

COUNCIL MEETING May 6, 2022 — MINUTES

Council Members Present

Mary Durham, Chair
Ronnie Browning
Debbie Carlisle
Bill Coorsh
Gladys Cortez
Kyle Cox
Andrew Crim
Ivy Goldstein,
DSHS/Maternal Child
Health
Juan Carlos Lopez
Scott McAvoy
Amanda Miles
Meagan Orsag,
A&M-CDD
Angie Panzica
Michael Peace
Holly Riley, HHSC/Older
Americans Act
Eric Shahid
Meridith Silcox
Keith Swink, TEA
Lora Taylor
Jamie Thomas
Kim Torres

Dana Williamson,
HHSC/Medicaid
Nina Zuna, TCDS

Council Members Absent

Maverick Crawford
Jennifer Hines, TWC
Sean Jackson, DRTX
Robert Schier III

Guests Present

Melissa Alvarez
Dennis Borel
Sonja Burns
Cody Curbo
Taylor Fidler
Kelly Golden
Linda Litzinger
Nicole Noble
Jolene Sanders-Foster

Regional Coordinators Present

Morgan Bradley
Erin Fogarty
Rosa Guel
Skyler Mueller
Shelby Vaughn

Staff Present

Beth Stalvey,
Executive Director
Tessie Ajala
Kai Brewer
Scott Daigle
Lauren Gerken
Sabrina Gonzalez
Genessee Klemm
Linda Logan
Sylvia Medina
Evan Marczynski
Mary Rochford
Richard Rendon
Melanie Teague
Reynaldo Valldejuli
Koren Vogel

Call to Order

The Texas Council for Developmental convened on Friday, May 6, 2022, at the Doubletree Suites by Hilton Austin, 303 West 15th Street, Austin, TX 78701 as well as virtually using the Zoom platform. Council Chair Mary Durham called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. A quorum was present.

1. Introductions

Council members, staff and guests were introduced.

2. Public Comments

Verbal public comments were offered by Dennis Borel, Coalition of Texans with

Disabilities, on the strength of the TCDD Public Policy Fellows program and collective advocacy efforts of disability-focused organizations. Comments were also offered from Sonja Burns on the mental health continuum of care and from Linda Litzinger, Texas Parent to Parent, on dentistry services for people with disabilities and the need for back-up power generators to handle durable medical equipment during a power failure.

3. **Consent Items**

Chair Durham reviewed consent items including the minutes from the February 2, 2022, Committee of the Whole meeting and the February 4, 2022, Council meeting as well as the excused absences of Maverick Crawford, Jennifer Hines, Sean Jackson, and Robert Schier III.

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the February 2, 2022, Committee of the Whole meeting and February 4, 2022, Council meeting and the excused absences of Maverick Crawford, Jennifer Hines, Sean Jackson, and Robert Schier III.

MADE BY: Andrew Crim

SECOND: Michael Peace

The motion **passed** without unanimously. (May 2022 Meeting Materials, Tab 16)

4. **Chair and Executive Director's Report**

Chair Durham reported on Council orientation for new members as well as an orientation for new members of the Executive Committee.

Executive Director Beth Stalvey provided staff updates to include the selection of Tessie Ajala as Grants Management Director and Kai Brewer as Financial Support Specialist. Genessee Klemm has been promoted to the Director of Community Engagement which leaves a vacancy in the Leadership and Advocacy Training Program Manager position.

Stalvey reported on activities funded through Centers for Disease Control and Prevention funds including the establishment of peer ambassador teams for community outreach, vaccine clinics, and the development of videos and fact sheet related to vaccines. She noted that additional funds have been received from the Administration on Community Living to expand the Public Health Workforce which will create a Public Health and Disability Integration Specialist position through September of 2024.

Stalvey reported that the final notice of grant award for FY 2022 funding for TCDD was received during the course of the meetings and that the total is \$5,907,507. This is approximately \$252,000 more than estimated in the budget documents provided in the meeting materials.

5. **Future Project Funding Priorities**

Project Development Committee Chair Gladys Cortez reported on Committee discussion of the Future Funding Priorities List noting there were no changes from the document as presented in Council meeting materials.

MOTION: To approve the Future Funding Priorities List as follows:

- 1) Poll Watcher Training on Assistance of Voters with Disabilities
- 2) Disability Cultural Humility for Elected Officials and Staff
- 3) Effective Treatment for Substance Use Disorders for People with DD
- 4) Culturally Competent Family Supports
- 5) Promoting Civic Engagement Among People with DD
- 6) Participatory Action Research
- 7) Prevention and Response to Sexual Offenses – Medical and Therapeutic Professionals
- 8) Prevention and Response to Sexual Offenses – Criminal Justice Response to Cases Involving People with I/DD
- 9) Understanding Online Access Among Individuals with DD During COVID-19
- 10) Understanding Employment and Unemployment Among Individuals with DD During – COVID-19

MADE BY: Gladys Cortez for the Project Development Committee

The motion **passed** unanimously. (May 2022 Meeting Materials, Tab 10)

6. **Project Development Committee Report**

Project Development Committee Chair Cortez reported on discussions that led to the request for new project executive summaries on STEM and Career Exploration; Grief and Loss; Caring for Aging Parents; and Smart Homes and Technology.

7. **TCDD Public Policy Priorities**

Public Policy Committee Chair Lora Taylor reviewed the workgroup recommendations for revisions to the TCDD Public Policy Priorities as presented in Council meeting materials. She then reported Committee discussion that added revisions to the statements on Guardianship Practices and Complex Mental Health Needs.

MOTION: To accept revisions to the TCDD Public Policy Priorities.

MADE BY: Lora Taylor for the Public Policy Committee

The motion **passed** unanimously. (May 2022 Meeting Materials, Tab 12)

8. **Memorandum of Understanding with Texas Education Agency**

Council Chair Durham reported on the Executive Committee discussion of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU with Texas Education Agency (TEA). Durham noted that a spot review revealed an incorrect date and discussions to correct this led to suggestions to change the length of the MOU to three years. TCDD will still

conduct an annual review of the MOU and changes can be suggested by TEA or TCDD at any time.

MOTION: To approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Texas Education Agency to include an end date of August 31, 2024.

MADE BY: Mary Durham for the Executive Committee

The motion **passed** unanimously. (May 2022 Meeting Materials, Tab 7)

9. **Presentation: Texas Tech University – Sexual Health Education**

The Council received a presentation from Nicole Noble, Cody Curbo, Taylor Fidler, and Kelly Golden, project staff at Texas Tech University on the Sexual Health Education project “The Facts of Life: Sexual Health and Developing Healthy Relationships for People with IDD”. They provided information about the training offered through this project and the lessons learned from the training, survey results and qualitative feedback. Training was offered in various locations throughout the state and topics included in the training were: Disability and Sexuality; Illegal Behavior and Sexual Consent; Public and Private Places; Decision Tree; Healthy Bodies for Women; Healthy Bodies for Men; Creating Life; Relationships and Communication; and Online Safety and Dating. Some of the lessons learned throughout the training were integrated into the program including ways to get to know the audience, incorporating audience feedback, and allowing for anonymous questions.

10. **Agency Reports**

The Committee received updates from Meagan Orsag, Texas Center on Disability and Development, Holly Riley of HHSC/Older Americans Act programs, Nina Zuna of Texas Center for Disability Studies, and Dana Williamson of HHSC/Medicaid programs. Members were advised of opportunities to respond to a survey on caregiver awareness, provide feedback on transition programs, participate in trauma-informed care training, and provide input at hearings on Home and Community-based Settings rules. Members also received written updates from other agency representatives.

11. **Executive Committee Report**

Chair Durham reported Executive Committee new grant funding awards for eleven projects including three Capacity Building Self-Advocacy Mini-grants, three Public Policy Fellows, and five New Initiative projects. She also reported the approval of continuation grant funding for eight projects and noted that one project was not awarded funding for the final year of its grant.

TCDD Grants Management Director Tessie Ajala discussed the Grants Monitoring Report noting that one new project started during the quarter, two projects ended during the quarter, and four projects moved into the final year of funding. One project extended its budget period due to COVID-19 and one Self-Advocacy Capacity Building mini-grant project approved for funding in February declined to move forward with

the project. He noted that two projects will be considered for continuation funding at the August meeting.

Ajala reviewed the Independent Audit Status Report and noted there were no concerns or follow-up items for this report. He 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.

TCDD Director of Budget and Finance Rey Valldejuli reviewed the Summary of Funds for FY 2020 – FY 2022 as well as projections for FY 2023 – 2024. Valldejuli clarified the operating expenses and total grant expenses showing amounts obligated for each year as well as funds available for new grant projects. He also reviewed the stipend expenditures and individual expenses from current grantees.

Council Business Manager Koren Vogel reported on the review of member and staff conflict of interest disclosure reports and noted the Committee had no concerns.

12. Public Policy Committee Report

Public Policy Committee Chair Taylor reported on public comments received by the Committee, discussions of member activities and a presentation on Community Attendant Wages. She noted that a workgroup to review and suggest revisions to TCDD Position Statements was established consisting of Ronnie Browning, Kyle Cox, Bill Coorsh, and Angie Panzica.

13. Future Agenda Items

Council members suggested future discussion items including children in foster care considered to be “unadoptable” due to disabilities, employment of individuals with IDD as a response to the “great resignation”, and the training of family members of individuals with IDD to become policy leaders or elected officials.

14. Announcements and Updates

Council members discussed dates of future meetings of August 3-5, 2022, November 2-4, 2022, February 8-10, 2023, and May 3-5, 2023.

Adjourn

Chair Durham adjourned the meeting at 11:42 a.m.

Beth Stalvey, Secretary to the Council Date