

Council Members

Present

Mary Durham, *Council
Chair*

Ronnie Browning

Debbie Carlisle

Lauren Chenoweth,
TWC

Bill Coorsh

Gladys Cortez

Kyle Cox

Maverick Crawford

Andrew Crim

Ivy Goldstein, *DSHS*

Katherine Layman,
HHSC Title XIX/Medicaid

Juan Carlos Lopez

Scott McAvoy

Amanda Miles

Meagan Orsag, *A&M
CDD*

Angie Panzica

Michael Peace

Holly Riley, *HHSC/Older
Americans Act of 1965*

Robert Schier III

Jonas Schwartz, *TWC*

Eric Shahid

Lora Taylor

Kim Torres

Council Members

Absent

Meridith Silcox

Jamie Thomas

Sean Jackson, *DRTX*

Sandra Magana, *TCDS*

Justin Porter, *TEA*

Guests Present

Trevor Anderson

Floyd Browning

Stephanie Brysch

Mario Contreras

Jonathan Jardine

Lauryn McNeil

Beverly Young

Regional

Coordinators Present

Erin Fogarty

Moran Foster

Rosa Guel

Canen Melton

Alexandra Venegas

Staff Present

Beth Stalvey, *Executive
Director*

Kai Brewer

Scott Daigle

Lauren Gerken

Sabrina Gonzalez

Saucedo

Crystal Goodwin

Mitchel Griffin

Richard Rendon

Genessee Klemm

Linda Logan

Evan Marczynski

Sylvia Medina

Richard Rendon

Mary Rochford

Cass Schnautz

Melanie Teague

Brianna TenBrink

Rey Valldejuli

Koren Vogel

Call to Order

The Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities convened on Friday, November 3, 2024, at the Hilton Houston Post Oak by the Galleria, 2001 Post Oak Blvd., Houston, TX 77056 as well as virtually using the Zoom platform. Mary Durham called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m. A quorum was present.

1. Introductions

Council members, staff and guests were introduced.

2. Public Comments

Written testimony submitted by Christine Stone was distributed to Council Members through email. No verbal public comments were provided.

3. Consent Items

Chair Durham reviewed consent items including the minutes from the August 3, 2023, Council of the Whole meeting, the August 4, 2023, Council meeting as well as the expected absences of Texas Education Agency for November 3, 2023, Disability Rights Texas for November 2-3, 2023, Jamie Thomas for November 2-3, 2023 and Meridith Silcox for November 2-3, 2023.

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the August 3, 2023, Committee of the Whole meeting, the August 4, 2023, Council Meeting, and the excused absences of TEA Representatives, Disability Rights Texas Representatives, Jamie Thomas, and Meridith Silcox.

MADE BY: Lora Taylor

SECOND: Angie Panzica

The motion **passed** unanimously.

4. Chair's and Executive Director's Report

TCDD Executive Director Beth Stalvey reported on staff activities including stipend approvals and ongoing Requests for Applications (RFA) for the TCDD Storytelling Project and Culturally Inclusive Family Supports. She also discussed the recent grantee summit addressing compliance, sustainability, and networking.

Stalvey also reported on her attendance at the Executive Director Summit in Rhode Island, fostering connections with other Councils and learning about new reporting requirements. She highlighted the new requirement from the Administration for Community Living to collect information on sexual orientation and gender identity, aimed at better

serving underserved groups.

TCDD Policy Analyst Sabrina Gonzalez Saucedo announced her departure from TCDD to join the ARC of Texas as Deputy Director of Public Policy and Advocacy.

5. Selection of Nominating Committee Member

Public Policy Committee Chair Angie Panzica reported that the Public Policy Committee selected Debbie Carlisle to serve on the Nominating Committee. Acting Project Development Committee Chair Gladys Cortez reported that Robert Schier III was selected by the Project Development Committee to serve on the Nominating Committee. Chair Durham asked for nominations or volunteers from the Council. Schier recommended Andrew Crim.

MOTION: To approve the selection of Andrew Crim as the Council Representative to the Nominating Committee.

MADE BY: Robert Schier III

SECOND: Scott McAvoy

The motion **passed** unanimously.

6. Future Activities for State Plan Implementation

Cortez discussed the Project Development Committee discussion of the executive summary for Targeted Disparity: Barriers to Employment in South Texas Region noting the Committee offered the following revisions:

1. Inclusion of List of counties – Hildago, Starr, Willacy and Cameron
2. Contain more focused outputs and outcomes such as employers and attitude changes.
3. Add criteria that the selected organization be established and have a history of working in the four-county region.

MOTION: To approve the new project executive summary for Targeted Disparity: Barriers to Employment in South Texas Region for one project for up to \$125,000 per year for two years with the Committee's revisions.

MADE BY: Gladys Cortez for the Project Development Committee

(Motions from committee do not need a second)

The motion **passed** unanimously.

Cortez reported on the updates made to the Future Funding Priorities list as follows:

1. Culturally Competent Family Supports
2. Story Telling Project
3. Targeted Disparity: Barriers to Employment in South Texas
4. Medical Self-Advocacy
5. Prevention and Response to Sexual Offenses: Medical and Therapeutic Professionals
6. Prevention and Response to Sexual Offenses: Criminal Justice Response to Cases Involving People with I/DD

MOTION: To approve the revised Future Funding Priorities list as provided.

MADE BY: Gladys Cortez for the Project Development Committee
(Motions from Committee do not need a second)

The motion **passed** unanimously.

7. Presentation – South Texas Platicas

Regional Coordinators Rosa Guel and Alexandra Venegas discussed the importance of “Platicas” or conversations, in addressing language barriers within the Spanish-speaking community in the southern region of Texas. Venegas noted that the Platicas aim to bridge gaps in information accessibility for families with disabilities, emphasizing the challenges of inadequate translations and their impact on diagnoses, support access, and resource navigation. The group identifies solutions such as one-on-one outreach, events offering free services, and building trust between families and organizations. The discussion extended to solutions like allocating funds for translations, parenting classes, and raising awareness of disabilities in the workplace. The goal is to establish a replicable model for Platicas across Texas, connecting communities and providing a guide for organizing similar discussions in various languages to address diverse barrier

8. Agency Reports

The Council received updates from Kate Layman from Texas Health and Human Services Title XIX/Medicaid, Ivy Goldstein from the Department of State Health Services Maternal & Child Health Services, Meagan Orsag from University of Texas Center for Disability Studies, Jonas Schwartz from Texas Workforce Commission, and Holly Riley from Texas Health and Human Services Older Americans Act of 1965.

9. Executive Committee Report

Chair Durham reported the Executive Committee's approval of continuation grant funding for seven projects. Durham also reported that five stipends were requested and approved for this quarter including two events stipends, one translation stipend, and two speakers stipends.

TCDD Finance and Grants Director Rey Valdejuli reviewed the quarterly financial report, current grantee projects report, and the stipend expenditure report.

Council Business Director Koren Vogel discussed updates to the Conflict-of-Interest report.

10. Project Development Committee Report

Acting Project Development Committee Chair Cortez reported on Committee discussion of member activities, Regional Coordinator Erin Fogarty's discussion on community-based recreational opportunities, and potential Council activities. She reported a significant discussion on healthcare biases that included shared personal experiences, and discussions on ways to make physicians more person-centered. The meeting also emphasized the distinction between project outcomes and outputs, and attendees were encouraged to use a discussion guide for submitting project ideas aligned with the State Plan.

11. Public Policy Committee Report

Public Policy Committee Chair Panzica reported on discussions of the unintended consequences of attendant care wage rates, specifically how it prevents payment of overtime due to its wage-based structure. Panzica also reported on the discussion regarding the complications

arising from the Electronic Verification System (EVV), which is used for clocking in and out of services for Personal Care Assistants (PCAs). The Committee proposed an interim study to address the challenges related to clocking staff out for supporting employment versus personal care needs. Panzica shared the quarterly activities which include members sharing their involvement with providers and personal development projects. The Committee heard presentations and entered discussion on issues in special education, emphasizing the need for frequent evaluations, highlighting a backlog issue. The discussion also touched on an educational and savings account program. Panzica concluded with a mention of federal policies, interim charges, and a reminder to vote if not already done.

12. Future Agenda Items

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

13. Announcements and Updates

Council members discussed the date of the next meeting on February 7-9, 2024.

Adjourn

Chair Mary Durham adjourned the meeting at 11:29 a.m.

Beth Stalvey, *Secretary to the Council* Date