

**Committee Members
Present**

Andrew Crim, *Council
Chair*
Edward Baffoe
Debbie Carlisle
Roni Jo Frazier
Shana Halvorsen
Sean Jackson, *DRTX*
Barbara Knighton
Abby Maddux
Dakota Marks
Wendy Maurer
Scott McAvoy
Robin Miller, *A&M CDD*
Angie Panzica
Tricia Perez, *TWC*
Ashley Sattler
Eric Shahid
Meridith Silcox
Nina Zuna, *TCDS*

**Committee Members
Absent**

Sara Damiano, *HHSC Older
Americans Act*
Elizabeth Danner, *TEA*
Beatrice Degree
Robert Schier III
Jamie Thomas

Guests Present

Jordan Kamere
Robert Lehardy
Laurie Maddux
Austin Spratt

**Disability Community
Coordinators Present**

Erin Fogarty
Morgan Foster
Rosa Guel
Olu Motoni
Alexandra Venegas

Staff Present

Beth Stalvey, *Executive
Director*
Mary Bagwell
Kai Brewer
Scott Daigle
Mitchel Griffin
Marissa Iannaccone
Linda Logan
Rey Maldonado
Evan Marczynski
Sylvia Medina
Richard Rendon
Cass Schnautz
Melanie Teague
Brianna TenBrink
Koren Vogel

Call to Order

The Committee of the Whole of the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities convened on Wednesday, May 7, 2026, at the DoubleTree by Hilton Houston – Greenway Plaza 6 E Greenway Plaza, Houston, TX 77046 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

No public comment was given.

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3. Presentation: UHCL – Building Capacity Among Health Care Professionals to Provide Health Care Services

The Committee viewed a recorded video interview featuring Dr. Jordan Kamere, who discussed the project's work in educating medical residents to provide higher-quality care to individuals with developmental disabilities. The project included training approaches that emphasize real-world exposure to patients, communication strategies, and interdisciplinary collaboration. Following the video, Kamere participated in a live question and answer session. Council members asked questions related to expanding training opportunities for practicing healthcare professionals, partnerships with existing programs such as LEND and Project DOCC, and strategies to improve provider confidence and competence in delivering inclusive care.

The Committee received a presentation from Dr. Robert Lehardy of the University of Houston–Clear Lake regarding a TCDD-funded project focused on building capacity among healthcare professionals to provide inclusive healthcare services. Lehardy discussed training for providers and partnerships established and well as health disparities for people with developmental disabilities.

4. 2027 – 2031 State Plan Implementation

The Committee discussed considerations for the 2027–2031 State Plan implementation. Members reviewed past health-related projects and engaged in a forward-looking discussion to identify gaps and priorities for future work. A significant focus of the discussion was the need to address challenges related to the transition from pediatric to adult services, particularly in healthcare systems where continuity of care can be limited. Members noted the lack of research and resources focused on adults with developmental disabilities, especially those with higher support needs. Additional gaps identified included the need for improved support for individuals with dual diagnoses, particularly in the intersection of intellectual and developmental disabilities and mental health, as well as the limited availability of trained providers in this area. Transportation was also highlighted as a critical barrier affecting access to healthcare services,

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particularly in areas with limited infrastructure. Members discussed the importance of exploring innovative care models, such as environments designed to support individuals with high behavioral or sensory needs, and the need for scalable, sustainable approaches that can be implemented statewide.

Adjourn

Chair Crim adjourned the Committee of the Whole at 11:59 AM.