

**Background:**

Minutes of the October 24, 2012, Public Policy Committee meeting are included for your review.

**Public Policy Committee**

**Agenda Item 3.**

**Expected Action:**

The Committee will review, revise as appropriate, and approve.

**PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING  
DRAFT MINUTES  
OCTOBER 25, 2012**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**

Joe Rivas, Chair	Frank Genco, HHSC	Amy Sharp, CDD TX A&M
Kristen Cox, Vice Chair	Mary Faithfull, DRT	Lora Taylor
Hunter Adkins	Cindy Johnston	Rick Tisch
Kelly Chirhart, CDS - UT	Jeff Kaufmann, DADS	
Mateo Delgado	Sara Kendall, DARS	

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT**

Stephen Gersuk

**STAFF PRESENT**

Roger A. Webb, Executive Director	Belinda Carlton	Melissa Rosser
Annette Berksan	Melissa Loe	Lucy Walker
	Jessica Ramos	

**GUESTS PRESENT**

Cassie Fisher, DARS	Sarah McCrorey
---------------------	----------------

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Public Policy Committee convened on Thursday, October 25, 2012, in the Dezavala Room of the DoubleTree Hotel, 6505 IH-35 North, Austin, Texas 78752. Committee Chair Joe Rivas called those present to order at 1:33 PM.

**1. INTRODUCTIONS**

Committee members, staff, and guests were introduced.

**2. CONSIDERATION OF July 26, 2012, MINUTES**

The Committee reviewed the minutes from the July 26, 2012, Public Policy Committee meeting.

**MOTION:** To approve the minutes of the July 26, 2012, Public Policy Committee meeting as amended.

**MADE BY:** Rick Tisch

**SECOND:** Lora Taylor

The motion **passed**, with abstentions by Kelly Chirhart, Kristen Cox, Stephen Gersuk, Sara Kendall, Jeff Kaufmann, and Rick Tisch.

**3. MEMBER UPDATES**

Committee members discussed the presentation on Tailoring the Message that Jason Sabo gave during the Committee of the Whole. Sabo suggested that committee members consider cost-neutral policy proposals prior to the legislative session. Sara Kendall said that several states have Employment First policies that were established by state law or by Governor's Executive Orders. A member mentioned a concern that her son's school did not request the same accommodations for him to take the SAT or ACT examinations as have been provided for all other exams he takes. Those

accommodations are important for him to achieve the highest score possible and possibly attain National Merit Scholar recognition. Members discussed possible policy recommendations such as requiring accommodations on state-administered exams to be applied to all standardized tests, including college admission tests. Public Policy Director Jessica Ramos also informed committee members that staff could develop a proposal to prohibit organ transplant donations being denied on the basis of intellectual disability following discussion during the Committee of the Whole. There have been stories in the news about young people being denied a life-saving organ transplant due to intellectual disability. The New Jersey Legislature recently enacted a law that will prohibit this practice within the state. After further discussion, the Committee asked staff to develop proposals for further review with the Committee in February to establish a state Employment First position, and concerning non-discrimination in recipients of organ transplants.

**5. SELECTION OF A NOMINATION COMMITTEE MEMBER**

Ms. Ramos reviewed the Council procedure for the Public Policy Committee and the Project Development Committee to each select a member to the Council's Nominating Committee. The Council selects the third member during the Council meeting.

**MOTION:** To select Rick Tisch as the Public Policy Committee's representative to the Nominating Committee.

**MADE BY:** Lora Taylor

**SECOND:** Hunter Adkins

The motion **passed** unanimously.

**6. PUBLIC POLICY ISSUES**

Agency representatives gave an overview of state agency Legislative Appropriations Requests (LARs) for the 2014-15 fiscal years. Frank Genco reviewed the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) LAR. The Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) Chief Financial Officer David Cook reported on the DADS budget request. Sara Kendall spoke to committee members about the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) LAR.

**6. PUBLIC INFORMATION REPORT**

Communications Coordinator Melissa Loe reported to the Committee about public information and outreach activities. Since the July meeting, TCDD released the Higher Education Resource Guide for Students with Disabilities. Ms. Loe also said that staff are continuing to work on the new website that will ensure accessibility and address security and is on track to launch by the end of the year. TCDD will also be creating a presence on Pinterest, a social media outlet that will complement our efforts on social media as well as the new website.

**7. FUTURE PROJECTS: PUBLIC EDUCATION & OUTREACH CAMPAIGN – ACCESSIBLE PARKING**

Loe led a discussion about the new TCDD State Plan objective regarding Public Awareness Activities. Goal Three of the State Plan calls for the Council to conduct two ongoing educational activities in collaboration with other organizations and businesses to provide culturally responsive services for people with disabilities. At the May 2012 meeting, the Council approved the topic of accessible parking for the first of these two public education and outreach campaigns. After reviewing an Executive Summary of activities (Attachment 1), Committee members agreed to recommend Council

approval of funding for up to two projects that would develop proposed public awareness activities. Those projects could receive up to \$40,000 for a period not longer than 6 months to develop those proposed activities. Committee members determined to defer further discussion on Phase 2 activities at this time. The Council can consider whether to move forward with any or all of the activities proposed when recommended activities developed during Phase 1 are submitted. After further discussion, the Committee also determined to not provide information at this point regarding the amount of funds that might be available for Phase 2 activities, or the number of years of funding for initiating those activities.

**MOTION:** To recommend Council approval of the first phase of the Public Education & Outreach Campaign on accessible parking for up to \$40,000 for six months for up to two projects.

**MADE BY:** Rick Tisch

**SECOND:** Mateo Delgado

The motion **passed**, with abstentions by Jeff Kaufmann and Sara Kendall.

#### **8. REVIEW OF POSITION STATEMENTS**

Ms. Ramos and Executive Director Webb led a discussion regarding possible revisions to the following Council's position statements on Aging, Community Living and Criminal Competency. The Committee reviewed proposed changes from Council members and staff and proposed additional changes to be considered by the Council.

**MOTION:** To approve proposed changes to the position statements on Aging with Developmental Disabilities and Community Living and present the revised position statements to the Council for consideration.

**MADE BY:** Rick Tisch

**SECOND:** Lora Taylor

The motion **passed** unanimously. (Attachments 2 and 3)

After further discussion the committee asked staff to work with attorneys and other knowledgeable individuals to update the Criminal Competency position statement.

#### **9. TCDD PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES**

Ms. Ramos presented the TCDD 2013 Public Policy Priorities for consideration by the Committee.

**MOTION:** To recommend proposed TCDD 2013 Public Policy Priorities for Council approval, as presented.

**MADE BY:** Mateo Delgado

**SECOND:** Hunter Adkins

Draft Minutes, October 25, 2012, Public Policy Committee Meeting

The motion **passed** unanimously. (Attachment 4)

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business, Committee Chair Rivas adjourned the meeting at 5:13 PM.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Roger A. Webb  
Secretary to the Council

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date