

Committee Members**Present**

Meridith Silcox, *Committee Chair*
Edward Baffoe
Andrew Crim
Roni Jo Frazier
Scott McAvoy
Ashley Sattler
Robert Schier III
Jonas Schwartz, TWC
Jamie Thomas
Nina Zuna, TCDS

Committee Members**Absent**

Sara Damiano, HHSC Older Americans Act
Elizabeth Danner, TEA

Guests Present

Amanda Amore
Tricia Perez
Kimberly Smith

Disability Community**Coordinators Present**

Erin Fogarty
Morgan Foster
Rosa Guel
Olu Motoni
Alexandra Venegas

Staff Present

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

Call to Order

The Project Development Committee 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. Committee Chair Meridith Silcox called the meeting to order at 1:30 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 5, 2026, Minutes

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

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the February 5, 2026, Project Development Committee Meeting as presented.

MADE BY: Roni Jo Frazier

Project Development Cont.

Committee Meeting Minutes

May 7, 2026

SECOND: Ashley Sattler

The motion **passed** without opposition. Roni Jo Frazier abstained from the vote. Jamie Thomas was present but did not vote.

4. Future Activities for State Plan Implementation

The Committee discussed Council activities addressing the significantly higher rates of sexual violence against people with disabilities than the general population. Members were reminded of previously approved projects that would address this issue from different viewpoints. Projects were implemented that addressed individuals, their families, and caregivers but projects from a healthcare and law enforcement perspective were not implemented due to the Covid pandemic and changing priorities.

The Committee received a presentation from Amanda Amore and Kimberly Smith from the Texas Forensic Nurse Examiners (Forensic Center of Excellence). Amore and Smith provided an overview of forensic nursing services, including their mobile model, statewide expansion, and role in providing trauma-informed care to victims of violence. They described the medical forensic exam process, including consent, history gathering, physical examination, evidence collection, and follow-up care. The discussion emphasized the importance of accessibility to exams, patient-centered care, and collaboration with community partners as well as the challenges in addressing victims with IDD.

Committee member discussion also included insights gathered from law enforcement conversations. It was noted that law enforcement training exists but may be limited in impact. Gaps were identified in the downstream handling of cases, particularly within prosecutorial decision-making. The Committee discussed how stronger training and support within the justice system could improve outcomes for individuals with disabilities who are victims of assault.

Following the presentations, members reflected on previous and current project work related to sexual assault prevention and response. Members discussed how the landscape has changed since they were originally proposed. There was consensus on continuing work in this area, with a focus on identifying current gaps and determining next steps. The Committee agreed to reconvene a stakeholder group, including system partners, to inform future project development.

The Committee discussed the concept of sustainability in project planning. A need to move beyond short-term outputs toward long-term impacts and systemic change was emphasized. Members discussed the concept of backward planning, starting

Project Development Cont.

Committee Meeting Minutes

May 7, 2026

with desired long-term outcomes and designing projects to achieve sustainable results, and noted that sustainability should be embedded at the start of project design rather than addressed at project closeout

5. Chair's Remarks

Chair Silcox reported on the expected absence of Sara Damiano from HHSC Older Americans Act and Elizabeth Danner from TEA.

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

6. Member Quarterly Activities

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

7. Staff Reports

TCDD Finance and Grants Director Rey Maldonado provided updates on Council projects focusing on projects that had ended recently or were in their final year.

8. Future Project Funding Priorities

The Committee evaluated the Future Project Funding Priorities list. Members reviewed the following list:

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

No changes were made to the Future Project Funding Priorities List.

9. Future Agenda Items

Members were advised to contact Council staff or Chair Silcox if they have suggestions.

10. Other Discussion Items

The next Committee meeting will be held August 6, 2026.

Project Development Cont.

Committee Meeting Minutes

May 7, 2026

Adjourn

Committee Chair Silcox adjourned the Project Development Committee at 4:05 PM.