

Background:

The Public Policy Committee is responsible for recommending Public Policy Priorities to the Council before the beginning of each legislative session. TCDD’s Public Policy Priorities provide guidance to staff regarding legislative advocacy activities. Proposed 2015 Public Policy Priorities are attached.

Public Policy Committee

Agenda Item 8.

Expected Action:

The Committee will consider recommendations to the Council for TCDD 2015 Public Policy Priorities.

Council

Agenda Item 12.

Expected Action:

The Council will consider for approval the 2015 Public Policy Priorities as recommended by the Public Policy Committee.



Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities

The mission of the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities is to create change so that all people with disabilities are fully included in their communities and exercise control over their own lives.

2015 Public Policy Priorities

- Long Term Services and Supports:** Improve the system of long-term services and supports to ensure the availability, timeliness and quality of community-based services and supports for individuals with developmental disabilities throughout the lifespan with an emphasis on providing services in integrated, community settings thereby reducing reliance on the need for institutional services.

- Education:** Protect the right of students with disabilities to an appropriate, inclusive, publicly-funded education that provides preparation for life's transitions, supports opportunities for full participation and eliminates the use of inappropriate disciplinary alternatives throughout the educational spectrum - from early education programs to post-secondary schooling.

- Employment:** Improve the system of employment services and income supports for individuals with developmental disabilities, including programs that help individuals develop assets and resources and help students with disabilities transition from school to work, by maximizing federal opportunities.

- Guardianship Reform and Supported Decision Making:** Protect and promote the civil rights and well-being of people with developmental disabilities by improving access to alternatives to guardianship and advancing protections and rights for those for whom guardianship is found to be the least restrictive alternative.