

## PROJECT DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING May 4, 2023 — MINUTES

### **Committee Members**

#### **Present**

Gladys Cortez, Committee  
Chair  
Maverick Crawford, III  
Elizabeth Danner, TEA  
Juan Carlos Lopez  
Amanda Miles  
Holly Riley, HHSC  
Robert Schier III  
Jonas Schwartz, TWC  
Jamie Thomas  
Kim Torres, Council Vice-Chair  
Audrey Young, DSHS

### **Committee Members**

#### **Absent**

Andrew Crim  
Scott McAvoy  
Meridith Silcox

#### **Guests Present**

Lianna Burton  
Ivy Goldstein, DSHS  
Samhita Gopalakrishnan  
Sharon Leatherman  
Lauryn McNeil  
Hunter Thomas  
Deborah Wallace  
Laura Warren  
Mary Jane Williams

### **Regional Coordinators**

#### **Present**

Erin Fogarty  
Morgan Foster  
Canen Melton  
Skyler Mueller  
Alexandra Venegas

#### **Staff Members Present**

Beth Stalvey, Executive  
Director  
Genessee Klemm  
Sabrina Gonzalez  
Crystal Goodwin  
Evan Marczynski  
Sylvia Medina  
Richard Rendon  
Melanie Teague  
Rey Valldejuli  
Koren Vogel

### **Call To Order**

The Project Development Committee of the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities convened on Thursday, May 4, 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. Committee Chair Gladys Cortez called the meeting to order at 1:55 p.m. A quorum was present.

#### 1. **Introductions**

Committee members, staff and guests were introduced.

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

No public comments were offered to the Committee.

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

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

**MOTION:** To approve the minutes of the February 9, 2023, Project Development Committee meeting as presented.

**MADE BY:** Jamie Thomas

**SECOND:** Robert Schier, III

The motion **passed** without opposition. Holly Riley abstained from voting. (May 2023 Meeting Materials, Tab 8)

#### 4. **Chair's Remarks**

- A. Member Absences: Chair Cortez reported the expected absences of Andrew Crim, Scott McAvoy, and Meridith Silcox.
- B. Chair's Quarterly Activities: Cortez reported her recent work related to mental health services and supports.

Cortez reviewed the TCDD financial reports which highlight funds available for grants based on 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**

Finance and Grants Director Valldejuli discussed the Grants Monitoring Report noting that five new projects started during the quarter, two projects ended during the quarter, and 10 projects are in the final year of funding. Eight projects will be considered for continuation funding at the August meeting.

Valldejuli 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.

Valldejuli reviewed the TCDD State Plan and Current Grantees Summary documents.

#### 7. **Presentation: Family to Family Network – Planning Ahead for Family Support and Financial Security**

Mary Jane Williams, Executive Director of the Family to Family Network, provided details of the recently concluded Planning Ahead for Family Support and Financial Security project. The two-year project entitled Creating Person Centered Financial Security focused on developing natural supports in areas such as income reporting, work incentive planning, family retirement planning, and creating financial plans that support the wants/needs of the individual. The project trained 278 individuals and had 57 families participating in small groups. The project saw increased use of Special Needs Trusts, ABLE accounts, documented Visions for the Future, and established alternatives to guardianship. Williams identified next steps including embedding the training into other events, providing education on the needs of people with disabilities for financial planners, and the development of online tools.

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

Committee Chair Cortez introduced Lianna Burton and Laura Warren who provided information on Navigate Life Texas, an online tool to inform and empower parents of children with disabilities or special health care needs. This resource is developed by parents, and for parents but is supported by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission. It covers topics such as diagnosis and healthcare, education and schools, insurance and financial help, family support, and transition to adulthood. Committee members discussed this resource and how it ties into the 2-1-1 information and referral line.

TCDD Community Engagement Director Genessee Klemm discussed ideas for gathering information and advancing community engagement. Members discussed their own community connections and how they built personal networks. TCDD Community Engagement and Regional Coordinator staff will be conducting round-table discussions with partners around the state. Members were encouraged to bring forth topics for which they'd like feedback.

Members also discussed the current strategic planning project for Texas Advocates and expressed an interest in developing an implementation plan for items identified during this planning project. This will be discussed in more detail at the August meeting.

**9. Future Project Funding Priorities**

The Committee next evaluated the Future Funding Priorities List. No revisions to the list were offered so no further action was taken.

**10. Future Agenda Items**

Members requested future discussion topics to include an implementation project from Texas Advocates.

**11. Other Discussion Items**

The next Committee meeting will be held in conjunction with the next Council and Committee meetings scheduled for August 2-4, 2023.

Adjourn

Chair Cortez adjourned the meeting at 4:55 p.m.

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Beth Stalvey, Secretary to the Council    Date