

**Committee Members
Present**

Angie Panzica, *Committee
Chair*
Debbie Carlisle
Beatrice Degree
Shana Halvorsen
Sean Jackson, *DRTX*
Abby Maddux
Wendy Maurer
Robin Miller, *A&M CDD*
Eric Shahid

**Committee Members
Absent**

Kate Layman, *HHSC Title
XIX/Medicaid*

Guests Present

Yulissa Chávez
Cole Glosser
Laurie Maddux
Senaída San Miguel
John Mitchell Skinner
Austin Spratt

Staff Present

Mary Bagwell
Kai Brewer
Scott Daigle
Marisa Iannaccone
Linda Logan
Brianna TenBrink
Koren Vogel

Call to Order

The Public Policy Committee of the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities convened on Thursday, February 5, 2026, at the Hilton Austin Airport, 9515 Hotel Drive Austin, Texas 78719, as well as virtually using the Zoom platform. Committee Chair Angie Panzica called the meeting to order at 1:38 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 November 6, 2025, Minutes

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

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the November 6, 2025, Public Policy Committee Meeting as presented.

MADE BY: Debbie Carlisle

SECOND: Eric Shahid

The motion **passed** unanimously.

4. Chair's Remarks

Chair Panzica reported on the expected absence of Kate Layman.

Project Development Cont.

Committee Meeting Minutes

February 5, 2026

Panzica shared her quarterly activities and discussed the results of the special election in Congressional District 18. She provided information regarding a series of town hall meetings currently being conducted by the Rehabilitation Council of Texas in order to discuss the challenges facing Texans with disabilities who are seeking employment.

Panzica also mentioned the passing of TCDD Council Member Kyle Cox, and committee members shared memories of him.

5. Member Quarterly Activities

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

6. Presentation: Coalition of Texans with Disabilities

Chair Panzica recognized TCDD Public Policy Director Scott Daigle, who introduced Yulissa Chávez and Cole Glosser of the Coalition of Texans with Disabilities (CTD). They presented on the TCDD-funded A-Corps program, which is training a new generation of disability advocates. They also discussed some of CTD's other work, such as monthly Raise Your Voice! virtual meetings, calls to action on key policy issues, an annual film festival, a regular open mike night, and outreach to underserved communities.

7. Legislative Update

Daigle and the TCDD Public Policy Division provided updates on TCDD Legislative Champions, Interim Charges, and the turnover of lawmakers at the Capitol. They also gave a brief overview of some of the activities they'll be conducting over the next year, and asked for suggestions on any information, training, or support that Council members would like to see, particularly in the lead-up to the next legislative session.

8. TCDD Public Policy Priorities

Daigle led a discussion on updates to the TCDD Public Policy Priorities in anticipation of the next legislative session. The committee formed a workgroup, consisting of any Council members who would like to participate, to hold a series of meetings to discuss the matter further and bring a set of recommendations to the Public Policy Committee meeting in May.

9. State and Federal Policy Update

Daigle recognized TCDD Public Policy Analyst Marisa Iannaccone, who provided an update regarding the federal Office of Civil Rights, and its potential movement from

Project Development Cont.

Committee Meeting Minutes

February 5, 2026

the U.S. Department of Education to the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. She also discussed the Texas Education Freedom Accounts program, and some of the questions that advocates still have about its provisions.

10. Future Agenda Items

Chair Panzica asked the committee members for recommendations on agenda items for future meetings. Committee member Wendy Maurer suggested further discussion on the Office of Civil Rights.

11. Other Discussion Items

No additional items were discussed.

Adjourn

Committee Chair Panzica adjourned the Public Policy Committee at 5:04 PM.