



TEXAS COUNCIL *for* DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES



FY 2009 Annual Report and Calendar

Friends of TCDD,

Enclosed is a copy of the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities (TCDD) Annual Report for fiscal year 2009 (FY09).

In addition to budget information, this report includes a summary of all TCDD grant projects funded in FY09. These activities demonstrate new approaches to services and supports, address unmet needs and help provide valuable training and resources that make it easier for people with disabilities to be fully included in their local community. For the first time, the report was developed as a 12-month calendar so that TCDD is able to further highlight some of its projects.

The TCDD board and staff would like to take this opportunity to thank the Texas Legislature, the TCDD grantees, our partners, stakeholders and fellow state agencies as well as members of the developmental disability community. We would also like to thank the Texas Education Agency for their continuing efforts to provide administrative services to TCDD as our designated state agency. Your collaboration and cooperation help us to achieve the Council's mission of creating change so that all people with disabilities are fully included in their communities and exercise control over their own lives.

As we continue to work toward change, we are excited to share the great work TCDD was able to accomplish during FY09. Additionally, if you have not seen our most recent biennial report published in December 2008, it is available at the TCDD Web site referenced below.

Please contact us with any questions or comments regarding the information in this report. You may also request additional copies of the report, or download an electronic version – including in Spanish – on our Web site at www.txddc.state.tx.us.

Sincerely,



Brenda Coleman-Beattie

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "BeBeattie".

Chair



Roger A. Webb

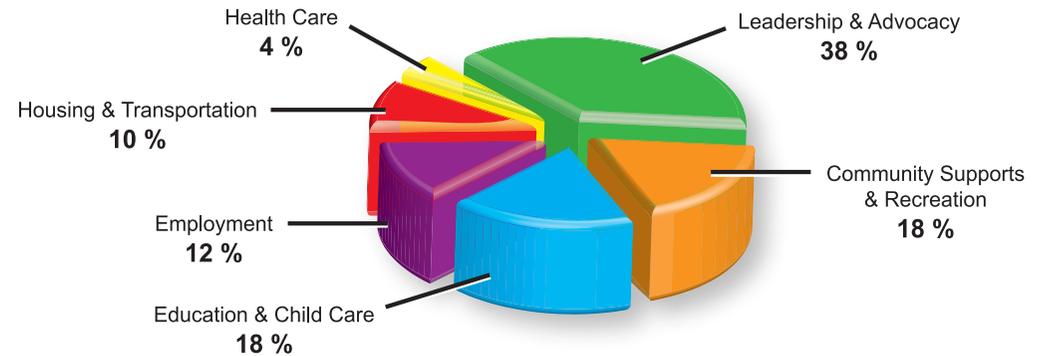
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roger A. Webb".

Executive Director

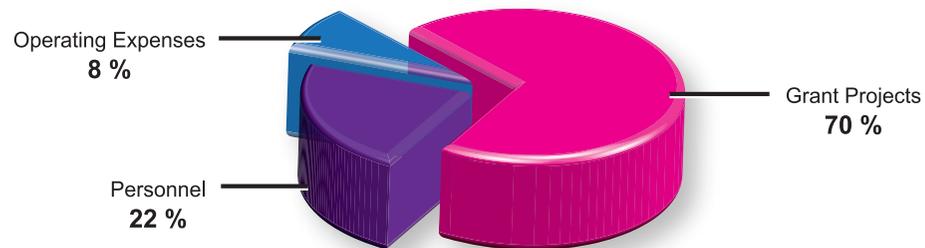
Investments in Grant Projects by Activity Area

Emphasis Area	Federal Funds	Non-Federal Funds	Total Funds
Leadership & Advocacy	\$1,552,956	\$627,764	\$2,180,720
Community Supports & Recreation	717,151	255,715	972,866
Employment	475,526	175,701	651,227
Education & Child Care	740,205	188,613	928,818
Housing & Transportation	383,249	157,470	540,719
Health Care	144,786	185,227	330,013
TOTAL	\$4,013,873	\$1,590,490	\$5,604,363

Note: Investments in Grant Projects may include expenditures of prior year funds.

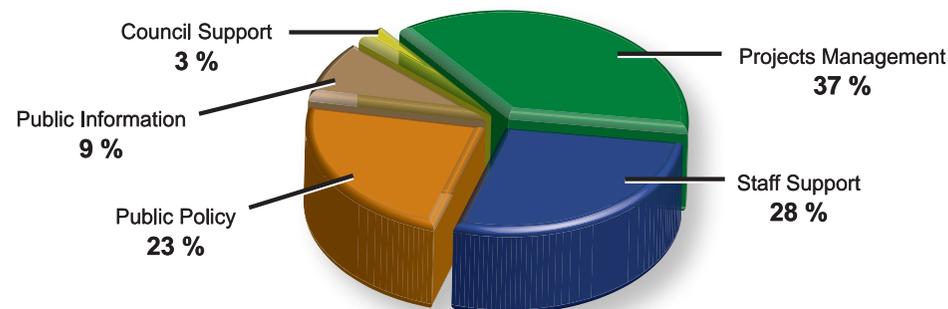


2009 TCDD Budget



Budget Categories	Funding
Grant Projects	\$3,502,762
Personnel	1,128,046
Operating Expenses	404,958
TOTAL	\$5,035,766

Allocation of 2009 Operating and Personnel Expenses



* Note: 88% of Operating and Personnel Expenses are allocated to State Plan activities.

The mission of the **Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities** is to create change so that all people with disabilities are fully included in their communities and exercise control over their own lives.

Synopsis of Projects and Activities TCDD Funded in 2009

The **Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities (TCDD)** funded the following grant projects in fiscal year 2009 (October 2008 - September 2009). These activities demonstrate new approaches to services and supports, address unmet needs and provide valuable training and resources that make it easier for people with disabilities to be fully included in their local community. An estimated 437,885 Texans have developmental disabilities.

A brief overview of the projects and what they did in fiscal year 2009 follows. Many projects work statewide. More details on each project are on the Grants section of the TCDD Web site at www.txddc.state.tx.us; the section also includes links to project Web sites.

Employment

- **Community Healthcare's Regional Self-Employment Project** helps individuals with disabilities in East Texas become self-employed.
- **WorkFORCE Solutions' Project RISE (Regional Initiative for Supported Employment)** increases employment opportunities for high school seniors in Hidalgo, Starr and Willacy counties.
- **Texas A&M University Research Foundation's Brazos Valley Employment Project** creates work-based learning and employment opportunities for high school students by providing technical assistance and training to six schools in the Brazos Valley.
- **Artworks: Creative Industries** is **VSA arts of Texas'** career development program for emerging artists with disabilities.
- **Knowbility, Inc.'s Access Works Employment Project** established a program that employs individuals with disabilities to help businesses evaluate and improve their services, including how easily people with disabilities can access their products.

Health Care Activities

- **Project DOCC Houston** established a DOCC (Delivery of Chronic Care) program for the **Department of Pediatrics at the University of Texas Medical School Houston**. Parents provide their perspective to pediatric resident physicians about caring for children with special health care needs.
- **Baylor College of Medicine's Transition Medicine Project** trains health care workers on how to care for people with chronic illnesses and/or disabilities and provides outreach to community health care providers and families of children with disabilities.

Child Care and Education

- **Texas Tech University's Project IDEAL** helps prepare prospective general-education teachers to work more effectively with students who have disabilities.
- **Education Service Center – Region 17's Positive Behavioral Supports (PBS) Project Head Start** improves 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 two to five years.
- **Education Service Center – Region 17's Positive Behavioral Supports (PBS) Project Impacting Disproportionality** uses research-based strategies shown to reduce the number of disciplinary referrals; establishes procedures to monitor at-risk students to prevent escalating disciplinary action and support their success in school; and increases their skills in the area of cultural competency.
- **Education Service Center – Region 17's Positive Behavioral Supports (PBS) Project** created an environment within the educational and vocational setting that uses positive behavior supports to guide learning of all students. A combination of teachers, educational professionals, day care providers, parents and other community service providers were trained in PBS techniques in Lubbock ISD.
- **Texas Association for Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies' Positive Behavioral Supports (PBS) Project** provided training and assistance in the area of positive behavioral supports to child care providers, parents, schools, community service agencies and other interested individuals who work with children with disabilities to ensure full integration and inclusion in positive quality of life experiences.
- **Texana Center's Positive Behavioral Supports (PBS) Project** trained individuals how to apply positive behavior supports and to teach these skills to others. Public school district employees and other applicable well-established organizations such as community service providers, universities or colleges, and non-profit organizations enrolled each year in the two-year training program.

Housing and Transportation

- **Texas Citizen Fund's Paratransit Services Quality Improvement Initiative** increases the quality, quantity and access that persons with disabilities have to paratransit services statewide.
- **Independent Living Research Utilization at Memorial Hermann/TIRR's Accessible New Housing Project** works to increase the number of "visitable" single-family homes across Texas. Visitability refers to designing a home so that it can be lived in or visited by people who use wheelchairs or walkers or have trouble with steps.

Leadership and Advocacy Activities

TCDD has nine interrelated grants on leadership development and advocacy training that create a network of disability advocacy training programs, as well as resources and supports individuals need to be successful leaders.

LOCAL BASIC ADVOCACY TRAINING PROJECTS

- **The Arc of Greater Tarrant County** provides training for individuals with developmental disabilities and family members in Tarrant, Johnson, Hood, Wise and Parker counties.
- **Brighton School, Inc.**, provides training for young adults with disabilities from Bexar, Comal, Bandera, Guadalupe and Kendall counties.
- **The Family to Family Network** provides training for adults with disabilities, their family and other interested community members in the Houston area.
- **SER – Jobs for Progress of the Texas Gulf Coast** provides training for participants from minority communities in Houston and the surrounding communities.

SPECIALIZED ADVOCACY TRAINING PROJECTS

- **The Arc of Texas** provides training for individuals in basic systems advocacy and advanced systems advocacy for public policy in El Paso, Brownsville and Houston. Work in Corpus Christi ended in June 2009.
- **The National Alliance on Mental Illness Texas** collaborates with local and diverse groups to train people in six urban and rural areas across Texas.
- **Syracuse University's Advocacy "U" Resource Center** is developing an interactive, accessible and user-friendly resource center/Web site that contains information on training events across Texas, training modules developed by TCDD grantees, and subject-specific resources.
- **Texas A&M Research Foundation's Statewide Advanced Leadership Training Project** provides advanced leadership and public policy advocacy training.
- **Parents Anonymous, Inc.'s Texas Advocacy Training Network** supports regional networks by promoting collaboration and encouraging innovative communication strategies, training and technical assistance.

Youth Leadership and Advocacy Projects

- **Texas A&M Research Foundation's** statewide initiative increases the leadership and advocacy skills of Texas youth with disabilities.
- **Goodwill Industries of Central East Texas, Inc.'s Youthworks! Leadership & Advocacy Project** operates in Lufkin.
- **Imagine Enterprises** supports youth with disabilities from 43 school districts in West Texas to increase their leadership and advocacy skills.

- **Education Service Center – Region 19** in partnership with **Paso del Norte Youth Leadership Forum Project** provides leadership and advocacy building activities for students with disabilities in far west Texas, activities to engage parents, follow-up activities and a comprehensive project evaluation.

Peer-to-Peer Training for Self-Advocates

- **Paso del Norte Children's Development Center** provides training, support and assistance to young people with developmental disabilities in the El Paso area to build their self-advocacy skills.
- **Texas Advocates** provides training for individuals to learn to advocate for their own rights and interests by making decisions and choosing supports and services that allow them to live the life they want.
- **Community Healthcare** capitalizes on the strengths of local self-advocates to inspire and provide training to other people with disabilities in east Texas.

Community Supports and Recreation

- **United Cerebral Palsy of Texas' ASSET*AmeriCorps** assists people with disabilities across the state to be more independent by learning how to handle money, get appropriate assistive technology and find affordable, accessible housing.
- **The Arc of Texas Microboard Collaboration** provides individuals with disabilities a system to achieve self-determination with support from people who know and care about them.
- **The Disability Policy Consortium**, with administrative support from **United Cerebral Palsy of Texas**, is a coalition of nearly 30 groups that identifies, formulates positions on, and educates the public and policymakers regarding public policy issues of concern to persons with disabilities and their families.
- **EveryChild, Inc.'s Family-Based Alternatives Project** seeks to increase the state's capacity to offer family-based alternatives to children with disabilities who are currently living in residential facilities.
- **TCDD's Consumer Stipends Grants** enable consumers and families without organizational support to attend conferences, workshops, meetings and other events.
- **Imagine Enterprises, Inc.'s Self Determination for Texas: A Collaborative Project** provides information, training, technical assistance and hands-on consultation regarding self-determination across Texas.
- **Advocacy Inc.'s Texas Community Integration Project** assisted people with disabilities of all ages who lived in state schools, intermediate care facilities and nursing facilities to move to the community. Project activities, with grant funding beginning in 2000, resulted in more than 220 individuals with severe disabilities moving from institutions to community settings.

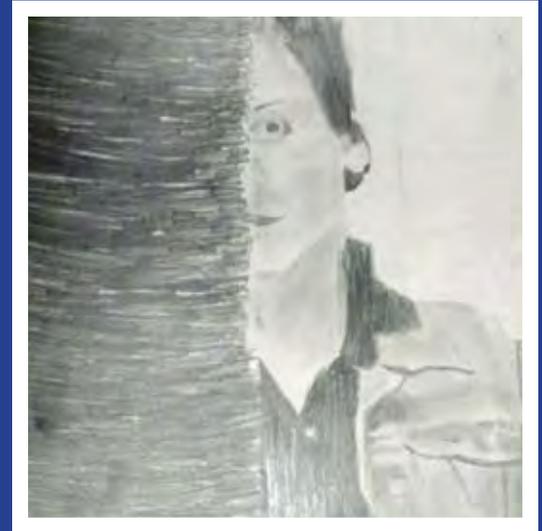
Artworks: Creative Industries

Artworks: Creative Industries is VSA arts of Texas' career development program for emerging artists with disabilities. The program assists artists around the state who, in addition to the regular challenges faced by artists starting their careers, face unique challenges of their own. To meet these challenges, Artworks: Creative Industries provides skills training and professional development resources in all artistic disciplines – music, visual art, performance and literature. Artworks: Creative Industries supports artists at any stage of development: youth transitioning into college or work, beginners just learning to draw and accomplished artists preparing to start their own business.

www.vsatx.org



Students with visual impairments create "Touchable Flowers" at a VSA arts of Texas workshop.



Barbara Buitron is one of 15 artists with disabilities selected from across the nation to have their work displayed at two galleries in Washington, D.C. Her winning piece was titled, "Ms. Rios."



Artist Michael Hannon created this piece, titled "Dragonfly."

David Forsythe is one of 15 artists with disabilities selected from across the nation to have their work displayed at two galleries in Washington, D.C. His winning piece was titled, "Stacked Up."



January

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Project IDEAL: Teacher Education for Inclusive Education

Texas Tech University's Project IDEAL (Informing & Designing Education for All Learners) helps prepare prospective general education teachers to work more effectively with students who have disabilities. Project IDEAL helps create discussion within teacher preparation programs about the importance of preparing teacher candidates to work in inclusive settings. It also provides user-friendly resources to both stimulate and challenge general educators about the critical nature of their role in working with students who receive special education services. 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.

www.projectidealonline.org



“Guns Up” for Project IDEAL! The Texas Tech University hand gesture, a sign of pride and victory, is displayed by Project Director Dr. DeAnn Lechtenberger and Natalie, who helped teach an undergraduate class for preservice general education teachers to learn more about working with middle school students with disabilities.



Natalie co-taught with Project Director Dr. DeAnn Lechtenberger and helped pass out papers to preservice general education teachers learning how to work with middle school students with disabilities.

February

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BASIC ADVOCACY TRAINING PROJECTS

SER – Jobs for Progress of the Texas Gulf Coast operates in Houston and surrounding areas. SER provides Basic Advocacy Training to adults with disabilities and/or parents of children with disabilities. In addition to the two-day training at SER, workshops are available in Spanish and English for area support group meetings and health education programs. Workshops include the fundamentals of networking skills, letter writing and how to contact local legislators. They provide an opportunity for group interaction through activities and discussion. The two-day training and workshops are available at no cost to the host organization or participants. www.seradvocacytraining.org

The Arc of Greater Tarrant County provides training to individuals in Tarrant, Johnson, Hood, Wise and Parker counties on leadership, community organizing and advocacy skills. Trainees participate in real world advocacy with local, county, school and state governments. An Advocacy Leadership Council encourages individual action and peer-to-peer support. The project also works to improve opportunities for the advocates to serve on local boards and work groups. www.arcgctc.org

The Family to Family Network in the greater Houston and surrounding areas provides training to adults with disabilities, family members of people with disabilities, and other interested community members on basic topics related to self-determination, self-advocacy, person-centered planning, history and philosophy, and inclusive education. The participants will develop and practice leadership and advocacy skills and make connections with other community members. www.familytofamilynetwork.org/DisabilityLeadership.html

Brighton School, Inc.'s Parent Alliance for Learning and Support (PALS) Program provides advocacy training for parents of children ages birth to 22 and professionals/community members to improve results related to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), general and self-advocacy, and the long-term success for children and young adults with disabilities and the community at large. This coincides with self determination training provided to young adults with disabilities, ages 15 to 22, from Bexar, Banderita, Kendall, Comal and Guadalupe counties. The PALS Program works with partners in the disability, professional and religious communities. www.brightonsa.org

SPECIALIZED ADVOCACY TRAINING PROJECTS

The National Alliance on Mental Illness Texas collaborates with local and diverse groups in communities to assist consumers with mental illness, their families and others to become strong advocates for change. The project provides training to advocates in urban and rural areas: Austin; Amarillo; Houston; East Texas; San Antonio and El Paso. Trainees form local advocacy committees and work together to each make contact with public officials and produce at least two articles or events for the news media each year. The committees build on partnerships within the faith-based, elderly and ethnic minority communities. www.namitexas.org

The Arc of Texas works in El Paso, Brownsville and Houston to build local advocacy collaborations (LACs) and provides training to individuals in basic legislative and systems change advocacy as well as advanced systems advocacy. Work in Corpus

Christi ended in June 2009. The LACs work with a local community organizer to determine issues, priorities, strategies and timelines for attaining local goals on impacting public policy. Each LAC then educates and seeks support of local legislative delegations. The LACs involve key community leaders, including faith-based organizations, chambers of commerce, schools, hospitals, judges and others who may have existing relationships with legislators. www.thearcoftexas.org

YOUTH LEADERSHIP AND ADVOCACY PROJECTS

Imagine Enterprises supports West Texas youth with disabilities to increase their leadership and advocacy skills. Students are recruited from school districts from 13 counties and the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitation Services. Participants receive an intensive six days curriculum with adult mentors who provide support. www.imagineenterprises.com/youth.html

Education Service Center – Region 19 and the **Paso del Norte Youth Leadership Forum** project provides year-round leadership and advocacy building activities for students with disabilities, activities to engage parents, follow-up activities and a comprehensive project evaluation. The project serves the 12 independent school districts and charter schools in the Region 19 service delivery area of El Paso and Hudspeth counties in far west Texas. They also work with the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services, Division for Blind Services and other adult and community agencies. www.esc19.net



Coastal Bend advocates pose with Representative Abel Herrero between visits to legislators at the Capitol.



Brighton PALS Program Parents receiving certificates after training completion.



The Arc of Texas staff member Dawn Choate waits with self-advocate Consuelo Castillo before Consuelo's testimony on Senate Bill 1395 about respectful language.



Jessica helps prepare for a team building exercise that will help build leadership and advocacy skills at a training provided by Imagine Enterprises.



Jose Lozano, Nathan Coleman, Alex Rubio and Jorge Munoz pose with a volunteer at ESC Region 19's Youth Leadership Forum.

March

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		Texas Independence Day				
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Daylight Savings Time BEGINS			St. Patrick's Day			First Day of Spring
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Texas Advanced Leadership and Advocacy Conference http://talac.tamu.edu						
Palm Sunday		First Day of Passover	César Chávez Day			

February 2010							April 2010						
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TCDD Travel Stipends for Organizations

The Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities provides grant funds to organizations for travel stipends for approved events. Stipend funds are provided to Texas organizations to enable individuals with developmental disabilities and their family members to attend in-state conferences, workshops, or legislative advocacy skills training events. The intent of this program is to promote consumer empowerment and involvement in activities that enhance independence, productivity and community inclusion of people with developmental disabilities.

“ADDA depends on TCDD’s consumer stipends every year; I don’t know what we would do without them,” said Attention Deficit Disorders Association – Southern Region Executive Director Pam Esser. “The stipends help families who may not otherwise have the resources to attend the conference – there is a definite need being served through this program.”

www.txddc.state.tx.us/grants_projects/rfpstipends.asp



The Texas Chapter of the American Association of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Board and Convention Committee members pose for a group shot during the conference.

AAIDD supports its conference attendees with TCDD travel stipends.

Attention Deficit Disorders Association – Southern Region Support Group Leaders at the Annual Conference. From left to right: Ron Mart, Cindy Tilford, Sharon Stewart, Mollie Kuchta, Kelly Smith, Opal Harris, Patty Calelly, Pat Calelly, Laura Peddicord and Rachel Beard.



April

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Project DOCC Houston

Project DOCC Houston established a DOCC (Delivery of Chronic Care) program for the Department of Pediatrics at The University of Texas Medical School Houston (UTMSH). This project provides parent-driven training to pediatric resident physicians during their month-long chronic care rotation in the C.H.O.S.E.N. clinic at UTMSH for children with special health care needs. The project is a teaching and training program that involves families of children with chronic illness and/or disabilities as faculty to transfer the families' acquired knowledge and life experience to the pediatric resident physicians. Residents spend time with families in their homes to gain first-hand experience of issues parents face in caring for their child.

www.projectdocchouston.org



Susan Johnson, Parent Teacher and Parent Coordinator for Project DOCC at the University of Texas Medical School Houston, meets with first year pediatric residents Erin Umbrico, Min-Jye Chen and Rachel Golin.

Transition Medicine Program: Expansion Project

Baylor College of Medicine's Transition Medicine Project trains health care workers on how to care for people with chronic illnesses and/or disabilities and provide outreach to community health care providers and families of children with disabilities. It offers consultative services to patients with disabilities, ages 14 to 25, with chronic childhood illnesses and/or disabilities and their families who need assistance in transitioning from pediatric health care to adult health care. The program also provides educational sessions to physicians regarding transition issues and services. (713) 798-0216



Adam Dupuis waits with his mom, Nancy, for his appointment as part of the Transition Medicine Program at the Baylor College of Medicine.



Dr. Tamiko Kido visits with Jonisha Gonzales during her appointment as part of the Transition Medicine Program at Baylor College of Medicine.

May

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Project RISE

Workforce Solutions' Project RISE (Regional Initiative for Supported Employment) increases employment opportunities for high school seniors with developmental disabilities in Hidalgo, Starr and Willacy counties. The project develops partnerships between organizations responsible for transition from school to adulthood for youth with developmental disabilities. This includes the workforce development board, local school districts and adult service agencies such as the Valley Association for Independent Living, local colleges, Easter Seals, and the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services.

www.wfsolutions.com



Project RISE participants pose in front of the "Bronz Bronc" while touring The University of Texas-Pan American campus.

Project RISE participants tour the San Antonio College of Medical and Dental Assistants campus.



June

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Preparing for Emergencies

Emergencies and disasters can strike quickly and without warning and can force you to evacuate your neighborhood or confine you to your home. Although disasters can strike at any time, hurricane season in Texas lasts from June through November. It is important that the thousands of Texans with disabilities prepare for potential disasters such as hurricanes, fires and disease outbreaks. What would you do if basic services – water, gas, electricity and telephones – were unavailable?

When building your emergency plan, consider mobility, transportation, electronic and electric assistive devices, and service animals, which may make disaster preparedness more difficult.

TCDD compiled a list of numerous resources to help Texans with disabilities or special health care needs prepare for emergencies. For more information and to access the documents, visit the TCDD Web site at www.txddc.state.tx.us/resources/disasters.asp.



Flu is caused by the highly contagious influenza virus and usually spread by respiratory secretions. Individuals are at a significant risk for developing severe and potentially lethal complications from flu if they have significant cognitive disabilities, difficulties with swallowing their secretions, challenges with coughing and excreting respiratory secretions, or impaired musculoskeletal systems.

Hurricane season in Texas lasts from June 1 through November 30. Severe storms, tornadoes, fires and other disasters can strike at any time. Individuals with disabilities need to make special preparations before disasters strike. It is too late to start planning once a hurricane or other disaster happens.



July

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Positive Behavioral Support

Education Service Center - Region 17's Positive Behavior Support (PBS) Impacting Disproportionality project recruits, trains and supports schools in their efforts to reduce the disproportionate representation of minority students in disciplinary settings and special education. PBS is a broad range of comprehensive school wide, classroom and individualized strategies based on an extensive body of research-based practices. PBS emphasizes prevention of and early intervention with problem behavior by teaching important social, behavioral and academic skills to all students.

www.esc17.net/default.aspx?name=pbsp.homepage



Stephen F. Austin Elementary School Special Education teacher James Allison leads his FISH Pack. FISH Packs are small inclusive groups that meet with their adult mentor weekly. The campus hopes these small group sessions will create stronger teacher/student relationships and student/student relationships.



Stephen F. Austin Elementary School Principal Twilla Rex acknowledges good behavior by inviting a student to sign the school's Tiger Book. The student's parents are notified of their child's recognition and the student becomes eligible for additional rewards.

August

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Statewide Advocacy

The **Texas A&M Research Foundation's Statewide Youth Leadership** project increases the leadership and advocacy skills of Texas youth with disabilities by providing a week-long training each summer and follow-up mentoring for implementing a leadership plan of their own in the nine months following the summer training. Delegates are selected from high school juniors and seniors from all over the state of Texas. They are empowered to advocate for individuals with disabilities and to influence public policy. They embrace the potential to become role models for other youth with disabilities in areas of employment, independent living and more.

<http://txylf.tamu.edu>

Parents Anonymous, Inc. is developing the **Texas Advocacy Training Network** which includes representatives from local organizations within three regional networks. The project supports these networks in working together and helping each other in efforts to promote leadership and advocacy, and in improving developmental disabilities systems in Texas. The network is also supported through collaboration, building peer-to-peer relationships and supporting each other through innovative communication strategies, training and technical assistance.

www.parentsanonymous.org



Texas A&M Statewide Youth Leadership Forum participants pose for a group photo during a visit to the Capitol.



Eric Roberts and Leticia Lara observe Lupe Rincon assist delegate Michael Medlock in a goal setting activity at Texas A&M Statewide Youth Leadership training.

September

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Visitable Housing

Independent Living Research Utilization at Memorial Hermann/ TIRR's Accessible New Housing Project developed a broad coalition to increase the number of "visitable" single-family homes across Texas. A growing trend nationwide, visitability refers to designing a home so that it can be lived in or visited by people who use wheelchairs or walkers or have trouble with steps. A house is visitable when it meets the following minimum requirements:

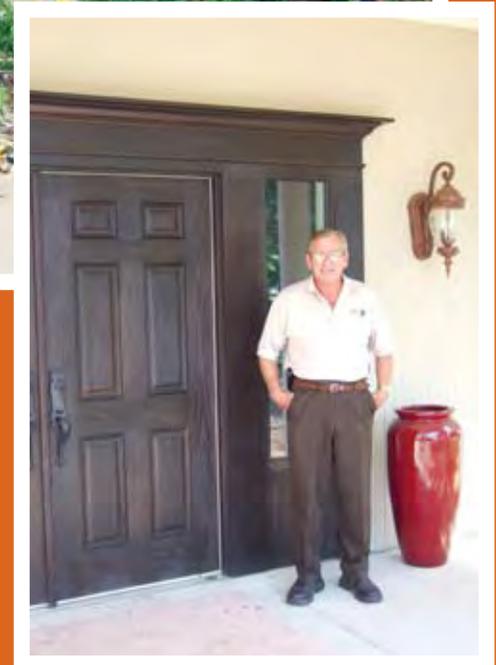
- at least one zero-step entrance;
- the entrance and interior doors on the main floor have at least 32 inches of clear passage space; and
- the main level includes a kitchen, entertainment area such as a family room, at least one bedroom and one bathroom with maneuverable space.

The Accessible Housing Project conducts training, outreach and technical assistance to builders, remodelers, real estate professionals and homeowners to recognize and promote features that make a home visitable. The project also created a voluntary certification process that recognizes builders and remodelers in the state who construct or modify homes to make them visitable.
www.easylivinghometexas.org



A zero-step entrance is one feature that makes a house visitable.

Homebuilder Bill Koxiol stands at the zero-step entrance of a newly built home.



October

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TEXAS COUNCIL *for*
DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES

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Collaboration Projects

To help accomplish its mission, TCDD partners with Advocacy, Inc., The University of Texas at Austin - Center for Disability Studies, and Texas A&M University's Center on Disability and Development under the Developmental Disability Act. These organizations advocate for and help serve the needs of Texans with developmental and other disabilities.

Examples of some collaboration projects with these partners include:

- **The Texas Community Integration Project** assisted people with disabilities of all ages who lived in state schools, intermediate care facilities and nursing facilities to move to the community. Project activities, with grant funding beginning in 2000, resulted in more than 220 individuals with severe disabilities moving from institutions to community settings.
- **The “Tips for First Responders and Texas Resources for Services and Supports” booklet** contains 24 easy-to-read pages with quick information about how to assist persons with a wide range of disabilities. Each page is designed for use by first responders and other emergency personnel who may be unfamiliar with people with disabilities or who are unsure about how to interact with them.

Additionally, the partners interact by serving as representatives on one another's advisory boards. Visit the Web sites listed below or contact TCDD for more information about each organization:

- **Advocacy, Inc.:**
www.advocacyinc.org
- **The University of Texas at Austin - Center for Disability Studies:**
<http://tcdds.edb.utexas.edu>
- **Texas A&M University's Center on Disability and Development:**
<http://cdd.tamu.edu/index.htm>



Michael Fojtik moved out of Austin State School and now resides in a group home in Austin and receives support through the Home and Community Services Program (HCS).

Sample Tips for First Responders and Texas Resources for Services and Supports

- ◆ Always ask the person how you can help before attempting any assistance.
- ◆ Do not touch or give a service animal food or treats without the permission of the owner.
- ◆ Plan to evacuate a service animal with the owner. Do not separate them.
- ◆ A person is not required to give proof of a disability that requires a service animal.
- ◆ Most people who use motorized wheelchairs have limited arm and hand motion. Ask if they have any special requirements for being transported.
- ◆ Ask if there is any medication a person should take with them before evacuating.
- ◆ Try to avoid interrupting a person who might be disoriented or rambling – just let them know that you have to go quickly.
- ◆ There is a difference between a visual impairment and blindness. Some people who are “legally blind” have some sight, while others are totally blind.
- ◆ Hearing aids do not guarantee that the person can hear and understand speech. They increase volume, not clarity.
- ◆ Understand that a person with autism may become stressed when their regular routine is disrupted.

November

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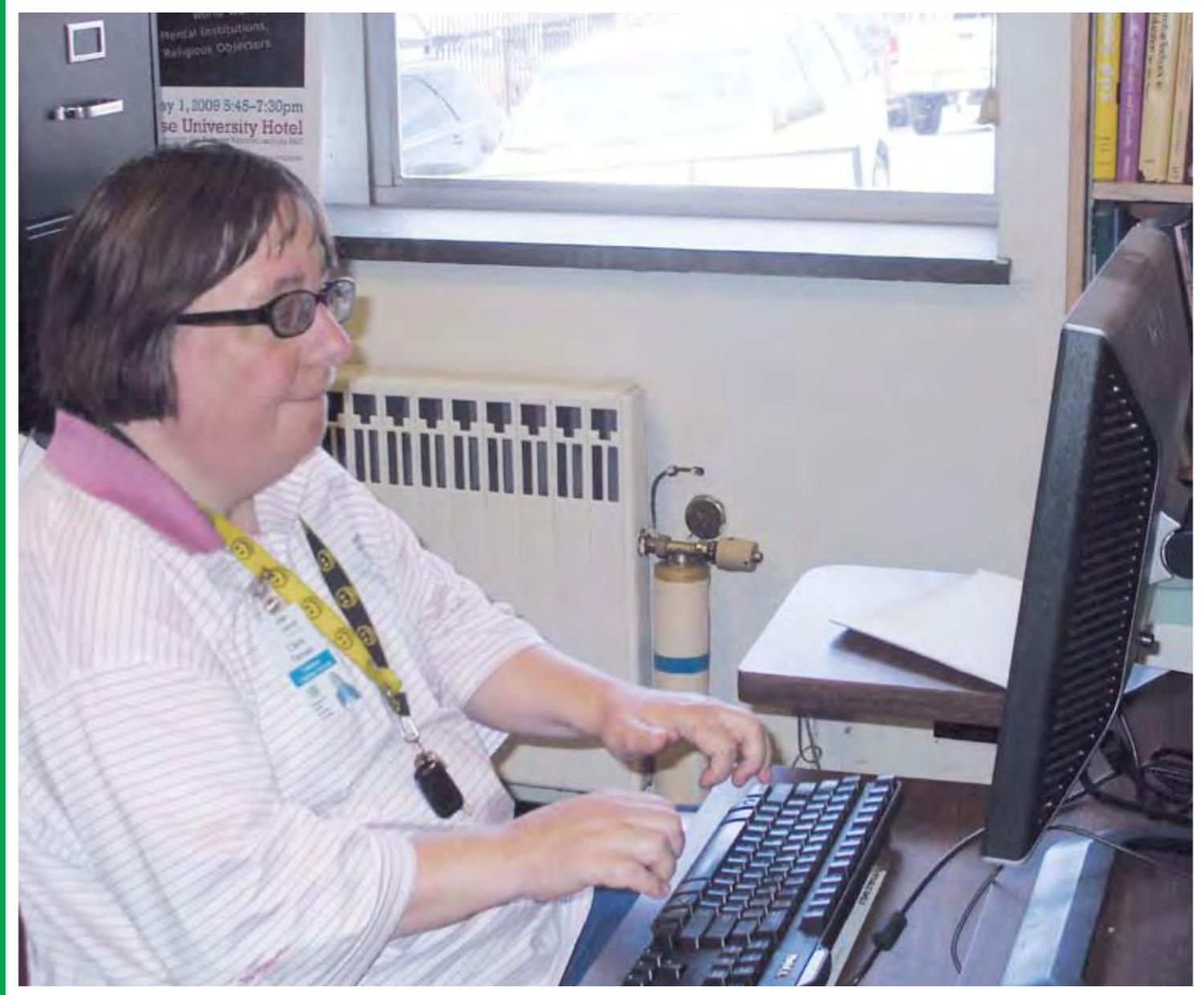
Advocacy “U” Resource Center

Syracuse University’s Advocacy “U” Resource Center is being created as an interactive, accessible and user-friendly Web site that contains information on training events across Texas, training modules developed by TCDD grantees, and subject specific resources. Site design, navigation, and content pay special attention to the needs of people with developmental disabilities and ethnically diverse groups. The site will contain:

- ongoing advocacy and leadership training programs and events related to disability issues;
- programs unrelated to disability issues that provide training on general advocacy leadership;
- training materials and modules that have been reviewed, catalogued and, if necessary, updated and revised to address specific audiences;
- information on speakers, advocacy leaders and resources that can be used by Texas disability, advocacy and family organizations;
- subject specific resources, such as education and informational assets; and
- links to national organizations and resources on advocacy and leadership development.

The Advocacy “U” Web site is expected to be available for public use by summer 2010.

www.advocacyu.org



Chris Paronis logs on to the Advocacy “U” Web site.

December

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First Day of Hanukkah

Last Day of Hanukkah

First Day of Winter

Christmas Day

First Day of Kwanzaa

New Year's Eve



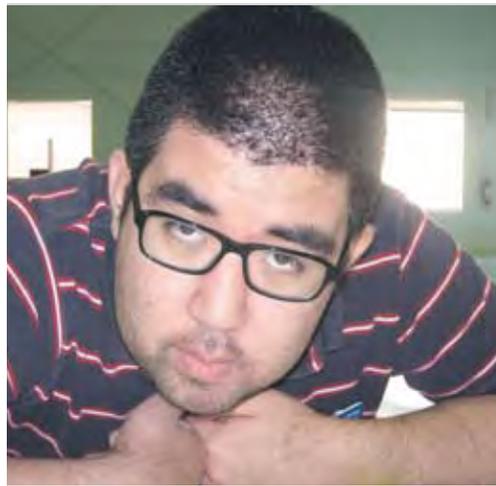
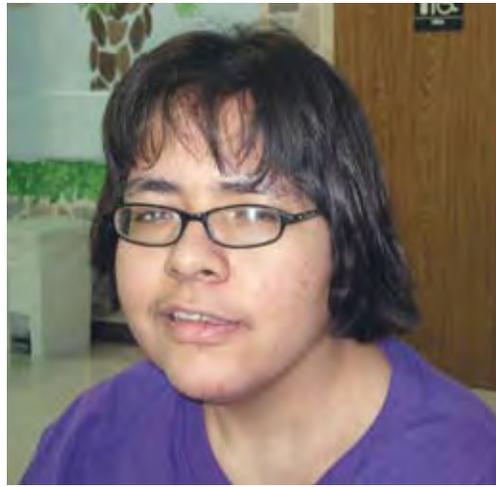
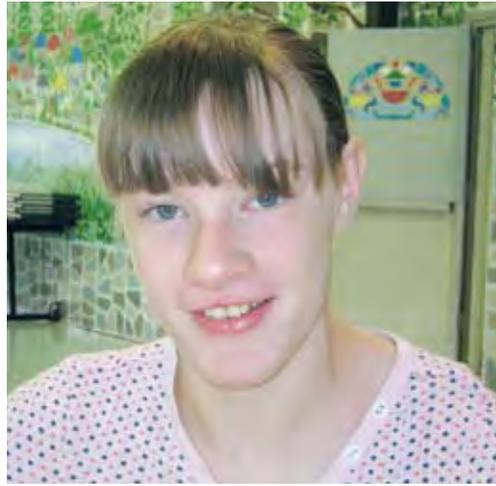
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Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities

Council Membership and Staff as of Sept. 30, 2009

The Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities is a governor-appointed board. Members include self-advocates with developmental disabilities, family members and representatives of state agencies that provide services and support to persons with disabilities. The Council includes representatives of the Texas Center for Disability Studies and the Center on Disability and Development, as well as the state's protection and advocacy system (Advocacy, Inc.). Sixty percent of the 27-member board are either self-advocates or family members.

Council Members

Public Members

Brenda Coleman-Beattie, Chair, Austin
Mary Durham, Vice-Chair, McAllen
Rebecca Hunter Adkins, Lakeway
Kristine Bissmeyer, San Antonio
Kimberly A. Blackmon, Fort Worth
Kristen L. Cox, El Paso
Andrew D. Crim, Fort Worth
Mateo Delgado, El Paso
Marcia J. Dwyer, Plano
Cindy Johnston, Dallas
Diana Kern, Cedar Creek
John C. Morris, Leander
Dana Perry, Brownwood
Deneesa A. Rasmussen, Arlington
Rene Requenez, Edinburg
Joe Rivas, Denton
Lora Trainer Taylor, Houston
Richard A. Tisch, Spring
Susan Vardell, Sherman

Agency Representatives and Alternates

Mary Faithfull/Patty Anderson, Advocacy, Inc. (AI)
Penny Seay, Texas Center for Disabilities Studies (CDS) at UT/Austin
Mike Benz/Amy Sharp, Center on Disability and Development at Texas A&M University (TAMU)
Kathy Clayton/Margaret Christen, Texas Education Agency (TEA)
Frank Genco/Clare Seagraves, Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC)
Don Henderson, Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS)
Lynn Blackmore, Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS)
Lesa Walker/Kathy Griffis-Bailey, Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS)

Council Staff

Administration and Support

Roger Webb, Executive Director
Carl Risinger, Operations Director
Martha Cantu, Operations Coordinator
Rosalinda Lopez, Web Administrator
Koren Vogel, Executive Assistant

Projects Management

Patrice LeBlanc, Grants Management Director
Sonya Hosey, Senior Grants Specialist
Cynthia Ellison, Grants Specialist
Joanna Cordry, Planning Coordinator
Barbara Booker, Systems Support Specialist
Jeri Barnard, Project Development Assistant

Public Policy and Public Information

Angela Lello, Public Policy Director
Lucy Walker, Public Information Specialist
Melvin Johnson, Policy Development Specialist
Belinda Carlton, Public Policy Specialist
Melissa Loe, Communications Coordinator
Cassie Laws Fisher, Public Policy Assistant

*For current staff and Council members,
see the TCDD Web site, www.txddc.state.tx.us.*

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