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Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs

Board Meeting

July 31, 2014

Public Comment on Agenda Item 1(e) Single Family Umbrella Rule

The Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities (TCDD) is established by federal law in the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act and is governed by a 27 member board, appointed by the Governor, 60% of which are individuals with developmental disabilities or family members of individuals with disabilities. The Council's purpose in law is to encourage policy change so people with disabilities have opportunities to be fully included in their communities and exercise control over their own lives.

Thank you for the opportunity to state our support of the proposed amendment to 10 TAC Chapter 20, Single Family Umbrella Rule that will remove the prohibition of manufactured housing units from eligibility for the Amy Young Barrier Removal Program. The Amy Young program had included manufactured housing from its inception. We believe it was removed last year because of a concern that modifications such as widening a front door would remove a manufactured home from federal standards. The proposed rule amendment Section §20.4(c) will insert the words "federal funds" clarifying that rehabilitation of a manufactured housing unit is an eligible single family activity with non-federal funds. The [Amy Young Architectural Barrier Removal program](#) is a single family program carried out with state funds only.

I would especially like to thank Brooke Boston, Associate Commissioner, for working with us to return manufactured housing to eligibility for Amy Young Barrier Removal program. Brooke listened to recommendations from TCDD and other housing advocates and followed up with identified experts. This change demonstrates a commitment to advancing opportunities for Texans with disabilities to live in integrated, affordable, and accessible housing while remaining true to the mission of TDHCA.

Again, thank you for returning the Amy Young Barrier Removal Program as an option for persons with disabilities in manufactured housing.

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