

**Background:**

Title IV, Chapter 531, Section 531.0235 of the Texas Government Code requires TCDD, jointly with the Office of Prevention, to prepare a biennial report on the state of services to persons with disabilities in this state. This report is due to the commissioner of health and human services, governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the House of Representatives no later than December 1<sup>st</sup> of even-numbered years, prior to the beginning of each regular session of the Texas Legislature.

**Public Policy Committee****Agenda Item 9.****Expected Action:**

The Public Policy Committee will consider the 2015 Biennial Disability Report recommendations and may provide input and guidance to staff or recommendations for Council consideration.

**Council****Agenda Item 13.****Expected Action:**

The Council will receive reports from the Public Policy Committee and consider any recommendations offered from the Committee.

# Biennial Disability Report Recommendations

1. Rebalance the system that serves persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities by expanding cost-effective policies that honor the choices of individuals to live in the most integrated setting to meet their needs, identifying and providing supports and services to meet the needs of persons when and where they need them, and transferring the inevitable savings so that more persons with disabilities have the opportunity to be included in their communities.
2. Develop and implement strategies that address the needs of families in crisis to prevent the unnecessary placement of children in any institutional setting.
3. Address the current and looming direct support workforce shortage by collecting and analyzing trends regarding workforce demographics and wages, developing and promoting a peer support workforce, expanding consumer direction, and restructuring payment methodologies to ensure that the Texas Legislature has the ability set direct service wages at levels commensurate with the value and scope of the service.