TEXAS COUNCIL for DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Council

Meeting Minutes

February 6, 2026

Council Members Present

Andrew Crim, *Council Chair*

Edward Baffoe

Debbie Carlisle

Sara Damiano, *HHSC-Older Americans Act*

Elizabeth Danner, *TEA*

Beatrice Degree

Shana Halvorsen

Barbara Knighton

Kate Layman, *HHSC-Medicaid*

Abby Maddux

Wendy Maurer

Scott McAvoy

Robin Miller, *A&M CDD*

Angie Panzica

Ashley Sattler

Jonas Schwartz, *TWC*

Eric Shahid

Meridith Silcox

Nina Zuna, *TCDS*

Council Members Absent

Roni Jo Frazier

Sean Jackson, *DRTX*

Amanda Miles

Robert Schier III

Jamie Thomas

Guests Present

Astrid Alvarado

Rebecca Ciesielski

Andy Crocker

Sydnee Foxworth

Mattea Garza

Rebecca Japko

Melanie MacDonald

Laurie Maddux

Tricia Perez

Senaida San Miguel

Tami Shetron

Austin Spratt

Augustin Villarreal

Deborah Wallace

Community Coordinators Present

Erin Fogarty

Rosa Guel

Olu Motoni

Alexandra Venegas

Staff Present

Beth Stalvey, *Executive Director*

Mary Bagwell

Kai Brewer

Scott Daigle

Mitchel Griffin

Marisa Iannaccone

Genessee Klemm

Linda Logan

Rey Maldonado

Evan Marczynski

Sylvia Medina

Richard Rendon

Cass Schnautz

Melanie Teague

Brianna TenBrink

Koren Vogel

Call to Order

The Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities convened on Friday, February 6, 2026, at the Hilton Austin Airport 9515 Hotel Dr, Austin, TX 78719 as well as virtually using the Zoom platform. Council Chair Andrew Crim called the meeting to order at 8:30 A.M. A quorum was present.

1. Introductions

Committee members, staff and guests were introduced.

2. Public Comments

Public comment regarding the FY 2027 – FY 2031 State Plan was submitted by Augustin Villareal and read aloud to Council Members.

3. Presentation: Bobcat Rise

Tami Shetron from TCDD funded project Bobcat Rise presented about the inclusive four-year residential program for students with IDD at Texas State University.

4. Consent Items

Chair Crim reviewed consent items including the minutes from the November 6, 2025, Committee of the Whole meeting, the November 7, 2025, Council meeting, and the expected absences of Roni Jo Frazier, Sean Jackson from Disability Rights Texas, Amanda Miles, Robert Schier III and Jamie Thomas.

MOTION: To approve the minutes from the November 6, 2025, Committee of the Whole meeting, the November 7, 2025, Council meeting and the expected absences of Roni Jo Frazier, Sean Jackson from Disability Rights Texas, Amanda Miles, Robert Schier III and Jamie Thomas.

MADE BY: Abby Maddux

SECOND: Scott McAvoy

The motion **passed** without opposition. Shana Halvorsen, Kate Layman, and Wendy Maurer were present but did not vote.

5. Chair and Executive Directors Report.

Council Chair Andrew Crim facilitated a discussion on disability representation and accessibility, using a recent national commercial as a contextual example. The discussion addressed broader considerations related to public messaging, inclusion, and integration, including the impact of language, the balance between normalization and acknowledgment of support needs, and the distinction between visible and invisible disabilities. Accessibility technology and universal design were discussed as important tools that increase access but do not replace the need for individualized services and supports.

Executive Director Beth Stalvey reported on staff updates including the vacant public policy analyst position, and the vacant systems analyst position. Stalvey also reported on approved stipends, upcoming conferences, and attendance at memorial services honoring Council member Kyle Cox and disability advocate Bob Kafka. Additional updates covered completion and submission of the Annual

Program Performance Report (APPR), preparation for the upcoming five-year state plan, progress on youth leadership initiatives, partnership activities, and survey development. Federal updates confirmed continued funding through the current fiscal year and outlined upcoming engagement with new national leadership, reflecting continued operational stability and forward planning.

6. Election of Council Vice-Chair

Nominating Committee Chair Jonas Schwartz reported on the Committee recommendation for Barbara Knighton to serve in the role of Council Vice-Chair. No other nominations from the floor were offered.

MOTION: To elect Barbara Knightonn as Council Vice-Chair.

MADE BY: Jonas Schwartz from the Nominating Committee

The motion **passed** without opposition. Kate Layman and Shana Halvorsen were present but did not vote.

7. Election of Self-Advocate Member-at-Large to the Executive Committee

Nominating Committee Chair Jonas Schwartz reported on the Committee recommendation for Eric Shahid to continue serving in the role of Self-Advocate Member-at-Large to the Executive Committee.

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

MADE BY: Jonas Schwartz for the Nominating Committee

Chair Crim asked if there were additional nominations from the floor and Abby Maddux offered her nomination to serve as the Self-Advocate Member-at-Large to the Executive Committee.

MOTION: Abigail Maddux to be considered for Self-Advocate Member-at-Large to the Executive Committee.

MADE BY: Abigail Maddux

SECOND: Meridith Silcox

A secret ballot vote was counted by Jonas Schwartz and resulted in Eric Shahid receiving a majority of votes.

The motion to elect Eric Shahid as the Self-Advocate Member-at-Large to the Executive Committee **passed**. Kate Layman was present but did not vote.

8. FY 2027 – FY 2031 State Plan Development – Goals & Objectives

Stalvey reviewed public input provided on the FY 2027 – FY 2031 State Plan Goals and Objectives and Council members discussed revisions as well as the next steps for approval.

MOTION: To approve the FY 2027 – FY 2031 State Plan Goals and Objectives

MADE BY: Edward Baffoe

SECOND: Ashley Sattler

The motion **passed** without opposition. Shana Halvorsen and Wendy Maurer were present but did not vote.

9. Future Project Funding Priorities

Meridith Silcox reviewed the Project Development Committee's discussion of the Future Project Funding Priorities List as follows

1. Youth Leadership Forum
2. Choice Making Among Youth Age 3-11: A Foundation for Self-Determined Lives
3. Medical Self-Determination
4. TCDD Storytelling
5. Culturally Inclusive Family Supports

The Project Development Committee made no changes to the list and no vote was needed.

10. APPR Presentation – 2025 Annual Report

Executive Director Stalvey discussed the APPR and presented an overview of TCDD's 2025 performance highlights, including participation metrics, grant activity, engagement outcomes, and policy impact. Reported outcomes included over 10,000 project participants, 31 active grants, strong survey and communications engagement, and successful initiatives across employment, education, health, caregiver support, and violence prevention. Stalvey also summarized legislative advocacy outcomes influenced by Council supported efforts, noted shifts toward actionable inclusion and practical advocacy strategies, reviewed budget allocations and partner match contributions, and outlined ongoing system challenges and priorities to inform future planning and development of the next five-year state plan.

11. Executive Committee Report

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

TCDD Finance and Grants Director Rey Maldonado 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.

12. Project Development Committee Report

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

13. Public Policy Committee Report

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

14. Future Agenda Items

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

15. Announcements and Updates

Council members discussed the date of the next meeting on May 8, 2026.

Adjourn

Chair Crim adjourned the Executive Committee at 11:59 A.M.