

PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

February 3, 2022 – MINUTES

Committee Members

Present

Lora Taylor, Committee
Chair
Ronnie Browning
Debbie Carlisle
Kyle Cox
Mary Durham, Council
Chair
Mary Faithfull, DRTx
Sandra Magaña, UT-CDS
Meagan Orsag, A&M CDD
Michael Peace
Robert Schier III, Council
Vice-Chair
Eric Shahid
Kim Torres
Dana Williamson, HHSC

Committee Members

Absent

Randell Resneder

Council Members Present:

Juan Carlos Lopez
Angie Panzica
Meridith Silcox

Guests Present

Steven Aleman
Jennifer Bacak
Cassia Grandin
Rebecca Japko
Amy Litzinger
Linda Litzinger
Laura Marquez
Terry McGinty
Gloria Smith

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 Marczyński
Sylvia Medina
Richard Rendon
Mary Rochford
Melanie Teague
Koren Vogel

Call to Order

The Public Policy Committee of the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities convened on Thursday, February 3, 2022, at the Lone Star College – Tomball Community Library, 30555 Tomball Parkway, Tomball, TX 77375 as well as virtually using the Zoom platform. Committee Chair Lora Taylor called the meeting to order at 1:35 PM. A quorum was present.

1. Introductions

Committee members, staff and guests were introduced.

2. Public Comments

No public comments were offered.

3. **Consideration of Minutes**

The Committee reviewed the minutes from the November 4, 2021, Public Policy Committee meeting and no additions or corrections were noted.

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the November 4, 2021, Public Policy Committee meeting.

MADE BY: Kim Torres

SECOND: Ronnie Browning

The motion **passed** without opposition. Mary Faithfull abstained from voting.

4. **Chair's Remarks**

A. Member Absences: Chair Taylor acknowledged the absence of Randell Resneder.

B. Chair's Quarterly Activities: Taylor discussed her activities of the previous quarter, specifically her work with the durable medical equipment taskforce. She also reported her public comments before the Public Utility Commission of Texas regarding electric service emergency operations plans. Taylor was interviewed by local news media regarding the hearing and her experiences during Winter Storm Uri.

5. **Member's Quarterly Activities Report**

Committee members provided updates from the previous quarter regarding involvement in advocacy and other activities.

6. **TCDD Public Policy Priorities**

Public Policy Director Scott Daigle provided an overview of the TCDD Public Policy Priorities for the 87th Legislative Session and the process for formulating and approving the Council's Priorities for the 88th Legislative Session, which convenes in January 2023.

Committee members engaged in a discussion about what topics should be considered Public Policy Priorities for the 88th Legislative Session. The Committee formed a workgroup comprised of Council members Debbie Carlisle, Angie Panzica, and Kim Torres to discuss the potential priorities in further detail and make recommendations to the Committee for its May meeting.

7. **Advocacy Training Discussion**

Public Policy Director Daigle opened a discussion on preparing for both legislative and local advocacy. This feedback will be used to plan the advocacy training program members will receive during the May and August Council meetings.

8. **Legislative Interim Charges**

Public Policy Director Daigle provided an overview of the legislative interim charge recommendations that TCDD provided to the Texas Legislature.

9. **Future Projects for State Implementation**

Public Policy Analyst Lauren Gerken presented an executive summary for a new state plan project to fund a disability cultural humility training program and informational materials for elected officials and their staff. Committee members shared their experiences and thoughts on how education regarding disability humility and cultural awareness would have benefited people in their lives.

MOTION: To recommend Council approval of up to \$150,000 per year for one project for up to five years on Disability Cultural Humility for Elected Officials and Staff.

MADE BY: Kim Torres

SECOND: Ronnie Browning

The motion **passed** unanimously.

10. **State and Federal Policy Update**

Staff gave an update on their activities related to submitting legislative input and collaborating with relevant stakeholders.

11. **Public Input on Committee Discussion**

No public input on Committee discussion was offered.

12. **Future Agenda Items**

Following a lengthy discussion on community attendant wages, Committee members requested further discussion and presentations on this topic.

13. **Other Discussion Items**

No other discussion items were offered by members.

Adjourn

Committee Chair Taylor adjourned the Public Policy Committee at 4:30 PM.

Beth Stalvey, Secretary to the Council Date