

**Committee Members
Present**

Angie Panzica, *Committee
Chair*
Debbie Carlisle
Sean Jackson, *DRTX*
Barbara Knighton
Abby Maddux
Wendy Maurer
Robin Miller, *A&M CDD*
Eric Shahid

**Committee Members
Absent**

Beatrice Degree
Shana Halvorsen
Kate Layman, *HHSC Title
XIX/Medicaid*

Guests Present

Sabrina Gonzalez
Saucedo
Laurie Maddux
Dakota Marks
Dara Schmitt

Austin Spratt
Alex Stuckey
Maia Volk

Staff Present

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

Call to Order

The Public Policy Committee of the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities convened on Thursday, May 7, 2026, at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Houston-Greenway Plaza, 6 Greenway Plaza East, Houston, TX 77046, as well as virtually using the Zoom platform. Committee Chair Angie Panzica called the meeting to order at 1:35 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, Public Policy Committee Meeting as presented.

MADE BY: Abby Maddux

SECOND: Debbie Carlisle

The motion **passed** unanimously.

Project Development Cont.

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4. Chair's Remarks

Chair Panzica reported on the expected absences of Beatrice Degree, Shana Halvorsen, and Kate Layman.

Panzica shared her quarterly activities, including a requested presentation to the Baylor College of Medicine Transition Clinic to discuss the makeup and work of TCDD. She also discussed the results of the special election in Congressional District 18.

5. Member Quarterly Activities

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

6. Presentation: The Arc of Texas Whole Person Project

Chair Panzica recognized Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative reporter Alex Stuckey and Sabrina Gonzalez Saucedo, Director of Public Policy & Advocacy for The Arc of Texas. They provided a presentation on the TCDD-funded Whole Person Project, which researched and sought to expand access to quality mental health services for adult Texans with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

7. TCDD Public Policy Priorities

Panzica recognized TCDD Public Policy Director Scott Daigle, who provided an overview of the TCDD Public Policy Priorities Workgroup and its recommendations for the 2027-2028 TCDD Public Policy Priorities. The committee discussed the proposed language and made updates to be recommended to the full Council.

MOTION: To recommend Council approval of the 2027-2028 TCDD Public Policy Priorities.

MADE BY: Wendy Maurer

SECOND: Abby Maddux

The motion **passed** unanimously.

8. Legislative Update

Daigle provided a very brief update on legislative interim charges and primary runoff elections.

9. State and Federal Policy Update

No update was provided.

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10. Future Agenda Items

Chair Panzica asked the committee members to think about any training that they'd like to receive to prepare for the legislative session that convenes in January 2027.

11. Other Discussion Items

No additional items were discussed.

Adjourn

Committee Chair Panzica adjourned the Public Policy Committee at 5:08 PM.