

# **Attachment 1**



## Access to Health Care Position Statement

The Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities supports the position that all people, regardless of their disability, age, or ability to pay, should have access to affordable, comprehensive health care. TCDD supports healthcare initiatives and efforts to increase the access and affordability of health insurance for everyone.

The Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities supports the position that in any consideration of changes to the health care financing and delivery system in the United States, the well-being of the patient must be the highest priority. The Council strongly supports the reform measures and principles set forth in this statement as providing individuals consistent access to patient centered, timely, unencumbered, affordable and appropriate health care and universal coverage while maintaining physicians as an integral component to providing the highest quality treatment.

The Council supports the position that as policymakers considers health care reforms they should:

- Ensure patients are empowered to control and decide how their own health care dollars are spent;
- Eliminate pre-existing condition exclusions;
- Ensure unencumbered access to specialty care;
- Make health care coverage more affordable;
- Improve value and increase quality on our healthcare system;
- Extend both coverage and access for the uninsured and under-insured;
- Avoid establishing new unsustainable programs;
- Provide comprehensive, culturally and linguistically appropriate behavioral health services and supports;
- Provide services in the context of a medical home, where the clinician works in partnership with the individual and/or family to ensure that all of the medical and nonmedical needs of the person are met;
- Ensure that children and adults with behavioral or mental health concerns have access to screening, diagnosis and treatment that is not subject to arbitrary limits on coverage and integrated into the broader health care system;

- Ensure that people with disabilities of all ages and their families have access to health care that responds to their needs over their lifetimes, and provides continuity of care that helps treat and prevent chronic conditions;
- Ensure that people with disabilities and their families receive comprehensive health, rehabilitation, and long term support services provided on the basis of individual need, preference, and choice;

*(Continued)*

- Ensure that people with disabilities and their families have equitable access to health coverage programs and not be burdened with disproportionate costs;

The Council is concerned about proposals that call for deep reductions in Medicare and Medicaid payments. Reforms are necessary to strengthen the Medicaid program so that it provides accessible, high-quality health care services to people with disabilities enrolled in the program examples include, but are not limited to, evidence-based practices and payment structures that attract providers.

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