

Committee Members Present

Meridith Silcox,
Committee Chair
Edward Baffoe
Lauren Chenoweth,
TWC
Sara Damiano, *HHSC*
Older Americans Act
Elizabeth Danner, *TEA*
Roni Jo Frazier
Shana Halvorsen
Barbara Knighton
Ashley Sattler
Robert Schier III

Committee Members Absent

Amanda Miles
Scott McAvoy
Sandra Magaña

Guests Present

Sydnee Drake
Courtney Trevino

Community Coordinators Present

Erin Fogarty
Morgan Foster
Rosa Guel
Alexandra Venegas

Staff Present

Beth Stalvey, *Executive
Director*
Mitchel Griffin
Genessee Klemm
Rey Maldonado
Evan Marczynski
Sylvia Medina
Richard Rendon
Cass Schnautz
Melanie Teague

Call to Order

The Project Development Committee of the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities convened on Thursday, May 8, 2025, at the Westin San Antonio North, 9821 Colonnade Blvd, San Antonio, TX 78230. Meridith Silcox called the meeting to order at 1:35 P.M. A quorum was present.

1. Introductions

Committee members, staff and guests were introduced.

2. Public Comments

No public comment was given.

3. Consideration of February 7, 2025, Minutes

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

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the February 7, 2025, Project Development Committee Meeting as presented.

MADE BY: Shana Halvorsen

SECOND: Roni Jo Frazier

The motion **passed**. Robert Schier III, Ashley Sattler and Edward Baffoe abstained from the vote.

4. Chair's Remarks

Chair Silcox reported on the expected absences of Amanda Miles, Scott McAvoy and the representative from UT – Austin Center for Disability Studies.

Silcox shared her disability-related activities during the previous quarter.

Silcox also shared information presented in the Executive Committee meeting, including reports, grant continuations, and discussion topics.

5. Member Quarterly Activities

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

6. Staff Grant Reports

Finance and Grants Director Rey Maldonado reported on grants that ended in the last quarter and 18 grants that are in their final year of funding. Maldonado also reported on the ten continuations that are planned for the August 2025 meeting.

Executive Director Beth Stalvey presented the project closeout review for Mounting Horizons Independent Living Center's Youth Adult Advocates Leadership Program project.

7. Future Activities for State Plan Implementation

Stalvey outlined the process for determining how TCDD engages in new initiatives including alignment to the state plan and review of current grants. Stalvey emphasized identifying information gaps and considering past and current efforts while keeping future sustainability in mind.

Council Member Edward Baffoe presented the importance of choice-making and self-determination in the development of children and youth, particularly those who are neurodiverse. Baffoe emphasized how these skills evolve across developmental stages, from infancy through early adolescence, and how they can be supported through structured opportunities, routines, and individualized strategies. Baffoe discussed how choice-making is a foundational skill that feeds into broader self-

determination abilities like self-regulation, autonomy, and self-advocacy.

Baffoe also touched on practical applications, such as using visual aids to help children make decisions throughout their day, and highlighted the importance of tailoring approaches to different age groups.

The Committee discussed revisions needed for the Choice Making for youth age 0-14 Request for Applications (RFA) including refining the scope of the projects to children aged three to five and six to eleven. Committee members emphasized the importance of narrowing the age range, selecting appropriate settings, and the need for clear deliverables, such as replicable models and practical tools for educators and families, with a focus on preparing children to be confident decision-makers by age 14. Executive Director Stalvey informed the council that these changes would be made to the RFA and would be brought to the August 2025 meeting.

8. Presentation: Youth Ambassadors

Youth Ambassador Coordinator Courtney Trevino presented on the Youth Ambassadors project with Wellpoint following the completion of the project. Following her presentation Trevino answered questions from Committee members.

9. Future Project Funding Priorities

The Committee evaluated the Future Project Funding Priorities list. Members reviewed the list as provided by staff and made no changes:

1. Choices Making Among Youth Age 0-14: A Foundation for Self-Determined Lives
2. Medical Self-Determination
3. Culturally Competent Family Supports
4. TCDD Storytelling

10. Future Agenda Items

Members with suggested topics for future discussion were advised to contact Council staff or Chair Silcox with those suggestions.

11. Other Discussion Items

The next Committee meeting will be held August 7, 2025.

Adjourn

Committee chair Silcox adjourned the Project Development Committee at 5:07 P.M.

Beth Stalvey, *Secretary to the Council* Date