

## **Committee Members Present**

Gladys Cortez  
Maverick Crawford  
Andrew Crim  
Juan Carlos Lopez  
Amanda Miles  
Scott McAvoy  
Robert Schier III  
Holly Riley, *HHSC Older  
Americans Act of 1965*  
Ivy Goldstein, *DSHS*  
Justin Porter, *TEA*  
Lauren Chenoweth,  
*TWC*

## **Committee Members Absent**

Meridith Silcox  
Jamie Thomas  
Jonas Schwartz, *TWC*

## **Guests Present**

Deborah Wallace  
Mario Contreras  
Lea Meischein  
Lauryn McNeil

## **Regional Coordinators Present**

Erin Fogarty  
Morgan Foster

Rosa Guel  
Canen Melton  
Alexandra Venegas

## **Staff Present**

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

## **Call to Order**

The Project Development Committee of the Texas Council for Developmental convened on Thursday, November 2, 2023, at the Hilton Houston Post Oak by the Galleria, 2001 Post Oak Blvd., Houston, TX 77056, as well as virtually using the Zoom platform. Gladys Cortez called the meeting to order at 1:35 pm. A quorum was present.

## **1. Introductions**

Committee members, staff and guests were introduced.

## **2. Public Comments**

No public comments were offered to the Project Development Committee.

## **3. Consideration of Minutes**

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

**MOTION:** To approve the minutes of the August 3, 2023, Project

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Development Committee meeting as presented.

**MADE BY:** Robert Schier III

**SECOND:** Scott McAvoy

The motion **passed** unanimously.

## 4. Chair's Remarks

Gladys Cortez reported the expected absences of Committee Chair Meridith Silcox, Jamie Thomas, and Jonas Schwartz from TWC.

Cortez shared that she is working on a task force in the City of Edinburg including sensitivity training that will be presented to city employees and contractors.

## 5. Members Quarterly Activities

Committee members shared their updates on their disability-related activities during the previous quarter.

## 6. Staff Reports

TCDD Finance and Grants Director Rey Valldejuli reported on the new projects that began this quarter, with two ongoing Request for Applications (RFAs) scheduled to conclude on November 17, 2023. Also reported were the five projects that were successfully completed this quarter and that seven projects are currently in their final year. Valldejuli highlighted seven projects slated for continuation in February 2024.

Valldejuli presented a breakdown of factors contributing to risk, including reporting timelines, submission of Requests for Advance or Reimbursement (RARs), project deliverables, timeliness in requesting revisions, the duration of the organization's activity, and other factors outlined in the grant manual. Notably, three projects were identified as having elevated high risks, primarily due to financial issues, either delayed or outstanding RAR submissions. Aside from these instances, no other significant issues were reported regarding the grantees.

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## 7. Future Activities for State Plan Implementation

Gladys Cortez discussed the executive summary regarding Addressing Targeted Disparities: Barriers to Employment in South Texas Region. Committee Members recommended the following modifications to the executive summary:

1. Clarify which counties in South Texas the executive summary is addressing.
2. Refine the outcomes section to include more measurable outcomes and outputs.

**MOTION:** To recommend Council funding of the Addressing Targeted Disparities: Barriers to Employment in South Texas at \$125,000 per year for up to two years with the Committee's revisions.

**MADE BY:** Robert Schier III

**SECOND:** Juan Carlos Lopez

The motion is **passed** unanimously.

## 8. Selection of Nominating Committee Member

Cortez explained the role of the Nominating Committee and asked for nominations from the Project Development Committee. Andy Crim recommended Robert Schier III.

**MOTION:** To accept the nomination of Robert Schier III to serve on the Nominating Committee.

**MADE BY:** Maverick Crawford

**SECOND:** Scott McAvoy

The motion **passed** unanimously.

## 9. Presentation: Community Based Recreational Opportunities

Regional Coordinator Erin Fogarty led a presentation on the importance of recreation opportunities for people with IDD in their communities. Fogarty highlighted potential barriers to recreation for individuals with disabilities, particularly focusing on young adults transitioning out of the school system. Fogarty emphasized the

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importance of decreasing barriers ranging from non-involvement due to a lack of suitable programs to historically segregated or adapted recreation opportunities that may not align with individual interests.

## 10. Future Activities for State Plan Implementation

Gladys Cortez discussed the five projects that ended this quarter and led a discussion on potential future projects.

Executive Director Beth Stalvey discussed ongoing projects in their final year. Stalvey noted the focus is on continuing and sharing the work of these projects, including suggestions for collaboration and the dissemination of findings.

The Committee discussed issues regarding healthcare professionals, patient care for people with I/DD, and ideas about future projects related to education opportunities to bridge the gap between patients with I/DD and healthcare professionals.

## 11. Future Project Funding Priorities

The Committee evaluated the future Funding Priorities List. Members reviewed the list as provided by staff, removed projects that have been initiated, added the newly recommended project, and revised the order of the projects to conform to the Committee's goals.

**MOTION:** Recommended Council approval of the Future Funding Priorities List as Follows:

1. Culturally Competent Family Supports
2. TCDD Storytelling 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 IDD

**MADE BY:** Scott McAvoy

**SECOND:** Andrew Crim

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The motion **passed** unanimously.

## 12. Future Agenda Items

Members requested future discussion topics to include funding for future projects.

## 13. Other Discussion Items

The next Committee meeting will be held in conjunction with the next Council and Committee meetings scheduled for February 8, 2024.

## Adjourn

Gladys Cortez adjourned the Project Development Committee meeting at 5:08 p.m.

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Beth Stalvey, *Secretary to the Council*    Date

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