

## **COUNCIL MEETING May 5, 2023 — MINUTES**

### **Council Members Present**

Mary Durham, Chair  
Erica Brown,  
HHSC/Medicaid  
Ronnie Browning  
Debbie Carlisle  
Bill Coorsh  
Gladys Cortez  
Kyle Cox  
Maverick Crawford  
Andrew Crim  
Elizabeth Danner, TEA  
Sean Jackson, DRTX  
Juan Carlos Lopez  
Sandra Magaña, TCDS  
Amanda Miles  
Meagan Orsag,  
A&M-CDD  
Angie Panzica  
Michael Peace  
Holly Riley, HHSC/Older  
Americans Act  
Robert Schier, III  
Jonas Schwartz, TWC  
Eric Shahid  
Lora Taylor  
Jamie Thomas  
Kim Torres  
Audrey Young, DSHS

### **Council Members Absent**

Scott McAvoy  
Meridith Silcox

### **Guests Present**

Trevor Anderson  
Jennifer Cantu  
Cherri Carty  
Amy Contreras  
Cordelia Daigle  
Ivy Goldstein  
Mitchel Griffin  
Kenny Hammond  
Ryan Hammond  
Brooke Hohfeld  
Jonathan Jardine  
Brooke Kearney  
Norman Kieke  
Linda Litzinger  
Melissa March  
Taylor McBride  
Lauryn McNeil  
Christine Reyes  
Hunter Thomas  
Shawn Whitley

### **Regional Coordinators**

#### **Present**

Erin Fogarty  
Morgan Foster  
Rosa Guel  
Canen Melton  
Skyler Mueller  
Alexandra Venegas

#### **Staff Present**

Beth Stalvey,  
Executive Director  
Kai Brewer  
Carsyn Collins  
Scott Daigle  
Lauren Gerken  
Sabrina Gonzalez  
Crystal Goodwin  
Genessee Klemm  
Linda Logan  
Sylvia Medina  
Evan Marczynski  
Mary Rochford  
Richard Rendon  
Melanie Teague  
Brianna TenBrink  
Reynaldo Valldejuli  
Koren Vogel

### **Call to Order**

The Texas Council for Developmental convened on Friday, May 5, 2023, at the Drury Plaza San Antonio North, 823 North Loop 1604 East, San Antonio, TX 78232 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**

Public Comments were received from Linda Litzinger of Texas Parent to Parent recommending that the Texas Health and Human Services Commission create a task force to study how the CLASS Medicaid waiver serves clients. She discussed attendant issues including wages lower than other Medicaid waivers, services that aren't allowable such as transportation, and scrutiny of service documentation that is seen as unreasonable. Litzinger asked for an assessment of this program that could show the need to restructure and update allowable services.

Council member Kyle Cox reiterated his comments from the Committee of the Whole meeting on the income cap for Medicaid recipients which is below the federal poverty level. He noted that many individuals with complex medical conditions are forced to maintain employment below their education or skill level so that they continue to meet the income requirements. He suggested two types of Medicaid, one for low-income individuals and one for individuals with chronic health conditions.

## 3. **Consent Items**

Chair Durham reviewed consent items including the minutes from the February 10, 2023, Council meeting as well as the excused absences of Scott McAvoy and Meridith Silcox.

**MOTION:** To approve the minutes of the February 10, 2023, Council meeting and the excused absences of Scott McAvoy and Meridith Silcox.

**MADE BY:** Jamie Thomas

**SECOND:** Robert Schier, III

The motion **passed** unanimously. (May 2023 Meeting Materials, Tab 13)

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

Chair Durham reported that she has been in contact with the Alabama Protection and Advocacy agency as well as the University Center on Excellence in Developmental Disabilities regarding that state's Partners in Policymaking program and lessons learned from the program in Texas.

Executive Director Beth Stalvey reported on four stipends awarded during the quarter including three events, and one speakers stipend.

Stalvey provided staff updates to note that staff are finalizing the selection of the TCDD Data Integration Specialist with the expectation of having that position filled prior to the next Council meeting. She also noted that the vacant Council Business Coordinator position is expected to be posted for applications within the next few weeks.

Stalvey reported on upcoming events sponsored by the national organizations. The Information and Technical Assistance Center for Councils (iTACC) will host the Technical Assistance (TA) Institute consisting of virtual sessions over two weeks in May

that are available for Council staff and members. The National Association for Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD) will host the annual conference *Beyond the Conversation: It's About Action*, July 26-28, 2023, in Orlando. TCDD Public Policy and Community Engagement staff will present on activities and engagement during the 88th Texas Legislature and Texas Advocates staff will present on the Next Chapter Book Clubs project at this conference.

Stalvey also reported that TCDD, in partnership with Texas Advocates, has been selected to participate in the Center for Youth Voices, Youth Choices for Alternatives to Guardianship Community of Practice project. This project will train youth ambassadors, ages 14-22, to educate and inform others about alternatives to guardianship. She also discussed special projects in the area of public health including the collaboration with local health departments on expanding outreach and accessibility of mental health services and respite care. She further noted that TCDD continues to collaborate with Texas Education Agency on the 18+ Transition Project which includes former Council member Vickie Mitchel and her team at Sam Houston State University conducting a statewide survey to identify best practices in transition services.

Stalvey noted that there have been changes to the timelines for Partners in Policymaking with applications paused until January of 2024 with the next class scheduled to begin in September 2024. She reiterated that the program has not been cancelled but this change in timelines will be used to broaden recruitment and focus on integrating the program with other leadership and advocacy training initiatives.

#### 5. **Council Member and Support Person Codes of Conduct**

Council Chair Durham reviewed the discussion from the Committee of the Whole on the draft Codes of Conduct for Council member and Support Persons. Members reviewed changes to the drafts presented in the meeting materials. Durham noted that when approved, copies will be provided for members to sign their acknowledgement and that support personnel will sign on their first-time providing support for a member.

**MOTION:** To adopt the Codes of Conduct for Council members and Support Persons.

**MADE BY:** Mary Durham for the Committee of the Whole

The motion **passed** without opposition. Andrew Crim abstained from voting.

#### 6. **Future Project Funding Priorities**

Project Development Committee Chair Gladys Cortez reported on Committee discussion of the Future Projects Funding Priorities List and noted there was consensus to leave the list as presented. No motion was made from the Committee.

#### 7. **Presentation: Morgan's Wonderland**

Brooke Kearney, Chief Development Officer of Morgan's Wonderland, provided the history and an overview of Morgan's Wonderland which has become Morgan's Inclusion Initiative. Starting as an inclusive theme park in 2010 with the addition of a

waterpark in 2017, Morgan's Inclusion Initiative now includes a camp, sports complex, and Multi-Assistance Center (MAC) serving individuals with disabilities. The MAC creates a unique disability resource center offering services through partner organizations, coordinated by staff members known as Navigators. It is designed to provide synergetic and comprehensive experience of care with improved coordination among providers with a goal of better outcomes for the individual.

Morgan's Inclusion Initiative supports inclusion in action in San Antonio and is committed to helping others around the globe initiate inclusion.

**8. Presentation: Ready to Work SA**

Amy Contreras, Assistant to the Director of the City of San Antonio's Workforce Development Office, presented the Ready to Work Education and Job Placement program. The program aims to assist unemployed, underemployed, and underrepresented residents of San Antonio by providing tuition support for postsecondary education, job placement services, and job retention services. Ready to Work also offers support services, emergency funding, and training aligned with high-demand, well-paid careers. The goal is to address income inequality in the community and provide opportunities for individuals to improve their education and obtain better-paying jobs. The eligibility criteria are designed to be inclusive, and the application process is accessible through multiple channels resulting in the program already having 4,000 confirmed eligible applicants with 2,300 of those enrolled in approved training programs.

The Ready to Work program has secured \$200M in funding over the next 5 years to aid in their mission to improve education levels and help individuals secure well-paying jobs, ultimately contributing to the local economy. With 300+ employer commitments and community collaborations, the program has gained significant engagement and support. The program has made substantial progress, with thousands of applicants, confirmed eligible participants, enrollments in approved training, and job placements, resulting in wage increases for individuals and positive economic impacts for the community.

**9. Agency Reports**

The Committee received updates from Erica Brown, HHSC/Medicaid programs, Audrey Young, DSHS/Maternal Child Health; Sandy Magaña, Texas Center for Disability Studies; Meagan Orsag, Texas Center on Disability and Development; Elizabeth Danner, Texas Education Agency; Holly Riley, HHSC/Older Americans Act; and Sean Jackson, Disability Rights Texas.

**10. Executive Committee Report**

Chair Durham reported on the approval of continuation grant funding for nine projects.

TCDD Director of Budget and Finance Rey Valldejuli discussed the Grants Monitoring Report and Risk Assessment Report, noting the Committee had no concerns.

Valldejuli reviewed the Summary of Funds for FY 2021 – FY 2023 as well as projections for FY 2024 – 2026. Valldejuli reviewed the operating expenses and total grant expenses showing amounts obligated for each year as well as funds available for new grant projects.

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

**11. Project Development Committee Report**

Project Development Committee Chair Cortez reported on presentations to the Committee from Family to Family Network on the recently ended Planning Ahead for Financial Support and Security project and on the Navigate Life resource website that provides information on health care, insurance and services for children with disabilities in Texas.

Cortez also reported on Committee discussion of TCDD Community Engagement activities and ways to connect with self-advocates and families in local communities, especially in rural areas.

**12. Public Policy Committee Report**

Public Policy Committee Chair Lora Taylor reported on discussions of member activities as well as the extensive activities of TCDD staff and other disability organizations during the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature.

**13. Future Agenda Items**

Council members were encouraged to contact Chair Durham or Executive Director Stalvey with suggestions for future agenda items.

**14. Announcements and Updates**

Council members discussed dates of future meetings of August 2-4, 2023, November 1-3, 2023, February 7-9, 2024, and May 1-3, 2024.

**Adjourn**

Chair Durham adjourned the meeting at 11:47 a.m.

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Beth Stalvey, Secretary to the Council    Date