

PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING May 5, 2022 – MINUTES

Committee Members

Present

Lora Taylor, Committee
Chair
Ronnie Browning
Debbie Carlisle
Bill Coorsh
Kyle Cox
Sean Jackson, DRTx
Sandra Magaña, UT-CDS
Angie Panzica
Michael Peace
Eric Shahid
Kim Torres, Council Vice-
Chair
Dana Williamson, HHSC

Committee Members

Absent

Meagan Orsag, A&M CDD

Guests Present

Melissa Alvarez
Kathryn Broadwater
Floyd Browning
Christina Bryant
Sonja Burns
Nancy Crowther
Sophia Donnelly
Ashley Ford
Amy Litzinger
Linda Litzinger
Renee Lopez
Jolene Sanders-Foster

Regional Coordinators

Present

Erin Fogarty

Staff Members Present

Kai Brewer
Scott Daigle
Lauren Gerken
Sabrina Gonzalez
Linda Logan
Mary Rochford
Koren Vogel

Call to Order

The Public Policy Committee of the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities convened on Thursday, May 5, 2022, at the Doubletree Suites by Hilton, 303 W. 15th Street, Austin TX 78701 as well as virtually using the Zoom platform. Committee Chair Lora Taylor called the meeting to order at 2:05 PM. A quorum was present.

1. Introductions

Committee members, staff and guests were introduced.

2. Public Comments

Four public comments were offered. Linda Litzinger of Texas Parent to Parent commented on the coordination of benefits of private insurance and Medicaid for adults. Jolene Sanders-Foster of the Coalition for Texans with Disabilities commented on early pickups and shortened school days for students with disabilities. Amy Litzinger of Texas Parent to Parent commented on electronic visitation verification. Sonja Burns commented on diversion from jail for competency restoration.

3. **Consideration of Minutes**

The Committee reviewed the minutes from the February 3, 2022, Public Policy Committee meeting and no additions or corrections were noted.

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the February 3, 2022, Public Policy Committee meeting.

MADE BY: Michael Peace

SECOND: Kim Torres

The motion **passed** without opposition.

4. **Chair's Remarks**

A. Member Absences: Chair Taylor noted that there were no absences. After the meeting concluded it was noted that Meagan Orsag was absent. Members reflected on the loss of Randell Resneder and others during the previous two years. Taylor requested an Executive Summary on dealing with grief among the IDD population.

B. Chair's Quarterly Activities: Taylor discussed her activities of the previous quarter, specifically the role that socialization and social media play in promoting the work of the Council. She expressed her wish that a story be added to each of the Council's Public Policy Priorities.

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**

Chair Taylor asked Public Policy Director Scott Daigle to provide an overview of the recommendations of the TCDD Public Policy Priorities Workgroup, which was comprised of Council Members Debbie Carlisle, Angie Panzica, and Kim Torres. Daigle then led a discussion on the Policy Priorities, during which additional changes to the Guardianship priorities were recommended. These included adding language on necessary legal protections, accountability measures, revocation practices, and coordinating definitions between family law and probate law.

MOTION: To adopt the workgroup recommendations for the TCDD Public Policy Priorities, including the additional changes discussed in the Public Policy Committee meeting on May 5, 2022.

MADE BY: Ronne Browning

SECOND: Bill Coorsh

The motion **passed** unanimously.

7. **TCDD Position Statements**

Public Policy Director Daigle provided an overview of the TCDD Position Statements, which were approved prior to the 87th Legislative Session, and the process for formulating and approving the Council's Position Statements ahead of the 88th Legislative Session, which convenes in January 2023.

Committee members engaged in a discussion about what updates should be considered for the Position Statements. The Committee formed a workgroup comprised of Council members Ronnie Browning, Bill Coorsh, Kyle Cox, and Angie Panzica to discuss the Statements in further detail and make recommendations to the Committee for its August meeting.

8. **Legislative Interim Charges**

Public Policy Director Daigle provided an overview of the legislative interim charge recommendations that TCDD provided to the Texas Legislature. He discussed the legislative interim charges of the Texas House and Senate and noted several TCDD recommendations that had been incorporated into the final list of charges. He invited Committee members to indicate any charges for which they might wish to offer testimony so that he could alert them of opportunities.

9. **Presentation: Community Attendant Wages**

TCDD Public Policy Analyst Sabrina Gonzalez introduced a panel of speakers—Renee Lopez, Nancy Crowther, and Sophia Donnelly—to discuss attendant wages and their impact on people with disabilities throughout the state. Their presentation included the screening of a short video entitled, “An Indecent Arrangement: Texas Medicaid and State Community Services.” The Committee then discussed the matter further, and asked staff to draft for a future meeting an executive summary to look at the dynamic costs and savings of having a readily available community attendant workforce that is paid a living wage.

10. **State and Federal Policy Update**

No updates were provided.

11. **Public Input on Committee Discussion**

No public input on Committee discussion was offered.

12. **Future Agenda Items**

The topic of guardianship was suggested as a future agenda item.

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