

**Council Members
Present**

Andrew Crim, *Council
Chair*
Edward Baffoe
Debbie Carlisle
Elizabeth Danner, TEA
Roni Jo Frazier
Shana Halvorsen
Sean Jackson, DRTX
Barbara Knighton
Kate Layman, HHSC
Medicaid
Abby Maddux
Wendy Maurer
Dakota Marks
Scott McAvoy
Robin Miller, A&M CDD
Angie Panzica
Ashley Sattler
Robert Schier III
Jonas Schwartz, TWC
Eric Shahid
Meridith Silcox
Jamie Thomas
Nina Zuna, TCDS

**Council Members
Absent**

Sara Damiano, HHSC
Older Americans Act
Beatrice Degree

Guests Present

Clair Benitez
Elaine Hime
Rebecca Japko
Linda Litzinger
Laurie Maddux
Justin Moehn
Tricia Perez
Austin Spratt
Lora Taylor

**Disability Community
Coordinators Present**

Morgan Foster
Rosa Guel
Olu Motoni
Alexandra Venegas

Staff Present

Beth Stalvey, *Executive
Director*
Mary Bagwell
Kai Brewer
Scott Daigle
Mitchel Griffin
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, May 8, 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 8:31 A.M. A quorum was present.

1. Introductions

Committee members, staff and guests were introduced.

2. Public Comments

Public comment was provided by former Council member Lora Taylor regarding a project published by her student that uses statistical approaches to help medically at-risk populations manage power outages. Comments were also provided by Linda Litzinger regarding HCBS wages and Justin Mohen regarding Autism and housing,

3. Consent Items

Chair Crim reviewed consent items including the minutes from the February 5, 2026, Committee of the Whole meeting, the February 6, 2026, Council meeting, and the expected absences of Beatrice Degree and Sara Damiano, representative of the Older Americans Act program.

MOTION: To approve the minutes from the February 5, 2026, Committee of the Whole meeting, the February 6, 2026, Council meeting and the expected absences of Sara Damiano and Beatrice Degree.

MADE BY: Roni Jo Frazier

SECOND: Abby Maddux

The motion **passed** without opposition. Robert Schier III abstained from the vote. Edward Baffoe, Jamie Thomas and Kate Layman were present but did not vote.

4. Chair and Executive Directors Report.

Chair Crim shared updates from recent ITACC meetings, including insights on governance practices and innovations from other states. Crim also noted the ongoing coordination with the Governor's office regarding Council vacancies.

Executive Director Beth Stalvey reported on staff vacancies, stipend awards, and federal funding, noting final receipt of FY 2026 funding with a slight reduction from FY 2025. She also provided updates on the five-year state plan, the Sunset review process, and the Partners in Policymaking program. Additional highlights included community engagement with the federal Administration on Disabilities commissioner as well as ongoing TCDD grant alignment with AOD emerging priorities.

Morgan Foster, Program Manager of the Disability Community Coordinators at Texas A&M AgriLife reported on program accomplishments including expansion of the adaptive food handler program and statewide recognition for team achievements.

6. TCDD Public Policy Priorities

Public Policy Committee Chair Angie Panzica reported on the Public Policy Committee discussion of the TCDD Public Priorities and the Committee's recommendation for Council approval

MOTION: To adopt the Public Policy Committee draft of the TCDD Public Policy Priorities.

MADE BY: Angie Panzica for the Public Policy Committee. Motions from Committee do not need a second.

Council members extensively discussed the language regarding the priority on Individualized Skills and Socialization and recommendations were made to revise the language, specifically regarding the last sentence on providing additional funding for program services. Public Policy staff clarified that the details members wished to be included could be used as talking points during advocacy efforts on this topic.

MOTION: To revise the original motion from the Public Policy Committee to include the revised language.

MADE BY: Angie Panzica

SECOND: Ashley Sattler

The motion **passed** without opposition. Edward Baffoe, Elizabeth Danner, Jamie Thomas, Jonas Schwartz, Kate Layman, Robert Schier III and Nina Zuna were present but did not vote.

7. 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.

8. Project DOCC Presentation

Elaine Hime presented on Project DOCC which began in Texas in 2002 when TCDD awarded grant funding to expand a national initiative. The program aims to improve physician understanding of the daily realities faced by families and promote family-centered care by pairing pediatric residents with families of children with chronic illness/disabilities. The presentation outlined program structure, funding sustainability, and measurable outcomes, including increased physician knowledge and willingness to work with individuals with complex needs. Council members expressed appreciation for the program's long-standing impact and continued expansion efforts.

9. Executive Committee Report

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

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.

10. Project Development Committee Report

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

11. Public Policy Committee Report

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

12. Future Agenda Items

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

14. Announcements and Updates

Agency reports were provided by Sean Jackson from Disability Rights Texas, Nina Zuna from the Texas Center for Disability Studies at the University of Texas Austin, Robin Miller from the Center on Disability and Development at Texas A&M University, Kate Layman from the Health and Human Services Title XIX/Medicaid, Jonas Schwartz from the Texas Workforce Commission and Elizabeth Danner from the Texas Education Agency.

Council members discussed the date of the next meeting on August 7, 2026.

Adjourn

Chair Crim adjourned the Executive Committee at 12:00 P.M.