

**Council Members Present**

Andrew Crim, *Council Chair*

Debbie Carlisle

Lauren Chenoweth, *TWC Vocational Rehab*

Kyle Cox

Maverick Crawford

Sara Damiano, *HHSC Older Americans Act*

Beatrice Degree

Roni Jo Frazier

Ivy Goldstein, *DSHS*

Shana Halvorsen

Barbara Knighton

Kate Layman, *HHSC Title XIX/Medicaid*

Lisa Marengo

Scott McAvoy

Amanda Miles

Meagan Orsag, *A&M CDD*

Angie Panzica

Michael Peace

Jonas Schwartz, *TWC*

Eric Shahid

Meridith Silcox

Lora Taylor

Jamie Thomas

Kim Torres

Nina Zuna, *UTCDS*

**Council Members Absent**

Elizabeth Danner, *TEA*

Sean Jackson, *DRTX*

Robert Schier III

**Guests Present**

Christina Bryant

David Butler

Dan Graves

Melissa McNeil

Marcia Montague

June Sadowsky

Alec Swierc

**Regional Coordinators Present**

Erin Fogarty

Morgan Foster

Rosa Guel

Alexandra Venegas

**Staff Present**

Beth Stalvey, *Executive Director*

Kai Brewer

Scott Daigle

Lauren Gerken

Mitchel Griffin

Crystal Goodwin

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, August 9, 2024, at the Hyatt Place Houston Medical Center, 7329 Fannin St, Houston, TX 77030 as well as virtually using the Zoom platform. Council Chair Andrew Crim called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. A quorum was present.

**1. Introductions**

Committee members, staff and guests were introduced.

## 2. Public Comments

Public Comment was given by Alec Sweirc from Project Mend on the topic of refurbished medical equipment.

## 3. Consent Items

Chair Crim reviewed consent items including the minutes from the May 2, 2024, Committee of the Whole meeting, the May 3, 2024, Council meeting and the expected absences of Robert Schier III and representatives from Disability Rights Texas and Texas Education Agency.

**MOTION:** To approve the minutes from the May 2, 2024 Committee of the Whole meeting, the May 3, 2024, Council Meeting, and the expected absences of Robert Schier III, Disability Rights Texas representatives and the Texas Education Agency representatives.

**MADE BY:** Scott McAvoy

**SECOND:** Meridith Silcox

The motion **passed without opposition.** Maverick Crawford abstained from the vote.

## 4. Chair and Executive Directors Report.

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

Stalvey Reported 11 stipends approved during the last quarter and highlighted two open Request for Applications with a deadline of August 22, 2024.

Director Stalvey provided updates on ongoing activities such as Texas' representation at the NACDD conference where four TCDD grantees shared their work on various topics related to developmental disabilities. Stalvey also shared the collaboration with Health and Human Services Commission to integrate aging and disability networks along with the importance of training for public health workers on mental health disabilities. Stalvey noted the successful initiative by AgriLife to provide mandatory accessibility training for over 600 staff,

marking a notable step towards creating sustainable changes in program inclusivity.

## 5. Audit Committee Report

Audit Committee Chair Jamie Thomas had no further updates from the Audit Committee

## 6. FY 2024 Annual Internal Audit Report

Dan Graves, Weaver and Tidwell, reviewed the FY 2024 Internal Audit Report which is due to the State Auditor's Office, the Legislative Budget Board, and the Governor's Office by November 1, 2024.

**MOTION:** To approve the FY 2024 Internal Audit Report for submission to the State Auditor's Office.

**MADE BY:** Jamie Thomas for the Audit Committee (motions from Committee do not need a second)

The motion **passed** unanimously.

## 7. FY 2025 Internal Audit Plan

Audit Committee Chair Jamie Thomas reported that the Committee discussed with Graves the focus areas of the audit activities in the previous years. It was noted that TCDD Program Development, Compliance, and Compliance Reporting had a higher risk rating and was recommended to be the focus of FY 2025 audit activities.

**MOTION:** To approve Program Development, Compliance, and Compliance Reporting as the focus of FY 2025 audit.

**MADE BY:** Jamie Thomas for the Audit Committee

The motion **passed** unanimously.

## 8. TCDD FY 2025 Operating Expense Budget

TCDD Finance and Grants Director Rey Valldejuli presented the proposed Operating Expense budget for FY 2025. He noted an increase from the budget for FY 2024 due to a 5% state-approved salary adjustment starting September 1, 2024. Valldejuli noted additional increases for in-state travel expenses due to more in-person events.

**MOTION:** To approve the FY 2025 Operating Expense Budget in the amount of \$2,747,694.

**MADE BY:** Andrew Crim for the Executive Committee

The motion **passed** unanimously.

## 9. Memorandum of Understanding with TEA

Council Chair Andrew Crim reviewed the Executive Committee's discussion of the Memorandum of Understanding with Texas Education Agency.

**MOTION:** To approve FY 2025 Memorandum of Understanding with Texas Education Agency.

**MADE BY:** Andrew Crim for the Executive Committee

The motion **passed** unanimously.

## 10. Future Activities for State Plan Implementation

Meridith Silcox reported on the Project Development Committee discussion of the New Project Executive Summary for Next Generation Engagement: How Experience Influences Advocacy and recommended Council approval in the amount of up to \$250,000 per year for up to two years.

**MOTION:** To approve the New Project Executive Summary for Next Generation Engagement: How Experience Influences Advocacy in the amount of \$250,000 per year for up to two years for one project.

**MADE BY:** Meridith Silcox for the Project Development Committee n

The motion **passed** unanimously.

Silcox reported on the Project Development Committee discussion of the New Project Executive Summary for Enhancing Statewide Community Engagement and recommended funding in the amount of \$200,000 per year for up to three years.

**MOTION:** To approve the New Project Executive Summary for Enhancing Statewide Community Engagement for up to \$200,000 per year for up to three years for one project.

**MADE BY:** Meridith Silcox for the Project Development Committee

The motion **passed** unanimously.

Silcox reported on the Committee's recommended revisions of the Future Project Funding Priorities List.

**MOTION: To** approve the Future Project Funding Priorities List as follows:

1. Choice Making Among Youth Age 0-14: A Foundation for Self-Determined Lives
2. Medical Self-Determination
3. Enhancing Statewide Community Engagement
4. Next Generation Engagement: How Experience Influences Advocacy
5. Culturally Competent Family Supports

**MADE BY:** Meridith Silcox for the Project Development Committee  
The motion **passed** unanimously.

## **11. Presentation: Public Health and Disability Integration**

TCDD Public Health and Disability Integration Specialist Crystal Goodwin outlined the accomplishments and lessons learned from various projects focused on public health and disability integration including tracking COVID data, addressing service gaps, and enhancing collaboration between public health departments and disability-focused organizations. Goodwin highlighted successes in accessibility, pandemic planning, disaster preparedness, inclusive dental care, and mental health.

Goodwin mentioned the challenges encountered, such as the siloed nature of Texas public health systems and the need for more informed providers and training related to developmental disabilities. Goodwin discussed the ongoing need for a disability coordinator within public health and disaster management systems to ensure continued progress and collaboration, particularly in light of lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **12. Executive Committee Report**

Chair Crim reported the Executive Committee's approval of continuation grant funding for nine projects.

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.

### **13. Project Development Committee Report**

Project Development Chair Meridith Silcox reported on the Committee's discussion and activities during the Project Development Committee meeting

### **14. Public Policy Committee Report**

Public Policy Committee Chair Angie Panzica reported on the discussion and activities during the Public Policy Committee meeting.

### **15. Agency Reports**

The Council received updates from Kate Layman from Texas Health and Human Services Commission Title XIX/Medicaid, Nina Zuna from University of Texas Center for Disability Studies, Meagan Orsag from A&M Center for Disability and Development, Lauren Chenoweth from Texas Workforce Commission and Sara Damiano from Texas Health and Human Services Commission Older American's Act of 1965.

### **16. Future Agenda Items**

Council Members were encouraged to contact Chair Crim or Executive Director Stalvey with suggestions for future agenda items

### **17. Announcements and Updates**

Council members discussed the date of the next meeting on November 8, 2024.

## **Adjourn**

Chair Crim adjourned the Executive Committee at 4:01 PM.