

Committee

Members Present

Lora Taylor, *Committee Chair*
Ronnie Browning
Debbie Carlisle
Kyle Cox
Sean Jackson, *DRTX*
Kathrine Layman, *HHSC Title*
Meagan Orsag *A&M CDD*
Angie Panzica
Eric Shahid
Nina Zuna, *TCDS*

Committee

Members Absent

Bill Coorsh
Michael Peace

Guests Present

Floyd Browning
Sarah Hardin
Jonathan Jardine
Norman Kieke
Linda Litzinger
John Nicks
Christine Reyes
Ashley Sattler
Lisa Simmons

Katie Sheffield

Staff Present

Kai Brewer
Scott Daigle
Lauren Gerken
Sabrina Gonzalez
Mitchel Griffin
Linda Logan
Mary Rochford
Brianna TenBrink

Call to Order

The Public Policy Committee of the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities convened on Thursday, August 3, 2023, at the Royal Sonesta Houston Galleria, 2222 West Loop South, Houston TX 77056, as well as virtually using the Zoom platform. Lora Taylor called the meeting to order at 1:31 PM. A quorum was present.

1. Introductions

Committee members, staff and guests were introduced.

2. Public Comments

Public comment was provided by Linda Litzinger of Texas Parent to Parent, who discussed the use of educational representatives when a student with disabilities cannot provide consent for educational decisions. Litzinger also stated that a bill on the matter failed to pass in the Legislature's regular session and mentioned efforts to add the topic to a future special session.

3. Consideration of May 4 ,2023, Minutes

The Committee reviewed the minutes from the May 4, 2023, Public Policy Committee meeting and no additions or corrections were noted.

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the May 4, 2023, Public Policy Committee meeting as presented.

MADE BY: Angie Panzica

SECOND: Eric Shahid

The motion **passed** unanimously.

4. Chair's Remarks

A. Member Absences: Chair Taylor noted that Michael Peace and Bill Coorsh were absent from the committee meeting.

B. Chair's Quarterly Activities: Chair Taylor acknowledged the support she has received during her time as Chair of the Public Policy Committee.

5. Member's Quarterly Activities

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

6. Presentation: The Arc of Greater Beaumont

TCDD Public Policy Director Scott Daigle introduced Sarah Hardin, Executive Director of the Arc of Greater Beaumont who provided details on the organization's structure and work. Hardin then introduced three of the organization's peer support specialists – Ashley Sattler, Katie Sheffield, and Lisa Simmons – and the group discussed the Arc of Greater Beaumont's activities during the 88th Texas Legislature's regular session.

7. Legislative Wrap-Up

The Committee discussed the recognition of TCDD Legislative Champions.

- A. Legislative Champions – Lawmakers: Daigle presented the lawmaker legislative champions nominees. Committee members discussed the nominees and their work on behalf of people with disabilities. The Committee suggested the recognition of 15

lawmakers: Rep. Alma Allen, Rep. Liz Campos, Rep. Mary González, Rep. Lacey Hull, Rep. Julie Johnson, Rep. Jeff Leach, Rep. Mihaela Plesa, Rep. John Raney, Rep. Toni Rose, Rep. Senfronia Thompson, Sen. Morgan LaMantia, Sen. José Menéndez, Sen. Drew Springer, Sen. Royce West, and Sen. Judith Zaffirini.

MOTION: To honor all 15 of the legislators presented, and to do so with associated designations for Rising Star, Lifetime Champions, and other categories as determined by TCDD staff.

MADE BY: Sean Jackson

SECOND: Debbie Carlisle

The motion **passed** unanimously.

B. Legislative Champions – Staff: Daigle presented the staff legislative champions nominees. Committee members discussed the nominees and their work on behalf of people with disabilities, and determined a list of seven honorees: Adoneca Fortier, Amanda Rodriguez, Cade Treadway, Clay Cortez, Daniel Akeroyd, Karrol Rimal, and Ted Raab.

MOTION: To approve the names indicated as TCDD Legislative Staff Champions.

MADE BY: Lora Taylor

SECOND: Ronnie Browning

The motion **passed** unanimously.

8. Special Session Update

Daigle briefly discussed legislative special sessions.

9. Post Session Strategies

Daigle discussed post session strategies for TCDD engagement on policy issues, including interim charge recommendations, Disability Policy Academies, Council member visits with lawmakers and staff, updating the TCDD public policy priorities for the next session, and advocacy training.

10. State and Federal Policy Update

No update was provided.

11. Public Input on Committee Discussion

No additional public input was provided.

12. Future Agenda Items

The Committee discussed ideas for future agenda items, including the issue of people with disabilities being forced onto Medicare due to their parents' Social Security status, and the complications that arise.

13. Other Discussion Items

Angie Panzica discussed a recent listening session by HHSC on the "No Wrong Door" system for long-term services and supports.

Adjourn

The Public Policy Committee was adjourned at 4:36 PM.

Beth Stalvey, *Secretary to the Council* Date