

## PROJECT DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING February 3, 2022 — MINUTES

### **Committee Members**

#### **Present**

Gladys Cortez, Committee  
Chair  
Andrew Crim  
Mary Durham, Council Chair  
Jennifer Hines, TWC  
Scott McAvoy  
Amanda Miles  
Angie Panzica  
Justin Porter, TEA  
Robert Schier III, Council Vice-  
Chair  
Jamie Thomas  
Audrey Young, DSHS

### **Committee Members**

#### **Absent**

Maverick Crawford  
Holly Riley, HHSC

### **Council Members Present**

Kyle Cox  
Juan Carlos Lopez  
Eric Shahid

### **Guests Present**

Tessie Ajala  
Jennifer Bacak  
Ivy Goldstein  
Cassie Grandin  
Rebecca Japko  
Debbie Kizer  
Amy Litzinger  
Linda Litzinger  
Laura Marquez

### **Regional Coordinators**

#### **Present**

Morgan Bradley  
Erin Fogarty

Rosa Guel  
Skyler Mueller  
Shelby Vaughn

### **Staff Members Present**

Beth Stalvey, Executive  
Director  
Scott Daigle  
Lauren Gerken  
Sabrina Gonzalez  
Linda Logan  
Evan Marczynski  
Sylvia Medina  
Richard Rendon  
Mary Rochford  
Fernando Rodriguez  
Melanie Teague  
Rey Valldejuli  
Koren Vogel

### **Call To Order**

The Project Development Committee of the Texas Council for Developmental convened on Thursday, February 3, 2022, at the at the Lone Star College – Tomball Community Library, 30555 Tomball Parkway, Tomball, TX 77375 as well as virtually using the Zoom platform. Committee Chair Gladys Cortez called the meeting to order at 9:04 AM. A quorum was present.

#### **1. Introductions**

Committee members, staff and guests were introduced.

#### **2. Public Comments**

Members received written public comments from Debbie Kizer of Imagine Art who thanked the Council for funding the Community Peer Support Specialist project and the Community Inclusion mini-grant.

#### **3. Consideration of Minutes**

The minutes were reviewed, and no corrections or additions were noted.

**MOTION:** To approve the minutes of the November 4, 2021, Project Development Committee as presented.

**MADE BY:** Andrew Crim

**SECOND:** Scott McAvoy

The motion **passed** without opposition. (February 2022 Meeting Materials, Tab 7)

4. **Chair's Remarks**

Chair Cortez reported the expected absences of Maverick Crawford and Holly Riley. She noted that three newly appointed Council members-- Amanda Miles, Angie Panzica, and Jamie Thomas-- are participating in this committee as voting members. Other newly appointed members Kyle Cox and Juan Carlos Lopez are present for discussion but are not voting members.

Cortez reviewed the TCDD financial reports which highlights funds available for grants by showing funds that are assigned, pending, or have not been assigned. Members did not have further questions.

5. **Members Quarterly Activities Report**

Committee members shared their updates on their disability-related activities during the previous quarter.

6. **Staff Reports**

Executive Director Beth Stalvey discussed the Grants Monitoring Report noting there were no new projects started during the quarter, one project ended during the quarter, and nine projects moved into the final year of funding. She noted that nine projects will be considered for continuation funding at the May meeting.

Stalvey reviewed the Independent Audit Status Report and noted there were no concerns or follow-up items for this report. She also reviewed the Risk Assessment report which groups the grantees by risk level and lists the risk factors to determine each grantee's level. There are currently no projects considered to be in the high risk category.

7. **Future Activities for State Plan Implementation**

Committee Chair Cortez noted that six project executive summaries that meet state plan goals and objectives will be considered for funding. Three are leadership and advocacy training projects which have previously been funded and three are new projects.

Executive Director Stalvey reviewed the three leadership and advocacy training projects. She reminded members of the Council mission to support self-advocates, family members and other advocates to participate in the policy-making process and therefore, the Council makes a significant investment into these types of training. The projects meet Goal 1, Objective 1 of the FY 2022 – FY 2026 State Plan. Members noted

that projects in this area should demonstrate new and innovative work and Stalvey noted this can be included in the requests for applications.

Stalvey first discussed Leadership Development and Advocacy Training Led by Self-Advocates. Applicants would be limited to local self-advocacy groups and organizations or if necessary, these groups would partner with an entity who can provide fiscal support. Funding is suggested for up to four projects at up to \$75,000 per year for up to five years.

**MOTION:** Recommend Council approve funding of up to \$75,000 per year for up to five years, for up to four Leadership Development and Advocacy Training Led by Self-Advocates projects.

**MADE BY:** Scott McAvoy

**SECOND:** Robert Schier III

The motion **passed** unanimously.

Stalvey next reviewed Leadership Development and Advocacy Training for Youth Self-Advocates. This project would include participants 14-21 years old who would learn to use their own voice in managing Admission, Review and Dismissal (ARD) meetings, provide peer support, advocate for their personal wants and needs, and plan for their future. Funding is suggested for up to four projects at up to \$75,000 per year for up to five years.

**MOTION:** Recommend Council approve funding of up to \$75,000 per year for up to five years, for up to four Leadership Development and Advocacy Training for Youth Self-Advocates projects.

**MADE BY:** Andy Crim

**SECOND:** Audrey Young

The motion **passed** unanimously.

Stalvey next reviewed Leadership Development and Advocacy Training in Rural Areas. This project would focus on the needs of individuals and families in rural areas where there is often a high percentage of people living in poverty and a need for programs that can provide culturally appropriate training to those who are African American, Latino, Native American, or Asian. Funding is suggested for up to four projects at up to \$75,000 per year for up to five years.

**MOTION:** Recommend Council approve funding of up to \$75,000 per year for up to five years, for up to four Leadership Development and Advocacy Training for Youth Self-Advocates projects.

**MADE BY:** Robert Schier III

**SECOND:** Jamie Thomas

The motion **passed** unanimously.

Stalvey next presented the proposal for Strategic Planning for Statewide Self-Advocacy Networks. She reminded members that the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (DD Act) mandates the support of self-advocate networks and that DD Councils can strengthen established state self-advocacy organizations through funding, in-kind support, training, technical assistance or other supports. As the established state self-advocacy organization, Texas Advocates has identified a vision for chapter development, membership and recruitment, fundraising and other operations. This would be implemented in three phases: Phase 1 – Strategic Clarity and Organizational Analysis; Phase 2 – Strategic Development and Planning; Phase 3 - Strategic Plan Development. TCDD could implement this project through inter-agency agreement with the Governor's Center for Management Development at the University of Texas LBJ School of Public Affairs, a state entity specializing in strategic planning with expertise in disability training. Funding is suggested at up to \$70,000 for the project.

**MOTION:** Recommend Council approve funding of up to \$70,000 for a three-phase Strategic Planning for Statewide Self-Advocacy Networks project.

**MADE BY:** Robert Schier III

**SECOND:** Angie Panzica

The motion **passed** unanimously

Senior Policy Analyst Linda Logan presented the new project executive summary for Accessible and Effective Treatment for Substance Use Disorders for People with Developmental Disabilities. This project addresses Goal 2, Objective 2 of the FY 2022 – FY 2026 State Plan. It would test models to improve the quality of substance use disorder services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and test models to expand access to substance use disorder health services. Funding was proposed for up to three projects at up to \$150,000 per year for up to five years.

**MOTION:** Recommend Council approve funding of up to three projects at up to \$150,000 per year, for up to five years for Accessible and Effective Treatment for Substance Use Disorders for People with Developmental Disabilities.

**MADE BY:** Andy Crim

**SECOND:** Scott McAvoy

Members had considerable discussion about the funding amount and length of the project. A consensus was reached that a higher amount of funding should be awarded for this type of project, but the project could be successful in fewer years.

**AMENDMENT:** Recommend Council approve funding for one project at up to \$250,000 per year, for up to three years for Accessible and Effective Treatment for Substance Use Disorders for People with Developmental Disabilities.

**MADE BY:** Andy Crim

**SECOND:** Scott McAvoy

Then motion **passed** unanimously.

Logan presented the new project executive summary on Health Equity for People with Developmental Disabilities. This project addresses Goal 2, Objective 2 of the FY 2022 – FY 2026 State Plan and seeks to promote statewide capacity building and systems change improvements in the education and training of self-advocates, family members, physicians and other healthcare professionals about diagnosis and treatment of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. There are two options for the project: 1) fund education and training for self-advocates and family members; 2) fund education and training for physicians and healthcare providers. Funding is proposed for up to three projects at up to \$150,000 per year for up to 3-5 years depending on the needs of the project.

**MOTION:** Recommend Council approve funding of up to three projects at up to \$150,000 per year, for up to five years for Health Equity for People with Developmental Disabilities.

**MADE BY:** Robert Schier III

**SECOND:** Jamie Thomas

Members again had significant discussion about the funding level and duration of the project as well as the scope of the project but ultimately reached consensus to recommend funding and scope as presented in the executive summary. The motion **passed** unanimously.

## 8. **Future Project Funding Priorities**

The Committee next evaluated the Future Funding Priorities List. Members discussed placement for the six projects that will be recommended for Council funding and acknowledged that the Public Policy Committee will likely bring a project forward that will be placed on the list.

**MOTION:** Recommend Council approve the Future Funding Priorities List as follows:

- 1) Strategic Planning – Statewide Self-Advocates
- 2) Poll Watcher Training
- 3) Substance Use Disorder – Accessible Treatment for People with DD
- 4) Culturally Competent Family Supports
- 5) Health Equity for People with Disabilities
- 6) Leadership and Advocacy – Youth
- 7) Leadership and Advocacy – Self-Advocacy
- 8) Leadership and Advocacy – Rural

- 9) Civic Engagement
- 10) Participatory Action Research
- 11) Increasing Access to Postsecondary Programs in 18+ Programs
- 12) Preventing Sexual Assault – Medical Professionals
- 13) Preventing Sexual Assault – Criminal Justice
- 14) Understanding Online Access – COVID-19
- 15) Understanding Employment – COVID-19

**MADE BY:** Jamie Thomas

**SECOND:** Jennifer Hines

The motion **passed** unanimously.

**9. Future Agenda Items**

Members requested presentations or updates from current grantees including sexual health education, community inclusion mini-grants, and leadership development and advocacy projects. Members also plan to discuss sustainability and next steps for projects ending this year.

**10. Other Discussion Items**

The next Committee meeting will be held in conjunction with the May 2022 Council and Committee meetings scheduled for May 4-6, 2022.

**Adjourn**

Chair Cortez adjourned the meeting at 12:33 PM.

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Beth Stalvey, Secretary to the Council    Date