

**Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities
Quarterly Meeting
Renaissance Hotel - Austin
9712 Arboretum Blvd
Austin, TX 78759**

Meeting Schedule

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

3:00 PM – 6:00 PM
Executive Committee Meeting
Room: Nueces

Thursday, July 26, 2012

9:00 AM – 1:30 PM
Committee of the Whole
Room: Ballroom B
Lunch provided for Council Members and staff

1:45 PM – 5:00 PM
Project Development Committee Meeting
Room: San Marcos

Public Policy Committee Meeting
Room: San Antonio

Friday, July 27, 2012

8:30 AM – 11:30 AM
Council Meeting
Room: Ballroom B



Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities

Executive Committee Meeting - Agenda

Renaissance Hotel - Austin

Room: Nueces

Wednesday, July 25, 2012 3:00 – 6:00 PM



Action Item

Call to Order

- | | | |
|--|--------|---|
| 1. Introductions of Committee Members, Staff and Visitors | | |
| 2. Public Comments | | |
| 3. Consideration of May 2, 2012, Minutes | Tab 1 |  |
| 4. Chair's Report | | |
| A. Audit Committee Member | | |
| B. Other Updates | | |
| 5. Executive Director's Report | Tab 2 | |
| A. Staffing Update | | |
| B. Stipends Applications Approved | | |
| C. State and Federal Affairs Update | | |
| D. Other Updates | | |
| 6. Grants Activities Reports | Tab 3 | |
| A. Independent Audit Status Report | | |
| B. Grants Monitoring Exceptions Report | | |
| 7. Consideration of New Grant Awards | Tab 4 | |
| A. Project Search | |  |
| B. Outreach and Development Projects | |  |
| 8. Continuation Grant Awards | Tab 5 | |
| A. Arc of Texas – <i>Texas Microboard Collaborative</i> | |  |
| B. Texas Tech University – <i>Higher Education Project</i> | |  |
| C. Brighton School – <i>Expansion of Leadership and Advocacy Training Project</i> | |  |
| D. Region 19 ESC – <i>Expansion of Leadership and Advocacy Training Project</i> | |  |
| E. Paso Del Norte CDC – <i>Expansion of Leadership and Advocacy Training Project</i> | |  |
| 9. Amendments to TCDD Rules | Tab 6 |  |
| 10. Memorandum of Understanding with Texas Education Agency | Tab 7 |  |
| 11. TCDD Quarterly Financial Report | Tab 8 | |
| 12. Consideration of TCDD 2013 Operating Budget | Tab 9 |  |
| 13. Procedures to Review RFP Proposals | Tab 10 | |
| 14. Consideration of Review Panel Members | Tab 11 |  |
| 15. Proposed Revisions to Stipends RFP | Tab 12 |  |
| 16. Procedures to Evaluate Conference Speaker Grant Proposals | Tab 13 |  |
| 17. Conflict of Interest Disclosures | | |
| 18. Other Updates | | |

Adjourn



Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities

Committee of the Whole Meeting - Agenda

Renaissance Hotel - Austin

Room: Ballroom B

Thursday, July 26, 2012 9:00 AM – 1:30 PM



Action Item

Call to Order

1. **Introductions**
2. **Chair's Remarks**
 - A. Members Reports
 - B. Other Updates
3. **Public Comments**
4. **Presentation – State Support Living Centers Status Report**
5. **Presentation – Region 17 ESC: *Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports Projects***

Lunch Buffet
6. **Presentation – Public Policy Advocacy Strategies**

Adjourn



Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities

Project Development Committee Meeting - Agenda

Renaissance Austin Hotel

Room: San Marcos

Thursday, July 26, 2012 1:45 PM – 5:00 PM



Action Item

Call to Order

1. **Introductions**
2. **Public Comments**
3. **Consideration of May 3, 2012, Minutes** Tab 14 
4. **Chair's Remarks**
5. **Grants and Projects Report**
 - A. Public Information Report Tab 21
 - B. Status of New/Approved Projects
 - C. Other Updates Tab 15
6. **Projected Available Funds**
7. **Member Updates**
8. **Future Activities for State Plan Implementation** Tab 16
 - A. Families in Schools Executive Summary 
 - B. Consideration of Unsolicited Ideas 
 - C. Next Steps for Positive Behavior Support Activities 
 - D. Evaluation of Project Ideal 
 - E. Other Ideas 
9. **Future Funding Priorities** Tab 17 
10. **Other Discussion Items**

Adjourn



Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities

Public Policy Committee Meeting - Agenda

Renaissance Hotel - Austin

Room: San Antonio

Thursday, July 26, 2012 1:45 PM – 5:00 PM



Action Item

Call to Order

1. **Introductions of Committee Members, Staff and Visitors**
2. **Public Comments**
3. **Consideration of May 3, 2012, Minutes** Tab 18 
4. **Chairs Remarks**
5. **Member Updates**
6. **Advocacy Discussion** Tab 19
7. **TCDD 2012 Biennial Report Update** Tab 20
8. **Public Information Report** Tab 21
9. **Future Projects: Public Education & Outreach Campaign** Tab 22
10. **Review of Position Statements** Tab 23 
 - A. Employment
 - B. Transition
 - C. Education
 - D. Access to Health Care
11. **TCDD Public Policy Priorities** Tab 24
12. **Public Policy Issues** Tab 25
 - A. State Policy Issues
 - B. Update on State Supported Living Center Monitoring Activities
 - C. Federal Policy Issues
13. **Other Discussion Items**

Adjourn



Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities

Council Meeting - Agenda

Renaissance Hotel – Austin

Room: Ballroom B

Friday, July 27, 2012 8:30 AM – 11:30 AM



Action Item

Call to Order

1. **Introductions of Members, Staff and Visitors**
2. **Public Comments**
3. **Consent Items**
 - A. Consideration of Minutes Tab 26 
 - B. Excused Absences of Council Members 
4. **Internal Audit Activities Update**
5. **Chair's Report**
6. **Executive Director's Report**
7. **Future Activities for State Plan Implementation**
 - A. Families in Schools Executive Summary Tab 16 
 - B. Consideration of Unsolicited Ideas Tab 16 
 - C. Other Committee Recommendations Tab 16 
 - D. Future Funding Priorities Tab 17 
8. **TCDD Position Statements** Tab 23 
 - A. Employment
 - B. Transition
 - C. Education
 - D. Access to Health Care
9. **Amendments to TCDD Rules** Tab 6 
10. **Memorandum of Understanding with Texas Education Agency** Tab 7 
11. **TCDD 2013 Operating Budget** Tab 9 
12. **Proposed Revisions to Stipends RFP** Tab 12 
13. **Executive Committee Report**
 - A. Grants Activities Report Tab 3
 - B. New & Continuation Grant Awards Tab 4 & 5
 - C. TCDD Quarterly Financial Report Tab 8
 - D. Procedures to Review RFP Proposals Tab 10
 - E. Review Panel Members Tab 11
 - F. Procedures to Evaluate Conference Speaker Grant Proposals Tab 13
 - G. Conflict of Interest Disclosures
 - H. Other Discussion Items

14. Project Development Committee Report

- A. Grants and Projects Report Tab 15
- B. Projected Funds Available
- C. Future Activities for State Plan Implementation Tab 17
- D. Other Discussion Items

15. Public Policy Committee Report

- A. Advocacy Discussion Tab 19
- B. 2012 Biennial Disability Report Update Tab 20
- C. Public Information Report Tab 21
- D. Public Policy Priorities Tab 24
- E. Public Policy Issues Tab 25
- F. Other Discussion Items

16. Announcements and Updates

Tab 27

Adjourn

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes	Tab 1
--	--------------

Background:

Minutes of the May 2, 2012, Executive Committee meeting are included for your review.

<u>Executive Committee</u>	<u>Expected Action:</u>
<u>Agenda Item 3.</u>	The Committee will review, revise as appropriate, and approve.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
DRAFT MINUTES
MAY 2, 2012**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Mary Durham, Council Chair	Joe Rivas
Hunter Adkins	Susan Vardell

COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT

John C. Morris, Council Vice-Chair

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Andrew Crim	Gladys Cortez
-------------	---------------

STAFF PRESENT

Roger Webb, Executive Director	Joanna Cordry	Jessica Ramos
Martha Cantu	Sonya Hosey	Koren Vogel

GUESTS PRESENT

Leteshia Finley	Eric Jacobson, GA DDC	Marisa Quist
-----------------	-----------------------	--------------

CALL TO ORDER

The Executive Committee of the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities convened on Wednesday, May 2, 2012, in the Majestic 5 Room at the Sheraton Dallas Hotel, 400 Olive Street, Dallas, TX 75201. Council Chair Mary Durham called the meeting to order at 2:38 PM.

1. **INTRODUCTIONS**

Committee and Council members, staff and guests were introduced.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comments were offered to the Committee.

3. **CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES**

The committee reviewed the minutes of the February 8, 2012, Committee meeting. No revisions were offered.

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the February 8, 2012, Executive Committee meeting as presented.

MADE BY: Susan Vardell

SECOND: Hunter Adkins

The motion **passed** unanimously.

4. **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chair Durham expressed her surprise and pleasure at being designated by the Governor as TCDD Chair. The Governor also appointed Scott McAvoy of Cedar Park to replace Deneesa

Rasmussen. Scott is appointed as a “local, non-government agency” representative and is currently Vice-President of Operations at Marbridge Foundation, a private, residential facility in south Austin for people with significant disabilities. David Taylor of El Paso was appointed to fill the position previously occupied by Rene Requenez. David is appointed as a parent and has a son with autism. The Texas Education Agency recently appointed Barbara Kaatz as alternate representative. All three members attended orientation and are eligible to vote on all Council business.

Chair Durham reviewed Committee assignments and noted that the two new members were asked to visit each Committee before requesting a Committee appointment. Durham indicated she will ask Council approval of Gladys Cortez as a member of the Project Development Committee. Former Chair Brenda Coleman-Beattie, who has resigned and will likely not attend future meetings, is not assigned to a Committee. Durham’s designation as Council Chair creates a vacancy on the Audit Committee. Durham asked for members who are interested in serving on the Audit Committee to contact her or Executive Director Roger Webb.

Durham reviewed excused absences for this meeting which include John Morris, Kristine Clark, Brenda Coleman-Beattie, Mateo Delgado, Mike Benz/Amy Sharp (Texas A&M Center for Development and Disability), Sara Kendall (DARS), Penny Seay (Center for Disability Studies-UT), and Mary Faithful, (Disability Rights Texas).

Durham invited Council Member Gladys Cortez to discuss the press event in McAllen on April 3, 2012 announcing the beginning of TCDD grant Project Hire. The event was attended by well over 100 people including state Senator Eddie Lucio and Representative Aaron Pena, local university and college administrators, mayors and others. She commented on the excitement of the group and the appreciation that was expressed for the opportunities this project brings to the Rio Grande Valley. The project is administered by the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) in conjunction with the University of Texas - Pan American and South Plains Junior College to provide “wrap around” services to students with disabilities.

Durham discussed upcoming opportunities for travel to out-of state conferences. Council members John Morris and David Taylor and staff members Joanna Cordry and Cassie Fisher will attend the ADD Technical Assistance Institute in Washington, D.C., in June. The next opportunity will be the NACDD Fall Conference in Los Angeles in October. Due to his commitments to the NACDD Board, Morris will also attend this conference. Other staff and members will be determined once the FY 2013 budget has been approved.

5. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Executive Director Webb reported that Annette Berksan was selected as Web Administrator for TCDD beginning April 1. Berksan worked in this position as a contract employee for approximately 8 months before the re-organized position was posted. Grants Management Director Sonya Hosey is reviewing applications for the Senior Grants Management Specialist position and plans to conduct interviews soon.

Stipends grants were approved during the past quarter for the following applicants:

- Texas Parent to Parent for up to \$6,000 for the *8th Annual Texas Parent to Parent Conference* on June 29-30, 2012, in San Marcos.

- American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities – Texas Chapter for up to \$6,000 for the *2012 AAIDD-Tx Convention* on July 24-27, 2012, in Corpus Christi.

Webb discussed federal appropriations for FY 2013 noting that it is unknown when the budget will be approved by Congress. Some estimates are for level funding for domestic, discretionary programs while others estimate cuts of up to 20%. Staff will base the proposed FY 13 Operating Expense budget on level funding knowing that adjustments can be made if funding is at a lower level. Webb also noted that TCDD's federal authority, the Administration on Developmental Disabilities (ADD), now the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD), has been "re-aligned" within the Health and Human Services. ADD was moved out of the Administration on Children and Families to a newly created Administration on Community Living along with the Administration on Aging. This should not affect state DD Council operations but creates opportunities at the federal level for AIDD to align on policy issues with the Administration on Aging and focus on community living options.

Webb noted that representatives of the Texas DD Network Partners (TCDD, Disability Rights Texas, Center for Disability Studies at UT, and Texas A&M Center for Disability and Development) recently met with the Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) Commissioner Chris Traylor and Assistant Commissioners Chris Adams and Gary Jessee on DADS plans to down-size the Austin State Supported Living Center. The DD Network Partners offered their support and partnership in this effort and will have further discussions as the DADS plan develops. Webb also discussed examples from other states that captured stories of individuals and their families as they transitioned from institutions to community settings. TCDD may want to consider this opportunity to collect those stories in Texas. He also noted an opportunity for training providers on the complex medical needs of some individuals.

Webb discussed current activities of the Disability Policy Consortium which has continued for the past year without TCDD funding. Members continue to meet and engage in advocacy planning and activities but there are some actions that will require funding such as the subscription to a legislative tracking service. TCDD is exploring options in partnership with Disability Rights Texas to offer some support for this service and allow smaller organizations to have access at a minimal cost.

Webb provided a summary of the recent ADD Self-Advocacy Summit in Chicago. The Texas team discussed various activities to strengthen self-advocate organizations and work toward closure of at least one state supported living center. Webb and Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities Executive Director Eric Jacobson discussed the challenges in supporting self-advocate organizations.

6. **GRANT ACTIVITIES REPORT**

Grants Management Director Sonya Hosey reviewed the Independent Audit Status Report. No concerns were noted. Hosey also reviewed the Grants Monitoring Exceptions Report which summarizes concerns noted during staff on-site visits of TCDD grantees. A status of "pending" on that report indicates that some documents were still needed when the report was printed but all will show as complete next quarter. An additional on-site visit was conducted with the Arc of San Angelo as requested by the Executive Committee for additional monitoring of the Alternatives to Guardianship project. Evaluations, accomplishments and barriers were discussed

and no concerns were noted. Webb noted that the Arc of the Gulf Coast withdrew from their award for a Leadership and Advocacy Skills Training Grant. This organization has had some challenges recently, and the Board no longer felt the organization could carry out the project in a successful manner. This project was approved for up to \$75,000/year for up to three years. Those funds will be available for future projects.

7. **TCDD STATE PLAN TECHNICAL REVISIONS**

Planning Coordinator Joanna Cordry discussed the ADD peer review process of the five-year State Plan. She noted that TCDD received comments on its Plan in January including recommendations to strengthen the plan but nothing that would require amendments at this time. Cordry reviewed technical revisions developed in response to those comments.

8. **CONSIDERATION OF NEW GRANT AWARD**

Cordry reviewed the RFP for a project to support the Gulf Coast of Texas African American Family Support Conference. Only one application was received from organizations who were involved with the first conference as required by the RFP. A review panel of individuals who have been involved with the Central Texas African American Family Support Conference found some technical issues with the application but felt the applicant can be successful. Funding for the project is authorized at up to \$35,000 for years one and two and \$15,000 for year three.

MOTION: To approved funding to Helpful Interventions for support for the Gulf Coast of Texas African American Family Support Conference for up to \$35,000 for years one and two and up to \$15,000 for year three.

MADE BY: Susan Vardell

SECOND: Joe Rivas

Grants Director Hosey noted that Austin Travis County Integral Care will continue to provide support to the project and that Helpful Interventions staff will attend the central Texas conference. Hosey was not involved with the application review due to her involvement with the first conference and previous grantee. The motion **passed** unanimously. (Attachment 1)

9. **CONTINUATION GRANT AWARDS**

Grants Director Hosey reviewed six projects that are eligible for another year of funding. The Community Healthcore customized self-employment project is eligible for three months of funding to conclude that project. No concerns were noted for this project.

MOTION: To approve continuation funding of up to \$37,635 to Community Healthcore for the final three months of the customized self-employment project.

MADE BY: Joe Rivas

SECOND: Hunter Adkins

The motion **passed** unanimously. (Attachment 2)

The Positive Behavior Intervention Support – Head Start project at Region 17 Education Service Center (ESC) in Lubbock is eligible for up to \$120,000 for the fifth and final year of the project. The project has developed curriculum for Head Start programs to decrease the number of children expelled from early childhood programs, to provide behavior intervention skills, and decrease staff turnover rates. It has been a very successful project that has improved childcare policies and programs.

MOTION: To approve continuation funding of up to \$120,000 to Region 17 ESC for the fifth and final year of the Positive Behavior Support – Head Start project.

MADE BY: Susan Vardell

SECOND: Joe Rivas

The motion **passed** unanimously. (Attachment 3)

The Positive Behavior Intervention Support – Disproportionate Impact at Region 17 ESC is eligible for up to \$115,000 for the fifth and final year of the project. Hosey noted that this project has had district-wide impact in reducing the rate of disciplinary action for students with disabilities.

MOTION: To approve continuation funding of up to \$115,000 to Region 17 ESC for the fifth and final year of the Positive Behavior Support – Disproportionate Impact project.

MADE BY: Susan Vardell

SECOND: Hunter Adkins

The motion **passed** unanimously. (Attachment 4) Durham suggested staff from Region 17 ESC present a report to the OSEP Technical Assistance Center on Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports which is funded by the US Department of Education.

The Texas A&M University Texas Advanced Leadership and Advocacy Conference project is eligible for continuation funding of up to \$150,000 for the fifth and final year. No concerns were noted for this project

MOTION: To approve continuation funding of up to \$150,000 to Texas A&M University for the fifth and final year of the Texas Advanced Leadership and Advocacy Conference project.

MADE BY: Susan Vardell

SECOND: Joe Rivas

The motion **passed** unanimously. (Attachment 5)

The Creative Industries Self-Employment project of VSA Texas Artworks is eligible for up to \$25,000 for the final two months of the project. Hosey noted that the project has expanded its array of art projects and will provide training opportunities in media resources to artists who participate in the project. The project will not expand at the conclusion of funding but will continue to serve artists who are participating, and the established art gallery will remain open.

MOTION: To approve continuation funding of up to \$25,000 to VSA Texas Artworks for the final two months of the Creative Industries Self-Employment project.

MADE BY: Joe Rivas

SECOND: Hunter Adkins

The motion **passed** unanimously. (Attachment 6)

10. **PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO TCDD RULES**

Executive Director Webb reminded Committee members that state agencies are required to review all Rules every four years. Proposed amendments and Rules proposed for re-adoption or deletion must be posted in the *Texas Register* for a 30 day comment period. Comments must be considered before the Agency considers final Rules for adoption. Staff propose two amendments to TCDD Rules in Chapter 876: General Provisions. The first adds language from the federal DD Act to clarify the purpose of the agency. The second adds a clarifying verb which was omitted from the last version. One amendment is proposed to Chapter 877: Grant Awards to clarify language about reviewing unsolicited ideas and proposals.

MOTION: To recommend Council approval to post the proposed amendments to TCDD Rules for public comment.

MADE BY: Susan Vardell

SECOND: Joe Rivas

The motion **passed** unanimously. (Attachment 7)

11. **TCDD QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT**

TCDD Operations Director Martha Cantu presented the TCDD Quarterly Financial Report. Cantu reviewed the operating expense budget and noted a negative variance in professional services due to the extension of the Web Administrator contract. However, that is offset by a positive variance to staff salaries because this position was vacant. Cantu commented that TCDD will likely not spend 100% of the current operating expense budget and any remainder will transfer to funds available for grant projects.

Cantu and Webb also discussed out-of-state travel budget and expenses for Council member attendants. Members agreed that those expenses should not impact who is approved to travel but noted that TCDD needs to be respectful of the current fiscal climate and travel restrictions for state agencies.

Cantu reviewed the Grants & Contracts Expense Projections and noted that as grant projects end, funding will become available for new projects. The Project Development Committee will consider new projects to implement State Plan activities and is encouraged to move forward with those in an expedited manner whenever possible.

Cantu also reviewed the quarterly Administrative and Expense Budget summary and noted that current year expenses are being spent from the previous year's funds to allow those funds to be fully expended. TCDD has two years to obligate funds and three years to spend but it would be a risk to obligate the prior fiscal year funds to new grant projects that do not have a stable spending pattern. Cantu noted that by FY 2013, the increased number of grant projects should allow operating expenses to be funded by that current fiscal year's funds.

Cantu reviewed a draft revised format to report obligations and expenditure of grant funds. This format was suggested by TCDD Internal Auditor Jaye Stepp to report current grants, budget periods, amounts authorized by the RFP, amount of actual grant award, current expenditures, and remaining balance under each award. Committee members liked the format of the report and agreed it would be helpful at future meetings.

12. CONFERENCE CO-SPONSORSHIPS

Webb reviewed an Executive Summary for the Promotion of Self-Advocacy at Texas Conferences which will be discussed by the Project Development Committee. That executive summary has three parts: 1) support self-advocates as speakers; 2) sponsorship of plenary speakers; 3) sponsorship of concurrent sessions speakers or "tracks". Webb further discussed a request from Community Options to assist with their national conference in San Antonio. He acknowledged that he did not know specifics of what that would entail but wanted to know the Committee's desire to explore this request. The Committee agreed that the subject has merit and supported Webb exploring this request further.

13. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES

Committee members reviewed the member and staff conflict of interest disclosure report and found no concerns.

ADJOURN

Chair Durham adjourned the Executive Committee at 5:33 PM.

Roger A. Webb
Secretary to the Council

Date

Attachment 1



TEXAS COUNCIL *for*
DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES

(512) 437-5432
(800) 262-0334
TDD (512) 437-5431
Fax (512) 437-5434

6201 E. Oltorf, Suite 600, Austin, TX 78741

E-Mail TXDDC@txddc.state.tx.us

<http://www.txddc.state.tx.us>

Mary Durham, Chair
John Morris, Vice Chair
Roger A. Webb, Executive Director

TO: TCDD Executive Committee

FROM: Joanna Cordry, Planning Coordinator
Sonya Hosey, Grants Management Director

SUBJECT: Summary of Review Panel Recommendations

DATE: May 2, 2012

TCDD staff recently convened a panel consisting of 3 people to review 1 proposal received in response to TCDD's Gulf Coast of Texas African American Family Support Conference (GCTAAFSC) Request for Proposals (RFP).

TCDD developed and posted this particular RFP in order to identify an organization that, as a member of the community hosting the GCTAAFSC, can organize and support the various types of community partners who must be involved to develop this conference into a sustainable annual event. Eligibility for this project was restricted to those organizations that were actively involved in planning and coordinating the 2011 Gulf Coast of Texas African American Family Support Conference.

The three individuals serving on the review panel have all been actively involved in planning and implementation of the Central Texas African American Family Support Conference, the conference on which the GCTAAFSC is modeled. One of the review panel members was also involved in the planning of the GCTAAFSC as a technical assistance provider. Additionally, Sonya Hosey, TCDD Grants Management Director, was also actively involved in the planning of that conference. Both the review panel member and Ms. Hosey have had direct experience with all potential eligible applicants.

The panel reviewed the proposal received; their recommendations for funding are summarized in the attached document. Additionally, the risk assessment used to determine the level of monitoring this project would require has been completed for this proposal and is attached.

Staff concur with the review panel that the workplan requires additional detail, but that the applicant organization, with technical assistance, is capable of working with their community partners to reach the Council's intended goal and is highly committed to the effort. Additionally, the review panel, staff, and the technical assistance providers from Austin Travis County Integral Care believe that continued support to establish the GCTAAFSC provides an important service to the community and the state.

Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities

Request for Proposal Reviewer Summary

RFP: # 2012-1 Gulf Coast of Texas African American Family Support Conference

Applicant Organization:	Helpful Interventions
Key Project Staff:	Project Director: Jerrilyn Hayes Project Coordinator: Vacant
Project Location:	Greater Houston Area

Project Abstract: The disparity in access of care and services among the African American population is a significant phenomenon. The disparity extends to a stigma associated with mental health, developmental and intellectual disabilities, substance disorders, and complex physical and social health concerns. Additionally, disparity in education, social economics, power, and resources are concerning as well. There appears to be a need for sensitive educational and supportive care systems to eliminate disparity in access of care and services. A conference with a focus on educational opportunities to strengthen family and individual awareness is needed in the Houston Gulf Coast Region of Texas.

Year 1 Project Cost: \$43,750.00
Funding amount requested: \$35,000.00
Match: \$ 8,750.00

Strengths:

The proposal demonstrates that the applicant actively participated in the planning and implementation of the 2011 Gulf Coast of Texas African American Family Support Conference (GCTAAFSC), and it is clear that there would be continuity between the previous conference and the proposed 2013 conference.

It is clear that the applicant “gets it” – i.e., understands the goal of the conference, the principles of self-determination, and the need for the community to have information and support.

Ms. Hayes, the Project Director, is part of an existing well-developed network in the Houston area. Faith-based communities are included as partners, which is appropriate.

The proposal includes a listing of previous committee members, their contact information, and provides information regarding how these previous members might participate in the funding and implementation of the conference. The proposal includes letters of support from organizations who intend to be involved in the conference.

Needs:

The workplan, timeline, speaker recruitment, sustainability, and evaluation plans require more detail to be able to ensure that the goal will be reached, and inconsistencies and other issues with the budget must be corrected or clarified (including how much will directly support the conference and the speakers; how travel costs are broken down). Additional information needs

to be provided throughout the proposal to describe how families and individuals will be included in the conference planning committee and in the actual hosting of the conference.

It is not clear if this proposal was developed collaboratively or if one person alone wrote the proposal. There is not enough evidence of non-professional community involvement, and it isn't clear if the professionals involved are also self-advocates and/or family members. Families and people with disabilities need to be an active part of the planning and implementation. Everyone involved should have the opportunity to provide input into and understand all aspects of the conference (including the budget).

The applicant organization needs to ensure that they have the resources to work with partners to support the conference. The amount of staff time allocated to support the administration of the project is low; the applicant will need to meet with members of the planning committee more than they currently estimate (which is once per quarter). It appears that partner organizations may have capabilities and strengths that would support the project implementation (e.g., could the university partner conduct the evaluation), but that have not been specifically identified in the proposal. Additionally, the applicant should reach out to Mental Health Advocacy groups (6 in Houston, including 2 that are predominantly African American).

Questions/Concerns:

The proposal doesn't specify inclusion of families and self-advocates on the Project Advisory Committee; however, the original Request for Proposals did not clearly indicate this expectation. *(TCDD staff note: staff are aware that two of the individuals suggested for PAC membership are parents of children with disabilities).*

It is not clear that the applicant has the infrastructure to develop the conference "from scratch." However, templates and the website content from the previous conference will be provided to the applicant if funded. Additionally, Austin Travis County Integral Care expects to provide technical support to ensure model fidelity, as per a contract with TCDD.

Final Recommendation:

The proposal itself does not include sufficient detail for a reviewer unfamiliar with the applicant's involvement in the previous conference to determine that this proposal is fundable. Additional work will be required to provide the needed information. However, it is evident that they understand the purpose and goal of the conference and have a well-developed network of strong partners. Additionally, the applicant was highly involved in the planning and implementation of the previous conference. The review panel recommends TCDD staff work with the applicant to add the necessary detail to the workplan, and that the Council award funding to the applicant pending agreement on the workplan.

Attachment 2

Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities
Executive Committee
Review of Proposed Activities & Budget

Date: 05/02/12

ITEM: A

Grantee: Community Healthcore (Sabine Valley Center)

Year: 5 of 5

Project Title: Customized Self-Employment

Project Location: Bowie, Cass, Gregg, Harrison, Marion, Panola, Red River, Rusk, and Upshur

TCDD RFP Intent:

TCDD intends to fund projects that demonstrate innovative activities that will systematically increase employment opportunities for people with developmental disabilities and develop strategies that will make these activities sustainable after grant funding has ended. The project will provide customized self-employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities by training them, their families, and local collaborating agencies in how to develop and implement an individualized self-employment plan. The process will include assistance in securing the necessary natural supports and funding for the self-employment endeavor. TCDD has approved funding of up to \$125,000 per year for up to 5 years.

Project Goals and Accomplishments for Year 4:

Goal: Assist individuals with disabilities to become successfully self-employed by educating them, their supports, and community partners through training, technical assistance and demonstration.

Accomplishments per goal: The project is in the process of working with 10 new businesses to start up their businesses after attending the training; there was a total of 44 individuals that attended one or more of the training sessions; completed a 4-point outline that covers essential components of the Texas Customized Self Employment Project; 2 individuals were assisted in obtaining additional funding; and, 2 project staff were certified by the new Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) Self Employment process.

Proposed Goals and Objectives for Year 5:

Goal: Same as above

Objectives: The project will continue to provide awareness regarding the merits of self-employment for persons with disabilities; continue to support past business owners in their businesses; and, establish effective and sustainable funds for self-employment.

Council Considerations: Public Policy considerations: Demonstrating how to effectively and efficiently create self-employment options for people with developmental disabilities may yield results that other agencies can adopt for their employment programs. No staff concerns; Council to consider continued funding for this project.

Continuation Budget Detail Summary			
	Federal	Match	Totals
Amount expended in year 1 (\$44,832 consultants)	\$100,877	\$30,896	\$131,773
Amount expended in year 2 (\$31,000 consultants)	\$125,000	\$35,494	\$160,494
Amount expended in year 3 (\$28,740 consultants)	\$115,196	\$33,493	\$148,689
Amount expended in year 4 (\$28,740 consultants) based on 8 months - \$112,704 awarded	\$55,140	\$17,326	\$72,466
Amount requested for next year budget:			
I. Personnel Services	3303	4476	7779
II. Travel	75	0	75
III. Purchased Services (\$5565 consultants)	30,326	6214	36,540
IV. Property/Materials	30	0	30
V. Rental/Leasing	171	0	171
VI. Utilities	309	0	309
VII. Other	3421	0	3421
Budget period totals (3-month budget only)	\$37,635	\$10,690	\$48,325

Attachment 3

Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities

Executive Committee

Review of Proposed Activities & Budget

Date: 05/02/12

ITEM: B

Grantee: Region 17 Education Service Center

Year: 5 of 5

Project Title: Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS) Head Start

Project Location: Lubbock

TCDD RFP Intent:

Submitted to the Project Development Committee in February 2008 as an Unsolicited Proposal for an expansion of an existing project, addressing Goal 4, Objective 1 of the TCDD State Plan.

Region 17 Education Service Center seeks to expand the current PBIS project to recruit, train, and support individuals to provide positive behavioral supports to individuals with diverse needs living in communities throughout Texas. This project will expand current PBIS strategies to staff employed by Head Start programs, early childhood settings, child care settings and pre-school settings. TCDD has approved the scope of activities for this project. The proposal has requested up to \$125,000 per year for 5 years, however the Council directed TCDD staff to attempt to negotiate a reduced funding amount for this project. The Executive Committee subsequently approved final funding of up to \$120,000 per year for up to 5 years.

Project Goals and Accomplishments Year(s) 1 - 4:

Goal 1: Improve behavior intervention skills and knowledge for staff in child care, public school pre-K, ECI Head Start and other settings that serve children with disabilities ages 2 to 5. (The number of students expelled from the above settings will be reduced as a result of the increased intervention skills, training skills and documentation skills)

Accomplishments: The project has developed the training curriculum for the PBIS Head Start project, which consists of curricula from "Promoting and Developing Social Emotional Development" and "Incredible Years." The project provided training to 3 Head Start and Childcare sites in Year 1, 5 sites in Year 2, 5 sites in Year 3, and 5 more sites in Year 4, which resulted in improved childcare programs/policies.

Proposed Goals and Objectives for Year 5:

Goal: Same as above

Objectives: 1) Fewer children will be expelled from settings serving those 2-5 years of age; 2) Staff behavior intervention skills will be increased; 3) Decrease staff turnover rates in child care settings; and, 4) increase social-emotional levels in children 2-5 years of age.

Council Considerations: Public Policy considerations: Evidence indicating that PBIS strategies have reduced the rate of children removed from classrooms and/or increased educational attainment would provide the support for expanding these important services. No staff concerns; Council to consider continued funding for this project.

Continuation Budget Detail Summary

	Federal	Match	Totals
Amount expended in Year 1	\$121,000	\$21,755	\$142,755
Amount expended in Year 2	\$120,000	\$22,827	\$142,827
Amount expended in Year 3	\$120,000	\$13,344	\$133,344
Amount expended in Year 4 (based on 9 months) - \$120,000 awarded	\$49,057	\$11,972	\$61,029
Amount requested for next year budget:			
I. Personnel Services	68,775	0	68,775
II. Travel	3500	0	3500
III. Purchased Services (\$20,000 consultant)	20,750	4385	25,135
IV. Property/Materials	16,703	500	17,203
V. Rental/Leasing	10,172	0	10,172
VI. Utilities	100	0	100
VII. Other	0	8448	8448
Budget period totals	\$120,000	\$13,333	\$133,333

Attachment 4

Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities
Executive Committee
Review of Proposed Activities & Budget

Date: 05/02/12

ITEM: C

Grantee: Region 17 Education Service Center

Year: 5 of 5

Project Title: Positive Behavior Intervention Support – Disproportionate Impact (PBIS-DI)

Project Location: Lubbock

TCDD RFP Intent:

Submitted to the Project Development Committee in February 2008 as an Unsolicited Proposal for an expansion of an existing project, addressing Goal 3, Objective 2 of the TCDD State Plan. Region 17 Education Service Center seeks to expand the current PBIS project to recruit, train, and support individuals to provide positive behavioral supports to individuals with diverse needs living in communities throughout Texas. This project will expand PBS strategies with special emphasis placed on intervention specifically aimed at impacting disproportionality. TCDD has approved the scope of activities for this project. The proposal has requested up to \$125,000 per year for up to 5 years, however the Council asked TCDD staff to try to negotiate a reduced funding amount for this project.

Project Goals and Accomplishments for Year(s) 1- 4:

Goal 1: Districts and campuses within the Region 17 Education Service Center area will implement research-based strategies that have been shown to reduce the number of disciplinary referrals (rates of suspension and expulsion of greater than 10 days in a school year of children with disabilities by race and ethnicity); establish procedures to monitor at-risk students to prevent escalating disciplinary action and support their success in school; and will increase their skills in the area of cultural competency.

Accomplishments per goal: The project completed the curriculum mapping for PBS training and used the PBS framework. In year 1, the project trained 348 people and held 27 workshops; Year 2, trained 500 people with six school districts participating; Year 3, trained 1,133 people and six more campuses recruited; and Year 4, trained more than 1,100 educators, students, agency personnel and community members.

Proposed Goals and Objectives for Year 5:

Goal: Same as above.

Objectives: 1) Fewer students with disabilities by race and ethnicity will receive suspensions and expulsions of greater than 10 days in a school year; 2) Fewer students with disabilities by race and ethnicity will be suspended or expelled from their educational setting; 3) Fewer student with disabilities by race and ethnicity will receive disciplinary referrals to the office; 4) Staff knowledge of culturally relevant classroom strategies will be increased; and, 5) Staff behavior intervention skills will be increased.

Council Considerations: Public Policy considerations: Texas based evidence indicating that PBIS strategies have reduced the rate of children removed from classrooms and/or increased educational attainment would provide the support for expanding these important services. No staff concerns; Council to consider continued funding for this project is recommended.

Continuation Budget Detail Summary			
	Federal	Match	Totals
Amount expended in year 1	\$109,058	\$21,221	\$130,279
Amount expended in year 2	\$115,000	\$18,763	\$133,763
Amount expended in year 3	\$115,000	\$12,783	\$127,783
Amount expended in year 4 (based on 9 months) – \$115,000 awarded	\$71,079	\$7,504	\$78,583
Amount requested for next year budget:			
I. Personnel Services	84,728	0	84,728
II. Travel	3000	0	3000
III. Purchased Services (\$10,000 consultant services)	10,500	4182	14,682
IV. Property/Materials	4541	500	5041
V. Rental/Leasing	12,131	0	12,131
VI. Utilities	100	0	100
VII. Other	0	8,096	8,096
Budget period totals	\$ 115,000	12,778	127,778

Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities

Attachment 5

**Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities
Executive Committee
Review of Proposed Activities & Budget**

Date: 05/02/12

ITEM: D

Grantee: Texas A&M University

Year: 5 of 5

Project Title: Texas Advanced Leadership and Advocacy Conference

Project Location: Austin - Statewide

TCDD RFP Intent:

The project intent is to coordinate training events for individuals that have been active in disability policy advocacy and who want to create system changes in large geographic areas and/or specialized topics for which local training is not available. "Intentional networking" will be an important part of these training events. TCDD has approved funding of up to \$150,000 per year for up to five years.

Project Goals and Accomplishments for Year(s) 1-4:

Goal: The overall goal of the project is to provide statewide advanced leadership and public policy advocacy training to further develop leaders and public policy advocates with disabilities in Texas and to provide follow-up training and networking activities.

Accomplishments per goal: Held 2-day conferences for years 1-4: Year1: February 2009 with 82 participants; Year 2: February 2010 with 146 participants; Year 3: February 2011 with 112 participants; and Year 4: February 2012 with 111 participants in attendance (does not include speakers/presenters). There were two keynote speakers, breakout sessions, participation in mock legislative hearings with legislative aides, and co-sponsored a rally at the Capitol. The project Facebook page continues to be updated to reflect conference activities. The balance of program income funds generated from conference registration will be used to for future activities after the grant ends.

Proposed Goals and Objectives for Year 5:

Goal: Same As Above

Objectives: To conduct a 2-day conference with at least 100 participants to provide advanced training; identify innovative ways to generate funds for sustainability of project; and provide opportunity to access online social media or discussion forums to facilitate understanding and allow interest circles to continue with networking activities. Participants at the 2013 conference will be referred to the local youth leadership project to serve as speakers, facilitators, or mentors for the purpose of mentoring young developing advocacy leaders.

Council Considerations: Public Policy considerations: Recommend grantee to meet with PP Staff prior to first PAC meeting to discuss potential conference topics and agenda. No staff concerns; Council to consider continued funding for this project.

Continuation Budget Detail Summary

	Federal	Match	Totals
Amount expended in year 1 (\$44,832 consultants)	\$112,500	\$37,321	\$149,821
Amount expended in year 2 (\$41,624 consultants)	\$115,146	\$38,442	\$153,588
Amount expended in year 3 (\$36,584 consultants)	\$130,638	\$38,927	\$169,565
Amount expended in year 4 (\$34,474 consultants) based on 7 months - \$150,000 awarded	\$22,112	\$7180	\$29,292
Amount requested for next year budget:			
I. Personnel Services	58,264	0	58,264
II. Travel	3000	0	3000
III. Purchased Services	73,001	0	73,001
IV. Property/Materials	2099	0	2099
V. Rental/Leasing	0	0	0
VI. Utilities	0	0	0
VII. Other (Indirect Costs)	13,636	49,773	63,409
Budget period totals	\$150,000	\$49,773	\$199,773

Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities

Attachment 6

**Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities
Executive Committee**

Date: **Review of Proposed Activities & Budget**

ITEM:

Grantee: VSA Arts of Texas
Project Title: Art Works: Creative Industries
Project Location: Statewide

Year: 5 of 5

TCDD RFP Intent:

To fund innovative projects that demonstrate ways of developing and supporting self-employment or income-producing opportunities for people with developmental disabilities and develop strategies that will make these activities sustainable after grant funding has ended. Grantees will demonstrate innovative and strategic approaches to address self-employment related needs that results in documented long-term self-employment for people with developmental disabilities. TCDD has approved funding up to \$125,000 per year for up to five years.

Project Goals and Accomplishments for Year(s) 1 - 5:

Goal: The project goal is to increase competitive employment outcomes through self-employment and the development of micro-enterprises in the arts. Through the utilization of professional partnerships of business, arts, and disability service providers, participants will engage in a variety of training aspects in 3 discrete skills areas: applied and fine arts, marketing and financial management, and social skills/career readiness.

Accomplishments per goal: The project expanded the Teen Apprenticeship in Arts program to include the exploration of and skills building in new media, i.e. digital photography and video, social media, adaptive technology in which 25 teens and young adults participated. The apprentice/mentor program continues provide mentoring to artists through music, visual art, and theater to name a few, and they were provided the opportunity to show and sell their work and received financial advice.

Proposed Goals and Objectives for Year 5:

Goal: Enhance the pre-vocational skills of teens and young adults with disabilities and to strengthen the work related community connections in the arts for teens and young adults with disabilities.

Objectives: Provide training opportunities in new media arts to transitioning youth with disabilities and provide opportunities for transitioning youth with disabilities to learn about available community media resources.

Council Considerations: Public Policy considerations: If it can be demonstrated that the results of this project is successful, this can be incorporated into recommendations to give to policy makers as another avenue for job creation. No staff concerns; council to consider continued funding for this project.

Continuation Budget Detail Summary

	Federal	Match	Totals
Amount expended in year 1 (based on 10 months)	\$100,000	\$35,830	\$135,830
Amount expended in year 2 (\$43,077 consultants)	\$93,773	\$31,263	\$125,036
Amount expended in year 3 (\$10,200 consultants)	\$125,000	\$40,993	\$165,993
Amount expended in year 4 (\$16,000 consultant)	\$125,000	\$41,666	\$166,666
Amount expended in year 5 (10,937 consultant) based on 10 months – \$125,000 awarded	\$102,882	\$31,967	\$134,849
Amount requested for next year budget:			
I. Personnel services	17,762	1225	11,603
II. Travel	0	0	0
III. Purchased services	7200	5000	12,200
IV. Property/materials	0	0	0
V. Rental/leasing	128	1950	2078
VI. Utilities	0	300	300
VII. Other			
Budget period totals (2-month budget only)	\$ 25,000	\$8813	\$33,813

Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities

Attachment 7

TEXAS COUNCIL FOR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

TEXAS ADMINISTRATIVE CODE TITLE 40, PART 21

Chapter §876 General Provisions

Chapter §877 Grant Awards

**Proposed Review Schedule
and
Draft Proposed Amendments**

February 2012

Texas Administrative Code

Title 40 Part 21

Social Services Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities

Chapter §876	General Provisions
§876.1	Definitions
§876.2	Legal Authority
§876.3	Administration
§876.4	Responsibilities of the Council
§876.5	TCDD State Plan
§876.6	Powers and Duties of the Executive Director
§876.7	Committees of the Council
§876.8	Standards of Conduct
§876.9	Charges of Access to Public Records
§876.10	Petition for Adoption of Rules
876.11	Applicability of Open Meetings Law
§876.12	Alternative Dispute Resolution Process
Chapter §877	Grant Awards
§877.1	General
§877.2	Application and Review Process
§877.3	Suspension or Termination of Funding
§877.4	Appeal of Funding Decisions
§877.5	Confidentiality of Records

TITLE 40. SOCIAL SERVICES AND ASSISTANCE

PART 21. TEXAS COUNCIL FOR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Chapter 876. GENERAL PROVISIONS

§876.1 Definitions

The following words and terms, when used in these sections, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

- (1) Council --Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities.
- (2) Designated State agency -- the State agency designated by the Governor to provide administrative support to the Council.
- (3) Developmental disability – The term "developmental disability" has the meaning as defined in federal law, the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act as amended (42 USC 6000 et seq).
- (4) Executive director -- Chief administrative officer of the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities.
- (5) Grant – An award of financial assistance, including cooperative agreements, in the form of money, property provided in lieu of money, or other financial assistance paid or furnished by the Council to an eligible recipient to carry out a program in accordance with the rules, regulations and guidance provided by the Council.

§876.2 Legal Authority

- (a) These rules are adopted under provisions of the Texas Human Resources Code, Title 40, Chapter 112.
- (b) The following federal laws and regulations are adopted by reference into this part:
 - (1) Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act as Amended (U.S.C. 6000 et. seq.); and
 - (2) Developmental Disabilities Program, 45 Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 1385-1387.

§876.3 Administration

(a) The Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities is a joint state-federal program designed to **assist people with developmental disabilities and their families to participate in the design of and have access to needed community services and supports, and to** promote the development of a consumer and family-centered, comprehensive system and a coordinated array of culturally competent services, supports, and other assistance designed to achieve independence, productivity, and integration and inclusion into the community for individuals with developmental disabilities.

(b) The Council performs its responsibilities through staff activities, grants or contracts to public, or nonprofit, or private for-profit organizations and in other ways as determined by the Council to carry out the state plan.

(c) The Council shall enter into a memorandum of understanding with the designated state agency which sets forth their respective roles;

(d) The designated state agency carries out the functions set forth in applicable federal and state laws and regulations and the memorandum of understanding with the Council.

§876.4 Responsibilities of the Council

The Council is an agency within the executive branch, but functions independently within its statutory authority to serve the long-term public interest. The Council is responsible for

establishing the policy framework through which the agency carries out its statutory responsibilities. Specifically, the Council shall:

- (1) exercise the authority provided by law to adopt policies and rules governing Council activities;
- (2) develop and implement policies that clearly separate the policymaking authority of the Council and the management responsibilities of the executive director and staff of the Council;
- (3) approve the state plan and amendments;
- (4) serve as an advocate for state and federal legislation, appropriations and policies on behalf of individuals with developmental disabilities as authorized by federal law;
- (5) oversee operations of the Council for integrity, effectiveness, and efficiency;
- (6) approve personnel policies that provide for the selection, supervision, and evaluation of the executive director and staff
- (7) ensure projects and activities comply with all applicable federal and state requirements; and
- (8) **carry out** other responsibilities as provided by Council policies.

§876.5 TCDD State Plan

The Council develops and submits the "TCDD State Plan for Texans with Developmental Disabilities" in a manner consistent with federal law and regulations. The state plan may be revised and updated after public review and comment as provided by the federal requirements. The plan is available from the offices of the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities.

§876.6 Powers and Duties of the Executive Director

The executive director is responsible for the effective and efficient administration of the affairs of the Council subject to applicable laws and this chapter and under the general direction of the Council. The director shall select, supervise and evaluate staff to implement Council approved activities consistent with policies approved by the Council. The director may delegate responsibilities to Council staff as appropriate.

§876.7 Committees of the Council

The Council may establish standing and special committees of Council members to expedite the work of the Council. Members shall be appointed to Committees in the manner provided by Council policies.

§876.8 Standards of Conduct

- (a) Standards of conduct of members and employees of the council are governed by Texas Government Code Annotated, Chapter 572, and by Human Resources Code Chapter 112.0161.
- (b) Council members and staff shall adhere to the conflict of interest policy approved by the Council.

§876.9 Charges of Access to Public Records

- (a) The charge to any person requesting copies of any public record of the Council will be the charge established by the Buildings and Procurements Commission at 1 TAC §§111.61-111.70.
- (b) The Council may reduce or waive these charges at the discretion of the executive director if there is a public benefit.

§876.10 Petition for Rules or Changes to Rules

Any interested person may petition the Council for a rule or rule change by submitting a request to the executive director in a manner and form as directed by the Council, consistent with state law.

§876.11 Applicability of Open Meetings Act

(a) The official minutes of all Council and committee meetings are kept in TCDD staff offices, are posted on the TCDD website, and are available for public review as authorized by the Open Meetings Act.

(b) Opportunities to provide public comments are provided at each Council and committee meeting. The chair of the Council or committee may limit each person presenting public comments or public testimony on any agenda item to a certain number of minutes by announcing the period when comments or testimony are given.

§876.12 Alternative Dispute Resolution

The dispute resolution process provided for in Chapter 2260 of the Government Code shall be used by the State and any other party to attempt to resolve any claim for breach of contract made by any party against the State as applicable.

Chapter 877 GRANT AWARDS

§877.1 General

(a) As authorized by Human Resources Code Title 40, Chapter 112.020 (a)(3), the Council may contract or provide grants to public or private organizations to implement the TCDD State Plan for Texans with Developmental Disabilities, if funds are available.

(b) The Council may solicit proposals from state agencies, non-profit organizations, or private for profit organizations that have organizational expertise related to the requirements of the proposal.

(c) **The Council may accept unsolicited** ~~Unsolicited proposals~~ **or unsolicited ideas for future projects** ~~may be submitted by organizations and will be considered~~ consistent with Council policies and procedures.

(d) The Council may develop projects with organizations without competitive proposals as allowed by state and federal requirements and Council policies.

(e) All grantees shall comply with applicable state and federal requirements including the Texas Uniform Grant Management Standards, Office of Management and Budget (OMB) circulars, and Council grants procedures.

(f) Independent audits of grantees are required for each year of funding in accordance with the requirements of OMB Circulars and Texas Uniform Grant Management Standards. Project specific independent reviews and other procedures may be required of grantees not subject to annual independent audit requirements of OMB or UGMS consistent with Council policies. The Council shall reimburse the grantees for the reasonable cost of the required audit activities.

(g) Grant awards shall contain appropriate provisions for program and fiscal monitoring and for collection and submission of evaluation data and related reports.

(h) The Council may limit by policy the amount of Council funds allowed to reimburse indirect costs of projects. Any indirect costs of a grantee above those amounts may be allowed as part of the required non-federal participant share.

(i) Donated time and services may be included as a financial match contribution unless otherwise restricted by a specific request for proposals or by state or federal requirements.

(j) No organization shall receive more than three (3) direct grants from the Council at any time.

§877.2 Application and Review Process

(a) All requests for proposals will be published in the Texas Register and posted on the Council's website, and a notice will be provided to interested parties.

(b) Proposal information for each request for proposal shall be available upon request from Council offices and will be made available at the Council's website.

(c) Proposals received after the closing date will not be considered unless an exception is approved in a manner consistent with Council policies.

(d) Projects seeking continuation funding may have separate application forms, instructions, and procedures, as determined by Council staff.

(e) Grants shall be awarded based on guidelines that reflect state and federal mandates. Selection criteria shall be designed to select applications that provide best overall value to the state and to the Council and meet the requirements and intent of the Council as provided in the request for proposals.

(f) Final approval of organizations to receive grant funding shall be determined by the Council consistent with Council policies.

(g) Council staff may negotiate with selected applicants to determine the final terms of the award.

§877.3 Suspension or Termination of Funding

(a) If a grantee fails to comply with the terms of the grant, the Council may suspend authority to obligate or receive grant funding pending the result of corrective measures.

(b) The Council, in its complete discretion, may terminate authority to obligate or receive grant funding prior to the end of the funding period if corrective actions are not taken during the suspension period, or if the deficiency is serious enough to warrant immediate termination.

(c) A grant, or portion thereof, may also be terminated at the grantee's request by approval of the Council executive director.

(d) The procedure to request reconsideration of a suspension or termination of funding shall be included in grant award materials.

§877.4 Appeal of Funding Decisions

Appeals may be submitted from applicants for grants who did not receive funding or from grantees whose grants have not been awarded continuation funding. The appeals process adopted by the Council shall be included in grant application materials.

§877.6 Confidentiality of Records

A grantee that provides direct services to individuals under a Council grant must have a system to protect client records from inappropriate disclosure. Disclosure of confidential information must be in accordance with applicable law.

Background:

- **Stipends Grants Applications Approved** - TCDD Policies provide for the Executive Director to make final decisions about applications for Stipend Grants. Three stipend applications were approved during the quarter from the following organizations:
 1. Community Options: for up to \$6,000 for the *iMatter Conference on Health Access* on November 11-14, 2012, in San Antonio.
 2. Coalition of Texans with Disabilities: for up to \$6000 for the *34th Annual CTD Convention* on September 14-15, 2012, in McAllen
 3. Texas Advocates: for up to \$5,988 for the *2012 Texas Advocates Annual Convention* on July 27-29, 2012, in Grapevine.

- **State and Federal Affairs Update** –TCDD staff will provide updates about various state and federal matters during the meetings.

- **Attendance Report** – A quarterly summary of attendance of Council members at meetings is also enclosed.

Important Terms:

Stipends Grants: Organizations may apply for up to \$6000 to pay for conference registration, hotel rooms, attendants, respite, travel expenses, etc. for self-advocates and their family members to attend conferences and other events.

Executive Committee

Agenda Item 5.

Expected Action:

The Executive Committee will review the information provided and may provide guidance to staff.

CONSUMER STIPENDS PROPOSALS =

Date: 4/30/12

Executive Director Review

ITEM: 1 =

Organization: Community Options =

Federal: = \$ 6,000 =

City, State: Austin, TX =

Match: = \$ 667 =

Event: &= Conference: iMatter Conference on Health Access
Date: November 11-14, 2012
Location: Hotel Contessa
City, State: San Antonio, Texas

Previously Funded: = No =

Comments: = The 2012 *iMatter Conference on Health Access* will examine the =
system of health care and access for children and adults with =
developmental disabilities and their families including the availability of =
healthy lifestyle choices and resources. We consider not being able to =
access appropriate health care a significant issue for children and =
adults with developmental disabilities and their families that requires =
attention, advocacy and leadership on a national level. =

Considerations: = The conference sponsors propose to provide stipends to cover: =

Hotel & Registration – 6 individuals =	=	
(6 @ \$300/individual)	=	\$ 1,800.00 =
Staff Attendant – 6 individuals =	=	
(6 @ \$450/individual)	=	\$ 2,700.00 =
Travel – 6 individuals =	=	
(6 @ \$250/individual) =	=	\$ 1,500.00 =
Total cost (federal):		\$ 6,000.00 =
=		
Applicant match registration difference, child care & =	=	
meals: =	=	
Meals – 6 individuals=	=	
(6 @ \$111/individual for 3 days, 2 nights) =	=	\$ 667.00 =
Total cost (match):		= \$ 667.00 =
=		

Recommendation: Staff recommends funding. Proposal received 90 days prior to the event. =

Approved: yes no _____ Roger Webb Digitally signed by Roger Webb
DN: cn=Roger Webb, o=Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities, ou=
central-roger.webb@tcds.texas.gov, email= Date: 2012.05.09 09:32:09 -0500

May 8, 2012

Date: _____ =

Comments: _____

=

CONSUMER STIPENDS PROPOSALS =

Date: 6/28/12

Executive Director Review

ITEM: 2 =

Organization: Coalition of Texans with Disabilities =
City, State: Austin, TX =

Federal: = \$ 6,000 =
Match: = \$ 729 =

Event: = Conference: 34th Annual Convention =
Date: September 14-15, 2012 =
Hotel: Case De Palmas Renaissance Hotel =
City, State: McAllen, Texas =

Previously Funded: = Yes: 2011, 2010, 2009, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005, 2004, 2003, 2002, =
2001 =

Comments: = The 2012 CTD Convention will offer learning opportunities on =
advocacy and disability-related issues, political speakers, and more to =
professionals, consumers, veterans and other Texans with disabilities. =

Considerations: = The conference sponsors propose to provide stipends to cover: =

Registration – 42 individuals =	=
(10 @ \$100.00/individual for 1 days)	\$1,000.00 =
(32 @ \$60.00 (discount rate)/individual for 2 days) =	\$1,920.00 =
Lodging – 10 individuals =	=
(7 rooms @ \$90.00+15%) for two nights, double =	\$1,449.00 =
occupancy)	=
Personal Attendant Services – 10 individuals =	=
(ASL-8 hours @ \$75.00/hour = \$600, =	\$1,631.00 =
CART-8 hours @ \$100/hour = \$800, =	
PAS-20 hours @ \$13/hour = \$260, =	
Total = \$1,660, =	
the remainder will be met by matching funds)	=
Total cost (federal):	\$6,000.00 =

Applicant match covers travel & PAS expenses: =	=
Travel – 10 individuals =	=
(10 @ \$70.00/individual)	= \$ 700.00 =
Personal Attendant Services – 10 individuals =	=
(\$1,660-\$1,631 = \$29)	= \$ 29.00 =
Total cost (match):	= \$ 729.00 =

Recommendation: Staff recommends funding. Proposal received 90 days prior to the event. =

Approved: yes no Roger Webb

Digitally signed by Roger Webb
DN: cn=Roger Webb, o=Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities, ou,
email=roger_webb@tcds.state.tx.us, c=US
Date: 2012.06.29 16:41:25 -0500

Date: June 29, 2012 =

Comments: _____

CONSUMER STIPENDS PROPOSALS

Date: 7/5/12

Executive Director Review

ITEM: 3

Organization: Texas Advocates
City, State: Austin, TX

Federal: \$ 5,988
Match: \$ 702

Event: Conference: 2012 Texas Advocates Annual Convention
Date: July 27-29, 2012
Hotel: DFW Lakes Hilton Hotel
City, State: Grapevine, Texas

Previously Funded: Yes: 2011, 2010, 2009, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005, 2004, 2003, 2002, 2001, 2000, 1999, 1998, 1997, 1996, 1995, 1993, 1992, 1991, and 1990

Comments: This statewide event will provide opportunities for people with disabilities to learn about self advocacy and self determination.

Considerations: The conference sponsors propose to provide stipends to cover:
Lodging (double occupancy) - 54 individuals
(54 @ \$55.44/night for two days) = \$5988.00
Total cost (federal): = \$5988.00

Applicant match covers registration:
Registration – 54 individuals
(54 @ \$13.00/individual) = \$702.00
Total cost (match): = \$702.00

Recommendation: Staff recommends funding. Proposal received 90 days prior to the event.

Approved: yes no Roger Webb

Digitally signed by Roger Webb
DN: cn=Roger Webb, o=Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities, ou=central, email=roger.webb@texasdd.org, c=US
Date: 2012.07.06 08:58:10 -0500

Date: July 6, 2012

Comments:

**TCDD QUARTERLY COUNCIL MEETINGS
ATTENDANCE REPORT
August 2010 – May 2012**

Council Member	5/12	2/12	11/11	8/11	5/11	2/11 meeting cancelled	11/10	8/10
H. Adkins	P	P	P	P	P	NA	P	P
K. Blackmon	P	P	P	EA	P	NA	P	EA
K. Clark	EA	P	P	P	EA	NA	EA – Th P - Fr	P
B. Coleman-Beattie	EA	EA	P	P	P	NA	P	P
G. Cortez	P	P	P	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
K. Cox	P	P	EA	P	P	NA	EA – Th P - Fr	P
A. Crim	P – Th EA – Fr	P	P – Th EA – Fr	EA	P	NA	P	P
M. Delgado	EA	EA	P	P	P	NA	P	P
M. Durham	P	EA	P	EA	P	NA	EA	P
C. Johnston	P	P	P	P	EA	NA	P	P
D. Kern	P	EA	EA	P	EA	NA	P	P
S. McAvoy	P	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
J. Morris	EA	P	P	P EA -Fr	P	NA	P	P
D. Perry	P	P	EA	P	EA	NA	P	EA
J. Rivas	P	P	P	P	P	NA	P	P
D. Taylor	P	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
L. Taylor	P	P	P	EA	P	NA	EA	P
R. Tisch	P	P	EA	P	P	NA	P	P
S. Vardell	P	P	P	P	P	NA	EA	P-Wed EA-Th & Fr
DRT (AI)	EA	P	P	P	P	NA	P	P
UT CDS	EA	P	P	EA	EA	NA	EA	P
A&M CDD	EA	P	EA	P	EA	NA	EA	P
DADS	P	P	P	P	P	NA	P	P
DARS	EA	P	P	P	P-Th EA-Fr	NA	EA	P
DSHS	P	P	P	P	P	NA	P	P
HHSC	P	P	P	P	P	NA	EA	P-Th EA-Fr
TEA	P	P	P	P	P	NA	EA	P

Key: P = Present
A = Absent
EA = Excused Absence
NA= Not Applicable

Grants Activities Reports

Tab 3

Background:

- **Independent Audit Status Report** – Grants Management Staff will review the Independent Audit Status report which summarizes the status of desk reviews of annual independent audits submitted by grantees.
- **Grants Monitoring Exceptions Report** – The Grants Monitoring Exceptions Report enclosed summarizes concerns noted by TCDD Grants Management staff in their ongoing monitoring activities, and the status of resolving those concerns.

Executive Committee

Agenda Item 6.

Expected Action:

The Executive Committee will review the information provided and may provide guidance to staff.

Council

Agenda Item 13. A.

Expected Action:

The Council will receive a report on the Executive Committee discussion.

TEXAS COUNCIL FOR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

INDEPENDENT AUDIT STATUS REPORT

GRANTEE	FYE	DATE RECEIVED	AUDIT FIRM	EXCEPTIONS NOTED	RECOMMENDATIONS/ RESOLUTIONS
Baylor College of Medicine	6/30/2011	1/18/2012	Deloitte & Touche LLP	None.	The last two audits and the current audit have an unqualified opinion and no concerns noted by TCDD on this audit; therefore, per TCDD procedures, this audit isn't required to be sent to Don Mikeska, CPA, for desk review.
Brighton School, Inc.	8/31/2011	1/6/2012	Cundiff, Rogers & Solt	None.	The last two audits and the current audit have an unqualified opinion and no concerns noted by TCDD on this audit; therefore, per TCDD procedures, this audit isn't required to be sent to Don Mikeska, CPA, for desk review.
Community Healthcore	8/31/2011	1/31/2012	Davis, Kinard & C., P.C.	None.	The last two audits and the current audit have an unqualified opinion and no concerns noted by TCDD on this audit; therefore, per TCDD procedures, this audit isn't required to be sent to Don Mikeska, CPA, for desk review.
Easter Seals	8/31/2011	12/27/2011	PMB Helin Donovan, LLP.	None.	The last two audits and the current audit have an unqualified opinion and no concerns noted by TCDD on this audit; therefore, per TCDD procedures, this audit isn't required to be sent to Don Mikeska, CPA, for desk review.
Family to Family Network Inc	6/30/2011	11/15/2011	Tribolet Fuller & Co., PLLC	None.	None/Done.
Family to Family Network Inc	6/30/2010	11/15/2011	Tribolet Fuller & Co., PLLC	None.	None/Done.

Key: Audits were submitted to TCDD during the fiscal year (Oct. 1, 2011 – Sept. 30, 2012). Independent Audit Reports are due not later than nine months after the end of the grantee's fiscal year(s) for which an audit is performed. This document includes audits that were received after the due date, but during the fiscal year.

GRANTEE	FYE	DATE RECEIVED	AUDIT FIRM	EXCEPTIONS NOTED	RECOMMENDATIONS/ RESOLUTIONS
Parents Anonymous, Inc.	9/30/2010	9/22/2011	Smith Marion & Co., CPA	None.	Don Mikeska, recommended obtaining a copy of the management letter and a copy of the required auditor communication with those charged in governance of audit. After speaking with the auditor on 1/3/12, no management letter was prepared, because there were no deficiencies. A copy of the required auditor communication with those charged in governance of audit was received 1/4/12.
Region 17 ESC	8/31/2011	12/22/2011	Bolinger, Segars, Gilbert & Moss, LLP	None.	The last two audits and the current audit have an unqualified opinion and no concerns noted by TCDD on this audit; therefore, per TCDD procedures, this audit isn't required to be sent to Don Mikeska, CPA, for desk review.
SafePlace	12/31/2011	6/5/2012	Atchley & Associates, LLP	None.	Forward for Desk Review.
Syracuse University	6/30/2010	4/16/2012	KPMG LLP	None.	None/Done.
Syracuse University	6/30/2011	4/16/2012	KPMG LLP	None.	None/Done.
Texas A&M Research Foundation	8/30/2011	1/2/2012	Ingram, Wallis & Co., P.C.	None.	The last two audits and the current audit have an unqualified opinion and no concerns noted by TCDD on this audit; therefore, per TCDD procedures, this audit isn't required to be sent to Don Mikeska, CPA, for desk review.

Key: Audits were submitted to TCDD during the fiscal year (Oct. 1, 2011 – Sept. 30, 2012). Independent Audit Reports are due not later than nine months after the end of the grantee's fiscal year(s) for which an audit is performed. This document includes audits that were received after the due date, but during the fiscal year.

GRANTEE	FYE	DATE RECEIVED	AUDIT FIRM	EXCEPTIONS NOTED	RECOMMENDATIONS/ RESOLUTIONS
Texas A&M Research Foundation	8/30/2010	1/3/2012	Ingram, Wallis & Co., P.C.	None.	The last two audits and the current audit have an unqualified opinion and no concerns noted by TCDD on this audit; therefore, per TCDD procedures, this audit isn't required to be sent to Don Mikeska, CPA, for desk review.
Texas Tech University	8/31/2011	5/7/2012	State of TX	None.	None/Done.
The Arc of Greater Tarrant County	12/31/2009	11/2/2011	The Walton Group, LLC	None.	None/Done.
The Arc of Greater Tarrant County	12/31/2010	11/2/2011	The Walton Group, LLC	None.	None/Done.
VSA Arts of Texas	9/30/2011	4/20/2012	Monday N. Rufus, P.C.	None.	The last two audits and the current audit have an unqualified opinion and no concerns noted by TCDD on this audit; therefore, per TCDD procedures, this audit isn't required to be sent to Don Mikeska, CPA, for desk review.
VSA Arts of Texas	9/30/2010	4/20/2012	Monday N. Rufus, P.C.	None.	The last two audits and the current audit have an unqualified opinion and no concerns noted by TCDD on this audit; therefore, per TCDD procedures, this audit isn't required to be sent to Don Mikeska, CPA, for desk review.

Key: Audits were submitted to TCDD during the fiscal year (Oct. 1, 2011 – Sept. 30, 2012). Independent Audit Reports are due not later than nine months after the end of the grantee's fiscal year(s) for which an audit is performed. This document includes audits that were received after the due date, but during the fiscal year.

GRANTS MONITORING EXCEPTIONS REPORT

GRANTEE <i>PROJECT TITLE</i>	TYPE OF ONSITE	DATE OF ONSITE	CONCERNS NOTED	CORRECTIVE ACTIONS	STATUS
Any Baby Can <i>Health and Fitness</i>	Initial	03/20/12	PARs, PAC; Consultant & lease agreements; Photocopy log, Equipment Inventory and Utility invoices; and venue lease	Documents requested: 3/20/12 Documents received: 5/30/12	Complete
Texas Advocates <i>New LDAST</i>	Initial	03/21/12	PARs; PAC; Consultant agreements; and utility invoice/documentation	Documents requested: 4/15/12 Documents received: 5/21/12	Complete
Arc of Texas <i>New LDAST</i>	Initial	03/21/12	PARs; PAC; Consultant agreements; and utility invoice/documentation	Documents requested: 4/15/12 Documents received: 5/21/12	Complete
Brighton Center, Inc <i>Expansion of LDAST</i>	Initial	03/23/12	PARs; PAC; Fiscal Control Procedures; Accrual Basis Accounting, audit fees; Consultant agreement; and Match	Documents requested: 3/27/12 Documents received: 5/31/12	Complete
Texas A & M University <i>Higher Education</i>	Initial	03/28/12	Building accessibility; GRI; PARs; PAC; and Consultant agreements	Documents requested: 3/28/12 Documents received: 5/24/12	Complete
Arc of San Angelo <i>Alternatives to Guardianship</i>	Follow-up	03/29/12	Equipment List; Lease; Donated Service; and PARs.	Documents requested: 3/29/12 Documents received: 4/11/12	Complete
Imagine Enterprise <i>Expansion of LDAST</i>	Initial	04/12/12	Building accessibility; GRI; PARs; Insurance Premiums; Service agreements; Photocopy; Lease Space; and Match	Documents requested: 4/12/12 Documents received: 5/22/12	Complete
Epilepsy Foundation <i>Health and Fitness</i>	Initial	04/26/12	Procedures for procurement and fiscal controls; PARs; PAC; Travel log; Equipment List; Lease; Service agreements; and Match	Documents requested: 5/15/12 Documents due: 6/15/12	Pending
One Star Foundation <i>Faith-based Symposium</i>	Initial	5/18/12	Organizational Policies and Procedures; Match; PAC; PARs	Documents requested: 5/18/12 Documents received: 5/18/12	Complete
TX Statewide Independent Living Council (TX SILC) <i>New LDAST</i>	Initial	5/17/12	Building accessibility and match.	Documents requested: 5/17/12 Documents received: 6/12/12 Additional documents due: 6/18/12	Pending
TX Statewide Independent Living Council (TX SILC) <i>Health and Fitness</i>	Initial	5/17/12	Building accessibility; PAC meeting minutes; and service agreements.	Documents requested: 5/17/12 Documents received: 6/15/12 Additional documents due: 6/17/12	Pending
NAMI <i>New LDAST</i>	Initial	5/29/12	PARs; Fiscal Control Procedures; Financial Ledgers; and Travel.	Documents requested: 5/29/12 Documents due: 6/17/12	Pending

Background:

The Executive Committee will review recommendations for funding of new grants awards for Project Search and for Outreach and Development Projects and make decisions concerning approval for final negotiations for these projects.

Per policy, TCDD staff have reviewed four applications for Outreach and Development projects and those summaries are included for your review prior to the meeting.

An Independent Review Panel will be coordinated to review applications received for the Project Search grant. Summaries of the recommendations from the panel, review summaries of the proposals and staff administrative comments will be emailed to Executive Committee members prior to the meeting and provided for all members in the handout materials.

Executive Committee

Agenda Item 7.

Expected Action:

The Executive Committee will review recommendations from the Review Panels and make final decisions about funding.

Council

Agenda Item 13. B.

Expected Action:

The Council will receive a report on the decision of the Executive Committee.



TEXAS COUNCIL *for*
DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES

(512) 437-5432
(800) 262-0334
TDD (512) 437-5431
Fax (512) 437-5434

6201 E. Oltorf, Suite 600, Austin, TX 78741
E-Mail TXDDC@txddc.state.tx.us
<http://www.txddc.state.tx.us>

Mary Durheim, Chair
John Morris, Vice Chair
Roger A. Webb, Executive Director

TO: TCDD Executive Committee

FROM: Joanna Cordry, Planning Coordinator

SUBJECT: Summary of Outreach and Development Proposals

- Centro di mi Salud
- East Wilco Challenger Sports
- Style-n-Motion
- The Sower Foundation

DATE: July 5, 2012

Staff reviewed 4 proposals responding to the Outreach and Development Grants Requests for Proposals.

The Council approved awarding up to ten (10) grants of up to \$10,000 each for up to one year to groups made up of people who are black, Hispanic/Latino, Asian, or Native American that are working to improve the lives of individuals with disabilities from ethnic minority cultures. More than half of all Texans are individuals who are African American, Hispanic/Latino, Asian, or Native American, yet persons of these ethnic groups are less likely to be receiving the services and support their family needs. TCDD intended these small grants to be the first step in establishing relationships with individuals who are typically unserved and/or underserved by:

- Developing an improved understanding of the different values, cultures, and customs that exist in Texas, and how cultural issues may impact how services should be provided; and
- Supporting activities that the applicant organizations have determined will help members of their communities who have disabilities to receive support that is more culturally appropriate.

TCDD has awarded five such grants thus far to: the Apalachicola Band of Creek Indians; The Arc of Greater Houston for Parents as Partners in Special Education; the Barbara Jordan Endeavors Foundation; Friends and Families of Asians with Special Needs; and Light and Salt.

To receive an Outreach and Development Grant, an organization must:

- Hold public meetings at least once every 3 months and work with TCDD staff to write a short summary about the needs/values of their members who have disabilities.
- Allow TCDD staff to attend at least one meeting to gather information directly from members.
- Pay for 1 person, representing the group, to speak to Council members at a meeting in Austin.
- Give ideas for actions to increase the diversity of the people who work with TCDD.
- Work to make positive changes that will help people with disabilities to have more control over their lives.

Recommendations:

TCDD staff recommend the Executive Committee review and discuss the merits of three of these proposals (Centro di mi Salud, Style-n-Motion, The Sower Foundation).

Applicant:	Centro di Mi Salud	Length of time in existence: 13 years
Group Size:	12	Geographic Location: Dallas and Collin Counties
Amount Requested:	\$10,000	
Meeting Frequency:	Twice a month	
Ethnic/Cultural Group Served	Hispanic/Latino	
Organization Mission:	To assist our consumers to identify and meet their needs with respect for diversity. We empower our consumers to help themselves.	
Planned Activities:	Work with families and service providers to assist disability service providers to understand the Latino-Hispanic cultural background and how the level of acculturation impacts decisions and access to health-care services. The organization will provide presentations for school counselors, non-profit agencies and for profit agencies; organize a radio talk show; provide an open house to help people access services in the community; and develop flyers in Spanish and Portuguese with information about resources in the community.	
Public Policy Implications:	This project is not targeting activities that are likely to have a large public policy impact directly. However, information sharing and advocacy skills training have the potential to complement TCDD Public Information and Public Policy activities, particularly when the applicant targets a distinct group of individuals and includes issues identified as a result of the Council's public input efforts. Any time the TCDD network grows, TCDD's impact grows, and TCDD has the potential to learn more about the issues people are facing. This project may bring new issues or strategies to TCDD to consider for future projects, and TCDD has the potential to gain more advocates-in-arms.	
Staff Recommendations:	<p>The intention of the RFP is to support groups that are trying to help people receive culturally competent services and supports. It appears that the Centro de Mi Salud proposal meets this intention by training disability service providers about the Latino-Hispanic culture; helping 10 families access services; creating printed materials in Spanish and Portuguese; and working with numerous organizations in the community to include media outlets. There is a potential for TCDD to learn some of the barriers to accessing services and the challenges faced by individuals seeking services, to connect to individuals/organizations with whom we currently have no contact, and to better understand the cultural and support needs of this group.</p> <p>The budget allocates TCDD funds for allowable costs of hourly employees, consultant services, printing/copying and travel. The totals for the line items and amount requested from TCDD are incorrect (hourly rates, respite, travel, and other). The project did not include match (donated by others and/or organization). These issues would need to be addressed prior to a grant award.</p> <p>Staff recommend the Executive Committee consider funding of this proposal.</p>	

Attached are summaries of the applications received and the proposals themselves. The complete applications, 5-9 pages in length, will be available at the Executive Committee meeting and at the Council meeting. Copies may be obtained prior to the meeting by emailing Joanna.Cordry@tcdd.state.tx.us.

Note: This proposal came to TCDD as a result of the Public Input forum held in Dallas at TCDD's May meeting. The applicant attended that meeting.

Applicant:	East Wilco Challenger Sports	Length of time in existence: 2 years
Group Size:	100-200	Geographic Location: Williamson County
Amount Requested:	\$10,000	
Meeting Frequency:	weekends	
Ethnic/Cultural Group Served	30% black/African American; 10% Asian; 20% Hispanic/Latino; 10% Native American	
Organization Mission:	To offer year round sports	
Planned Activities:	Purchase equipment, insurance, registration, and materials to support “special needs children” in Williamson County to play golf, basketball, baseball, and kickball.	
Public Policy Implications:	This project is not targeting activities that are likely to have a large public policy impact directly. However, information sharing and networking have the potential to complement TCDD Public Information and Public Policy activities. Any time the TCDD network grows, TCDD’s impact grows, and TCDD has the potential to learn more about the issues people are facing.	
Staff Recommendations:	<p>The intention of the RFP is to support groups that are trying to help people receive culturally competent services and supports. The East Wilco Challenger Sports proposal is requesting funds to secure equipment, insurance, registration, and materials to support children with disabilities participate in various sports activities (e.g., golf, basketball, baseball, and kickball). Although there is a potential for children with disabilities to be more involved in sports activities (not inclusive with children without disabilities) in the community, this proposal do not address the intention of the RFP.</p> <p>The budget proposes to use TCDD funds to pay allowable costs for equipment (\$8,500) and registration (\$1,500). The organization did not report the total amount for match.</p> <p>This proposal does not address how this project would help TCDD to better understand the cultural and support needs of this community.</p> <p>Staff do not recommend Council funding of the proposal as it is inconsistent with the intention of the RFP.</p>	

Note: The organization also submitted an Unsolicited Idea.

Applicant:	The Sower Foundation	Length of time in existence: 11 years
Group Size:	65	Geographic Location: Harris and Fort Bend Counties
Amount Requested:	\$10,000	
Meeting Frequency:	Monthly	
Ethnic/Cultural Group Served	Black/African American; Hispanic/Latino	
Organization Mission:	To enhance the abilities of the underserved.	
Planned Activities:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Offer training for disability service providers to make their services more culturally-appropriate. This will be done by hosting a resource fair, small conference, or awareness event every 3 months, targeting service providers and Black and Latino persons with disabilities. The events will include open forums for people with disabilities to express their need for more culturally competent services and provide service providers with information. The information will be distributed to multiple service providers. 2. Promote culturally competent resources to encourage healthy eating and physical activity by people with disabilities who are black and/or Latino. 	
Public Policy Implications:	<p>This project is not targeting activities that are likely to have a large public policy impact directly. However, information sharing and advocacy skills training have the potential to complement TCDD Public Information and Public Policy activities, particularly when the applicant targets a distinct group of individuals and includes issues identified as a result of the Council's public input efforts. Any time the TCDD network grows, TCDD's impact grows, and TCDD has the potential to learn more about the issues people are facing. This project may bring new issues or strategies to TCDD to consider for future projects, and TCDD has the potential to gain more advocates-in-arms.</p>	
Staff Recommendations:	<p>The intention of the RFP is to support groups that are trying to help people receive culturally competent services and supports. The Sower Foundation, Inc. will provide culturally-appropriate trainings to disability service providers to improve health-outcomes for people with disabilities who are black and/or Latino. The project will work with MHMRA of Harris County, MHMRA of Fort Bend County and providers contracted through DADS. There is a potential for TCDD to learn some of the barriers to accessing services and challenges faced by individuals receiving services, to connect to individuals with whom we currently have no contact, and to better understand cultural and support needs.</p> <p>The budget allocates TCDD funds for allowable costs of hourly employees, consultant services, printing/copying and travel. The project did not include totals for match. This issue would need to be addressed prior to grant award.</p> <p>Staff recommend the Executive Committee consider funding of this proposal.</p>	

Note: This proposal was received in August 2011, after funding of projects for this RFP was temporarily suspended.

Applicant:	Style-n-Motion	Length of time in existence: 21 years
Group Size:	5	Geographic Location: Harris, Montgomery Counties
Amount Requested:	\$10,000	
Meeting Frequency:	Quarterly	
Ethnic/Cultural Group Served	Black/African American; Hispanic/Latino, Asian	
Organization Mission:	To increase the self-esteem of children who have disabilities.	
Planned Activities:	Expand video training program to local schools; prepare peer counselors (middle and high school students) to become advocates for students with disabilities, and assist parents in building the self-esteem of their children with disabilities.	
Public Policy Implications:	This project is not targeting activities that are likely to have a large public policy impact directly. However, information sharing and advocacy skills training have the potential to complement TCDD Public Information and Public Policy activities, particularly when the applicant targets a distinct group of individuals and includes issues identified as a result of the Council's public input efforts. Any time the TCDD network grows, TCDD's impact grows, and TCDD has the potential to learn more about the issues people are facing. This project may bring new issues or strategies to TCDD to consider for future projects, and TCDD has the potential to gain more advocates-in-arms.	
Staff Recommendations:	<p>The intention of the RFP is to support groups that are trying to help people receive culturally competent services and supports. The Style-n-Motion will serve 3% of students ages 5-10 in the Aldine Independent School District (which represents approximately Hispanic 69.75%; African American 25.73%; and Asian/Pacific Islander 1.39%). This project will serve a diverse group; however, the training program seems vague.</p> <p>The budget allocates TCDD funds for allowable costs of hourly employees, printing/copying and travel. The project did not include totals for match. These issues would need to be addressed prior to a grant award.</p> <p>The project could potentially connect TCDD to individuals with whom we currently have no contact, and help TCDD to better understand cultural and support needs.</p> <p>Staff recommend the Executive Committee consider funding of this proposal.</p>	

Note: This proposal was received in August 2011, after funding of projects for this RFP was temporarily suspended.

Continuation Grant Awards

Tab 5

Background:

Five current grant projects will be reviewed this quarter for an additional year of funding. Executive Summaries are included for continuation funding for these projects:

- A. Arc of Texas: *Texas Microboard Collaborative*
- B. Texas Tech University: *Higher Education Project*
- C. Brighton School: *Expansion of Leadership and Advocacy Training Project*
- D. Region 19 Education Service Center: *Expansion of Leadership and Advocacy Training Project*
- E. Paso Del Norte Children’s Development Center: *Expansion of Leadership and Advocacy Training Project*

Important Terms:

Continuation Grant Awards: For each grant project funded by TCDD, the number of years of funding available (usually 3 to 5 years) is approved by the Council, but projects must reapply for funding each year.

Executive Committee

Agenda Item 8.

Expected Action:

The Executive Committee will review the information provided and consider approving funding for each continuation award.

Council

Agenda Item 13. B.

Expected Action:

The Council will receive a report on Executive Committee decisions.

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

Review of Proposed Activities & Budget

Date: 07/25/12

Grantee: Arc of Texas

Project Title: Texas Microboard Collaboration

Project Location: Austin

**ITEM: A
Year: 5 of 5**

TCDD RFP Intent:

The primary goal of this unsolicited project idea is to provide individuals with disabilities a system or vehicle that supports self-determination and real support from people who know and care about them. The concept of microboards will provide a self-determined, supported lifestyle for Texans with disabilities. TCDD has approved funding of up to \$115,000 for year one and declining amounts for years two - five.

Project Goals and Accomplishments for Years 1-4:

Goal 1: The Texas Microboard Collaboration provides a self-determined system of support for community living by partnering with individuals and families to develop microboards and PATHs (Planning Alternative Tomorrows with Hope) for Texans with Disabilities

Accomplishments per goal: During Years 1-3, 47 microboards were formed and 33 presentations were provided. In the third year, the Collaboration began providing PATH person-centered planning facilitator trainings. The fourth year has seen greater awareness of the microboard concept and the opportunity for true self-determination through its application. Microconferences raising awareness of Microboards were held in Waco, Houston and El Paso. Monthly webinars were also conducted. A total of 4 PATH Facilitator trainings were held in Waco, Houston, and Austin. The first PATH contract with the Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) in training local authorities was completed and a second contract acquired. In addition, over 50 presentations for schools, conferences, parent support groups and various agencies have been given.

Proposed Goals and Objectives for Year 5:

Goal: Same as above

Objective 1: Educate at least 500 individuals with developmental disabilities, families, and advocacy organizations about the microboard collaboration project.

Objective 2: The Texas Microboard Collaboration will work with nonprofit agencies, local authorities and school districts to make PATH a viable, broadly utilized option as a person directed plan and pre-ARD tool.

The project also expects to help develop 4 direct service microboards and 10 natural support microboards, conduct 15 PATH trainings and 55 presentations during year 5.

Staff Considerations: Public Policy Considerations: Increasing the number of persons with access to person-centered planning within the construct of natural support microboards will provide more persons with developmental disabilities with a mechanism to exercise choice and control in their lives while promoting independence, productivity and community inclusion. Moreover, developing an infrastructure for persons to access such a model outside of public funding streams could provide an incubator for developing innovative approaches that could later be replicated in public programs. No staff concerns; Council to consider continued funding for this project.

Continuation Budget Detail Summary

	Federal	Match	Totals
Amount expended in Year 1	83,475	34,074	117,549
Amount expended in Year 2 (\$6,100	78,772	34,862	113,634
Amount expended in Year 3 (\$14,400	85,059	31,766	116,825
Amount expended in Year 4 (\$25,051 consultants)	33,671	10,089	43,760
Amount requested for Year 5 budget:			
I. Personnel Services	47,130	14,589	61,719
II. Travel	2,792	0	2,792
III. Purchased Services (\$10,996 consultants)	12,674	3,600	16,274
IV. Property/Materials	0	276	276
V. Rental/Leasing	0	1200	1200
VI. Utilities	0	1200	1200
VII. Other	0	0	0
Budget period totals	\$62,596	\$20,865	\$83,461

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

Date: 07/25/12

Review of Proposed Activities & Budget

**ITEM: B
Year: 2 of 5**

Grantee: Texas Tech University

Project Title: Higher Education – Project CASE (Connections for Academic Success and Employment)

Project Location: Statewide

TCDD RFP Intent:

The intent of the 2011-1 Higher Education for People with Developmental Disabilities RFP is to demonstrate how appropriate supports may help individuals with developmental disabilities to complete post-secondary education necessary to achieve their employment goals. Up to \$225,000 per year for up to 5 years for up to 3 projects is expected to be available.

Project Goals and Accomplishments for Year 1:

Goals 1: To create a replicable, sustainable higher education model project that will build a collaborative partnership with the Burkhardt Center, TTU, SPC, the Byron Martin Advanced Technology Center, DARS, and the business community to identify, recruit, and retain individuals with developmental disabilities across Texas, ages 18-25, who are seeking to further their education beyond high school and securing meaningful paid employment in a field of their choice.

Accomplishments per goal: In the first year, the project conducted an orientation meeting with key partners and established a leadership team. A strategic implementation plan was developed. The project held a focus group with 7 young adults with developmental disabilities to identify potential areas of interest for internships and employment. Several business partners were identified. Key staff members were hired and 5 potential students were identified for acceptance into the program.

Proposed Goals and Objectives for Year 2:

Goal: Same as above

Objectives: 1) Identify, recruit, and retain qualified program participants. 2) Expand the number of business partners who will mentor, provide internships and hire students from Project CASE.

Staff Considerations: Public Policy Considerations: The success of Project CASE has the potential to expand higher education opportunities statewide for persons with developmental disabilities. In addition to expanding expertise in the higher education community, the process of DARS staff developing community partnerships specifically to employ persons with developmental disabilities should be documented for replication to other regions within DARS' current mission – even in the absence of this or similar projects. Finally, the benefits of collaboration in local communities in general make this a worthy project for continued funding. At the beginning of Year 1, staff had some concerns about apparent inactivity. The 2nd and 3rd quarterly reports suggest that project action has increased to expected levels. No additional staff concerns; Council to consider continued funding for this project.

Continuation Budget Detail Summary			
	Federal	Match	Totals
Amount expended in Year 1 (\$93,677 consultant) (based on 6 months - \$209,384 awarded)	\$37,983	\$18,048	\$56,031
Amount requested for budget:			
I. Personnel Services	126,018	1,090	127,108
II. Travel	12,089	0	12,089
III. Purchased Services (\$71,995 consultant)	77,472	0	77,472
IV. Property/Materials	1,500	0	1,500
V. Rental/Leasing	0	0	0
VI. Utilities	0	0	0
VII. Other	0	71,287	71,287
Budget period totals	\$217,079	\$72,377	\$289,456

Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities

Executive Committee

Review of Proposed Activities & Budget

Date: 07/25/12

ITEM: C

Grantee: Brighton School, Inc. (dba Brighton Center)

Year: 1 of 2

Project Title: Parent Alliance for Learning and Support (PALS)

Project Location: Bexar and Comal Counties

TCDD RFP Intent:

To continue development of a network of training programs and resources to assist Texans with developmental disabilities and their families to have support and training needed to be strong leaders and advocates. Organizations are expected to use funding to expand the impact of their training programs and to serve as a resource to other organizations. Grantees may implement a new policy, program, or procedure; development of new partnerships; and/or activities that significantly build the capacity of an existing program. TCDD has approved funding of up to \$40,000 for year one and \$20,000 for year two.

Project Goals and Accomplishments for Year(s)1:

Goal: To improve the quality of life for children with developmental delays and disabilities from birth to age 22 by empowering parents, young adults with disabilities and community members with the knowledge and tools to support and advocate in the community in which they live.

Accomplishments per goal: During this budget period, the project trained 245 parents of children with disabilities in general and IDEA advocacy; served 55 young adults and 32 professionals/community members with trainings; increased the number of locations from 2 to 6; established new partnerships with Edgewood ISD, Randolph AFB, The Children’s Shelter and the Down Syndrome Association; added more Self Determination – from 1 to 5; and, provided more ARD Clinic – 13 clinics serving 48 participants.

Proposed Goals and Objectives for Year 2:

Goal: Same as above

Objectives: Provide advocacy education to 300 parents of children with disabilities and developmental delays; provide support services in hands-on small group and 1-to-1 help for families and professionals in the area of IDEA advocacy; provide advocacy education to 60 community members/professionals; and, provide self-advocacy education to 60 young adults with disabilities and developmental delays.

Staff Considerations: Public Policy considerations: Expanding the lessons learned from participants could lead to important policy recommendations associated with identifying and addressing barriers and unmet needs. It would be beneficial for the grantee to identify and report public policy implications and identify participants that have or could take their self-advocacy to the next level by sharing their stories with legislators. No staff concerns; Council to consider continued funding for this project.

Continuation Budget Detail Summary			
	Federal	Match	Totals
Amount expended in year 1 (\$2,757 Consultant) (based on 7 months) - \$40,000 awarded)	\$26,586	\$70,777	\$97,363
Amount requested for next year budget:			
I. Personnel Services	18,810	108,544	127,354
II. Travel	0	6373	6373
III. Purchased Services	0	33,856	33,856
IV. Property/Materials	0	7443	7443
V. Rental/Leasing	1190	2511	3701
VI. Utilities	0	5455	5455
VII. Other			
Budget period totals	\$ 20,000	\$164,182	\$184,182

Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities`
Executive Committee
Review of Proposed Activities & Budget

Date: 07/25/12

ITEM: D
Year: 2 of 2

Grantee: Region 19 Education Service Center

Project Title: Expansion of Existing Leadership Development and Advocacy Skills Training

Project Location: El Paso and Hudspeth Counties

TCDD RFP Intent:

To continue development of a network of training programs and resources to assist Texans with developmental disabilities and their families to have support and training needed to be strong leaders and advocates. Organizations are expected to use funding to expand the impact of their training programs and to serve as a resource to other organizations. Grantees may implement a new policy, program or procedure; development of new partnerships; and/or activities that significantly build the capacity of an existing program. TCDD has approved funding of up to \$40,000 for year one and \$20,000 for year two.

Project Goals and Accomplishments for Year 1:

Goal: To provide advanced leadership development and advocacy building activities for young people with disabilities who need continued support and training to enable them to participate in school and non-disability community organizations.

Accomplishments per goal: In the first year, 5 YLF delegates, 3 YLF facilitators and the YLF Director participated in the HOBY Weekend Seminar, which provided young people with disabilities the opportunity to participate in a non-disability organization and interact with their non-disability peers. The project provided advanced leadership and advocacy skills training and peer-to-peer mentoring to 42 young people with disabilities; participants developed a personal leadership plan. Working partnerships were developed with the United Way Global Youth Day Organization, the El Paso Mayor's 100 Teens Program, Volar Independent Living Center, local school districts, El Paso Community College and the University of Texas at El Paso.

Proposed Goals and Objectives for Year 2:

Goal: Same as above

Objectives: Develop working partnerships with school and non-disability community organizations to provide opportunities for young people with disabilities. Provide advanced leadership and advocacy skills training and peer mentoring to 30 young people with disabilities. Partner with local school districts and educational institutions to identify and recruit young people with disabilities to participate in the YLF program.

Staff Considerations: Public Policy Considerations: Expanding the lessons learned from participants could lead to important policy recommendations associated with identifying and addressing barriers unmet needs. It would be beneficial for the grantee to identify and report public policy implications and identify participants that have or could take their self-advocacy to the next level by sharing their stories with legislators. No staff concerns; Council to consider continued funding for this project.

Continuation Budget Detail Summary			
	Federal	Match	Totals
Amount expended in Year 1 (\$24,000 consultant) (based on 6 months - \$40,000 awarded)	\$19,811	\$3,028	\$22,839
Amount requested for Year 2 budget:			
I. Personnel Services	0	0	0
II. Travel	1500	0	1500
III. Purchased Services (\$10,000 consultant)	14,000	0	14,000
IV. Property/Materials	4500	81	4581
V. Rental/Leasing	0	1000	1000
VI. Utilities	0	0	0
VII. Other	0	1141	1141
Budget period totals	\$20,000	\$2222	\$22,222

Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities

Executive Committee

Review of Proposed Activities & Budget

Date: 07/25/12

ITEM: E

Grantee: Paso del Norte Children’s Development Center

Year: 2 of 2

Project Title: Expansion of Existing Development and Advocacy Skills Training Project

Project Location: El Paso

TCDD RFP Intent:

To continue development of a network of training programs and resources to assist Texans with developmental disabilities and their families to have support and training needed to be strong leaders and advocates. Organizations are expected to use funding to expand the impact of their training programs and to serve as a resource to other organizations. Grantees may implement a new policy, program, or procedure; development of new partnerships; and/or activities that significantly build the capacity of an existing program. TCDD approved funding of up to \$40,000 for year one and \$20,000 for year two.

Project Goals and Accomplishments for Year(s)1:

Goal: To expand and enhance the existing Paso del Norte Children’s Development Center – Leadership and Advocacy for Families to include a Parent-to-Parent mentoring component to better overcome barriers to service provision for traditionally underserved populations; recruit more parents to participate in this learning opportunity; and, to enhance the advocacy skills of parents of children with disabilities.

Accomplishments per goal: The project had 17 Parent Mentors join the program; held 29 training sessions with a total of 396 first time and repeat attendants; and 190 parents attended or received mentoring sessions or activities conducted by the mentors. The project has conducted multiple large scale presentations to audiences across the community - Children’s Disabilities Information Coalition Annual Parent Symposium, Lorenzo Loya Elementary School, Project Head Start, the Douglass Elementary School Health Fair, ESC Region 19 Border Conference, to name a few.

Proposed Goals and Objectives for Year 2:

Goal: Same as above

Objectives: Recruit and train 8 new graduates of the Leadership Academy for Families parents to attend supplementary training to become mentors; create community awareness through large scale community presentations to increase attendance by 25%; develop and secure long-term funding after TCDD funds end; and continue to conduct evaluation activities to secure data for program administrators and staff.

Staff Considerations: Public Policy considerations: Expanding the lessons learned from participants could lead to important policy recommendations associated with identifying and addressing barriers and unmet needs. It would be beneficial for the grantee to identify and report public policy implications and identify participants that have or could take their self-advocacy to the next level by sharing their stories with legislators. No staff concerns; Council to consider continued funding for this project.

Continuation Budget Detail Summary			
	Federal	Match	Totals
Amount expended in year 1 (\$5000 Consultant) (based on 7 months - \$40,000 awarded)	\$15,674	\$984	\$16,658
Amount requested for next year budget:			
I. Personnel Services	15,000	0	15,000
II. Travel	1350	0	1350
III. Purchased Services	2000	2500	4500
IV. Property/Materials	1650	0	1650
V. Rental/Leasing	0	0	0
VI. Utilities	0	0	0
VII. Other	0	2500	2500
Budget period totals	\$ 20,000	\$5000	\$25,000

**RISK ASSESSMENT FOR CONTINUATION GRANT AWARDS
06/01/12 – 05/31/13**

Item	Grantee	TCDD Funds	Other Fed Funds	Risk Activity	Risk Code
A	The Arc of Texas	\$62,596	\$156,000	2	
B	Texas Tech University	\$217,079	\$35 mil	2	
C	Brighton School, Inc.	\$20,000	\$2.2 mil		
D	Region 19 Education Service Center	\$20,000	\$35 mil	2	
E	Paso Del Norte Children's Development Center	\$20,000	\$2.1 mil		

KEY

	Extensive Risk Management (all levels of control plus audit)
	Considerable Risk Management (most levels of control plus independent review by CPA)
	Moderate Risk (operating & monitoring controls & agreed upon procedures engagement by CPA)
	Monitor or Accept (basic monitoring only)

**TCDD RISK MATRIX
FY 2013**

<i>Risk Activities</i> ↓	<i>Award Amounts</i> →	- \$75,999.	\$76,000. – \$199,999.	\$200,000.- \$499,999.	\$500,000. +
1. New Grantee (i.e., no previous project or no project within 2 year period)		LH	MH	HH	HH
2. Awards within Award (e.g., consultants, presenters, sub-contractors, etc.)		LH	MH	HH	HH
3. Funding Issues (e.g., budget/procurement concerns, match, sustainability, etc.)		LM	LM	MM	HM
4. Compliance Issues (e.g., OMB, UGMS, TCDD policy, oversight issues, etc.)		LM	LM	MM	HM
5. Performance Issues (e.g., unmet goals, milestones, special conditions, etc.)		LM	LM	MM	HM
6. Legal Actions		LL	LL	ML	HL
7. Fiscal Office Located Out-Of-State		LL	LL	ML	HL
8. No Audit Prior To Grant Award		LL	LL	ML	HL

KEY: 1st letter denotes impact; 2nd letter denotes probability.

	HM, HH	Extensive Risk (all levels of control plus audit)
	MM, MH, HL	Considerable Risk (most levels of control plus independent review by CPA)
	LH, ML	Moderate Risk (operating/monitoring controls + agreed upon procedures by CPA)
	LL, LM	Acceptable Risk (basic monitoring only)

Use for Risk Management Plan:

-  Audit work performed and the Executive Director performs oversight via quarterly report* provided to ensure supervisory and operating controls are working.
-  Department heads reporting to Executive Director perform oversight functions to ensure supervisory and operating controls are working.
-  Department staff perform oversight functions to ensure supervisory and operating controls are working.
-  Department staff perform basic oversight functions to ensure controls are in place.

Use for Annual Audit Plan:

-  Red indicates areas to be audited by contracted internal audit services provider.
-  Yellow indicates areas to be covered through oversight, supervisory and operating controls with guidance from the contracted internal audit services provider.
-  Green indicates areas to be covered through staff oversight with guidance from the contracted internal audit services provider as needed.
-  Gray indicates areas to be covered through basic staff oversight and reporting.

***Grants Monitoring Exceptions Report provided to E.D. and Council quarterly for review.**

No risk activities means monitoring strategies will be performed at the lowest level under the award amount.

NOTE: Risk Matrix reviewed annually with TCDD staff and Internal Auditor; updated when needed.

**MONITORING STRATEGIES
FY 2013**

STIPENDS (\$6,000. Or less):

Website instructions	Special Conditions (GMD letter)
Technical support (Budget Support Specialist)	Review FROE & other reports submitted

MINI-GRANTS (\$10,000 Or less)

Website instructions	6 – Month Program Performance Report
Technical support (Grants Management Specialist)	Review FROE & other reports submitted
RAR Documentation Review – 6 month	Final Program Performance Report

GRANT PROJECTS:

Level 1 GRAY

Orientation	Approvals (e.g., equipment, travel, speakers, etc.)
Onsite Review = Initial	Project Advisory Committee Meetings
Program Performance Review = Annual	Final Program Performance Report
RAR Documentation Review	Other as determined necessary (e.g., audit desk review)

Level 2 GREEN

Orientation	Project Advisory Committee Meetings
Onsite Review = Initial & 3 rd year	Final Program Performance Report
Program Performance Review = Quarterly	Agreed upon Procedures Engagements CPA
RAR Documentation Review	Other as determined necessary (e.g., audit desk review)
Approvals (e.g., equipment, travel, speakers, etc.)	

Level 3 YELLOW

Orientation	Project Advisory Committee Meetings
Onsite Review = Initial & 3 rd & 5 th years	Final Program Performance Report
Program Performance Review = Quarterly	Independent Review by CPA = Annual (A-133 Audit at \$500k or more)
RAR Documentation Review	Project Staff Meeting (1X per annum)
Approvals (e.g., equipment, travel, speakers, etc.)	Other as determined necessary (e.g., audit desk review)

Level 4 RED

Orientation	Final Program Performance Report
Onsite Review = Initial & Annual	A-133 Audit = Annual (Independent under \$500k)
Program Performance Review = Quarterly	Audit Desk Review = Annual
RAR Documentation Review	Project Staff Meeting (2X per annum)
Approvals (e.g., equipment, travel, speakers, etc.)	Interim Program Performance Report
Project Advisory Committee Meetings	

ADDITIONAL MONITORING STRATEGIES FOR GRANT PROJECTS

To be selected and implemented on an as needed basis.

- Re-orient
- Add milestones or special conditions
- Move up to the next level of monitoring (see above tables)
- Payment holds (reimbursement only no advance or no reimbursement & no advance)
- Require additional onsite reviews

Background:

State agencies are responsible to review administrative rules adopted by the agency at least once every four years and to readopt rules when there is a continuing need, with revisions as appropriate. TCDD last reviewed and readopted Rules in 2008.

During the May 2012 meeting, the Council approved amendments to post for public comment. Review of the current rules and the proposed amendments were published in the Texas Register on June 8, 2012, for a 30 day comment period ending July 9, 2012. TCDD also solicited public comment via the agency website and through social media outlets. **No comments from the public were received during this time period.** The Executive Committee will review the rules and amendments and may recommend Council approval and final adoption of the TCDD Rules and amendments.

Executive Committee

Agenda Item 9.

Expected Action:

The Committee will review and recommend Council approval of proposed amendments to TCDD Rules.

Council

Agenda Item 9.

Expected Action:

The Council will approve proposed amendments to TCDD rules.

TEXAS COUNCIL FOR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

TEXAS ADMINISTRATIVE CODE TITLE 40, PART 21

Chapter §876 General Provisions

Chapter §877 Grant Awards

Proposed Amendments

July 2012

Texas Administrative Code

Title 40 Part 21

Social Services Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities

Chapter §876	General Provisions
§876.1	Definitions
§876.2	Legal Authority
§876.3	Administration
§876.4	Responsibilities of the Council
§876.5	TCDD State Plan
§876.6	Powers and Duties of the Executive Director
§876.7	Committees of the Council
§876.8	Standards of Conduct
§876.9	Charges of Access to Public Records
§876.10	Petition for Adoption of Rules
876.11	Applicability of Open Meetings Law
§876.12	Alternative Dispute Resolution Process
Chapter §877	Grant Awards
§877.1	General
§877.2	Application and Review Process
§877.3	Suspension or Termination of Funding
§877.4	Appeal of Funding Decisions
§877.5	Confidentiality of Records

TITLE 40. SOCIAL SERVICES AND ASSISTANCE

PART 21. TEXAS COUNCIL FOR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Chapter 876. GENERAL PROVISIONS

§876.1 Definitions

The following words and terms, when used in these sections, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

(1) Council --Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities.

(2) Designated State agency -- the State agency designated by the Governor to provide administrative support to the Council.

(3) Developmental disability – The term "developmental disability" has the meaning as defined in federal law, the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act as amended (42 USC 6000 et seq).

(4) Executive director -- Chief administrative officer of the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities.

(5) Grant – An award of financial assistance, including cooperative agreements, in the form of money, property provided in lieu of money, or other financial assistance paid or furnished by the Council to an eligible recipient to carry out a program in accordance with the rules, regulations and guidance provided by the Council.

§876.2 Legal Authority

(a) These rules are adopted under provisions of the Texas Human Resources Code, Title 40, Chapter 112.

(b) The following federal laws and regulations are adopted by reference into this part:

(1) Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act as Amended (U.S.C. 6000 et. seq.); and

(2) Developmental Disabilities Program, 45 Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 1385-1387.

§876.3 Administration

(a) The Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities is a joint state-federal program designed to **assist people with developmental disabilities and their families to participate in the design of and have access to needed community services and supports, and to** promote the development of a consumer and family-centered, comprehensive system and a coordinated array of culturally competent services, supports, and other assistance designed to achieve independence, productivity, and integration and inclusion into the community for individuals with developmental disabilities.

(b) The Council performs its responsibilities through staff activities, grants or contracts to public, or nonprofit, or private for-profit organizations and in other ways as determined by the Council to carry out the state plan.

(c) The Council shall enter into a memorandum of understanding with the designated state agency which sets forth their respective roles;

(d) The designated state agency carries out the functions set forth in applicable federal and state laws and regulations and the memorandum of understanding with the Council.

§876.4 Responsibilities of the Council

The Council is an agency within the executive branch, but functions independently within its statutory authority to serve the long-term public interest. The Council is responsible for

establishing the policy framework through which the agency carries out its statutory responsibilities. Specifically, the Council shall:

- (1) exercise the authority provided by law to adopt policies and rules governing Council activities;
- (2) develop and implement policies that clearly separate the policymaking authority of the Council and the management responsibilities of the executive director and staff of the Council;
- (3) approve the state plan and amendments;
- (4) serve as an advocate for state and federal legislation, appropriations and policies on behalf of individuals with developmental disabilities as authorized by federal law;
- (5) oversee operations of the Council for integrity, effectiveness, and efficiency;
- (6) approve personnel policies that provide for the selection, supervision, and evaluation of the executive director and staff
- (7) ensure projects and activities comply with all applicable federal and state requirements; and
- (8) **carry out** other responsibilities as provided by Council policies.

§876.5 TCDD State Plan

The Council develops and submits the "TCDD State Plan for Texans with Developmental Disabilities" in a manner consistent with federal law and regulations. The state plan may be revised and updated after public review and comment as provided by the federal requirements. The plan is available from the offices of the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities.

§876.6 Powers and Duties of the Executive Director

The executive director is responsible for the effective and efficient administration of the affairs of the Council subject to applicable laws and this chapter and under the general direction of the Council. The director shall select, supervise and evaluate staff to implement Council approved activities consistent with policies approved by the Council. The director may delegate responsibilities to Council staff as appropriate.

§876.7 Committees of the Council

The Council may establish standing and special committees of Council members to expedite the work of the Council. Members shall be appointed to Committees in the manner provided by Council policies.

§876.8 Standards of Conduct

- (a) Standards of conduct of members and employees of the council are governed by Texas Government Code Annotated, Chapter 572, and by Human Resources Code Chapter 112.0161.
- (b) Council members and staff shall adhere to the conflict of interest policy approved by the Council.

§876.9 Charges of Access to Public Records

- (a) The charge to any person requesting copies of any public record of the Council will be the charge established by the Buildings and Procurements Commission at 1 TAC §§111.61-111.70.
- (b) The Council may reduce or waive these charges at the discretion of the executive director if there is a public benefit.

§876.10 Petition for Rules or Changes to Rules

Any interested person may petition the Council for a rule or rule change by submitting a request to the executive director in a manner and form as directed by the Council, consistent with state law.

§876.11 Applicability of Open Meetings Act

(a) The official minutes of all Council and committee meetings are kept in TCDD staff offices, are posted on the TCDD website, and are available for public review as authorized by the Open Meetings Act.

(b) Opportunities to provide public comments are provided at each Council and committee meeting. The chair of the Council or committee may limit each person presenting public comments or public testimony on any agenda item to a certain number of minutes by announcing the period when comments or testimony are given.

§876.12 Alternative Dispute Resolution

The dispute resolution process provided for in Chapter 2260 of the Government Code shall be used by the State and any other party to attempt to resolve any claim for breach of contract made by any party against the State as applicable.

Chapter 877 GRANT AWARDS

§877.1 General

(a) As authorized by Human Resources Code Title 40, Chapter 112.020 (a)(3), the Council may contract or provide grants to public or private organizations to implement the TCDD State Plan for Texans with Developmental Disabilities, if funds are available.

(b) The Council may solicit proposals from state agencies, non-profit organizations, or private for profit organizations that have organizational expertise related to the requirements of the proposal.

(c) **The Council may accept unsolicited** ~~Unsolicited proposals~~ **or unsolicited ideas for future projects** ~~may be submitted by organizations and will be considered~~ consistent with Council policies and procedures.

(d) The Council may develop projects with organizations without competitive proposals as allowed by state and federal requirements and Council policies.

(e) All grantees shall comply with applicable state and federal requirements including the Texas Uniform Grant Management Standards, Office of Management and Budget (OMB) circulars, and Council grants procedures.

(f) Independent audits of grantees are required for each year of funding in accordance with the requirements of OMB Circulars and Texas Uniform Grant Management Standards. Project specific independent reviews and other procedures may be required of grantees not subject to annual independent audit requirements of OMB or UGMS consistent with Council policies. The Council shall reimburse the grantees for the reasonable cost of the required audit activities.

(g) Grant awards shall contain appropriate provisions for program and fiscal monitoring and for collection and submission of evaluation data and related reports.

(h) The Council may limit by policy the amount of Council funds allowed to reimburse indirect costs of projects. Any indirect costs of a grantee above those amounts may be allowed as part of the required non-federal participant share.

(i) Donated time and services may be included as a financial match contribution unless otherwise restricted by a specific request for proposals or by state or federal requirements.

(j) No organization shall receive more than three (3) direct grants from the Council at any time.

§877.2 Application and Review Process

(a) All requests for proposals will be published in the Texas Register and posted on the Council's website, and a notice will be provided to interested parties.

(b) Proposal information for each request for proposal shall be available upon request from Council offices and will be made available at the Council's website.

(c) Proposals received after the closing date will not be considered unless an exception is approved in a manner consistent with Council policies.

(d) Projects seeking continuation funding may have separate application forms, instructions, and procedures, as determined by Council staff.

(e) Grants shall be awarded based on guidelines that reflect state and federal mandates. Selection criteria shall be designed to select applications that provide best overall value to the state and to the Council and meet the requirements and intent of the Council as provided in the request for proposals.

(f) Final approval of organizations to receive grant funding shall be determined by the Council consistent with Council policies.

(g) Council staff may negotiate with selected applicants to determine the final terms of the award.

§877.3 Suspension or Termination of Funding

(a) If a grantee fails to comply with the terms of the grant, the Council may suspend authority to obligate or receive grant funding pending the result of corrective measures.

(b) The Council, in its complete discretion, may terminate authority to obligate or receive grant funding prior to the end of the funding period if corrective actions are not taken during the suspension period, or if the deficiency is serious enough to warrant immediate termination.

(c) A grant, or portion thereof, may also be terminated at the grantee's request by approval of the Council executive director.

(d) The procedure to request reconsideration of a suspension or termination of funding shall be included in grant award materials.

§877.4 Appeal of Funding Decisions

Appeals may be submitted from applicants for grants who did not receive funding or from grantees whose grants have not been awarded continuation funding. The appeals process adopted by the Council shall be included in grant application materials.

§877.6 Confidentiality of Records

A grantee that provides direct services to individuals under a Council grant must have a system to protect client records from inappropriate disclosure. Disclosure of confidential information must be in accordance with applicable law.

Background:

State law establishing TCDD requires “the Council to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the designated state agency that delineates the roles and responsibilities of the designated state agency” in providing administrative services and support to TCDD. Council Policies expect the Council to review the MOU each year. The current MOU with the Texas Education Agency, the Council’s designated state agency, is attached. No revisions are recommended this year by TCDD staff or by TEA.

Executive Committee

Agenda Item 10.

Expected Action:

The Committee will review and recommend Council approval of the Memorandum of Understanding with Texas Education Agency.

Council

Agenda Item 10.

Expected Action:

The Council will approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Texas Education Agency.

Memorandum of Understanding

Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities and The Texas Education Agency

I. PURPOSE

This Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") is entered into between the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities, 6201 East Oltorf, Suite 600., Austin, Texas, hereafter referred to as the "TCDD," and the Texas Education Agency, 1701 North Congress Ave., Austin, Texas, hereafter referred to as the "TEA". The TCDD is established pursuant to the federal Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act as amended (42 USC 15001), hereafter referred to as the "DD Act", and by state statute at Chapter 112, Title 7, Texas Human Resources Code, hereafter referred to as the "State Act." Consistent with the DD Act, the Governor of Texas has designated TEA as the "designated state agency" to receive, account for and disburse funds available to TCDD and to provide administrative support to TCDD as appropriate. The purpose of this MOU is to identify the responsibilities of TEA as the designated state agency and the responsibilities of TCDD consistent with the DD Act and the State Act.

II. GENERAL AGREEMENTS

The State Act establishes the TCDD as a separate entity under state law, and delegates authority to the TCDD for all programmatic activities conducted with funds available to the TCDD. The State Act also establishes the Executive Director of the TCDD as the executive head of agency for the TCDD. TEA is responsible as the Designated State Agency to provide the services and support as indicated in this Memorandum of Understanding.

TCDD staff will be subject to the administrative rules and policies of the State of Texas and of its cognizant federal authorities. Pursuant to the State Act, the TCDD is responsible for selecting and hiring the Executive Director, when that position becomes vacant, and supervising the Executive Director consistent with state personnel policies and procedures of the TCDD. The TCDD Chair will prepare an annual performance evaluation of the TCDD Executive Director and serve as the "supervisor's supervisor" when required by state law or regulations.

The parties agree that TCDD staff will be responsible solely for TCDD activities and responsibilities and will not be assigned other duties nor guided in implementing activities by the TEA. It is TCDD's intent to be responsive to the limitations of TEA set forth in state law and regulation related to personnel decisions. In like manner, it is TEA's intent to be responsive to the intent of the DD Act that provides for the Council to determine the numbers and types of staff necessary to carryout TCDD responsibilities and activities. At any time that the Council determines the need to increase the number of TCDD staff positions above 18 currently authorized FTE's, TCDD and TEA shall jointly determine the procedure and timing for that increase to occur. Unless otherwise separately agreed by TCDD, those positions are available only to the TCDD and are not subject to staffing reductions of the TEA.

TCDD will work cooperatively with TEA to establish procedures for the processing of TCDD grants, contracts and personnel actions, recognizing that state and federal law vest fiscal, personnel, and rulemaking authority in the Council concerning activities carried out with funds available to TCDD. Federal law establishes that the TEA, and any other agency, office, or entity of the State, will not interfere with the advocacy, capacity building, and systemic change activities, budget, personnel, State plan development, or plan implementation of the Council.

TEA will provide administrative support services to the TCDD as detailed in this MOU. The provision of these services are subject to TEA's then-current operating procedures and systems. Nothing in this MOU obligates TEA to provide or purchase for TCDD any administrative service or support not regularly available or provided by TEA. Any requests by TCDD for modification to TEA services or support shall

be subject to negotiation at the time of the request and to additional reimbursement as allowed by the DD Act. TCDD agrees to cooperate with TEA in providing any information needed by TEA to carry out its duties.

III. FINANCIAL, BUDGETING AND ACCOUNTING SERVICES

TEA has the following responsibilities and duties in state and federal law:

- A. Receive, account for and disburse funds on behalf of TCDD in accordance with the state and federal law and as authorized by TCDD staff, provided that TEA shall not encumber any funds available to TCDD, transfer any funds between TCDD budget categories or from TCDD to any other entity, or otherwise initiate charges or expenses against funds available to TCDD without specific authorization in advance by TCDD.
- B. Provide the fiscal controls and fund accounting procedures necessary for proper disbursement of and accounting for TCDD funds.
- C. Prepare required state and federal financial reports regarding TCDD funds, including TCDD review prior to submittal.
- D. Provide payroll services consistent with state and federal requirements.
- E. Provide timely financial information to TCDD to allow for the preparation of required fiscal reports to state and federal authorities.
- F. Provide or assist TCDD in securing the non-federal share of the cost of projects as required by federal law.
- G. Support TCDD in developing required state budget, strategic plan, performance measures, and appropriations request materials and related items (and other state reporting).

IV. HUMAN RESOURCES

TEA agrees to provide the following Human Resources services to TCDD:

- A. For state payroll and benefits purposes, administratively maintain TCDD employees as TEA employees.
- B. TEA agrees to provide recruitment, posting and processing of applications for TCDD positions.
- C. TEA will ensure compliance with EEO and ADA related matters and will act as the TCDD Executive Director's designee to implement a program of equal opportunity employment for the TCDD as required by the Texas Commission on Human Rights and state law.
- D. Other HR services as appropriate.

V. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

TEA agrees to provide the following information technology services to TCDD:

- A. Information technology (IT) support to TCDD shall be provided through TEA Interagency agreements with the Department of Information Resources (DIR) and the state Data Center Service.
- B. TEA IT support to TCDD includes but is not limited to security oversight and operational functions to ensure compliance with the DIR TAC §202 requirements
- C. TEA IT support includes monitoring, provisioning and support for desktop and laptop computers, printers, networking server and network infrastructure, E-mail accounts, network connections

(including LAN equipment and data circuits) and related hardware and software applications. As required to meet confidentiality requirements.

- D. TCDD will follow TEA Operating Procedures pertaining to information security and encourage TCDD employees to attend TEA information security classes.
- E. TEA IT support shall be provided in a manner that assures separate identity for TCDD computer functions including website (www.txdcc.state.tx.us) and email (e.g. Roger.Webb@tcdd.state.tx.us)

VI. OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

TEA agrees to provide the following administrative services to the TCDD unless TEA and TCDD jointly agree for TCDD to contract for such services separately:

- A. Provide appropriate assurances for the TCDD State Plan and consult with TCDD to maintain consistency of the State Plan with state law.
- B. Purchasing and procurement services that will enable TCDD to procure and receive goods and services consistent with state requirements and upon its own authority, including support and assistance concerning lease space for TCDD offices. TCDD personnel responsible for contract development and processing will consult with appropriate TEA personnel and participate in related TEA training.
- C. Training, professional development, and consultation services provided through TEA (Office of Organizational Effectiveness) to TCDD personnel as appropriate.
- D. Bulk mail services directly or through contract with another state agency.
- E. TEA will include TCDD in their Business Continuity Plan for systems and business recovery.

VII. OTHER UNDERSTANDINGS

- A. TEA understands that TCDD shall develop and authorize funding activities to implement goals and objectives in the approved TCDD State Plan within the limitations of available funds and applicable state and federal regulations. TCDD shall manage all aspects of the application, review, and approval processes for grants and contracts and shall provide ongoing project development and grants management oversight to funded projects. DD funded grant projects shall abide by all terms of the grant award and with all applicable federal and state requirements including the Uniform Grant Management Standards (UGMS) developed by the Governor's Office of Budget, Planning and Policy, and federal rules promulgated by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) where applicable. Except as otherwise stated in this agreement, TCDD is solely responsible for the grant selection, award, and management activities of the Council. The TCDD Executive Director or his designee is the authorized signatory for all TCDD grants and contracts.
- B. TCDD, as a separate state entity under law, will comply with State of Texas administrative rules and policies applicable to State agencies of similar size regarding the provision of internal audit services. It is understood by the parties that TCDD currently contracts separately for Internal Audit Services to ensure compliance with State requirements. Should TCDD determine not to continue to separately acquire such services, it promptly will notify TEA and the parties will mutually agree on the provision of such services by or through TEA, as may be necessary.
- C. TCDD will provide updated designations of TCDD personnel with approval authority for various TCDD financial and personnel actions, which personnel shall correspond, as closely as possible, with the equivalent positions and authority of TEA employees.

VIII. COMPENSATION FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

TCDD agrees to reimburse TEA for the administrative services provided under this MOU consistent with provisions of the DD Act. TCDD will reimburse TEA not more than \$50,000 each fiscal year for basic services of accounting, budget, purchasing and HR services provided that TEA provides at least an

equal share from non-federal resources as state match through the application of the indirect cost rate. Information technology support (as noted in Section V.B.) and all other services provided to TCDD by TEA will be reimbursed by TCDD to the extent allowed by state and federal law. TEA will provide TCDD documentation of the cost and allocation method for those services.

IX. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Dispute Resolution: Disputes concerning implementation of this MOU between TCDD and TEA must first be resolved at the staff level if possible. If either party determines that the dispute cannot be resolved at the executive staff level, TCDD and TEA agree to pursue resolution through the use of mediation pursuant to the Government Dispute Resolution Act, Chapter 2009 of the Texas Government Code as applicable.

X. TERM OF AGREEMENT

This MOU shall commence on September 1, 2012 and shall terminate on August 31, 2013. This MOU will be reviewed annually by the parties and will be renewed for additional (1) year periods to commence at the beginning of each fiscal year. This MOU may be expanded, modified, or amended at any time upon the mutual written agreement of TCDD and TEA.

This agreement may be terminated by mutual agreement of both parties. Either party may terminate the agreement by giving the other party written notice of its intent to terminate. Written notice may be sent by any written method which provides verification of receipt, and the 30 days will be calculated from the date of receipt. Such actions, however, do not alone affect the status of the Governor's designation of TEA as the TCDD designated state agency pursuant to provisions of the DD Act. In the event any provision of this agreement becomes unenforceable or void, such will not invalidate any other provision of this agreement.

THE UNDERSIGNED PARTICIPATING PARTIES do hereby certify that (1) the services specified above are necessary and essential for activities that are properly within the statutory functions and programs of the effected agencies of State Government, (2) the proposed arrangements serve the interest of efficient and economical administration of the State Government, and (3) the services, supplies, or materials in this MOU are not required by Section 21 of Article 16 of the Constitution of Texas to be supplied under Contract given to the lowest responsible bidder.

TCDD further certifies that it has the authority to receive the above services by authority granted in:
Executive Order RP-37.

TEA further certifies that it has authority to perform the above services by authority granted in:
Executive Order RP-37.

Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities

Texas Education Agency

By: _____
Mary Durham
TCDD Chair

By: _____
Shirley Beaulieu,
Chief Financial Officer

Date: _____

Date: _____

Background:

The **Quarterly Financial Report** is included for review by the Executive Committee and Council and includes the following information:

- **Summary of Funds FY 2011-2014** – Revenues budgeted from the federal allotment for each fiscal year are summarized as well as the actual or projected expenditures for each of those years. From those amounts, a projected balance of funds available for each year is shown. Note that these expenditures are tied to the federal fiscal year grant awarded to TCDD regardless of whether those funds are expended during the 1st, 2nd, or 3rd year when they are available. As a reminder, we are continuing to expense current year (FY 12) operating expenses to last year’s federal funds (FY 11) so that those funds are fully liquidated. Staff will review this funds management strategy in more detail during the Committee meeting.
- **FY 2012 Expense Budgets** –Approved budget for the current fiscal year (October 1, 2011, thru September 30, 2012) reflects expenses spent to date (October 1, 2011 thru June 30, 2012) with a column of year to date projections per category that would be expended thus far if expenses were evenly distributed each month. All expenses are reported by expense category and by type of staff activity, and show that expenses remain within approved budget for the fiscal year.
- **2011 and 2012 Grants & Contracts Awards Report** – These reports replace the Grants/Contracts Projections document. The Grants and Contracts Awards Reports provide simplified information for active Grantees in a funding year. The report includes budget period for the award; approved RFP amounts; awarded amounts (regardless of what year of funds used); expended amounts to date; and balances to be spent before budget period ends. Staff are continuing to refine this report format and encourage suggestions from Committee members.
- **Stipends Expenditures** – Provides a summary of funds awarded or expended for each stipend grant recipient, the number of individuals attending the conference or seminar who benefited from those stipend funds, and how many of those participants also received TCDD stipend support previously from that organization.

Notes:

- ♦ The TCDD fiscal year is the federal fiscal year: October 1 through September 30.
- ♦ The DD Act allows two full federal fiscal years for initial awards/obligations of funds, and allows three federal fiscal years for final expenditure/liquidation of funds.

Executive Committee

Agenda Item 11.

Expected Action:

The Committee will review the Quarterly Financial Report and may provide additional guidance to staff.

Council

Agenda Item 13. C.

Expected Action:

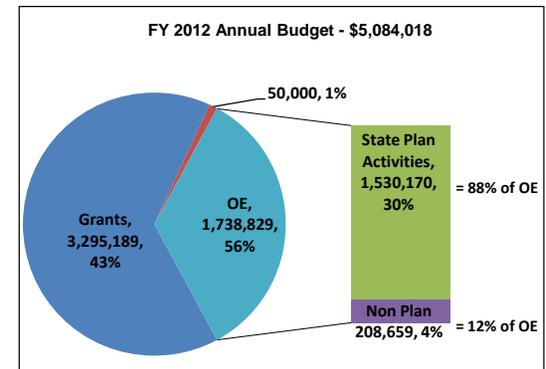
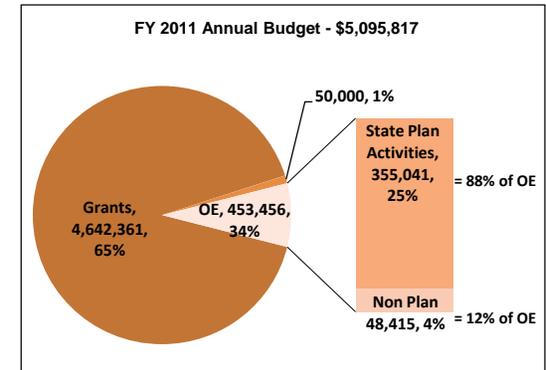
The Council will receive a report from the Executive Committee about the Committee’s review of the Quarterly Financial Report and may also provide additional guidance.

Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities
 Summary of Funds FY 2011 - 2014
 June 2012

Model Key				
Numbers in black represent budget numbers or actuals for the current or prior years.				
Numbers in blue represent forecast numbers.				
Line Item	10/1/2009-9/30/2012	10/1/2010-9/30/2013	10/1/2011-9/30/2014	10/1/2012-9/30/2015
REVENUES	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
Federal Funds				
Estimate of budget award	\$5,095,817	\$5,084,018	\$5,084,018	5,084,018
Award amount	\$5,095,817	\$5,084,018	\$5,084,018	5,084,018
Budget difference (Estimate of budget award - Award amount)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Prior year difference (Current FY Award - Prior FY Award)	(\$10,213)	(\$11,799)	\$0	\$0
EXPENDITURES				
Operating Expenses				
Approved Budget	\$1,813,039	\$1,788,829	\$1,788,829	\$1,867,900
Expenses	\$453,456	\$1,788,829	\$1,788,829	\$1,867,900
Balance for Grants (Budget - Expenses)	\$1,359,583	\$0	\$0	\$0
Grants and Projects Expenses				
Available	\$4,642,361	\$3,295,189	\$3,295,189	\$3,216,118
Actual	\$3,522,942	\$3,420,546	\$2,635,244	\$1,794,920
Current Projects Difference (Available - Actual)	\$1,119,419	(\$125,357)	\$659,945	\$1,421,198
Planned	\$25,000	\$687,975	\$1,200,000	\$1,300,000
Current & Planned Projects Difference (Available - Actual - Planned)	\$1,094,419	(\$813,332)	(\$540,055)	\$121,198
Total Expenditures	\$4,001,398	\$5,897,350	\$5,624,073	\$4,962,820
BALANCE AVAILABLE FOR FUTURE YEARS & PROJECTS	\$1,094,419	(\$813,332)	(\$540,055)	\$121,198

NOTES:

- 1) Final Allotment per ADD Notice dated February 10, 2012 for FY12 is \$5,084,018.
- 2) 2011 Balance will be fully obligated by the end of Sept. 2012.
- 3) Funds awarded or anticipated to be awarded for authorized projects are included in projections of Grants and Project Expenses.
- 4) Remaining balance of funds is available for award in subsequent year.
- 5) Grants - When OE expended is less than OE budgeted, the funds available for grants will increase; a negative variance represents an increase in funds for grants.
- 6) Funds awarded each Fiscal Year (FY) can be expended within 3 FY periods.
- 7) Planned Grants & Projects Expenses include projects planned and approved but not initiated. Total amounts authorized are reflected although actual awards approved may be less.



Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities

FY 12 Admin & Expense Budget

Oct. 1, 2011 thru
June 30, 2012

Expenses (Council Operations)	Budget	Year to Date Projected	Expended	Variance
Personnel (17 FTEs)				
Salaries	960,403	720,302	551,868	168,434
Benefits	287,138	215,354	139,948	75,405
Total Personnel	\$ 1,247,541	\$ 935,656	\$ 691,817	\$ 243,839
Operating				
Professional Services ¹	97,000	72,750	67,180	5,570
Out-of-State Travel ²	18,500	13,875	12,384	1,491
In-State Travel ³	62,000	46,500	36,315	10,185
Supplies	10,000	7,500	5,296	2,204
Utilities	41,700	31,275	19,905	11,370
Rent - Building - Space	79,618	59,714	50,513	9,201
Rent - Computers - Equip ⁴	64,220	48,165	35,447	12,718
Capital Expenditures	-	-	-	-
Other OE ⁵	118,250	88,688	47,267	41,420
Total Operating	\$ 491,288	\$ 368,466	\$ 274,305	\$ 94,161
Total Expenses	Budget	YTD Budgeted	Actual	Variance
	1,738,829	1,304,122	966,122	338,000
Admin Reim to TEA	50,000	75.0%	55.6%	
TOTAL	\$ 1,788,829		\$ 1,016,122	

Expenditures by Function

Council Support	Public Policy	Public Info	Projects Mgmt	Staff Support
\$ 121,399	\$ 192,902	\$ 135,193	\$ 353,214	\$ 163,415

NOTES:

¹ Auditor - \$25,000/\$7,630; CPA Desk Reviews - \$10,000/\$1,200; Legal Svcs - \$3,000/\$0

Other Professional Services (Web Hosting) - \$2,000/\$4,376; Data Center Services - \$22,380/\$14,699

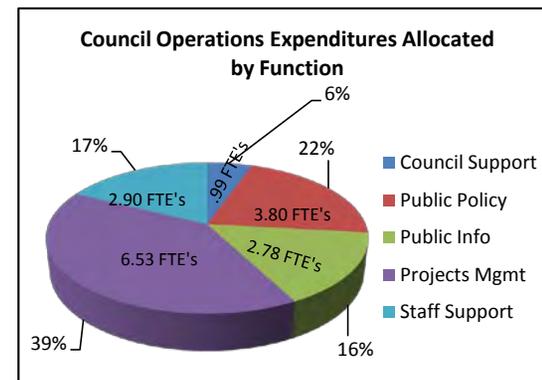
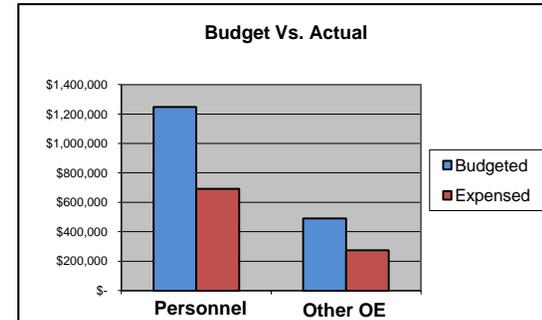
Other Professional Services (Mass DD Council) - \$3,000/\$3,000; Reviewers - \$8,000/\$7,608; Temp. Services - \$20,111/\$28,667

² Travel - Out-of-State Council - \$11,500 /\$7,967 (\$2,468.02 for PAS) ; Travel - Out-of-State Staff - \$7,000 /\$4,416 (\$873 from FY 11)

³ Travel - In-State Council - \$50,000 /\$27,535; Travel - In-State Staff - \$12,000 /\$8,780;

⁴ Computer lease - \$22,800/\$10,535; AV Equipment - \$35,000/\$21,798; Copier - \$6,420/\$3,115

⁵ Other OE - NACDD Dues - \$20,945, interpreter svcs, registration fees, other training, maintenance, advertising, postage, printing, software, furniture, non-cap equip, security, and janitorial services.



2011 GRANTS & CONTRACTS AWARDS REPORT

Budget Period	RFP Amount	Awarded Amount	YTD Expended Amount	Balance
A Circle of Ten		Capacity Building		
1/2/2012 - 8/31/2012	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$4,060	\$20,940
Any Baby Can of San Antonio, Inc		Health & Fitness 1		
3/1/2012 - 2/28/2013	\$250,000	\$228,610	\$49,315	\$179,295
Barbara Jordan Endeavors Corp		Outreach & Development 4		
8/1/2011 - 7/31/2012	\$10,000	\$9,855	\$7,919	\$1,936
Community Healthcore		Self-Employment 1		
7/31/2012 - 8/31/2012	\$125,000	\$112,704	\$89,132	\$23,572
Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services		Higher Education 3		
1/1/2012 - 12/31/2012	\$225,000	\$225,000	\$5,570	\$219,430
Educational Programs Inspiring Communities, Inc.		Enabling Technology 1		
4/1/2012 - 3/31/2013	\$225,000	\$225,000	\$0	\$225,000
Epilepsy Foundation Texas		Health & Fitness 2		
4/1/2012 - 3/31/2013	\$250,000	\$249,538	\$10,596	\$238,942
Family to Family Network Inc		L&A Local Basic Advocacy Training 1		
1/1/2012 - 5/31/2012	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$0
Jewish Family Service of Dallas		Inclusive Faith-Based Symposium 3		
3/1/2012 - 2/28/2013	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$0	\$75,000
Morningside Research and Consulting, Inc.		Biennial Report		
3/1/2012 - 12/31/2012	\$25,000	\$24,960	\$0	\$24,960
NAMI Texas		New Leadership Development & Advocacy Skills Trng (NLDAST 3)		
2/1/2012 - 1/31/2013	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$3,105	\$71,895

Budget Period	RFP Amount	Awarded Amount	YTD Expended Amount	Balance
OneStar Foundation		Inclusive Faith-Based Symposium 1		
2/1/2012 - 1/31/2013	\$75,000	\$71,453	\$4,633	\$66,820
Region 17 ESC		PBS-HS		
5/1/2012 - 5/31/2012	\$120,000	\$120,000	\$120,000	\$0
Region 17 ESC		PBS-ID		
3/16/2012 - 5/31/2012	\$115,000	\$115,000	\$115,000	\$0
SafePlace		Meaningful Relationships		
5/1/2012 - 4/30/2013	\$125,000	\$117,022	\$6,411	\$110,611
SER Jobs for Progress		Exp of Existing Leadership Development & Advocacy Skills Trng Projects (ELDAST		
12/1/2011 - 11/30/2012	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$19,909	\$20,091
Strategic Education Solutions, LLC		Enabling Technology 2		
4/1/2012 - 3/31/2013	\$225,000	\$224,967	\$74,906	\$150,061
Texas A&M University		New Leadership Development & Advocacy Skills Trng (NLDAST 2)		
6/1/2012 - 5/31/2013	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$0	\$75,000
Texas A&M University		Higher Education 1		
1/1/2012 - 12/31/2012	\$225,000	\$225,000	\$18,795	\$206,205
Texas A&M University		L&A Statewide Advanced Training		
3/16/2012 - 6/30/2012	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$108,243	\$41,757
Texas Advocates		New Leadership Development & Advocacy Skills Trng (NLDAST 1)		
3/1/2012 - 2/28/2013	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$2,106	\$72,894
Texas Center for Disability Studies		Support for Advisory Committee Member Travel		
11/1/2011 - 10/31/2012	\$38,546	\$38,546	\$13,140	\$25,406

Budget Period	RFP Amount	Awarded Amount	YTD Expended Amount	Balance
Texas Parent to Parent		Public Policy Collaboration Activities		
3/1/2012 - 2/28/2013	\$0	\$61,780	\$0	\$61,780
Texas State Independent Living Council		Health & Fitness 3		
4/1/2012 - 3/31/2013	\$250,000	\$219,472	\$40,448	\$179,024
Texas State Independent Living Council		New Leadership Development & Advocacy Skills Trng (NLDAST 7)		
2/1/2012 - 1/31/2013	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$37,894	\$37,106
Texas Tech University		Teacher Preparation for Inclusive Education Project		
12/1/2011 - 9/30/2012	\$200,000	\$199,999	\$89,238	\$110,761
Texas Tech University		Higher Education 2		
10/1/2011 - 9/30/2012	\$225,000	\$209,384	\$37,983	\$171,401
The Arc of Dallas		New Leadership Development & Advocacy Skills Trng (NLDAST 4)		
4/1/2012 - 3/31/2013	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$18,750	\$56,250
The Arc of Greater Tarrant County		Inclusive Faith-Based Symposium 2		
1/1/2012 - 12/31/2012	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$0	\$75,000
The Arc of San Angelo		Alternatives to Guardianship-Volunteer Advocate Pilot Program		
5/1/2012 - 4/30/2013	\$75,000	\$73,941	\$0	\$73,941
The Arc of Texas		New Leadership Development & Advocacy Skills Trng (NLDAST 5)		
3/1/2012 - 2/28/2013	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$7,667	\$67,333
The Arc of Texas		Texas Microboard Collaboration		
10/1/2011 - 9/30/2012	\$0	\$76,834	\$50,449	\$26,385
The Arc of Texas		L&A Specialized Advocacy Training 3		
9/1/2011 - 10/31/2011	\$75,000	\$93,724	\$93,724	\$0

Budget Period	RFP Amount	Awarded Amount	YTD Expended Amount	Balance
VSA Arts of Texas		Self-Employment 2		
6/1/2012 - 7/31/2012	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$0	\$25,000
West Central Texas Regional Foundation		Inclusive Faith-Based Symposium 4		
2/1/2012 - 1/31/2013	\$75,000	\$74,894	\$23,793	\$51,101
Totals:	\$3,848,546	\$3,912,683	\$1,127,786	\$2,784,897

PLANNED GRANTS/CONTRACTS

Budget Period	RFP Amount	Awarded Amount	YTD Expended Amount	Balance
Biennial Report		Printing & Production		
3/1/2012 - 2/28/2013	\$25,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Totals:	\$25,000	\$0	\$0	\$0

2012 GRANTS & CONTRACTS AWARDS REPORT

Budget Period	RFP Amount	Awarded Amount	YTD Expended Amount	Balance
Region 17 ESC		PBS-HS		
6/1/2012 - 5/31/2013	\$120,000	\$120,000	\$0	\$120,000
Region 17 ESC		PBS-ID		
6/1/2012 - 5/31/2013	\$115,000	\$115,000	\$0	\$115,000
Texas A&M University		L&A Statewide Advanced Training		
7/1/2012 - 8/31/2013	\$150,000	\$214,742	\$0	\$214,742
Totals:	\$385,000	\$449,742	\$0	\$449,742

PLANNED GRANTS/CONTRACTS

Budget Period	RFP Amount	Awarded Amount	YTD Expended Amount	Balance
Grants for Outreach & Development		Grants for Outreach & Development		
8/1/2012 - 7/31/2013	\$62,975	\$0	\$0	\$0
PP Committee-Capacity Building		PP Committee-Capacity Building-Balance		
8/1/2012 - 7/31/2013	\$50,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Project Search		Project Search		
8/1/2012 - 7/31/2013	\$175,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Transportation		Transportation		
8/1/2012 - 7/31/2013	\$400,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Totals:	\$687,975	\$0	\$0	\$0

S T I P E N D E X P E N D I T U R E S

ORGANIZATION	MONTH OF EVENT	EXPENDED	NUMBER SERVED	PREVIOUSLY SERVED	COMMENTS/CLOSED
FYE 9-30-11					
Volar Center for Independent Living	Oct-2010	5,995	58	1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Texas Coalition of Texans with Disabilities	Oct-2010	5,386	23	8	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NAMI Texas	Oct-2010	5,980	52	2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ADDA-SR	Feb-2011	6,000	27	0	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Texas A&M University	Feb-2011	1,400	8	2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SW Chapter Autism Society of America	Apr-2011	1,200	20	2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Texas State Independent Living Council	Apr-2011	6,000	24	4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Texas Coalition of Texans with Disabilities	Apr-2011	2,973	15	10	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Brain Injury Association of Texas	Apr-2011	1,366	11	2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Texas Parent to Parent	Jun-2011	6,000	40	11	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
American Association on Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities Texas Chapter (AAIDD-TX)	Jul-2011	5,552	17	0	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Texas Advocates	Aug-2011	5,769	60	24	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
TOTALS:		\$53,621	355	66	

FYE 9-30-12

Volar Center for Independent Living	Oct-2011	6,000	73	5	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Partners Resource Network	Dec-2011	5,998	22	0	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Texas A&M University	Feb-2012	3,794	16	0	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ADDA-SR	Feb-2012	6,000	30	0	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The Arc of Texas	Feb-2012	6,000			<input type="checkbox"/>
SW Chapter Autism Society of America	Mar-2012	1,200	20	6	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Texas Parent to Parent	Jun-2012	6,000			<input type="checkbox"/>
American Association on Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities Texas Chapter (AAIDD-TX)	Jul-2012				<input type="checkbox"/>
TOTALS:		\$34,992	161	11	

NOTE: Budgeted amount used if stipend not closed.

Background:

A proposed Operating Budget to support staff and Council operations for Fiscal Year 2013 is enclosed. This proposed budget assumes federal funding for FY 13 will be level with funds allotted to TCDD for the current year. The proposed FY 13 Operating Budget estimates increases for various expense categories and includes various assumptions about activities and expenditures. Funds not required for Council and staff support will be made available for grant projects as the fiscal year progresses.

The proposed budget includes funds for 17 full time staff positions.

Executive Committee**Agenda Item 12.****Expected Action:**

The Committee will review the Operating Budget for FY 2013 and determine a recommendation for Council consideration.

Council**Agenda Item 11.****Expected Action:**

The Council will consider the FY 2013 Operating Budget as recommended by the Executive Committee.

TEXAS COUNCIL FOR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

PROPOSED FY 2013 BUDGET

	BUDGETED FY 2012 (10/11-9/12)	% OF WHOLE	PROJECTED YEAR END (PENDITURE) FY 2012 (10/11-9/12)	% OF WHOLE	PROPOSED BUDGET FY 2013 (10/12-9/13)	% OF WHOLE	VARIANCE	NOTES
Revenues								
<i>Federal Allotment</i>	\$5,095,817	100.0%	\$5,095,817	100.0%	\$5,095,817	100.0%	\$0	1
		0.0%		0.0%				
Total Revenues	\$5,095,817	100.0%	\$5,095,817	100.0%	\$5,095,817	100.0%	\$0	
Expenses								
Council Operations	17 FTE		17 FTE		17 FTE			
Salaries	\$960,403	18.8%	909,058	17.8%	\$960,403	18.8%	\$0	
Benefits	287,138	5.6%	275,622	5.4%	287,138	5.6%	0	
Professional Services	97,000	1.9%	89,573	1.8%	82,000	1.6%	(15,000)	2
Out-of-State Travel	18,500	0.4%	25,000	0.5%	25,000	0.5%	6,500	3
In-State Travel	62,000	1.2%	48,420	1.0%	63,000	1.2%	1,000	3
Supplies	10,000	0.2%	7,061	0.1%	10,000	0.2%	0	
Utilities	41,700	0.8%	26,540	0.5%	41,700	0.8%	0	4
Rent - Building - Space	79,618	1.6%	67,350	1.3%	79,618	1.6%	0	5
Rent - Computers - Equip	64,220	1.3%	47,262	0.9%	64,220	1.3%	0	6
Capital Expenditures	0	0.0%	-	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	
Other Oper. Expenses	118,250	2.3%	63,023	1.2%	118,250	2.3%	0	7
Total Operating Expenses	\$1,738,829	34.1%	\$1,558,909	30.6%	\$1,731,329	34.0%	(\$7,500)	
Admin. Reimb. To TEA	\$50,000	1.0%	\$50,000	1.0%	\$50,000	1.0%		
Available for Grants	\$3,306,988	64.9%	\$3,486,908	68.4%	\$3,314,488	65.0%	\$7,500	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$5,095,817	100%	\$5,095,817	100%	\$5,095,817	100%	\$0	

NOTES:

¹ Level funding with FY 2012

² Professional Services: Training - \$3,000; Auditor - \$25,000; CPA Desk Reviews - \$8,000; Legal Services - \$3,000; Job Coaches - \$6,000; Review Panelist - \$10,000; DD Suite - \$3,000; Web Hosting - \$2000; Computer Programming w/TEA \$15,000; Other contracted \$7,000 (\$15,000) reduction related to contract for web administrator during FY 12

³ Travel - In-State Council - \$45,000; Out-of-State Council - \$13,075

Travel - In-State Staff - \$18,000; Out-of-State Staff - \$11,925

\$6,500 O-O-S increase for Members & Staff to attend national conferences, including attendant expenses (see below)

\$1,000 in-state travel increase for community Forums

⁴ Utilities -\$9,660; Telecommunications - \$21,180; Dedicated Circuit - \$10,860

⁵ Rent-Building & Space: Office & Storage Space - \$44,618; Quarterly Council Facility Rooms - \$35,000

⁶ Rent-Machine - Rental of laptops - \$22,800; Quarterly Council AV rental - \$35,000; Rental of copier - \$6,420

⁷ Other OE: NACDD Dues - \$20,846; Contingency for 18th FTE - \$0, Printing,

Registration, Publications, Maintenance & Repair, Postage, Cleaning, Delivery, Advertising, Interpreter/translator, Security, Furniture & Equipment, Software, and Awards - \$97,404

Proposed Out-of-State Travel / Events	Members		Staff		Attendants	
	Actual	Proposed	Actual	Proposed	Actual	Proposed
	FY 12	FY13	FY 12	FY 13	FY 12	FY 13
NACDD Fall Conference (Los Angeles / Fall)	2	3	0	3	1	2
Plus Executive Director's Meeting			1	1		
Disability Policy Seminar (D.C. / Spring)	1	2	1	1	0	1
ADD Technical Assistance Institute (D.C. / Summer)	2	3	2	2	1	1
Other (TBD)	3	0	1	1	3	0
Total Travelers	8	8	5	8	5	4

Background:

TCDD Executive Committee members requested staff provide information regarding the current proposal selection process and possible alternatives to that process. The document provided presents an overview for the Committee's discussion. If you have questions or would like additional information prior to the meeting, please contact Joanna Cordry or Roger Webb.

Executive Committee**Agenda Item 13.****Expected Action:**

The Committee will review the recommended revisions to the RFP Review Procedures.

Council**Agenda Item 13. D.****Expected Action:**

The Council will receive a report on the Executive Committee discussion.

Discussion Guide: RFP Submission and Proposal Review Process

TCDD Executive Committee members requested staff provide information regarding the current proposal selection process and possible alternatives to that process. Committee members specifically wanted to discuss if there might be a way to improve the consistency in the quality of review panel recommendations provided to Committee members, to examine how determinations of “fundability” are made, and to explore whether organizations should be able to provide additional information about their organization or proposal after the submission deadline has passed.

This document provides information about the current process; how a two-step submission process might be employed; and staff recommendations.

Option 1: The Current One-Step Submission Process

Organizations submit grant proposals in response to a Request for Proposals (RFP) using a formatted proposal packet that includes all information that is required to be included in grantees’ workplans. Proposals are limited in length and only certain attachments allowed.

Independent review panels, consisting of 3-5 people who each have expertise related to some aspect of the proposed project, review the proposals using a guide provided by staff. Reviewers are told they may only evaluate the quality of the proposal’s response to the requirements in the RFP and proposal instructions. Information not included in a submitted proposal may not be considered.

Review panel members complete their initial review independently, and then meet as a panel to discuss each proposal. The review panel collaboratively develops a list of strengths and needs and makes final funding recommendations to the Executive Committee. The panel typically arrives at a consensus on three items: whether or not each proposal is of sufficient quality to be funded if adequate funds exist to fund all; the ranking of the “fundable” proposals; and specific strengths and needs of each proposal.

Staff do not edit the content of the Review Panel recommendations. However, staff review recommended proposals and may provide additional information about regulations concerning the use of grant funds; relevant public policy issues; and/or any other concerns or opportunities that staff feel should be brought to the attention of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee reviews all relevant information during the Executive Committee’s review.

After the Executive Committee determines which proposals shall be funded, TCDD grants staff contact the organization(s) and work with them to address any needs identified by the review panel, staff, or the Executive Committee. Organizations that submit proposals that the Executive Committee does not intend to fund do not have the opportunity to submit additional information or to address concerns identified by review panels. In addition, there is no process for those who submit proposals that are not approved for funding to incorporate additional information that was not provided to TCDD by the organizations in their original proposals prior to the deadline.

Option 2: A Two-Step Submission Process

In a two-step submission process, interested organizations would have two opportunities to provide TCDD with information. Organizations would first submit an initial Letter of Intention, abbreviated proposal, or brief summary that would be reviewed and evaluated by independent reviewers, TCDD staff, and/or Council members. This first review would identify a smaller sub-set of organizations from which TCDD would request additional information and/or a complete proposal. Examples of the types of additional information to be requested might include:

- responses to specific questions identified in the review;
- submission of a full proposal (if the original submission was only a partial application, Letter of Intent, or brief summary);
- the opportunity to amend a full proposal (if the original submission was a full proposal); and/or
- an in-person or recorded presentations to the Council, a Committee, or a review panel.

Using a two-step process would most likely lengthen the time between the deadline for submission and the eventual funding by an average of 3 months. Whether or not it would result in an increase in work hours or resources (on the part of the organizations submitting the proposal, Council staff, or Council members) would depend on how, specifically, the process was implemented. It would, however, minimize the time involved by organizations whose initial submission is not accepted.

Option 3: Adaptation of Current Process

If TCDD continues to use a one-step application process, changes could be made to how proposals are reviewed in order to provide the Executive Committee with more specific information about each proposal. In addition, TCDD could adapt the current process to require organizations to “pre-review” their proposal using the same form reviewers will use. This might result in organizations providing, up front, the kind of information sometimes identified by reviewers as missing or inadequate.

This would involve a more prescriptive, standardized review form that would be included in the proposal packet. Organizations would complete part of the form themselves and would be invited to identify the page or section numbers on which reviewers can find the information reviewers will use to evaluate their proposal. Organizations would submit the form as part of their proposal.

Reviewers would use the same form to independently review proposals; TCDD staff would gather the forms from all reviewers and combine their reviews into one document. Reviewers would receive that combined document and would then participate in a panel discussion to review differences of opinion, to agree on a final summary document, and to make recommendations for funding. Only the top proposals would be ranked. Executive Committee members would receive a copy of the evaluation guide for each proposal, allowing them to see, specifically, the areas in which each proposal had strengths and/or weakness.

Option 4: Flexible Review Process

TCDD could adopt flexibility in the review process that would enable the Council, with staff recommendations, to determine and specify the review process for each RFP. If the Executive Committee wishes to consider this option, staff recommend that TCDD:

1. Continue to use independent reviewers in the process to support the integrity of the process and to assure that varying viewpoints are considered. The current process requires the Executive Committee to review a large list of names every other year; the individuals approved are then included in a large pool of possible reviewers from which review panel members are selected. Staff propose the Executive Committee review additional names to the pool on an annual or more frequent basis, if needed.
2. Maintain efforts to reduce the degree to which grant writing skills impact the selection process, so that grantees are selected based mostly on the likelihood they will be able to implement a project rather than the sophistication of their proposal or presentation skills. Staff will continue to develop and enhance the information and support provided to all organizations interested in submitting proposals.
3. Continue to vest the selection process, for most RFPs, in the Executive Committee, as this Committee includes representation from both Committees as well as at least one self-advocate selected by the Council.
4. Consider using different selection processes as needed, based on the nature of the RFP. Stipulate what process shall be used at the time the Executive Summary is approved. This would allow the Council to use a combination of the options noted above and also ensure that organizations interested in applying have full information about the application and selection process at the time the RFP is posted.
5. When a review panel is used, use a more prescriptive form for the review of proposals and to submit specific information about each proposal to the Executive Committee.

Background:

TCDD solicits, on an ongoing basis, qualified individuals who can serve on the independent review panels that evaluate proposals received in response to Requests for Proposals. In order to maintain a large enough pool of potential reviewers, a database of approved individuals is kept. The Executive Committee biennially reviews and approves individuals to be included in the review pool. Planning Coordinator Joanna Cordry will provide information at the meeting including names and cities of proposed reviewers, areas of expertise of each reviewer, and a list of summary qualifications for reviewers who have provided them to us. Due to its length, it is not included in the binder.

Executive Committee

Agenda Item 14.

Expected Action:

The Committee will receive a report from staff regarding possible reviewers for TCDD projects and determine appropriate action.

Council

Agenda Item 13. E.

Expected Action:

The Executive Committee will report any action taken to the Council. No action is expected by the Council.

Background:

Revisions are proposed to the current RFP for Event Stipends. These revisions primarily clarify that a stipend application can be submitted for a single legislative advocacy training event (seminar, conference, etc.), or for a series of legislative advocacy training events over a 4-5 month period. This revision reflects the Council's intent to promote the involvement of self-advocates and advocates on policy issues and reflects an understanding that some organizations choose to sponsor a single "Capital Day" event for advocate training purposes while other organizations prefer to have smaller groups on different dates during legislative sessions. Other revisions are largely technical in nature to clarify the intent of this RFP, and to distinguish it from a separate new proposed RFP to support speakers at conferences and events.

Executive Committee**Agenda Item 15.****Expected Action:**

The Executive Committee will consider the proposed revisions and determine revisions to recommend for Council consideration.

Council**Agenda Item 12.****Expected Action:**

The Council will consider revisions to this RFP recommended by the Executive Committee and determine final action.

Event Stipends Grants

Request for Proposals

Note: In order to apply for Event Stipends grants, organizations must read and agree to the [TCDD Assurances](#).

Event Stipends

The Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities has funds available for **event** stipends grants. Funds for this grant are made available to the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities by the Administration on Developmental Disabilities.

DD Council Intent

Event Stipend stipends funds are provided to Texas organizations to enable individuals with developmental disabilities and their family members to attend established in-state professional or informational conferences, workshops, **seminars**, or legislative advocacy skills training events. The intent of this RFP is to promote participant direction and involvement in activities that enhance independence, productivity and community inclusion of people with developmental disabilities. **Event Stipend stipends** support is limited to Texas residents who are not eligible for conference, workshop, or training reimbursement from other organizations of which they are an employee or member.

Individuals are not eligible for these grants.

Project Components

Applications for **event stipends grants** funding must be received by TCDD at least 90 days in advance of the starting date of the ~~meeting~~, conference, workshop, **seminar**, or legislative advocacy skills training event. **If the application requests funding for stipends for a series of legislative skills training events, the application must be received by TCDD at least 90 days in advance of the first event.** The request must:

- demonstrate that the ~~meeting~~, conference, workshop, **seminar**, or legislative advocacy skills training event has educational and/or advocacy objectives related to developmental disabilities issues;
- outline how the stipends will be used consistent with the mission, philosophical principles, goals, and/or objectives of the Council;
- provide assurance that funds will be used only to support the participation of persons who have disabilities that also meet the federal definition of a developmental disability (and their family members) and who have no other organizational or agency source of funding to attend the ~~meeting~~, conference, workshop, **seminar**, or legislative advocacy skills training event;
- provide assurance that a priority will be given to individuals who have not previously received TCDD stipends support; and
- describe the potential recipients of the stipends.

Limitations

It is **not** the intent of the Council that these funds be used for weekend retreats, summer family camps or similar recreation activities.

- **Event stipends grant applications** Applications will be considered only for in-state conferences, workshops, **seminars**, and legislative advocacy skills training events and will not be considered for organizational board meetings.
- **Event stipends** Stipends funds are intended to enable additional Texas residents **that have not previously received TCDD stipend support** to attend a ~~meeting~~, conference, workshop, **seminar**, or legislative advocacy skills training event that would occur without DD funds for stipends. Therefore priority will be given to support individuals who are attending an event with TCDD stipends support for the first time. Stipends funds are not intended to fund the ~~meeting~~, conference, workshop, **seminar**, or legislative advocacy skills training event. DD funds are only available for up to 49% of the cost of the event.
- The organization applying for funding to provide stipends must be a sponsoring organization of the conference ~~meeting~~, workshop, **seminar**, or legislative advocacy skills training event.
- TCDD funds can only be used for direct costs relating to transportation, meals, lodging, registration, personal assistance services and respite for individuals with developmental disabilities (and their family members). Transportation and meals are allowable at state designated rates. Meals are only allowable for stipend recipients participating in events of such duration that limits one's access to meals and typically require out-of-town travel and/or an overnight stay. In allowing TCDD funds to be used to cover transportation and meals, it is the intent that participation by first time participants would increase.
- Match (cost sharing) expenses are those direct costs relating to lodging, registration, meals, transportation, and personal assistance services for recipients and respite for individuals with developmental disabilities attending the sponsored event.
- No more than one **event stipends** grant will be awarded to any one organization annually during the period June 1 – May 31 with the following exceptions:
 - a. TCDD may consider more than one application annually for **an event** stipends grant when the event is a national conference hosted by the state affiliate in Texas, and
 - b. TCDD will consider an additional application for **an event** stipends grant annually from the same organization if the second request is related to a legislative advocacy skills training event.
- Documentation and receipts will be required for all expenditures.
- Verification of developmental disabilities will be required for all stipend recipients.

Products

- Program report summarizing the results and benefits of the activity.

Terms

- Organizations that receive funds will be responsible for complying with all rules and procedures of the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities.
- Obligations must be liquidated within 30 days of the ~~meeting~~, conference, workshop, **seminar**, or legislative advocacy skills training.

- A minimum of 10% matching funds as a share of direct costs are required.
- Funds are limited to one \$6,000 **event stipends** grant per organization, per year, for one in-state conference ~~meeting~~, **seminar**, or workshop. TCDD may consider an application for a second \$3,000 **event stipends** grant during the same year for a legislative advocacy skills training event only; however, first priority will be given to requests from organizations who have not received **an event stipends grant** during that annual period.
- **In either of the above situations, an organization may also request event stipends funds for a series of legislative advocacy training events that are coordinated over a 4-5 month period. In such situations, the limitations on funding amounts noted in the preceding paragraph apply.**
- Exception for co-sponsored events:
If two or more organizations jointly sponsor a single event, each organization is eligible for an **event stipends** grant award for that event if they have not received an **event stipends** grant during that annual period. No one organization may receive more than \$6,000 for a jointly sponsored event. If multiple applications are submitted for the same event by co-sponsoring organizations, funds are limited to not more than \$15,000 for *all* **event stipends** grants awarded for that event. Co-sponsoring organizations that have received an **event stipends** grant during the same year may apply for a \$3,000 **event stipends** grant if, and only if, the event is a legislative advocacy skills training event. If one or more co-sponsoring organizations requesting event stipends is only eligible for a \$3,000 **event stipends** grant, funds are limited to not more than \$7,500 for *all* stipends awarded for the event.

Application and Submission Process

- To obtain the required stipend information, **please review** the [TCDD Assurances](#) **and check the "accept" box in in agreement to indicate an intent to comply with the** ~~must be read and the applicant agrees to certify compliance with~~ stated requirements. **The complete application can then be downloaded.**
- ~~If the applicant agrees with the requirements, highlight the "accept" box and proceed to download and complete the application.~~
- **Submit one** ~~Two~~ hard **copy** ~~copies~~, one with the original signatures, ~~should be submitted.~~ Proposals may be delivered by hand or mailed to TCDD's physical office at 6201 East Oltorf, Suite 600, Austin, Texas, 78741-7509. **Direct** Proposals ~~should be directed~~ to the attention of (name). Faxed proposals cannot be accepted.
- **Also, submit one** ~~TCDD also requests that applicants send an~~ electronic copy at the same time the hard copies are submitted. Electronic copies should be addressed to name.name@tcdd.state.tx.us.

Exceptions

- TCDD reserves the right to waive limitations on this RFP on an individual or case-by-case basis based on the merits of the proposal submitted.

Revised May 2011

Proposed Revisions - July 2012

Background:

During the May 2012 quarterly meetings, the Council approved a proposal to provide grant funds to support general session and concurrent session speakers at conferences when those presentations focus on best practices in providing services and supports to individuals with developmental disabilities and/or directly promote self-advocacy and self-determination. The Executive Summary for that project indicated that the proposed process for soliciting and reviewing applications would be reviewed with the Executive Committee. A draft Request for Proposals (RFP) for **Support for Conference Speakers** is enclosed for review.

The Executive Summary approved in May authorizes decisions on applications for these funds to be approved jointly by the Council Chair and Executive Director. A draft Review Guide is also enclosed to assist the Chair and Executive Director with these reviews. A summary of this information can be provided quarterly to the Executive Committee and Council for those applications approved.

A few comments about the attached draft:

- The Executive Summary approved during May meetings proposed funding of up to \$7,500 per event consistent with the current stipends policies. The draft RFP allows up to \$6,000 per event if one organization is sponsoring the event and up to \$7,500 per event if multiple organizations are co-sponsoring the event. These terms are consistent with the funds allowed for Stipends Grants.
- The Executive Summary approved in May also proposed these amounts available for plenary session speakers **and** these same amounts available for concurrent session speakers. The attached draft RFP allows up to \$6,000 for event for general session and concurrent session speakers combined. It was staff understanding that the funding limits were to the events overall, not in separate categories. The Committee and Council may wish to modify those limitations.
- The Executive Summary proposed both of these options be approved for a year, with quarterly reports to the Executive Committee and Council. The Committee and Council can determine whether or not to continue this effort at that time.

Executive Committee

Agenda Item 16.

Expected Action:

The Executive Committee will consider proposed Support for Conference Speakers Request for Proposals and recommend final action to the Council.

Council

Agenda Item 13. F.

Expected Action:

The Council will consider recommendations from the Executive Committee for a proposed Conference Speakers RFP and determine final action.

Support for Conference Speakers

Request for Proposals

Note: In order to apply for a TCDD grant to support conference speakers, organizations must read and agree to the [TCDD Assurances](#).

Conference Speaker Support

The Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities has funds available to support presentations on disability related issues at conferences in Texas. Funds for these grants are made available to the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities by the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.

DD Council Intent

TCDD support for conference presentations on disability related topics is available for conference events hosted in Texas to provide participants with information and awareness about best practices in providing services and supports to individuals with developmental disabilities and/or directly promote self-advocacy and self-determination. TCDD believes that such presentations can enhance opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities to exercise choice and control in their lives, and can promote independence, productivity and community inclusion of people with developmental disabilities. TCDD support for conference presentations is limited to conferences, workshop, or seminars conducted in Texas. Funds under this RFP are available for general session or concurrent (breakout) session presentations.

Individuals are not eligible for these grants.

Project Components

Applications for TCDD support for conference presentations must be received by TCDD at least 90 days in advance of the starting date of the meeting, conference, or legislative seminar. The request must demonstrate that:

- the proposed presentation topic(s) focus on best practices for providing services and supports to individuals with developmental disabilities and/or directly promote self-advocacy and self-determination;
- the proposed presentation will be consistent with the mission, philosophical principles, goals, and/or objectives of the Council;
- the philosophy of the sponsoring organization is consistent with the mission and philosophical principles of the Council.

Limitations

It is **not** the intent of the Council that these funds be used for weekend retreats, summer family camps or similar recreation activities.

- Conference speaker applications will be considered only for in-state conferences, workshops, and seminars and will not be considered for organization board meetings.
- Grants for conference speakers are intended to assist organizations sponsoring a conference, workshop, or seminar to promote change so that all people with disabilities are fully included in their communities and exercise control over their own lives.

- The organization applying for funds for conference speakers must be a sponsoring organization of the meeting, conference, workshop, or seminar.
- TCDD funds for conference speakers may be used for transportation, meals, and lodging for speakers as well as speaker fees.
- Funds are limited to not more than \$6,000 per event except for events with multiple sponsoring organizations in which case funds are limited to not more than \$7,500 per event.
- An organization may not receive more than one award annually during the period June 1 – May 31, with the exception that TCDD may consider more than one conference speaker application annually when the event is a national conference hosted by the state affiliate in Texas.
- Documentation and receipts will be required for all expenditures.

Products

- Program report summarizing the results and benefits of the activity.

Terms

- Organizations that receive funds will be responsible for complying with all rules and procedures of the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities.
- Obligations must be liquidated within 30 days of the meeting, conference, workshop, or legislative seminar.
- A minimum of 10% matching funds as a share of direct costs are required.
- Funds are limited to one \$6,000 conference speaker grant per organization, per year, for one in-state meeting, conference, or workshop except for events with multiple co-sponsor organizations.
- If two or more organizations jointly sponsor a single event, each organization is eligible for a conference speaker grant for that event if they have not received a separate conference speaker grant during that annual period. No one organization may receive more than \$6,000 for a jointly sponsored event. If multiple applications are submitted for the same event by co-sponsoring organizations, funds are limited to not more than \$7,500 for *all* conference speaker grants awarded for that event.

Application and Submission Process

- To obtain the required stipend information, please review the [TCDD Assurances](#) and check the “accept” box if in agreement to indicate an intent to comply with the stated requirements. The complete application can then be downloaded.
- Submit one hard copy with original signatures by hand or mail to TCDD's physical office at 6201 East Oltorf, Suite 600, Austin, Texas, 78741-7509. Direct proposals to the attention of (name). Faxed proposals cannot be accepted.
- Also, submit one electronic copy at the same time the hard copies are submitted. Address electronic copies to first.last@tcdd.state.tx.us.

Exceptions

- TCDD reserves the right to waive limitations on this RFP on an individual or case-by-case basis based on the merits of the proposal submitted.

CONFERENCE SPEAKER SUPPORT APPLICATIONS: Review Guide

1. Conference / Event Sponsor Organization:
Name:
City:
Executive Director/CEO:
Event Coordinator:
Website:
2. Conference / Event Title:
3. Date(s) of Event:
4. Date Application Received:
5. Received 90 Days in Advance? _____Yes _____No
6. Proposed Speaker(s) and Topic(s)

7. Target audience for conference / event participants:

8. Is the proposed presentation likely to positively impact conference participants?

9. Is the overall mission/purpose of the sponsor organization consistent with the mission and philosophical principles of TCDD?

10. Does the proposed presentation topic focus on best practices in providing services and supports to individuals with developmental disabilities and/or promote self-advocacy and self-determination?

11. Does the proposed presentation promote inclusion of persons with DD?

Other Information Items:

12. Are there public policy implications with the proposed topic(s) or related to the event/sponsor?

13. Has TCDD coordinated with the sponsor organization previously? If so, how?

Background:

Minutes of the May 3, 2012, Project Development Committee meeting are included for your review.

**Project Development
Committee**

Agenda Item 3.

Expected Action:

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

TEXAS COUNCIL FOR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
PROJECT DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, MAY 3, 2012

DRAFT MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Susan Vardell, Chair	Andrew Crim	Diana Kern
Dana Perry, Vice Chair	Mary Durheim	Scott McAvoy
Kimberly Blackmon	Kathy Griffis-Bailey	Cindy Swain, TEA
Gladys Cortez	Jeff Kaufman	David Taylor

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Kristine Clark	John C. Morris
----------------	----------------

GUESTS PRESENT

Gina Fuller – Attendant	Eric Jacobson, Georgia DD Council
-------------------------	-----------------------------------

STAFF PRESENT

Martha Cantu	Melissa Loe
Joanna Cordry	Koren Vogel
Sonya Hosey	

CALL TO ORDER

The Project Development Committee met on Thursday, May 3, 2012, in the Majestic 6 room at the Sheraton Dallas Hotel, 400 North Olive, Dallas, Texas 75201. Chair Susan Vardell called the meeting to order at 1:50 p.m. A quorum was present.

1. INTRODUCTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS, STAFF AND VISITORS

Committee members, staff and guests were introduced.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were offered.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Committee reviewed minutes of the February 9, 2012, Committee meeting.

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the February 9, 2012, Project Development Committee meeting minutes as presented.

MADE BY: Andrew Crim

SECOND: Dana Perry

The motion **passed** unanimously.

4. CHAIR'S REPORT

Committee Chair Susan Vardell reviewed discussions of the Executive Committee about the need to focus on the steady development of projects corresponding to the goals and objectives in the State Plan.

5. GRANTS AND PROJECTS REPORT

A. Staff Activities Report

A. Communications Report

Communication Coordinator Melissa Loe presented the Public information report and discussed the proposed public education campaign on accessible parking that will be reviewed with the Public Policy Committee. The Committee supported “accessible parking” as topic for public education campaign to meet State Plan Goal 3, Objective 1.

B. Planning Report

Planning Coordinator Joanna Cordry reviewed TCDD State Plan technical revisions. Cordry provided status of future project development activities; bidder’s conferences; Requests for Proposals; and proposed Executive Summaries to be considered by the Committee at the next meeting.

C. Grants Report

Grants Management Director Sonya Hosey reviewed grants and project reports. The Committee agreed to have at least 2-3 committee members to follow the status of the enabling technology projects. Andy Crim, John Morris, and Scott McAvoy volunteered. Hosey reported that the Arc of Gulf Coast declined a TCDD grant award for a Leadership Development and Advocacy project, citing changes in staff and leadership.

D. Projected Available funds

Operations Director Martha Cantu reviewed the TCDD Quarterly Financial Report including the Summary of Funds for FY 2009-2012; FY 2011 Expense Budgets; Current Grants and Contracts Projections; and Stipends Expenditures.

6. MEMBER UPDATES

The Committee received reports from Council members Dana Perry, Susan Vardell, Diana Kern, and Scott McAvoy about advocacy-related activities in which they have been involved. Perry reported that her involvement with TCDD informs her volunteer work with Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA); Vardell reported on the success of her son’s Microboard; Kern reported volunteer involvement with SafePlace; and McAvoy reported on his involvement on the Culture Change Coalition supporting families and communities.

7. REAL COMMUNITIES INITIATIVES PRESENTATION

The Committee discussed the Real Communities Initiatives presentation to the Committee of the Whole by Eric Jacobson from the Georgia DD Council.

8. REVIEW OF PUBLIC INPUT TO THE COUNCIL

The Committee discussed the Council’s Cultural Barriers Forum held on Wednesday, May 2, 2012. The Committee also discussed activities to potentially address public comments, noting several strategies such as conducting outreach and building the capacity of communities to serve people who have been identified as being unserved and/or underserved.

9. STATE PLAN IMPLEMENTATION AND FUTURE FUNDING ACTIVITIES

The Committee reviewed progress made on State Plan Goals and Objectives and action to be taken in the next 3-6 months.

A. Building Community Capacity through Collaboration

The Committee reviewed and approved the Executive Summary “Building Community Capacity through Collaboration” to meet Goal 5, Objective 2 of the TCDD FY 2012-2016 State Plan. The Committee approved \$75,000 per grant project, for up to 4 projects, for up to 18 months for activities to help communities develop a plan that will be submitted to TCDD. Upon submission of a plan, each grantee will be eligible to apply for grant awards of up to \$150,000 per year for up to 5 years to implement their plan.

MOTION: To fund the two-phase “Building Community Capacity through Collaboration” project, with funding for Phase 1 up to \$75,000 per grant up to 4 grants for up to 18 months; and funding for Phase 2 up to \$150,000 per year for up to 4 grants, for up to 5 years.

MADE BY: Gladys Cortez

SECOND: Dana Perry

The motion **passed** unanimously.

B. Outreach and Development Projects

The Committee agreed to again consider proposals for the five remaining Outreach and Development Projects, for up to \$10,000 per project per year for up to one year.

C. Support for Community Leaders to Build Informal Supports

The Committee discussed the Support for Community Leaders to Build Informal Supports, but there was no further action.

D. Support of Self-Advocates at Texas Conferences

The Committee reviewed and approved the Executive Summary “Promotion of Self-Advocacy of Texas Conferences” to meet State Plan Goal 6, Objective 2. There were three approved parts: (1) to support organizations hosting conferences to have self-advocates as presenters for up to \$125,000 for 1 project for up to four years; (2) to provide stipends to organizations hosting conferences to support plenary speakers for up to \$75,000 per year and any one event per organization may receive up to \$7,500; and (3) to sponsor concurrent sessions or tracks at conferences for up to \$75,000 per year total, with any one event receiving no more than \$7,500.

MOTION: To approve self-advocates as conference speakers.

MADE BY: Andrew Crim

SECOND: Diana Kern

The motion **passed** without opposition; Andrew Crim and David Taylor abstained.

E. Other Ideas

Crim made a few suggestions for possible future projects including consideration of contracting with HHS to add volunteer community organizations to the 211 network. Committee members and Council staff are aware of three statewide systems that provide assistance used to identify and locate community resource: 211; the Texas A&M Directory of Community Resources; and OneStar Foundation’s Texas Connector (not yet released publicly). Crim also suggested encouraging the Texas Education

Agency to obtain data on the percentage of ARD meetings conducted without students or parents present; developing a self-advocacy speaker's bureau; and developing a curriculum and demonstration for self-employment to be delivered to other school districts.

10. FUTURE PROJECT FUNDING PRIORITIES

The Committee reviewed and agreed to add #8: Building Community Capacity and #9: Support for Self-Advocates as Speakers activities to the Future Funding Activities Priorities List. All other items on the list will remain the same.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Chair Susan Vardell adjourned the meeting at 4:51 PM.

Roger A. Webb, Secretary to the Council

Date

Background:

The quarterly Grants and Projects Report is enclosed for review by Committee members. TCDD staff may also provide updates to the Committee of notable achievement or items of concern. Items included in this report are:

- TCDD Projects Training Schedule – This calendar of training events planned by TCDD grant projects during the next six months is included as general information for Committee and Council members.
- Grant Project Highlights – The quarterly Grant Project Highlights Report is enclosed for review by Committee members. This report provides highlights of grantee accomplishments for a number of current TCDD funded projects. Different grantees are highlighted each quarter.

**Project Development
Committee**

Agenda Item 5. C.

Expected Action:

No action anticipated; information item only.

Council

Agenda Item 14. A.

Expected Action:

The Council will review discussions on this item. No action is anticipated.

TCDD Projects' Training Schedule

July 2012 – January 2013

July

- | | |
|------|---|
| 2 | Imagine Enterprises
Training with Mentors
Not Without Us! Center for Independent Living
3305 North Third Street, Suite 320 (Abilene)
10:00am-12:00pm
Contact Stacey Levrets at (325) 518-0800
Closed to Public
Free |
| 5 | Brighton Center
Building Bridges Curriculum: Developing Advocacy Skills
Parents Alliance for Learning and Support (PALS) Advocacy Training
One for Autism (Class 1 of 4)
265 E. Lullwood (San Antonio)
6:30pm-8:00pm
Contact Manny Garcia at (210) 826-4492
Open to Public – Limited to 15 participants
Free |
| 5 | Brighton Center
Building Bridges Curriculum: Developing Advocacy Skills
Parents Alliance for Learning and Support (PALS) Advocacy Training
New Braunfels Kids Club (Class 1 of 4)
169 South Hickory (New Braunfels)
6:30pm-8:00pm
Contact Dot O'Donnell at (210) 826-4492
Open to Public
Free |
| 9 | Epilepsy Foundation of Texas
Get FIT Workshop
Epilepsy Foundation
2630 Fountain View, Suite 210 (Houston)
6:00pm-8:00pm
Contact Myeshi Briley at (713) 789-6295
Open to Individuals with Disabilities ages 18 and up
Free |
| 9-10 | Region 17 Education Service Center
Lamesa Middle School Schoolwide Positive Behavior Intervention Strategies Training
Lamesa ISD, Lamesa Middle Schools
South 1 st & Bryan (Lamesa)
9:00am-4:00pm
Contact Val Meixner at (806) 281-5879
Open to Lamesa Middle School Faculty and Staff Only – Registration Required
Free |

If you are interested in attending any of the events listed,
please contact Cynthia Ellison at 512-437-5436.

July

- 9-19 VSA Arts of Texas**
Summer Camp 3
3710 Cedar St. Room 101 (Austin)
10:00am-2:00pm
Contact April Sullivan at (512) 323-6626 or april@vsatx.org
Open to the Young Adults with Disabilities age 15 and Older
Cost: \$350
- 12 Brighton Center**
Building Bridges Curriculum: Special Education Law
Parents Alliance for Learning and Support (PALS) Advocacy Training
One for Autism (Class 2 of 4)
265 E. Lullwood (San Antonio)
6:30pm-8:00pm
Contact Manny Garcia at (210) 826-4492
Open to Public – Limited to 15 participants
Free
- 12 Brighton Center**
Building Bridges Curriculum: Special Education Law
Parents Alliance for Learning and Support (PALS) Advocacy Training
New Braunfels Kids Club (Class 2 of 4)
169 South Hickory (New Braunfels)
6:30pm-8:00pm
Contact Dot O'Donnell at (210) 826-4492
Open to Public
Free
- 13 Paso del Norte Children's Development Center**
Mentor's Meeting
People First Language
Region 19 Service Center
6611 Boeing (El Paso)
10:00am-12:30pm
Contact Tania Alvarez at (915) 544-8484 ext. 201
Closed to the Public
Free
- 14 Texas Parent to Parent**
Advocacy Training
Chase Oaks Church
281 Legacy Drive (Plano)
9:00am-4:00pm
Contact Linda Litzinger at (512) 922-3810 or linda.litzinger@txp2p.org
Open to Parents, Self-Advocates and Caregivers
Free
- 16 Imagine Enterprises**
Training with Mentors
Not Without Us! Center for Independent Living
3305 North Third Street, Suite 320 (Abilene)
10:00am-12:00pm
Contact Stacey Levrets at (325) 518-0800
Closed to Public
Free

If you are interested in attending any of the events listed,
please contact Cynthia Ellison at 512-437-5436.

July

- 17** **Epilepsy Foundation of Texas**
Get FIT Workshop
Epilepsy Foundation
10615 Perrin Beitel, Suite 602 (San Antonio)
5:30pm-7:30pm
Contact Myeshi Briley at (713) 789-6295
Open to Individuals with Disabilities ages 18 and up
Free
- 19** **VSA Arts of Texas**
Arts and Disability Discussion Group
3701 Guadalupe St. (Austin)
11:30am-1:00pm
Contact April Sullivan at (512) 323-6626 or april@vsatx.org
Open to the Public – RSVP required
Free
- 19** **Brighton Center**
Building Bridges Curriculum: The Pre-ARD (Effective Communication)
Parents Alliance for Learning and Support (PALS) Advocacy Training
One for Autism (Class 3 of 4)
265 E. Lullwood (San Antonio)
6:30pm-8:00pm
Contact Manny Garcia at (210) 826-4492
Open to Public – Limited to 15 participants
Free
- 19** **Brighton Center**
Building Bridges Curriculum: The Pre-ARD (Effective Communication)
Parents Alliance for Learning and Support (PALS) Advocacy Training
New Braunfels Kids Club (Class 3 of 4)
169 South Hickory (New Braunfels)
6:30pm-8:00pm
Contact Dot O'Donnell at (210) 826-4492
Open to Public
Free
- 19** **Epilepsy Foundation of Texas**
Get FIT Workshop
Fallbrook Church
12512 Walters Road, Main Building – Brook Zone (Houston)
7:00pm-8:00pm
Contact Myeshi Briley at (713) 789-6295
Open to Individuals with Disabilities ages 18 and up
Free
- 23** **Texas Parent to Parent**
Advocacy Training (coinciding with a Senate hearing the next day)
Legislative Conference Center of the Texas Capital
1100 Congress Avenue (Austin)
10:00am-1:30pm
Contact Linda Litzinger at (512) 922-3810 or linda.litzinger@txp2p.org
Open to Parents, Self-Advocates, and Caregivers
Free

If you are interested in attending any of the events listed,
please contact Cynthia Ellison at 512-437-5436.

July

- 26 Brighton Center**
Building Bridges Curriculum: The ARD Process (Evaluation, IEP, Placement)
Parents Alliance for Learning and Support (PALS) Advocacy Training
One for Autism (Class 4 of 4)
265 E. Lullwood (San Antonio)
6:30pm-8:00pm
Contact Manny Garcia at (210) 826-4492
Open to Public – Limited to 15 participants
Free
- 26 Brighton Center**
Building Bridges Curriculum: The ARD Process (Evaluation, IEP, Placement)
Parents Alliance for Learning and Support (PALS) Advocacy Training
New Braunfels Kids Club (Class 4 of 4)
169 South Hickory (New Braunfels)
6:30pm-8:00pm
Contact Dot O'Donnell at (210) 826-4492
Open to Public
Free
- 26-27 Region 17 Education Service Center**
Conscious Discipline
Region 17 ESC
1111 West Loop 289 (Lubbock)
9:00am-4:00pm
Contact Anna Phillips at (806) 281-5891
Open to Public – Registration Required
Free
- 27 Paso del Norte Children's Development Center**
Mentor's Meeting
Communication Skills
Region 19 Service Center
6611 Boeing (El Paso)
10:00am-12:30pm
Contact Tania Alvarez at (915) 544-8484 ext. 201
Closed to the Public
Free
- 27-29 Texas Advocates Round Up!**
Conference
Hilton DFW Lakes Hotel
1800 Highway 26 East (Grapevine)
3:00pm Friday – 9:30am Sunday
Contact Shaun Bickley at (512) 454-6694 ext. 7747
Open to Public (registration required)
Cost: \$86 or \$75 with stipend

If you are interested in attending any of the events listed,
please contact Cynthia Ellison at 512-437-5436.

August

- 2 Brighton Center**
Building Bridges Curriculum: Developing Advocacy Skills
Parents Alliance for Learning and Support (PALS) Advocacy Training
One for Autism (Class 1 of 4)
265 E. Lullwood (San Antonio)
6:30pm-8:00pm
Contact PALS Coordinator at (210) 826-4492
Open to Public – Limited to 15 participants
Free
- 2 Brighton Center**
Building Bridges Curriculum: Developing Advocacy Skills
Parents Alliance for Learning and Support (PALS) Advocacy Training
New Braunfels Kids Club (Class 1 of 4)
169 South Hickory (New Braunfels)
6:30pm-8:00pm
Contact PALS Coordinator at (210) 826-4492
Open to Public
Free
- 3 Paso del Norte Children’s Development Center**
Medicaid Health Steps
Region 19 Service Center
6611 Boeing (El Paso)
8:00am-5:00pm
Contact Tania Alvarez at (915) 544-8484 ext. 201
Open to the Public
Free
- 7-8 Region 17 Education Service Center**
Pre-K Core Positive Behavior Intervention Strategies for South Plains Community
Action Association (SPCAA)
SPCAA
411 Austin Street (Lubbock)
9:00am-4:00pm
Contact Anna Phillips at (806) 281-5891
Open to Staff Only
Free
- 9 Region 17 Education Service Center**
Positive Behavior Intervention Strategies School-wide Boot Camp
Region 17 ESC
1111 West Loop 289 (Lubbock)
9:00am-4:00pm
Contact Val Meixner at (806) 281-5879
Open to Public – Registration Required
Free

If you are interested in attending any of the events listed,
please contact Cynthia Ellison at 512-437-5436.

August

- 9 Brighton Center**
Building Bridges Curriculum: Special Education Law
Parents Alliance for Learning and Support (PALS) Advocacy Training
One for Autism (Class 2 of 4)
265 E. Lullwood (San Antonio)
6:30pm-8:00pm
Contact PALS Coordinator at (210) 826-4492
Open to Public – Limited to 15 participants
Free
- 9 Brighton Center**
Building Bridges Curriculum: Special Education Law
Parents Alliance for Learning and Support (PALS) Advocacy Training
New Braunfels Kids Club (Class 2 of 4)
169 South Hickory (New Braunfels)
6:30pm-8:00pm
Contact PALS Coordinator at (210) 826-4492
Open to Public
Free
- 9-10 Arc of Texas**
PATH (Planning Alternative Tomorrows with Hope) Training
Arc of Texas
8001 Centre Park Drive, Suite 100 (Austin)
9:00am-4:00pm
Contact Amy Stabeno (512) 454-6694 ext. 7753
Open to Public – Registration Required
Cost: \$250 or \$50 with stipend
- 10 Paso del Norte Children's Development Center**
Mentor's Meeting
Facilitation Intervention Options for an ARD
Presenter: Juan Alderete
Region 19 Service Center
6611 Boeing (El Paso)
10:00am-12:00pm
Contact Tania Alvarez at (915) 544-8484 ext. 201
Closed to the Public
Free
- 13 Epilepsy Foundation of Texas**
Get FIT Workshop
Epilepsy Foundation
2630 Fountain View, Suite 210 (Houston)
6:00pm-8:00pm
Contact Myeshi Briley at (713) 789-6295
Open to Individuals with Disabilities ages 18 and up
Free

If you are interested in attending any of the events listed,
please contact Cynthia Ellison at 512-437-5436.

August

- 13-14** **Region 17 Education Service Center**
Plainview Coronado School-wide Positive Behavior Intervention Strategies Training
Plainview ISD, Coronado Junior High Campus
2501 Joliet Street (Plainview)
9:00am-4:00pm
Contact Val Meixner at (806) 289-5879
Open to Plainview Coronado School Faculty and Staff Only – Registration Required
Free
- 15** **Region 17 Education Service Center**
Teaching on the Flipside: Strategies for Alternative Settings
Region 17 ESC
1111 West Loop 289 (Lubbock)
9:00am-4:00pm
Contact Val Meixner at (806) 289-5879
Open to the Public – Registration Required
Free
- 16** **Texas Parent to Parent**
Advocacy Training Specifically for Advocates in their Teens and Twenties
Legislative Conference Center of the Texas Capital
1100 Congress Avenue (Austin)
9:30am-4:00pm
Contact Linda Litzinger at (512) 922-3810 or linda.litzinger@txp2p.org
Open to Advocates, Attendants, and Family Members
Free
- 16** **Epilepsy Foundation of Texas**
Get FIT Workshop
Fallbrook Church
12512 Walters Road, Main Building – Brook Zone (Houston)
7:00pm-8:00pm
Contact Myeshi Briley at (713) 789-6295
Open to Individuals with Disabilities ages 18 and up
Free
- 16** **VSA Arts of Texas**
Arts and Disability Discussion Group
3701 Guadalupe St. (Austin)
11:30am-1:00pm
Contact April Sullivan at (512) 323-6626 or april@vsatx.org
Open to the Public – RSVP required
Free
- 16** **Brighton Center**
Building Bridges Curriculum: The Pre-ARD (Effective Communication)
Parents Alliance for Learning and Support (PALS) Advocacy Training
One for Autism (Class 3 of 4)
265 E. Lullwood (San Antonio)
6:30pm-8:00pm
Contact PALS Coordinator at (210) 826-4492
Open to Public – Limited to 15 participants
Free

If you are interested in attending any of the events listed,
please contact Cynthia Ellison at 512-437-5436.

August

- 16 Brighton Center**
Building Bridges Curriculum: The Pre-ARD (Effective Communication)
Parents Alliance for Learning and Support (PALS) Advocacy Training
New Braunfels Kids Club (Class 3 of 4)
169 South Hickory (New Braunfels)
6:30pm-8:00pm
Contact PALS Coordinator at (210) 826-4492
Open to Public
Free
- 16-17 Region 17 Education Service Center**
Crosbyton Elementary School-wide Positive Behavior Intervention Strategies Training
Crosbyton ISD, Elementary Campus
204 South Harrison Street (Crosbyton)
9:00am-4:00pm
Contact Val Meixner at (806) 281-5879
Open to Crosbyton Elementary Faculty and Staff Only – Registration Required
Free
- 20-21 Region 17 Education Service Center**
Wilson ISD School-wide Positive Behavior Intervention Strategies Training
Wilson ISD
1411 Green Avenue (Wilson)
9:00am-4:00pm
Contact Val Meixner at (806) 281-5879
Open to Wilson ISD Faculty and Staff Only – Registration Required
Free
- 21 Epilepsy Foundation of Texas**
Get FIT Workshop
Epilepsy Foundation
10615 Perrin Beitel, Suite 602 (San Antonio)
5:30pm-7:30pm
Contact Myeshi Briley at (713) 789-6295
Open to Individuals with Disabilities ages 18 and up
Free
- 21 Brighton Center**
Building Bridges Community Partner Training
New Braunfels Head Start
Location TBD (New Braunfels)
8:30am-1:30pm
Contact PALS Coordinator at (210) 826-4492
Closed Training for Head Start Staff Only
Free
- 23 Brighton Center**
Building Bridges Curriculum: The ARD Process (Evaluation, IEP, Placement)
Parents Alliance for Learning and Support (PALS) Advocacy Training
One for Autism (Class 4 of 4)
265 E. Lullwood (San Antonio)
6:30pm-8:00pm
Contact PALS Coordinator at (210) 826-4492
Open to Public – Limited to 15 participants
Free

If you are interested in attending any of the events listed,
please contact Cynthia Ellison at 512-437-5436.

August

- 23 Brighton Center**
Building Bridges Curriculum: The ARD Process (Evaluation, IEP, Placement)
Parents Alliance for Learning and Support (PALS) Advocacy Training
New Braunfels Kids Club (Class 4 of 4)
169 South Hickory (New Braunfels)
6:30pm-8:00pm
Contact PALS Coordinator at (210) 826-4492
Open to Public
Free
- 24 Region 17 Education Service Center**
South Plains Academy Behavioral Response to Intervention in Secondary Settings
South Plains Academy
4008 Avenue R (Lubbock)
9:00am-4:00pm
Contact Val Meixner at (806) 281-5879
Open to South Plains Academy Faculty and Staff Only – Registration Required
Free
- 24 Brighton Center**
Building Bridges Community Partner Training
Juvenile Justice Academy
1402 N. Hackberry (San Antonio)
8:30am-1:30pm
Contact PALS Coordinator at (210) 826-4492
Closed Training for Juvenile Justice Academy Staff
Free
- 24 Paso del Norte Children’s Development Center**
Advocacy Skills: Parents Need to Understand the Meaning of Special Education Services
Presenter: Isabel Olague
Region 19 Service Center
6611 Boeing (El Paso)
10:00am-12:00pm
Contact Tania Alvarez at (915) 544-8484 ext. 201
Open to the Public
Free
- 30 Brighton Center**
Building Bridges Curriculum: Developing Advocacy Skills
Parents Alliance for Learning and Support (PALS) Advocacy Training
One for Autism (Class 1 of 4)
265 E. Lullwood (San Antonio)
6:30pm-8:00pm
Contact PALS Coordinator at (210) 826-4492
Open to Public – Limited to 15 participants
Free

If you are interested in attending any of the events listed,
please contact Cynthia Ellison at 512-437-5436.

August

30 Brighton Center
Building Bridges Curriculum: Developing Advocacy Skills
Parents Alliance for Learning and Support (PALS) Advocacy Training
New Braunfels Kids Club (Class 1 of 4)
169 South Hickory (New Braunfels)
6:30pm-8:00pm
Contact PALS Coordinator at (210) 826-4492
Open to Public
Free

September

4 Brighton Center
Building Bridges Curriculum: Developing Advocacy Skills
Parents Alliance for Learning and Support (PALS) Advocacy Training
Class 1 of 4
3823 Fortuna CT (San Antonio)
8:30am-10:30am
Contact PALS Coordinator at (210) 826-4492
Open to Families within the Edgewood School District
Free

6 Brighton Center
Building Bridges Curriculum: Special Education Law
Parents Alliance for Learning and Support (PALS) Advocacy Training
One for Autism (Class 2 of 4)
265 E. Lullwood (San Antonio)
6:30pm-8:00pm
Contact PALS Coordinator at (210) 826-4492
Open to Public – Limited to 15 participants
Free

6 Brighton Center
Building Bridges Curriculum: Special Education Law
Parents Alliance for Learning and Support (PALS) Advocacy Training
New Braunfels Kids Club (Class 2 of 4)
169 South Hickory (New Braunfels)
6:30pm-8:00pm
Contact PALS Coordinator at (210) 826-4492
Open to Public
Free

7 Paso del Norte Children's Development Center
How to Create Portfolios for Children with Special Needs
Region 19 Service Center
6611 Boeing (El Paso)
10:00am-12:00pm
Contact Tania Alvarez at (915) 544-8484 ext. 201
Open to the Public
Free

If you are interested in attending any of the events listed,
please contact Cynthia Ellison at 512-437-5436.

September

- 10** **Epilepsy Foundation of Texas**
Get FIT Workshop
Epilepsy Foundation
2630 Fountain View, Suite 210 (Houston)
6:00pm-7:00pm
Contact Myeshi Briley at (713) 789-6295
Open to Individuals with Disabilities ages 18 and up
Free
- 11** **Brighton Center**
Building Bridges Curriculum: Special Education Law/504
Parents Alliance for Learning and Support (PALS) Advocacy Training
Class 2 of 4
3823 Fortuna CT (San Antonio)
8:30am-10:30am
Contact PALS Coordinator at (210) 826-4492
Open to Families within the Edgewood School District
Free
- 13** **Brighton Center**
Building Bridges Curriculum: The Pre-ARD (Effective Communication)
Parents Alliance for Learning and Support (PALS) Advocacy Training
One for Autism (Class 3 of 4)
265 E. Lullwood (San Antonio)
6:30pm-8:00pm
Contact PALS Coordinator at (210) 826-4492
Open to Public – Limited to 15 participants
Free
- 13** **Brighton Center**
Building Bridges Curriculum: The Pre-ARD (Effective Communication)
Parents Alliance for Learning and Support (PALS) Advocacy Training
New Braunfels Kids Club (Class 3 of 4)
169 South Hickory (New Braunfels)
6:30pm-8:00pm
Contact PALS Coordinator at (210) 826-4492
Open to Public
Free
- 14** **Region 17 Education Service Center**
Dr. Rebecca Isbell – Inclusive Learning Environments
Region 17 ESC
1111 West Loop 289 (Lubbock)
9:00am-4:00pm
Contact Anna Phillips at (806) 281-5891
Open to Public – Registration Required
Free
- 14** **Paso del Norte Children's Development Center**
Assistive Technology Vendor Fair Presentation
Region 19 Service Center
6611 Boeing (El Paso)
10:00am-2:00pm
Contact Fred Grommand at (915) 544-8484 ext. 209
Open to the Public
Free

If you are interested in attending any of the events listed,
please contact Cynthia Ellison at 512-437-5436.

September

- 18** **Epilepsy Foundation of Texas**
Get FIT Workshop
Epilepsy Foundation
10615 Perrin Beitel, Suite 602 (San Antonio)
5:30pm-7:30pm
Contact Myeshi Briley at (713) 789-6295
Open to Individuals with Disabilities ages 18 and up
Free
- 18** **Brighton Center**
Building Bridges Curriculum: The Pre-ARD Process (Effective Communication)
Parents Alliance for Learning and Support (PALS) Advocacy Training
Class 3 of 4
3823 Fortuna CT (San Antonio)
8:30am-10:30am
Contact PALS Coordinator at (210) 826-4492
Open to Families within the Edgewood School District
Free
- 20** **Epilepsy Foundation of Texas**
Get FIT Workshop
Fallbrook Church
12512 Walters Road, Main Building – Brook Zone (Houston)
7:00pm-8:00pm
Contact Myeshi Briley at (713) 789-6295
Open to Individuals with Disabilities ages 18 and up
Free
- 20** **Brighton Center**
Building Bridges Curriculum: The ARD Process (Evaluation, IEP, Placement)
Parents Alliance for Learning and Support (PALS) Advocacy Training
One for Autism (Class 4 of 4)
265 E. Lullwood (San Antonio)
6:30pm-8:00pm
Contact PALS Coordinator at (210) 826-4492
Open to Public – Limited to 15 participants
Free
- 20** **Brighton Center**
Building Bridges Curriculum: The ARD Process (Evaluation, IEP, Placement)
Parents Alliance for Learning and Support (PALS) Advocacy Training
New Braunfels Kids Club (Class 4 of 4)
169 South Hickory (New Braunfels)
6:30pm-8:00pm
Contact PALS Coordinator at (210) 826-4492
Open to Public
Free
- 20** **VSA Arts of Texas**
Arts and Disability Discussion Group
3701 Guadalupe St. (Austin)
11:30am-1:00pm
Contact April Sullivan at (512) 323-6626 or april@vsatx.org
Open to the Public – RSVP required
Free

If you are interested in attending any of the events listed,
please contact Cynthia Ellison at 512-437-5436.

September

- 21 Paso del Norte Children's Development Center**
Emergency Preparedness
Presenter: Gilda Lopez
Region 19 Service Center
6611 Boeing (El Paso)
10:00am-12:00pm
Contact Tania Alvarez at (915) 544-8484 ext. 201
Open to the Public
Free
- 25 Brighton Center**
Building Bridges Curriculum: The ARD Process (Evaluation, IEP, Placement)
Parents Alliance for Learning and Support (PALS) Advocacy Training
Class 4 of 4
3823 Fortuna CT (San Antonio)
8:30am-10:30am
Contact PALS Coordinator at (210) 826-4492
Open to Families within the Edgewood School District
Free
- 27 Brighton Center**
Building Bridges Curriculum: Developing Advocacy Skills
Parents Alliance for Learning and Support (PALS) Advocacy Training
One for Autism (Class 1 of 4)
265 E. Lullwood (San Antonio)
6:30pm-8:00pm
Contact PALS Coordinator at (210) 826-4492
Open to Public – Limited to 15 participants
Free
- 27 Brighton Center**
Building Bridges Curriculum: Developing Advocacy Skills
Parents Alliance for Learning and Support (PALS) Advocacy Training
New Braunfels Kids Club (Class 1 of 4)
169 South Hickory (New Braunfels)
6:30pm-8:00pm
Contact PALS Coordinator at (210) 826-4492
Open to Public
Free
- TBD Brighton Center**
Self-Determination Training
Parents Alliance for Learning and Support (PALS) Advocacy Training
Edgewood ISD
4415 Monterrey St. (San Antonio)
Time TBD
Contact PALS Coordinator at (210) 826-4492
Closed Group
Free

If you are interested in attending any of the events listed,
please contact Cynthia Ellison at 512-437-5436.

October

- 4** **Brighton Center**
Building Bridges Curriculum: Special Education Law
Parents Alliance for Learning and Support (PALS) Advocacy Training
One for Autism (Class 2 of 4)
265 E. Lullwood (San Antonio)
6:30pm-8:00pm
Contact PALS Coordinator at (210) 826-4492
Open to Public – Limited to 15 participants
Free
- 4** **Brighton Center**
Building Bridges Curriculum: Special Education Law
Parents Alliance for Learning and Support (PALS) Advocacy Training
New Braunfels Kids Club (Class 2 of 4)
169 South Hickory (New Braunfels)
6:30pm-8:00pm
Contact PALS Coordinator at (210) 826-4492
Open to Public
Free
- 5** **Paso del Norte Children’s Development Center**
Parents Rights & Procedural Safeguards
Presenter: Juan Alderete
Region 19 Service Center
6611 Boeing (El Paso)
10:00am-12:00pm
Contact Tania Alvarez at (915) 544-8484 ext. 201
Open to the Public
Free
- 8** **Epilepsy Foundation of Texas**
Get FIT Workshop
Epilepsy Foundation
2630 Fountain View, Suite 210 (Houston)
6:00pm-8:00pm
Contact Myeshi Briley at (713) 789-6295
Open to Individuals with Disabilities ages 18 and up
Free
- 9** **Brighton Center**
ARD Clinic: Special Education 101
Parents Alliance for Learning and Support (PALS) Advocacy Training
Arc of San Antonio
13430 West Ave. (San Antonio)
9:00am-11:00am
Contact Dot O’Donnell at (210) 826-4492
Open to Public
Free

If you are interested in attending any of the events listed,
please contact Cynthia Ellison at 512-437-5436.

October

- 10-11 Arc of Texas**
PATH (Planning Alternative Tomorrows with Hope) Training
Old Socorro ISD Admin Building
12300 East Lake (El Paso)
9:00am-4:00pm
Contact Amy Stabeno (512) 454-6694 x 7753
Open to Public – Registration Required
Cost: \$250 or \$50 with stipend
- 11 Brighton Center**
Building Bridges Curriculum: The Pre-ARD Process (Effective Communication)
Parents Alliance for Learning and Support (PALS) Advocacy Training
One for Autism (Class 3 of 4)
265 E. Lullwood (San Antonio)
6:30pm-8:00pm
Contact PALS Coordinator at (210) 826-4492
Open to Public – Limited to 15 participants
Free
- 11 Brighton Center**
Building Bridges Curriculum: The Pre-ARD (Effective Communication)
Parents Alliance for Learning and Support (PALS) Advocacy Training
New Braunfels Kids Club (Class 3 of 4)
169 South Hickory (New Braunfels)
6:30pm-8:00pm
Contact PALS Coordinator at (210) 826-4492
Open to Public
Free
- 16 Epilepsy Foundation of Texas**
Get FIT Workshop
Epilepsy Foundation
10615 Perrin Beitel, Suite 602 (San Antonio)
5:30pm-7:30pm
Contact Myeshi Briley at (713) 789-6295
Open to Individuals with Disabilities ages 18 and up
Free
- 16 Brighton Center**
Building Bridges Curriculum: Developing Advocacy Skills
Parents Alliance for Learning and Support (PALS) Advocacy Training
Cardenas Head Start (Class 1 of 4)
3300 Ruiz St. (San Antonio)
8:30am-10:30am
Contact PALS Coordinator at (210) 826-4492
Closed to Edgewood ISD Families
Free

If you are interested in attending any of the events listed,
please contact Cynthia Ellison at 512-437-5436.

October

- 17 Brighton Center**
Building Bridges Curriculum: Developing Advocacy Skills
Parents Alliance for Learning and Support (PALS) Advocacy Training
Burlison Head Start (Class 1 of 4)
4415 Monterrey St. (San Antonio)
8:30am-10:30am
Contact PALS Coordinator at (210) 826-4492
Closed to Edgewood ISD Families
Free
- 17 OneStar Foundation**
Inclusive Faith-based Communities Symposium
Dell Jewish Community Center
7300 Hart Lane (Austin)
9:00am-4:00pm
Contact: Suzanne Potts at (512) 287-2043
Free to the Public
- 18 Epilepsy Foundation of Texas**
Get FIT Workshop
Fallbrook Church
12512 Walters Road, Main Building – Brook Zone (Houston)
7:00pm-8:00pm
Contact Myeshi Briley at (713) 789-6295
Open to Individuals with Disabilities ages 18 and up
Free
- 18 Brighton Center**
Building Bridges Curriculum: Developing Advocacy Skills
Parents Alliance for Learning and Support (PALS) Advocacy Training
Stafford Head Start (Class 1 of 4)
611 SW. 36th St. (San Antonio)
8:30am-10:30am
Contact PALS Coordinator at (210) 826-4492
Closed to Edgewood ISD Families
Free
- 18 Brighton Center**
Building Bridges Curriculum: The ARD Process (Evaluation, IEP, Placement)
Parents Alliance for Learning and Support (PALS) Advocacy Training
One for Autism (Class 4 of 4)
265 E. Lullwood (San Antonio)
6:30pm-8:00pm
Contact PALS Coordinator at (210) 826-4492
Open to Public – Limited to 15 participants
Free
- 18 Brighton Center**
Building Bridges Curriculum: The ARD Process (Evaluation, IEP, Placement)
Parents Alliance for Learning and Support (PALS) Advocacy Training
New Braunfels Kids Club (Class 4 of 4)
169 South Hickory (New Braunfels)
6:30pm-8:00pm
Contact PALS Coordinator at (210) 826-4492
Open to Public
Free

If you are interested in attending any of the events listed,
please contact Cynthia Ellison at 512-437-5436.

October

- 18 Brighton Center**
Building Bridges Curriculum: Special Education Law
Parents Alliance for Learning and Support (PALS) Advocacy Training
Cardenas Head Start (Class 1 of 4)
3300 Ruiz St. (San Antonio)
8:30am-10:30am
Contact PALS Coordinator at (210) 826-4492
Closed to Edgewood ISD Families
Free
- 18 VSA Arts of Texas**
Arts and Disability Discussion Group
3701 Guadalupe St. (Austin)
11:30am-1:00pm
Contact April Sullivan at (512) 323-6626 or april@vsatx.org
Open to the Public – RSVP required
Free
- 23 Brighton Center**
Building Bridges Curriculum: Special Education Law
Parents Alliance for Learning and Support (PALS) Advocacy Training
Cardenas Head Start (Class 2 of 4)
3300 Ruiz St. (San Antonio)
8:30am-10:30am
Contact PALS Coordinator at (210) 826-4492
Closed to Edgewood ISD Families
Free
- 24 Brighton Center**
Building Bridges Curriculum: Special Education Law
Parents Alliance for Learning and Support (PALS) Advocacy Training
Burleson Head Start (Class 2 of 4)
4415 Monterrey St. (San Antonio)
8:30am-10:30am
Contact PALS Coordinator at (210) 826-4492
Closed to Edgewood ISD Families
Free
- 25 Brighton Center**
Building Bridges Curriculum: Developing Advocacy Skills
Parents Alliance for Learning and Support (PALS) Advocacy Training
One for Autism (Class 1 of 4)
265 E. Lullwood (San Antonio)
6:30pm-8:00pm
Contact PALS Coordinator at (210) 826-4492
Open to the Public – Limited to 15 participants
Free

If you are interested in attending any of the events listed,
please contact Cynthia Ellison at 512-437-5436.

October

- 25 Brighton Center**
Building Bridges Curriculum: Special Education Law
Parents Alliance for Learning and Support (PALS) Advocacy Training
Stafford Head Start (Class 2 of 4)
611 SW. 36th St. (San Antonio)
8:30am-10:30am
Contact PALS Coordinator at (210) 826-4492
Closed to Edgewood ISD Families
Free
- 26 Paso del Norte Children's Development Center**
Parenting a Child with Special Needs
Presenter: Sandra Gutierrez and Patricia Santibanez, CDIC
Region 19 Service Center
6611 Boeing (El Paso)
10:00am-12:00pm
Contact Tania Alvarez at (915) 544-8484 ext. 201
Open to the Public
Free
- 30 Brighton Center**
Building Bridges Curriculum: The Pre-ARD (Effective Communication)
Parents Alliance for Learning and Support (PALS) Advocacy Training
Cardenas Head Start (Class 3 of 4)
3300 Ruiz St. (San Antonio)
8:30pm-10:30am
Contact PALS Coordinator at (210) 826-4492
Closed to Edgewood ISD Families
Free
- 31 Brighton Center**
Building Bridges Curriculum: The Pre-ARD (Effective Communication)
Parents Alliance for Learning and Support (PALS) Advocacy Training
Burleson Head Start (Class 3 of 4)
4415 Monterrey St. (San Antonio)
8:30am-10:30am
Contact PALS Coordinator at (210) 826-4492
Closed to Edgewood ISD Families
Free
- TBD Brighton Center**
Self-Determination Training
Parents Alliance for Learning and Support (PALS) Advocacy Training
Edgewood ISD
4415 Monterrey St. (San Antonio)
Time TBD
Contact Dot O'Donnell at (210) 826-4492
Closed
Free

If you are interested in attending any of the events listed,
please contact Cynthia Ellison at 512-437-5436.

November

- 1 Brighton Center**
Building Bridges Curriculum: The Pre-ARD (Effective Communication)
Parents Alliance for Learning and Support (PALS) Advocacy Training
Stafford Head Start (Class 3 of 4)
611 SW. 36th St. (San Antonio)
8:30am-10:30am
Contact PALS Coordinator at (210) 826-4492
Closed to Edgewood ISD Families
Free
- 1 Brighton Center**
Building Bridges Curriculum: Special Education Law
Parents Alliance for Learning and Support (PALS) Advocacy Training
One for Autism (Class 2 of 4)
265 E. Lullwood (San Antonio)
6:30pm-8:00pm
Contact PALS Coordinator at (210) 826-4492
Open to the Public – Limited to 15 participants
Free
- 6 Brighton Center**
Building Bridges Curriculum: The ARD Process (Evaluation, IEP, Placement)
Parents Alliance for Learning and Support (PALS) Advocacy Training
Cardenas Head Start (Class 4 of 4)
3300 Ruiz St. (San Antonio)
8:30am-10:30am
Contact PALS Coordinator at (210) 826-4492
Closed to Edgewood ISD Families
Free
- 7 Brighton Center**
Building Bridges Curriculum: The ARD Process (Evaluation, IEP, Placement)
Parents Alliance for Learning and Support (PALS) Advocacy Training
Burleson Head Start (Class 4 of 4)
4415 Monterrey St. (San Antonio)
8:30pm-10:30am
Contact PALS Coordinator at (210) 826-4492
Closed to Edgewood ISD Families
Free
- 8 Brighton Center**
Building Bridges Curriculum: The ARD Process (Evaluation, IEP, Placement)
Parents Alliance for Learning and Support (PALS) Advocacy Training
Stafford Head Start (Class 4 of 4)
611 SW. 36th St. (San Antonio)
8:30am-10:30am
Contact PALS Coordinator at (210) 826-4492
Closed to Edgewood ISD Families
Free

If you are interested in attending any of the events listed,
please contact Cynthia Ellison at 512-437-5436.

November

- 8** **Brighton Center**
Building Bridges Curriculum: The Pre-ARD (Effective Communication)
Parents Alliance for Learning and Support (PALS) Advocacy Training
One for Autism (Class 3 of 4)
265 E. Lullwood (San Antonio)
6:30pm-8:00pm
Contact PALS Coordinator at (210) 826-4492
Open to the Public – Limited to 15 participants
Free
- 12** **Epilepsy Foundation of Texas**
Get FIT Workshop
Epilepsy Foundation
2630 Fountain View, Suite 210 (Houston)
6:00pm-7:00pm
Contact Myeshi Briley at (713) 789-6295
Open to Individuals with Disabilities ages 18 and up
Free
- 13** **Brighton Center**
ARD Clinic: Special Education
Parents Alliance for Learning and Support (PALS) Advocacy Training
Arc of San Antonio
13430 West Ave. (San Antonio)
9:00am-11:00am
Contact Pat O'Donnell at (210) 826-4492
Open to the Public
Free
- 15** **Epilepsy Foundation of Texas**
Get FIT Workshop
Fallbrook Church
12512 Walters Road, Main Building – Brook Zone (Houston)
7:00pm-8:00pm
Contact Myeshi Briley at (713) 789-6295
Open to Individuals with Disabilities ages 18 and up
Free
- 15** **Brighton Center**
Building Bridges Curriculum: The ARD Process (Evaluation, IEP, Placement)
Parents Alliance for Learning and Support (PALS) Advocacy Training
One for Autism (Class 4 of 4)
265 E. Lullwood (San Antonio)
6:30pm-8:00pm
Contact PALS Coordinator at (210) 826-4492
Open to the Public – Limited to 15 participants
Free

If you are interested in attending any of the events listed,
please contact Cynthia Ellison at 512-437-5436.

November

16 **Paso del Norte Children's Development Center**
How to be a Good Advocate for a child with Special Needs
Presenter: Isabel Olague
Paso del Norte Children's Development Center
1101 E. Schuster Ave. (El Paso)
10:00am-12:00pm
Contact Tania Alvarez at (915) 544-8484 ext. 201
Open to the Public
Free

20 **Epilepsy Foundation of Texas**
Get FIT Workshop
Epilepsy Foundation
10615 Perrin Beitel, Suite 602 (San Antonio)
5:30pm-7:30pm
Contact Myeshi Briley at (713) 789-6295
Open to Individuals with Disabilities ages 18 and up
Free

30 **Paso del Norte Children's Development Center**
Special Education
Presenter: Sandra Pinon and Patricia Santibanez, CDIC
Paso del Norte Children's Development Center
1101 E. Schuster Ave. (El Paso)
10:00am-12:00pm
Contact Tania Alvarez at (915) 544-8484 ext. 201
Open to the Public
Free

December

4 **Brighton Center**
ARD Clinic: ADHD/ADD
Parents Alliance for Learning and Support (PALS) Advocacy Training
Cardenas Head Start
3300 Ruiz St. (San Antonio)
8:30am-10:30am
Contact Pat O'Donnell at (210) 826-4492
Closed to Edgewood ISD Families
Free

5 **Brighton Center**
ARD Clinic: ADHD/ADD
Parents Alliance for Learning and Support (PALS) Advocacy Training
Burluson Head Start
4415 Monterrey St. (San Antonio)
8:30am-10:30am
Contact Pat O'Donnell at (210) 826-4492
Closed to Edgewood ISD Families
Free

If you are interested in attending any of the events listed,
please contact Cynthia Ellison at 512-437-5436.

December

- 6 Brighton Center**
ARD Clinic: ADHD/ADD
Parents Alliance for Learning and Support (PALS) Advocacy Training
Stafford Head Start
611 SW 36th St. (San Antonio)
8:30am-10:30am
Contact Pat O'Donnell at (210) 826-4492
Closed to Edgewood ISD Families
Free
- 7 Paso del Norte Children's Development Center**
Legal Rights for Children Receiving Special Education Services
Presenter: Isabel Olague
Paso del Norte Children's Development Center
1101 E. Schuster Ave. (El Paso)
10:00am-12:00pm
Contact Tania Alvarez at (915) 544-8484 ext. 201
Open to the Public
Free
- 10 Epilepsy Foundation of Texas**
Get FIT Workshop
Epilepsy Foundation
2630 Fountain View, Suite 210 (Houston)
6:00pm-7:00pm
Contact Myeshi Briley at (713) 789-6295
Open to Individuals with Disabilities ages 18 and up
Free
- 11 Brighton Center**
ARD Clinic: Special Education 101
Parents Alliance for Learning and Support (PALS) Advocacy Training
Arc of San Antonio
13430 West Ave. (San Antonio)
9:00am-11:00am
Contact Pat O'Donnell at (210) 826-4492
Open to the Public
Free
- 18 Epilepsy Foundation of Texas**
Get FIT Workshop
Epilepsy Foundation
10615 Perrin Beitel, Suite 602 (San Antonio)
5:30pm-7:30pm
Contact Myeshi Briley at (713) 789-6295
Open to Individuals with Disabilities ages 18 and up
Free
- 20 Epilepsy Foundation of Texas**
Get FIT Workshop
Fallbrook Church
12512 Walters Road, Main Building – Brook Zone (Houston)
7:00pm-8:00pm
Contact Myeshi Briley at (713) 789-6295
Open to Individuals with Disabilities ages 18 and up
Free

If you are interested in attending any of the events listed,
please contact Cynthia Ellison at 512-437-5436.

January

- TBD** **Brighton Center**
Building Bridges Curriculum: Developing Advocacy Skills
Parents Alliance for Learning and Support (PALS) Advocacy Training
One for Autism (Class 1 of 4)
265 E. Lullwood (San Antonio)
6:30pm-8:00pm
Contact PALS Coordinator at (210) 826-4492
Open to the Public – Limited to 15 participants
Free
- TBD** **Brighton Center**
Building Bridges Curriculum: Special Education Law
Parents Alliance for Learning and Support (PALS) Advocacy Training
One for Autism (Class 2 of 4)
265 E. Lullwood (San Antonio)
6:30pm-8:00pm
Contact PALS Coordinator at (210) 826-4492
Open to the Public – Limited to 15 participants
Free
- TBD** **Brighton Center**
Building Bridges Curriculum: The Pre-ARD (Effective Communication)
Parents Alliance for Learning and Support (PALS) Advocacy Training
One for Autism (Class 3 of 4)
265 E. Lullwood (San Antonio)
6:30pm-8:00pm
Contact PALS Coordinator at (210) 826-4492
Open to the Public – Limited to 15 participants
Free
- TBD** **Brighton Center**
Building Bridges Curriculum: The ARD Process (Evaluation, IEP, Placement)
Parents Alliance for Learning and Support (PALS) Advocacy Training
One for Autism (Class 4 of 4)
265 E. Lullwood (San Antonio)
6:30pm-8:00pm
Contact PALS Coordinator at (210) 826-4492
Open to the Public – Limited to 15 participants
Free
- 8** **Brighton Center**
ARD Clinic: Special Education 101
Parents Alliance for Learning and Support (PALS) Advocacy Training
Arc of San Antonio
13430 West Ave. (San Antonio)
9:00am-11:00am
Contact Pat O'Donnell at (210) 826-4492
Open to the Public
Free

If you are interested in attending any of the events listed,
please contact Cynthia Ellison at 512-437-5436.

January

- 11** **Paso del Norte Children's Development Center**
Positive Parenting
Paso del Norte Children's Development Center
1101 E. Schuster Ave. (El Paso)
10:00am-12:00pm
Contact Tania Alvarez at (915) 544-8484 ext. 201
Open to the Public
Free
- 14** **Epilepsy Foundation of Texas**
Get FIT Workshop
Epilepsy Foundation
2630 Fountain View, Suite 210 (Houston)
6:00pm-7:00pm
Contact Myeshi Briley at (713) 789-6295
Open to Individuals with Disabilities ages 18 and up
Free
- 17** **Epilepsy Foundation of Texas**
Get FIT Workshop
Fallbrook Church
12512 Walters Road, Main Building – Brook Zone (Houston)
7:00pm-8:00pm
Contact Myeshi Briley at (713) 789-6295
Open to Individuals with Disabilities ages 18 and up
Free
- 28** **Paso del Norte Children's Development Center**
Social Services
Presenter: Norma Perez
Paso del Norte Children's Development Center
1101 E. Schuster Ave. (El Paso)
10:00am-12:00pm
Contact Tania Alvarez at (915) 544-8484 ext. 201
Open to the Public
Free

If you are interested in attending any of the events listed,
please contact Cynthia Ellison at 512-437-5436.

**TCDD Project Highlights
July 2012**

**Grantee: The Arc of San Angelo
Alternatives to Guardianship**

Project Title: Volunteer Supported Decision-Making Pilot
Project Location: San Angelo, TX

Year: 2 of 3
TCDD Budgeted: \$73,941

RFP Intent: To fund projects that demonstrate how volunteers can provide appropriate supports to help individuals with intellectual and other developmental disabilities to make decisions concerning their own lives. These services will assist individuals to make life decisions such as where they want to live, with whom they'd like to live, and where they would like to work. 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. 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. Since the legislature did not appropriate funds for the pilots, TCDD approved grant funding for the pilot projects.

Accomplishments:

- Volunteer liability was identified as a potential barrier and resolved with the help of an attorney
- Assisted with Restoration of Rights for 1 individual
- 4 individuals referred for court-initiated guardianship were diverted
- 10 individuals were assisted with Advanced Directives through Medical Power of Attorneys, thus preventing unwarranted guardianship restrictions

Sustainability: The Board of Directors is committed to the success of piloting this project. The Resource Development Committee of the Board is designing a long-range development plan to include corporate, foundation and individual donations through fundraising events. The Arc of San Angelo hosts an Annual Style Show and Luncheon fundraiser and the San Angelo Health Foundation and the Meadows Foundation contributed funds toward the establishment of the guardianship program.

Products: None

**Grantee: Texas Tech University
Teacher Preparation for Inclusive Education**

Project Title: Project IDEAL (Informing & Designing Education for All Learners)
Project Location: Lubbock, TX

Year: 5 of 5
TCDD Budgeted: \$199,999

RFP Intent: To support projects that will demonstrate that both special education and general education teachers are better able to teach a very diverse population of students if they are trained to teach all students, including those with disabilities, as a part of their initial pre-service education and training.

Accomplishments:

- 7 teaching modules are developed and live on the website (www.projectidealonline.org)
- 32 videos of elementary general education teachers demonstrating their classroom strategies for the inclusion of students with disabilities
- Region 4 Education Service Center (ESC) has requested to use some of those modules for their Principal Certification training program

Sustainability: Ongoing support for Project IDEAL will be through the use of facilities, equipment, and office space already designated for project staff. Proposals have been submitted to the CH Foundation and the Kessler Foundation.

Products: Website: www.projectidealonline.org

Background:

An Executive Summary entitled “Family Involvement in Schools” is provided in this binder; the Project Development Committee will discuss possible funding of this project as a strategy to meet Goal 1, Objective 3 of the TCDD FY 2012 – 2016 State Plan. The proposed project would provide support for one project for up to \$300,000 available each year for up to five years.

Also provided are two Unsolicited Ideas that were submitted this quarter. In the past, a workgroup that consisted of two representatives from the Public Policy Committee and two representatives from the Project Development Committee would review the ideas and make recommendations to the Project Development Committee. This vetting process was instituted as a time management procedure, to assure that ideas were reviewed thoroughly without causing Committee meetings to run long. Given the small number of ideas received, Committee Chair Vardell has approved a change in process; and the Project Development Committee will instead review the submitted ideas. A discussion guide has been included.

Should the Project Development Committee decide to recommend the Council consider the activities described in the submitted ideas, the Committee will explore how those activities may be implemented. Implementation may be carried out through a grant awarded through a competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) process; by adding to or changing the activities of a current project or TCDD staff; through a contract with an individual, organization, or agency; or using another appropriate mechanism. Organizations that submit Unsolicited Ideas are advised in the form’s instructions that TCDD no longer accepts requests for funding for a specific project or activity except those in response to Requests for Proposals (RFPs).

The Committee will also:

- discuss possible next steps to support the continued expansion of the use of Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports; and
- determine if there is a need to conduct a follow up evaluation of Project Ideal, a grant project that developed and implemented training to support inclusive teaching in primary and/or secondary education. The project also developed a website that includes modules to assist teachers with information and examples of teaching techniques. The website may be viewed at www.ProjectIdealOnline.org.

Project Development Committee

Agenda Item 8.

Expected Action:

The Project Development Committee will review the information provided, provide guidance for next steps, and may recommend proposed new projects to the Council for consideration.

Council

Agenda Item 7.

Expected Action:

The Council will consider recommendations from the Project Development Committee.

Future Funding Proposal

Executive Summary

Family Involvement in Schools

Background

Research has shown that when schools, families, and community groups collaborate to support learning, children tend to do better in school, stay in school longer, and like school more. Students with involved parents are more likely to get better grades, pass their classes, be promoted, have better attendance, show improved behavior and social skills, and adapt well to school. They also are more likely to graduate and go on to postsecondary education.

Families vary in their motivation and ability to participate in school activities every bit as much as their children. For families who are not able or motivated to positively support a child's success at school, the school must outreach in effective ways and provide a continuum of supports to enable effective family involvement in school. It should be noted that culturally appropriate outreach will recognize and respect family structures in addition to the nuclear family where grandparent, aunts, cousins or fictive¹ kin take on leadership and caretaking roles in the household. Family involvement is seen as especially important when students have learning, behavior, and emotional problems. For students receiving special education services, long-standing views about the importance of family involvement have been enacted into law. Such legislated mandates, however, have been no guarantee of effective practice, especially as budgets have been scaled back over the last several biennia.

The TCDD State Plan prioritizes funding for a well-designed, systematic, and personalized program for outreach and ongoing encouragement of family involvement that also will address barriers to establishing and maintaining such involvement. The Council chose to focus its family involvements efforts to provide training and/or intervention to support active engagement by at least one family member for every four students who have developmental disabilities, by 9/30/2016 in Education Service Center Region 17 (ESC 17). TCDD has limited the project scope to a single geographic region to facilitate the evaluation of the impact of project activities. An Educational Service Center region was selected because ESCs are typically responsible for providing services to school districts and charter schools in order to implement school reform or improvement plans. This project will be implemented in Education Service Center 17 because TCDD has developed productive relationships with a number of community partners in this area through past and current grant efforts, and this should create additional opportunities for success.

ESC 17, located in Lubbock on the South Plains of West Texas, is comprised of 57 school districts in 20 counties across 18,996 square miles. It includes both urban and rural areas. Though the area is based in diversified agricultural economies, the area also has an increasingly expanding medical and allied health based economy. Like Texas in general, ESC 17 is a majority minority area, with the Hispanics accounting for 55.7 percent of the population – a greater percentage than the state as a whole. The population of families with children living in poverty ranges from 16-22 percent, with the majority of those being single parent households.

¹ Fictive kin are individuals that are unrelated by birth or marriage, who have an emotionally significant relationship with another individual that take on the characteristics of a family relationship.

TCDD has awarded grants to entities in ESC Region 17 for a number of projects including:

- **Connections for Academic Success and Employment: Project CASE.** This project will help students with developmental disabilities ages 18-25 who are interested in furthering their education beyond high school, exploring careers and pursuing meaningful employment. Project CASE is a rural partnership of the Burkhart Center for Autism Education and Research; Texas Tech University; South Plains community college; the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS); and local business partners.
- **Project IDEAL (Informing & Designing Education for All Learners).** This project is designed to help prepare prospective general-education teachers to work more effectively with students who have disabilities. At the broadest level, Project IDEAL is about systems change to help bridge the divide between the preparation of special and general educators so they can work more effectively with all learners. At its narrowest focus, Project IDEAL is about helping general education teachers make a positive difference in the lives of students with disabilities.
- **Head Start.** This project seeks to expand TCDD's previous Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support (PBIS) project to recruit, train, and support individuals to provide positive behavioral interventions and supports to people with diverse needs living in communities throughout Texas. The project is expanding PBIS strategies to staff employed by Head Start programs, early childhood settings, child care settings and pre-school settings. Specifically, the project expects to improve behavior intervention skills and knowledge of staff in child care, public school pre-K, ECI Head Start and other settings that serve children with disabilities ages 2 to 5. The project is expected to reduce the number of students expelled from childhood settings.
- **Impacting Disproportionality.** This project seeks to expand TCDD's previous PBIS project to recruit, train, and support individuals to provide positive behavioral interventions and supports to people with diverse needs living in communities throughout Texas. This project will expand PBIS strategies with special emphasis placed on intervention specifically aimed at impacting disproportionality. The project will implement research-based strategies that have been shown to reduce the number of disciplinary referrals (rates of suspension and expulsion of greater than 10 days in a school year of children with disabilities by race and ethnicity); establish procedures to monitor at-risk students to prevent escalating disciplinary action and support their success in school; and increase their skills in the area of cultural competency.

There are number of potential community partners in addition to past TCDD grantees, including:

- ESC 17
- Local Transportation Districts
- **The Parent Education Network** is a grant project of **Partners Resource Network, Inc.**, one of three federally funded **Parent Training and Information Centers** serving Texas parents of children and youth with disabilities from the ages of 0 to 26. Their goal is to empower parents of children and youth with disabilities in their roles as parents, decision makers and advocates for their children and their goal is to promote partnerships among parents and professionals, parent organizations, school districts and service agencies.
- **Lubbock Area United Way** seeks to empower people to address systemic issues to create substantial and long term change.
- **Texas Tech University – Child Development Research Center and College of Education.**

- **Texas Project FIRST** consolidates and provides parents accurate and consistent information about Special Education in Texas.

There also are a number of community based organizations effectively supporting family involvement activities via training and support:

- **Family to Family Network** provides IEP parent support in Houston, education and training events on the special education process, developmental disabilities diagnosis, referral to community resources and other networking opportunities.
- **Children’s Disabilities Information Coalition (CDIC)** is a community parent resource in El Paso that serves families through education and support by offering workshops on parenting children with special needs, educational rights, ARDs and IEPs and No Child Left Behind.
- **Special Kids, Inc. (SKI)** Educating and supporting families of children with special needs in the Houston area, SKI provides one-on-one consulting, hands-on skill building, and facilitates workshops to train professions and service providers.

TCDD has resources to fund a single entity capable of encouraging the participation of families of children with special needs in their local public schools. This entity would recruit, engage, empower and support families of children with special needs to become involved with their child’s public school. The entity would foster collaborations with local public schools, faith communities, providers of after school programs, transportation services and/or public housing providers to negotiate and leverage shared resources for the purposes of providing wrap around services for participant families. Engaging students with developmental disabilities and their parents, grandparents, extended family members, fictive kin and siblings will serve to create a sense of community and have a positive impact on the education system.

State Plan Goal

Goal 1: Build collaborations within Education Service Center (ESC) 17 to demonstrate ways to create measurable improvement in at least two identified indicators of educational success for students with developmental disabilities by 9/30/2016.

Objective 3: Provide training and/or intervention to support active engagement by at least one family member for every four students who have developmental disabilities in ESC 17, by 9/30/2016.

Expected Outcomes

Provide training and other necessary services to support the active engagement of at least 2,200 parents or other family members (25 percent of the students receiving special education services in the ESC 17 region).

This selected grantee will recruit, engage, empower and support families of children with special needs to become involved with their child’s public school. The project should foster collaborations with local public schools, faith communities, providers of after school programs, transportation services and/or public housing providers to negotiate and leverage shared resources to provide necessary services for participant families. Engaging students with developmental disabilities and their parents, grandparents, extended family members, fictive kin and siblings will serve to create a sense of community, have a

positive impact on the education system and further achievement and aspirations of children with disabilities.

The project will demonstrate that because families of children with disabilities are included in community collaborations that support learning, children with disabilities will achieve positive educational outcomes, including: improved grades, higher graduation and completion rates, fewer out-of-school disciplinary referrals, and increased likelihood of attaining postsecondary education or obtaining work of their choice.

Project Description

This project will work with community partners to develop a menu of after school services and training for all families in the Educational Service Center Region 17 area, including children with developmental disabilities. The project will empower families to identify issues to be addressed such as access to after school programs, transportation or public housing and will recruit, engage and support families to develop relationships with their local schools, faith institutions, local foundations and other community partners.

The project will:

- Develop relationships with partner organizations that can reach the identified populations, taking into account the demographics of the region and strategies suggested by the demographics.
- Determine what type of training, information, and/or technical assistance is to be provided and develop an implementation plan.
- Implement the developed plan, evaluate the results, and use information gained from evaluation to improve project activities.

Proposed Funding Amount

TCDD will provide funding up to \$300,000 per year. The selected grantee will be responsible for contributing match to the project, in the amount of 25% of total project costs for activities that are not in federal poverty areas and 10% for total project costs for activities that are in federal poverty areas.

Proposed Duration

TCDD funding will be available for up to five years.

Other Considerations

UNSOLICITED IDEAS: Committee Review Guide

Committee members may choose to consider the questions below in their discussions of Unsolicited Ideas and in determination of any “next steps.”

1. What types of activities are being proposed in this idea? Are they allowable under the DD Act, TCDD Policies, and Federal and State laws?
2. Is the idea consistent with TCDD’s Mission Statement?
3. Is the idea consistent with existing Goals and Objectives? If so, which one?
4. Does the idea promote inclusion?
5. Is the idea an innovative way of addressing a need?
6. Is the idea likely to positively impact a group of individuals who are considered unserved or underserved?
7. Is the idea likely to substantially impact a large group of people?
8. Are there significant public policy implications?
9. Is it the responsibility of another agency to implement the activities suggested in this idea?
10. If this is an idea the Committee wishes to pursue, how might the Council implement this idea? Who are possible partners?

UNSOLICITED IDEAS

To Be Completed By Submitting Person or Organization

1. Individual or Organization Submitting Idea: East Wilco Challenger Sports	
Contact Person: John S. Lorek	Submittal Date: 2-15-12
Mailing Address: 313 McCoy Ln, Hutto, Texas 78634	Phone Number: 512-212-1259
E-mail Address: jslorek@imatexan.com	

****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?

Right now, Our organization is the only one in Texas that lets parents and siblings participate in sports year round right along side of their special needs individual for total inclusion experiences.

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

Launch a state wide effort on awareness and participation for all people with intellectual and physical disabilities in Rural areas of Texas with the assistance of the Cal Ripken Sr. Foundation.

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

All rural areas of Texas would benefit with our special needs children learning life skills through kickball in the fall, basketball in the winter, baseball in the spring, and golf in the summer.

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

NBA D League, MILB, Cal Ripken Sr. Foundation, MLB, Boys and Girls club of America, and East Wilco Challenger Sports.

UNSOLICITED IDEAS

To Be Completed By Submitting Person or Organization

1. Individual or Organization Submitting Idea: Disability Rights Texas (DRTx)	
Contact Person: Haley Watkins	Submittal Date: June 24, 2012
Mailing Address: 7800 Shoal Creek Blvd. # 142 South, Austin, Texas 78757	Phone Number: 512-454-4816
E-mail Address: hwatkins@drtx.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?

The Austin State Supported Living Center (Austin SSLC) is currently under a downsizing plan (also called census management plan) over the next 2 - 3 years. This means that approximately 150 - 200 residents of the Austin SSLC could be transitioned into the community or placed at other state supported living centers. It is imperative that these individuals are afforded and provided the necessary supports and services to ensure successful transitions into the community. The project would create a much needed, lasting change by demonstrating successful transitions of individuals from Austin State Supported Living Center during the facility's downsizing process (approximately 2 - 3 years). Ensuring a successful transition process will not only improve individual quality of life for those moving out it will also increase opportunities for and comfort with downsizing/census management at additional SSLC's in Texas.

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

Fund two DRTx Advocate positions to work directly with 15 – 20 individuals each per year for two to three years to advocate for and overcome barriers to community referrals by representing them at their Individual Support Team meetings, during their transfer and subsequently their post-move processes to ensure successful transition into the community. We will also provide legal supports and systemic advocacy with team partners as needed.

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

Individuals with intellectual disabilities and other co-occurring, often complex medical, psychiatric and behavioral support needs who reside at the Austin State Supported Living Center. This facility is currently undergoing a census management/downsizing process expected to last 2 - 3 years with the potential to reduce the census by more than 50%.

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

DRTx Advocates would provide a timely and urgently needed enhanced focus at the Austin SSLC. Advocates would participate within the Disability Rights Texas SSLC team to address individual barriers, coordinate transitions to other areas of the state and identify systemic issues that would be referred to the team's Advocate Supervisor, Policy Specialist and team attorneys as partners. SSLC team structure and legal supervision is available within DRTx to support the advocates' accelerated learning and technical and legal assistance. This short-term, intensive project would complement and not supplant other efforts of partners focusing on person centered planning.

Future Funding Priorities

Tab 17

Background:

This chart includes all projects that have previously been approved by the Council but have not yet been initiated. The Project Development Committee reviews the Priority List each quarter, adds new projects recommended for approval by the Council, and may revise the priority order as the Committee determines is appropriate.

Project Development Committee

Agenda Item 9.

Expected Action:

The Committee will review possible future funding activities and determine the priority order for any new projects recommended for funding.

Council

Agenda Item 7. D.

Expected Action:

The Council will consider recommendations from the Project Development Committee.

TCDD Future Funding Activities Priority List

As of July 2012

#	Activity	Possible Projects	Funding "Up To"	Council Approved	Expected RFP Post	Expected Start	Status
1.	Administrative Support for Project SEARCH™ up to 5 yrs	1	\$175,000 /yr	11/03/11	4/27/2012	9/4/2012	Review in July
2.	Outreach Consultant – On Going						
	a. Gulf Coast of TX African American Family Support Conf up to 3 yrs	1	\$35,000 yrs 1-2; \$15,000 yr 3	11/03/11	01/13/12	06/01/12	Awarded; to begin 8/1
	b. Outreach & Development Projects (Minority Community Collaborations) 1 yr	5 remaining	\$10,000/yr ea	05/14/04	07/02/10	12/31/10	Proposals to be reviewed
3.	Transportation up to 5 yrs	1	\$400,000/yr	11/03/11	06/29/2012	12/3/2012	Open RFP
4.	Building Community Capacity through Collaboration a. Phase 1 up to 18 mos b. Phase 2 up to 5 yrs	4 4	for each: \$75,000 est. \$150,000/yr	May '12	July 2012 n/a	Dec '12 tbd	RFP in process
5.	Promoting Self-Advocacy at Conferences a. Support for self advocates as speakers (grant) up to 4 yrs b. Sponsor plenary speakers (stipends) c. Sponsor concurrent session speakers (stipends)	1 n/a n/a	\$125,000/yr \$75,000/yr \$75,000/yr	May '12	July 2012 tbd tbd	Dec '12 tbd tbd	RFPs in process
6.	Funders Roundtable: (TCDD staff participation; no funding)	1	No Funding	11/03/10	n/a	01/01/11	TBD

LEGEND

Open RFP or Proposals received are under review at time of printing.

Proposals have been approved, awarded or project is in process of beginning since the last Council meeting.

Background:

Minutes of the May 3, 2012, 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
MAY 3, 2012**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Joe Rivas, Chair	Mary Faithfull, DRT	Jeff Kaufmann, DADS
Kristen Cox, Vice Chair	Frank Genco, HHSC	Lora Taylor
Hunter Adkins	Cindy Johnston	Rick Tisch

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Michael Benz	Mary Faithfull	Penny Seay
Mateo Delgado	Sara Kendall	

STAFF PRESENT

Roger A. Webb, Executive Director	Cassie Fisher Melissa Loe	Jessica Ramos Melissa Rosser
-----------------------------------	------------------------------	---------------------------------

GUESTS PRESENT

Amanda Dunnavant	Leticia Finely	Marisa Quist
------------------	----------------	--------------

CALL TO ORDER

The Public Policy Committee convened on Thursday, May 3, 2012, in the Majestic 5 Room of the Sheraton Dallas Hotel, 400 North Olive,; Dallas, TX 75201. Committee Chair Joe Rivas called those present to order at 1:42 PM.

1. INTRODUCTIONS

Committee members, staff, and guests were introduced.

2. CONSIDERATION OF FEBRUARY 9, 2012, MINUTES

The Committee reviewed the minutes from the February 9, 2012, Public Policy Committee meeting.

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the February 9, 2012, Public Policy Committee meetings as amended.

MADE BY: Hunter Adkins

SECOND: Rick Tisch

The motion **passed** unanimously.

4. CHAIR'S REMARKS

Public Policy Chair Joe Rivas announced that he will be moving into his own home in the near future and discussed plans for the house.

5. REAL COMMUNITIES INITIATIVES PRESENTATION DISCUSSION

Committee members discussed the presentation given on Asset Based Community Development in the Committee of the Whole by Eric Jacobson, Executive Director of the Georgia Council on

Developmental Disabilities. Members appreciated the idea of focusing on approaches in the community that are working, rather than focusing on those approaches that are ineffective.

6. PUBLIC POLICY ISSUES

A. State Policy Issues

Public Policy Director Jessica Ramos gave an update on several interim charges issued to Texas Senate Committees on Education, Health & Human Services, and Finance. Council Member Hunter Adkins, Public Policy Director Jessica Ramos, and Council Member Jeff Kaufmann discussed the delay in implementation of the Electronic Visit Verification System in certain regions of the state.

Ramos reported that the House Appropriations Committee is reviewing cost containment initiatives in health and human services programs. The committee will examine ways to lower costs for waiver programs, monitoring the DOJ Agreement with SSLCs, and Medicaid reform options.

Ramos also informed the committee about a House Public Health and Insurance Joint Committee hearing held on February 27, 2012, regarding the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The committee heard invited testimony from Dr. Thomas Saving, a professor of economics at Texas A&M University, who said that people with disabilities and seniors are the major cost drivers in the healthcare system. If implemented, the Health and Human Services Commission reported that the ACA will reduce the proportion of uninsured Texans from 26 percent of the population to nine percent of the population (2.3 million Texans). An additional 1.2 million persons will be enrolled in Medicaid bringing the total to 4.7 million.

On February 29, 2012, the Joint Committee on Medicaid Reform met to address charges required in Senate Bill 7 (SB 7) from the first called special session of the 82nd legislature. SB 7 directs HHSC to pursue a federal waiver requesting flexibility in the way Texas operates its Medicaid program and appointed a legislative oversight committee. DADS and HHSC identified several opportunities for improving the system, and discussion to improve the intellectual and developmental disabilities service system is expected to continue through the summer.

Jessica Ramos informed committee members that individuals on Medicaid waivers have historically been exempt from being included in managed care. However, STAR Health (Managed Care) will include waiver participants in Medicaid Rural Services Areas for acute care services.

B. Update on State Supported Living Center Monitoring Activities

The Committee received a briefing from Public Policy Assistant Melissa Rosser on the efforts of the Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) to comply with the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) Settlement Agreement (SA) regarding state supported living centers (SSLCs). Overall, there was not significant improvement in the facilities' compliance with the SA. The DOJ monitors recently released the last round of reports in the third compliance reviews of the Austin, San Angelo, Lubbock and Lufkin SSLCs.

C. Federal Policy Issues

The Committee discussed specific federal policy issues currently under consideration by the US Congress, including federal appropriations, federal efforts to hire individuals with disabilities, and manufactured housing access.

Ms. Ramos informed the committee that beginning in FY 2013, federal appropriations will be reduced by nearly \$1 trillion through automatic, across-the-board cuts (also known as "sequestration"), over 9 years if Congress does not change the budget agreement law passed last year or find alternate savings and revenue increases. The proposed cuts would be in addition to \$1 trillion of spending cuts already approved. At the recent Disability Policy Seminar, advocates encouraged Congress to consider options other than an across-the-board cut which would hinder recession recovery and inhibit agencies from responding to poverty and population growth.

Policy Specialist Cassie Fisher informed the committee that the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) is receiving pushback regarding its proposal to set a target for federal contractors and subcontractors to hire persons with disabilities at a rate of seven percent of their workforces. DOL is currently receiving comments on the proposed rule change.

Ms. Fisher also reported that Social Security Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) funding is expiring at the end of June if Congress does not take action. WIPA funding enables Social Security beneficiaries to return permanently to the workplace.

Jeff Kaufmann, Council Member from DADS, asked for input from the Council on project ideas for \$50 million that DADS will receive from the Money Follows the Person program. Plans must be approved by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid services, but DADS will be seeking public input and suggestions on ways to transition individuals from institutions to the community.

7. PUBLIC INFORMATION REPORT

Communication Coordinator Melissa Loe reported to the Committee about staff public information and outreach activities. TCDD staff have been working with legislative offices to announce new grant projects in order to build relationships and inform those legislators about disability issues. These announcements have received a lot of media coverage. The launch of Project HIRE received extensive media coverage, and TCDD was invited to speak about the project at the House Technology Committee Hearing on March 30, 2012. Staff created a new graphic, encouraging the use of People First Language in preparation of Facebook's transition to the timeline format. This image was also used for an advertisement in the State Independent Living Conference program. Staff are developing a new website that will be in a better-supported platform and accessible for screen readers and mobile devices.

8. FUTURE PROJECTS/ STATE PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Communications Coordinator Melissa Loe led a discussion on the new State Plan objective on Public Awareness Activities. Goal Three of the State Plan calls for the Council to conduct two ongoing educational activities in collaboration with other organizations and businesses to provide culturally responsive services for people with disabilities. At the February 2012 Council meeting, the Committee asked staff to conduct research on accessible parking. Melissa Loe informed the

Committee about current laws regarding vehicles other than vans utilizing van accessible spaces. She also reported on initiatives by the City of Austin and Travis County to raise awareness and conduct outreach on accessible parking.

MOTION: To recommend to the Council that the the first Public Awareness Activity be focused on accessible parking.

MADE BY: Rick Tisch

SECOND: Cindy Johnston

The motion **passed** unanimously.

9. TCDD 2012 BIENNIAL DISABILITY REPORT UPDATE

Ms. Fisher provided an update to the committee on the 2012 Biennial Disability Report. Fisher informed the committee that the technical writer is reviewing data with contacts from state agencies and provided a timeline of the project.

10. REVIEW OF POSITION STATEMENTS

Fisher led a discussion on Council position statements regarding the following issues: Access to Health Care, Service Coordination, Guardianship, and Family Support Services. The committee reviewed proposed changes from Council members and staff and proposed additional changes for the consideration of the Council. A technical change to the position statement on Children and Families, as approved at the February 2012 was also reviewed.

MOTION: To approve proposed changes to the Access to Health Care position statement and present the revised position statement to the Council for consideration.

MADE BY: Rick Tisch

SECOND: Lora Taylor

The motion **passed** unanimously. (Attachment 1)

MOTION: To approve proposed changes to the Service Coordination position statement and present the revised position statement to the Council for consideration.

MADE BY: Rick Tisch

SECOND: Hunter Adkins

The motion **passed** unanimously. (Attachment 2)

MOTION: To approve proposed changes to the Guardianship position statement and present the revised position statement to the Council for consideration.

Draft Minutes, May 3, 2012, Public Policy Committee Meeting

MADE BY: Kristen Cox

SECOND: Lora Taylor

The motion **passed** unanimously. (Attachment 3)

MOTION: To approve proposed changes to the Family Support position statement and present the revised position statement to the Council for consideration.

MADE BY: Lora Taylor

SECOND: Hunter Adkins

The motion **passed** unanimously. (Attachment 4)

MOTION: To approve proposed changes to the Children and Families position statement and present the revised position statement to the Council for consideration.

MADE BY: Kristen Cox

SECOND: Lora Taylor

The motion **passed** unanimously. (Attachment 5)

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Committee Chair Rivas adjourned the meeting at 4:46 PM.

Roger A. Webb
Secretary to the Council

Date

Background:

Committee members will discuss advocacy efforts and consider how the Committee and the Council can effectively advocate during the 2013 session of the Texas Legislature. Potential topics of discussion include how members have been involved in the past, when advocacy efforts have been most successful and what support members might desire from TCDD staff and/or other Council members.

Public Policy Committee**Agenda Item 6.****Expected Action:**

The Committee will discuss advocacy efforts and provide guidance regarding staff activities to support those efforts. No action is anticipated.

Council Meeting**Agenda Item 15. A.****Expected Action:**

The Council will receive a report of the Committee's discussion on this item. No action is anticipated.

http://www.elpasotimes.com/opinion/ci_16084638.

Letters: Medicaid challenge

Posted: 09/16/2010 12:00:00 AM MDT

Medicaid challenge

The State of Texas' budget is a central topic of discussion as the Legislature prepares to go into session in January. Because of an expected and significant deficit, budget cuts that result in cuts in essential services are of particular concern.

Our legislators face a challenging task in determining how to balance the budget, but state leaders must resist temptation to cut programs that have a federal matching share. Moreover, cuts to the Medicaid program should be considered off limits.

Reducing funds for Medicaid would be devastating for individuals with disabilities who need Medicaid assistance to live and work in the community, rather than in institutions. The effects of such cuts would be escalated by the reduction in federal funds that would accompany state cuts.

For every 40 cents Texas invests in Medicaid programs, the state receives 60 cents in matching funds from the federal government.

Conversely, if the state cuts funding by 40 cents, it means that we will lose an additional 60 cents in federal matching funds.

It is therefore paramount that state lawmakers do not make cuts that will result in further revenue loss, particularly when those funds provide critical services that keep individuals in their homes and communities.

Kristen Cox

Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities

Diana Kern
237 Lonesome Dove Drive
Cedar Creek, TX 78612
dkzeus@austin.rr.com

February 2, 2011

Testimony to the Senate Finance Committee on SB 1

Hello Chair Ogden and members of the committee,

My name is Diana Kern and today I am representing myself as a person who lives with a mental illness and NAMI Texas (National Alliance on Mental Illness). I am also speaking on behalf of the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities as a Governor's appointee member until 2015.

The first time I testified before the Senate Finance Committee in the late 90's, I thanked the chair, Senator Bill Ratliff, for investing in my mental health treatment.

After the hearing, Senator Ratliff caught me in the hallway and thanked me for telling my story and told me to continue to speak up. He said that our Legislators need to hear from those of us who have benefitted from the services that our state funds.

I took Senator Ratliff's advice and I am here to testify once again.

If it weren't for our public mental health agency, I would not be where I am today as a functioning member of my community. Because of the necessary treatment that I have received, I am now a homeowner and tax-payer.

My brain disorder is indeed an illness like any other chronic illness. It is through no fault of my own, that I have acquired this lifelong disorder.

Without ongoing treatment, I am unable to live independently and I certainly would not be able to hold down a job.

I consider myself a return on the state's investment.

Throughout the years I have personally experienced the gaps in the system and the lack of continuity of mental health care.

One example of this is when I was unable to get a doctor's appointment for over a month. My symptoms of psychosis were affecting my ability to take care of myself and I ended up being hospitalized.

If I had been able to see a doctor when I needed, I would have not only saved the state money, but my road toward recovery would have been more stable and prevented future crisis from occurring.

When a person with a psychotic disorder is not being treated on a regular basis, their illness becomes progressively worse. I should know. For a period of time, my illness did progress and my needs were greater and the costs were higher.

Two sessions ago, we were very grateful that DSHS received \$82 million for crisis services. This money was well spent and proved to be a good use of government resources.

However, if community mental health centers were sufficiently funded in the first place, our need for crisis services would have been much less.

With an even greater budget shortfall, I am concerned that the gains we have made in our efficient use of the crisis money will all be for naught.

You will undoubtedly see more homeless people in our communities, our jails will continue to be flooded with persons unable to access mental health care, the suicide rate will increase and not only will persons with a serious mental illness suffer, many family members will suffer as well.

As you make these difficult budget decisions, I hope you will remember me and the others in Texas who have benefitted from mental health services. I think we are worth it.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Diana Kern". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "D".



Hunter Adkins

816 Sunfish Lakeway, TX 78734

Home (512) 436-9639

Cell (512) 751-5044

hunteradkins123@gmail.com

February 2, 2011

To whom it may concern,

My name is Hunter Adkins. I am 29 years old and live in Lakeway, Texas. I have Cerebral Palsy, which affects my motor skills and balance, causing me to be wheelchair bound. The issue I would like to discuss is budget cuts for the Community Living Assistance and Support Services (CLASS) program.

I rely on CLASS to pay for my therapies. I am currently receiving physical therapy, therapeutic horseback riding and massage therapy. I also receive recreational therapy, where I go to the gym or to the pool. These therapies are essential to maintaining my current level of functioning and helping me improve my abilities. For example, they help reduce my high muscle tone, build muscle strength and endurance, improve my balance and maintain joint flexibility. Because of these physical benefits, I am able to help out more with my transfers, I have begun walking short distances for the first time in years and I even stood to dance at a benefit last year!

If you cut the budget by another ten percent, I risk losing the therapies I so desperately need. Without these therapies, my body and my physical abilities will deteriorate. My muscles will become weak and atrophied. I risk losing joint flexibility, which can lead to contractures. My balance would also suffer. I am currently still living with my parents, who, as they get older, will need me to be in top condition and functioning at my best abilities to help them care for me. The total of my service plan for CLASS is \$60,784.40 a year which is far less than the \$197,000 Approximate Annual Average cost of State Supported Living Center services.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter. I cannot stress enough how important the CLASS program is to me, my family and so many others in my position. I would be more than happy to answer any questions or testify in any hearing regarding the potential cuts.

Respectfully,

Hunter Adkins

Background:

Title IV, Chapter 531, Section 531.0235 of the Texas Government Code requires TCDD, jointly with the Texas Office of Prevention of Developmental Disabilities, to prepare a biennial report on the state of services to persons with disabilities in this state. This report is due to the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of the house of representatives, and commissioner of health and human services no later than December 1st of even-numbered years, prior to the beginning of each regular session of the Texas Legislature. The next report is therefore due by December 1, 2012.

Six reports have been submitted by TCDD and TOPDD to date. TCDD has tailored recommendations in each report to focus on an area that significantly impacts persons with disabilities. Key focus areas of previous Biennial Disability Reports were:

- Overview of Current Services, Supports, and Needs (2000)
- Special Focus on Personal Assistance Services (2002)
- Special Focus on Housing (2004)
- Employment (2006)
- The state’s allocation of resources to provide long term services and supports for people with developmental disabilities (2008)
- Representative profiles of the needs and situations of people with disabilities, and their families, who are waiting for services in Texas (2010)

The Council approved a special focus for the 2012 Biennial Disability Report: *The interconnectivity of education with employment for individuals with developmental disabilities, including measures of consumer satisfaction*. The Public Policy Committee will review preliminary recommendations for the 2012 Biennial Disability, receive an update on the status of Biennial Report activities, and may provide additional guidance as appropriate. Final approval of these recommendations will occur at the October Council meeting. Information will be included in meeting materials as a handout.

Public Policy Committee

Expected Action:

Agenda Item 7.

The Committee will review preliminary recommendations for the 2012 Biennial Disability, receive an update on the status of Biennial Report activities, and may provide additional guidance as appropriate. No action is anticipated.

Council Meeting

Expected Action:

Agenda Item 15. B.

The Council will receive a report from the Committee concerning activities to complete the 2012 Biennial Report and provide guidance as appropriate. No action is anticipated.

Background:

Staff have compiled a report of recent staff public information activities for the Committee’s review.

Public Policy Committee

Agenda Item 8.

Expected Action:

The Committee will receive an update regarding recent public information activities and provide guidance as needed. No action is anticipated.

Council Meeting

Agenda Item 15. C.

Expected Action:

The Council will receive a report of the Committee’s discussion on this item. No action is anticipated.

Public Information Update (April – June 2012)

Creating Awareness and Building Connections



State Rep. Ryan Guillen (D-Rio Grande City) retweeted an announcement that originated with the University of Texas Pan American on the DRS Project HIRE grant award to his 1,530 followers on April 12, 2012.

- TCDD is working with state senators and representatives to announce several new grant projects. News releases for the following grants were sent to the media. They are also available on the TCDD website at http://www.txddc.state.tx.us/grants_projects/profilesindex.asp#recent.
 - Epilepsy Foundation Texas: Health and Fitness project
 - Texas State Independent Living Council (SILC): Health and Fitness project
 - Texas A&M University: Leadership and Advocacy project
 - The Arc of Dallas: Leadership and Advocacy project
 - The Arc of Greater Tarrant County: Inclusive Faith-based projects
 - Education Program Inspiring Communities: Enabling Technology project
 - Strategic Education Solutions: Enabling Technology project
- Rep. John Raney (R-Bryan) posted his news release about Texas A&M University's advocacy project on the House of Representatives website.
- The Center on Disability and Development at Texas A&M University put articles in its June newsletter about the following programs:
 - A&M's new advocacy and leadership program for Bryan ISD high school students and their parents
 - The Bridge to Career in Human Services program for training people with disabilities to become Direct Support Professionals
- Coverage of other projects:
 - The Arc of Texas sent out information about Project MOVE and Project SAVE.
 - The Circle of 10 Capacity Building grant for seminars, which were offered to TCDD grantees to help them network and learn tools for sustainability once TCDD funding ends, received coverage in various Houston-area newspapers.
 - Both the Galveston Daily News and the County Life Online (serving Anderson, Houston and Trinity counties) published articles about the Circle of 10 Capacity Building seminars and SER Jobs for Progress.

Public Information Update (April – June 2012)

- The Houston Chronicle published an article about the Barbara Jordan Endeavors Corp., which received TCDD funding for a Cultural Outreach project.
- TCDD granted permission to STEAM (The South Texas Entertainment Art Music) — an entertainment magazine published in Corpus Christi — to use the People First Language handout in the publication. STEAM is published online and 2,000 print copies are produced each month.



Sen. Jane Nelson (R-Flower Mound) shared TCDD's tweet about The Arc of Greater Tarrant County's grant project to increase the inclusion of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities within faith communities of their choice in Tarrant County.

Social Media Update

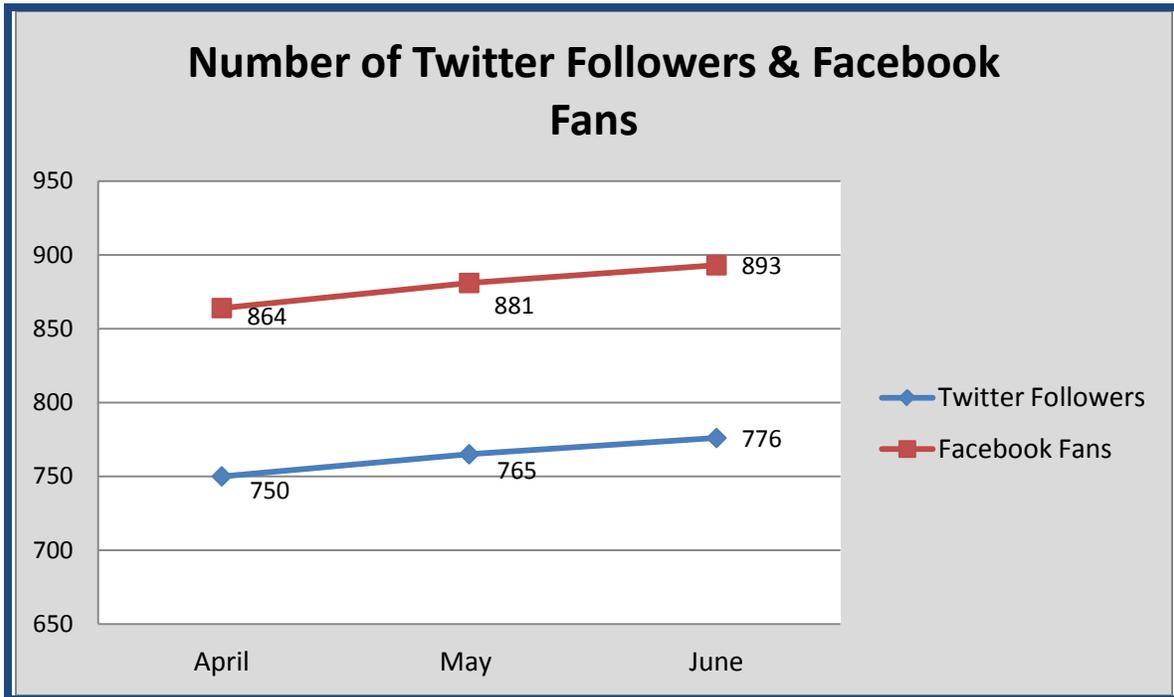
TCDD uses its Facebook fan page and Twitter account on a daily basis to share and learn about pertinent news stories, resources and policy information. The social media activity helps make connections with individuals, organizations, members of the media, legislators and others who are involved with or have an impact on the disability community. Social media enhances TCDD's communication and is a great tool for sharing and receiving information.

A Facebook Insights tool helps track the number of people viewing and interacting with TCDD's Facebook fan page. Between April and June 2012, an average of 20 individuals per week interacted with TCDD's Facebook page by liking, commenting on or sharing content posted by TCDD. In addition, an average of 800 people viewed information shared on TCDD's Facebook page.

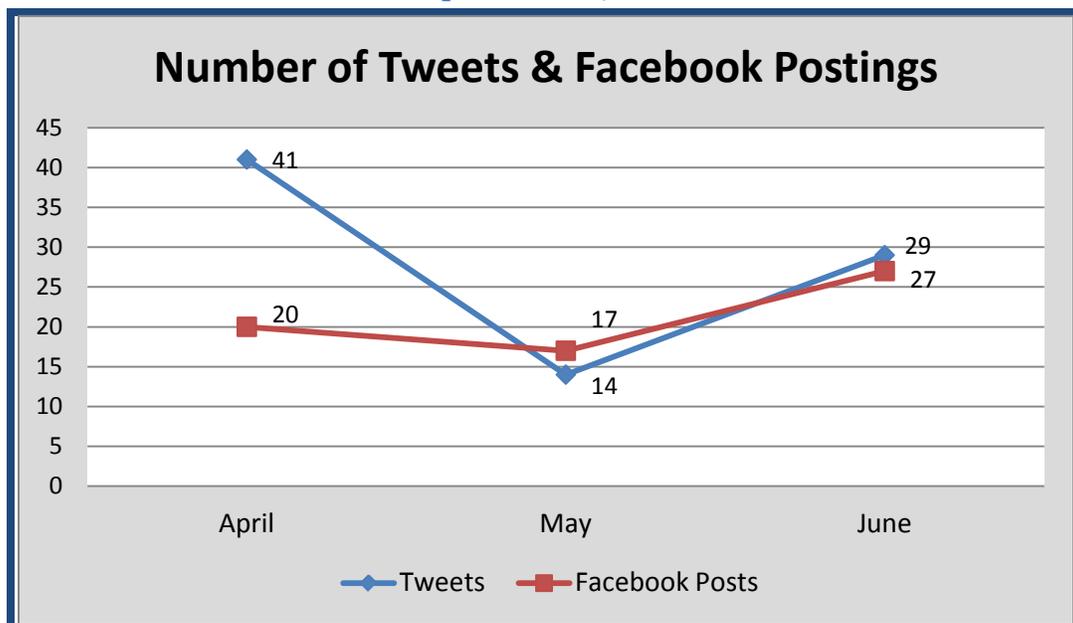
Twitter does not yet have similar tracking features, however, TCDD staff is notified when information shared on TCDD's Twitter feed is retweeted or mentioned by another Twitter user. Between April 2012 and June 25, 2012, 14 of TCDD's tweets were shared by other users with more than 8,000 combined followers.

Public Information Update (April – June 2012)

Number of TCDD Facebook Page Fans and Twitter Followers April 1 – June 25, 2012



Number of Tweets and Facebook Postings Shared by TCDD Between April 1 and June 25, 2012



Public Information Update (April – June 2012)

Website “Engagement” (Jan. 1, 2012 – June 21, 2012)

Performance

Visit Duration

Visits 43,421 % of Total: 100.00% (43,421)	Pageviews 77,707 % of Total: 100.00% (77,707)
---	--

Primary Dimension: Visit Duration

Visit Duration	Visits	Pageviews	Percentage of total	
			Visits	Pageviews
0-10 seconds	31,344	32,399	72.19%	41.69%
11-30 seconds	2,152	4,676	4.96%	6.02%
31-60 seconds	2,063	5,227	4.75%	6.73%
61-180 seconds	3,391	11,151	7.81%	14.35%
181-600 seconds	2,694	12,368	6.20%	15.92%
601-1800 seconds	1,460	8,573	3.36%	11.03%
1801+ seconds	317	3,313	0.73%	4.26%

Visit Duration

Visit duration is a measure of visit quality. A large number of lengthy visits might indicate that visitors are actively engaged with a website.

During the time period Jan. 1, 2012 – June 21, 2012, 72.19% of visitors to the TCDD website spent less than 10 seconds on the site. This could mean that visitors quickly found the information they were seeking and exited the site within 10 seconds; however, it could also indicate that they did not find what they needed and left the site to seek elsewhere.

Visits

Visits represent the number of visits to the entire site. A visit by Person “A” going to the site is counted as one visit. If Person “A” reads five pages on the site, this counts as five pageviews.

Pageviews

Pageviews, which are the total number of pages viewed on a website, count every time a single page is viewed. Any repeated views of a single page are also included in pageview count. A repeated view can occur when a visitor reloads or returns to a page after visiting other pages on a website.

Public Information Update (April – June 2012)

Top 25 Internet and Mobile Service Providers of People Visiting the TCDD Website

Jan. 1, 2012 – June 22, 1012

Service Provider	Visits	% of Total Visits (43,622)
Road Runner Holdco llc	4,084	9.36%
AT&T Internet Services	2,430	5.57%
Comcast Cable Communications Inc.	1,748	4.01%
Verizon Online llc	1,534	3.52%
Service Provider Corporation (group of mobile providers)	678	1.55%
Suddenlink Communications	658	1.51%
Charter Communications	570	1.31%
TX Health and Human Services Commission	400	0.92%
Clearwire US llc	381	0.87%
Cellco Partnership dba Verizon Wireless	375	0.86%
Inktomi Corporation (division of Yahoo)	374	0.86%
Cox Communications	362	0.83%
Uninet s.a. de c.v.	354	0.81%
Qwest Communications Company llc	342	0.78%
PT Telkom Indonesia	338	0.77%
Sprint Nextel Corporation	320	0.73%
Gesti n de Direccionamiento Uninet (Mexico)	303	0.69%
Embarq Corporation	287	0.66%
Comcast Cable Communications Holdings Inc	271	0.62%
Broadband Multiplay Project o/o dgm bb noc bsnl Bangalore	265	0.61%
Comcast Business Communications llc	243	0.56%
TW Telecom Holdings Inc.	231	0.53%
Windstream Communications Inc	231	0.53%
Optimum Online (Cablevision Systems)	226	0.52%
Cantv Servicios Venezuela	224	0.51%

Background:

During the February Public Policy Committee meeting, the Committee discussed Future Projects/State Plan Implementation related to Goal 3. For your reference, Goal 3 states:

Conduct ongoing educational campaigns in collaboration with community leaders, organizations, and businesses to enable them to better support, include, and/or provide culturally responsive services to people with developmental disabilities by 9/30/2016.

The Committee asked staff to further research the topic of accessible parking to determine if any public awareness campaigns have transpired and/or if there are any planned. That information was reviewed with the Committee during the May 2012 meeting during which the Council approved focusing the educational campaign on the topic of accessible parking. Staff will provide an update to the Public Policy Committee on the progress of the campaign.

Public Policy Committee

Agenda Item 9.

Expected Action:

The Committee will receive an update regarding staff activities relating to the accessible parking outreach campaign and provide guidance as needed. No action is anticipated.

Background:

The Council periodically reviews TCDD’s Position Statements. Staff solicited input this quarter regarding proposed revisions from Council members on the following position statements:

- Employment
- Transition
- Education
- Access to Health Care

Revisions suggested by Council members and/or staff are included in the draft materials. Comments in **RED** represent Council member input; comments in **BLUE** were suggested by TCDD staff.

The table below reflects the most recent dates that position statements were reviewed (the statements in **bold** are currently under review). The Public Policy Committee will review and update the remaining Statements prior to the 83rd Session of the Texas Legislature, which begins in January 2013.

Position Statements Last Reviewed

Employment	Aug '09	Family Support	May '12	Children & Families Emergency	Nov '11
Transition	Aug '09	Service Coordination	May '12	Preparedness	Nov '11
Aging & DD	Nov '09	Guardianship	May '12	Right to Privacy	Nov '11
		Access to Health			
Education	Feb '10	Care	May '12	Transportation	Nov '11
Criminal Competency	Feb '10	Community Living	Aug '10		

Public Policy Committee

Agenda Item 10.

Expected Action:

The Committee will review provide recommendations to the Council for revisions to those Position Statements reviewed.

Council

Agenda Item 8.

Expected Action:

The Council will consider revisions to TCDD Position Statements as recommended by the Public Policy Committee and determine final action.



Employment Position Statement

The Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities supports the position that people with disabilities have the right to job training, employment at competitive wages, and career growth as lifelong learners. The Council further supports the position that employment opportunities should be open to people with disabilities in the community job market without discrimination or segregation. Through employment, people with disabilities gain an important point of entry into their community, a sense of being valued, wages and job benefits. With these tangible and intangible rewards from employment, people with disabilities secure greater independence and freedom from public support service systems.

The Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities affirms that:

- Students with disabilities should receive a sound foundation in their public school education from which to transition to post secondary education and/or a career path after graduation. This foundation must include futures planning. Secondary education must provide a range of choices in career preparation such as vocational skills, career and technology education, preparation for post secondary education and opportunities for employment in the community.
- People with disabilities have the right to self determination and choice in establishing their career path, career goals, job placement or self-employment options, retention, advancement and retirement plans.
- People with disabilities should have access to an array of individualized, flexible and coordinated support services including assistive technology and natural supports, as long as necessary to obtain and keep employment.
- The employment needs of people with disabilities should be effectively addressed by a collaborative effort between businesses, professional organizations, and state and local governments.
- All entities involved in statewide employment initiatives should disseminate information about civil rights laws that protect people with disabilities, about resources to support people with disabilities in the workplace, and about the tangible benefits that accompany employment of people with disabilities in the workforce.
- Entities involved in statewide employment initiatives should assist people with disabilities to develop successful self-employment options that can include micro-enterprises and other entrepreneurial ventures.



Transition from School to Adult Life Position Statement

The Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities supports the position that people with disabilities have the right to live in and be an integral part of their communities, to be employed, to be independent and to make informed choices about their lives. Each student with disabilities, as all youth, must be given opportunities to achieve academic success, to cultivate personal interests and preferences, to explore and pursue career options that are both relevant and meaningful, and to participate in job training, job placement and community experiences as part of the transition from school to adult life. Transition planning should help a student move from school to adult life and must address key life areas related to work, recreation and leisure, home living, community participation, and opportunities to learn after high school. This can include a range of post-school options, such as but not limited to attending higher education, technical schools, or pursuing national service vocations. The individual services provided ultimately depend on the student's needs and interests.

A comprehensive array of timely services, coordinated among and between all adult service agencies, is imperative to maximize choices and opportunities for students with disabilities to achieve independence and be contributing and respected members of their communities. The transition planning process should be a thoughtful, student-centered, student-led process that takes into account the individual's unique values, preferences, abilities and challenges. In addition, it should include training in self-determination, self-advocacy and individual rights. Transition planning should help a student access services and supports beyond school by providing information about and the opportunity to apply for community-based long-term services and supports through Medicaid waiver and non-waiver services, Social Security Income, affordable housing options in the community, and available transportation alternatives.

Whole communities, including families, schools, businesses, employers, health care providers, public service agencies, and other stakeholders, must work together to identify, locate, and share resources to assist in promoting successful post-school outcomes. Students and families should be trained to actively and effectively participate in transition planning. Students should have the opportunity to identify and self-select the participants in their transition planning processes. Successful transition planning is facilitated when each student and his or her parents have the information, knowledge, skills, and access to supporting services that **will** enable them to fully participate in the process that plans the student's future. That information, knowledge, skills, and access should be coordinated through the student's independent school district. If a student is not affiliated with an independent school district, the transition planning process should be coordinated by a single other agency, entity, or individual having responsibility for such planning and chosen by the student or family.

The Council values the diversity and unique contributions of each citizen of the state. ~~The current~~ Fragmentation of the various service delivery systems ~~often~~ results in the provision of inadequate, untimely and/or inappropriate services and costly duplicative efforts. Coordination among young adults

(Continued)

and their families, school districts, outside agencies, and others on information sharing, flexible scheduling, and implementation timelines is critical ~~to the success of transition planning~~.

The ultimate measure of successful transition planning is to increase the numbers of young adults engaged in stable employment after completing secondary and/or post-secondary education experiences. It is the Council's position that providing effective transition planning and services for young adults with disabilities benefits each community and the entire state. People with disabilities who are employed enrich the diversity of our communities, rely less on publicly-funded services, and contribute to the overall well being of the community's economic base.

Reviewed ~~August 7, 2009~~ [July 26, 2012](#)

DRAFT



Education Position Statement

All people with disabilities in Texas should have the opportunity to achieve their maximum potential for independence, productivity and integration into the community. Education is a lifelong learning process which is vital to attaining a full and complete life. The postsecondary results of an appropriate public school education for students with disabilities should be evidenced by employment, enrollment in postsecondary education, or both within one year of leaving high school.

The Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities supports the position that all students regardless of individual needs must be provided with individualized appropriate instruction, research-based positive behavioral interventions and supports, access to the general curriculum, and related services in the least restrictive environment. Related services include but are not limited to adaptive aids, assistive technology, modifications, therapies and supplementary aides. The delivery of individually appropriate instruction and related services must be provided by qualified teachers and service providers with administrative support and opportunities for continued/ongoing professional development in all areas of identified need. It is the position of the Council, as well as the policy of the state, that all children should be treated with dignity and respect when addressing their behavioral and disciplinary needs.

The Council supports the position that charter schools or schools accepting voucher payments must provide students the same educational rights and opportunities that they would be accorded in the public education system. The Council believes that schools that accept state money to educate students must accept any student with a developmental disability who may apply for admission to that school, abide by federal and state education laws that protect the rights of students with disabilities, abide by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act that requires any entity receiving federal funds to include people with disabilities in its program, and accept any student at the state rate of payment asking for no additional tuition or fees beyond the normal fees required by the student's independent school district. If these criteria are not met, then the Council adamantly opposes publicly funded school vouchers and charter schools. The Council is opposed to any initiative that would deplete funds from the public education system and ultimately from funds available for the education of students with disabilities.

(Continued)

The Council supports the position that full inclusion should be approached as a value and underlying philosophy by which we educate all students. We believe that successful inclusion requires that teacher education programs prepare all educators and administrators to work with the full range of students in inclusive settings. Special education is not a separate educational system, but rather a service provided to people with specific needs within the general educational system. Professional preparation programs should emphasize the shared responsibility of all educators and administrators for every student.

The Council supports the position that full inclusion requires the ongoing, shared responsibility of students, parents, guardians, educators, administrators and the community at large.

It is therefore the position of the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities that all students have a right to learn, play and work with students their own age, with and without disabilities, in the same schools, classrooms and other educational programs attended by their brothers, sisters and neighbors, and that schools, classrooms and programs must be both physically and programmatically accessible to all students.

Reviewed ~~February 12, 2010~~ July 26, 2012



Access to Health Care Position Statement

The Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities supports the position that all people, regardless of their disability, age, or ability to pay, should have access to affordable, comprehensive health care. TCDD supports healthcare initiatives and efforts to increase the access and affordability of health insurance for everyone.

The Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities supports the position that in any consideration of changes to the health care financing and delivery system in the United States, the well-being of the patient must be the highest priority. The Council strongly supports the reform measures and principles set forth in this statement as providing individuals consistent access to patient centered, timely, unencumbered, affordable and appropriate health care and universal coverage while maintaining physicians as an integral component to providing the highest quality treatment.

The Council supports the position that as policymakers considers health care reforms they should:

- Ensure patients are empowered to control and decide how their own health care dollars are spent;
- Eliminate pre-existing condition exclusions;
- Ensure unencumbered access to specialty care;
- Make health care coverage more affordable;
- Improve value and increase quality on our healthcare system;
- Extend both coverage and access for the uninsured and under-insured;
- Avoid establishing new unsustainable programs;
- Provide comprehensive, culturally and linguistically appropriate behavioral health services and supports;
- Provide services in the context of a medical home, where the clinician works in partnership with the individual and/or family to ensure that all of the medical and nonmedical needs of the person are met;
- Ensure that children and adults with behavioral or mental health concerns have access to screening, diagnosis and treatment that is not subject to arbitrary limits on coverage and integrated into the broader health care system;
- Ensure that people with disabilities of all ages and their families have access to health care that responds to their needs over their lifetimes, and provides continuity of care that helps treat and prevent chronic conditions;
- Ensure that people with disabilities and their families receive comprehensive health, rehabilitation, and long term support services provided on the basis of individual need, preference, and choice;

(Continued)

- Ensure that people with disabilities and their families have equitable access to health coverage programs and not be burdened with disproportionate costs;

The Council is concerned about proposals that call for deep reductions in Medicare and Medicaid payments. Reforms are necessary to strengthen the Medicaid program so that it provides accessible, high-quality health care services to people with disabilities enrolled in the program examples include, but are not limited to, evidence-based practices and payment structures that attract providers.

Reviewed May 3, 2012

Background:

The Public Policy Committee is responsible for recommending Public Policy Priorities to the Council before the beginning of each legislative session. TCDD's Public Policy Priorities provide guidance to staff regarding legislative advocacy activities. Staff will review preliminary recommendations for 2013 Public Policy Priorities with the Council. Additional information is provided in meeting materials.

Public Policy Committee**Agenda Item 11.****Expected Action:**

The Committee will receive an update regarding preliminary recommendations for 2013 Public Policy Priorities and provide guidance as needed. No action is anticipated.

Council**Agenda Item 15. D.****Expected Action:**

The Committee will receive a report of the Committee's discussions and may provide additional guidance. No action is anticipated.



TCDD 2013 Public Policy Priorities

Draft

Appropriations - *Maintain publicly-funded services and supports for people with disabilities and ensure that critical services and supports for Children and Families, Education, Employment, Housing, Long Term Care, Mental Health, and Transportation are not reduced or limited in order to balance the state's budget.*

The state of Texas expects a budget shortfall for the upcoming 2014-2015 biennium. Due to the budgetary outlook, the state could reduce existing services or programs to balance budgets, look for alternative ways of providing services in order to reduce spending, or consider additional sources of revenue. The Legislature is encouraged to exercise considerable caution when exploring alternative ways of providing services recognizing that some options may also have serious negative consequences to those most needing assistance.

Children and Families – *Improve the availability of family and community supports so all children with developmental disabilities grow up in their homes and communities.*

All children belong in families that provide love, caring, nurturing, bonding and a sense of belonging and permanence that best enables them to grow, develop and thrive. Many Texas children with significant disabilities are unnecessarily removed from their families and placed in facilities such as residential treatment centers, foster care settings, nursing facilities, hospitals, juvenile detention, state supported living centers, HCS homes and state hospitals due to the absence of affordable and appropriate services and supports in their home communities. Families should have access to individualized health, mental health, rehabilitation, habilitation, supports and services, and assistance with those expenses necessary to help a child thrive, foster family unity and prevent institutionalization.

Education - *Protect the right of students with disabilities to appropriate, inclusive, publicly-funded education that supports opportunities for full participation and eliminates the use of inappropriate disciplinary alternatives throughout the educational spectrum- from early education programs to post-secondary schooling.*

Students with disabilities require individualized supports tailored to meet their needs in order to be educated along side their peers without disabilities. An appropriate public education for students with disabilities should include the necessary array and intensity of services for children with all levels of need, beginning in early education programs and should lead to employment, enrollment in postsecondary education, or both within one year of leaving high school. Education supports for students with disabilities must also address the behavioral health needs of students in order to prevent inappropriate disciplinary referrals in lieu of proper behavior management.

Employment - *Improve the system of employment services and income supports for individuals with developmental disabilities, including programs that help individuals develop assets and resources and help students with disabilities transition from school to work.*

Working for independence, productivity and community inclusion.

6201 East Oltorf, Suite 600 • Austin, TX 78741 • 512-437-5432 • 1-800-262-0334 • fax 512-437-5434

www.txddc.state.tx.us

People with disabilities want the same opportunities to have meaningful jobs and careers as do all other working age individuals. In 2011, 17.8 percent of working age people with disabilities were in the labor force compared to 63.6 percent of working age people with no disability. Employment services and preparation for work should begin in public education. A sound foundation from school will help students transition to post secondary education and a career path after graduation.

Housing - *Increase the opportunity for people with disabilities to obtain affordable, accessible housing.*

Failure to provide housing affordable to people with disabilities impedes the success of state health and human services programs to serve individuals in their communities rather than nursing homes and institutions that consume a disproportionate share of limited public resources. Setting affordable housing standards for persons earning 0 and 110% of the level of Supplemental Security Income (\$698 per month), will allow Texas to monitor, plan for, and allocate resources to groups identified by state affordable housing programs as special needs priorities who are currently priced out. Affordable housing should be located accessible to health and community services.

Long Term Services and Supports - *Improve the system of long-term services and supports to ensure the availability of quality community-based services and supports for individuals with developmental disabilities and emphasize providing services in integrated, community settings thereby reducing reliance on institutional services.*

People with disabilities continue to wait years for the community-based long term services and supports they need. Services for both adults and children are not adequate to meet the growing demand. Simultaneously, programs struggle to provide quality services to individuals with complex medical and behavioral health needs. As a result, people with disabilities are forced to either forego care or receive it in a more restrictive, institutional setting. The state has struggled to expand community based services while continuing to fund costly institutional services and their needed improvements.

Transportation - *Expand cost-effective accessible urban and rural transportation options for people with disabilities and elderly.*

State funding for public transportation is less than \$2 per person in Texas compared to the national average of \$37 per person. Increased state funding for transportation services, including urban and rural bus systems, paratransit services, and connector services is supported by a growing demand fueled by gas prices, congestion, an aging population and continuing population growth. For people with disabilities public transportation is the difference between isolation and the ability to be part of the community – to be employed, go to school, see the doctor, shop, and socialize.

Every person in America has the right to live in their own home, work at a regular job, seek an education and interact socially. This includes the 475,265 people with developmental disabilities in the state of Texas.

Background:

Staff will provide updates on the following policy areas of interest:

A. State Policy Issues

Staff will provide an update of recent public policy activities, including the implementation of legislation and the budget adopted by the 82nd Legislature as well as preparation for the 83rd Legislature.

Discussion topics include:

- Exceptional Item Requests
 - Health & Human Services Commission (HHSC)
 - Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS)
 - Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS)

B. Update on State Supported Living Center Monitoring Activities

The Committee will receive an update on recent Department of Justice monitoring team reports of State Supported Living Centers. A summary of the monitoring reports is provided.

C. Update on 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. Additional information is provided in meeting materials.

Discussion topics include:

- Federal Appropriations for DD Councils
- Implementation of the Affordable Care Act
- NACDD comments on the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking by CMS on Medicaid Home and Community Based Services Waiver rules

Public Policy Committee

Agenda Item 12.

Expected Action:

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

Council

Agenda Item 15. E.

Expected Action:

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

PUBLIC POLICY ACTIVITIES SUMMARY REPORT

May 2012 – July 2012

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

- TCDD continues to participate in various child protective services meetings and work with stakeholders, advocates and self advocates.
- TCDD met with DFPS staff on alternatives to foster care and appropriate non-residential services for children.
- TCDD is a designated member of the HHSC Children's Policy Council and staff also participate on the System Reform Sub-Committee.
- TCDD participates on the HHSC Task Force on Children with Special Health Care Needs.
- TCDD participates as a designated member on the Texas Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Committee currently focused on advocating for a Medicaid waiver for individuals with an acquired brain injury.
- TCDD continues to participate in the Texas Children's Mental Health Forums, developing a policy agenda to advance children's mental health in Texas.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

- TCDD provides input on continuity of care for offenders with developmental and/or mental health disabilities as a statutorily designated member of the Texas Council on Offenders with Medical and Mental Impairments.

EDUCATION

- TCDD staff are assisting with the collection of personal stories related to Early Childhood Intervention Services in Texas to be used during the 83rd Legislative Session.
- TCDD staff participated with other advocate organizations in a meeting with Legislative Budget Board staff to provide input about Early Childhood Intervention Services in Texas.
- TCDD staff provided input to the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) on exceptional item requests in the 2014-2015 Legislative Appropriations Request, including recommendations to increase service hours and address caseload growth for Early Childhood Intervention.
- TCDD staff continue to monitor the Sunset review process of the Texas Education Agency.

EMPLOYMENT

- TCDD staff continue to meet with the Texas Office for the Prevention of Developmental Disabilities (TOPDD) and Morningside Research to develop the 2012 Biennial Disability Report.
- TCDD worked with stakeholders and agencies to consider an application for a Projects of National Significance grant from the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities for *Partnerships in Employment Systems Change*.
- TCDD staff provided input to the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services on exceptional item requests in the 2014-2015 Legislative Appropriations Request including a recommendation to match vocational rehabilitation grant growth and expand services by Centers for Independent Living.
- TCDD staff is a designated member of the DARS Rehabilitation Council of Texas.

PUBLIC POLICY ACTIVITIES SUMMARY REPORT

May 2012 – July 2012

GUARDIANSHIP

- TCDD staff are researching alternatives to guardianship for medical decision-making for persons with cognitive disabilities.

HEALTHCARE

- TCDD joined Disability Rights Texas to provide comments on Texas' Application for the Dual Eligibles Integrated Care Demonstration Project.
- TCDD staff continue to monitor implementation of cost containment directives, including expansion of Medicaid managed care through 1115 Medicaid Flexibility waivers and Medicare Equalization.
- TCDD staff participate in the monthly My Medicaid Matters initiative and Cover Texas Now, an ad hoc healthcare advocacy coalition.
- TCDD provided support for printing My Medicaid Matters brochures in English and Spanish to inform legislators and the public about Medicaid services and why the Medicaid program is essential for many Texans with disabilities.
- TCDD staff monitor activities related to the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid.
- TCDD staff participate in relevant meetings, including the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Council and the Council for Advising and Planning (CAP) for the Prevention and Treatment of Mental and Substance Use Disorders.
- TCDD continues to participate in adult mental health policy advocacy meetings organized by Mental Health America Texas identifying policy issues and recommending solutions.

HOUSING

- TCDD provided input on state-funded research on how the issue of fair housing and impediments to housing are addressed by various state agencies and commissions.
- Staff continue to work with TDHCA and DSHS to problem solve the implementation of Project Access pilot for individuals with serious mental illness to transition from state psychiatric hospitals back to community.
- TCDD continue to work with TDHCA staff and attend board, stakeholder and monthly Disability Advisory Workgroup meetings.

LONG-TERM SERVICES AND SUPPORTS

- TCDD provided a letter of support for the Texas Health and Human Services Commission's (Commission) application to participate in the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS) Balancing Incentive Program (BIP).
- TCDD continues to participate in relevant DADS meetings, including the Promoting Independence Advisory Committee, Money Follows the Person Demonstration Advisory Committee, and Community-based Services Interest List Stakeholders.
- TCDD continues to participate in the Public-Private Sector Workgroup discussing current issues impacting the delivery of long-term services and supports for individuals with developmental disabilities.

PUBLIC POLICY ACTIVITIES SUMMARY REPORT

May 2012 – July 2012

- TCDD continues to work with colleague organizations regarding the implementation of the settlement agreement with the Department of Justice concerning Texas State Supported Living Centers.
- TCDD collaborated with the DD Network Partners to develop and present a proposal to the Department of Aging and Disability Services to build expertise regarding *Person Centered Thinking* at the Austin State Supported Living Center.
- TCDD staff worked with DADS and HHSC staff to ensure that Home and Community-based Services (HCS) waiver participants continue to be eligible for the SNAP, or food stamp benefits.
- TCDD staff are working with DADS and HHSC staff to develop fair and transparent room and board agreements between HCS residential services providers and participants.
- TCDD continues to participate as a member of the DADS Aging and Disability Resource Center Advisory Committee (ADRC), and the DADS Lifespan Respite Services Advisory Committee.
- TCDD continues to collaborate with stakeholders to strengthen the role of service coordination in the HCS program by addressing issues associated with the service planning process and ensuring that consumers have meaningful input via planned focus groups.
- TCDD participates as a member of the SB 1857 Advisory Committee to provide input to DADS and the Board of Nursing concerning revised protocols for medication management in the HCS, TxHmL and ICF programs.
- TCDD staff participated in DADS strategic planning meetings associated with ongoing activities relating to Disability History and Awareness.
- TCDD staff provided feedback regarding a utilization review tool to be used to ensure adequate and appropriate service levels in the HCS and CLASS programs.
- TCDD staff monitored interim legislative committee hearings.
- TCDD staff provided input regarding how to correct implementation errors relating to the rollout of STAR managed care to waiver consumers in Rural Service Areas (RSAs).
- TCDD staff collaborated with the National Association of Councils for Developmental Disabilities (NACDD) to develop public input regarding CMS' proposed HCBS rules.
- TCDD provided input on the 2014-15 Legislative Appropriations Request (LAR) development for DSHS community mental health, institution to community transition, health care for children with special needs and school-based children's health and behavioral health programs.

TRANSPORTATION

- TCDD continues to monitor various metropolitan planning organizations and review changes to the long-range transportation plan.

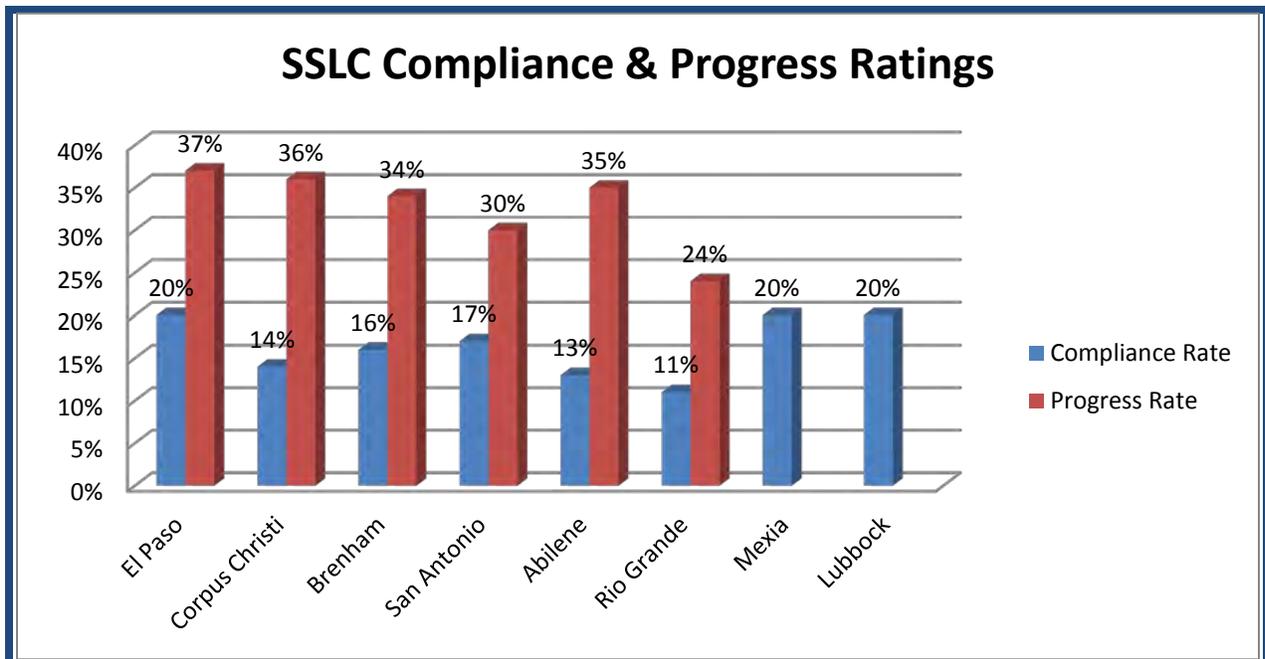
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

- TCDD staff have continued participation on the Texas Disability Task Force on Emergency Management.

State Supported Living Centers Monitoring Update

In June 2009, the State of Texas/Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) and the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) entered into a Settlement Agreement (SA) that covers the 12 State Supported Living Centers (SSLC) and the Intermediate Care Facility (ICF) component of Rio Grande State Center. As determined by the SA, three monitors, each with a monitoring team, are responsible for monitoring the facilities' compliance with the SA and related Health Care Guidelines. The monitoring teams examine activities in 20 different aspects of care provided to residents in each facility to determine the status of each facility's compliance with provisions of the U.S. DOJ Settlement Agreement. Within each section, there are a varying number of more specific provisions. Each provision is rated as in substantial compliance or noncompliance with the terms of the Settlement Agreement. There also are provisions that are not rated if the monitoring team had insufficient information.

Baseline reviews of the facilities were conducted from January through May 2010. The first round of compliance reviews were completed from July 2010 to January 2011. The second compliance reviews of each facility began in February 2011 and concluded in mid-July 2011. Council members received an update on the third compliance reviews in May 2012. This summary covers the reports issued in the fourth round of compliance reviews completed thus far.



This chart shows the proportion of compliance with all of the provisions evaluated in the monitoring reports. The rate of provisions that were showing progress is also provided, where available.

El Paso State Supported Living Center (EPSSLC)

EPSSLC was found to be compliant in 32 of 171 provisions, or 19 percent of the time. Between July 1 and December 21, 2011, 39 incidents of restraint occurred, where nine individuals were subject to restraint. One individual was restrained 21 times, accounting for 54 percent of the restraint incidents. Between July 1 and November 20, 2011, there were 13 confirmed cases of neglect and one case of abuse. EPSSLC had taken a number of steps to better assess and address risk factors; however, staff were not

State Supported Living Center Compliance Report Update

adequately trained on monitoring risk factors and providing necessary supports to prevent and address risk, according to DOJ monitors. Although the monitors pointed out several improvements in the medical and nursing departments, the report indicated that issues remained in the nursing department. For instance, nurses were not following accepted standards of practice and implemented improper interventions. The monitors noted improvements in moving individuals to the most integrated community setting, although there was an annual rate of only six percent of EPSSLC residents transitioning to the community. 58 individuals (five percent of the EPSSLC population) were not referred due to legally authorized representative preference.

Corpus Christi State Supported Living Center (CCSSLC)

CCSSLC was found to be in compliance with 22 of 171 provisions assessed by the DOJ Monitoring Team. This constitutes a rate of compliance of about 14 percent. Some progress in the area of restraint that was attained in the previous review was offset by a staff vacancy. Monitors also expressed concern that strategies to reduce target behaviors and prevent the use of restraint were not being implemented. Monitors commended CCSSLC for improved procedures and protections to prevent and address abuse, neglect, and incidents. Staff were not conducting comprehensive assessments in the areas of nursing, speech and communication, psychiatry, skill acquisition and physical and nutritional supports. According to monitors, "Adequate assessments are the foundation for good individualized planning." Monitors noted progress in the area of preventing and addressing risk factors. The monitoring team also observed improvements in habilitation, training, education and skill acquisition programs, commenting that the level of engagement had improved. Although there were improvements in referring individuals for transition to the most appropriate community setting, individual plans did not adequately define the necessary protections, support, and services to ensure health and safety. Of the nine individuals who transitioned to the community in 2011, four experienced significant adverse outcomes, which monitors attributed to inadequate transition plans and the quality of supports community providers offered to these individuals.

Brenham State Supported Living Center (BSSLC)

Brenham SSLC was found to be in compliance with 19 percent of the provisions in the SA. There were several areas where BSSLC lost ground compared to previous reviews and in fact declined from reaching standards to being in noncompliance, such as use of restraint, integrated clinical services, psychiatric care and services, nursing care, and pharmacy services and safe medication practices. In addition to eliminating some skill acquisition programs, individual support plans did not include a focus on learning skills necessary for community living. The monitoring team observed that BSSLC was making progress toward compliance in the area of abuse, neglect, and incident management, recommending that the SSLC improve documentation of serious injuries and improve the investigative process for incidents to rule out abuse and neglect as a contributing factor. The monitors highlighted progress made by the Medical department in reorganizing and with engaging all staff in achieving compliance with the SA. Although several individuals were referred and in the process of community transition, the monitoring team expressed concern about BSSLC's failure to identify needed services, supports, and obstacles to successful community transition.

San Antonio State Supported Living Center (SASSLC)

SASSLC was found to be compliant in 27 of 161 of the provisions assessed by the monitoring team, or 17 percent compliance. Between August 25, 2011, and February 3, 2012, 131 restraints were performed on 12 individuals. There were two confirmed cases of physical abuse and 25 confirmed cases of neglect from August 3, 2011, to December 26, 2011. There were 38 serious incidents at SASSLC that did not involve allegations of abuse or neglect. There were an increased number of injuries for fiscal year 2012,

and the number of serious injuries involving fractures or sutures more than doubled compared with the previous fiscal year. SASSLC was encouraged to improve reports to determine progress toward reducing the number of injuries. SASSLC was in the initial stages of developing a new risk assessment process, and monitors commented that the facility had taken minimal steps toward compliance in the area of risk. Although there were no items in compliance in the habilitation, training, education, and skill acquisition programs area, the monitors made note of improvements that occurred since the last review, including the establishment of a team to oversee compliance with the SA and a skill acquisition monitoring tool. Less than two percent of individuals living at SASSLC were transitioned to the community annually. However, ten individuals were on the active referral list, which is the largest number on the list since the SA was initiated.

Abilene State Supported Living Center (ABSSLC)

ABSSLC achieved compliance in 21 of 161 provisions of the SA, which comprises 13 percent of provisions. Regarding the use of restraint, the monitoring team brought attention to a number of areas that had improved, including a decline in the use of restraint and a tracking system for restraints used more than three times in 30 days for any individual. ABSSLC increased compliance in the provision of abuse, neglect, and incident management since the last review. During the 2011 calendar year, there were 53 confirmed cases of abuse and 78 cases of neglect at ABSSLC. While the number of deaths, serious injuries, and incidents of choking declined in 2011, the number of sexual incidents, suicide threats, and unauthorized departures increased compared to the previous year. Monitors expressed concern that risk assessments did not begin within five working days of a determination of increased risk. Further, risk action plans had little focus on prevention or minimizing risk through additional assessments. Skill acquisition programs were limited in scope and often not reflective of the needs identified in current assessments. Opportunities for learning were limited, and engagement level of individuals was low. Individual plans generally did not include recommendations on community transition, and ABSSLC was still at the initial stages of identifying obstacles to movement to the most integrated setting appropriate for the individual's needs.

Rio Grande State Center (RGSC)

RGSC achieved compliance in 18 of the 161 requirements of the SA, which constitutes a rate of compliance of 11 percent, the lowest among facilities being reviewed for a fourth time. However, monitors praised RGSC staff for changing the living environments of individuals by establishing smaller groupings of individuals to provide greater privacy and less distraction during medication administration. The monitors observed improvements in the use of restraint. Although restraint use declined in the use of medical restraint and crisis intervention, monitors recommended the development of support plans to further reduce reliance on medical restraint. Progress in the area of abuse, neglect, and incident management was reversed in seven components that were found to be in substantial compliance during the time of the previous review. One provision that was in non-compliance in the previous review was found to be in substantial compliance in the current review. The monitors characterized the frequency of late reporting of allegations of abuse and neglect as "alarmingly high." The monitoring team expressed concern about risk assessments of individuals, saying they were inadequate to determine risk level. In addition, risk assessments were not necessarily completed when individuals had a change in health status that should have resulted in a risk screening. In the area of habilitation, training, education, and skill acquisition programs, monitors commented that although efforts were made, no provision showed improvement. However, the number of individuals referred for community living increased significantly since the last review, from nine to 15 individuals. The monitoring team recommended additional resources to enable referrals to result in actual moves.

Mexia State Supported Living Center (MSSLC)

MSSLC was compliant in 28 of 171 areas assessed by DOJ monitors, slightly more than 20 percent compliance, in the fourth review. Compared to the third review, MSSLC improved compliance by 0.15 percent. The monitoring team expressed optimism regarding new management at MSSLC to move forward with treatment, intervention, support, service and compliance with the SA. Between September 1, 2011, and February 29, 2012, 226 restraints were used, a 31 percent decrease from the previous six month period and a 53 percent decrease from the same time in the previous year. There was also a 61 percent reduction in the use of restraints used for medical or dental treatment since the third compliance review. During the previous six months, there were 22 confirmed cases of physical abuse, one case of sexual abuse, three cases of emotional/verbal abuse, and six cases of neglect. MSSLC was not tracking all incidents or injuries. Between August 1, 2011, and February 27, 2012, there were 1,386 injuries at MSSLC, which included 36 serious injuries resulting in fractures or sutures. According to monitors, many of these injuries were the result of behavior issues, including peer-to-peer aggression. Although monitors observed that progress was made in the area of at-risk individuals, they also pointed out that MSSLC staff were not accurately identifying risk factors, which monitors said “should be a primary focus for the facility to ensure the safety of each individual.” MSSLC was making progress toward compliance in the area of ensuring that individuals were in the most integrated setting appropriate to their needs. Almost 9 percent of individuals were placed in the community on an annual basis, with another 11 percent on the active referral list. Monitors recommended improvements in identifying needed supports in the community for those transitioning.

Lubbock State Supported Living Center (LBSSLC)

LBSSLC achieved compliance in 28 of the 171 provisions assessed by the monitoring team, which comprises 20 percent compliance with the DOJ SA. This is an increase of 1 percentage point from the third compliance review. The monitoring team applauded LBSSLC’s diligent monitoring and evaluation of the use of restraint and development of alternative interventions. The monitoring team also commended LBSSLC for its zero tolerance policy on abuse, neglect, and exploitation, as well as timely investigation of serious incidents. Regarding at-risk individuals, there was little evidence that individuals were being assessed in a timely manner or that plans were being implemented in the required timeframe. Risk assessments were completed on an inconsistent basis, with staff members utilizing different methodologies, which resulted in varying quality of the plans for addressing risk. The monitoring team observed that individuals at LBSSLC were not adequately engaged in activity, recommending that staff improve methods used to estimate engagement and the implementation of skill acquisition programs. Since the previous review, three individuals transitioned to the community. The monitoring team called on LBSSLC to improve identification of needed services and supports in addition to individual preferences and strengths.



July 2, 2012

NACDD Comments on 1915(i) NPRM

Re: CMS-2249-P2

Dear Administrator Tavenner:

The National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed rule for the Medicaid Program: State Plan and Community-Based Services as published in the Federal Register at 77 FR 26362, May 3, 2012.

NACDD serves as the national voice of the state and territorial Councils on Developmental Disabilities. Created pursuant to the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act, DD Councils, appointed by the governor in every State and Territory, are a Federal-State partnership with and for people with developmental disabilities and their families.

As stated in the Federal Register notice, this proposed rule reflects the intention of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to revise and amend the regulations for the Medicaid Program; State Plan Home and Community-Based Services, a 5-Year Period for Waivers, Provider Payment Reassignment, and Setting Requirements for Community First Choice.

NACDD appreciates that the 1915(i) state option is a remarkable opportunity to provide many services and supports for people with developmental and other disabilities as part of a State Medicaid Plan without linking those services to eligibility for institutional level of care. We appreciate that the proposed rule goes a long way towards implementing this opportunity in a way that will well serve many people with disabilities.

NACDD reiterates our call for supporting living arrangements that “promote self-determination, independence, productivity, and integration in all facets of community life” as set forth in the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (DD Act).

NACDD is pleased that the proposed rule includes Person Centered Planning as part of the 1915(i) Waiver and identifies characteristics that define Home and Community Based Services in a uniform manner for all waivers.

NACDD and our counterparts under the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (DD Act) the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) and the National Disability Rights Network (NDRN) filed joint comments dated December 6, 2010 on CMS' ANPRM of June 22, 2010 (our "2010 Comments"). We append these 2010 Comments to these present comments because they address some of the issues in this NPRM in detail.

§440.182 State plan home and community-based services

We appreciate the opportunity for states to provide an expanded array of services to individuals with significant disabilities. We urge CMS to clarify in §440.182(c) that "other services requested by the state as the Secretary may approve" may include those services that have been, or could be, approved as "other services" under a 1915(c) waiver and to list specific examples of such services. The statute makes clear that any service within the scope of those permitted under a 1915(c) waiver may be provided through the 1915(i) option; the regulations must make that clear as well.

For example, we think it critical that CMS include specific language regarding transition services in the regulation itself. The preamble of the proposed rule (Background section (E)(2.)) states that "recognizing that individuals leaving institutions require assistance to establish themselves in the community, we would allow States to include in a section 1915(i) benefit, as an "other" service, certain transition services to be offered to individuals to assist them in their return to the community." We urge that the regulation itself clearly state that transition services can be covered under a 1915(i) option, and that they can be provided to individuals moving into a home and community based setting. The regulation should also specify examples of the types of supports that may be covered as transition services, including , at a minimum, the same as those now allowed for 1915(c) waivers, such as security deposits required to obtain a lease; set-up fees or deposits for utility or service access (e.g. telephone, electricity, heating); essential furnishings and moving expenses, and health and safety assurances (such as pest eradication, allergen control or one-time cleaning prior to occupancy).

CMS has, for waivers, defined those transition costs cited above as being outside the definition of "room and board" and therefore allowable. The same rationale should apply under Section 1915(i).

§441.656, §441.530 Requirements and Limits applicable to Specific Services

We support CMS's proposed list of qualities of home and community-based settings in Section 441.656(a) (1) (for state plan home and community-based services) and Section 441.530(a) (1) (for attendant services and supports in home and community-based settings). The qualities described include key characteristics that make a setting home-based or community-based.

We recommend some modifications:

1. CMS should add language to subsection (ii) to clarify the intent. This subsection currently reads “the setting is selected by the individual from among all available alternatives and is identified in the person-centered service plan.”

We propose that it should read: “the setting is selected by the individual following a meaningful opportunity to choose from among alternatives, including the setting that is the most integrated setting for the individual.” We also propose changing the second half of subsection to read “as documented in the person-centered service plan.” The plan should also document the alternatives available to the person, the choice made by the person, and the reasons for the choice.

2. While (a)(1)(vi)(A) defines the term “unit or room” to which the person has a legal right, (B) refers to rights or privacy etc. for “each individual in their sleeping or living unit.” Because there is no definition of each individual’s “sleeping or living unit” it is unclear to what area the individual’s rights pertain. It should be clarified that the “unit or room” to which the person is legally entitled is at least the space to which the rights in (B) should apply.
3. CMS should clarify that all settings in which the individual does not have a regular lease or full ownership should be considered provider-controlled. This should include foster care settings.
4. CMS should amend the language in both sections under subsection “vi” regarding modification of conditions in provider-owned or controlled residential settings to clarify that the specific assessed need must be of the individual, and should indicate that a determination has been made regarding the timeframe that the modification of conditions will be in effect. The restrictions should be documented in the individual’s person-centered service plan and verified as proportional to the specific safety need. The plan should also establish a schedule for review of the restrictions for effectiveness and continuing need.
5. CMS should also clarify under subsection “vi” of both sections that the “additional conditions” for provider-owned or controlled settings may not include that accepting particular services is a requirement in order to access housing. Housing should be provided separately from services.
6. CMS should allow departures from the “additional conditions” only in rare and extraordinary circumstances. CMS should, however, never permit departures from the additional conditions that individuals share units only at the individual’s choice, have the freedom to furnish and decorate their sleeping or living units, have the freedom and support to control their own schedules and activities, and are able to have visitors of

their choosing at any time. Allowing departures from key elements of home and community-based settings would be inconsistent with the common understanding of people with and without disabilities about what is a “home” and what it means to be part of “the community.”

7. In section 441.530(a)(2)(iv), the list of settings that may not be considered “home and community-based” in subsection (iv) should be modified to read “a hospital” (eliminating the qualifier “providing long-term care services”). Waiver services are often categorized as long term care services particularly by managed care organizations.
8. The following characteristics should be included as indications that give rise to a rebuttable presumption that a setting is not home and community-based:
 - a. Rather than creating a rebuttable presumption, CMS should state that the settings listed in Sections 441.656(a) (2) (v) and 441.530(a) (2) (v) are not home and community-based. As CMS has recognized in proposing a rebuttable presumption, settings located on the grounds of an institution, in a building that provides inpatient institutional care, or in a disability-specific housing complex function, for all practical purposes, as segregated institutional settings. They do not become home and community-based simply because residents are afforded privacy, the ability to choose whether to have a roommate, or other qualities of home and community-based settings. One of the most important qualities of a home and community-based setting is its location: a setting that is literally on the grounds of, in or synonymous with, an institution cannot be home and community-based.

If CMS embraces a rebuttable presumption, it should apply the presumption only to disability-specific housing complexes. The Settings on the grounds of an institution or in a building that provides inpatient care should never be considered home and community-based. In addition, with respect to disability specific housing, CMS should specify that the presumption may be rebutted only when (a) the setting meets all of the requirements for home and community-based settings in Sections 441.656(a)(1) and 441.530(a)(1) and (b) the setting was selected by the individual from among alternatives that included the most integrated setting appropriate for the individual.

- b. Sections 441.656(a)(2)(v) and 441.530(a)(2)(v) state that the Secretary will apply a rebuttable presumption that a setting is not home and community-based if it "is located in a building that is also a publicly or privately operated facility that provides inpatient institutional treatment, or in a building on the grounds of, or immediately adjacent to, a public institution, or disability-specific housing complex." We assume that the reference to a "disability-specific housing complex" was intended to refer to settings located in a disability-specific housing

complex – as well as on the grounds of, or immediately adjacent to, such a complex. CMS should revise the sentence to make that clear.

- c. In addition, CMS should revise Sections 441.656(a)(2)(v) and 441.530(a)(2)(v) to include settings on the grounds of or adjacent to a privately operated institution. A private institution is no less institutional than a public one and should be treated the same for purposes of this provision.
9. CMS should also clarify that a “disability-specific housing complex” includes any building or group of buildings that house primarily (50% or more) people with disabilities.

§441.659, §441.662 Independent Evaluation and Assessment

NACDD supports independent evaluation and assessment to maintain the integrity of the process and eliminating obvious conflicts of interest, and recommend the following:

1. Eligibility for services under Section 441.659 (d) must be determined through an independent evaluation of each individual that is performed by an agent that is independent and qualified as defined in section 441.668. Section 441.668 should exclude a managed care organization from conducting the independent evaluation of individuals.
2. When performing an independent assessment under Section 441.662, the state must provide all eligible individuals with an independent assessment of needs which is performed by an agent that is independent and qualified as defined in Section 441.668. Section 441.668 should exclude both the state and a managed care organization from conducting the independent assessment of individuals.

The rule itself (rather than just the preamble p 26372) should indicate that services must be furnished to individuals with an assessed need, and must not be based on available funds.

§441.656 State plan home and community-based services under the Act

NACDD recommends that the regulation (rather than just the preamble, p. 26376)), include an explicit statement that a “a state may propose more than one set of Section 1915(i) benefits, with each benefit package targeted toward a specific population” and that the state may also target multiple populations under one set of benefits or offer different services to each of the defined target groups within the benefit.”

§441.659 Needs-based Criteria and Evaluation

1. We recommend that the rule (rather than just the preamble p. 26369) explicitly clarify that the need for assistance with instrumental activities of daily living (IADLs) is a basis for eligibility for services under a 1915(i) option. The need for assistance with instrumental activities of daily living, such as the ability to manage finances and managing medications, is often critically relevant to individuals with disabilities.
2. We recommend that the rule (rather than just the preamble p. 26370) state that the inability to perform two or more ADLs is a required element of the independent assessment that is to be completed after an individual is evaluated as eligible to receive 1915(i) services.
3. We also recommend that the rule (rather than just the preamble, p. 26374), provide that FFP be available for evaluations (including both for medical services and administrative costs incurred for evaluation and assessment activities), even when an individual is subsequently found ineligible for 1915(i) services. Without this provision, individuals may not be able to access an evaluation in some circumstances.

§441.656, §441.659 Concern regarding interplay between Section 441.656 and Section 441.659

We are concerned that the interplay between Section 441.659 and Section 441.656 might be interpreted to allow a state to change the needs-based criteria between the institutional and waiver level of care and the state plan home and community-based level of care with the net effect that some people who would have been eligible previously will have no access to services. For example, the proposed regulation would allow a state to adjust the needs based criteria for waiver services and institutional level of care so they are stricter than those for the State Plan benefit, while also allowing limits for the State Plan benefits to be specified according to age, diagnosis, disability or Medicaid eligibility group. We are concerned that this may result in the total exclusion from either benefit for some groups who were previously eligible for waiver or institutional level of care.

We do not believe that this is CMS' intent, and we recommend that CMS include in the rules provisions that would prevent prospective exclusion from either benefit any groups who would have previously qualified for the waiver or institutional level of care

In Conclusion

NACDD thanks CMS for placing a high priority on defining what is and is not a Home and Community-Based Setting in supported living arrangements. We appreciate CMS' focus on providing services in the least restricted environment in the spirit of the *Olmstead* decision and

the DD Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act to “promotes self-determination, independence, productivity, and integration in all facets of community life.”

We appreciate your attention to these comments.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Peggy Hathaway".

Peggy (Margaret V.) Hathaway
Public Policy Manager
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities
202-506-5813
202-420-8040 (mobile)
phathaway@nacdd.org
www.nacdd.org

Please note attached 2010 Comments

APPENDIX

Joint Comments filed by NACDD, AUCD and NDRN dated 12/6/12 on CMS' ANPRM of June 22, 2010 (our "2010 Comments").

MEANINGFUL INCLUSION: WHAT DISTINGUISHES HOME AND COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES FROM INSTITUTIONAL LIVING

In June 2009, The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (CMS-2296-ANPRM) soliciting comments on the most effective means of defining home and community. The noticed intention of CMS was to publish proposed amendments to the regulations for implementing the Medicaid Home and Community Based Services waivers under section 1915 (c) of the Social Security Act.

We, the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD), the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD), and the National Disability Rights Network (NDRN), applaud the efforts of CMS to more explicitly describe the expectations that individuals with developmental disabilities should be served in their homes and communities. We believe that the standards for community living articulated in the Advance Notice of Rulemaking --*optimizing participant independence and community integration, promoting initiative and choice in daily living, and facilitating full access to community services*-- reflect the values and goals that many individuals with developmental disabilities, along with their families and advocates have struggled to achieve for over 40 years. Home and Community Based Waiver funding is the primary source of funding for individuals with developmental disabilities and families in achieving these goals.

Therefore, it is imperative to ensure that the Developmental Disabilities Home and Community Based Waiver funding source continues to be dedicated to furthering these values and goals. It is in this spirit that we submit these comments. In doing so, we highlight the beliefs and values we are collectively guided by with regard to community-based living, review legal standards, and highlight the characteristics that should be required in living arrangements that are supported with public funding via Medicaid Home and Community Based Waiver services for individuals with developmental disabilities.

In summary, while individuals with developmental disabilities have the right to choose where they live, it is the position of NACDD, AUCD, and NDRN that state and federal funds, including Developmental Disabilities Home and Community Based Waiver funds, should not support segregated living arrangements where all or nearly all of the residents are people with disabilities. Rather these funds should support living arrangements that "promote self-determination, independence, productivity, and integration and inclusion in all facets of community life" as set forth in the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (DD Act) and consistent with requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act and other legal requirements

BELIEFS AND VALUES

In defining home and community characteristics, it is important to understand the values and beliefs that are fundamental to the standards for community living that CMS has stated. The DD Act provides an excellent context for understanding the basis for the community integration, choice, control and independence principles set forth in the CMS standards. The purpose of this act is "to assure that individuals with developmental disabilities and their families participate in the design of and have access to needed community services, individualized supports and other forms of assistance that promote self-determination, independence, productivity and integration and inclusion in all facets of community life .."¹ The first finding of the DD Act is that "disability is a natural part of the human experience that does not diminish the right of individuals with developmental disabilities to live independently, to exert control and choice over their own lives, and to fully participate in and contribute to their communities through full integration and inclusion in the economic, political, social, cultural, and educational mainstream of United States society."²

When read in its entirety, the intent of the DD Act is to recognize the competencies, capabilities and personal goals of individuals with developmental disabilities and to contribute to a system where individuals with developmental disabilities have the ability and opportunity to make personal decisions, exert control over their lives and participate in the same community activities that are available to individuals without disabilities. Inclusion and integration of individuals with developmental disabilities in the communities of our society, as well as individual choice and control of life decisions and daily living activities, are core intents of the DD Act and of the Medicaid Home and Community Based Waiver services.

The DD Act provides excellent definitions of these principles that can be used to guide your consideration. All definitions are used with respect to individuals with developmental disabilities.

- Inclusion: The term "inclusion" means "the acceptance and encouragement of the presence and participation of individuals with developmental disabilities, by individuals without disabilities, in social, educational, work, and community activities, that enables individuals with developmental disabilities to-
 - (A) have friendships and relationships with individuals and families of their own choice;
 - (B) live in homes close to community resources, with regular contact with individuals without disabilities in their communities;
 - (C) enjoy full access to and active participation in the same community activities and types of enjoyment as individuals without disabilities; and

¹ P.L. 106-402, section 101 (b)

² P.L. 106-402, section 101 (a)

(D) take full advantage of their integration into the same community resources as individuals without disabilities, living, learning, working, and enjoying life in regular contact with individuals without disabilities.”³

- Integration: The term “integration” means “exercising the equal right of individuals with developmental disabilities to access and use the same community resources as are used by and available to other individuals.”⁴
- Self-Determination Activities: The term “self-determination activities” means “activities that result in individuals with developmental disabilities, with appropriate assistance, having-
 - (A) the ability and opportunity to communicate and make personal decisions;
 - (B) the ability and opportunity to communicate choices and exercise control over the type and intensity of services, supports, and other assistance the individuals receive;
 - (C) the authority to control resources to obtain needed services, supports, and other assistance;
 - (D) opportunities to participate in, and contribute to, their communities; and
 - (E) support, including financial support, to advocate for themselves and others, to develop leadership skills, through training in self-advocacy, to participate in coalitions, to educate policymakers, and play a role in the development of public policies that affect individuals with developmental disabilities.”⁵
- Individualized Supports: The term “individualized supports” means “supports that-
 - (A) enable an individual with a developmental disability to exercise self-determination, be independent, be productive, and be integrated and included in all facets of community life;
 - (B) are designed to-
 - (i) enable such individual to control such individual’s environment, permitting the most independent life possible;
 - (ii) prevent placement into a more restrictive living arrangement than is necessary; and
 - (iii) enable such individual to live, learn, work, and enjoy life in the community; and
 - (C) include-
 - (i) early intervention services;
 - (ii) respite care;
 - (iii) personal assistance services;
 - (iv) family support services;
 - (v) supported employment services;
 - (vi) support services for families headed by aging caregivers of individuals with developmental disabilities; and

³ P.L. 106-402, section 102 (15)

⁴ P.L. 106-402, section 102 (17)

⁵ P.L. 106-402, section 102 (27)

(vii) provision of rehabilitation technology and assistance technology, and assistive technology services.”⁶

While individuals with developmental disabilities have the right to choose where they live, public state and federal funds, including Developmental Disabilities Home and Community Based Waiver funds, should support living arrangements that “promote self-determination, independence, productivity, and integration and inclusion in all facets of community life” as set forth in the DD Act.

THE LEGAL OBLIGATION TO PROVIDE SERVICES IN THE LEAST RESTRICTIVE SETTING

CMS standards require that programs should optimize participant independence and community integration, promote initiative and choice in daily living, and facilitate full access to community services. Accordingly, public funds should be used to support living arrangements that are consistent with these values and beliefs.

The guiding principle of the U.S. Supreme Court’s landmark 1999 decision in *Olmstead v. L.C.*⁷ is the inherent right of an individual to be free from unnecessary segregation from the general public. The Court made the legal and social imperative for deinstitutionalization clear: unnecessary institutionalization is a form of discrimination under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).⁸

The ADA expressly states that, “no qualified individual with a disability shall, by reason of such disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs, or activities of a public entity, or be subjected to discrimination by any such entity.”⁹ Through its *Olmstead* decision, the United States Supreme Court applied the ADA to state operated publicly-funded institutions and explained that, “segregation perpetuates unwarranted assumptions that institutionalized people are incapable or unworthy of participating in community life.” The Justices also concluded that, “confinement in an institution severely diminishes the everyday life activities of individuals, including family relations, social contacts, work options, economic independence, educational advancement, and cultural enrichment.” The Court then reasoned that since people with disabilities should not have to give up the benefits of full participation in their communities in order to obtain needed medical services and supports, states should make reasonable accommodations under the ADA to ensure that Medicaid and other funds are used to provide the most integrated and inclusive settings appropriate for individuals with developmental disabilities.

In 2009, the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York, also weighed in on the characteristics of a community based setting. In *Disability Advocates, Inc v. Patterson*, the Judge

⁶ P.L. 106-402, section 102 (16)

⁷ *Olmstead v. L.C.*, 527 U.S. 581, 119 S.Ct. 2176 (1999).

⁸ *Id.*, 527 U.S. at 597.

⁹ 42 U.S.C. § 12132.

was asked to determine whether adult care homes for individuals with mental illness in New York meet the definition of the “most integrated setting appropriate” as used in the Department of Justice (DOJ) regulations governing the ADA Title II 28 C.F.R. 35.130(d); 42 U.S.C. 12134; and the U.S. Supreme Court in *Olmstead*. The regulations define “most integrated setting appropriate” as “a setting that enables individuals with disabilities to interact with nondisabled persons to the fullest extent possible.” 28 C.F.R. Pt. 35, App. A at 452. New York argued that adult home residences for individuals with mental illness met this definition because they were: in the community; unlocked; and permitted residents the opportunity to interact with non-disabled people. The Judge rejected this argument, holding that the ADA does not require “an” opportunity for interaction with non-disabled people, but rather the maximum opportunity for such interactions. The Court considered the essential characteristics of institutions to be:

- the degree of control that people exercised over their own lives, for example: could they cook or plan their own meals, control their own budgets, decide when to eat and sleep, and host visitors in private at times of their choosing;
- the degree of individualization of the setting and services, for example, whether people could choose their own roommate and their own medical professionals; and
- whether residents had non-disabled friends, worked or volunteered with non-disabled people, and had opportunities for recreation with non-disabled people.¹⁰

The Rehabilitation Act mirrors the DD Act in its intent for inclusion and independence for individuals with disabilities. Specifically, the act states that “disability is a natural part of human experience and in no way diminishes the right of individuals to live independently; enjoy self-determination; make choices; contribute to society; pursue meaningful careers; and enjoy full inclusion and integration in the economic, political, social, cultural and educational mainstream of American society.”¹¹

Consistent with all these precedents, CMS recently denied a request from the state of Missouri to amend its 1915(c) MR/DDR Comprehensive Home and Community-Based Services waiver for increased transition of individuals into residential units clustered on the grounds of a large state-operated institution. In the letter dated August 2, 2010, CMS stated that the proposed waiver amendment proposal is not consistent with both statute and regulations as Missouri would not be providing services that permit individuals to avoid institutionalization.

It is imperative that these gains not be reversed. We urge CMS to adopt strong requirements that prevent the use of Developmental Disabilities Home and Community Based Waiver funds for living arrangements that are not consistent with the values and goals in the DD Act as well as with the ADA, the *Olmstead* decision and the Rehabilitation Act, and to protect the continued use of these funds for true integrated community living.

RESEARCH DEMONSTRATES THE BENEFIT OF COMMUNITY LIVING

¹⁰ *DAI v. Paterson*, 2009 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 80975 at 114-115

¹¹ P.L. 93-112, section 2 (a)

In addition to these legal and social goals, adherence to these standards of community living furthers the public interest by promoting the wellbeing of those served.¹²

A study of the results of the 1994 closing of North Princeton Developmental Center in New Jersey, published by the American Association on Mental Retardation in 2005, compared people who moved from institutional settings to people with similar service and support needs who remained in institutions.¹³ The study produced “convincing evidence” that the multi-cognitive scores of people who remained in institutional settings significantly decreased from 1994-2001. The study also concluded that those who moved to community settings demonstrated significant increases in self-care skills over time. The authors concluded, “If we had focused solely on movers ... we would have missed one of the most salient findings of this evaluation, namely, the significant loss by stayers in their multi-cognitive competencies, particularly in the areas of social skills...”¹⁴

Similarly, a survey of guardians of people who moved from institutional settings to the community in Wisconsin led researchers to conclude that the vast majority of guardians felt that the transition to the community led to equal or enhanced satisfaction with their loved one’s living arrangements and overall happiness.¹⁵

Finally, a review of the literature concluded:

“The studies reviewed here demonstrate strongly and consistently that people who move from institutions to community settings have experiences that help them to improve their adaptive behavior skills. The studies suggest that community

¹² It should be noted that institutional living is not solely bound by CMS’ or other definitions of institutions and that features of institutions are also found in places currently referred to as community settings. More specifically, people living in congregate settings of seven or more residents are more likely to report loneliness, less frequent satisfaction with their home, lower levels of community participation, etc. See Lakin, K.C., Doljanac, R., Byun, S., Stancliffe, R., Taub, S., Chiri, G., (2008) Choice-making among Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services recipients and ICF/MR residents in six states. *American Journal on Mental Retardation*, 113(5), 325-341.

¹³ “Longitudinal Changes in Adaptive Behavior of Movers and Stayers;” Lerman, P., Apgar, D., Jordan, T. *Mental Retardation Journal*, American Association on Mental Retardation. February 2005, pp. 25-42. The study compared adaptive behaviors of individuals who lived in the North Princeton Developmental Center. The study assessed 150 movers and 150 stayers and looked at longitudinal changes. Movers and stayers were matched according to age, gender, cognition, social-emotional functioning, self-care, mobility, and challenging behaviors.

¹⁴ Id.

¹⁵ *Northern Wisconsin Center (NWC) Relocation Survey – March 27, 2006, prepared by APS Healthcare, Inc. for The Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS), Division of Disability and Elder Services (DDES).* See also Larson, S. A., & Lakin, K. C. (eds.). (1989). Deinstitutionalization of persons with mental retardation: Behavioral outcomes. *Journal of the Association for Persons with Severe Handicaps*, 14(4), 324-332. Updated in Kim, S., Larson, S., and Lakin, K.C. (2001) Behavioral outcomes of deinstitutionalization of people with intellectual disabilities. A review of U.S. studies conducted between 1980 and 1999, *Journal of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities*, 26(1), 35-50.

experiences increasingly provide people with environments and interventions that reduce challenging behavior.”¹⁶

The potential for an enhanced quality of life and skill improvements for people who move to community settings, and the risk that those remaining unnecessarily in institutions may experience a loss of skills provides further impetus to support people with developmental disabilities in appropriate community settings.

EMERGING OPTIONS FOR LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

Over time, numerous options for a continuum of living arrangements for individuals with developmental disabilities have and will continue to emerge across the United States. These options have been developed in response to a variety of issues, concerns, and desires, including but not limited to the following:

- The historic lack of services in the community to appropriately support individuals with developmental disabilities to live self-directed, participatory lives in the community;
- The desire of families for safety and continuity of care;
- The desire of individuals with developmental disabilities to socialize and/or live with others;
- The desire of individuals with developmental disabilities to be seen as equal participants in all that society has to offer; and
- The tightening economy that makes congregate service provision more appealing for service providers.

Now is, therefore, the opportune time to provide a framework for determining options that will and will not support Medicaid Home and Community Based Waiver standards for community living.

Below is an outline of some emerging living arrangement options and whether each option is consistent and/or inconsistent with the beliefs and values that are intrinsic to the DD Act, the legal requirements of the ADA and the *Olmstead* decision, and the CMS articulated standards of community living.

It is essential to understand that if a setting has even one aspect that is inconsistent with the values of the DD Act and CMS standards for community living, the setting is not integrated and should not be supported as such.

Options for Living Independently:

Contrary to popular belief, individuals with developmental disabilities are able to live in their own homes. Supports are offered in various forms and make living independently possible.

¹⁶ Larson & Lakin, *Id.*

Emerging Independent Living options include the following:

- A variety of approaches are being used to support individuals with developmental disabilities with all levels of needs to live independently in the community.
 - One option is for the person providing the care and supervision to live next door or in the proximity of the individual with developmental disabilities.
 - Another option is paying a neighbor to provide emergency support to an individual with developmental disabilities as needed.
- Individuals with developmental disabilities live in apartments among other members of the community. They receive individualized assistance and have access to multiple activities that support their growing independence and active involvement in community activities. In this approach a community is prepared for the integration of individuals with developmental disabilities. Specifically, the community and the specific settings to be frequented by the individuals with developmental disabilities are educated about these individuals to provide a foundation for acceptance and support.
- Public/private partnerships are being developed to increase the supply of affordable and accessible housing available for individuals with developmental disabilities and to prepare and facilitate availability of rental and/or home ownership for individuals with developmental disabilities. Services are purchased separately as needed to provide the necessary support.

How Options for Living Independently Are Consistent with DD Act Beliefs and Values:

- Individuals with developmental disabilities have the opportunity to live independently, with choices and controls over their daily life activities.
- Individuals with developmental disabilities are living where they have regular contact with individuals without disabilities and the opportunity to develop friendships and relationships with a wide range of individuals and families of their choice.
- Individuals with developmental disabilities are living where they can take advantage of opportunities for participating in community activities. Such opportunities can be facilitated by the proximity of generic and natural supports, such as individuals with developmental disabilities living on the public bus route or with access to public transportation for individuals with disabilities, or living in proximity or with access to employment opportunities, places of worship, socialization, recreation, shopping, volunteering and civic engagement.
- Services and supports are individualized based on the particular needs of the individual with developmental disabilities and promote self-determination, independence, productivity, integration and inclusion.
- Individuals with developmental disabilities have a choice of all the providers and staff available in the community.
- Other individuals in the community have regular contact with the individuals with developmental disabilities who can observe and report potential abuse.

Individualized Shared Living Options:

While many individuals with developmental disabilities live with their own families, there are also approaches where individuals with developmental disabilities live with roommates or in the private home of an individual or family who provides the individual with developmental disabilities with support, guidance and supervision.

Emerging Individualized Shared Living Options:

- There are approaches that emphasize the long term sharing of lives and forming caring households and close personal relationships between an individual with developmental disabilities and supportive persons.
- There are also approaches where the person providing care and supervision lives with the individual with developmental disabilities (with or without additional roommates with developmental disabilities). Each person in the apartment/home has his or her own lease, making the apartment the home of the individual with developmental disabilities, instead of the individual with developmental disabilities living in the caretaker's home as is the case with foster homes.

How Individualized Shared Living Options Are Consistent with DD Act Beliefs and Values:

- Individuals with developmental disabilities have the opportunity to live independently with choices and controls over their daily life activities.
- Individuals with developmental disabilities are living where they can have regular contact with individuals without disabilities, and thus have the opportunity to develop friendships and relationships with a wide range of individuals and families of their choice.
- Individuals with developmental disabilities are living where they can take advantage of opportunities for participating in community activities.
- Services and supports are individualized based on the particular needs of the individual with developmental disabilities and promote self-determination, independence, productivity, integration and inclusion.
- The personal care provider is the non-relative family with whom the individual with developmental disabilities lives. Individuals with developmental disabilities have a choice of all other providers and staff available in the community.
- Other individuals in the community have regular contact with individuals with developmental disabilities and can observe and report potential abuse.

Intentional Communities/Co-Operative Communities:

These communities contain homes, apartments and possibly other housing options that are clustered and designed for the purpose of meeting the unique needs of different populations or are unified by a common purpose and a fostering of mutual neighborhood support.

Whether these communities provide living opportunities that are integrated and otherwise consistent with DD Act beliefs and values and other legal requirements depends on how each situation is structured. In any case, a community should never be considered integrated based on

only a token number of non-disabled people residing among a high percentage of individuals with disabilities.

Emerging Intentional/Co-Operative Communities:

- Clustering of housing and services to address more than one target population, such as individuals with developmental disabilities and individuals who are aging, or individuals with developmental disabilities and college students. Common areas for sharing social activities and dining can be offered.
- Intentional Communities/Co-operatives focus on developing mutual neighborhood support and communities where members share their lives, and encourage interactions between its members. Some of these communities specifically seek to provide homes and a community for people with and without disabilities. Avenues for developing natural supports through relationships and support for one another are provided.

How Intentional/Co-Operative Communities Can Be Consistent with DD Act Beliefs and Values:

- Individuals with developmental disabilities have regular social connections with other individuals.
- There is an opportunity for bringing together and sharing community supports and services for individuals with developmental disabilities.
- Individuals with developmental disability are living where they can have regular contact with individuals without disabilities, and thus have the opportunity to develop friendships and relationships with a wider range of individuals and families of their choice.
- Individuals with developmental disabilities are living where they can take advantage of opportunities for participating in the community activities made available to the population of individuals without disabilities.

How Intentional/Co-Operative Communities Are Inconsistent with DD Act Beliefs and Values:

- The choices and controls that individuals with developmental disabilities have over their daily life activities may still be limited by the requirements/rules imposed by the community organizing entity and to opportunities provided by the community organizing entity, depending on the population of individuals without developmental disabilities (i.e., aging individuals).

Clustered Housing Options:

Clustered Housing Communities are where residences, whether homes, apartments, group homes and/or other types of licensed residences (such as Assisted Living Facilities) are clustered/grouped together in some form to provide for a community. These Cluster Housing options are designed to meet the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities in congregate settings. These communities are intended to provide safety, opportunities for socializing with other individuals with developmental disabilities, and sense of belonging to a community.

The main concern is that in these settings, there is little or no integration with people without disabilities. Even in those clustered housing communities that are open to others, it is generally the case that only a very small percentage of the residents are individuals without developmental disabilities.

Emerging Clustered Housing Options Include the Following:

- Small clustered housing arrangements where a small number of group homes are grouped together sharing common areas for social activities and dining.
- Large cluster housing arrangements offering campus style living where there are multiple housing units (all one type or mixed) and a wide range of services offered on the grounds.
- A clustering of apartments/homes for individuals with disabilities with no common services on site. Any supervision or personal care services are provided by organizations outside the cluster housing settings.
- A clustering of “condominium” units within one building, in which each individual owns his/her bedroom “unit” and has shared ownership of common areas for social activities and dining.

How Clustered Housing Options Are Inconsistent with DD Act Beliefs and Values:

- Individuals with developmental disabilities are segregated from individuals without disabilities. Regular contact with individuals without developmental disabilities, and therefore, opportunities to develop friendships and relationships with a wide range of individuals and families of their choice, is limited to trips off-campus.
- Opportunities to participate in everyday integrated community activities are not naturally available. The addition of congregate services in the cluster housing setting, such as meals, sheltered workshops, and on-site employment, further reduce opportunities for contact with integrated community activities.
- The choices and controls that individuals with developmental disabilities have over their daily life activities and, therefore, their opportunity to live as independently as possible, are limited by the requirements/rules imposed by the provider and to opportunities offered by the provider.
- Although there may be some choice of providers and staff available in the community, providers will have invested in housing and on-site services in the cluster housing community, which may limit availability of community providers and staff. Such an investment in the housing and on-site services may necessitate individuals moving out of the cluster housing community if they wish to change providers.
- It would be inconsistent with DD Act Beliefs and Values for a community to be considered integrated based on only a token number of non-disabled people residing among a large majority of individuals with disabilities.

DEFINING WHAT IS AND IS NOT HOME AND COMMUNITY BASED LIVING ARRANGEMENTS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

In defining community for individuals with developmental disabilities, it is important to exercise caution since each individual possesses their own sense of what community means to them based on familial and cultural values. However, based on the beliefs and values established in the DD Act, as well as requirements of the ADA, the *Olmstead* decision and the Rehabilitation Act, that recognize the basic civil right of all people to make choices about their living arrangements, relationships, and daily activities, it is possible to outline characteristics that are fundamental for any community.

While defining community for individuals with developmental disabilities may be challenging, individuals with developmental disabilities and their families know when they "achieve" a satisfactory life in the community. Sometimes it is easier to say what community isn't than what it is, but for each individual, there is an ideal that allows that individual to feel that they are a community member living a life of self-direction and participation. Although there may be barriers to taking advantage of or enjoying all of these fundamental characteristics, it becomes clear that the more community characteristics in which an individual can participate, the more the living arrangement is home and community based. In turn, the less community participation, the more likely the living arrangement is aligned with a congregate setting with the characteristics of institutional living.

It is our position that for living arrangements to be consistent with the beliefs and values of the DD Act, as well as with the requirements of the ADA, the *Olmstead* decision and the Rehabilitation Act, they must comply with each and every one of the following fundamental characteristics that allow people with developmental disabilities, like all members of the community, to:

1. Make choices about their daily lives

What it is: Individuals with developmental disabilities must have access to options and make choices, such as where they live, work, or spend their day based on personal likes and dislikes. Decisions such as location of an individual's home, housemates, work activity, daily schedules, and personal choices such as clothing, friends, television programs, etc. must be specific to the person. Individuals with developmental disabilities must be supported to recognize that they can exercise their full rights and responsibilities as community citizens, volunteering time, assisting others, voting, etc.

What it isn't: The community would not be a system in which the state or provider agencies inform people where they will live, work or spend their day. People should not be offered housing arrangements that are only for people with disabilities, where all neighbors have disabilities and houses are clustered by provider or institution affiliation for the convenience of the provider or staff. People with disabilities, just like those without disabilities, should not expect to be told such things as with whom they will live, what they will eat, wear, watch on TV and when they will get up or go to bed.

2. Live in integrated settings where not all residents and neighbors have disabilities

What it is: While disability is a natural part of life and many members of our society experience or will experience a disability, we do not expect all of our neighbors and household members to have a disability. While there will be variances in what becomes a normal expectation, people with disabilities should not have expectations of ratios higher than other members of their community.

What it isn't: People are only offered homes or living arrangements in settings where all or almost all of the residents have disabilities. These settings are often established for the convenience of the provider or funding system rather than the individual resident. Other choices may be diminished as well for the ease of management of the residence and staff.

3. Identify services and supports that are individualized to meet their needs

What it is: People receive support to help identify, design and access the resources and services they need to have a quality life and participate in the community. Individualized services and supports promote self-determination, independence, participation, and inclusion in all aspects of community life. Naturally occurring services and systems are considered first before a specialized service is created and purchased. There is a conscious effort to adapt existing services so that people can participate alongside people who do not have disabilities. Individuals' wishes, needs, and desires are genuinely taken into consideration. Individuals are supported to make informed choices.

What it isn't: People are placed in existing programs and projects. Their personal plans to help them access these programs are developed with little or no input from the individual. People are seldom offered options that all citizens enjoy with individualized adaptations that allow them to participate.

4. Fully participate in the community

What it is: People participate in activities and events of their choice, based on their likes and interests alongside people who do not have disabilities. Staff discreetly supports people only as needed and requested. People with disabilities take advantage of naturally occurring supports. They use transportation systems that are available and used by all citizens. People expect to "go out" to access the services and supports they need.

What it isn't: People "visit" the community in groups organized for people with disabilities. They participate in community activities that are determined by others to be fun or appropriate without meaningful input from individuals with disabilities. Everything is "special" to meet their needs. Transportation is provided by "the system" and only offered to those with disabilities. In some cases, all of the services and necessities are chosen by others with little or no input from the individual and brought into the residence so that people are never required to leave their home.

5. Develop relationships with people with and without disabilities and with whom they have a wide range of interests

What it is: People develop interdependent friendships and relationships with people who do not have disabilities as well as those who have disabilities. They have friends and caring relationships other than support staff and family members. People feel loved and appreciated for who they are.

What it isn't: People should not have to seek permission or stay within "rules" to talk with or call a friend. When people with developmental disabilities live in segregated settings

they generally have no opportunity to develop relationships with people who do not have disabilities or who are not paid staff.

6. Make choices about providers and staff

What it is: People with developmental disabilities have the right to choose and hire their provider agency and staff. They have input into the hiring and managing of their staff. They receive assistance in dealing with staff problems and training on managing staff. Staff members understand that they work for the individuals and that the home belongs to the individual. Staff members allow personal space and privacy and respect the desires of the individual.

What it isn't: Staff members are assigned to people based on availability and scheduling. If there is a disagreement or complaint from the individual regarding the staff person, the individual must accept responsibility and change or an agency may refuse to provide further support. Staff feels that they are in charge of the people they serve, and they determine activities, make decisions and decide how support will be provided.

7. Feel that they are reasonably safe

What it is: People feel safe and are able to enjoy being out and about in their community without fear and with reasonable expectations that they will not be abused or mistreated while in the community. If they experience an uncomfortable situation or some type of abuse, they know how and to whom to report to and they feel confident that their concerns will be considered valid and will be addressed. People are empowered through education, training and support to safely navigate their community, to recognize, understand and prevent abuse and to engage in healthy reciprocal relationships.

What it isn't: People rely on paid staff or family members to observe abuse or neglect and report incidents because their input is not valid. People with disabilities have not been taught to say "stop" or "no" when strangers, family or trusted staff treat them inappropriately.

CONCLUSION

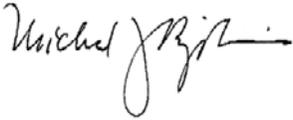
Congress and the United States Supreme Court have established a clear legal mandate that CMS and states must design and deliver federally funded services in a manner that does not unduly isolate or segregate individuals with developmental disabilities. Extensive empirical reports and scientific research further support this direction and provide ample evidence of the benefits of community living in settings that provide opportunities for self-direction and participation in all aspects of community life.

New approaches of living arrangements are emerging across the nation to support individuals with developmental disabilities for which Home and Community Based Waiver funds are being sought. While some of these living arrangements offer innovative options for supporting the inclusion and integration of individuals with developmental disabilities into our communities, there are models of living arrangements that challenge the fundamental values and goals set forth in the DD Act, as well as requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the U.S. Supreme

Court *Olmstead* decision, and the core standards for community living articulated for the Home and Community Based Waiver.

Advocates have worked for over 40 years to shift the bias of federal and state funding from institutional settings to the community. It is imperative that these gains not be reversed. NACDD, AUCD and NDRN urge CMS to adopt strong requirements that prevent the use of Developmental Disabilities Home and Community Based Waiver funds for living arrangements that are not consistent with these values and goals and to protect the continued use of these funds for true community living.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael J. Brogioli
Executive Director,
National Assoc. of Councils
on Developmental Disabilities
mbrogoli@nacdd.org
202-506-5813



Curtis L. Decker, JD
Executive Director,
National Disability
Rights Network
curt.decker@ndrn.org
202-408-9514



George S. Jesien, PhD
Executive Director,
Association of University
Centers on Disabilities
gjesien@aucd.org
301-509-2397

Background:

The Council will review the minutes from the May 4, 2012, Council meeting and May 3, 2012, Committee of the Whole meeting.

Council

Agenda Item 3. A.

Expected Action:

The Council will review, revise as appropriate, and approve the minutes from the May meetings.

**COUNCIL MEETING
DRAFT MINUTES
MAY 4, 2012**

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Mary Durham, Chair
Hunter Adkins
Kimberly Blackmon
Gladys Cortez
Kristen Cox
Frank Genco, HHSC

Kathy Griffis-Bailey, DSHS
Jeff Kaufmann, DADS
Cindy Johnston
Diana Kern
Scott McAvoy
Dana Perry

Joe Rivas
Cindy Swain, TEA
David Taylor
Lora Taylor
Richard Tisch
Susan Vardell

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT

Mike Benz/Amy Sharp, A&M CDD
Kristine Clark
Brenda Coleman-Beattie

Andrew Crim
Mateo Delgado
Mary Faithfull, DRT

Sara Kendall, DARS
John Morris
Penny Seay, UT CDS

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Roger Webb, Executive Director
Martha Cantu
Joanna Cordry

Cassie Fisher
Sonya Hosey
Melissa Loe

Jessica Ramos
Melissa Rosser
Koren Vogel

GUESTS PRESENT

Nancy Davenport
Michelle Dooley
Leteshia Finley
Gina Fuller

Jennifer Jordan
Wade Jordan
Carissa Paschall
Cindy Paschall

Heiwa Salovitz
Joe Tate

CALL TO ORDER

The Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities convened on Friday, May 4, 2012, in the Majestic 1 room of the Sheraton Dallas Hotel, 400 North Olive St, Dallas, TX 75201. Council Chair Mary Durham called the meeting to order at 8:33 AM.

1. INTRODUCTIONS

Council members, staff and guests were introduced.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Council received public comments from Michelle Dooley of *Community Now!* regarding issues with the Austin State Supported Living Center and asked the Council to address the state's institutional bias and support community living. She also stated that the time of public comment on the agenda was difficult for residents in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. Chair Durham and Executive Director Roger Webb responded that the position of the Council was in support of community living and that it is a high priority for the Council.

3. CONSENT ITEMS

Chair Durham reported the excused absences for the meeting which include John Morris, Kristine Clark, Brenda Coleman-Beattie, Andy Crim, Mateo Delgado, Mike Benz/Amy Sharp (Tx A&M Center for Development and Disability), Sara Kendall (DARS), Penny Seay (Center for Disability Studies-UT),

and Mary Faithfull (Disability Rights Texas). Durham asked for a motion to approve the excused absences and the minutes of the February Council and Committee of the Whole meetings.

MOTION: To approve the excused absences as noted and minutes of the February 9-10, 2012, meetings as presented.

MADE BY: Rick Tisch

SECOND: Lora Taylor

The motion **passed** unanimously.

4. CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Durham expressed her gratitude to Eric Jacobson, Executive Director of the Georgia DD Council for his presentation at the Committee of the Whole and his participation in the Project Development Committee meeting.

5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Webb reported that Council Vice-Chair John Morris and Council member David Taylor and staff members Cassie Fisher and Joanna Cordry have been approved to attend the ADD Technical Assistance Institute in Arlington, VA in June. The NACDD Fall Conference will take place in Los Angeles in October and members who are interested should contact Webb or Durham.

Webb discussed the ADD Self-Advocacy summit and referred members to a handout that highlights the purpose of the summit as well as goals set by the team from Texas. He noted that the Minnesota DD Council is celebrating its 25th anniversary of Partners in Policymaking with just over 800 graduates in its 25 years. There are over 21,000 graduates nationwide and Texas graduated over 500 in its 13 years of the program.

Webb reported that the Arc of the Gulf Coast has decided to not accept an award for a Leadership and Advocacy Skills Training project that was approved in November. The Arc of the Gulf Coast has had a change in leadership, and found that partnerships anticipated on the project were not secure. Their Board decided to forego the grant since they were not comfortable that it could be managed successfully. Funds for that project will thus be available for other DD projects.

6. FUTURE FUNDING ACTIVITIES

Project Development Committee Chair Susan Vardell discussed an executive summary for Building Community Capacity through Collaboration projects that is potentially a 3-phased project. The Committee recommends approval for funding for the first two phases. Phase 1 will establish a network of organizations and individuals committed to developing and supporting inclusive communities and developing a strategic plan to build the capacity for those communities. Phase 2 will implement the strategic plans developed in Phase 1. Phase 3 would review the information from the first two phases and determine how it can be used for future activities.

MOTION: To approve grant funding for four (4) Building Community Capacity through Collaboration projects with funding up to \$75,000 per project for up to 18 months for Phase 1 and funding of up to \$150,000 per year per project for up to five years for Phase 2.

MADE BY: Susan Vardell for the Project Development Committee (motions from a Committee do not need a second)

The motion **passed** unanimously. (Attachment 1)

Vardell next discussed the TCDD Outreach and Development grants. Five projects were previously funded for \$10,000 each. The RFP for additional projects was placed on hold at the request of TCDD grants management staff due to the time intensive nature of the projects. Staff are now ready to begin accepting applications for these projects again and the Committee agreed to continue with the RFP. TCDD will review applications and has funds available for up to \$10,000 per project for up to one year for five additional projects.

Vardell next discussed a Support for Community Leaders to Build Informal Supports project. This project is proposed to be in collaboration with the Hogg Foundation for work in the Behavioral Health Network. Cordry added that this proposal came from a group of pastors who recognized the need for supporting members of their congregations with developmental disabilities and/or mental illness. Staff plan to bring an executive summary for consideration at the July 2012 meeting but this is contingent on input from the Hogg Foundation.

Vardell discussed the executive summary for Support of Self-Advocates at Texas Conferences activities. She noted that TCDD has long had a stipend program to assist self-advocates and family members to attend conferences. The first project would provide funding for a grantee to recruit and coordinate self-advocates who would like to be conference speakers. Funding for this grant project would be at \$125,000 per year for up to four years which includes \$75,000 for direct support of speakers. Two additional projects would provide sponsorships for plenary and concurrent/track speakers at conferences through a grant to conference or event sponsor organizations. The Committee further recommended that a disclaimer be developed to say speakers are sponsored by TCDD but may not necessarily represent the positions of the Council.

MOTION: To approve grant funding of up to \$125,000/year for up to 4 years to recruit and coordinate self-advocates participating as conference speakers. To further approve \$75,000 to sponsor plenary speakers on developmental disabilities issues and \$75,000 in to sponsor concurrent/track speakers on developmental disabilities issues.

MADE BY: Susan Vardell for the Project Development Committee

The motion **passed** without opposition. David Taylor abstained from voting. (Attachment 2)

Public Policy Committee Chair Joe Rivas reported that the Committee discussed a Public Education and Outreach campaign on accessible parking. He noted that staff research has determined that reserved spaces may be designated as a "van" space but it is not illegal to park a standard sized car in those spaces as long as it has a placard. The Committee recommends Council approval for a public education campaign surrounding accessible parking.

MOTION: To conduct a public education campaign focused on accessible parking.

MADE BY: Joe Rivas for the Public Policy Committee

The motion **passed** unanimously.

Vardell discussed Future Funding Priorities. She noted that the two new projects (Building Community Capacity through Collaboration & Support of Self-Advocates at Texas Conferences) are placed as number 7 & 8 on the priority list with expected “roll-out” dates of June 2012.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT – continued

Chair Durham recognized members of the public who arrived to provide public comment after the start of the meeting and invited them to provide comments at this point.

Cindy Paschall expressed concerns regarding the lack of knowledge of person-directed planning. She asked that education surrounding this issue be made a priority. She also expressed concern for grass-roots organizations to access TCDD grants. She noted that it is difficult for many small organizations without paid staff to navigate the paperwork and administer the grant. She found it to be overwhelming when attempting to apply for stipends.

Heiwa Solovitz of Adapt of Texas spoke about the lack of funding for community services. He also mentioned that he did not know about the meeting until 24 hours prior and asked for alternative means of submitting input. Solovitz also submitted written comments on behalf of Adapt.

Joe Tate of *Community Now!* spoke about the ADD Self-Advocacy Summit and added that TCDD grants are difficult for self-advocates and grass-roots organizations to access. He encouraged the Council to continue projects with a community-living focus.

8. TCDD POSITION STATEMENTS

Public Policy Committee Vice-Chair Kristen Cox presented the position statements as reviewed by the Committee. She noted that the alternative draft Access to Health Care statement was chosen by the Committee with minor revisions. She also noted that the Service Coordination and Guardianship statements are recommended for Council approval as presented. She noted that the Family Support Services statement was renamed as Family Support and a minor technical revision was made to the Children and Families statement.

MOTION: To accept the proposed revisions to the Access to Health Care, Service Coordination, Guardianship, Family Support, and Children and Families position statements as presented by the Committee.

MADE BY: Kristen Cox for the Public Policy Committee

Council member Kathy Griffis-Bailey questioned the new Access to Health Care statement in that it does not have language regarding “medical homes” and stated that it is important to have that topic included in the statement. Executive Director Webb suggested adding language regarding “medical home” from the previous statement to the new statement and Griffis-Bailey was in agreement to this. After discussion about process, it was agreed to add the language regarding “medical home” to the statement for approval and the statement will be reviewed again.

The motion **passed** unanimously. (Attachment 3 as approved.)

9. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO TCDD RULES

Chair Durham and Executive Director Webb reviewed the proposed amendments to TCDD Rules to be posted for public comment. They noted that the only substantive change is regarding Council procedures in considering unsolicited ideas and requests for funding. The amendments and Rules for review will be posted for public comment and considered for final adoption at the next meeting.

MOTION: To approve the posting of proposed amendments to TCDD Rules for public comment.

MADE BY: Mary Durham for the Executive Committee

The motion **passed** unanimously. (Attachment 4)

10. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Durham reviewed the stipends approved during the following quarter to:

- Texas Parent to Parent was awarded \$6,000 for the 8th Annual Texas Parent to Parent Conference on June 29-30, 2012, in San Marcos.
- American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities – Texas Chapter (AAIDD-Tx) was awarded \$6,000 for the 2012 AAIDD-Tx Convention on July 24-27, 2012, in Corpus Christi.

Durham reported that a new grant project was awarded in the amount of \$35,000/year for two years and \$15,000 for the third year to Helpful Interventions to provide support for the Gulf Coast of Texas African American Family Support Conference.

Durham also reported that continuation grant awards were approved for the following organizations:

- Community Healthcore for up to \$37,635 for the final three months of a customized self-employment project
- Region 17 ESC for up to \$120,000 for the fifth and final year of the Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports – Head Start project
- Region 17 ESC for up to \$115,000 for the fifth and final year of the Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports – Disproportionate Impact project
- Texas A&M University for up to \$150,000 for the fifth and final year of the Texas Advanced Leadership and Advocacy Conference
- VSA Texas Artworks for up to \$25,000 for the final two months of the Creative Industries Self-Employment project.

TCDD Operations Director Martha Cantu reviewed the quarterly financial report and noted that current year operating expenses are being expensed to the previous year's funds to allow those funds to be fully expended. TCDD has two years to obligate funds and three years to spend but it would be a risk to obligate the prior fiscal year funds to new grant projects that do not always have a stable and predictable spending pattern. Cantu noted that by FY 2013, the increased number of grant projects should allow operating expenses to be funded by that current fiscal year. She also discussed the grants and projects summary of funds which indicates which fiscal year funds are

obligated to which projects. Durham expressed the importance of approving grant projects in an expedited manner to avoid a gap in activities therefore creating an excess of funds.

The Executive Committee reviewed the Conflict of Interest disclosure reports and had no concerns. Durham reminded members to review their information and provide updates as necessary.

11. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Vardell reported that the Project Development Committee reviewed the peer review input on the 2012-2016 State Plan. Committee members also discussed feedback received in the public input forum.

12. PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

Cox reported that the Public Policy Committee received updates on state and federal policy issues as well as State Supported Living Center Monitoring Activities. The Committee also made technical revisions to the minutes of the February 2012 Committee meeting. Rivas reported on the Public Information report and discussed the progress of the re-design to the TCDD website. He noted that the new site will be better accessible through mobile devices as this is becoming a more prevalent way to access the internet. Rivas also reported on the progress of the TCDD Biennial Disability Report and noted that the technical writer is reviewing data from state agencies and staff will prepare recommendations to be presented at the July meeting.

13. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES

Council members reviewed the dates and locations of upcoming meetings. Durham noted that legislative advocacy training will be presented at the October meeting.

ADJOURN

Chair Durham adjourned the Council meeting at 10:38 AM.

Roger A. Webb
Secretary to the Council

Date

Attachment 1

Funding Proposal

Building Community Capacity through Collaboration

Background

Texans with developmental disabilities report various barriers to receiving the services and supports they need to fully participate in their communities. Obvious barriers include the inability to pay for needed services and difficulty finding qualified providers. Large numbers of Texans are uninsured and/or living in poverty. The Texas Medical Association reported in 2010 that less than 42 percent of physicians accepted Medicaid. In the mental health arena, although Community Centers typically serve more individuals than the number for which they receive state funding, only a portion of those in need receive services. The Hogg Foundation for Mental Health estimates that in FY10, only 34% of adults with serious, persistent mental illness and 29% of children with severe emotional disturbance received treatment through community mental health services. These are barriers that may be beyond TCDD's ability to significantly impact through grant funding.

Less obvious but still challenging barriers arise from characteristics of the service system that may be more amenable to change. Supporting communities to integrate and coordinate the services and supports available at a local level may address fragmentation of the service system and could lead to identification of additional informal community-based supports and resources. In fact, the state-level Integration of Health and Behavioral Health Services Workgroup, established by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) and comprised of individuals representing various constituencies, found that strategies were needed to encourage integration in both private and public sectors. The workgroup recommended that support be given to providers and healthcare entities integrating their practices, perhaps in recognition that it is unrealistic to assume that providers have the resources to do this while also adapting to the changing expectations of funders and continuing to provide services to their local community.

The diversity of the needs and resources present in local communities makes it difficult for the statewide system to drive integration and coordination of care in local communities. Texas is home to nine counties that are more populous than some states; it is also home to the least populous county in the country - Loving County, population 82 (in 2010). The Houston metropolitan area is now the most ethnically diverse large metropolitan area in the country, and Harris County, where Houston is located, is more populous than at least twenty other states. Four Texas counties are among the 100 counties with the highest median income in the country, and seven Texas counties are in the 100 poorest counties in the country. The HHSC FY 2011-15 Strategic Plan identifies disparities in care among groups of people: "Minority populations are often underserved or served inappropriately...Disparities in care also affect residents of underserved or rural areas." HHSC notes that Texans in rural areas face limited access to affordable health care and to trained health professionals; increased need for geriatric services; prolonged response times for emergency; limited transportation options; and limited economic development.

If the capacity of some communities wasn't already stretched thinly enough, natural disasters, such as Hurricane Ike, wild fires and tornadoes have substantially impacted some local service systems. The HHSC FY 11-15 Plan notes the damage from Hurricane Ike "caused severe strains on community capacity to provide...basic health care, specialty health services, child care, public education, and senior support systems. Hurricane Ike compounded the impacts on individuals with disabilities... Longer-term, these communities may continue to face challenges in areas such as mental health, individual physical health, and a variety of epidemiological hazards."

The TCDD 2012-2016 State Plan noted these needs, identified related opportunities, and listed Council strengths that could be used to support communities to develop their own individualized solutions. The Council noted strengths related to participation by representatives of state agencies and the DD Network partners on the Council; access to information; and the flexibility to fund different strategies and to partner with many and varied organizations. These strengths allow the Council the opportunity to facilitate change in communities by collaborating with community organizations and service providers and to apply knowledge from, and build on, past successes.

TCDD's related successes include: providing funding for a group of collaborators to establish EveryChild, Inc., as its own entity focused on preventing institutionalization of children; supporting the expansion of the Baylor College of Medicine Transition Clinic to meet the needs of the local community; developing multiple Project DOCC sites tailored and/or adapted to the communities in which they were located; and participating in the Texas Integrated Funding Initiative, which established Systems of Care communities in areas around the state. TCCD has shown that collaboration between self-advocates, families, providers, and other non-traditional partners can positively impact communities in lasting ways.

Organizations and individuals in some communities around Texas have already developed collaborative initiatives, successfully tapping into the existing strengths of their community, and are working on shared goals. The following are examples of existing community collaborations that reflect the type of collaboration that might be developed through this project:

- The Community Action Network: A partnership of Central Texas agencies, organizations and individuals who work together to achieve sustainable social, health, educational and economic outcomes through engaging the community.
- The East Texas Behavioral Healthcare Network: A network comprised of 11 community mental health and IDD centers that cover 70 Counties in Texas. The network was established in 1998 as a response to the unique challenges that these organizations face in delivering care effectively and efficiently to consumers living in the region. The network has been effective in developing economies of scale, assisting with quality of services, and delivering training initiatives for the member centers since the inception of the program.
- The Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Needs Council of Tarrant County: A collaboration of public and private agencies, as well as individuals who have IDD and their caregivers. The organization works to revolutionize the service delivery system in Tarrant County, Texas, for people with IDD and their families. Its members develop plans for long-term changes in the system while addressing key issues and providing immediate solutions where possible.

- Texas Integrated Funding Initiative Communities: Local Systems of Care that meet the needs of children and youth with serious mental health needs and their families. Families and youth work in partnership with public and private organizations so services and supports are effective, build on the strengths of individuals, and address each person's cultural and linguistic needs.

TCDD has the resources to fund and provide technical assistance to local communities that are interested in developing and/or strengthening collaborative efforts such as these “networks.” Additionally, TCDD can ensure that networks established through TCDD funding reflect TCDD’s values and philosophy, and address the issues identified in Goal 5 of TCDD’s State Plan.

State Plan Goal

Goal 5: Demonstrate how to prevent unnecessary admissions to State Supported Living Centers (SSLC) by supporting community organizations in at least 1 HHS Region to increase their capacity to provide community-based services that support people with developmental disabilities to improve and maintain their health and to have access as needed to necessary healthcare, behavior supports, and/or respite, by 9/30/2016.

Objective 2: Provide funding to enable at least 10 organizations working in the target region(s) to implement plans that will increase their capacity to provide healthcare services, behavior supports, and/or respite to support people with developmental disabilities living in the community by 9/30/2016.

Expected Outcome(s)

- Four communities will establish or strengthen a community support network of diverse organizations and individuals collaborate to increase their community’s capacity to provide culturally appropriate, person-centered or family-centered healthcare services (including both physical and mental health), behavior supports, and/or respite to community members who have developmental disabilities and their families.
- Four community support networks will support people with developmental disabilities and their families to take leadership or other active roles in creating change in their communities.
- Four community support networks will ensure that individuals and organizations involved in creating change in their communities reflect the diversity of that community.
- Four community support networks will each develop a strategic plan and identify resources necessary to build the capacity of their community to provide culturally appropriate, person-centered or family-centered healthcare services (including both physical and mental health), behavior supports, and/or respite to community members who have developmental disabilities and their families.

Project Description

Phase 1

Award up to 4 grant(s) to support a group of organizations/individuals in a certain geographic community to:

- (1) Establish and/or strengthen a network of appropriately diverse organizations and individuals who are committed to developing and supporting inclusive communities; and
- (2) Develop a strategic plan and identify resources needed to build the capacity of the community to provide high quality, community-based, person-centered and/or family-centered healthcare services, behavior supports, and/or respite to support people with developmental disabilities.

The recipient of each grant will be the community organization responsible for identifying and seeking the commitment of organizations and individuals in the community; convening an appropriately diverse network that includes self-advocates and family members; facilitating the network to assess the strengths and needs of the community; ensuring the development of a strategic plan and identification of resources needed to implement the plan; and complying with TCDD's grant monitoring and reporting processes. Other organizations or individuals participating in the network will be responsible for participating actively in the process; contributing resources (including in-kind) to the process as they are able; and ensuring that the strategic plan builds on the strengths/assets that exist in their community to address the identified needs.

TCDD expects that the network members will include self-advocates, family members, behavior analysts, providers, local authorities, local colleges or universities, and/or local medical providers.

Phase 1 funds may be used for staff to coordinate the process; consultant services; materials needed to conduct outreach; training and technical assistance; a community survey; travel; and/or other activities or items necessary to support the development of the network and the plan.

Phase 1 may take no longer than 18 months, but may be completed sooner.

At the completion of Phase 1, the network is responsible to complete and submit the strategic plan describing the communities targeted issue(s) and planned approach as noted above. Each network will have the opportunity to request additional funding from TCDD to implement their plan when the strategic plan is submitted. Implementation of the plans is Phase 2.

Phase 2

TCDD will review plans completed by the recipients of Phase 1 grants and applications for grant support to implement that plan and may award funds for all or part of the strategic plans presented. The recipient(s) of each Phase 2 grant will be the organization responsible for the implementation of the plan and compliance with TCDD's grant monitoring and reporting processes. Only one organization from each network developed through Phase 1 may apply for the funds to implement the plan. The network members should select the organization that will apply for Phase 2 funding.

In the application for funding for Phase 2, the network would be required to include information from the community assessment to support their strategic plan. The proposed plan must address:

- (1) How the plan's relates to Goal 5 of the TCDD FY 2012-2016 State Plan;
- (2) How the change achieved through the plan will either be sustained beyond the funding period or will result in permanent systems change;
- (3) How specific public policy implications will be identified, and if they will be addressed, the strategy to be used;
- (4) How people with developmental disabilities and people who are members of groups who are identified as being underserved or unserved were involved in the planning process; and
- (5) How people with developmental disabilities and people who are members of groups who are identified as being underserved or unserved will be involved in meaningful ways in the implementation of the plan.

Phase 3

TCDD will discuss the information and understanding gained through the process and determine how to use the information to inform future activities and/or public policy recommendations.

Proposed Funding Amount

Phase 1: Up to \$75,000 per grant, for up to four (4) grants.

Phase 2: Exact amount to be determined. For planning purposes, up to \$150,000 per grant, per year, for up to four (4) grants, would be reserved.

Phase 3: Funding to be determined.

Proposed Duration

Phase 1: Up to 18 months.

Phase 2: Up to 5 years, depending on plans submitted for funding.

Phase 3: Duration to be determined.

Other Considerations

Priority would be given to projects that propose to address identified disparities in access and/or quality of services.

Attachment 2

Funding Proposal Executive Summary Promotion of Self-Advocacy at Texas Conferences

Background

TCDD stipends assist more than 500 individuals with developmental disabilities and/or their family members to attend various conferences and seminars each year. Additionally, TCDD occasionally receives requests from other organizations to provide financial assistance for or to “co- sponsor” conferences. Although TCDD has funded, hosted, and/or contributed to the support of various types of conferences, the Council rarely provides financial support to bring in individual speakers or panels.

Currently, the types of support that TCDD staff provide to organizations holding conferences include:

- Providing handout materials (such as the People First Language Materials);
- Disseminating promotional information about conferences via media releases and materials;
- Presenting at the conference when possible; and
- Registering and staffing an exhibit table or booth at events.

One impact of current financial times is that it is increasingly difficult for organizations holding conferences that benefit people with developmental disabilities to have the financial ability to pay speaker fees and at times, even to reimburse their travel expenses. Unfortunately, this means both that fewer Texans have the opportunity to hear from and meet nationally known speakers, and that individuals who do not have disposable income are unable to present or serve on panels at conferences if it would require travel and/or an overnight stay. This situation creates the opportunity for TCDD to promote an increased understanding of the importance of self-advocacy, self-determination, and full inclusion by offering financial assistance for organizations who wish to contract with speakers who are experts in these topics or in related topics that are consistent with TCDD’s philosophy.

Three different mechanisms could be used to facilitate these outcomes:

1. Supporting self-advocates to serve as speakers at in-state conferences;
2. Sponsoring plenary speakers at in-state conferences; and/or
3. Sponsoring concurrent sessions or “tracks” at in-state conferences.

Council Procedures, as noted below, currently allow: the Executive Director to approve stipends for financial assistance for individuals attending a conference; the Executive Director and Chair to jointly approve “non-financial sponsorship” of conferences; and the Executive Committee to approve financial sponsorships.

Council Procedure #4: TCDD Co-Sponsorship of Conferences

Financial Sponsorship. *If financial sponsorship is requested, the Executive Committee will review each request individually and can take various actions, including disapproval;*

approval of sponsorship for a specific function such as a speaker, stipends, etc.; or approval of other types of support as appropriate

Non-Financial Sponsorship. *If Non-financial sponsorship is requested, the Executive Director and the Council Chair will make a decision based upon the program's consistency with the Council's philosophies.*

-Approved by the Council February 7, 1997

The DD Act Amendments of 2000 **require** Councils to include a goal and/or an objective in their State Plans to “support opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities who are considered leaders to provide leadership training to individuals with developmental disabilities.” Currently, TCDD addresses this requirement through peer to peer advocacy training projects. However, the TCDD FY 2012-2016 State Plan includes an activity to promote self-advocates as speakers.

TCDD staff propose developing a grant project to increase the number of Texas conference speakers, mentors, or facilitators who are self-advocates; and propose developing a process through which TCDD can sponsor plenary session speakers and/or concurrent session presentations or “tracks” that are related to advancing self-advocacy, self-determination or inclusion. Such opportunities can promote the Council’s vision and values and can further self-advocacy efforts in Texas.

State Plan Goal(s)

Goal 6: Work with others to double the number of identified leadership development and advocacy training programs that are able to provide culturally appropriate training for people with developmental disabilities without ongoing grant funding from TCDD, by 9/30/2016.

Objective 2: *Each year of the plan, support opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities who are considered leaders to provide leadership training to individuals with developmental disabilities who may become leaders.*

Activity 1: Each year provide opportunities for groups organizing disability-related conferences to apply for stipends to support speakers, mentors, or facilitators who have developmental disabilities and who have a philosophy consistent with that of TCDD.

Expected Outcome

1. TCDD would sponsor at least 50 different self-advocates who have diverse backgrounds to speak and/or serve as a mentors or facilitators at in-state conferences by 9/30/2016.
2. TCDD would sponsor at least 20 general or concurrent session speakers at conferences by 9/30/2016.

Project Description

1. **Support for Self Advocates as Speakers:** TCDD would develop a Request for Proposals (RFP) for an organization to provide administrative support, outreach and promotion for this activity. The selected grantee will:

- Use a range of communication strategies that are culturally appropriate for multiple different cultures to locate, evaluate, and promote self-advocates who are public speakers and/or facilitators;
 - Advertise and promote self-advocates as speakers and provide information, using a range of culturally appropriate communication strategies, about how organizations hosting conferences may apply for financial support for self-advocates to serve as speakers;
 - Review and evaluate applications from organizations hosting conferences for support of self-advocates to present, and provide information to TCDD for final review and approval;
 - Ensure that:
 - Any one speaker is be supported by TCDD funds more than 3x per year in the first year of the grant and 2x per year each year after that.
 - Presenters show evidence that they have presented previously at a reasonably similar event and provide references.
 - No more than 5 self advocate presenters or panelists, and not more than 20% of the total number of presenters or panelists, are supported per conference.
 - No organization would be eligible for support for speakers for more than 1 conference yearly. Conferences could also apply for a stipend grant to assist attendees.
 - Awards do not exceed \$7500 per event, and conference hosts provide a 10% match.
 - Reach out to existing Speakers' Bureaus to promote inclusion of self-advocates in their pools of speakers.
 - Disburse funds; and
 - Provide quarterly reports to TCDD.
2. **Sponsorship of Plenary Speakers:** TCDD staff would develop a process through which organizations could apply for TCDD sponsorship of a plenary session speaker. The proposed process will be reviewed by the Executive Committee with final approval by the Council as appropriate. The process would outline application requirements, guidelines by which applications would be evaluated, limitations on funding amounts, expectations and responsibilities of the applicant organization, and a recommended review and approval procedure. Staff propose that Plenary Speaker sponsorship requests would be approved jointly by the Council Chair and the Executive Director.
 3. **Sponsorship of concurrent session speakers or "tracks":** TCDD staff would develop a process through which organizations could apply for TCDD sponsorship of concurrent session speakers or tracks. The proposed process would be reviewed by the Executive Committee with final approval by the Council as appropriate. The process would outline application requirements, guidelines by which applications would be evaluated, limitations on funding amounts, expectations and responsibilities of the applicant organization, and a recommended review and approval procedure. Propose approval jointly by Council Chair and Executive Director. *This would likely be a very staff intensive process, which must be taken into consideration.*

Proposed Funding Amount

Support for Self Advocates as Speakers: Up to \$125,000 award (that amount would include up to \$75,000 per year for direct support of speakers).

Sponsorship of Plenary Speakers: Up to \$75,000 available for all speaker supports in this category, per year; up to \$7500 per event, for up to one event per year per organization. This is consistent with the current stipends policies.

Sponsorship of concurrent session speakers or “track”: Up to \$75,000 available for all stipends in this category, per year; up to \$7500 per event; and not more than 5 sessions per event.

Proposed Duration

Support for Self Advocates as Speakers: Up to four years.

Sponsorship of Plenary Speakers: To be determined from review after first year; quarterly reports to Executive Committee and Council.

Sponsorship of concurrent session speakers or “track”: To be determined from review after first year; quarterly reports to Executive Committee and Council.

Other Considerations

Related projects that might be considered include working with an organization, or organizations, that provide training to help people to develop presenting skills, to enable them to include and supports self-advocates to participate fully in their trainings.

Attachment 3



Access to Health Care Position Statement

The Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities supports the position that all people, regardless of their disability, age, or ability to pay, should have access to affordable, comprehensive health care. TCDD supports healthcare initiatives and efforts to increase the access and affordability of health insurance for everyone.

The Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities supports the position that in any consideration of changes to the health care financing and delivery system in the United States, the well-being of the patient must be the highest priority. The Council strongly supports the reform measures and principles set forth in this statement as providing individuals consistent access to patient centered, timely, unencumbered, affordable and appropriate health care and universal coverage while maintaining physicians as an integral component to providing the highest quality treatment.

The Council supports the position that as policymakers considers health care reforms they should:

- Ensure patients are empowered to control and decide how their own health care dollars are spent;
- Eliminate pre-existing condition exclusions;
- Ensure unencumbered access to specialty care;
- Make health care coverage more affordable;
- Improve value and increase quality on our healthcare system;
- Extend both coverage and access for the uninsured and under-insured;
- Avoid establishing new unsustainable programs;
- Provide comprehensive, culturally and linguistically appropriate behavioral health services and supports;
- Provide services in the context of a medical home, where the clinician works in partnership with the individual and/or family to ensure that all of the medical and nonmedical needs of the person are met;
- Ensure that children and adults with behavioral or mental health concerns have access to screening, diagnosis and treatment that is not subject to arbitrary limits on coverage and integrated into the broader health care system;

- Ensure that people with disabilities of all ages and their families have access to health care that responds to their needs over their lifetimes, and provides continuity of care that helps treat and prevent chronic conditions;
- Ensure that people with disabilities and their families receive comprehensive health, rehabilitation, and long term support services provided on the basis of individual need, preference, and choice;

(Continued)

- Ensure that people with disabilities and their families have equitable access to health coverage programs and not be burdened with disproportionate costs;

The Council is concerned about proposals that call for deep reductions in Medicare and Medicaid payments. Reforms are necessary to strengthen the Medicaid program so that it provides accessible, high-quality health care services to people with disabilities enrolled in the program examples include, but are not limited to, evidence-based practices and payment structures that attract providers.

Reviewed May 3, 2012



Children and Families

Position Statement

All children belong in families that provide love, caring, nurturing, bonding and a sense of belonging and permanence that best enables them to grow, develop and thrive. Children with disabilities are no different from other children in their need for the unique benefits that come only from growing up in a permanent family relationship. All children benefit and are enriched by being part of an inclusive environment that promotes physical, social, and intellectual well-being and leads to independence and self-determination.

Families of children with disabilities often need supports and services to sustain family life and keep their children at home and included in the community. Family support services are intended to strengthen the family's role as primary caregiver, prevent expensive out-of-home placement of individuals with disabilities, maintain family unity and foster self-determination.

The Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities supports the position that:

- ❑ All children can and should live in a family. All children need a family to best grow, develop and thrive. All children deserve the love, nurturing and permanency that are unique to family life.
- ❑ Families come from many cultures and are multidimensional. No matter its composition or cultural background, a family offers a child a home and a lifelong commitment to love, belonging and permanency. Parents with disabilities are capable of and do provide loving families and homes to children.
- ❑ Families, including parents with disabilities, should have available the level of supports and services needed to keep children with disabilities in their own homes. Family support services should include, but are not limited to, respite care, provision of rehabilitation and assistive technologies, personal assistant services, parent training and counseling, vehicular and home modifications, and assistance with extraordinary expenses associated with disabilities. In addition, since the vast majority (over 85%) of individuals with disabilities reside with families in their own households, families of children with disabilities need access to appropriate child care and to before- and after-school programs. Child care for children with disabilities should be affordable, safe, appropriate and in the most integrated setting.
- ❑ Providers of family support services must have education and training that will prepare them to work with people with disabilities in inclusive settings to achieve this goal.
- ❑ To be effective and beneficial, supports and services must be easy to access, family-driven, individualized, flexible to changing needs and circumstances, culturally sensitive and based on functional needs rather than categorical labels.

(Continued)

- ❑ When children cannot remain in their own families, for whatever reason, they still deserve to live and grow up in a family. The first priority should be to reunite the family through the infusion of services and supports. When that is not possible and the family can remain actively involved in the child's life, the natural family should be a key participant in selecting an alternate family situation for their child, including foster families, co-parenting and adoption.
- ❑ When families cannot be actively involved in their children's lives, permanency planning must occur to allow each child to live in a family.
- ❑ School districts and health and human services agencies are integral sources of information and training for parents. Coordination among school districts and outside agencies is critical to provide parents with accurate, timely information regarding services and eligibility requirements.
- ❑ The state Child Protective Services system is essential to guarantee that all children are safe from abuse and neglect. Support of the families of children with disabilities from this system is critical to make sure children remain in a safe, family environment and are not unnecessarily removed from families due to the absence of necessary services and supports.

The Council also supports the position that when children with disabilities grow up in families, the community at large accepts the value of providing supports to children and families at home so that children become and remain participants and contributors to their communities.

The Council supports the public policy statement adopted by the State of Texas recognizing the value of families in children's lives and supports the development of programs, policies and funding mechanisms that allow all children to live and grow up in a family.

Reviewed May 3, 2012



Family Support Position Statement

National caregiver studies estimate that more than 85 percent of individuals with developmental disabilities reside with and rely on their families for care. Family caregivers need support throughout the lifespan of a person with a disability. Emotional, social and economic challenges accompany a family's commitment to their family member with a developmental disability. To provide sustained care for a child, a sibling, or an adult with disabilities, families need access to supports and services.

Services and supports to families with a family member with disabilities have a dual focus. Those services support the health and integrity of family units, and they maximize the strengths and potential of individuals with disabilities to independently participate in and be included in their communities. During childhood, family support services are intended to strengthen the family's role as primary caregiver and prevent institutional placement of individuals with disabilities. Throughout an individual's life span, family support services are intended to strengthen and maintain family connections while fostering self-determination, independence, and participation in school, job, recreational and community activities. Adequate support services must be available to people with disabilities so that they can remain in the community rather than face inappropriate institutional placements.

The Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities supports the provision of a full array of flexible, culturally competent family support services that include but are not limited to:

- adaptive equipment and specialized clothing;
- assistive technology devices and services;
- counseling services;
- financial assistance with the extra expenses of providing support;
- home modifications;
- leisure-time planning;
- person-centered comprehensive planning for transition from early childhood to school, from school to adult life, and from adult life to retirement;
- personal assistance services/direct care services;
- respite care that is affordable, safe, age-appropriate and in the most integrated setting;
- service coordination including information and referral services;
- training to empower people with disabilities and their families to advocate for lifestyles they choose and skills to effectively support their family member at home;
- transportation; and
- vehicular modifications.

Providers of family support services must have education and training that will prepare them to work with families and people with disabilities of all ages in inclusive settings to maximize each individual's potential and inclusion with their peer groups.

To be effective and beneficial, family supports and services must be affordable, easy to access, designed by the individual and their family, individualized based on functional needs rather than diagnosis, flexible to changing needs and circumstances, and culturally appropriate.

Reviewed May 3, 2012

Guardianship Position Statement

The appointment of a guardian is a legal proceeding designed to promote and protect the well-being of the person.¹ Establishing a guardianship removes rights and privileges from the individual and assigns control to someone else. The Council believes guardianship should be granted only if all other alternatives are insufficient, and only to the extent and only for the length of time determined to be necessary, with annual reviews to determine if the guardianship can be terminated or reduced. The Council supports the position that individuals should receive support, education or training to develop their capacity to make decisions for themselves, so that the guardianship may be averted.

The Texas Probate Code requires that all guardianships be as limited as possible. The Council also supports the position that guardianship must be demonstrated to be the most appropriate and least restrictive alternative. When determined to be necessary, a guardianship should be tailored such that it is limited to only those specific areas in which surrogate decision making is likely to be needed. The individual's ability to make decisions should be developed and supported to the maximum extent possible, and guardianship should not decrease an individual's dignity or the right to make choices if there is no undue risk.

According to Texas Probate Code, Chapter XIII, a court may appoint a guardian with full authority over an "incapacitated person" or may grant a limited authority over an "incapacitated person" as indicated by the person's actual physical or mental limitations and only as necessary to promote and protect the well-being of the person. Texas Probate Code further defines "incapacitated person" to mean (A) a minor; (B) an adult who, because of a physical or mental condition, is substantially unable to provide for their own food, clothing or shelter; to care for their own physical health; or to manage their financial affairs; or (C) a person who must have a guardian appointed to receive funds due the person from any government resource.

The Council supports the position that such limitations in abilities must be carefully evaluated, with a presumption that persons with disabilities are competent and individual's decision-making abilities can be supported with education, training and/or assistance. Individuals may require assistance from others or accommodations based on their disability but still be able to make informed decisions based on their own preferences. Most importantly, the presence of a physical or mental disability or the age of an individual does not indicate the need for guardianship. The Council supports the position that the evaluation of a person's mental status must take into consideration and rule out any reversible conditions that can cause confusion and seeming incapacity before certifying the need for a guardian.

(Continued)

¹ Texas Probate Code, Sec. 602. Purpose of Guardianship.

The vast majority of people with disabilities, including intellectual disabilities, do not need guardians. An in-depth capacity assessment must be conducted prior to any guardianship hearing, focusing on the person's decision-making skills, experience, capacity and support system. The assessment should be conducted by a professional trained to administer and interpret an appropriate instrument related to need for guardianship. Additionally, there must be a mechanism for individuals to provide input during their own capacity assessment and guardianship reviews.

There are a number of alternatives to guardianship that should be explored before proceeding with a guardianship hearing. In the financial area, multi-party contracts, trusts, powers of attorney, representative payees, and money management programs may enable an individual to successfully manage financial issues without the necessity of having a **guardian of the estate** appointed. For health and programmatic concerns, the use of advance directives or surrogate decision-makers (under the Health and Safety Code) might prevent the need to establish a **guardian of the person**. Consideration should be given to providing education and support to develop decision-making skills and opportunities for additional experience.

If the alternatives are not sufficient to protect the interests of the individual, a guardianship hearing may be necessary. It is important that a judge carefully evaluates the qualifications and interests of a proposed guardian and gives special consideration to the nature of the relationship. It is also essential that an appointed **attorney ad litem** adequately represent the interests of the person for whom guardianship is being proposed, and that all attorneys ad litem appointed by judges in guardianship proceedings have been certified in guardianship law by the State Bar of Texas as required by the Texas Probate Code. Further, a professional evaluation of the individual by a physician or psychologist must clearly indicate how the individual's disability affects his or her ability to make and communicate informed decisions and what proactive measures have been taken to maximize the ability of that individual to make and communicate informed decisions.

The Council supports the position that if a **guardianship of the person** is granted, it should be of the limited type in which the specific areas of needed assistance are listed in the order by the judge. The guardianship should encourage the development of maximum self-reliance and independence for the individual. Further, the required annual review of the guardianship must involve a serious consideration of whether it needs to be continued, modified or terminated, and a yearly report of this review must be filed in each guardianship. It is essential that annual reviews are not limited to a financial review, but also consider the individual's capacity and needs. Additionally, the judicial system must have the resources needed to make and review guardianship assessments. The Council further recommends that participants in the annual review should include, but not be limited to, the individual, the guardian, attorney ad litem, and an outside advocate/ombudsman.

It is estimated that many of the Texans with disabilities who do not have the capacity to provide informed consent for services, treatments or legal issues have no one to provide assistance in decision-making or even to serve as a guardian. Financial barriers (bonds and court costs) often prevent family members from serving in this role. The Council supports the position that the state of Texas should remove these barriers. Local guardianship and money management programs (supported in part by the Health and Human Services Commission) plus surrogate consent committees (for ICF-MR residents only) fill part of this gap, as do services provided by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services. However, more resources are sorely needed in this area. Additionally, the Council believes that the state needs to establish statutory authority to regulate private professional guardians more closely.

Reviewed May 3, 2012



Service Coordination Position Statement

The Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities believes that the full inclusion and participation of people with disabilities in community life requires that individuals be aware of the services and supports available, that they have an array of service and support options from which to choose, and most importantly, that they have the central role in planning and directing their own future. These goals are most readily achieved when individuals and their families receive the benefit of effective, conflict-free service coordination.

Service coordination involves assisting individuals through planning, coordinating, locating, accessing and monitoring services and supports that will result in an optimal quality of life and level of community participation. It is the responsibility of the service coordinators to also serve as advocates for the individuals and their family and provide support for people who are receiving services to advocate for themselves. Service coordination should be viewed as a distinct benefit available to people with disabilities who require assistance, information and advocacy to obtain access to various services and supports to participate fully and be fully included in their communities.

TCDD believes that the service coordination system should be independent from service delivery such that, the service coordinator is free from conflict of interest, and independent or separate from the direct delivery of other services received by the individual and/or family. Service coordinators who are employees of public or private agencies, family members or individual contractors should be independent from conflict of interest. An independent service coordination structure also enables service coordinators to maintain the integrity of their advocacy role. Individuals should be able to choose a qualified service coordinator.

Service coordination must be available on an ongoing basis and support individual(s) rights to:

- access or refuse specific services and supports, as desired;
- develop their own service plan;
- request alternate services and supports, providers or service coordinators; and
- appeal decisions made about the services and supports they receive.

Access to service coordination should be available as necessary and upon request to all persons with disabilities who have functional needs for an array of services and supports. Eligibility should not be based on specific diagnosis. Service coordination must be readily accessible and must have sufficient staff to provide assistance to individuals in a timely and responsive manner. Service coordination should be provided by one person who:

- is committed;
- is well trained;
- is culturally competent;
- serves a reasonable number of individuals; and
- spends most of the time in support and coordination activities.

It is the responsibility of the service coordinator to: (1) advocate on behalf of the individual; (2) help the individual become empowered to act on his or her own behalf; and (3) support the right of that individual to make decisions and to take risks based on informed choice and individual goals and values.

Service coordinators should: (1) be knowledgeable about public and private resources; (2) be creative in their ability to make public and private supports and services work to meet the individuals' needs; and (3) serve a facilitative role in bringing individuals, families and providers together. While service coordinators should be available to assist and consult with providers to ensure services are delivered, they also have a responsibility to monitor the quality of services and supports received.

Attachment 4

TEXAS COUNCIL FOR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

TEXAS ADMINISTRATIVE CODE TITLE 40, PART 21

Chapter §876 General Provisions

Chapter §877 Grant Awards

**Proposed Review Schedule
and
Draft Proposed Amendments**

February 2012

Texas Administrative Code

Title 40 Part 21

Social Services Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities

Chapter §876	General Provisions
§876.1	Definitions
§876.2	Legal Authority
§876.3	Administration
§876.4	Responsibilities of the Council
§876.5	TCDD State Plan
§876.6	Powers and Duties of the Executive Director
§876.7	Committees of the Council
§876.8	Standards of Conduct
§876.9	Charges of Access to Public Records
§876.10	Petition for Adoption of Rules
876.11	Applicability of Open Meetings Law
§876.12	Alternative Dispute Resolution Process
Chapter §877	Grant Awards
§877.1	General
§877.2	Application and Review Process
§877.3	Suspension or Termination of Funding
§877.4	Appeal of Funding Decisions
§877.5	Confidentiality of Records

TITLE 40. SOCIAL SERVICES AND ASSISTANCE

PART 21. TEXAS COUNCIL FOR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Chapter 876. GENERAL PROVISIONS

§876.1 Definitions

The following words and terms, when used in these sections, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

(1) Council --Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities.

(2) Designated State agency -- the State agency designated by the Governor to provide administrative support to the Council.

(3) Developmental disability – The term "developmental disability" has the meaning as defined in federal law, the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act as amended (42 USC 6000 et seq).

(4) Executive director -- Chief administrative officer of the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities.

(5) Grant – An award of financial assistance, including cooperative agreements, in the form of money, property provided in lieu of money, or other financial assistance paid or furnished by the Council to an eligible recipient to carry out a program in accordance with the rules, regulations and guidance provided by the Council.

§876.2 Legal Authority

(a) These rules are adopted under provisions of the Texas Human Resources Code, Title 40, Chapter 112.

(b) The following federal laws and regulations are adopted by reference into this part:

(1) Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act as Amended (U.S.C. 6000 et. seq.); and

(2) Developmental Disabilities Program, 45 Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 1385-1387.

§876.3 Administration

(a) The Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities is a joint state-federal program designed to **assist people with developmental disabilities and their families to participate in the design of and have access to needed community services and supports, and to** promote the development of a consumer and family-centered, comprehensive system and a coordinated array of culturally competent services, supports, and other assistance designed to achieve independence, productivity, and integration and inclusion into the community for individuals with developmental disabilities.

(b) The Council performs its responsibilities through staff activities, grants or contracts to public, or nonprofit, or private for-profit organizations and in other ways as determined by the Council to carry out the state plan.

(c) The Council shall enter into a memorandum of understanding with the designated state agency which sets forth their respective roles;

(d) The designated state agency carries out the functions set forth in applicable federal and state laws and regulations and the memorandum of understanding with the Council.

§876.4 Responsibilities of the Council

The Council is an agency within the executive branch, but functions independently within its statutory authority to serve the long-term public interest. The Council is responsible for

establishing the policy framework through which the agency carries out its statutory responsibilities. Specifically, the Council shall:

- (1) exercise the authority provided by law to adopt policies and rules governing Council activities;
- (2) develop and implement policies that clearly separate the policymaking authority of the Council and the management responsibilities of the executive director and staff of the Council;
- (3) approve the state plan and amendments;
- (4) serve as an advocate for state and federal legislation, appropriations and policies on behalf of individuals with developmental disabilities as authorized by federal law;
- (5) oversee operations of the Council for integrity, effectiveness, and efficiency;
- (6) approve personnel policies that provide for the selection, supervision, and evaluation of the executive director and staff
- (7) ensure projects and activities comply with all applicable federal and state requirements; and
- (8) **carry out** other responsibilities as provided by Council policies.

§876.5 TCDD State Plan

The Council develops and submits the "TCDD State Plan for Texans with Developmental Disabilities" in a manner consistent with federal law and regulations. The state plan may be revised and updated after public review and comment as provided by the federal requirements. The plan is available from the offices of the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities.

§876.6 Powers and Duties of the Executive Director

The executive director is responsible for the effective and efficient administration of the affairs of the Council subject to applicable laws and this chapter and under the general direction of the Council. The director shall select, supervise and evaluate staff to implement Council approved activities consistent with policies approved by the Council. The director may delegate responsibilities to Council staff as appropriate.

§876.7 Committees of the Council

The Council may establish standing and special committees of Council members to expedite the work of the Council. Members shall be appointed to Committees in the manner provided by Council policies.

§876.8 Standards of Conduct

- (a) Standards of conduct of members and employees of the council are governed by Texas Government Code Annotated, Chapter 572, and by Human Resources Code Chapter 112.0161.
- (b) Council members and staff shall adhere to the conflict of interest policy approved by the Council.

§876.9 Charges of Access to Public Records

- (a) The charge to any person requesting copies of any public record of the Council will be the charge established by the Buildings and Procurements Commission at 1 TAC §§111.61-111.70.
- (b) The Council may reduce or waive these charges at the discretion of the executive director if there is a public benefit.

§876.10 Petition for Rules or Changes to Rules

Any interested person may petition the Council for a rule or rule change by submitting a request to the executive director in a manner and form as directed by the Council, consistent with state law.

§876.11 Applicability of Open Meetings Act

(a) The official minutes of all Council and committee meetings are kept in TCDD staff offices, are posted on the TCDD website, and are available for public review as authorized by the Open Meetings Act.

(b) Opportunities to provide public comments are provided at each Council and committee meeting. The chair of the Council or committee may limit each person presenting public comments or public testimony on any agenda item to a certain number of minutes by announcing the period when comments or testimony are given.

§876.12 Alternative Dispute Resolution

The dispute resolution process provided for in Chapter 2260 of the Government Code shall be used by the State and any other party to attempt to resolve any claim for breach of contract made by any party against the State as applicable.

Chapter 877 GRANT AWARDS

§877.1 General

(a) As authorized by Human Resources Code Title 40, Chapter 112.020 (a)(3), the Council may contract or provide grants to public or private organizations to implement the TCDD State Plan for Texans with Developmental Disabilities, if funds are available.

(b) The Council may solicit proposals from state agencies, non-profit organizations, or private for profit organizations that have organizational expertise related to the requirements of the proposal.

(c) **The Council may accept unsolicited** ~~Unsolicited proposals~~ **or unsolicited ideas for future projects** ~~may be submitted by organizations and will be considered~~ consistent with Council policies and procedures.

(d) The Council may develop projects with organizations without competitive proposals as allowed by state and federal requirements and Council policies.

(e) All grantees shall comply with applicable state and federal requirements including the Texas Uniform Grant Management Standards, Office of Management and Budget (OMB) circulars, and Council grants procedures.

(f) Independent audits of grantees are required for each year of funding in accordance with the requirements of OMB Circulars and Texas Uniform Grant Management Standards. Project specific independent reviews and other procedures may be required of grantees not subject to annual independent audit requirements of OMB or UGMS consistent with Council policies. The Council shall reimburse the grantees for the reasonable cost of the required audit activities.

(g) Grant awards shall contain appropriate provisions for program and fiscal monitoring and for collection and submission of evaluation data and related reports.

(h) The Council may limit by policy the amount of Council funds allowed to reimburse indirect costs of projects. Any indirect costs of a grantee above those amounts may be allowed as part of the required non-federal participant share.

(i) Donated time and services may be included as a financial match contribution unless otherwise restricted by a specific request for proposals or by state or federal requirements.

(j) No organization shall receive more than three (3) direct grants from the Council at any time.

§877.2 Application and Review Process

(a) All requests for proposals will be published in the Texas Register and posted on the Council's website, and a notice will be provided to interested parties.

(b) Proposal information for each request for proposal shall be available upon request from Council offices and will be made available at the Council's website.

(c) Proposals received after the closing date will not be considered unless an exception is approved in a manner consistent with Council policies.

(d) Projects seeking continuation funding may have separate application forms, instructions, and procedures, as determined by Council staff.

(e) Grants shall be awarded based on guidelines that reflect state and federal mandates. Selection criteria shall be designed to select applications that provide best overall value to the state and to the Council and meet the requirements and intent of the Council as provided in the request for proposals.

(f) Final approval of organizations to receive grant funding shall be determined by the Council consistent with Council policies.

(g) Council staff may negotiate with selected applicants to determine the final terms of the award.

§877.3 Suspension or Termination of Funding

(a) If a grantee fails to comply with the terms of the grant, the Council may suspend authority to obligate or receive grant funding pending the result of corrective measures.

(b) The Council, in its complete discretion, may terminate authority to obligate or receive grant funding prior to the end of the funding period if corrective actions are not taken during the suspension period, or if the deficiency is serious enough to warrant immediate termination.

(c) A grant, or portion thereof, may also be terminated at the grantee's request by approval of the Council executive director.

(d) The procedure to request reconsideration of a suspension or termination of funding shall be included in grant award materials.

§877.4 Appeal of Funding Decisions

Appeals may be submitted from applicants for grants who did not receive funding or from grantees whose grants have not been awarded continuation funding. The appeals process adopted by the Council shall be included in grant application materials.

§877.6 Confidentiality of Records

A grantee that provides direct services to individuals under a Council grant must have a system to protect client records from inappropriate disclosure. Disclosure of confidential information must be in accordance with applicable law.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
DRAFT MINUTES
MAY 2-3, 2012**

WEDNESDAY, MAY 2, 2012

CALL TO ORDER

The Committee of the Whole of the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities met in Majestic 1 Room of the Sheraton Dallas Hotel, 400 North Olive Dallas, TX 75201. The Committee convened on Wednesday, May 2, 2012, at 6:30 PM for a public input session. The session was attended by approximately 8 members of the public, 10 Council members and 9 TCDD staff. Interpreters provided simultaneous Spanish translation for individuals who did not speak English. Council member Andy Crim facilitated a discussion that focused on barriers to obtaining services for people with developmental disabilities. Individuals spoke of a lack of knowledge within their communities regarding the services that are available, case workers who hesitate to coordinate services for which an individual is eligible, and school systems who do not provide appropriate services to students with disabilities.

The Committee of the Whole recessed at 8:00 PM.

THURSDAY, MAY 3, 2012

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Mary Durham, Chair
Hunter Adkins
Kimberly Blackmon
Gladys Cortez
Kristen Cox
Andrew Crim

Frank Genco, HHSC
Kathy Griffis-Bailey, DSHS
Jeff Kaufmann, DADS
Cindy Johnston
Diana Kern
Scott McAvoy

Dana Perry
Joe Rivas
Cindy Swain, TEA
David Taylor
Lora Taylor
Susan Vardell

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT

Mike Benz/Amy Sharp, A&M CDD
Kristine Clark
Brenda Coleman-Beattie

Mateo Delgado
Mary Faithfull, DRT
Sara Kendall, DARS

John Morris
Penny Seay, UT CDS
Richard Tisch

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Roger Webb, Executive Director
Martha Cantu
Joanna Cordry

Cassie Fisher
Sonya Hosey
Melissa Loe

Jessica Ramos
Melissa Rosser
Koren Vogel

GUESTS PRESENT

Lee Brown
Amanda Dunnavant

Leteshia Finely
Gina Fuller

Lashonda Jackson
Eric Jacobson

RECONVENE

Council Chair Mary Durham called for the Committee of the Whole to reconvene at 9:30 AM on Thursday, May 2, 2012.

1. INTRODUCTIONS

Council members, staff and guests were introduced.

2. CHAIR'S REMARKS

Chair Durham reviewed excused absences for John Morris, Kris Clark, Mateo Delgado, Sara Kendall, Mary Faithfull, Penny Seay, Mike Benz/Amy Sharp, and Brenda Coleman-Beattie. Durham introduced new Council members David Taylor of El Paso and Scott McAvoy of Cedar Park. Both members have attended orientation and are eligible to vote on Council business.

Durham and Executive Director Webb recognized TCDD Executive Assistant Koren Vogel for ten years of service to TCDD.

Durham discussed Committee appointments and noted that Gladys Cortez has been assigned to the Project Development Committee at her request. New members McAvoy and Taylor will attend both Committee meetings before being assigned to a Committee. The Audit Committee is also in need of a new member and interested persons are encouraged to contact Durham or Webb.

Council member Kris Clark and Public Policy Director Jessica Ramos recently attended the Disability Policy Seminar in Washington, D.C. Ramos provided comments on their experiences, noting that the conference blended basic advocacy issues with more complex budget items. She indicated that Clark was excited to learn about the "Achieving a Better Life Experience Act" which would allow individuals and families to save funds while protecting Medicaid benefits. Ramos accompanied Clark for meetings with staff from the offices of Congressman Lamar Smith, Congressman Lloyd Doggett and Senator John Cornyn.

Council member Cortez discussed her attendance at the recent media event regarding the launch of Project HIRE (Helping Individuals Reach Employment). Project HIRE is funded by a collaborative effort between TCDD and the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) to provide "wrap-around" supports for college students with disabilities. She commented on the appreciation expressed by the community.

Council member and Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) representative Jeff Kaufmann informed the Council of new reports that are available from DADS including a mortality report with data on individuals who died while in institutional settings. A report is also available on physical and behavioral health services in the HCS and CLASS programs.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were received.

4. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

Council member Andy Crim provided a summary of the public input session Wednesday evening. Crim felt that a lack of communication was the biggest issue discussed - consumers did not know about services or how to access services; interagency communication and communication between providers and consumers are lacking. Consumers indicated a lack of cultural competency from providers. Chair Durham discussed input on the education system and felt that even though work has been done to translate materials and provide information in other languages, information is still not being received. Council member Lora Taylor added that Leadership Development and Advocacy Skills training projects are vital for consumers and family members. Susan Vardell added her

impression about how much financial need there is for small organizations and that any funding would be appreciated. Members felt that the input session was productive and would like to have more throughout the state.

5. PRESENTATION – GEORGIA DD COUNCIL REAL COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE

Executive Director Webb introduced Eric Jacobson, Executive Director of the Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities (GCDD). Jacobson provided a presentation on the Georgia DD Council's Real Communities Initiative. He emphasized that the initiative is a grass-roots community building effort for people with and without disabilities. He noted that the major issues for people with disabilities such as housing, transportation, education, access to health care, etc., are the same for people without disabilities. Jacobson shared the GCDD year-long development of goals to promote Real Communities and told stories of communities where these values are being promoted. He noted that the components of a Real Community include establishment of a core group that meets and identifies what the group wants to improve. A community builder for each community receives a stipend to coordinate the activities of the group. He explained that the GCDD has supported the Real Communities activities for two years and has learned that it is difficult to shift from individual to collective actions but they continue to work toward the goals. Council members discussed these projects with Jacobson and agreed to continue to discuss in committee meetings how the ideas can be applied in Texas.

6. GRANT PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

TCDD Grants Management Director Sonya Hosey provided highlights of the Paso del Norte Expansion of Leadership Development and Advocacy Skills Training. This project is in the first year of a two year project and has recruited graduates of the Leadership Academy for Families to become mentors, has held 13 training sessions and coordinated mentor activities such as visiting schools, doctors' offices and meetings with other parents to promote the Leadership Academy.

Hosey also provided brief highlights of the Community Healthcore Customized Self-Employment project. This project is in its fifth and final year. She then introduced the Program Director and Project Manager from Community Healthcore to offer an overview of the project.

7. COMMUNITY HEALTHCORE EMPLOYMENT PROJECT

Lee Brown and LaShonda Jackson of Community Healthcore provided a summary of Community Healthcore's customized self-employment project and shared stories of individuals who have been assisted through the project. Over 150 individuals have been trained on the process for self-employment and 38 businesses have been launched with funding from the project. The program is certified through DARS as a new supported self-employment model.

ADJOURN

Council Chair Durham adjourned the Committee of the Whole at 1:29 PM.

Roger A. Webb
Secretary to the Council

Date

Quarterly Council and Committee Meetings

Tentative Dates

October 24-26, 2012

Doubletree Hotel - Austin

February 6-8, 2013

AT&T Executive Education and Conference Center

May 1-3, 2013

August 7-9, 2012

Council Meeting

Agenda Item 16.

Expected Action:

Discussion only; no action is anticipated.

Background:

Updated documents of Council Member Information.

- Council Roster
- Committee Roster
- Member Terms

TEXAS COUNCIL FOR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

COMMITTEE ROSTER

July 2012

Public Policy Committee¹

Joe Rivas, Chair

Kristen Cox, Vice-Chair

Hunter Adkins

Michael Benz (Amy Sharp-Alternate), Texas A&M Center on Disability and Development

Mateo Delgado

Mary Faithfull (Patty Anderson-Alternate), Disability Rights Texas (DRT)

Frank Genco, Health & Human Services Commission (HHSC)

Cindy Johnston

Jeff Kaufmann, Department of Aging & Disability Services (DADS)

Sara Kendall, Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS)

Penny Seay (Sandy Graham-Alternate), UT-Austin Center for Disability Studies

Lora Taylor

Rick Tisch

Project Development Committee¹

Susan Vardell, Chair

Dana Perry, Vice-Chair

Kimberly Blackmon

Kristine Clark

Gladys Cortez

Andrew Crim

Diana Kern

John Morris

Cindy Swain (Barbara Kaatz-Alternate), Texas Education Agency (TEA)

Vacant (Kathy Griffis-Bailey-Alternate), Department of State Health Services (DSHS)

Scott McAvoy and David Taylor are not yet assigned to a Committee.

Audit Committee

John Morris, Chair

Andrew Crim

Jeff Kaufmann

Mary Durham (non-voting ex officio)

Vacant

Executive Committee

Mary Durham, Chair

John Morris, Vice-Chair

Susan Vardell, Project Development Committee Chair

Joe Rivas, Public Policy Committee Chair

Hunter Adkins, Consumer Member-at-Large

¹ The Chair (Mary Durham) and Vice Chair (John Morris) of the Council are voting, ex-officio members of the Public Policy and the Project Development Committees.

TEXAS COUNCIL FOR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Ending Dates of Member Terms

Terms Expire February 1st

2013	2015	2017
Brenda Coleman-Beattie	Hunter Adkins	Kristine Clark
Andrew Crim	Kimberly Blackmon	Gladys Cortez
Mateo Delgado	Kristen Cox	Mary Durham (2011*)
Cindy Johnston	Diana Kern	Joe Rivas
John Morris	Scott McAvoy	David Taylor
Lora Taylor	Dana Perry	
Susan Vardell	Richard Tisch	

* serving in a holdover capacity for a term that expired in 2011.

Agency/Organization Representatives (Alternates)

Disability Rights Texas

Center for Disability Studies (UT)

Center on Disability and Development (A&M)

Texas Education Agency

Texas Health and Human Services Commission

Dept. of Aging and Disability Services

Dept. of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services

Dept. of State Health Services

Mary Faithfull (Patty Anderson)

Penny Seay (Sandy Graham)

Michael Benz (Amy Sharp)

Cindy Swain (Barbara Kaatz)

Frank Genco

Jeff Kaufmann

Sara Kendall

Vacant, (Kathy Griffis-Bailey)