

Background:

TCDD received three Unsolicited Ideas during the last two quarters. These have been reviewed by the Sub-Committee according to the Council’s current process for considering Unsolicited Ideas. The subcommittee recommends the Project Development Committee review the idea submitted by the Texas Early Childhood Education Coalition and decide if any additional actions or activities are appropriate. The Sub-Committee does not recommend further consideration of the other two ideas.

In addition, the Sub-Committee felt that the Public Policy Committee may have interest in discussing the idea received from the Texas Early Childhood Education Coalition. That idea and the Sub-Committee’s summary are located behind this tab. Either Committee may choose to provide additional direction to staff regarding possible activities related to this Idea.

Project Development Committee

Agenda Item 7. E.

Expected Action:

The Committee will review recommendations from the workgroup concerning three ideas received this quarter and determine appropriation actions.

Public Policy Committee

Agenda Item 6.

Expected Action:

The Public Policy Committee will review the idea submitted from the Texas Early Childhood Education Coalition and determine appropriation action.

Council

Agenda Item 12. E.

Expected Action:

The Council will receive reports of discussions of both Committees concerning these unsolicited ideas.

Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities Unsolicited Ideas

1. Individual or Organization Submitting Idea: Al Skeltons Bonzai Attitude Ramp Foundation	
Contact Person: Bill Jones, Founder and Director	Submittal Date: 01/21/2011
Mailing Address: 6246-B Highway 290-E Giddings, TX 78942	Phone Number: 979-542-0811
E-mail Address: bjones@asbarf.com Website: www.asbarf.com	

2. Background & Statement of Need: What is the problem or issue?

I am a quadriplegic. I speak from experience. A problem that affects the ability of those who are developmentally disabled *to be independent, productive and valued members of their communities* comes down to a simple but critical need: a ramp. Due to cost and convenience limitations, many homes and offices install ramps with inferior materials and workmanship and little, if any, customization to ensure the user has optimum accessibility or worse, don't install a ramp at all.

3. Description of Idea: What would solve this problem or address this issue?

Since 1992 Al Skeltons Bonzai Attitude Ramp Foundation has solved this problem by installing high quality, customized, ADA compliant steel ramps in homes, public buildings, and businesses in Lee and surrounding counties free of charge up to a value of \$5,000. Every ramp installed is still in use. Expanding this service with support from the TCDD could play a vital role in meeting your goals for the developmentally disabled such as: *Improve access to services and help them find, obtain, and maintain desirable employment; get to their desired destinations when needed using supports in their natural environments, have recreational opportunities, choices, and outcomes similar to those of people who do not have developmental disabilities; and have the supports and services they need to be able to participate actively in their communities.*

4. Demographics: What group or groups of people would this help?

The developmentally disabled who cannot fully participate in their communities due to difficulty with access to and from their homes in underserved areas of Travis, Hays, Lee, Williamson, Burnett, Caldwell, Fayette, Blanco, and contiguous counties.

5. Possible Partners: What kinds of organizations or people could help to solve this problem?

I have been blessed throughout my 19-year history with partners such as licensed contractors, material suppliers, inspectors, and donors who, in exchange for publicity as simple as signage at recipients' homes and businesses, have contributed expertise, time, and materials to support the developmentally disabled. I will build on this success for in-kind services as well as collaborate with agencies that serve the target population in new counties.

Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities Unsolicited Ideas
Sub-Committee Review

To be completed by the TCDD Sub-Committee with Staff Support

Type of Project: *Demonstration, technical assistance, training, capacity building, or other type of activity.*

Other: installing free wheelchair ramps in individual homes, public buildings, and businesses.

**Is this an activity that is allowed under the DD Act, TCDD Policies, and Federal and State laws, and is it consistent with TCDD's Mission Statement?
(IF NO, note the reason below, but THE IDEA SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED FURTHER.)**

No, this is not consistent with TCDD's Mission Statement, which alludes to "creating change," which has been understood thus far as "creating *systems* change." This is primarily a direct service activity and a request for funding for the organization's primary activity.

Is idea appropriate for TCDD to consider for a future activity given TCDD's goals and priorities? (Consider things such as: Does the idea promote inclusion? Is the idea innovative? Is it likely to positively impact a group of individuals who are considered unserved or underserved? Is it likely to substantially impact a large group of people? Are there significant Public Policy implications? Would it build beneficial partnerships? Are there other characteristics of the idea to make it worth Committee discussion?)

Is idea a good fit with existing State Plan Goals? If "YES," which Goal and Objective? If 'NO,' does the sub-committee recommend an amendment to State Plan? (Aug 15 only!)

Sub-Committee Recommendations:

No review by Committee recommended.

UNSOLICITED IDEAS

To Be Completed By Submitting Person or Organization

1. Individual or Organization Submitting Idea: Texas Early Childhood Education Coalition (TECEC)	
Contact Person: Kara Johnson	Submittal Date: 12/21/10
Mailing Address: 316 W. 12 th #105, Austin, TX 78701	Phone Number: 512.476.7939
E-mail Address: kjohnson@tecec.org	

****By submitting this idea to TCDD, the organization and/or individual understands that other organizations may use this idea, with or without giving credit to the submitter.****

Ideas must not exceed one page, and the font must not be smaller than 12 pt.

2. Background & Statement of Need: What is the problem or issue?

Texas has the fastest growing birth to five child population in the country. As a result, Texas legislators are struggling at how to best meet the needs of this growing population, including children with developmental delays or disabilities. When parents have children under that age of five with a developmental disability, they can rarely find child care or an early learning program that has the staffing and/or expertise to care for these children. As a result, parents are either forced to place these children in low-quality and unsafe situations or stay at home with their children if this is a financial option.

3. Description of Idea: What would solve this problem or address this issue?

TECEC recommends convening a statewide taskforce to develop public policy recommendations on how to improve the access and quality of early childhood education programs (child care, Head Start, and public school pre-k) for children ages birth to five with developmental disabilities. These recommendations would be included in Edition III of The Texas Plan, TECEC's 10-year public policy agenda that was collaboratively developed with the James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy at Rice University. Since the launch of The Texas Plan in 2004, dozens of policies have passed and \$125 million has been infused into the early education systems in Texas.

4. Demographics: What group or groups of people would this help?

All children in Texas ages birth to five with a developmental disability in either child care, Head Start, or a public school pre-k setting.

5. Possible Partners: What kinds of organizations or people could help to solve this problem?

Potential partners include: Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities, the Children's Learning Institute (CLI), the State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care, the Texas Association for the Education of Young Children, the Texas Licensed Child Care Association, the Arc of Texas, and other key disability and early education groups at the local and state levels.

UNSOLICITED IDEA: Sub-Committee Review

To be completed by the TCDD Sub-Committee with Staff Support

Type of Project: *Demonstration, technical assistance, training, capacity building, or other type of activity.*

Other: Interagency collaboration and coordination

**Is this an activity that is allowed under the DD Act, TCDD Policies, and Federal and State laws, and is it consistent with TCDD's Mission Statement?
(IF NO, note the reason below, but THE IDEA SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED FURTHER.)**

Yes, allowed; and it is consistent with TCDD's Mission Statement.

Is idea appropriate for TCDD to consider for a future activity given TCDD's goals and priorities? (Consider things such as: Does the idea promote inclusion? Is the idea innovative? Is it likely to positively impact a group of individuals who are considered unserved or underserved? Is it likely to substantially impact a large group of people? Are there significant Public Policy implications? Would it build beneficial partnerships? Are there other characteristics of the idea to make it worth Committee discussion?)

If implemented, this idea might result in an impact on a large group of people, might promote inclusion, and might build beneficial partnerships. It does address TCDD's current Public Policy Priorities related to education.

Is idea a good fit with existing State Plan Goals? If "YES," which Goal and Objective? If 'NO,' does the sub-committee recommend an amendment to State Plan? (Aug 15 only!)

This is a good fit with an objective in TCDD's FY2006-2011 State Plan ("Explore issues related to childcare and after-school activities... and determine possible strategies through which to address these issues." It may fit with the priorities selected for the 2012-2016 State Plan, depending on the exact nature of the education-related goal(s) selected.

Sub-Committee Recommendations:

The Sub-Committee recommends that the Project Development Committee discuss the idea further and consider possible activities to accomplish this.

In addition, Sub-Committee members recommend that the Public Policy Committee also discuss this idea from a policy perspective and take action as appropriate.

UNSOLICITED IDEAS

To Be Completed By Submitting Person or Organization

1. Individual or Organization Submitting Idea: Claire Theriot Mes tepey	
Contact Person: Bobby J. Mes tepey	Submittal Date: 4-01-11
Mailing Address: 1227 Mountain Lake Dr. Missouri City, Texas 77459	Phone Number: 832-451-8356
E-mail Address: clairetheriotm@comcast.net	

****By submitting this idea to TCDD, the organization and/or individual understands that other organizations may use this idea, with or without giving credit to the submitter.****

Ideas must not exceed one page, and the font must not be smaller than 12 pt.

2. Background & Statement of Need: What is the problem or issue?

Bullying is on the rise and I believe that kids with disabilities are at higher risks.

3. Description of Idea: What would solve this problem or address this issue?

I've created a program for kids to better understand different disabilities. Here is our outline for schools.

Intro Bobby introduces Claire

Facts slides about Claire will include:

- Claire share cool facts about herself
- I work on computers
- I ride a trike
- I love going camping and fishing.
- I have a ten year old son.

Facts slides about Cerebral Palsy & folks using walking aids

- Wheelchair Offer help but wait for some like doing everything by themselves.
- If a person doesn't want help, leave them alone. But be proud you offered
- Offer to push they chair.
- Try not to crowd them. we all need our personal space.
- Offer to open doors
- Offer to reach things on higher shelves
- If you new classmate has a disability
- Let them finish what they are saying.
- Don't rush them.
- Ask to repeat if necessary.
- Don't pretend to understand.
- Suggest they write it.
- Suggest going to as quieter place to talk.
- Don't laugh at how they sound.

- * Suggested activities: Have the children hop on one leg
- * Suggested activities: Have the children put a swimming flipper on one foot and race
- * Suggested activities: Have the children open a candy with their one weaker hand

Facts slides: Blindness

Identify yourself when entering a room
 Offer the person who is blind your arm, let them teach you.
 Offer to describe walking paths,
 Move things out of common walkways so they cannot trip
 Never pet a seeing eyed dog without permission.
 Never touch a person's cane,
 Offer to read menu, signs, and chalkboard

- * Suggested activities: Have the children try to pin the tail on the donkey
- * Suggested activities: Have the children try to read tiny writing on the board
- * Suggested activities: Have the children Turn of the light and try to write their names

Fact slides: Deafness

Many people who are deaf use ASL, American Sign Language
 Many people who are deaf read lips
 Tap shoulder to get their attention
 Speak Clearly and in a normal tone, Do not shout.
 If the person reads lips,
 Try to converse in good light with nothing in your mouth that would distract

- * Suggested activities: Have the children talk to each other by moving lips but no sound
- * Suggested activities: Have the children try to hear a soft spoken short story
- * Suggested activities: Have the children play the pass along secret game

And because I have a speech impairment, the kids will be forced to listen closely.

4. Demographics: What group or groups of people would this help?

This program can help students to better understand other kids with disabilities. Hopefully this will teach that everyone, disabled or not, deserves to be treated with respect, compassion, and understanding.

While teaching this unique class my blurred speech accompanied with slides makes my message crystal clear. In the seminar my intelligence will educate kids about different types of disabilities. My passion will motivate the kids to learn how to better interact with people with disabilities. And if all else fails my wicked humor will keep them awake.

5. Possible Partners: What kinds of organizations or people could help to solve this problem?

Schools, teachers, parents, and principals.

UNSOLICITED IDEA: Sub-Committee Review

To be completed by the TCDD Sub-Committee with Staff Support

Type of Project: *Demonstration, technical assistance, training, capacity building, or other type of activity.*

Direct service

**Is this an activity that is allowed under the DD Act, TCDD Policies, and Federal and State laws, and is it consistent with TCDD's Mission Statement?
(IF NO, note the reason below, but THE IDEA SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED FURTHER.)**

Yes, the activities described allowed if done as part of a demonstration or capacity building project, and it would be consistent with TCDD's Mission Statement.

Is idea appropriate for TCDD to consider for a future activity given TCDD's goals and priorities? (Consider things such as: Does the idea promote inclusion? Is the idea innovative? Is it likely to positively impact a group of individuals who are considered unserved or underserved? Is it likely to substantially impact a large group of people? Are there significant Public Policy implications? Would it build beneficial partnerships? Are there other characteristics of the idea to make it worth Committee discussion?)

Implementation of the idea might promote inclusion. The size and characteristics of the group(s) to be impacted would depend upon the implementation plan.

Is idea a good fit with existing State Plan Goals? If "YES," which Goal and Objective? If 'NO,' does the sub-committee recommend an amendment to State Plan? (Aug 15 only!)

It is not a good fit for the current state plan, and an amendment cannot be made this year as it is the final year of the plan.

An educational campaign related to bullying might possibly be considered as a option under a proposed objective in the next state plan. However, there are many anti-bullying programs in existence.

Sub-committee Recommendations:

1. This is a focus of the legislative session in education this session, and a state agency might be required to address bullying.
2. There are many anti-bullying curricula available, and this idea is not novel.

The sub-committee does not recommend this idea be considered by the Project Development Committee.