

Staff Reports

Tab 10

Background:

Staff will provide updates to the Project Development Committee regarding public information activities, the status of new or recently approved projects, and projected funds available for new projects. Meeting materials include the following items for your review prior to the meeting:

- Grant Project Highlights – The quarterly Grant Project Highlights Report is enclosed for review by Committee members. This report provides highlights of grantee accomplishments for current TCDD funded projects. Project Highlights for REACH – Outreach and Development and Texas A&M University – Higher Education projects will be reviewed by grants staff at the Committee of the Whole.

Staff may also refer to the following printed materials, found behind other Tabs:

- Public Information Report - includes recent public information staff activities that create awareness and build connections. Tab 17
- TCDD Quarterly Financial Report –summarizes TCDD’s approved budget and year-to-date expenditures and is used in projecting funds available for additional projects in future years. Tab 7

**Project Development
Committee
Agenda Item 6.**

Expected Action:

Information items only; no action is anticipated.

**Council
Agenda Item 15. A.**

Expected Action:

The Council will receive a report on key discussions of the Committee on these items. No action is anticipated.

TCDD Project Highlights NOVEMBER 2014

Outreach and Development Project

RFP Intent: The project intent is to develop and incorporate activities to increase involvement in Council related activities from individuals who more accurately reflect the diversity that exists in Texas. TCDD needs to understand better the different values, cultures, and customs that exist in Texas, and how cultural issues may impact how services should be provided. We hope to do this by building relationships with organizations that are working to improve the lives of individuals from ethnic minority cultures.

Grantee: REACH Families

Project Title: Outreach and Development

Year: 1

Project Location: Dallas, Tarrant and Collin Counties

TCDD Budgeted: \$10,000

REACH Families will support families that have children with special needs, educating them on various topics related to raising children with special needs to enable them to care and advocate for their children. The grant will also bring awareness to the community by holding a resource fair, making presentations, translating literature and making this literature available to families in their native languages.

Accomplishments:

- There have been at least 40 plus families that have participated in the monthly meetings to date. Speakers at these meetings include educational advocates, local authority representatives, and assistive technology specialists and licensed family counselors.
- Provided case management services and attended Admission, Review and Dismissal (ARD) meetings with families.
- Participated in and had a booth at the Ethiopian Day Celebration in Plano for 2 days.
- Held an educational and awareness event in conjunction with Ethiopian Healthcare Providers Association in October 2013.
- Reached out to the Ethiopian Muslim community through an event with Ethiopian Darussalam Muslim Mothers Group and participated and passed out flyers during an annual religious celebration at Trinity Ethiopian Church in January 2014.
- The project presented at a Muslim Community religious convention and provided information for parents with children with autism.
- The project presented at a physician conference in Washington D.C. and provided information for parents with children with autism.

Sustainability:

The organization will reach out to many organizations that have similar goals such as ours. We will seek help from them in educating and supporting all families. And, the organization has partnered with the following organizations and will continue to work them:

- Ethiopian Health Professional Assoc;
- Mutual Assistance Assoc. for Ethiopian Community;
- Faith-based organizations;
- National Autism Assoc. of North Texas;
- Region 10 and Region 9 Educational Centers; and,
- Metrocare/Local Authority for Dallas County.

Higher Education Project

RFP Intent: To develop, demonstrate, and evaluate more inclusive models of post-secondary education through which students with severe disabilities receive the supports they need to succeed in college, university, and/or vocational/technical programs that were originally designed for students without disabilities.

Grantee: Texas A & M University

Project Title: Bridge to Career in Human Services

Year: 4

Project Location: Statewide

TCDD Budgeted \$225,000

Texas A&M University proposes the *Bridget to Career in Human Service* project will provide inclusive postsecondary education to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Students in the program will work on a certificate to prepare them for a career in a human service area. This program will provide a full-year of training, which includes a supervised field-based practicum leading to a certificate and job placement. The certificate program will provide students with a wide range of choices to pursue employment in human service.

Accomplishments:

- There were 25 students admitted to the 5-week summer program in the summer of 2013 of which 21 continued in the fall program and graduated in May 2014.
- Fall program consist of independent living skills, self-determination, familiarity with the online College of Direct Support curriculum, disability and development, professionalism, practicum placement and job placement assistance.
- Of the 21 students that graduated in 2013, 14 are competitively employed in the field of their choice.
- There were 30 applicants for the 2014 academic year and 16 students have been admitted to the program for the 2014 academic year.
- Evaluation results of the 2012-2013 students indicate that of the 9 graduates, 7 were still competitively employed after one year.
- The project has made advancement toward recognition as a Comprehensive Transition and Postsecondary program so that students attending the program will have access to Federal Financial Aid.

Sustainability:

- The project has met the goal of sustainability by garnering the support of DRS and DBS to fund individuals to attend the 4 Week Bridge to Career summer training program.
- DARS has also established a system so that counselors may expend funds to access the Bridge to Career training program.
- The project staff will continue to work with the university on formal approval to proceed with submission of the application to the office of Federal Financial Aid and will be meeting with the Dean of Texas A&M's College of Education in the month of September.