

Committee

Members Present

Angie Panzica,
Committee Chair
Ronnie Browning
Debbie Carlisle
Bill Coorsh
Kyle Cox
Mary Durham, Council
Chair
Katherine Layman,
HHSC Title XIX/Medicaid
Sandra Magaña, TCDS
Meagan Orsag, A&M
CDD
Michael Peace
Eric Shahid

Lora Taylor

Kim Torres

Committee

Members Absent

Sean Jackson, *DRTX*

Guests Present

Floyd Browning
Lisa Flores
Jane Friou
Jonathan Jardine
Amy Litzinger
Linda Litzinger
Ron Lucey
Rosanne Trost

Staff Present

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

Call to Order

The Public Policy Committee of the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities 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. Angie Panzica called the meeting to order at 1:34 PM. A quorum was present.

1. Introductions

Committee members, staff and guests were introduced.

2. Public Comments

Public comment was provided by Amy Litzinger, who discussed complications with the state's system for Electronic Visit Verification (EVV). Additional comment was provided by Linda Litzinger of Texas Parent to Parent, who explained that an unintended consequence of the legislature's increase in attendant rates is that some attendants are no longer able to receive overtime pay for their work.

3. Consideration of August 3, 2023, Minutes

The Committee reviewed the minutes from the August 3, 2023, Public Policy Committee meeting and no additions or corrections were noted.

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the August 3, 2023, Public Policy Committee meeting as presented.

MADE BY: Michael Peace

SECOND: Eric Shahid

The motion **passed** unanimously.

4. Chair's Remarks

A. Member Absences: Chair Panzica noted that Sean Jackson of Disability Rights Texas was absent from the committee meeting.

B. Chair's Quarterly Activities: Chair Panzica discussed her participation in a patient panel for the AAMD (American Association of Medical Dosimetrists) as well as her attendance to the Coalition of Texans with Disabilities' virtual Raise Your Voice meetings.

5. Members Quarterly Activities

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

6. Selection of Nominating Committee Member

Chair Panzica reviewed the role of the Nominating Committee that is established each year to bring forward nominations for the Council Vice-Chair and Self-Advocate Member-at-Large to serve on the Executive Committee. The Public Policy and Project Development Committee each elect a member to serve on the Nominating Committee, and a third member is selected from the Council. Debbie Carlisle volunteered to be the Public Policy representative on the Committee.

MOTION: To select Debbie Carlisle as the Public Policy Committee representative to the Nominating Committee.

MADE BY: Ronnie Browning

SECOND: Michael Peace

The motion **passed** unanimously.

7. Presentation: Special Education Update

Chair Panzica introduced speakers Lisa Flores and Jane Friou. They discussed the special education programs at Austin Independent School District (AISD) and Houston Independent School District (HISD), both of which have recently fallen under varying forms of state oversight.

8. Legislative Update

TCDD staff provided updates on recent special sessions of the Texas Legislature, referencing the ongoing debate over private school vouchers. Staff also discussed an anticipated call for legislative interim charge recommendations, and committee members expressed an interest in submitting a recommendation related to oral health.

9. State and Federal Policy Update

TCDD staff mentioned three pieces of legislation that have been filed in the U.S. Congress: The HCBS Relief Act, the Alleviating Barriers for Caregivers Act, and the Disaster Medicaid Relief Act. Staff also mentioned attendance at a United Cerebral Palsy conference on Latinos with Disabilities.

10. Future Agenda Items

No future agenda items were discussed.

11. Other Discussion Items

Chair Panzica announced the pending departure of TCDD Policy Analyst Sabrina Gonzalez Saucedo and also reminded committee members to vote in the November 7th election.

Adjourn

The Public Policy Committee was adjourned at 4:35 PM.