ombudsman
- 2 staff members from the DADS SSLC State Office Support
- 2 staff members from the DADS Access and Intake Division
- 1 staff member from the DADS Center for Policy and Innovation
- 12 staff members from intellectual and developmental disabilities local authorities

What Is Required to be Certified as a Trainer?

Some of the main requirements to be certified as a Person Centered Thinking trainer are

- Work with a mentor who is a certified trainer during the training period
- Attend a 2-day Person Centered Thinking training as a participant
- Attend a second 2-day training while using the trainer's manual, to experience it from that viewpoint
- Demonstrate training skills by working with a partner to provide a 2-day Person Centered Thinking training, twice, while being observed by a mentor



Self Advocates create their own person centered

Additional Training Opportunities

The Institute of Person Centered Practices also offers a variety of training opportunities open to the public, including professional certification of individuals who can train others in Person Centered Practices. Additionally, the institute has partnered with DADS in the past to provide Person Centered Thinking training at various state supported living centers, including a 2-day training at the Austin SSLC in May 2013 for 40 individuals.

Resources for More Information

- [Institute for Person Centered Practices](http://person-centered-practices.org) at <http://person-centered-practices.org>
- [The Learning Community for Person Centered Practices](http://www.learningcommunity.us) at <http://www.learningcommunity.us>
- [DADS Person Directed Planning Guidelines](https://www.dads.state.tx.us/providers/mra/PersonDirectedPlanningGuidelines.pdf) (pdf) at <https://www.dads.state.tx.us/providers/mra/PersonDirectedPlanningGuidelines.pdf>
- [Requirements for becoming a Person-Centered Thinking Trainer](http://person-centered-practices.org/uploads/Trainer%20Certification%204%20steps%20table.docx) (Microsoft Word docx) at <http://person-centered-practices.org/uploads/Trainer Certification 4 steps table.docx>