

**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 (RFPs). In order to have a large enough pool of potential reviewers, a database of approved individuals is maintained. The Executive Committee reviews and approves individuals to be included in the reviewer pool at each meeting. Planning Director Joanna Cordry and Planning Specialist Danny Fikac will provide information about individuals who recently applied to be reviewers. This information includes the name, areas of expertise, and city of the potential new reviewers. This information is provided behind this tab sheet.

The Executive Committee will be asked to make a final determination on any additions to the list of potential reviewers.

**Executive Committee — Agenda Item 10****Expected Action:**

The Executive Committee will consider this information, and make a final determination about the applicant.

**Council — Agenda Item 10. D.****Expected Action:**

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

**TO:** Executive Committee  
**FROM:** Danny Fikac, Planning Specialist  
**SUBJECT:** Approving New Applications for RFP Review Panelists  
**DATE:** May 3, 2017

TCDD staff received one new applications to be a TCDD RFP Review Panel member. The document behind this memo includes the new applicant's name, location and qualifications. As TCDD develops new projects and moves forward with its new five-year plan, it is necessary to continue to add to the eligible panel members in order to have a diverse independent review panel with expertise in various subject matters

## TCDD RFP Review Panel members

Last Name	First Name	Location	Qualifications
Alexander	Julie	Keller	<p>I am a family member of an individual with a disability and a professional/paraprofessional in the disability field. I have a brother with borderline schizophrenia/depression, a brother with depression/bipolar disorder and a father with severe depression.</p> <p>My work experience in the last five years has been primarily in special education. I have training in alternative education (alternative schools). I have been a part of a school's AdvancED Accreditation committee and campus leadership team. I have worked as a special education teacher for the past seven years with individuals with various types of disabilities like autism, mental health differences and learning disabilities. Currently, I am a Keller ISD inclusion/resource math teacher for 5th-grade special education students. I am currently participating in the Keller ISD Leadership Development Academy. Additionally, I have also volunteered for 7 years with individuals with disabilities at a respite program. While with Denson ISD, I wrote one educational grant.</p> <p>I will complete my master's degree in special education in August 2017. The emphasis of it is in Autism.</p>

Last Name	First Name	Location	Qualifications
Best	Shaun	Beaumont	<p>I have a disability. In 1977, due to an accident resulting in a traumatic brain injury I was in a three-month coma. I have received a Bachelor of Business Management from University of Arkansas, Monticello, Arkansas and received Hotel Management Certification from Southern Arkansas University-Tech. In Arkansas, I was appointed to the National Organization of Disability (1994-98).</p> <p>Since Arkansas refused to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, I wrote a book "The Best Quest" this difficulty in my quest to teach school, which was achieved finally in 2007, 10 years after my nomination for the Arkansas Governor's Commission for People with Disabilities. Member of Challenged Conquistadors, Inc., who work with the Community Medical Foundation for Patient Safety. I have received Beaumont Red Cross Disaster Assistance Training.</p>

Last Name	First Name	Location	Qualifications
Caster	Melonie	Bedford	<p>I am a family member of an individual with a disability. My son Trae is 24 years old and due to traumatic brain injuries, he has disabilities. Trae lives at home and is very involved in our community. I graduated from Partners In Policy Making in 2002 and for 6 years I served as a member for the DD Council. I helped generate Senate Bill 328 known as Trae's Law (named after my son) that extended prosecution from 3 years to 10 years regarding injury to a child, those with disabilities and our elderly. I have been very involved with inclusive education for students within the HEB ISD. I am self-employed and a member St. Michael's Catholic Church and cofounded the Shaken Baby Alliance.</p>
Cooper	Linda	Aubrey	<p>I am a professional/paraprofessional in the disability field. I worked for 20+ years with the Texas Department of State Health Services in Austin working with the families of children with special health care needs. I worked for 15 years as a contractor working with the same population in Denton and Collin counties.</p> <p>The families I worked with had children whose disabilities included all the autism spectrum, cerebral palsy, various mental disabilities, diabetes, and any medically disabling diagnoses. When employed with DSHS in Austin, I read and recommended grants for approval to serve the CHSCN in the local health departments in the Region. I have volunteered to read grants for various social work programs.</p>

Last Name	First Name	Location	Qualifications
Cordell	Joyce	El Paso	<p>I am a family member of an individual with a disability. My adult daughter has Down's syndrome. I have twenty years in raising an individual with special needs. We have been through it all, ARDS, speech therapy, gross motor and occupational physical therapy, etc. I am employed as the marketing at community relations director for El Paso Community College.</p> <p>I am a Board member for the Down Syndrome Coalition for El Paso (DSCEP), I chair the Buddy Walk committee and Marketing committee as well as member of the Programs, Medical and Calendar committees; and I also work with the director of our Every Little Blessings preschool.</p>

Last Name	First Name	Location	Qualifications
Griesen	Troy	Grapevine	<p>I am a professional/paraprofessional in the disability field. For over 30 years, I have worked in the field of IDD at the local, state, national and international levels in 75 countries. Currently I am the president and CEO of Ability Connection which provides comprehensive services to nearly 1000 children and adults with developmental disabilities across Texas including case management, therapy services, day program training centers, residential/group homes, and companion care. I have also been the president &amp; CEO of Special Abilities of North Texas, the managing director for Asia Pacific Special Olympics International, and the vice president of global operations for Special Olympics International.</p> <p>Currently, I volunteer as a local program Head of Delegation for a Special Olympics Team in the DFW area, and coach the team in several sports throughout the year, and coordinate other volunteers. Additionally, for Special Olympics, I also do fundraising, public awareness, and work as a consultant, trainer and speaker.</p>

Last Name	First Name	Location	Qualifications
Hettler	Tonya	Idalou	<p>I have a disability, I am a family member of an individual with a disability. My 23 year old son is diagnosed with Autism. I was diagnosed with a papillary pineal tumor (brain tumor) in 2015 and underwent surgery. My past experience includes working under the Texas Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health as a trainer when the former MHMR rolled out Benefit Design. After that, I managed grants for Texas Tech University with one of them, Project IDEAL, being a TCDD grant. My final employment was as a regional supervisor for Texas A&amp;M.</p> <p>In addition, I've served on committees locally at ESC-17, state-wide for TEA (Autism Rule Study Committee, the Texas Council on Autism &amp; PDD (reviewing proposals for their first TARRC conference), Bridges to Career PAC for the TCDD grant to TAMU and nationally for the IDEA Partnership (developed a training PPT for NASDE on behavior).</p> <p>In addition to Autism, I've also over 1000 CEUs for training which focused on behavior, mental health and the federal laws. I've also reviewed grant applications for TCDD once in the past.</p>



Last Name	First Name	Location	Qualifications
Holland	Terri	Christoval	<p>I am a family member of an individual with a disability and I am a professional/paraprofessional in the disability field. My youngest daughter was diagnosed with mild intellectual developmental disabilities. She is now 29 years old and 4 years ago, she received her cosmetology license and lives on her own. I work for the West Texas Lighthouse for the Blind, with the blind and visually impaired.</p> <p>I have also worked and consulted with Sonrisas, a therapeutic horseback riding facility for kids with disabilities, worked as a case manager for people with IDD, as well as a Habilitative Coordinator with Mosaic. I have been on the Texas Children's Policy Council in Austin, TX; I have also been on a committee at our local Mental Health Authority (MHMR) in the Concho Valley. In the past, I have been on the TCDD review panel and thoroughly enjoyed it.</p>
Jelks	Rachel	Spring	<p>I am a professional/paraprofessional in the disability field. I am the CEO for Team Abilities Inc which provides services to individuals with developmental disabilities. I have my LVN license.</p>

Last Name	First Name	Location	Qualifications
Kearney	Brooke	San Antonio	<p>I am a professional/paraprofessional in the disability field. I have a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Texas at San Antonio and a Master's Degree in Health Education from Kaplan University.</p> <p>Currently, I am the Director of CSCM (Community Services Case Management) and Community Education for the Arc of San Antonio. I am a TAPPEstry Planning Committee Member for ESC Region 20, IDD Stakeholders Committee Member through The Center for Health Care Services, Speaker for Texas Autism Conference, Bexar County Community Resource Coordination Group (CRCG), Young Nonprofit Professionals of San Antonio and an alumna of Phi Mu Fraternity.</p>
Moody	Amanda	Buda	<p>I am a family member of an individual with a disability and I am a professional/paraprofessional in the disability field. My child has multiple disabilities which includes Cerebral Palsy, Speech delay, and Esotropia. I received an Associate Degree from Austin Community College: Applied Arts and Science; and obtained a Sign Language Interpreting Bachelor's Degree from Texas A&amp;M University-Commerce: Applied Arts and Science: Organizational Leadership.</p>

Last Name	First Name	Location	Qualifications
Prouhet	Shari	League City	<p>I am a family member of an individual with a disability., I am a professional/paraprofessional in the disability field. For 32 years, I worked as a special educator in Texas in various capacities. I am the parent of a 42 year old significantly disabled daughter who receives HCS waiver services in our community. I am an Autism specialist from IBCCES and work part time as a contractor in school districts and privately with families regarding needs of their special needs child or student.</p> <p>I also work part time as a Support Services specialist for Imagine Enterprises, a CDS company. Currently volunteer with the Arc of the Gulf Coast, Autism on the Seas, volunteer supporter for families, and volunteer with the Gulf Coast Community Resource Committee.</p>

Last Name	First Name	Location	Qualifications
Rahn	Julie	Rowlett	<p>I have a disability, I am a family member of an individual with a disability. I have a 22 year old son with Autism and a 19 year old son that is a C6-7 Quadriplegic. My oldest lives at home and works part time at Walmart. My youngest is attending UNT to study Political Science. I am hearing impaired and I wear hearing aids.</p> <p>For 17 years, I have been a Special Education Teacher and currently I am a special education teacher in Garland ISD. I have a Special Education Teacher Certificate (EC-12), Bachelor of Business Administration- Medical Management and a Masters of Business Administration- Advance Practitioner in Mediation. I also belong to Texas Parent to Parent.</p>

Last Name	First Name	Location	Qualifications
Winges-Yanez	Nichole	Austin	<p>I am a family member of an individual with a disability and a professional/paraprofessional in the disability field. My sister has an intellectual disability and Crohn's. Currently, I am working on my doctorate in social work with a focus on intellectual disability and sexuality. My previous work experience was primarily in residential settings with adults with intellectual disabilities and mental health conditions. Currently, I work at the Texas Center for Disability Studies at UT as a research associate.</p> <p>I have a part time position as the education coordinator at Q Toys of Austin and previously I worked at the Arc of Texas. Before moving to Austin, I was a graduate teaching assistant at Portland State University and helped write portions of federal grants. I volunteer for events and community work for AIDS Services of Austin.</p>
Wood	Teresa	Lewisville	<p>I am a family member of an individual with a disability. My 14 year old son has Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, ADHD and Aspergers. I have attended meetings with Senators and Congressmen regarding funding in Washington DC, attended multiple workshops, and have done fundraising for the MDA. Also for my son, I attend public school ARD meetings.</p> <p>I am a member of Canine Companions for Independence/Puppy Raising, PAIMI/Council member, MDA/fundraising, and belong to Make A Wish Foundation.</p>