

**Council Members Present**

Mary Durham, *Council Chair*  
Ronnie Browning  
Debbie Carlisle  
Lauren Chenoweth, *TWC*  
Maverick Crawford  
Gladys Cortez  
Kyle Cox  
Elizabeth Danner, *TEA*  
Ivy Goldstein, *DSHS*  
Sean Jackson, *DRTX*  
Kate Layman, *HHSC Medicaid*  
Juan Carlos Lopez  
Scott McAvoy  
Megan Orsag, *A&M CDD*  
Angie Panzica  
Michael Peace  
Robert Schier III  
Jonas Schwartz, *TWC*  
Eric Shahid  
Meridith Silcox  
Lora Taylor

Jamie Thomas  
Nina Zuna, *TCDS*

**Council Members Absent**

Andy Crim  
Amanda Miles  
Holly Riley, *HHSC Older Americans*  
Kim Torres

**Guests Present**

Margaret Adsit  
Brynn Biggs  
Floyd Browning  
Christina Bryant  
Matthew Bushak  
Mario Contreras  
Kayla Daniel  
Mike Fuller  
Linda Litzinger  
John Nicks  
Stephanie Oates  
Christa Stevens  
Deborah Wallace

**Regional Coordinators Present**

Erin Fogarty  
Morgan Foster  
Canen Melton  
Alexandra Venegas

**Staff Present**

Beth Stalvey, *Executive Director*  
Kai Brewer  
Scott Daigle  
Lauren Gerken  
Crystal Goodwin  
Mitchel Griffin  
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, February 9, 2024, at the Hyatt Place Houston Medical Center, 7329 Fannin St., Houston Texas, 77030, as well as virtually using the Zoom platform. Mary Durham called the meeting to order at 9:05 am. A quorum was present.

**1. Introductions of Committee Members, Staff and Visitors**

Council Members, staff and guests were introduced.

## **2. Public Comments**

Public comments were provided by Linda Litzinger, Matthew Bushak and Stephanie Oates.

## **3. Consent Items**

Chair Durham reviewed consent items including the minutes from the November 2, 2023, Committee of the Whole meeting, the November 3, 2023, Council meeting and the expected absences of Andy Crim, Amanda Miles, Kim Torres, and the HHSC Older Americans Act representative. Gladys Cortez noted that her name should be added to the list of Council Members Present on the November 3, 2023, Council Meeting Minutes.

**MOTION:** To approve the minutes from the November 2, 2023, Committee of the Whole meeting, the November 3, 2023, Council meeting with a correction of adding Gladys Cortez to the Council Members Present, and the expected absences of Andy Crim, Amanda Miles, Kim Torres, and the HHSC Older Americans Act representative.

**MADE BY:** Maverick Crawford

**SECOND:** Jamie Thomas

The motion **passed** unanimously.

## **4. Chair and Executive Director's Report**

Chair Durham announced her approval of additional funding totaling \$6,535 for the grant project by the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute.

TCDD Executive Director Beth Stalvey provided updates on two staff vacancies, including the Public Policy Analyst position and the West Texas Regional Coordinator position.

Stalvey provided highlights of four reports recently submitted. These reports included the TCDD Annual Program Performance Report, the final report for a CDC grant on immunization accessibility, a report on the Funding Public Health Workforce grant project, and a report for the Youth Voices Youth Choices grant project. Stalvey further mentioned ongoing efforts in updating applications and surveys for grantee reporting. She highlighted the release of a Request for Applications (RFA) for the targeted disparity on increasing employment

opportunities in South Texas that is featured in TCDD's State Plan. Additionally, Stalvey emphasized TCDD's focus on new leadership and advocacy activities, access to On-Demand Learning, and the development of the Targeted Training Sprints Program.

## **5. Election of Council Vice-Chair**

Nominating Committee Member Debbie Carlisle reported on the Committee recommendation for Jamie Thomas to serve in the role of Council Vice-Chair. No other nominations from the floor were offered.

**MOTION:** To elect Jamie Thomas as Council Vice-Chair.

**MADE BY:** Debbie Carlisle for the Nominating Committee

The motion **passed** unanimously.

## **6. Election of Self Advocate Member-at-Large to the Executive Committee**

Carlisle reported on the Nominating Committee discussion for the Self-Advocate Member-at-Large to the Executive Committee position and recommended Eric Shahid to continue in that position. No other nominations were offered by members.

**MOTION:** To elect Eric Shahid as the Self-Advocate Member-at-Large to the Executive Committee.

**MADE BY:** Debbie Carlisle for the Nominating Committee

The motion **passed** unanimously.

## **7. Future Project Funding Priorities**

Project Development Committee Chair Meridith Silcox reported that no changes were made to the Future Project Funding Priorities List.

## **8. Presentation: Be An Angel**

Silcox introduced Margret Adsit, Director of Be An Angel. Adsit gave a presentation on the Be An Angel organization and the many different programs that they have for children with IDD and their families. Adsit focused on the organizations commitment to provide adaptive equipment as well as their Camp Be An Angel program that focuses on families.

## **9. Agency Reports**

The Council received updates from Kate Layman from Texas Health and Human Services Commission Title XIX/Medicaid, Sean Jackson from Disability Rights Texas, Nina Zuna from the Texas Center for Disability Studies, Elizabeth Danner from Texas Education Agency, Ivy Goldstein from the Department of State Health Services Maternal/Child Health, Meagan Orsag from the Center for Disability and Development at Texas A&M, and Jonas Schwartz from Texas Workforce Commission.

## **10. Executive Committee Report**

Chair Durham reported the Executive Committee's approval of continuation grant funding for six projects as well as new grant funding for one project. Durham also reported that three stipends were requested and approved including two events stipends and one speakers stipend.

TCDD Finance and Grants Director Rey Valldejuli 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.

## **11. Project Development Committee Report**

Project Development Committee Chair Silcox reported that the Committee received a presentation from the University of Massachusetts on the website development from their Complex Mental Health Care project that will connect individuals with IDD to mental health service providers. Silcox also noted that the Committee discussed ideas surrounding the current state plan with a focus on youth.

## **12. Public Policy Committee Report**

Public Policy Committee Chair Angie Panzica reported on Committee activities. She noted that Scott Daigle delivered a legislative update, sparking a discussion on disability allies and former TCDD legislative champions.

Panzica further reported on the Committee's efforts in streamlining public policy priorities. The Committee also discussed the charter school program and issues related to private duty nursing.

### **13. Future Agenda Items**

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

### **14. Announcements and updates**

Council members discussed the date of the next meeting on May 1-3, 2024.

### **Adjourn**

Mary Durham adjourned the Council Meeting at 11:38 a.m.

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Beth Stalvey, *Secretary to the Council*    Date