

**Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities
Quarterly Meeting
Holiday Inn Austin Midtown
6000 Middle Fiskville Road
Austin, Texas 78752**

Meeting Schedule

Wednesday, February 4, 2015

3:30 PM – 6:30 PM
Executive Committee Meeting
Room: Cedar/Cherry

Thursday, February 5, 2015

9:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Committee of the Whole
Room: Hill Country B
Lunch provided for Council Members and staff

2:00 PM – 5:00 PM
Legislative Visits
Texas State Capitol

Friday, February 6, 2015

8:30 AM – 9:15 AM
Audit Committee Meeting
Room: Hill Country B

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM
Project Development Committee Meeting
Room: Cedar/Cherry

Public Policy Committee Meeting
Room: Maple/Mesquite

10:15 AM – 12:30 PM
Council Meeting
Room: Hill Country B

12:00 Noon – 1:00 PM
Executive Committee Meeting
(continuation)
Room: Cedar/Cherry



Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities

Executive Committee Meeting - Agenda

Holiday Inn Austin Midtown

Room: Cedar/Cherry

Wednesday, February 4, 2015 3:30 PM – 6:30 PM

Friday, February 6, 2015 12:00 Noon – 1:00 PM



Action Item

Wednesday, February 4, 2015 Call to Order

1. **Introductions of Committee Members, Staff and Visitors**
2. **Public Comments**
3. **Consideration of November 5, 2014, Minutes** Tab 1 
4. **Chair's Report**
 - A. Absences
 - B. Other Updates
5. **Executive Director's Report** Tab 2
 - A. Stipends Approved
 - B. TCDD Sunset Review Update
 - C. Other Updates
6. **Grants Activities Reports** Tab 3
 - A. Grants and Projects Update
 - B. Independent Audit Status Report
 - C. Grants Monitoring Exceptions Report
7. **Consideration of Outreach and Development Project Proposals** Tab 4
 - A. Down Syndrome Association of Houston 
 - B. Special Kids, Inc. 
8. **Continuation Grant Awards** Tab 5
 - A. Texas Tech University – *Building Community Capacity through Collaboration – Phase 2* 
 - B. Any Baby Can – *Health and Fitness* 
 - C. Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services – *Higher Education* 
 - D. Texas State Independent Living Center – *Health and Fitness* 
 - E. VSA Arts of Texas – *Self-Advocates as Speakers* 
 - F. Texas Parent to Parent – *Public Policy Collaboration* 
 - G. Texas Tech University – *Higher Education* 
9. **TCDD Quarterly Financial Report** Tab 6
10. **Conflict of Interest Disclosures**
11. **Other Updates**
12. **Succession Planning Procedures Update** 
13. **Executive Session – Discussion of Personnel Matters**

Recess

Friday, February 6, 2015 Reconvene

1. **Continuation of Unfinished Business** 
2. **Other Discussion Items**

Adjourn



Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities

Committee of the Whole Meeting - Agenda

Holiday Inn Austin Midtown

Room: Hill Country B

Thursday, February 5, 2015 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM



Action Item

Call to Order

1. Introductions
2. Public Comments
3. Chair & Executive Director Remarks
 - A. Member & Staff Reports
 - B. Other Updates
4. Grant Project Highlights
5. Grantee Presentation: Strategic Education Solutions, LLC
6. 84th Texas Legislature
7. Public Policy Advocacy Strategies
Lunch Buffet
8. Public Policy Advocacy Strategies (*continued*)

Tab 8

Adjourn



Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities

Project Development Committee Meeting - Agenda

Holiday Inn Austin Midtown

Room: Cedar/Cherry

Friday, February 6, 2015 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM



Action Item

Call to Order

1. **Introductions**
2. **Public Comments**
3. **Consideration of November 6, 2014, Minutes** Tab 7 
4. **Chair's Remarks**
5. **Member Updates**
6. **Staff Reports** Tab 8
 - A. Public Information Report Tab 14
 - B. Status of New/Approved Projects
 - C. Projected Available Funds
 - D. Other Updates
7. **Future Activities for State Plan Implementation** Tab 9
 - A. Support Network for Faith-Based Inclusion 
 - B. Stakeholder Training on Guardianship Alternatives 
8. **Future Project Funding Priorities** Tab 10 
9. **Other Discussion Items**

Adjourn



Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities

Public Policy Committee Meeting - Agenda

Holiday Inn Austin Midtown

Room: Maple/Mesquite

Friday, February 6, 2015 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM



Action Item

Call to Order

1. Introductions of Committee Members, Staff and Visitors
 2. Public Comments
 3. Consideration of November 6, 2014 Minutes Tab 11 
 4. Chair's Remarks
 5. Member Updates
 6. Public Policy Issues Tab 12
 - A. State Policy Issues
 - B. State Supported Living Center Activities
 - C. Federal Policy Issues
 7. TCDD Education Position Statement Revisions Tab 13 
 8. Public Information Report Tab 14
 9. Alternative Treatment Options Tab 15 
 10. Other Discussion Items
- Adjourn



Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities

Council Meeting - Agenda

Holiday Inn Austin Midtown

Room: Hill Country B

Friday, February 6, 2015 10:15 AM – 12:30 PM



Action Item

Call to Order

1. **Introductions of Members, Staff and Visitors**
2. **Public Comments**
3. **Consent Items**
 - A. Consideration of Minutes Tab 18 
 - B. Excused Absences of Council Members 
4. **Chair's Report**
5. **Executive Director's Report**
 - A. TCDD Sunset Review Update Tab 2
 - B. Other Updates
6. **Election of Council Vice-Chair** Tab 19 
7. **Election of Self-Advocate (Consumer) Delegate-at-Large to Executive Committee** Tab 19 
8. **TCDD Internal Audit Plan for FY 2015** Tab 17 
9. **TCDD Education Position Statement Revisions** Tab 13 
10. **Future Activities for State Plan Implementation**
 - A. Support Network for Faith-Based Inclusion Tab 9 
 - B. Stakeholder Training on Guardianship Alternatives Tab 9 
 - C. Future Project Funding Priorities Tab 10 
11. **Public Policy Recommendations** Tab 15 
12. **Grantee Presentation: Educational Programs Inspiring Communities**
13. **Executive Committee Report**
 - A. Grants Activities Report Tab 3
 - B. Grant Awards Tab 4 & 5
 - C. TCDD Quarterly Financial Report Tab 6
 - D. Conflict of Interest Disclosures
 - E. Other Discussion Items
14. **Audit Committee Report**
15. **Project Development Committee Report**
 - A. Grants and Projects Report Tab 8
 - B. Future Funding Activities for State Plan Implementation Tab 9
 - C. Other Discussion Items
16. **Public Policy Committee Report**
 - A. Public Information Report Tab 14
 - B. Public Policy Issues Tab 12
 - C. Other Discussion Items
17. **Announcements and Updates** Tab 20

Adjourn



Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities

Audit Committee Meeting - Agenda

Holiday Inn Austin Midtown

Room: Hill Country B

Friday , February 6, 2015 8:30 AM – 9:15 AM



Action Item

Call to Order

1. Introductions
2. Consideration of November 5, 2014, Minutes
3. TCDD Risk Assessment
4. TCDD FY 2015 Internal Audit Plan
5. Other Discussion Items

Tab 16



Tab 17

Tab 17



Adjourn

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes	Tab 1
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Background:

Minutes of the November 5, 2014, Executive Committee meeting are included for your review.

<u>Executive Committee</u>	<u>Expected Action:</u>
<u>Agenda Item 3.</u>	The Committee will review, revise as appropriate, and approve.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
DRAFT MINUTES
NOVEMBER 5, 2014**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Mary Durham, Council Chair	Kristen Cox	Andy Crim
Gladys Cortez		

COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT

Diana Kern

STAFF PRESENT

Roger Webb, Executive Director	Sonya Hosey	Fernando Rodriguez
Martha Cantu	Wendy Jones	Joshua Ryf
Joanna Cordry	Jessica Ramos	Koren Vogel
Cynthia Ellison		

GUESTS PRESENT

Pam Anderson	Kathy Holdway	Doug Morris
Luis Chew	DeAnn Lechtenberger	Timothy Pylate
Wes Dotson	Harold Liller, OAG	Brad Thompson

CALL TO ORDER

The Executive Committee of the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities convened on Wednesday, November 5, 2014, in Limestone 2 Room at the Marriott Austin South, 4415 South IH-35, Austin, TX 78745. Council Chair Mary Durham called the meeting to order at 2:51 PM.

1. INTRODUCTIONS

Committee members, staff and guests were introduced.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Durham indicated that the agenda for the meeting would be rearranged to take up the appeals of funding decisions and continuation grant award discussions earlier. Durham asked for public comments to be offered as the Committee discusses those items.

3. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

Committee members reviewed August meeting minutes and noted a spelling error on page 3.

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the August 6, 2014, Executive Committee meeting as revised.

MADE BY: Kristen Cox

SECOND: Andy Crim

The motion **passed** unanimously.

4. CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Durham reviewed appointments to the Council recently made by Governor Perry. John Thomas of Abilene was appointed to replace Joe Rivas, Ruth Mason of Houston replaces Susan Vardell, Michael Peace of Poteet replaces John Morris, and Brandon Pharris of Beaumont replaces Cindy Johnston. Orientation for new members is planned Thursday, November 6, 2014, before the Committee of the Whole. Andy Crim, Mateo Delgado, Stephen Gersuk and Lora Taylor were all reappointed for second terms. Durham noted that John Morris and former agency representatives Jeff Kaufmann and Kathy Griffis-Bailey will be recognized for their service to the Council during the Committee of the Whole meeting.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Committee received public comments from Luis Chew, Executive Director of Volar Center for Independent Living in El Paso. Mr. Chew expressed his appreciation for the Council's approval of funding 5 of 6 activities in Volar's proposed Phase 2 implementation plan for a Building Community Capacity through Collaboration project but requested reconsideration of funding for the 6th activity. Chew explained that the day habilitation program at the Arc del Paso is not a typical day habilitation program. Chew indicated that Volar's philosophy does not support institutional settings and noted that there is not funding for these activities in the El Paso area and they are needed.

Kathy Holdway, Pam Anderson and Timothy Pylate offered public comments on the A Circle of Ten Building Community Capacity through Collaboration project. Holdway described the network of agencies that have conducted community-wide meetings to determine recommended activities for Phase 2 implementation of the project. She reviewed a summary of the project's strategic plan and noted that TCDD staff recommend funding some but not all of the proposed activities. Ms. Anderson also discussed the development of the proposed activities and requested full funding of all activities. She described the need for health care and transportation activities and suggested that these activities meet the requirements of TCDD state plan goals and objectives. Mr. Pylate, Arc of the Gulf Coast, noted his appreciation for the financial support of the project and spoke to the needs for respite and behavioral supports in his community. Pylate also indicated that TCDD financial support of the proposed health care activities is greatly needed.

DeAnn Lechtenberger, Wes Dotson, Doug Morris and Brad Thompson provided comments on the Texas Tech University request for year two funding of the West Texas Community Network's (WTCN) Building Community Capacity through Collaboration project. WTCN is a partnership between Texas Tech Burkhart Center, High Point Village and the HALI Project. Dr. Lechtenberger provided comments in response to the TCDD Executive Summary that does not recommend funding year two of Phase 2 implementation activities. She felt there was a miscommunication between project staff and TCDD grants staff and that the goals of the project are being met. Lechtenberger requested full funding of the project. Dr. Dotson spoke about the purpose and goals of the Burkhart Center and indicated that the Building Community Capacity through Collaboration project provides a foundation for services provided at the Center. He added that the activities established by the project will be sustainable after project completion and will greatly improve the quality of life for people with autism. Mr. Morris expressed his appreciation for the project and also spoke to the sustainability of community supports. He described the collaborative efforts of health care professionals in the community and noted the great impact

of comprehensive care for individuals. Mr. Thompson commented about previous TCDD funding for leadership development and advocacy skills training that established the HALI Project and is still impacting the community. The HALI project is now collaborating with the Burkhart Center to improve the lives of people with disabilities. Thompson noted that there are still barriers to community living for many individuals and asked for continued support of this project to help eliminate those barriers.

6. APPEAL OF FINDING DECISIONS

Chair Durham noted that two organizations appealed decisions made at the August 2014 meeting to not approve funding for proposed projects. Appeals were received from Travis County for the decision to not approve funding for the proposed Accessible Parking Awareness Campaign, and from Volar Center for Independent Living for the decision to not approve funding for one proposed activity of the Phase 2 implementation of the Building Community Capacity through Collaboration project. Executive Director Roger Webb reviewed the TCDD procedure for appeals of funding decisions which looks at whether TCDD procedures were followed in a fair manner. An appeal is not intended as an opportunity to provide new information that could have been provided in the initial proposal since considering that information during an appeal in essence creates a 2-step review of the proposal. To do so would require all applicants to have that same opportunity.

Webb and Grants Management Director Sonya Hosey discussed the Travis County appeal. Travis County did not suggest procedural concerns about the review process but provided additional information about various activities in their proposal. Travis County also suggested that some TCDD expectations were vague, but did not offer specifics, and expressed a concern about insufficient time to present to the review panel. Staff noted that applicants were advised in advance of the time available for their presentations. TCDD staff comments in response to these concerns were reviewed by the Committee.

MOTION: To affirm the Executive Committee decision to not approve funding for Travis County’s proposal for an Accessible Parking Awareness Campaign.

MADE BY: Andy Crim

SECOND: Kristen Cox

The motion **passed** unanimously.

Webb and Hosey next discussed the appeal from Volar Center for Independent Living. TCDD staff noted that data gathered while developing the Council’s current state plan suggests that day habilitation services do not necessarily reduce institutional placement because the individuals receiving those services aren’t specifically at risk of being referred for institutional placement. No concerns regarding the proposal review process were expressed in the appeal. Volar Director Luis Chew expressed the interest of VOLAR to assist individuals from state supported living centers to learn skills for living in the community.

MOTION: To affirm the Executive Committee decision to approve up to \$125,000 per year in funding for Phase 2 implementation of the Building Community Capacity through Collaboration to Volar Center for Independent Living for proposed activities, not including funding for day habilitation program activities.

MADE BY: Andy Crim

SECOND: Gladys Cortez

The motion **passed** unanimously. Committee Members expressed that the decision was based on the information provided in the initial proposal and is not a reflection on Volar's work.

7. CONTINUATION GRANT AWARDS

Grants Management Specialist Cynthia Ellison reviewed the executive summary for continuation funding for the Texas A&M University Bridge to Career in Human Services project. The project provides supports for students with severe disabilities to prepare for employment in the health and human services field such as a direct service professional. At the completion of the third year, 38 students have graduated and 25 more are enrolled for the next year. The project should exceed the projected number of students to be trained. TCDD staff have no concerns with the project.

MOTION: To approve up to \$225,000 to Texas A&M for the 4th year of a 5-year higher education project.

MADE BY: Kristen Cox

SECOND: Gladys Cortez

The motion **passed** unanimously. (Attachment 1)

Grants Management Director Hosey reviewed the purpose of the Building Community Capacity through Collaboration (BC3) projects that are intended to build the capacity of communities to provide services that will decrease the need for individuals with disabilities to be served in an institution, including state supported living centers (SSLCs). Hosey noted that a review guide used by staff to evaluate proposed strategic plans was shared with BC3 grantees so they would be aware of the review process. Hosey indicated that most BC3 implementation plans have been somewhat weak in the analysis of community resources for individuals with complex medical needs. Data indicates that most current SSLC residents have complex medical and/or mental health needs. Community supports that address those needs are considered to be a necessary part of the strategic plan for each BC3 project. Proposals were evaluated to determine if the intense, long-term needs of these individuals are being addressed.

Hosey reviewed the proposal from A Circle of Ten for Phase 2 BC3 implementation activities. This is the second submission of a strategic plan from A Circle of Ten. An initial plan was reviewed by the Committee in April that did not sufficiently address needs-based assessments,

identification of some community services, and clarification of the roles of network partners. The revised plan from A Circle of Ten includes five separate pilot projects focused on adaptive behavior analysis, volunteer respite services, mental health services, access to health coverage, and transportation/workforce with sustainability support training for all five projects. TCDD staff have concerns that parts of the proposal still do not meet the intent of the original RFP. The proposal does not clearly show that activities related to access to health coverage will address the complex medical needs of the individuals at risk for SSLC admission. There is also no evidence to support the transportation/workforce piece will reduce SSLC admissions because lack of employment is not viewed as a contributing factor to SSLC admissions. TCDD staff do not recommend funding those two proposed activities but recommend partial funding of \$100,000 for the remaining three activities.

TCDD staff offered additional information supporting the need for employment options for individuals with developmental disabilities. However, research does not link a lack of employment options to a higher risk of institutionalization. TCDD Public Policy Director Jessica Ramos provided further information about medical needs evaluations conducted by the local authorities prior to SSLC admission. Children at risk for SSLC admission are offered placement in a diversion program and should not be admitted without extenuating circumstances, complex medical needs, or a lack of community options to meet the child's needs. Committee members discussed the reality of access to health services and acknowledged that access to health care may be a need in the community but is not seen as a precipitating factor for SSLC placement except when the medical needs are complex and intensive. It was clarified that Texas Children's Hospital will do outreach to the community at sites such as schools and non-profit agencies to provide assistance for individuals applying for Medicaid and CHIP.

Chair Durham asked for a motion on the project prior to further discussion.

MOTION: To support the staff recommendation and award \$100,000 grant funding to A Circle of Ten for Phase 2 Implementation of Building Community Capacity through Collaboration project, including three pilot projects: Adaptive Behavior Analysis Training, Volunteer Respite Care, and Mental Health.

MADE BY: Kristen Cox

SECOND: Andy Crim

In response to questions about the proposed funding amount, Grants Management Specialist Wendy Jones reviewed the expense items associated with the health care activities and the employment/transportation activities in the proposal. Committee member Crim noted that while health coverage assessments are provided for children at risk for SSLC placement, children with lesser needs who could become at risk in the future also need access to assessments. Crim suggested approving funds for the proposed health care activities. Other members agreed, understanding that much of that activity would be provided by Texas Children's Hospital without cost to the project. After re-evaluating the proposed budget, Jones determined that funding for those four proposed activities was approximately \$114,000. Members further discussed the proposed transportation activities and Hosey clarified that these activities are not allowable under the intent of this RFP. The motion was then restated as modified during discussion.

MODIFIED MOTION: To award up to \$114,000 grant funding to A Circle of Ten for Phase 2 Implementation of Building Community Capacity through Collaboration project, including four pilot projects: Adaptive Behavior Analysis Training, Volunteer Respite Care, Mental Health, and Access to Health Care.

MADE BY: Kristen Cox

SECOND: Andy Crim

Chair Durham and Grants Management Director Hosey discussed the timeline and budget for the project noting that the grantee received \$35,000 during the April meeting for an extension to continue development of the strategic plan. The first grant period of the Phase 2 Implementation will therefore be 8 months and subsequent awards will be reduced by \$35,000 over the remaining four years of the project. The motion **passed** unanimously. (Attachment 2)

Ms. Hosey next reviewed the executive summary for continuation funding to Texas Tech University for the second year of Phase 2 Implementation of their Building Community Capacity through Collaboration project. Texas Tech and the Burkhart Center for Autism Research and Education developed the West Texas Community Network (WTCN) in collaboration with High Point Village and the HALI Project. Hosey reminded members that this project submitted the first BC3 strategic plan in October 2013. At that time members and staff had concerns about that lack of stakeholder involvement and the development of the strategic plan which resulted in increased monitoring during the implementation phase. During the past year, WTCN completed additional needs assessments identifying four issues and activities to respond to those issues. The first issue is that individuals with developmental disabilities cannot find necessary medical supports and specialty services. WTCN proposes quarterly “connect” events for providers to meet with families and disseminate information and WTCN is developing a resource list. The second issue is the belief that local I/DD authorities are unaware of service providers outside of their own network so a liaison should be established to make those connections. The third issue is unemployment of individuals with developmental disabilities with proposed activities such as employer education, job fairs and connection to vocational rehabilitation programs. The fourth issue is that families responded to the needs assessment that the SSLC is not an acceptable housing alternative. Proposed activities include sponsoring learning opportunities about available resources, data collection, advocacy efforts and facilitation of communication between providers to develop long-term care plans for individuals with complex needs.

TCDD staff suggest that activities to expand employment opportunities are not relevant to this RFP since the lack of employment is not shown to be a reason for SSLC or institutional placement. Staff also do not feel that the proposed goals and activities in the strategic plan are measurable. Hosey noted that the grantee provided additional information after the executive summary was completed but outcomes are still not quantifiable. Staff do not recommend continued funding for the project under the workplan as submitted. The Committee reviewed options including full funding of the project, not funding the project, or allowing the grantee additional time to re-submit the plan in February.

MOTION: To allow the grantee to re-submit the work-plan.

MADE BY: Andy Crim

SECOND: Kristen Cox

Members favored allowing Texas Tech to resubmit the workplan and asked if remaining funds on the current budget would support key project staff. TCDD staff indicated that current funding should support current staff without other activities through January. Additional funds would be needed to continue those staff until a final decision during the February meeting.

MOTION: To award up to \$10,000 per month after the depletion of current project funds to cover staff salaries but no additional project activities and allow submission of a revised proposed project workplan for review in February.

MADE BY: Andy Crim

SECOND: Kristen Cox

Committee members agreed that TCDD staff should not be involved in jointly developing the revised workplan with project staff. It was also clarified that employment activities should not be included. The motion **passed** unanimously. (Attachment 3)

8. CHAIR'S REPORT (continued)

Chair Durham reviewed the process to establish a Nominating committee during this quarter's meeting. The Nominating committee is comprised of one member from the Project Development Committee, one from the Public Policy Committee and one from the Council. The Nominating committee will bring forward nominations during the February meetings for Council Vice-Chair and Consumer (Self-Advocate) Member-at-large to the Executive Committee. Diana Kern is in her 2nd consecutive year as Consumer Member-at-large to the Executive Committee and Andy Crim is in his 2nd year as Vice-Chair. Crim is not eligible for another term unless the Council suspends that policy for this election. Durham suggested a possible suspension of the policy to allow the Nominating Committee to consider Crim since some members may have extenuating circumstances that causes them to be hesitant to commit to the extra time, the number of new Council members, challenging times due to TCDD Sunset review, and the fact that Durham is serving in a hold-over capacity with the possibility of her replacement by a new Governor.

Durham also reported on expected absences of Dana Perry, Mateo Delgado, and Diana Kern with Amy Sharp expected to be absent on Thursday only.

9. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Webb reviewed stipend awards that were approved during the past quarter to the following applicants:

- Centro de Salud Familiar La Fe: Events stipend for up to \$5,980 for the *Our Lives Disabilities Conference & Service Providers Expo* on October 30, 2014, in El Paso.
- NAMI Texas: Events stipend for up to \$6,000 for the *2014 NAMI Texas Annual Conference* on November 7-8, 2014, in Austin.
- National Association for the Dually Diagnosed: Events stipend for up to \$6,000 for the *NADD 31st Annual Conference* on November 12-14, 2014, in San Antonio.

Webb provided an update on the Sunset Review of TCDD. The Sunset Staff report was issued in October and recommends continuing TCDD in statute until 2027. Sunset staff also recommend TCDD track the outcomes of grant projects better after grant funding concludes. The TCDD staff response agreed with the recommendations but noted that not all projects are expected to continue at the end of grant funding. The Sunset Commission will hold public hearings on November 12-13, 2014, and will make final decisions on December 10, 2014. Final decisions will then become legislation to be considered by the 84th Texas Legislature.

Webb discussed staff activities to provide information for a Strategic Fiscal Review required by the Legislative Budget Board (LBB). TCDD Operations Director Martha Cantu with assistance from other staff reported performance measures for TCDD activities for 2010 – 2014 and expectations for 2015 – 2017. This was a demanding process that required a great number of staff hours. Committee members reviewed information developed by TCDD staff.

Webb introduced Harold Liller who has been appointed as the new liaison to TCDD from the Attorney General's office. Liller replaces George Noelke who recently retired from state service.

10. GRANT AND PROJECTS REPORT

Grants Management Director Sonya Hosey reviewed the Independent Audit Status Report and noted that financial reports from the Epilepsy Foundation, Helpful Interventions and Imagine Enterprises did not have any further follow-up from the auditor. Hosey discussed the Grants Monitoring Exceptions Report indicating that items noted for Jewish Family Services, OneStar Foundation, and Region 17 Education Service Center are now complete. No concerns were noted by members for either report. Hosey discussed the Risk Assessment Quarterly Report and noted that the Arc of Greater Tarrant County project will be concluding in February 2015 with a financial review by an independent certified public accountant.

11. CONSIDERATION OF INDEPENDENT REVIEW PANEL MEMBERS

Planning Coordinator Joanna Cordry provided a list of individuals qualified to serve on Independent Review Panels to evaluate proposals received in response to TCDD Requests for Proposals. Cordry reviewed a summary of individuals based on age, geographic location, race, ethnicity, and disability status. She noted that biographical information is not available for all of the individuals as it was not initially collected. TCDD staff are currently working to update the information. This list is reviewed with Committee members every 2 years.

MOTION: To approve the list of individuals eligible to be review panel members.

MADE BY: Gladys Cortez

SECOND: Andy Crim

The motion **passed** unanimously.

12. TCDD QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT

Operations Director Cantu reviewed a revised quarterly financial report provided as a handout. FY 2013 funds were fully obligated by September 30, 2014, with no expected lapse. TCDD ended FY 2014 with a balance of \$95,000 that is available for grants during FY 2015. Expense estimates are based on level funding for FY 2015 since federal appropriations are not final. TCDD currently projects a balance available for any new projects that may be approved. Cantu also reviewed the FY 2014 administrative expense budget. Employee benefit expenses were higher than budgeted due to retirement benefits for Lucy Walker and professional services expenses were high due to the need for temporary employees. Overall administrative expenses are less than budgeted.

13. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES

Committee members reviewed updated conflict of interest disclosure information for council members and staff. No concerns were noted.

14. SUCCESSION PLANNING PROCEDURES

The Committee discussed TCDD Succession Planning Procedures. Vice Chair Crim reviewed his suggestion for a 2-stage interview process for the Executive Director position. Initial interviews would explore the knowledge, skills and abilities needed for the position. Second interviews would include more personal, open-ended questions to explore the applicant's philosophy, mission and core values. Executive Director Webb reviewed the existing screening and interview process for applicants to TCDD positions. He noted that the proposed process would require some assistance from TEA Human Resources to ensure that it meets state expectation but believes the process can be adapted to Crim's suggestion. The Committee agreed with the suggestion of a 2-stage interview process. AG Liaison Liller agreed that a 2-stage process would be acceptable for this position.

Committee members and staff reviewed draft job functions and knowledge, skills and abilities listed for the position and made technical revisions. Members also discussed options to include Webb in the hiring selection whenever this process occurs.

Webb and Cantu will consult with TEA Human Resources on the suggested interview process and begin developing outreach strategies. These materials can be revised when needed. Committee members discussed allowing initial interviews with out-of-town applicants by phone or Skype but agreed second interviews should be conducted in person. Members asked staff to explore options for TCDD to reimburse travel expenses for out-of-state applicants.

ADJOURN

Chair Durham adjourned the Executive Committee at 7:35 PM.

Roger A. Webb
Secretary to the Council

Date

Attachment 1

Attachment 2

Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities`

Executive Committee

Date: 11/05/2014

Review of Proposed Activities & Budget

ITEM: B

Grantee: A Circle of Ten, Inc.

Year: 1 of 5

Project Title: Building Community Capacity through Collaboration

Project Location: Gulf Coast: Alvin, Bellaire, Crosby, Galveston, Houston, Huffman, Katy, Liberty, Pasadena, Pearland, Port Bolivar, Seabrook, Spring & Sugarland

Website: none

TCDD RFP Intent:

To establish and/or strengthen a network of appropriately diverse organizations to develop a strategic plan to build the capacity of that community to provide community-based services that will decrease the need for individuals with developmental disabilities to be served in an institution.

Authorized Funding: Up to \$150,000 per year for up to five years.

Expected Results: The Expanding Community Collaborative Capacity Opportunities (ECCCO) will strengthen and grow the Gulf Coast Network of 30-50 diverse agencies/individuals collaboratively implementing the Strategic Plan, while increasing agency and community capacity to provide and multiply holistic services to people with disabilities and their families, and decreasing the need for institutionalization.

Project Goals and Accomplishments for Planning Year:

Goal: Develop a strategic plan, based on a community needs assessment, and identify resources necessary to build the capacity of a community to provide: culturally appropriate, person-centered or family-centered healthcare services (including both physical and mental); behavior supports; respite to community members who have developmental disabilities and their families; and other supports identified by the community support network.

Accomplishments per goal:

Partnerships were established and/or strengthened with several community organizations to address respite, transportation, employment opportunities, behavior support, occupational and physical therapy, family support services and training. A strategic plan was developed and submitted for TCDD review, but staff noted several concerns. At the April 2014 Interim meeting, the Executive Committee granted a Phase I extension to address those issues.

Proposed Goals and Objectives for Year 1:

Goal: Identify supports, services and programs that are in the community and develop a resource list accordingly. Research and partner with local and state stakeholders to determine location of individuals with DD and assess their needs. Implement 5 pilot projects aimed at addressing needs identified by network partners and research. The grantee identified the following issues to address in the implementation phase: behavior supports, respite, mental healthcare, health coverage, and transportation/workforce.

The project will address these issues with 5 pilot projects:

- Adaptive Behavior Analysis Training: ABA training curriculum from the Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities at the University Houston Clear Lake will be adapted into a training-of-trainers program, which will then be used to train 10 parents who will train other parents.
- Volunteer Respite Care: A respite care training curriculum will be developed in partnership with the Gulf Coast Center MHMR, which will then be used to train 10 parents who will train other parents and develop a network of trained volunteers to offer a respite exchange service.
- Mental Health: NAMI Gulf Coast curriculum will be used to train 10 people on NAMI services and topics such as mental health first aid and suicide prevention. Training will also be offered over 5-8 events for teachers, counselors, and other community members.
- Access to Health Coverage: Texas Children's Hospital will provide orientation and outreach events to make families aware of and know how to sign up for services such as CHIPS, Medicaid, and STAR+.
- Transportation and Workforce: Through partnerships with Quality Education Institute and 1900 Transport Now, the project will recruit and train 10-12 people for jobs in transport-related employment opportunities.
- The project also requests funds to provide 3-day trainings on capacity building, grant-writing and sustainability for each of the partners involved in the above activities.

Council Considerations:

Public Policy Considerations: The grantee proposes to contract with Texas Children's Hospital to provide health coverage awareness. The grantee is encouraged to ensure that TCH collaborates with a local authority and/or an Arc to ensure the full array of services are included.

Grant Management Considerations: Grant staff continue to have concerns about an apparent lack of understanding of the intent of this RFP, to reduce admissions to SSLCs, and what research is relevant. It is well-established that complex medical needs are a major contributing cause to SSLC admissions. The grantee indicates there are no gaps in medical

needs identified in their area. Grant staff believes that the proposed access to health care project does not increase capacity for individuals with complex medical needs as required by the RFP. There is no evidence to support that lack of employment is a contributing factor to SSLC admissions. TCDD staff recommends not approving those activities, and reducing the proposed budget accordingly.

Staff also note that if approved for funding, the grantee will be required to monitor each pilot to ensure outcomes, performance measures and evaluations are accomplished as planned. No additional concerns; proposed project is considerable risk monitoring due to award amount and multiple awards-within-award which may impact outcomes. The grantee is relying heavily on the expertise of the sub-awards.

Staff Recommendation: TCDD staff recommends partial funding for Phase 2 of this project; some of the proposed activities are not allowable and/or do not meet the intent of the RFP. Expenses budgeted for those activities are approximately \$50,000. Staff recommend partial funding up to \$100,000 for Phase 2 of this project.

If continuation funding is approved, A Circle of 10 requests that awards for years 2-5 be reduced to account for the \$35,000 approved for the extension to allow resubmitting this strategic plan.

Continuation Budget Detail Summary			
	Federal	Match	Totals
Expended Planning Year: (8 months) (Consultant:\$8,860)	\$75,000 / \$75,000	\$32,100/\$32,779	\$107,100/ \$107,779
Expended Extension: (4 months)(Consultant: \$0)	\$35,000 / \$35,000	\$12,239/\$12,533	\$47,239/\$47,533
Amount Requested for Year 1 budget:			
I. Personnel services	80,102	0	80,102
II. Travel	5,263	8,023	13,286
III. Purchased Services (\$20,500 consultants)	45,450	27,422	72,872
IV. Property/Materials	11,385	1,977	13,362
V. Rental/Leasing	6,000	15,000	21,000
VI. Utilities	1,800	0	1,800
VII. Other (Indirect Costs)	0	0	0
Budget period totals	\$150,000	\$52,422	\$202,422

Attachment 3

Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities`

Executive Committee

Date: 11/05/2014

Review of Proposed Activities & Budget

ITEM: C

Grantee: Texas Tech University

Year: 2 of 5

Project Title: Building Community Capacity through Collaboration

Project Location: West Texas

Website: none

TCDD RFP Intent:

To establish and/or strengthen a network of appropriately diverse organizations to develop a strategic plan to build the capacity of that community to provide community-based services that will decrease the need for individuals with developmental disabilities to be served in an institution.

Authorized Funding: Up to \$150,000 per year for up to five years.

Expected Results: The West Texas Community Network (WTCN) is a partnership among the Burkhart Center, High Point Village, and the HALI Project established to increase access to community-based and strength-based supports and services for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. WTCN developed a strategic plan "to encourage higher expectations for individuals with DD to live, work and play in more inclusive communities that value their contributions and unique gifts."

Project Goals and Accomplishments for Year 1:

Goal: Develop a strategic plan, based on a community needs assessment, and identify resources necessary to build the capacity of a community to provide: culturally appropriate, person-centered or family-centered healthcare services (including both physical and mental); behavior supports; respite to community members who have developmental disabilities and their families; and other supports identified by the community support network. Goals for Year 1 including addressing some areas of the needs assessment and a strategic plan re-write.

Accomplishments per goal:

Partnerships were established and/or strengthened with several community organizations to address respite, transportation, employment opportunities, behavior support, occupational and physical therapy, family support services and training. A strategic plan was developed and submitted for TCDD consideration. The project was advised to conduct additional needs assessment activities and revise the strategic plan accordingly to address the intent of the RFP.

Proposed Goals and Objectives for Year 2:

Goal: Strengthen the capacity of West Texas and the Panhandle to support individuals with DD and their families by developing a strategic plan to establish a collaborative network of diverse community organizations that best serve this population to help keep them working, playing, and living in our communities and out of institutions.

Objective: Develop a strategic plan & identify resources necessary to build the capacity of West Texas to provide culturally appropriate, person-centered or family centered healthcare services (both physical and mental health); behavior supports; respite to community members who have DD and their families; and other supports identified by the community support network.

Issues identified by WTCN from the needs assessment to be addressed by the strategic plan and proposed activities:

1. Individuals with developmental disabilities and their families cannot find the medical supports and specialty services they need in their local communities. In areas where these services and supports exist, families are often unaware of their existence.
 - Quarterly Community Connect events for medical, mental health, and other community service providers to talk to families about services and support needs. (with free dental screenings, etc.)
 - Disseminate information about services at least 2 workshops / trainings hosted by Partners.
 - Identify needs of individuals and families and share information.
 - Develop / update WTCN Resource List
 2. Local Authorities are often unaware of service providers, mental health professionals and medical professionals outside of their own agency who are willing to provide services and supports to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.
 - Identify liaison with each LA in region to ensure all have latest information about new physicians, supports, services, and programs available.
 - Communicate with LA liaisons to learn of any new resources and add to resource list
 3. Individuals with developmental disabilities are often employable but are unable to find employment or the supports they need to be employed in their local communities.
 - Provide information to employers about the advantages of hiring individuals with DD through workshops and printed materials.
 - Share with DARS new business contacts in our communities developed by the PAC, Project CASE, and the Burkhart Transition Academy to create more employment opportunities.
 - Provide information to help connect families and individuals with DD to appropriate vocational training programs.
 - Co-sponsor job fairs with DARS, Workforce, etc.
-

4. Families have noted in their responses to the WTCN Needs Assessment that the State Supported Living Center is an unacceptable alternative housing for their family members with developmental disabilities.
 - Sponsor, host and/or partner with other entities and/or existing conferences/meetings to help individuals and families learn of available resources that will improve their quality of life, provide access to needed medical and behavioral health professionals, and thus reduce institutionalization.
 - Collect data to identify needs of individuals released from SSLC into local communities; share with LA and providers; work with community leaders to help these individuals not have to return to institutional care.
 - Share information and resources for families with providers & document outcomes of individuals transitioned out of SSLCs.
 - Attend hearings / meetings at State Capitol that influence decisions making on items of importance to individuals with DD such as housing and funding.
 - Facilitate communication among providers, medical and mental health professionals (re: complex medical issues) to encourage more referrals among them for a complete plan of care for individuals with DD.

Council Considerations:

Public Policy Considerations: Public Policy staff does not support the use of B3C funds to expand employment opportunities (Issue 3). Though the network, representing people in the community, has an *interest* in employment, there continues to be no evidence presented to suggest that people are being committed to SSLCs because of lack of employment. The most notable finding from a public policy perspective is that County Jail has a wing dedicated to people with IDD; this is worth exploration.

Grants Management Considerations: The workplan outcomes are vague and lack quantifiable outputs and measureable outcomes. It's not evident what will be accomplished as a result of the needs identified and how the project will build capacity to decrease the need for people with DD to be served in institutions. Some of the activities appear logical, but should result in measureable outcomes. Regarding the issues and proposed strategies:

- Complex medical issues are a major cause of admission to SSLCs and nursing facilities. Medical and behavior needs are identified as a number one issue in the needs assessment, but are not thoroughly addressed in the proposed plan in a manner likely to result in a measurable increase in capacity. The proposed activity does not address specialized care, but rather will connect providers "willing" to work with individuals with DD. There is no evidence how the project will address medical complexities and acute health care needs.
- The project has not yet established partnerships/relationships with local authorities. The project notes that local authorities are often unaware of service providers, mental health professionals and medical professional who are willing to "treat" individuals with DD. Local authorities should be well versed in how to link individuals to community services.
- There is no evidence that links a "lack of employment" opportunities with SSLC admissions.
- The project indicates they will collect and identify the needs of individuals released from the SSLC and share with local authorities, group homes and other providers. Local authorities are already responsible to transition individuals with DD returning to their catchment areas and coordinate necessary community supports.
- SSLC admission for eligible individuals should not be considered an "alternative housing option." This issue and the related proposed activities appear to be irrelevant.
- The grantee submitted a second proposal which excludes the employment component. However, that workplan also lacks clear outcomes and does not demonstrate how proposed activities will increase the capacity to provide community-based services that support people with DD to improve and maintain their health and to have access to necessary healthcare, behavior supports, and/or respite.

If funded, this project would require increased grants monitoring due to the award amount and award-within-award.

Staff Recommendation: TCDD staff do not recommend funding for this project as submitted. The Executive Committee could consider as an option allowing the project to revise and resubmit a strategic plan and related workplan materials to be considered by the Committee in February. Staff would again recommend no additional funds for that option.

Continuation Budget Detail Summary			
	Federal	Match	Totals
Expended Planning Year: (Consultant:\$8,860)	\$74,996 / \$74,935	\$25,226/\$25,205	\$100,222/\$100,140
Expended Year 1: (Consultant: \$38,000)	\$150,000/\$89,762	\$50,455/\$30,192	\$200,455/\$119,954
Amount requested for Year 1 budget:			
I. Personnel services	85,589	0	85,589
II. Travel	5,185	0	5,185
III. Purchased Services (\$38,000 consultants)	44,614	0	44,614
IV. Property/Materials	976	0	976
V. Rental/Leasing	0	0	0
VI. Utilities	0	0	0
VII. Other (Indirect Costs)	13,636	50,455	64,091
Budget period totals	\$150,000	\$50,455	\$200,455

Background:

- **Stipends Grants Applications Approved** - TCDD Policies provide for the Executive Director to approve applications for Events Stipends and Presentation Support Stipends. Six (6) stipend applications were approved during the quarter to the following organizations. The summaries of each are enclosed.
 1. **The Arc of Texas** for the *22nd Annual Inclusion Works Conference* February 4-5, 2015, in San Marcos. (Events Stipend)
 2. **Austin - Travis County Integral Care** for the *Central Texas African American Family Support Conference* February 26-27, 2015, in Austin. (Events Stipend)
 3. **Austin - Travis County Integral Care** for the *Central Texas African American Family Support Conference* February 26-27, 2015, in Austin. (Speakers Stipend)
 4. **Attention Deficit Disorders Association – Southern Region** for the *27th Annual ADDA-SR Conference* February 28, 2015, in Houston. (Events Stipend)
 5. **Children’s Disabilities Information Coalition** for the *26th Annual Children’s Disabilities Symposium* March 7, 2015, in El Paso. (Events Stipend)
 6. **Coalition of Texans with Disabilities** for the *37th Annual Convention* March 31 – April 1, 2015, in Austin. (Events Stipend)
- **TCDD Sunset Review Update** – As reviewed last quarter, Sunset Commission staff recommended continuation of TCDD in state law, and recommended as a management action that TCDD track outcomes of grant funded projects for five years after grant funding concludes. The Sunset Commission approved both recommendations. Legislation to continue TCDD for 12 years is expected to be introduced soon. TCDD staff will update members on the status of this matter.
- **Attendance Report** – A quarterly summary of attendance of Council members at meetings is also enclosed.

Important Terms:

Events Stipend Grants: Organizations may apply for up to \$6000 to pay for conference registration, hotel rooms, attendants, respite, travel expenses, etc. for self-advocates and their family members to attend conferences and other events.

Speakers Stipend Grants: Sponsoring organization of the meeting, conference, workshop, or seminar may apply for up to \$6000 per event for transportation, meals, and lodging for speakers, expenses for an attendant, respite care or other accommodations, as well as speaker fees.

Executive Committee

Agenda Item 5.

Expected Action:

The Executive Committee will review the information provided and may provide guidance to staff.

Council

Agenda Item 5.

Expected Action:

The Council will receive a report on the Executive Committee discussion.

CONSUMER STIPENDS PROPOSALS

Date: 11/4/14

Executive Director Review

ITEM: 1

Organization: The Arc of Texas
City, State: Austin, TX

Federal: \$ 5,956
Match: \$ 3,000

Event: Conference: The Arc of Texas 22st Annual Inclusion Works Conference
Date: February 4-5, 2015
Hotel: Embassy Suites Hotel and Conference Center
City, State: San Marcos, Texas

Previously Funded: 2012, 2013, 2014
Comments: The Arc of Texas Inclusion Works Conference will provide opportunities for people with developmental disabilities and family members of people with developmental disabilities to learn about inclusive education practices for students with developmental disabilities in Texas.

Considerations: The conference sponsors propose to provide stipends to cover:

Lodging –24 individuals	
(15 @ \$85.68/individual for 1 night = \$1,285.20)	
(15 @ \$85.68/individual for 2 nights = \$2,570.40)	= \$3856.00
Registration – 21 individuals	
(21 @ \$100/individual)	= \$2,100.00
Total cost (federal):	= \$5,956.00
Applicant match covers registration expenses:	
Registration –30 individuals	
(30 @ \$100.00/individual)	= \$3,000.00
Total cost (match):	= \$3,000.00

Recommendation: Staff recommends funding. Proposal received 90 days prior to the event.

Approved: yes no Roger A. Webb

Digitally signed by Roger A. Webb
DN: cn=Roger A. Webb, o=Texas Council for Developmental
Disabilities, ou, email=roger.webb@tcdsd.texas.gov, c=US
Date: 2014.11.05 09:29:05 -0600

Date: Nov. 5, 2014

Comments: _____

CONSUMER STIPENDS PROPOSALS

Date: 11/25/14

Executive Director Review

ITEM: 2

Organization: Austin Travis County Integral Care
City, State: Austin, TX

Federal: \$ 6,000
Match: \$ 6,000

Event: Conference: Central Texas African American Family Support Conference
Date: February 26-27, 2015
Hotel: Austin Convention Center
City, State: Austin, Texas

Previously Funded: **Yes: 2014, 2013**

Comments: The conference provides information and educational opportunities to consumers, families and the community about mental health, developmental and intellectual disabilities, chemical dependence, co-occurring disorders, and physical health issues.

Considerations: The conference sponsors propose to provide stipends to cover:

Registration - 50 individuals (50 @ \$10.00/individual)	= \$ 500.00
Meals - 50 individuals (50 @ \$47.00/day for 2 days)	= \$4,700.00
Transportation - 50 individuals (50 @ \$8/day for 2 days)	= \$ 800.00
Total cost (federal):	= \$6,000.00

Applicant match covers lodging and travel:

Lodging - 24 individuals (24 @ \$206/day)	= \$4,944.00
Transportation - 23 individuals (23 @ \$50.00/person)	= \$1,150.00
Total cost (match):	= \$6,000.00

Recommendation: Staff recommends funding. Proposal received 90 days prior to event.

Approved: yes no Roger A. Webb

Digitally signed by Roger A. Webb
DN: cn=Roger A. Webb, o=Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities,
ou, email=roger.webb@tcds.texas.gov, c=US
Date: 2014.11.26 08:40:31 -0500

Date: 11/26/2014

Comments: _____

CONSUMER STIPENDS PROPOSALS

Date: 11/25/14

Executive Director Review

ITEM: 4

Organization: Attention Deficit Disorders Association-Southern Region
City, State: Houston, TX

Federal: \$ 5,978
Match: \$ 1,324

Event: Conference: 27th Annual ADDA-SR Conference
Date: February 28, 2015
Hotel: Double Tree Hotel
City, State: Dallas, Texas

Previously Funded: **Yes:** 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009, 2008, 2006, 2005, 2004, 2003, 2002, 2001, 2000, 1999, 1996, 1995

Comments: This conference is designed for those with ADHD, family members and those who impact the lives of these children and adults. Those coping with this disability will learn consumer empowerment and community integration skills to improve their quality of life.

Considerations: The conference sponsors propose to provide stipends to cover:

Registration –35 individuals (35 @ \$110.00/individual/day for 1 day)	= \$3,850.00
Lodging –19 individuals (19 @ \$99.00/night + \$13 tax for 2 nights double occupancy)	= \$2,128.00
Total cost (federal):	= \$5,978.00

Applicant match covers registration fees:	
Registration – 10 individuals (10 @ \$110.00/individual/day for 1 day)	= \$1,100.00
Lodging – 2 individual (2 @ \$99.00/night + \$13 tax for 1 night)	= \$ 224.00
Total cost (match):	= \$1,324.00

Recommendation: Staff recommends funding. Proposal received 90 days prior to the event.

Approved: yes no Roger A. Webb

Digitally signed by Roger A. Webb
DN: cn=Roger A. Webb, o=Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities,
ou=email-roger.webb@tcdad.texas.gov, c=US
Date: 2014.11.26 09:00:21 -0500

Date: 11/26/2014

Comments: _____

CONSUMER STIPENDS PROPOSALS

Date: 12/18/14

Executive Director Review

ITEM: 5

Organization: Children's Disabilities Information Coalition (CDIC)
City, State: El Paso, TX

Federal: \$ 1,000
Match: \$ 6,500

Event: Conference: 26th Annual Children's Disabilities Symposium
Date: March 7, 2015
Hotel: ESC-Region 19 Head Start
City, State: El Paso, Texas

Previously Funded: No

Comments: The Symposium is an annual, daylong event where families, professionals, and experts in the various fields of interest discuss the latest information concerning children with disabilities in El Paso and the surrounding areas through various workshop presentations.

Considerations: The conference sponsors propose to provide stipends to cover:

Registration –100 individuals (100 @ \$10.00/individual/day for 1 day)	= \$1,000.00
Total cost (federal):	= \$1,000.00

Applicant match covers registration fees: Registration Fee – 100 individuals (100 @ \$10.00/individual/day for 1 day)	= \$1,000.00
Rental Fee for Symposium Space (\$5,500 for 1 day)	= \$5,500.00
Total cost (match):	= \$6,500.00

Recommendation: Staff recommends funding. Proposal received 90 days prior to the event.

Approved: yes no Roger A. Webb

Digitally signed by Roger A. Webb
DN: cn=Roger A. Webb, o=Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities,
ou, email=roger.webb@tcds.texas.gov, c=US
Date: 2014.12.19 09:03:59 -0500

Date: 12/19/2014

Comments: _____

CONSUMER STIPENDS PROPOSALS
Executive Director Review

Date: 1/13/15

ITEM: 6

Organization: Coalition of Texans with Disabilities
City, State: Austin, TX

Federal: \$ 5,528
Match: \$ 625

Event: Conference: 37th Annual Convention
Date: March 31-April 1, 2015
Hotel: Crowne Plaza Hotel
City, State: Austin, Texas

Previously Funded: Yes: 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005, 2004, 2003, 2002, 2001

Comments: The 37th Annual Convention of the Coalition of Texans with Disabilities (CTD) will be held in Austin, Texas on March 31- April 1, 2015. This event provides an opportunity to focus our energy and effort in advocating for an increase in personal attendant wages to \$10.00 per hour. Self-advocates from all over the state will provide lived experience to educate legislators on the need for (and the importance of) personal attendants to address the current crisis in community care.

Considerations: The conference sponsors propose to provide stipends to cover:

Registration – 45 individuals (45 @ \$50.00/individual)	= \$ 2,250.00
Lodging – 25 individuals (15 rooms @ \$95.00+15%) for 2 nights, double Occupancy for 20 and 5 single ADA rooms)	= \$ 3,278.00
Total cost (federal):	= \$ 5,528.00
Applicant match covers travel, PAS, registration & hotel expenses:	
Personal Attendant Services – 50 hours (50 hours @ \$12.50/hr)	= \$ 625.00
Total cost (match):	= \$ 625.00

Recommendation: Staff recommends funding. Proposal received 90 days prior to the event.

Approved: yes no Roger A. Webb

Digitally signed by Roger A. Webb
DN: cn=Roger A. Webb, o=Texas Council for Developmental
Disabilities, ou, email=roger.webb@tcdsd.texas.gov, c=US
Date: 2015.01.21 11:48:33 -0500

Date: January 21, 2015

Comments: Event is co-sponsored

**TCDD QUARTERLY COUNCIL MEETINGS
ATTENDANCE REPORT
February 2013 – November 2014**

Council Member	11/14	8/14	5/14	2/14	10/13	8/13	5/13	2/13
H. Adkins	P	P	P	P	P	P	EA	P
K. Blackmon	P	P	P	P	P	P	EA	P
K. Clark	P	P	P	P	EA	EA	P	EA
G. Cortez	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
K. Cox	P	P	P	P	P	EA	P	P
A. Crim	P	P	EA	EA	P	P	EA	EA
M. Delgado	EA	P	EA	P	EA	EA	P	EA
M. Durham	P	P	P	EA	P – Th EA - Fr	P	P	P
S. Gersuk	P	P	P	EA	P – Th EA - Fr	P	P	P
D. Kern	EA	P	P	EA	P	EA – Th P – Fr	P	P – Th EA - Fr
R. Mason	P	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
S. McAvoy	P	P	P	P	P – Th EA - Fr	P	P	P
M. Peace	P	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
D. Perry	EA	EA	P	EA	EA	P	EA	EA
B. Pharris	P	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
D. Taylor	P	EA	P	P	P	P	P	P
L. Taylor	P	P	P	P	EA	EA	P	P
J. Thomas	P	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
R. Tisch	P	P	EA	EA	P	EA	P	P
DRT (AI)	P	P	EA	P	P	P	P	P
UT CDS	P	EA	P	EA	P	P	P – Th EA - Fr	P
A&M CDD	EA- Th P - Fr	P	P	P	EA – Th P – Fr	P	EA	P
DADS	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
DARS		P	P	P	P	P	P	P
DSHS	P	P	EA	P	P	P	P	P
HHSC	EA	P	P	P		P	P	P
TEA	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P

Key: P = Present
A = Absent
EA = Excused Absence
NA= Not Applicable

Grants Activities Reports

Tab 3

Background: Grants Management Staff will review these reports:

- **Independent Audit Status Report** – summarizes the status of desk reviews of annual independent audits submitted by grantees.
- **Grants Monitoring Exceptions Report** – summarizes concerns noted by TCDD Grants Management staff in their ongoing monitoring activities, and the status of resolving those concerns.
- **Grants Risk Assessment of TCDD Projects & Quarterly Update Report** – summarizes the risk assessment matrix for considerations of continuation grant awards, new grant awards and provides more detail about monitoring activities for all TCDD funded projects. This format now includes any concerns identified by grants staff from ongoing monitoring of projects.

Executive Committee

Agenda Item 6.

Expected Action:

The Executive Committee will review the information provided and may provide guidance to staff.

Council

Agenda Item 13. A.

Expected Action:

The Council will receive a report on the Executive Committee discussion.

TEXAS COUNCIL FOR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

INDEPENDENT AUDIT STATUS REPORT

GRANTEE	FYE	DATE RECEIVED	AUDIT FIRM	EXCEPTIONS NOTED	RECOMMENDATIONS/ RESOLUTIONS
Any Baby Can of San Antonio, Inc	6/30/2014	12/9/2014	BDO USA, LLP	The Auditors' report on the financial statements omitted a reporting section that is required.	The report was acceptable with quality deficiencies that should be brought to the attention of the organization and grantee's auditor, but no need for the report to be redone.
Any Baby Can of San Antonio, Inc	6/30/2013	12/9/2014	BDO USA, LLP	The auditors' report on the financial statements omitted a reporting section that is required.	The report was acceptable with quality deficiencies that should be brought to the attention of the organization and grantee's auditor, but no need for the report to be redone.
Region 17 ESC	8/31/2014	1/12/2015	Bolinger, Segars, Gilbert & Moss, LLP	None.	Forward for Desk Review.

Key: Audits were submitted to TCDD during the fiscal year (Oct. 1, 2014 – Sept. 30, 2015). Independent Audit Reports are due not later than nine months after the end of the grantee's fiscal year(s) for which an audit is performed. This document includes audits that were received after the due date, but during the fiscal year.

GRANTS MONITORING EXCEPTIONS REPORT

GRANTEE PROJECT TITLE	TYPE OF ONSITE	DATE OF ONSITE	ACTIONS REQUIRED FROM ONSITE REVIEW	CORRECTIVE ACTIONS	STATUS
The Arc of Dallas <i>(NLDATP)</i>	Final	8/26/14	PARs, Ledgers, Travel log approval, Service Agreements, Printing/Copying, Lease, Telephone, Match	Documents requested: 10/21/14 Documents received: 11/19/14 Additional follow-up information requested/received: 12/5/14 Additional oversight based on review	Complete
OneStar Foundation <i>(Inclusive Faith-Based Symposium)</i>	Final	10/1/14	PAC form, meeting logs and match reported	Document requested: 10/8/14 Documents received: 10/22/14	Complete
Region 17 Education Service Center <i>(Families in Schools)</i>	Follow-up	10/2/14	Audit report; Service Agreements; Match documentation	Document requested: 10/17/14 Documents received: 10/20/14	Complete
Texas Tech University <i>(B3C)</i>	Follow-up	10/1/14	Service agreements; Photocopy logs and printing receipts; Photocopier lease	Document requested: 10/17/14 Documents received 10/27/14; 1/8/15	Complete
Texas Tech University <i>(Project SEARCH)</i>	Follow-up	10/1/14	Photocopy log or equivalent; and Machine (photocopier) lease documentation	Document requested: 10/17/14 Documents received: 10/27/14; 1/8/15	Complete
Texas Tech University <i>(Higher Education)</i>	Follow-up	10/1/14	Signed service agreement with Compass Settings; Photocopy log or equivalent; and Machine (photocopier) lease documentation	Document requested: 10/17/14 Documents received: 10/30/14; 1/8/15	Complete
Epilepsy Foundation Texas <i>(Health & Fitness)</i>	Follow-up	10/28/14	No action required	Document received: 10/28/14	Complete
Any Baby Can	Follow-up	12/10/14	PAC meeting compliance	Document received: 12/10/14	Complete
Strategic Education Solutions, LLC	Follow-up	12/19/14	Travel log; service agreements and match documentation	Documents requested: 1/5/15 Documents due: 1/15/15	Complete

Date Revised: 1/15/15

1 - Audit due within 9-months after the end of the budget period.

RISK ASSESSMENT FOR CONSIDERATION OF CONTINUATION AWARDS
06/01/14 – 05/31/15

Item	Grantee	TCDD Funds	Other Fed Funds	Risk Activity	Risk Code
A	Texas Tech University (BC3)*	\$130,825	\$35 mil	2	Yellow
B	Any Baby Can (Health & Fitness)	\$174,887	\$0	2	Yellow
C	DARS (Higher Education)	\$225,000	\$488 mil	2	Red
D	Texas State Independent Living Council (Health & Fitness)	\$238,000	\$395,083	2	Red
E	VSA Arts of Texas (Self-Advocates as Speakers)	\$125,000	\$10,000	2	Yellow
F	Texas Parent to Parent (PP Collaboration)	\$50,000	\$97,500	2,8	Grey
G	Texas Tech University (Higher Education)	\$225,000	\$35mil	2,3	Red

*This project was reviewed at the November Council meeting and amount reduced by \$20,000 the amount approved to cover personnel for January 2014 – February 2015)

KEY

Red	Extensive Risk Management (all levels of control plus audit)
Yellow	Considerable Risk Management (most levels of control plus independent review by CPA)
Green	Moderate Risk (operating & monitoring controls & agreed upon procedures engagement by CPA)
Grey	Monitor or Accept (basic monitoring only)

RISK ASSESSMENT OF TCDD PROJECTS – QUARTERLY UPDATE

Grantee		TCDD Fund Amt.	Other Federal Fund Amt.	Date of Last Onsite	Next Onsite Due By	Risk Activity	Risk Code
Extensive Risk							
1.	Region 17 ESC (FIS)	\$300,000	\$1,583,796	10/2/14	2015	2	
2.	Epilepsy Foundation of Texas (Health & Fitness)	\$249,750	\$ 0	10/28/14	2015	2	
3.	Texas State Independent Living Council (Health & Fitness)	\$238,000	\$395,083	1/7/15	2016	2	
4.	DARS (Higher Education)	\$225,000	\$488 mil	7/18/14	2015	2	
5.	Educational Programs Inspiring Communities, Inc. (Enabling Technology)	\$225,000	\$312,000	8/27/14	2015	2	
6.	Strategic Education Solutions, LLC (Enabling Technology)	\$225,000	\$ 0	12/19/14	2015	2	
7.	Texas A&M University (Higher Education)	\$225,000	\$244 mil	7/10/2014	2015	2,3	
8.	Texas Tech University (Higher Education)	\$225,000	\$35mil	10/1/2014	2015	2,3	
Considerable Risk							
9.	Any Baby Can (Health & Fitness)	\$174,887	\$ 0	12/10/14	2016	2	
10.	Texas Tech University (Project SEARCH)	\$174,716	\$35 mil	10/1/2014	2016	2,3	
11.	Volar Center for Independent Living (BC3)	\$150,000	\$202,283	3/8/2013	2015	1,2	
12.	Sabine Valley Regional MHMR Center (dba Community Healthcore) (BC3)	\$139,440	\$4 mil	4/17/2013	2015	2	
13.	Texas Tech University-Burkhart Center for Autism Education and Research (BC3)	\$130,825	\$35 mil	10/1/2014	2016	2	
14.	Imagine Enterprises (Project SPEAK)	\$125,000	\$725,000	7/9/2013	2016	2	
15.	VSA Arts of Texas- (Self-Advocates as Speakers)	\$125,000	\$10,000	8/14/2013	2015	2	
16.	SafePlace (Meaningful Relationships)	\$115,029	\$2,340,306	9/26/2013	2015	2	
17.	A Circle of Ten, Inc. (BC3)	\$100,000	\$25,000	3/8/2013	2015	2,8*	
Moderate Risk							
18.	Jewish Family Services of Dallas (Inclusive Faith-Based Symposium)	\$75,000	\$20,000	8/26/2014	NA	2	
19.	Texas Advocates-Project SAVE (LDATP)	\$75,000	\$ 0	3/21/2012	2015	2	
20.	Texas A&M University (LDATP)	\$75,000	\$244 mil	7/20/2012	2015	2,3	
21.	Texas State Independent Living Council - (NLDATP)	\$75,000	\$815,000	1/7/15	NA	2	
22.	The Arc of Dallas (NLDATP)	\$75,000	\$ 0	8/26/14	NA	2, 3	
23.	The Arc of Texas (Project MOVE)	\$75,000	\$0	3/21/2012	2015	2	

24.	West Central Texas Regional Foundation (<i>Inclusive Faith-Based</i>)	\$74,988	\$2.9 mil	8/19/2014	NA	2	
25.	The Arc of Greater Tarrant County (<i>Inclusive Faith-Based</i>)	\$72,956	\$ 0	6/26/2012	2015	2,5	
26.	Coalition of Texans with Disabilities (<i>Developmental Disabilities Policy Fellows</i>)	\$67,500	0	1/27/15	2018	2	
27.	The Arc of Texas (<i>Developmental Disabilities Policy Fellows</i>)	\$67,500	\$75,000	TBS 2015	2018	2	
28.	OneStar Foundation (<i>Inclusive Faith-Based</i>)	\$66,931	\$1,024,926	10/1/14	NA	2	

Monitor or Accept

29.	Texas Parent to Parent (<i>Public Policy Collaboration Activities</i>)	\$50,800	\$97,500	7/2/2013	NA	2	
30.	Helpful Interventions, Inc (<i>Gulf Coast African American Family Support Conference</i>)	\$50,000	\$0	3/11/2014	NA	2	

NA

31.	Circle of Ten (<i>Contract-Building Capacity for LDATP</i>)	\$25,000	\$75,000	NA	NA	NA	NA
32.	The Arc of San Angelo (<i>Alternatives to Guardianship</i>)	\$25,000	\$7,500	3/29/2012	NA	3,5	NA
33.	Moody Clinic (<i>O & D</i>)	\$10,000	\$0	NA	NA	NA	NA
34.	The Arc of Del Paso	\$10,000	\$0	NA	NA	NA	NA
35.	Nuevos Horizontes de Starr County (<i>O & D</i>)	\$9,955	\$0	NA	NA	NA	NA
36.	Growing Roots (<i>O & D</i>)	\$9,110	\$0	NA	NA	NA	NA

Highlighted grantees indicate additional monitoring strategies this quarter.

***Increased risk due to the number of sub-awards and no previous audit.**

KEY

	Extensive Risk Management (all levels of control plus audit)
	Considerable Risk Management (most levels of control plus independent review by CPA)
	Moderate Risk (operating & monitoring controls & agreed upon procedures engagement by CPA)
	Monitor or Accept (basic monitoring only)

RISK ACTIVITIES

1 – New Grantee

3 – Funding Issues

5 – Performance Issues

7 – Fiscal Office Out of State

2 – Awards within Award

4 – Compliance Issues

6 – Legal Actions

8 – No Prior Audit

**TCDD RISK MATRIX
FY 2013**

<i>Award Amounts</i> →	- \$75,999.	\$76,000. – \$199,999.	\$200,000.- \$499,999.	\$500,000. +
Risk Activities ↓				
1. New Grantee (i.e., no previous project or no project within 2 year period)	LH	MH	HH	HH
2. Awards within Award (e.g., consultants, presenters, sub-contractors, etc.)	LH	MH	HH	HH
3. Funding Issues (e.g., budget/procurement concerns, match, sustainability, etc.)	LM	LM	MM	HM
4. Compliance Issues (e.g., OMB, UGMS, TCDD policy, oversight issues, etc.)	LM	LM	MM	HM
5. Performance Issues (e.g., unmet goals, milestones, special conditions, etc.)	LM	LM	MM	HM
6. Legal Actions	LL	LL	ML	HL
7. Fiscal Office Located Out-Of-State	LL	LL	ML	HL
8. No Audit Prior To Grant Award	LL	LL	ML	HL

KEY: 1st letter denotes impact; 2nd letter denotes probability.

	HM, HH	Extensive Risk (all levels of control plus audit)
	MM, MH, HL	Considerable Risk (most levels of control plus independent review by CPA)
	LH, ML	Moderate Risk (operating/monitoring controls + agreed upon procedures by CPA)
	LL, LM	Acceptable Risk (basic monitoring only)

Use for Risk Management Plan:

	Audit work performed and the Executive Director performs oversight via quarterly report* provided to ensure supervisory and operating controls are working.
	Department heads reporting to Executive Director perform oversight functions to ensure supervisory and operating controls are working.
	Department staff perform oversight functions to ensure supervisory and operating controls are working.
	Department staff perform basic oversight functions to ensure controls are in place.

Use for Annual Audit or Review Determination:

	Red indicates areas to be audited or reviewed by independent CPA.
	Yellow indicates areas to be covered through oversight, supervisory and operating controls with guidance from the contracted internal audit services provider.
	Green indicates areas to be covered through staff oversight with guidance from the contracted internal audit services provider as needed.
	Gray indicates areas to be covered through basic staff oversight and reporting.

Grants Monitoring Exceptions Report provided to E.D. and Council quarterly for review.

No risk activities means monitoring strategies will be performed at the lowest level under the award amount.

NOTE: Risk Matrix reviewed annually with TCDD staff and Internal Auditor; updated when needed.

**MONITORING STRATEGIES
FY 2015**

STIPENDS (\$6,000. Or less):

Website instructions	Special Conditions (GMD letter)
Technical support (Budget Support Specialist)	Review FROE & other reports submitted

Mini-Grants (\$10,000. Or less):

Orientation	Program Performance Review = Six Months
Technical support (Senior Specialist)	Final Program Performance Report
RAR & Supplemental Report	Approvals (e.g., dissemination, etc.)
RAR Documentation Review = Six Month	

Level 1 - GRAY

Orientation	Approvals (e.g., equipment, travel, speakers, etc.)
Onsite Review = Initial	Project Advisory Committee Meetings
Program Performance Review = Annual	Final Program Performance Report
RAR Documentation Review	Other as determined necessary (e.g., audit desk review)

Level 2 - GREEN

Orientation	Project Advisory Committee Meetings
Onsite Review = Initial & 3 rd year	Final Program Performance Report
Program Performance Review = Quarterly	Agreed upon Procedures Engagements CPA
RAR Documentation Review	Other as determined necessary (e.g., audit desk review)
Approvals (e.g., equipment, travel, speakers, etc.)	

Level 3 - YELLOW

Orientation	Project Advisory Committee Meetings
Onsite Review = Initial & 3 rd & 5 th years	Final Program Performance Report
Program Performance Review = Quarterly	Independent Review by CPA = Annual (A-133 Audit at \$500k or more)
RAR Documentation Review	Project Staff Meeting (1X per annum)
Approvals (e.g., equipment, travel, speakers, etc.)	Other as determined necessary (e.g., audit desk review)

Level 4 - RED

Orientation	Final Program Performance Report
Onsite Review = Initial & Annual	A-133 Audit = Annual (Independent under \$500k)
Program Performance Review = Quarterly	Audit Desk Review = Annual
RAR Documentation Review	Project Staff Meeting (2X per annum)
Approvals (e.g., equipment, travel, speakers, etc.)	Interim Program Performance Report
Project Advisory Committee Meetings	

ADDITIONAL MONITORING STRATEGIES FOR GRANT PROJECTS

To be selected and implemented on an as needed basis.

- Re-orient
- Add milestones or special conditions
- Move up to the next level of monitoring (see above tables)
- Payment holds (reimbursement only no advance or no reimbursement & no advance)
- Require additional onsite reviews

Background:

TCDD provides grants of up to \$10,000 for Outreach and Development Projects to groups that are composed of individuals and families of individuals who have developmental disabilities and strongly identify with an ethnic minority group. Funds are available for up to five of these projects per year, with no more than five funded at any one time.

Two (2) proposals were received this quarter. Summaries and recommendations from the staff review panel will be emailed to Committee members and included as a handout for all members.

- Down Syndrome Association of Houston
- Special Kids, Incorporated (SKI)

Executive Committee

Agenda Item 7.

Expected Action:

The Executive Committee will consider this information and make final decisions on the appeals of funding decisions.

Council

Agenda Item 13. B.

Expected Action:

The Council will receive a report of Executive Committee decisions.



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Mary Durheim, Chair
Andrew Crim, Vice Chair
Roger A. Webb, Executive Director

TO: TCDD Executive Committee

FROM: Sonya Hosey, Grants Management Director
Jessica Ramos, Public Policy Director
Joanna Cordry, Planning Coordinator

SUBJECT: Summary of Outreach and Development Proposals

DATE: January 14, 2014

The TCDD staff review panel reviewed 2 Outreach and Development proposals received this quarter.

Background

The Council offers grants of up to \$10,000 each for up to 18 months to groups made up of people who are black or African American, Hispanic/Latino, Asian, or Native American that are working to improve the lives of individuals with disabilities from ethnic minority cultures. TCDD expects these grants to be an avenue through which TCDD can partner with and learn from individuals who are typically unserved and/or underserved.

TCDD's Goals in Funding These Grants

1. Develop partnerships to increase TCDD's understanding of different values, cultures, and customs that exist in Texas, and how cultural issues may impact how services should be provided; and
2. Support activities that the group has determined will help members of their community who have disabilities to receive support that is culturally appropriate.

Criteria for Evaluation of Proposals

The TCDD staff review panel use the following criteria to evaluate if funding the proposal is consistent with the goals above:

- The group is made up of people who identify with a specific ethnic/cultural minority group who are working to increase access to culturally appropriate supports and services for individuals with disabilities of a similar cultural background. The Request for Proposals (RFP) states that "To receive a grant, most of the members and/or the leadership of your organization must belong to one of these ethnic/racial groups."
- Working together will deepen TCDD's understanding of that culture's values, cultures, and customs.

When proposals meet the criteria noted above, staff will recommend them for consideration for funding. If funded, TCDD grants staff ensure that all activities conducted are allowable under law and TCDD policies. Staff also provide technical assistance to assist the grantee to meet TCDD's expectations. *If proposed activities and budget items are both allowable and reasonable and will result in the intended outcomes, proposals are not expected to meet additional requirements.*

Recommendations:

TCDD staff recommend the Committee review and discuss the application(s) and fund those that best meet TCDD's goals. The complete proposals, 5-9 pages in length, will be available at the Executive Committee meeting.

Applicant:	Special Kids, Incorporated (SKI)	Length of time in existence: 26 years
Group Size:	10	Geographic Location: Harris County
Amount Requested:	\$10,000	Meeting Frequency: Quarterly
Ethnic/Cultural Group Served:	Black, Hispanic/Latino	
Organization Mission:	SKI's mission is Empowering and supporting families of children and individuals with disabilities that have been traditionally under-served and under-represented. We assert the need for one-on-one service to help families gain culturally relevant assistance, comprehensive flexible services, and acknowledge that all children and individuals have the right to be an integral part of their community.	
Planned Activities:	To establish a business office; train new board members; develop governances; develop promotional materials (including materials in Spanish) to increase community awareness of services; and to foster networking and volunteerism opportunities.	
TCDD Staff Comments	<p>The organization will serve at least 50 families and identified four organizations that will work on the project (e.g., Partners Resource Network, Helpful Interventions, United Way of Greater Houston and Houston Public Library). The initial budget allocates TCDD funds for allowable cost. If approved by the Council, grants staff will negotiate a final budget to include required match.</p> <p>This is the second time that this organization has applied. In this application, they noted that their organization is made up of, and provides services to, primarily black and latino families. The website www.specialkidsinc.com indicates that the organization's founders are African American with children with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and the organization lists Helpful Interventions (the organizer of the Gulf Coast African American Family Support Conference as an organizational partner.</p> <p>This organization appears to meet the two criteria for evaluation of proposals noted on page one of this memo.</p>	

Applicant:	Down Syndrome Association of Houston (DSAH)	Length of time in existence: 40 years
Group Size:	2,000 members	Geographic Location: Harris County
Amount Requested:	\$6,102.00	Meeting Frequency: Community groups meet at least once per month, as does the Board of Directors.
Ethnic/Cultural Group Served:	Black, Asian, Hispanic/Latino, Native American	
Organization Mission:	To provide programs and support to individuals with Down syndrome, their families and the professionals who serve them; and to create awareness in the community through advocacy, education, and medical outreach.	
Planned Activities:	To help the Spanish-speaking community in Greater Houston understand and navigate the complex web of resources available to them by providing a series of quarterly workshops titled "Accessing Services and Support in Greater Houston When Spanish is Your Primary Language."	
TCDD Staff Comments	<p>The organization will serve at least 350 Spanish-speaking families and identified other similar non-profits and social-service agencies that will work on the project.</p> <p>The RFP states that "To receive a grant, most of the members and/or the leadership of your organization must belong to one of these ethnic/racial groups." The proposal submitted by DSAH notes that approximately 54% of their members are Hispanic/Latino, and that about 30% of these have very limited or no English-speaking ability. However, it is not clear that the people who proposed this project or who will develop and provide the training are Hispanic/Latino. They do not appear to offer any services or programs in Spanish at this time.</p> <p>The proposal states that this grant will help ensure that individuals do not miss out on opportunities "merely because of a language difference." TCDD is aware that language is only one of the issues that prevent people from receiving culturally competent services. It is not evident from their website (http://dsah.org/about-dsah/) that the organization has a focus or emphasis on ensuring that services are culturally competent or that working together will deepen TCDD's understanding of a particular culture's values, cultures, and customs. It appears that the proposal would provide funds to a majority culture to educate a minority culture, which is not the intended purpose of the outreach and development funds.</p> <p>The initial budget allocates TCDD funds for allowable costs. If approved by the Council, grants staff will negotiate a final budget to include required match. If approved, grants staff recommend authorizing up to \$10,000 should we determine other expenses are necessary for a successful project.</p>	

Consideration of Continuation Grant Awards

Tab 5

Background:

Executive Summaries for six (6) current grant projects that are eligible for continuation funding are enclosed for consideration by the Committee (Items B-G). Grants monitoring strategies are noted under staff recommendations which follow the grants risk assessment report. Note that grantee organizations' names below are "hyperlinks" to summary information about each project on the TCDD website.

- A. Texas Tech University – Building Community Capacity through Collaboration (Phase 2)
- B. Any Baby Can – Health and Fitness
- C. Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services – Higher Education
- D. Texas State Independent Living Center – Health and Fitness
- E. VSA Arts of Texas – Self Advocates as Speakers
- F. Texas Parent to Parent – Public Policy Collaboration
- G. Texas Tech University – Higher Education

Item A – An Executive Summary for the Texas Tech University Building Community Capacity through Collaboration Project – Phase 2 (BC3) is **not** provided in the binder but will be provided electronically (or by mail if requested) as soon as it is available. Staff are currently waiting for additional information from Texas Tech BC3 staff at this time. At the November Executive Committee meetings, the Committee agreed to allow Texas Tech University BC3 to resubmit a strategic plan and related materials with revised proposed project workplan with quantifiable outputs and measurable outcomes. The Committee awarded up to \$10,000 per month after the depletion of current project funds to cover staff salaries but no additional project activities during this period.

Grants Risk Assessment Report (found under Tab 3) – The Grants Risk Assessment Report enclosed summarizes the risk assessment matrix for consideration of grant awards and provides more detail about monitoring activities for all TCDD funded projects.

Important Terms:

Continuation Grant Awards: For each grant project funded by TCDD, the Council authorizes the number of years of funding available (usually 3 to 5 years), but projects must reapply for funding each year.

Executive Committee

Agenda Item 8.

Expected Action:

The Executive Committee will review the information provided and consider approving funding for each continuation award.

Council

Agenda Item 13. B.

Expected Action:

The Council will receive a report on Executive Committee decisions.

**Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities`
Executive Committee**

Date: 2/4/2015

Review of Proposed Activities & Budget

ITEM: B

Grantee: Any Baby Can of San Antonio

Year: 4 of 5

Project Title: Health & Fitness for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities (Any Body Can)

Project Location: Atascosa, Bexar, Comal, Frio, Gonzales, Guadalupe, Medina, Uvalde, and Wilson Counties

Website: anybabycansa.org/services/health-wellness

TCDD RFP Intent:

The project intent is to demonstrate how appropriate supports may help people with developmental disabilities to participate in exercise and nutrition programs.

Authorized Funding: TCDD has approved up to \$250,000 for up to five years.

Expected Results: Grantees are expected to demonstrate how to: 1) Provide *individualized*, inclusive recreational fitness programs to people with developmental disabilities to assist them to reach their goals in fitness, recreation, and overall wellness and 2) Provide training and/or technical assistance to enable service clubs and volunteer organizations to, if necessary, alter their culture and activities to support full and equal participation by people with developmental disabilities in a way that will promote participation in recreational programs based on interest and wellness goals.

Project Goals and Accomplishments for Years 1- 3:

Goal: The achievement of optimal health, physical fitness, actualization and inclusion of individuals with developmental disabilities and the maintenance of a lifestyle conducive to physical fitness, as demonstrated by 80 families actively enroll and complete the 32-week program.

Accomplishments per goal:

The project participated in outreach activities such as the Mayor's Fitness Council and SiClovvia, at which staff gave live demonstrations of program exercises. The program features an 8 month curriculum with progress documented via pre- and post-program surveys. The curriculum, developed prior to program inception, has been certified by the National Strength and Conditioning Association, which allows Any Body Can staff to train YMCA and San Antonio Parks and Recreation staff on working with individuals with developmental disabilities. As of November 2014, 137 families have participated; the goal was to have 50 families per year complete the program. The grantee is confident that at least 13 more families will complete the program by the end of the current budget period. Participating families receive weekly consultations with a Registered Dietician, Physical Therapist, and adapted physical educators who help create a health and fitness plan. Families also have access to community fitness facilities. The program is conducted in 4 phases (Jump Start, Exploration, Inclusion, and Self Training) that guide families through the process of incorporating physical fitness and healthy eating into their lives.

Proposed Goals and Objectives for Year 4:

Goal: Same as above.

Objectives: 1) Enroll 60 new families, of which at least 50 will complete the 32 week training and 2) Establish new partnerships with and train staff in at least 2 recreational venues

Council Considerations: **Public Policy Considerations:** Any Body Can states that their goal is to systematically include health and fitness issues for individuals with DD in the discussion of school funding. Staff request further information regarding specific actions taken to achieve such. **Grant Management Considerations:** No concerns; high risk monitoring (awards within award). TCDD staff has frequent contact on a quarterly basis and annual onsite reviews.

Staff Recommendation: TCDD staff recommends Council consideration of funding for this project.

Continuation Budget Detail Summary

	Federal	Match	Totals
Expended Year 1	\$228,610/\$228,610	\$93,250/\$95,640	\$321,860/\$324,250
Expended Year 2	\$228,610/\$228,610	\$76,203/\$76,203	\$304,813/\$304,813
Expended Year 3 (8 months)(Consultant: \$16,400)	\$205,749/\$128,586	\$68,583/\$40,460	\$274,332/\$169,046
Amount requested for Year 2 budget:			
I. Personnel services	174,459	39,551	214,010
II. Travel	0	0	0
III. Purchased services		15,600	15,600
IV. Property/Materials	428	3,145	3,573
V. Rental/Leasing	0	0	0
VI. Utilities	0	0	0
VII. Other (Indirect Costs)	0	0	0
Budget period totals	\$174,887	\$58,296	\$233,183

**Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities`
Executive Committee**

Date: 2/4/2015

Review of Proposed Activities & Budget

ITEM: C

Grantee: Department of Assistive & Rehabilitative Services (DARS)

Year: 4 of 5

Project Title: Higher Education for People with Developmental Disabilities (Project HIRE)

Project Location: Hidalgo County

Website: <http://drsprojecthire.com>

TCDD RFP Intent:

The project intent is to develop, demonstrate, and evaluate more inclusive models of post-secondary education through which students with severe disabilities receive the supports they need to succeed in college, university, and/or or vocational/technical programs that were originally designed for students with disabilities.

Authorized Funding: TCDD has approved up to \$225,000 for up to five years.

Expected Results: Project HIRE, by grant year five, will graduate or certify at least ten (10) individuals with developmental disabilities from South Texas College (STC).

Project Goals and Accomplishments for Years 1-3:

Goal: Select 18 individuals with developmental disabilities for the project and provide initial college and vocational readiness trainings, job shadowing opportunities, and wrap-around services for academic success

Accomplishments per goal:

Contracts were developed between DARS and the University of Texas-Pan American (UTPA), STC, Dr. Paul Wehman, Access Granted, and Dr. Lynn Fischer, who, with the project advisory committee (PAC), conducted program design and planning meetings. A total of 43 students have been enrolled over the first 3 years of the project and 18 long-term business mentors have been secured. The project has presented at hearings, conferences, and has garnered considerable publicity. As of December 2014, 6 participants have graduated with various degrees including culinary arts, legal office specialist, mechanics, office specialist and multimedia specialist, with 4 of the graduates gaining employment in the field of their academic certificates.

Proposed Goals and Objectives for Year 4:

Goal: Continue to support current project participants to ensure that at least 10 graduate by year 5.

Objectives: Continue to work with project partners to provide assistive technology and business mentors; Continue the post-secondary programs.

Council Considerations:

Public Policy Considerations: This project was identified by Sunset Commission staff as being a promising practice that should be considered for expansion. Grantee should report on where they are in the process with DARS leadership.

Grant Management Considerations: No concerns; high risk monitoring (awards within award).TCDD staff frequently participate in trainings and annual onsite reviews.

Staff Recommendation: TCDD staff recommends Council consideration of funding for this project.

Continuation Budget Detail Summary			
	Federal	Match	Totals
Expended Year 1	\$225,000/\$225,000	\$31,425/\$32,093	\$256,425/\$257,093
Expended Year 2	\$225,000/\$225,000	\$15,060/\$45,598	\$240,060/\$270,598
Expended Year 3 (6 months) (Consultant: \$196,812)	\$225,000 / \$71,631	\$15,060/\$51,164	\$240,060/\$122,795
Amount requested for Year 3 budget:			
I. Personnel Services	0	0	0
II. Travel	0	0	0
III. Purchased Services (\$196,572 consultants)	200,460	22,500	222,960
IV. Property/Materials	4,085	0	4,085
V. Rental/Leasing	0	0	0
VI. Utilities	0	0	0
VII. Other (Indirect Costs)	20,455	0	20,455
Budget period totals	\$225,000	\$22,500	\$247,500

**Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities`
Executive Committee**

Date: 2/4/2015

Review of Proposed Activities & Budget

ITEM: D

Grantee: Texas Statewide Independent Living Council (TX SILC)

Year: 4 of 5

Project Title: Health & Fitness (Getting Fit to Live, Work, and Play!)

Project Location: Brazos Valley; Lubbock; El Paso

Website: <http://www.txsilc.org/healthandfitness/>

TCDD RFP Intent:

The project intent is to demonstrate how appropriate supports may help people with developmental disabilities to participate in exercise and nutrition programs.

Authorized Funding: TCDD has approved up to \$250,000 for up to five years

Expected Results: Grantees are expected to demonstrate how to: 1) Provide *individualized*, inclusive recreational fitness programs to people with developmental disabilities to assist them to reach their goals in fitness, recreation, and overall wellness and 2) Provide training and/or technical assistance to enable service clubs and volunteer organizations to, if necessary, alter their culture and activities to support full and equal participation by people with developmental disabilities in a way that will promote participation in recreational programs based on interest and wellness goals.

Project Goals and Accomplishments for Years 1-3:

Goal 1: Improve the overall health and fitness of people with developmental disabilities by providing access to appropriate programs for at least 150 individuals (50 for each of 3 sites)

Goal 2: Provide evidence-based, data-supported report to demonstrate project efficacy.

Accomplishments per goal:

The project has a three-tiered approach to developing programs that improve health: 1) Increasing the availability of and access to fitness programs for individuals with disabilities; 2) Connecting consumers to established health programs in pilot areas; and 3) Increasing awareness of the importance of health and fitness programs for people with disabilities. Centers use Independent Living Plans to determine and track consumer goals and progress. To date, the project has served 163 individuals: 37 at Brazos Valley Center for Independent Living (BVCIL), 92 at LIFE/RUN, and 34 at Volar Center for Independent Living.

Proposed Goals and Objectives for Year 4:

Goals: Same as above.

Objectives: 1) Continue in-house and community-based health and fitness programs at LIFE/RUN, BVCIL and Volar; 2) Provide data collection and reporting system to demonstrate project efficacy; and 3) Produce *Getting Fit to Live, Work, and Play: A Study on Wellness and Developmental Disabilities* report.

Council Considerations: Public Policy Considerations: The grantee has a public policy goal for their health and fitness projects to influence the community to provide accessible, integrated health and wellness services. One of their independent living centers reports partnering with local ZUMBA, Weight Watchers, and diabetes programs to advance the goal of integration. Grantee should consider working with MCOs to have these programs included as "value added service" for persons using Medicaid.

Grant Management Considerations: Grantee has exceeded goals identified in original workplan and project has been rated highly by consumers. No concerns; monitoring at considerable risk (awards-within-award).

Staff Recommendation: TCDD staff recommends Council consideration of funding for this project.

Continuation Budget Detail Summary

	Federal	Match	Totals
Expended Year 1	\$219,472/\$219,472	\$54,868/\$55,741	\$274,340/\$275,213
Expended Year 2 (Consultant \$133,876)	\$250,000/\$250,000	\$53,583/\$64,957	\$303,583/\$314,957
Expended Year 3 (7 months)(Consultant \$133,876)	\$245,000/\$108,838	\$51,980/\$35,947	\$296,980/\$144,785
Amount requested for Year 2 budget:			
I. Personnel services	88,058	0	88,058
II. Travel	2,000	0	2,000
III. Purchased services (\$125,000 consultants)	134,194	51,600	185,794
IV. Property/Materials	1,000	0	1,000
V. Rental/Leasing	6,420	0	6,420
VI. Utilities	6,328	0	6,328
Budget period totals	\$238,000	\$51,600	\$289,600

**Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities`
Executive Committee**

Date: 2/4/2015

Review of Proposed Activities & Budget

ITEM: E

Grantee: VSA Arts of Texas

Year: 3 of 4

Project Title: Opening Minds, Opening Doors: Promoting Self-Advocates as Speakers

Project Location: Travis, Hays, Williamson, El Paso, Bexar, and Harris Counties

Website: None

TCDD RFP Intent: The project intent is to recruit a diverse group of self-advocates who will become public speakers, facilitators or mentors in an effort to increase the number of organizations that include self-advocates as speakers, facilitators and mentors at in-state conferences or trainings.

Authorized Funding: TCDD has approved up to \$125,000 for up to 4 years.

Expected Results: Conferences and trainings will use self-advocates as speakers, facilitators, or mentors.

Project Goals and Accomplishments for Year 1-2:

Goal: To increase the number of self-advocates who are speakers, facilitators and mentors at conferences held in Texas.

Accomplishments per goal: In the Austin-Central Texas area, the project completed two 6-week training courses, one for 4 young adult self-advocates and one for 7 continuing participants from the previous year; these courses focused on story-telling, practicing interviews and using a microphone, and was piloted with a group of 9 self-advocates. Held two 5-week writing classes for 11 continuing participants, a speaker's showcase with 45 participants and 10 self-advocates presented at 4 conferences/events.

In El Paso, the project recruited 7 self-advocates to participate in 6-week training and launched the 6-week class. To date, the 7 self-advocates have presented at 2 conferences and have been invited to keynote at the Children's Disabilities Information Coalition Symposium. There was a training of trainers held for 3 instructors. Monthly classes are being held for self-advocates at Volar CIL.

The project completed 5 training videos and will launch the third (3rd) phase of the 3-phase speaker training series following the February 5, 2015 showcase.

Proposed Goals and Objectives for Year 3:

Goal: Same as above.

Objectives: Update program documents and training curriculum, advertise program and recruit PAC members and 12 self-advocates; train self-advocates to become speakers, mentors and facilitators and provide ongoing support and technical assistance to these self-advocates; and, support self-advocates as speakers and presenters at conferences in Texas.

Council Considerations:

Public Policy Considerations: The grantee states (initial work plan) they have an overarching public policy focus on the underlying institutional bias and states that presentations will address health and human services, transportation, employment, and school issues. Staff request specific info about issues, biases and barriers addressed in presentations in order to promote their work accordingly. **Grant Management Considerations:**

No concerns; considerable risk monitoring (award within awards). **Staff Recommendations:** TCDD staff recommends Council consideration of funding for this project.

Continuation Budget Detail Summary			
	Federal	Match	Totals
Expended Year 1	\$125,000/\$125,000	\$41,666/\$41,666	\$166,666/\$166,666
Expended Year 2 (6 months) (Consultants: \$21,652)	\$125,000/\$52,323	\$41,000/\$14,444	\$166,000/\$66,767
Amount requested for Year 3 budget:			
I. Personnel Services	68,384	17,893	86,277
II. Travel	6741	690	7431
III. Purchased Services (Consultants: \$25,400)	34,203	19,102	53,305
IV. Property/Materials	462	3681	4143
V. Rental/Leasing	13,950	0	13,950
VI. Utilities	1260	300	1560
VII. Other (Indirect Costs)	0	0	0
Budget period totals	\$125,000	\$41,666	\$166,666

Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities

Executive Committee

Date: 2/4/2015

Review of Proposed Activities & Budget

ITEM: F

Grantee: Texas Parent to Parent (TxP2P)

Year: 5 of 5

Project Title: Public Policy Collaboration

Project Location: Austin

Website: <http://www.txp2p.com>

TCDD RFP Intent:

The project intent is for multiple projects that will assist TCDD to promote and participate in collaborative activities related to public policy. For the purposes of this RFP, "collaboration" is defined as "organizations and/or individuals working together in a formal, sustainable manner; demonstrating mutual respect, mutual learning, and mutual accountability; sharing risks, resources, responsibility, and rewards; with a common goal."

Authorized Funding: The Council did not establish specific funding amounts for the project; TCDD has approved funding for up to five years

Year 1: \$65,588 Year 2: \$61,780 Year 3: \$58,700 Year 4: \$55,800 Year 5: \$50,000

Expected Results: Advocates of all ages and abilities will be trained to participate in the legislative process.

Project Goals and Accomplishments for Year(s) 1-3:

Goal year(s) 1-4: Develop the TxP2P Advocacy Network that will utilize parent volunteers of children with disabilities, young self-advocates, siblings, and other interested people to advocate for community-based issues in health and human services, transportation, housing, employment, and education for people with disabilities.

Accomplishments per goal: In year one, this project trained parents to create testimony and present at Legislative Hearings, reaching 126 self-advocates and 219 family members. In year two, TxP2P staff provided 6 face-to-face trainings in 6 Texas cities; 160 total participants. 89 advocates made legislative visits and/or attended stakeholder meetings. In year three, the grantee provided trainings at several conferences and coordinated 9 one-on-one trainings and legislative visits with parents who met them at the Capitol. In year four, the grantee assisted many advocates with stakeholder meetings, hearings, and legislative visits through face-to-face meetings and weekly phone calls; 16 volunteers are now serving on state advisory boards. Advocates also attended trainings including a conference on guardianship reform and a course on special education law and regulations; 55 students from UT's School of Nursing attended a grantee event in the Capitol to learn about disability issues and participate in legislative visits; 218 total active participants

Proposed Goals and Objectives for Year 4:

Goal(s): Same as above

Objective(s): Continue to create program documents, training curriculum, advertise program, and recruit and family volunteers; Stay current on state issues; Train individuals to advocate for community-based issues in health and human services, transportation, housing, employment, and education for people with disabilities and provide on-going support and information for the volunteers.

Council Considerations: Public Policy Considerations: The grantee's goal is to have every Texas Representative engaged with volunteer disability advocates. Advocates in each district will meet with their local representative and have regular interactions with them or their staff to advocate for community-based issues that impact people with disabilities. The project has bilingual staff and plans to reach volunteer advocates in rural districts by employing teleconference calls and webinars.

Grant Management Considerations: No concerns; low risk monitoring. **Staff Recommendation:** TCDD staff recommends Council consideration of funding for this project.

Continuation Budget Detail Summary			
	Federal	Match	Totals
Expended Year 1 (Consultant: \$375)	\$65,588/\$65,588	\$29,698/\$39,482	\$95,286/\$105,070
Expended Year 2 (Consultant: \$375)	\$61,780/\$61,780	\$41,473/\$47,101	\$103,253/\$108,881
Expended Year 3 (Consultant: \$375)	\$58,700/\$58,700	\$29,237/\$54,082	\$87,937/\$86,627
Expended Year 4 (Consultant: \$8,375)	\$55,800/\$25,718	\$45,584/\$66,973	\$101,384/\$92,691
Amount requested for next year budget:			
I. Personnel services	36,941	1,216	38,157
II. Travel	570	0	570
III. Purchased services (Consultants/Sub-awards - \$7475)	9,785	80,445	90,230
IV. Equipment/Supplies	1,200	0	1,200
V. Rental/leasing	810	810	1,620
VI. Utilities	694	182	876
VII. Other	0	0	0
Budget period totals	50,000	82,653	132,653

**Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities
Executive Committee**

Date: 2/4/2015

Review of Proposed Activities & Budget

ITEM: G

Grantee: Texas Tech University

Year: 4 of 5

Project Title: Higher Education for People with Developmental Disabilities (Project CASE)

Project Location: Statewide

Website: none

TCDD RFP Intent:

The project intent is to develop, demonstrate, and evaluate more inclusive models of post-secondary education through which students with severe disabilities receive the supports they need to succeed in college, university, and/or or vocational/technical programs that were originally designed for students with disabilities.

Authorized Funding: TCDD has approved up to \$225,000 for up to five years.

Expected Results: Project CASE will create a replicable, sustainable higher education model that will build a collaborative partnership with the Burkhart Center, TTU, SPC, the Byron Martin Advanced Technology Center, DARS, and the business community to identify, recruit, and retain individuals with developmental disabilities across Texas, ages 18-25, who are seeking to further their education beyond high school and securing meaningful paid employment in their field of choice.

Project Goals and Accomplishments for Years 1-3:

Goal: Select 18 individuals with developmental disabilities for the project and provide initial college and vocational readiness trainings, job shadowing opportunities, and wrap-around services for academic success

Accomplishments per goal:

A total of 3 Project CASE students have graduated and are employed; another students has transferred to the Sul Ross Gaming Program in Alpine, TX. The remaining participants are expected to complete their programs between 2014-2017 and 1 will have completed a Master's Degree in Architecture. As of October 2014, a total of 25 students are actively enrolled in the program and 4 are anticipated to graduate in December 2014. As of October 2014, 100% of Cohort 1 students have participated in 1 or more internships, and 50% of Cohort 2 students have participated in at least 1 internship. Cohort 3 consists of 8 new students.

Proposed Goals and Objectives for Year 4:

Goal: Maintain all current cohorts and recruit new students as possible, with an estimated maximum of 30 actively enrolled students.

Objectives: Maintain a caseload of 10 Project CASE participants per Learning Specialist.

Council Considerations:

Public Policy Considerations: Since expanding the corps of local businesses willing and able to provide competitive employment is a current goal, staff request info re successful methods used for recruitment.

Grant Management Considerations: Grantee and Grant Specialist discussed sustainability plan using a fee for service model that would require TCDD approval prior to implementation as well as a modified GRI Questionnaire. This model may be implemented this year but has not been finalized at this time. GSM will continue to monitor and follow-up; extensive risk monitoring (due to award amount).

Staff Recommendation: TCDD staff recommends continued funding for this project

Continuation Budget Detail Summary			
	Federal	Match	Totals
Expended Year 1	\$209,384/\$209,054	\$79,725/\$98,256	\$289,109/\$307,310
Expended Year 2	\$217,079/\$216,946	\$72,377/\$92,549	\$289,456/\$309,495
Expended Year 3 (10 months)(Consultant: \$6,054)	\$220,089/\$156,226	\$73,363/\$73,426	\$293,452/\$229,652
Amount requested for Year 3 budget:			
I. Personnel services	198,774	0	198,774
II. Travel	14,409	0	14,409
III. Purchased services (\$1,393 consultants)	5,489	0	5,489
IV. Property/Materials	2,326	0	2,326
V. Rental/Leasing	0	0	0
VI. Utilities	0	0	0
VII. Other (Indirect Costs)	0	73,666	73,666
Budget period totals	\$220,998	\$73,666	\$294,664

Background:

The **Quarterly Financial Report** is included for review by the Executive Committee and Council and includes the following information:

- **Summary of Funds FY 2013-2016** – The report summarizes funds budgeted from the federal allotment for each fiscal year and actual or projected expenditures for each of those years. From those amounts, a projected balance of funds available for each year is shown. Note that expenditures are tied to the federal fiscal year grant awarded to TCDD regardless of whether those funds are expended during the 1st, 2nd, or 3rd year when they are available. This report projects a deficit of funds for FY 2016. However, funds not spent by current grantees or for staff operations and other funds management strategies are expected to address that concern.
- **FY 2014 Expense Budgets** – This report shows final expenditures for fiscal year 2014 (Oct. 1, 2013, thru Sept. 30, 2014). The report shows that while certain expense for some categories where more than the amount budgeted, overall expenses for the year remained within the approved budget for the year.
- **FY 2015 Expense Budgets** – This report compares the approved budget for fiscal year 2015 (Oct. 1, 2014, thru Sept. 30, 2015) with expenses year-to-date (Oct. 1, 2014 thru Dec. 31, 2014), and provides year-to-date projected expenses for each category if expenses were evenly distributed during the year. All expenses are reported by expense category and by type of staff activity, and serves as a gauge to monitor expenditures so that they remain within the approved budget for the year.
- **2013, 2014 and 2015 Grants & Contracts Awards Reports** –The Grants and Contracts Awards Reports provide simplified information of active grantees during each funding year. The reports include the budget period for each award; approved RFP amounts; awarded amounts (regardless of the year of funds used); expended amounts to date; and balances to be spent before the current budget period ends. Amounts shown as expended year to date are based on requests for reimbursements from grantees that have been processed. That data is usually 1-2 months behind actual expenditures on most grants.
- **Stipends Expenditures** – Provides a summary of funds awarded or expended for each stipend grant recipient, the number of individuals attending the conference or seminar who benefited from those stipend funds, and how many of those participants also received TCDD stipend support previously from that organization.

Notes:

- The TCDD fiscal year is the federal fiscal year: October 1 through September 30.
- The DD Act allows two full federal fiscal years for initial awards/obligations of funds, and allows three federal fiscal years for final expenditure/liquidation of funds.

Executive Committee

Agenda Item 9.

Expected Action:

The Committee will review the Quarterly Financial Report and may provide additional guidance to staff.

Council

Agenda Item 13. C.

Expected Action:

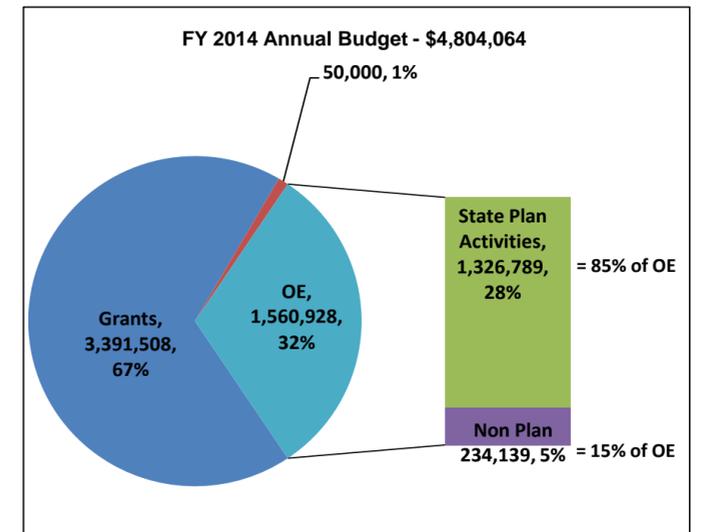
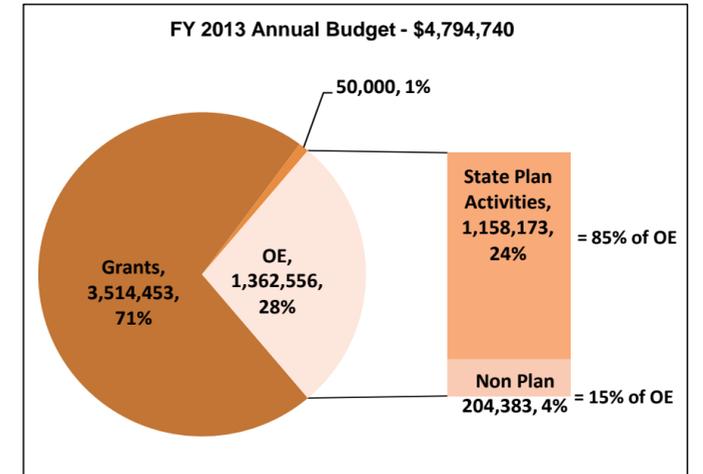
The Council will receive a report from the Executive Committee about the Committee’s review of the Quarterly Financial Report and may also provide additional guidance.

**Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities
Summary of Funds FY 2013 - 2016
January 2015**

Model Key				
Numbers in black represent budget numbers or actuals for the current or prior years.				
Numbers in blue represent forecast numbers.				
	10/1/2011- 9/30/2014	10/1/2012- 9/30/2015	10/1/2013- 9/30/2016	10/1/2014- 9/30/2017
Line Item	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016
REVENUES				
Federal Funds				
Estimate of Federal Award	\$4,794,740	\$4,804,064	\$4,804,064	\$4,804,064
Actual Award ¹	\$4,794,740	\$4,804,064	\$4,804,064	\$4,804,064
Prior year difference (Current FY Award - Prior FY Award)	(\$289,278)	\$9,324	\$0	\$0
EXPENDITURES				
Operating Expenses				
Approved by Council	\$1,782,379	\$1,678,208	\$1,610,928	\$1,775,000
Expenses ²	\$1,280,287	\$1,412,556	\$1,610,928	\$1,775,000
Balance of Operating Expense funds	\$502,092	\$265,652	\$0	\$0
Grants and Projects Expenses				
Available from Current Fiscal Year	\$3,514,453	\$3,391,508	\$3,193,136	\$3,029,064
Actual/Estimated Grant Awards ^{3 & 4}	\$3,514,453	\$3,237,219	\$2,133,603	\$2,313,165
Current Projects Difference (Available - Actual)	\$0	\$154,289	\$1,059,533	\$715,899
Prior Year Funds Available	\$0	\$0	\$114,824	\$264,357
BALANCE OF FUNDS AVAILABLE	\$0	\$0	\$1,174,357	\$980,256
Planned Projects ⁵	\$0	\$39,465	\$910,000	\$1,285,000
BALANCE AFTER PLANNED PROJECTS ⁶	\$0	\$114,824	\$264,357	(\$304,744)

NOTES:

- ¹ Partial Allotment FY15 NOGA \$933,275 received 10-16-14. Expected final amount to be level funding.
- ² FY13 operating expenses charged to FY12 funds resulting in FY12-14 operating expenses partially charged to prior year funds.
- ³ Funds awarded or anticipated to be awarded for authorized projects are included in projections of Grants and Project Expenses.
- ⁴ Funds awarded each Fiscal Year (FY) can be expended within 3 FY periods.
- ⁵ Planned Grants & Projects Expenses include projects planned and approved but not initiated. Total amounts authorized are reflected although actual awards approved may be less.
- ⁶ 2013 Balance were fully obligated by the end of Sept. 2014.
- ⁷ FY 13 balance lapsed by grantee, not available for future years.



Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities

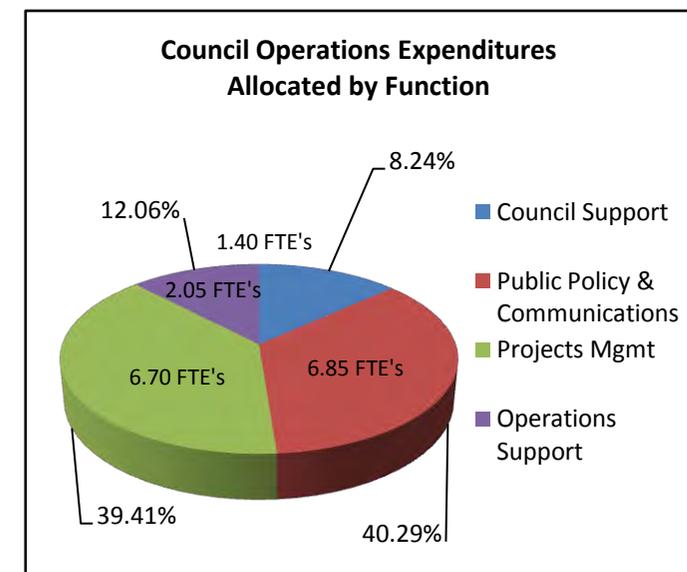
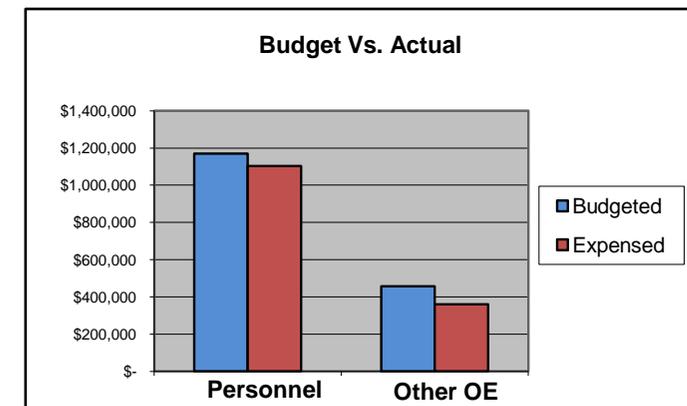
FY 14 Admin & Expense Budget

Oct. 1, 2013
thru
Sep. 30, 2014

Expenses (Council Operations)	Budget	Year to Date Projected	Expended	Variance
Personnel (17 FTEs)				
Salaries	909,359	909,359	822,731	86,628
Benefits	261,249	261,249	280,228	(18,979)
Total Personnel	\$ 1,170,608	\$ 1,170,608	\$ 1,102,960	\$ 67,648
Operating				
Professional Services ¹	75,000	75,000	96,167	(21,167)
Out-of-State Travel ²	27,000	27,000	16,133	10,867
In-State Travel ³	63,000	63,000	43,811	19,189
Supplies	10,000	10,000	14,596	(4,596)
Utilities	35,000	35,000	25,917	9,083
Rent - Building - Space	69,450	69,450	61,237	8,213
Rent - Computers - Equip ⁴	46,000	46,000	40,228	5,772
Capital Expenditures	-	-	-	-
Other OE ⁵	132,150	132,150	62,311	69,839
Total Operating	\$ 457,600	\$ 457,600	\$ 360,401	\$ 97,199
Total Expenses	Budget	YTD Budgeted	Actual	Variance
	1,628,208	1,628,208	1,463,360	164,848
Admin Reim to TEA	50,000	100.0%	89.9%	
TOTAL	\$ 1,678,208		\$ 1,513,360	
Expenditures by Function				
	Council Support	Public Policy & Communications	Projects Mgmt	Operations Support
\$	195,203	\$ 518,317	570,514.67	\$ 179,326

NOTES:

- ¹ Auditor - \$29,000/\$25,780; CPA Desk Reviews - \$10,000/\$6,600; Legal Svs - \$3,000/\$426
Web Hosting - \$5,000/\$1,800; Data Center Services - \$10,000/\$23,758
Other Professional Services - \$9,500/\$2,955; Reviewers - \$4,500/\$4,648; Temp Services - \$0/\$30,201
- ² Travel - Out-of-State Council - \$15,900 /\$9,241; Travel - Out-of-State Staff - \$11,100 /\$6,893
- ³ Travel - In-State Council - \$45,000 /\$31,906; Travel - In-State Staff - \$18,000 /\$11,905;
- ⁴ Computer lease - \$12,000/\$16,605; AV Equipment - \$29,000/\$18,898; Copier - \$5,000/\$4,678
- ⁵ Other OE - NACDD Dues - \$23,942, interpreter svs, registration fees, other training, maintenance, advertising, postage, printing, software, furniture, non-cap equip, security, and janitorial services-\$108,208



Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities

FY 15 Admin & Expense Budget

Oct. 1, 2014 thru
Dec. 31, 2014

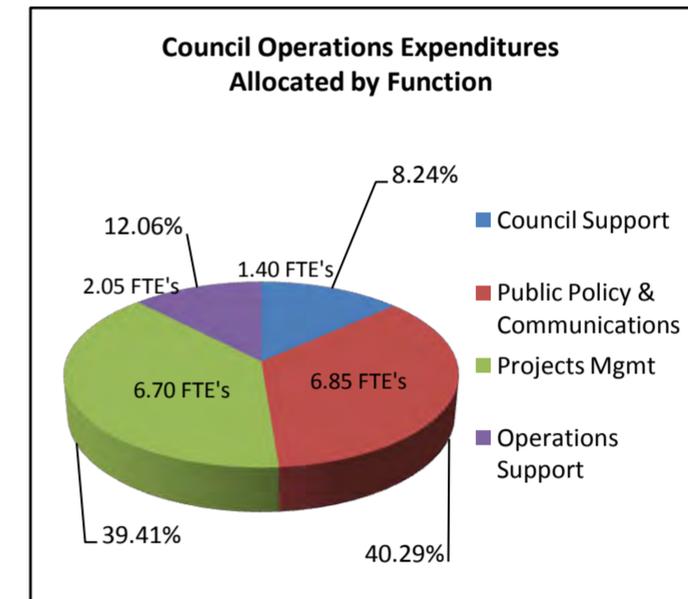
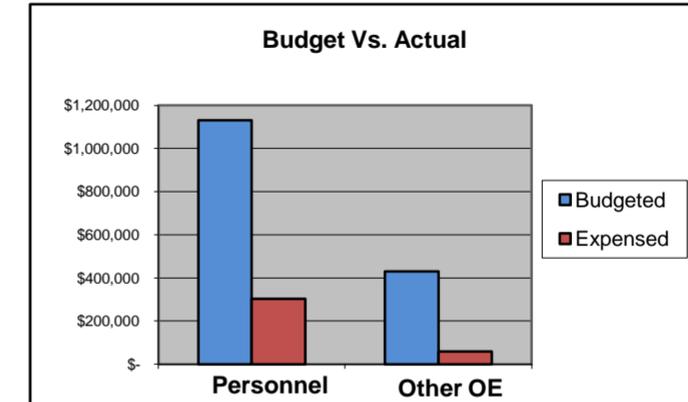
Expenses (Council Operations)	Budget	Year to Date Projected	Expended	Variance
Personnel (17 FTEs)				
Salaries	871,924	217,981.00	236,771	(18,790)
Benefits	259,320	64,830.00	65,922	(1,092)
Total Personnel	\$ 1,131,244	\$ 282,811	\$ 302,693	\$ (19,882)
Operating				
Professional Services ¹	96,014	24,003.50	9,138	14,865
Out-of-State Travel ²	27,000	6,750.00	-	6,750
In-State Travel ³	58,000	14,500.00	14,375	125
Supplies	12,000	3,000.00	4,876	(1,876)
Utilities	32,000	8,000.00	5,802	2,198
Rent - Building - Space	64,570	16,142.50	13,507	2,635
Rent - Computers - Equip ⁴	35,000	8,750.00	4,954	3,796
Capital Expenditures	-	-	-	-
Other OE ⁵	105,100	26,275.00	6,008	20,267
Total Operating	\$ 429,684	\$ 107,421	\$ 58,660	\$ 48,761
Total Expenses	Budget	YTD Budgeted	Actual	Variance
	1,560,928	390,232	361,353	28,879
Admin Reim to TEA	50,000	25.0%	23.1%	
TOTAL	\$ 1,610,928		\$ 411,353	

Expenditures by Function

	Council Support	Public Policy & Communications	Projects Mgmt	Operations Support
\$	124,712	\$ 102,213	\$ 140,691	\$ 88,150

NOTES:

- ¹ Auditor - \$39,000/\$0; CPA Desk Reviews - \$8,000/\$0; Legal Svs - \$3,000/\$0
 Web Hosting - \$3,000/\$450; Data Center Services - \$16,014/\$649
 Other Professional Services - \$9,000/\$1,135; Reviewers - \$3,000/\$0; Temp Services - \$12,000/\$6,904
- ² Travel - Out-of-State Council - \$15,500 /\$0; Travel - Out-of-State Staff - \$11,500 /\$0
- ³ Travel - In-State Council - \$41,000 /\$11,167; Travel - In-State Staff - \$17,000 /\$3,208;
- ⁴ Computer lease - \$8,900/\$1,481; AV Equipment - \$21,420/\$3,081; Copier - \$4,680/\$378
- ⁵ Other OE - NACDD Dues - \$21,000, interpreter svs, registration fees, other training, maintenance, advertising, postage, printing, software, furniture, non-cap equip, security, and janitorial services-\$84,100.



2013 GRANTS & CONTRACTS AWARDS REPORT

Budget Period	RFP Amount	Awarded Amount	YTD Expended Amount	Balance
A Circle of Ten		Building Community Capacity through Collaboration Projects-1		
1/1/2013 - 8/31/2014	\$75,000	\$110,000	\$110,000	\$0
A Circle of Ten		Capacity Building (Contract)		
1/2/2013 - 11/30/2013	\$37,000	\$37,000	\$36,627	\$373
Advocacy for Living in Mainstream America (ALMA)		Outreach & Development 8		
1/1/2013 - 12/31/2013	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$9,362	\$638
Any Baby Can of San Antonio, Inc		Health & Fitness 1		
3/1/2013 - 2/28/2014	\$250,000	\$228,610	\$228,610	\$0
ARCF Community Services		Outreach & Development 9		
7/1/2013 - 7/31/2014	\$10,000	\$7,367	\$7,367	\$0
Austin Travis County Integral Care		Central Texas African American Family Support Conference (Contract)		
9/1/2013 - 8/31/2014	\$6,870	\$6,870	\$2,926	\$3,944
Brighton School, Inc.		Exp of Existing Leadership Development & Advocacy Skills Trng Projects (ELDAST)		
10/1/2012 - 9/30/2013	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$0
Community Healthcare		Building Community Capacity through Collaboration Projects-2		
2/1/2013 - 8/31/2014	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$0
Data Momentum		Support for Advocacy U (Contract)		
9/1/2013 - 2/28/2014	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$6,998	\$8,002
Data Momentum		Support for Advocacy U (Contract)		
3/1/2013 - 8/31/2013	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$6,998	\$8,002
Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services		Higher Education 3		
2/1/2013 - 3/31/2014	\$225,000	\$225,000	\$225,000	\$0
East Texas Center for Independent Living		Building Community Capacity through Collaboration Projects-3		
1/1/2013 - 5/31/2014	\$75,000	\$74,640	\$74,640	\$0

Budget Period	RFP Amount	Awarded Amount	YTD Expended Amount	Balance
Educational Programs Inspiring Communities, Inc.		Enabling Technology 1		
6/1/2013 - 5/31/2014	\$225,000	\$225,000	\$225,000	\$0
Epilepsy Foundation Texas		Health & Fitness 2		
6/1/2013 - 6/30/2014	\$250,000	\$249,750	\$249,750	\$0
Imagine Enterprises Inc		Self-Advocacy as Speakers 2		
5/1/2013 - 11/30/2013	\$125,000	\$124,999	\$111,493	\$13,506
Imagine Enterprises Inc		Exp of Existing Leadership Development & Advocacy Skills Trng Projects (ELDAST		
1/1/2013 - 12/31/2013	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$19,962	\$38
Jewish Family Service of Dallas		Inclusive Faith-Based Symposium 3		
5/1/2013 - 4/30/2014	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$0
NAMI Texas		New Leadership Development & Advocacy Skills Trng (NLDAST 3)		
4/1/2013 - 7/15/2014	\$75,000	\$74,971	\$74,971	\$0
OneStar Foundation		Inclusive Faith-Based Symposium 1		
4/16/2013 - 4/30/2014	\$75,000	\$64,833	\$64,833	\$0
Paso del Norte Children's Development Center		Exp of Existing Leadership Development & Advocacy Skills Trng Projects (ELDAST		
10/1/2012 - 9/30/2013	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$19,872	\$128
REACH Families		Outreach & Development 10		
9/1/2013 - 8/31/2014	\$10,000	\$9,903	\$9,893	\$10
Region 17 ESC		Families in Schools		
6/1/2013 - 6/30/2014	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$0
Region 19 ESC		Exp of Existing Leadership Development & Advocacy Skills Trng Projects (ELDAST		
10/1/2012 - 9/30/2013	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$19,716	\$284
SafePlace		Meaningful Relationships		
8/1/2013 - 8/31/2014	\$125,000	\$123,527	\$123,527	\$0
Strategic Education Solutions, LLC		Enabling Technology 2		
5/1/2013 - 5/31/2014	\$225,000	\$225,000	\$225,000	\$0

Budget Period	RFP Amount	Awarded Amount	YTD Expended Amount	Balance
Texas A&M University		Higher Education 1		
3/1/2013 - 2/28/2014	\$225,000	\$225,000	\$225,000	\$0
Texas A&M University		L&A Statewide Advanced Training		
4/1/2013 - 10/31/2013	\$150,000	\$214,742	\$213,923	\$819
Texas A&M University		New Leadership Development & Advocacy Skills Trng (NLDAST 2)		
8/1/2013 - 7/31/2014	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$74,993	\$7
Texas Advocates		New Leadership Development & Advocacy Skills Trng (NLDAST 1)		
5/1/2013 - 5/31/2014	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$0
Texas Center for Disability Studies		Support for Advisory Committee Member Travel		
10/1/2012 - 10/31/2012	\$46,346	\$46,346	\$44,704	\$1,642
Texas Center for Disability Studies		Support for Advisory Committee Member Travel		
11/1/2012 - 9/30/2014	\$45,747	\$45,747	\$45,747	\$0
Texas Parent to Parent		Public Policy Collaboration Activities		
3/1/2013 - 2/28/2014	\$0	\$58,700	\$58,700	\$0
Texas State Independent Living Council		New Leadership Development & Advocacy Skills Trng (NLDAST 7)		
2/1/2013 - 1/31/2014	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$0
Texas State Independent Living Council		Health & Fitness 3		
4/1/2013 - 4/30/2014	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$0
Texas Tech University		Project SEARCH		
10/1/2012 - 9/30/2013	\$175,000	\$174,854	\$174,844	\$10
Texas Tech University		Building Community Capacity through Collaboration Projects-4		
1/1/2013 - 12/31/2013	\$75,000	\$74,996	\$74,935	\$61
Texas Tech University		Higher Education		
12/1/2012 - 10/31/2013	\$225,000	\$217,079	\$216,946	\$133
The Arc of Dallas		New Leadership Development & Advocacy Skills Trng (NLDAST 4)		
4/1/2013 - 3/31/2014	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$0

Budget Period	RFP Amount	Awarded Amount	YTD Expended Amount	Balance
The Arc of Greater Tarrant County		Inclusive Faith-Based Symposium 2		
7/1/2013 - 8/31/2014	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$73,755	\$1,245
The Arc of San Angelo		Alternatives to Guardianship-Volunteer Advocate Pilot Program		
5/1/2013 - 4/30/2014	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$0
The Arc of Texas		New Leadership Development & Advocacy Skills Trng (NLDAST 5)		
5/1/2013 - 5/31/2014	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$0
The Arc of Texas		Texas Microboard Collaboration		
10/1/2012 - 9/30/2013	\$0	\$62,596	\$62,596	\$0
Volar Center for Independent Living		Building Community Capacity through Collaboration Projects-5		
1/1/2013 - 6/30/2014	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$0
VSA Arts of Texas		Self-Advocacy as Speakers 1		
5/1/2013 - 5/31/2014	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$0
West Central Texas Regional Foundation		Inclusive Faith-Based Symposium 4		
2/1/2013 - 2/15/2014	\$75,000	\$74,322	\$74,322	\$0
Totals:	\$4,350,963	\$4,526,852	\$4,488,010	\$38,842

2014 GRANTS & CONTRACTS AWARDS REPORT

Budget Period	RFP Amount	Awarded Amount	YTD Expended Amount	Balance
A Circle of Ten		Capacity Building (Contract)		
11/1/2013 - 12/31/2013	\$37,000	\$37,000	\$36,627	\$373
A Circle of Ten		Capacity Building (Contract)		
1/1/2014 - 12/31/2014	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$22,708	\$2,292
Access Empowerment		Accessible Parking Awareness (1)		
1/1/2014 - 6/30/2014	\$40,000	\$39,053	\$38,920	\$133
Any Baby Can of San Antonio, Inc		Health & Fitness 1		
3/1/2014 - 2/28/2015	\$250,000	\$205,749	\$147,324	\$58,425
Austin Travis County Integral Care		Video Production (Contract)		
2/1/2014 - 4/30/2014	\$10,535	\$10,535	\$4,124	\$6,411
Coalition of Texans with Disabilities		Developmental Disabilities Policy Fellows 1		
8/1/2014 - 7/31/2015	\$67,500	\$67,500	\$14,188	\$53,312
Community Healthcore		Building Community Capacity through Collaboration Projects-2		
9/1/2014 - 8/31/2015	\$150,000	\$138,046	\$7,185	\$130,861
Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services		Higher Education 3		
4/1/2014 - 3/31/2015	\$225,000	\$225,000	\$71,631	\$153,369
Educational Programs Inspiring Communities, Inc.		Enabling Technology 1		
6/1/2014 - 9/30/2014	\$225,000	\$225,000	\$53,219	\$171,781
Epilepsy Foundation Texas		Health & Fitness 2		
7/1/2014 - 6/30/2015	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$118,755	\$131,245
Growing Roots		Outreach & Development 14		
7/1/2014 - 6/30/2015	\$10,000	\$9,110	\$4,410	\$4,700
Helpful Interventions		Gulf Coast African American Family Support Conference		
10/1/2013 - 9/30/2014	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$0

Budget Period	RFP Amount	Awarded Amount	YTD Expended Amount	Balance
Imagine Enterprises Inc		Self-Advocacy as Speakers 2		
12/1/2013 - 5/31/2014	\$125,000	\$124,999	\$111,493	\$13,506
Imagine Enterprises Inc		Self-Advocacy as Speakers 2		
6/1/2014 - 5/31/2015	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$40,703	\$84,297
Jewish Family Service of Dallas		Inclusive Faith-Based Symposium 3		
5/1/2014 - 2/28/2015	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$53,605	\$21,395
Moody Clinic		Outreach & Development 11		
1/1/2014 - 12/31/2014	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$9,992	\$8
Nuevos Horizontes de Starr County		Outreach & Development 13		
9/1/2014 - 8/31/2015	\$10,000	\$9,955	\$2,038	\$7,917
OneStar Foundation		Inclusive Faith-Based Symposium 1		
5/1/2014 - 1/31/2015	\$75,000	\$66,931	\$36,643	\$30,288
Region 17 ESC		Families in Schools		
7/1/2014 - 6/30/2015	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$66,461	\$233,539
SafePlace		Meaningful Relationships		
9/1/2014 - 8/31/2015	\$125,000	\$115,029	\$30,050	\$84,979
Strategic Education Solutions, LLC		Enabling Technology 2		
6/1/2014 - 5/31/2015	\$225,000	\$225,000	\$127,298	\$97,702
Texas A&M University		Higher Education 1		
3/1/2014 - 2/28/2015	\$225,000	\$225,000	\$185,601	\$39,399
Texas A&M University		New Leadership Development & Advocacy Skills Trng (NLDAST 2)		
8/1/2014 - 5/31/2015	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$19,969	\$55,031
Texas Advocates		Self Advocate Community Organizing		
9/1/2014 - 8/31/2015	\$100,000		\$0	
Texas Advocates		New Leadership Development & Advocacy Skills Trng (NLDAST 1)		
6/1/2014 - 5/31/2015	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$36,956	\$38,044

Budget Period	RFP Amount	Awarded Amount	YTD Expended Amount	Balance
Texas Center for Disability Studies		DADS PCT Training (Contract)		
1/1/2014 - 8/31/2014	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$365	\$29,635
Texas Center for Disability Studies		DADS PCT Training (Contract)		
9/1/2014 - 12/31/2014	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$7,199	\$22,801
Texas Parent to Parent		Public Policy Collaboration Activities		
3/1/2014 - 2/28/2015	\$0	\$55,800	\$25,718	\$30,082
Texas State Independent Living Council		New Leadership Development & Advocacy Skills Trng (NLDAST 7)		
2/1/2014 - 1/31/2015	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$60,023	\$14,977
Texas State Independent Living Council		Health & Fitness 3		
5/1/2014 - 4/30/2015	\$250,000	\$245,000	\$122,422	\$122,578
Texas Tech University		Higher Education		
11/1/2013 - 1/31/2014	\$225,000	\$217,079	\$216,946	\$133
Texas Tech University		Project SEARCH		
10/1/2013 - 9/30/2014	\$175,000	\$174,666	\$174,666	\$0
Texas Tech University		Building Community Capacity through Collaboration Projects-4		
1/1/2014 - 12/31/2014	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$140,848	\$9,152
Texas Tech University		Higher Education		
2/1/2014 - 2/28/2015	\$225,000	\$220,089	\$156,226	\$63,863
The Arc Del Paso		Outreach & Development 12		
1/1/2014 - 12/31/2014	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$6,832	\$3,168
The Arc of Dallas		New Leadership Development & Advocacy Skills Trng (NLDAST 4)		
4/1/2014 - 3/31/2015	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$51,950	\$23,050
The Arc of Greater Tarrant County		Inclusive Faith-Based Symposium 2		
9/1/2014 - 2/28/2015	\$59,000	\$58,992	\$22,964	\$36,028
The Arc of Texas		Developmental Disabilities Policy Fellows 2		
8/1/2014 - 7/31/2015	\$67,500	\$67,500	\$6,454	\$61,046

Budget Period	RFP Amount	Awarded Amount	YTD Expended Amount	Balance
The Arc of Texas		New Leadership Development & Advocacy Skills Trng (NLDAST 5)		
6/1/2014 - 5/31/2015	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$27,884	\$47,116
Travis County		Accessible Parking Awareness (2)		
1/1/2014 - 6/30/2014	\$40,000	\$37,125	\$37,125	\$0
VSA Arts of Texas		Self-Advocacy as Speakers 1		
6/1/2014 - 5/31/2015	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$61,436	\$63,564
West Central Texas Regional Foundation		Inclusive Faith-Based Symposium 4		
2/16/2014 - 1/31/2015	\$75,000	\$74,988	\$50,049	\$24,939
Totals:	\$4,596,535	\$4,455,146	\$2,484,007	\$1,971,139

PLANNED GRANTS/CONTRACTS

Budget Period	RFP Amount	Awarded Amount	YTD Expended Amount	Balance
5-Partnership with AA Clergy to Support Families		Partnership with AA Clergy to Support Families-		
6/1/2014 - 5/31/2015	\$25,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
PP Committee-Capacity Building		PP Committee-Capacity Building-Balance		
12/1/2013 - 11/30/2015	\$14,465	\$0	\$0	\$0
Totals:	\$39,465	\$0	\$0	\$0

2015 GRANTS & CONTRACTS AWARDS REPORT

Budget Period	RFP Amount	Awarded Amount	YTD Expended Amount	Balance
A Circle of Ten		Building Community Capacity through Collaboration Projects-1		
12/1/2014 - 11/30/2015	\$150,000	\$114,000	\$12,886	\$101,114
Helpful Interventions		Gulf Coast African American Family Support Conference		
10/1/2014 - 8/31/2015	\$50,000	\$49,998	\$24,262	\$25,736
Texas Tech University		Project SEARCH		
10/1/2014 - 9/30/2015	\$175,000	\$174,716	\$11,923	\$162,793
Texas Tech University		Building Community Capacity through Collaboration Projects-4		
1/1/2015 - 2/28/2015	\$20,000	\$19,175	\$0	\$19,175
The Arc of San Angelo		Alternatives to Guardianship-Volunteer Advocate Pilot Program		
10/1/2014 - 3/31/2015	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$0	\$25,000
Volar Center for Independent Living		Building Community Capacity through Collaboration Projects-5		
10/1/2014 - 9/30/2015	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$5,248	\$119,752
Totals:	\$545,000	\$507,889	\$54,319	\$453,570

PLANNED GRANTS/CONTRACTS

Budget Period	RFP Amount	Awarded Amount	YTD Expended Amount	Balance
2A-Developmental Disability Policy Fellowships		Developmental Disability Policy		
6/1/2015 - 5/31/2016	\$135,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
2B-Understanding Employment Options & Support Train		Understanding Employment Options & Support Training-12/1/14		
6/1/2014 - 5/31/2015	\$150,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
3-Culturally Appropriate Family Support Conferences		Culturally Appropriate Family Support Conferences (5 @ \$75k/yr)-2/1/15		
6/1/2014 - 5/31/2015	\$375,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
5-Partnership with AA Clergy to Support Families		Partnership with AA Clergy to Support Families-		
12/1/2014 - 11/30/2015	\$75,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
6-Accessible Transportation Project		Accessible Transportation Project		
6/1/2015 - 5/31/2016	\$150,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
PP Committee-Capacity Building		PP Committee-Capacity Building-Balance		
10/1/2014 - 9/30/2015	\$25,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Totals:	\$910,000	\$0	\$0	\$0

STIPEND EXPENDITURES

ORGANIZATION	MONTH OF EVENT	EXPENDED	NUMBER SERVED	PREVIOUSLY SERVED	COMMENTS/CLOSED
FYE 9-30-13					
ADTRC	Oct-2012	4,566	19	1	✓
Volar Center for Independent Living	Oct-2012	6,000	53	11	✓
Community Options, Inc.	Nov-2012	6,000	6	0	✓
NAMI Texas	Nov-2012	5,890	62	0	✓
Austin Travis County Integral Care	Feb-2013	5,500	16	0	Speakers ✓
ADDA-SR	Feb-2013	5,912	47	0	✓
The Arc of Texas	Feb-2013	3,556	20	9	✓
Austin Travis County Integral Care	Feb-2013	6,000	16	0	✓
Jewish Family Services of Houston	Feb-2013	5,000	500	0	✓
Texas A&M University	Feb-2013	5,813	34	3	✓
Coalition of Texans with Disabilities	Mar-2013	1,893	7	4	✓
Harris County Department of Education	Jun-2013	4,102			Speakers ✓
University of North Texas	Jul-2013	4,750	50	0	✓
American Association on Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities Texas Chapter (AAIDD-TX)	Jul-2013	3,775	10	1	✓
Texas Parent to Parent	Jul-2013	6,000	37	5	✓
Texas Advocates	Aug-2013	5,988	54	19	✓
The Arc of Greater Beaumont	Aug-2013	3,664			Speakers ✓
Providers Alliance for Community Services of Texas (PACSTX)	Sep-2013	5,000	246	0	Speakers ✓
TOTALS:		\$89,409	1,177	53	

FYE 9-30-14

Barbara Jordan Endeavors Corp	Oct-2013	4,912	94	0	✓
A Circle of Ten	Oct-2013	3,553	87	0	✓
The University of Texas at El Paso	Oct-2013	5,000			Speakers ✓
Volar Center for Independent Living	Oct-2013	6,000	75	25	✓
Area Network on Disabilities & Aging	Oct-2013	2,600	55	6	✓
DADS	Feb-2014	1,983	213		Speakers ✓

STIPEND EXPENDITURES

ORGANIZATION	MONTH OF EVENT	EXPENDED	NUMBER SERVED	PREVIOUSLY SERVED	COMMENTS/CLOSED
The Arc of Texas	Feb-2014	4,665	39	6	✓
Jewish Family Services of Houston	Feb-2014	6,000			✓
ADDA-SR	Feb-2014	4,872	41	0	✓
Austin Travis County Integral Care	Feb-2014	6,000	17	4	Conference ✓
Austin Travis County Integral Care	Feb-2014	6,000			Speakers ✓
Family to Family Network Inc	Mar-2014	1,174			Presenters ✓
Family to Family Network Inc	Mar-2014	4,210	172	0	Conference ✓
Texas Parent to Parent	Jun-2014	6,000	45	11	✓
American Association on Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities Texas Chapter (AAIDD-TX)	Jul-2014	1,755	6	3	✓
Texas Advocates	Aug-2014	5,930	65	18	
Providers Alliance for Community Services of Texas (PACSTX)	Sep-2014	6,000	281		Speakers ✓
TOTALS:		\$76,654	1,190	73	

NOTE: Budgeted amount used if stipend is not closed.

Background:

Minutes of the November 6, 2014, Project Development Committee meeting are included for your review.

**Project Development
Committee**

Agenda Item 3.

Expected Action:

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

**TEXAS COUNCIL FOR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
PROJECT DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2014
FINAL DRAFT MINUTES**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Gladys Cortez, Chair	Manda Hall (DSHS)	John Thomas
Kimberly Blackmon	Scott McAvoy	Rick Tisch
Andrew Crim	Cindy Swain (TEA)	
Mary Durham	David Taylor	

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Diana Kern	Dana Perry
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STAFF PRESENT

Martha Cantu	Sonya Hosey	Fernando Rodriguez
Joanna Cordry	Wendy Jones	Joshua Ryf
Cynthia Ellison	Susan Mihalik	

GUESTS

Ivy Goldstein (DSHS)	Carrie Warner
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CALL TO ORDER

The Project Development Committee met on Thursday, November 6, 2014, at the Marriott Austin South at 4415 IH-35 South, Austin, Texas 78704. Chair Gladys Cortez called the meeting to order at 2:38 p.m. A quorum was present.

1. INTRODUCTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS, STAFF AND VISITORS

Committee members, staff and guests were introduced.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Committee reviewed minutes of the August 7, 2014, Project Development Committee meeting.

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the August 7, 2014, Project Development Committee meeting as drafted.

MADE BY: Scott McAvoy

SECOND: Manda Hall

The motion **passed** unanimously.

4. CHAIR'S REMARKS

Chair Gladys Cortez informed members that the Public Policy Committee has moved the review of position statements to the top of the agenda, should members wish to provide input.

5. MEMBER UPDATES

New member John Thomas stated that he has experience in financial and business activities and has a strong background in audits. He has volunteered to serve on the TCDD Audit Committee.

6. STAFF REPORTS

A. Public Information Report

Joshua Ryf, TCDD Communications Coordinator, reported on Public Information. Ryf remarked that social media connections have increased. TCDD focuses on providing information through Facebook, e-mail campaigns, and eNews (TCDD Connection). Items are updated regularly and content is shared in various different formats. Handouts like the People First handouts and other user friendly methods are used to share information. To receive emails, individuals may sign up on the TCDD website.

An updated Higher Education Guide has been published and will be available on the website and through email.

B. Status of New/Approved Projects

Sonya Hosey, Grants Management Director, reported on the status of the new and approved projects. Hosey directed the committee to the grant project highlights for Texas A&M Higher education project and REACH Families Outreach and Development project. Hosey informed the committee that the Texas Advocates Self-Advocate Grassroots Community Organizing is expected to begin on January 1, 2015.

Hosey also provided an update Committee members on decisions of the Executive Committee to approve continuation grant awards for various projects.

C. Projected Available Funds

Martha Cantu, Operations Director, reported on the Projected Available Funds and the Grants and Contracts Award Reports. Approximately \$56,000 of FY2014, funds remain available at the end of FY 14 that can be obligated during FY 15.

D. Other Updates

The Sunset Commission Staff Report found that the purpose of TCDD is important in the state and recommends TCDD continue for another 12 years. Sunset staff also recommend that TCDD conduct follow-up on grant projects for 3-5 years after grant funding has ended.

The Committee discussed the need to identify reasonable expectations for sustainability of projects that receive grant funds. The Committee also discussed how goals and measurable outcomes of grant projects should be clearly identified from the initial conception of a project. Council Chair Mary Durham suggested that TCDD incorporate measurable outcomes into the continuation process for existing grants. Joanna Cordry, Planning Coordinator, remarked on the importance of only capturing relevant data as data collection frequently requires additional resources.

The Sunset Commission recommendations may require additional staff to implement and maintain the additional information being captured and tracked. Cordry and Hosey are streamlining current staff work activities and hope this will allow staff time to conduct follow up without needing additional resources. Cantu noted that two staff positions are currently vacant and could be used for this purpose if determined to be necessary.

7. FUTURE ACTIVITIES FOR STATE PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

A. SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS RESEARCH-RELATED EXPENSES

Ms. Cordry reviewed the Executive Summary for Support for Expenses for Research on Disability-related Topics projects. The Committee discussed how the grant would be structured and managed. Several potential hurdles were identified and solutions were discussed.

MOTION: To approve the Executive Summary for Support for Student Research-Related Expenses on Disability-Related Topics as written for up to \$25,000 per year per research project, for up to three projects, for up to three years.

MADE BY: Scott McAvoy

SECOND: Rick Tisch

The motion **passed**. Andy Crim abstained.

B. IDEAS TO ENHANCE THE IMPACT OF TCDD ACTIVITIES

The Committee discussed a possible future Partners in Policymaking (PIP) project. PIP is a proprietary program model of intensive leadership and advocacy training supported by many DD Councils. The TCDD funded PIP from 1991-2006 with funding of \$385,000 for the final grant year. That enabled 30-35 people to receive training annually. TCDD currently funds many other leadership and advocacy training projects that provide good training, but PIP produced the largest number of advanced advocates who continue to engage in advocacy at the state level.

The Committee discussed some of the strengths and challenges of the Texas PIP program and also explored the possibility of implementing a model similar to that supported by the New York DD Council that uses technology to connect multiple classes around the state for the same presentation. Each local class has its own facilitator. This might enable classes tailored to individual communities, save travel costs, and allow other individuals to view presentations. Committee members expressed concerns about possibly diluting the PIP brand by making some of the information available to a large group of people who then might not choose to attend the entire training. The Committee requested that staff provide more information on the New York Model and other options for the May 2015 meeting.

Susan Mihalik, Grant Specialist, discussed possible “next steps” for TCDD’s four faith-based projects. Mihalik updated the Committee on the status of each project and noted that the grantees hope to continue to work together after grant funding from TCDD is complete. The Committee expressed interest in considering a small amount of funding to enable these projects to build a network of organizations that are building inclusive faith-based communities to support each other. The Committee requested that staff gather more information and develop an Executive Summary for an inclusive faith-based community network, to include measureable outcomes.

8. FUTURE PROJECT FUNDING PRIORITIES

The Committee reviewed the current priorities for new projects and added the newly approved project.

MOTION: To add “Support for Student Research-Related Expenses on Disability-Related Topics” to TCDD Future Funding Activities Priorities as item #7.

MADE BY: Andrew Crim

SECOND: John Thomas

The motion **passed** unanimously.

9. STATE PLAN PROGRESS AND SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS

Ms. Cordry briefly discussed the TCDD FY2012-2016 State Plan: Progress in Year 3 and Suggested Next Steps document. The Committee chose to table discussion on this item for a meeting later in the year.

MOTION: To submit the State Plan Goals and Objectives as currently written, with no changes, and to consider possible amendments or changes to Objectives and Activities at a later meeting.

MADE BY: Mary Durham

SECOND: Rick Tisch

The motion **passed** unanimously.

10. SELECTION OF TCDD NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEMBER

The Committee discussed the need to appoint a member to the Nominating Committee. David Taylor was selected to serve on the nominating committee by acclamation.

Council Chair Durham commented that due to the Council's term limit policy, current Vice-Chair Andy Crim is not eligible to serve an additional term. However, many of the members are new to the Council and may not feel comfortable serving as Council Vice-Chair, and several more experienced members have recently expressed reluctance to take on additional responsibility. The Committee discussed the possibility of suspending the term limit provision to provide the Nominating Committee with an additional choice to consider for Council Vice-Chair.

MOTION: To recommend Council approval for a one year suspension of the provision in TCDD Policies that limits a person from serving as vice-chair of the Council for more than two consecutive terms.

MADE BY: Rick Tisch

SECOND: Mary Durham

The motion **passed**. Andy Crim abstained.

11. OTHER DISCUSSION ITEMS

None.

MOTION: To end the meeting.

MADE BY: Rick Tisch

SECOND: Manda Hall

The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 4:51 p.m.

Roger A. Webb, Secretary to the Council

Date

Background:

Staff will provide updates to the Project Development Committee regarding public information activities, the status of new or recently approved projects, and projected funds available for new projects. Meeting materials include the following items for your review prior to the meeting:

- **Grants Risk Assessment Report (found under Tab 3)** – summarizes the risk assessment matrix for considerations of continuation grant awards, new grant awards and provides more detail about monitoring activities for all TCDD funded projects. This format now includes any concerns identified by grants staff from ongoing monitoring of projects.
- **Grant Project Highlights** – The quarterly Grant Project Highlights Report is enclosed for review by Committee members. This report provides highlights of grantee accomplishments for current TCDD funded projects. Project Highlights Enabling Technology – *Strategic Education Solutions, LLC* and *Educational Programs Inspiring Communities* projects will be reviewed by grants staff at the Committee of the Whole.

Staff may also refer to the following printed materials, found behind other Tabs:

- **Public Information Report** - includes recent public information staff activities that create awareness and build connections. Tab 14
- **TCDD Quarterly Financial Report** –summarizes TCDD’s approved budget and year-to-date expenditures and is used in projecting funds available for additional projects in future years. Tab 6

Project Development Committee

Agenda Item 6.

Expected Action:

Information items only; no action is anticipated.

Council

Agenda Item 15. A.

Expected Action:

The Council will receive a report on key discussions of the Committee on these items. No action is anticipated.

**TCDD Project Highlights
February 2015**

Enabling Technology

RFP Intent: To improve employment options and educational outcomes for individuals with developmental disabilities by promoting collaboration between people with developmental disabilities and developers to create affordable, widely available, technology; to enable people with developmental disabilities to gain and maintain competitive employment

Grantee: Strategic Education Solutions, LLC.

Project Title: Virtual Job Coach
Project Location: Houston

Year: 3 of 5
TCDD Budgeted: \$225,000

Accomplishments:

- Over 50 modules including career planning and job search skills have been completed
- Pre and post-pilot surveys were used to compile evaluation reports for years 1 & 2
- A group of students from a high school transition class were recruited to test the product
- A management component was added to enable support staff to create “classes” of users
- Users have received employment offers

Sustainability:

The technology used to deliver the content will be licensed through Trinity Education Group in an industry-standard arrangement based on the number of users, with the per-user licensing fee reducing as the number of users increases. The grantee is exploring ways to expand the product’s reach through partnerships with DARS, TEA, and WorkForce.

Products:

VirtualJobCoach.org, Needs Assessment Surveys (English/Spanish), Content Development Manual, Evaluation Report (years 1&2)

Grantee: Educational Programs Inspiring Communities

Project Title: Working with HEART
Project Location: Houston

Year: 3 of 5
TCDD Budgeted: \$225,000

Accomplishments:

- Grantee and project partner developed, coded, and deployed all components of the HITS (**HEART Inventory Tracking System**) application
- Project partner trained participants and staff on use of the application
- Participants have begun testing the functionality of the application
- Participants are currently using the application to enter inventory and check in products

Sustainability:

Hardware for this project has been purchased (iPads) and TCDD funds have been used to pay for the development, installation, and integration of the application. Therefore, ongoing costs will be minimal and are limited to expenses such as operating the app (monthly hosting fees) and wireless data plans for the tablets. The project partner (Blue Lance Group) has also been very creative in utilizing various licenses to ensure that ongoing costs are further reduced.

Products:

iPad application, Pre-assessment participant questionnaire, Program evaluation.

Background:

The Committee will discuss two Executive Summaries for possible projects to implement State Plan Objectives:

- Support Network for Faith-Based Inclusion
- Stakeholder Training on Guardianship Alternatives

Behind this tab is the Executive Summary for Stakeholder Training on Guardianship Alternatives. The Executive Summary for a Support Network for Faith-Based Inclusion is not included in the binder materials but will be emailed to members prior to the meeting and included in the materials folder provided at the Council meeting.

If you have any questions or thoughts related to this Executive Summary, please contact Joanna Cordry, Planning Coordinator, at (512) 437-5410 or Joanna.Cordry@tcdd.texas.gov.

Project Development Committee

Agenda Item 7.

Expected Action:

The Committee will discuss the Executive Summaries and may recommend Council consideration of the proposed activities.

Council

Agenda Item 10. A-B.

Expected Action:

The Council will consider recommendations from the Project Development Committee.

Executive Summary

Stakeholder Training on Guardianship Alternatives

Project Goal

Partner with stakeholders and subject matter experts to develop and provide training to promote the informed use of alternatives to guardianship that assist individuals to make their own decisions, maintain civil rights, and reduce the need for guardianships.

The proposed project would address State Plan Objective 5.5: Beginning in FY 2014, develop opportunities to partner with people who have developmental disabilities, families, providers, medical schools, licensing and certification boards, agencies, and/or community-based organizations to provide or develop training and/or practice guidelines that include knowledge related to disability and incorporate components of successful TCDD projects.

Proposed Funding Amount

Up to \$40,000 per year.

Proposed Duration

Up to three years.

Background

The vast majority of people with disabilities, including those with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD), can make important decisions when they receive necessary supports and services without needing a guardian. Because a guardianship can result in a person losing all rights to manage their own finances, vote, get married, enter into contracts, or make medical decisions for themselves, guardianships are usually believed to be a last resort. State law in Texas directs courts to encourage the maximum self-reliance and independence. However, attorneys, judges, providers, and parents do not necessarily have knowledge or appreciation of alternatives to guardianship that may prevent a person from losing all rights. Also, the broad definition of incapacity in the Texas Estates Code has a discriminatory impact on people with I/DD by enabling a court to appoint a guardian if an adult has a physical or mental condition and is substantially unable to provide food, clothing, or shelter; to care for their physical health; or to manage their own financial affairs.

Information about individuals under guardianship is not easily available. The State of Texas' Office of Court Administration (OCA) writes in a 2014 report, "As in many other states, case-level data about guardianship proceedings in Texas is incomplete for the purpose of state-level and statewide analysis."ⁱ It appears the number of people under guardianship in Texas is considered a "best guess" because some courts are not reporting as expected. Texas has only recently initiated data collection to determine how many individuals under guardianship are people with disabilities, and it does not appear that reliable data is available to allow TCDD to determine if there are other groups that may be disproportionately impacted by guardianship laws or processes.

The Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities' (TCDD) involvement in guardianship-related issues has included collaboration with other advocate groups to examine guardianship laws, advocacy to improve laws and practices, and development of projects to demonstrate alternatives to guardianship.

In 2009, TCDD staff and other advocates provided assistance to members of the 81st Texas Legislature to draft House Bill (HB) 1454 that incorporated some of the components of past TCDD Peer to Peer Support projects. HB 1454 directed the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to create a volunteer-supported decision-making advocate pilot program for people with I/DD or other cognitive disabilities who live in a community setting. The goal of the pilot was to demonstrate an alternative to guardianship that does not impede self-determination. HHSC directed the Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) to implement the pilot and prepare the report for the legislature.

In 2011, TCDD provided a three year grant to the Arc of San Angelo to establish a pilot to develop a trained pool of volunteers willing to support individuals with intellectual, developmental, and/or other disabilities in making their own decisions as an alternative to guardianship and to provide DADS with information to prepare their report to the legislature. The project identified legal, procedural and cultural barriers preventing volunteers from supporting decision-making of individuals with developmental disabilities. The project also found other states promoted alternatives to guardianship that were not available in Texas policy and practice.

At the same time that TCDD's project was piloting one alternative to guardianship, TCDD staff were also collaborating with other advocates in two separate policy-related initiatives to develop recommendations for guardianship reform.

The first initiative, the "Texas Working Interdisciplinary Network of Guardianship Stakeholders" (WINGS), was created using an incentive grant awarded by the National Guardianship Network to the Texas Office of Court Administration (OCA). WINGS had broad representation from a range of stakeholders: probate judges; attorneys; physicians; guardian providers; elder advocates and professionals; and disability advocates, including TCDD. WINGS was charged to identify strengths and weaknesses in the state's current system of adult guardianship and less restrictive decision-making options; address key policy and practice issues; engage in outreach, education and training; and serve as an ongoing problem-solving mechanism to enhance the quality of care and quality of life of adults in, or potentially in, the guardianship and alternatives systems.

The second initiative in which TCDD has been actively involved is the Guardianship Reform and Supported Decision-Making (GRSDM) workgroup. GRSDM is an ad hoc group of organizations; individuals with physical, mental, intellectual and developmental disabilities; seniors; social workers; and representatives from the legal community. The GRSDM collaboration developed seven policy proposals to support increased opportunities for people with disabilities and elders to make important decisions without the need for a guardianship by making changes in the Texas Estates Code. The proposals are related to:

- change of the impersonal term "ward" to "person under guardianship";
- development of a bill of rights that individuals under guardianship would be able to keep;

- required consideration of less restrictive alternatives prior to a guardianship decision;
- improved protections for individuals in institutions by setting certain duties of guardians;
- consideration of supports to assist people to meet their needs and avoid or limit guardianship;
- supported decision-making agreements as an informal alternative to guardianship; and
- inclusion of a provision to allow a person under guardianship to make decisions about residence.

These seven proposals were reviewed by the OCA, which appreciated the necessity of expanding the work to be inclusive of people with developmental disabilities and agreed the seven proposals are needed reforms.

TCDD and other advocates expect significant changes to the Estates Code to be proposed during the 84th Texas Legislative Session. If passed, these bills will clarify the preference for less restrictive alternatives to guardianship, define and promote the use of supported decision-making agreements, and alter the duties of both attorneys ad litem and guardians. Attorneys, judges, people with disabilities, and their caregivers will likely need additional training on any new legislation. This creates an opportunity for TCDD to collaborate with others to develop training materials that include information on changes to Texas Estates Code, current alternatives to guardianship, and self-determination.

Project Description

The grantee or contractor will work with TCDD staff and other stakeholders (including individuals with developmental disabilities, family members of people with developmental disabilities, relevant licensing and certification boards, and community-based organizations) to:

1. Develop outreach plans for target audience groups, to include probate and county court judges, probate attorneys, and individuals with disabilities and family/supporters.
2. Develop training materials tailored to each audience group and including information about alternatives to guardianship, including:
 - a. Limited guardianships
 - b. Medical Power of Attorney – Chapter 166, Health and Safety Code
 - c. Durable Power of Attorney – Section 751.002, Estates Code
 - d. Declaration for Mental Health Treatment – Chapter 137, Civil Practice and Remedies Code
 - e. HIPPA releases
 - f. Financial management relationships
 - g. Supported decision-making agreements
3. Ensure that training includes changes from the 84th Texas Legislature.
4. Apply to the State Bar of Texas to be able to provide continuing legal education (CLE) accreditation for attorneys.
5. Submit presentation proposals for current professional development conferences for judges and attorneys.
 - a. For probate court judges, county court at law judges and constitutional county court judges, presentation proposals are expected to be submitted to:
 - i. The Texas College of Probate Judges

- ii. The Texas Judicial Academy
 - iii. Other annual and/or regional training conferences for county court at law judges
- b. For attorneys, presentation proposals are expected to be submitted to:
 - i. The Poverty Law Section of the State Bar of Texas for inclusion in the annual Poverty Law Conference and or in web-based presentations
 - ii. The Real Estate, Probate and Trust section of the State Bar
- 6. Submit presentation proposals to annual conferences hosted by stakeholder groups, such as the Texas Council for Community Centers, the Texas Council of Administrators of Special Education, the Texas Guardianship Association and advocacy organizations like the Arc of Texas, Texas Advocates, Texas Parent to Parent, and National Alliance on Mental Illness.
- 7. Identify other local training partners, schedule trainings, reserve venues, and raise awareness of training opportunities among target audience groups. For provision of training to individuals with disabilities and family members, possible partners to be considered should include: Local Authorities, Regional Education Service Centers, the Arc of Texas, Texas Advocates and Centers for Independent Living.
- 8. Provide training to the target audience groups and collect information to evaluate the effectiveness and usefulness of the training.
- 9. Report to TCDD on progress at least quarterly, and provide information on the number of people trained, the demographics of those trained, and the results of the training evaluations.
- 10. Provide TCDD with information and recommendations about further policy actions and future projects.

Other Considerations

1. The need for this project was identified by TCDD staff in collaboration with the other members of the GRSDM workgroup who advocated for the guardianship reforms to be included in the proposed legislation. Members of the GRSDM provided significant input into the activities described in this Executive Summary. TCDD expects that this workgroup will continue to be involved in the implementation of the activities (along with other stakeholders) and that an organization or organizations that is/are a member of this workgroup may apply to oversee implementation of the project. Funds for the project activity will be awarded through a competitive process, and all organizations interested in applying will receive the same amount of information from TCDD regarding the project and guardianship reform.
2. Because of the large number of people with disabilities, family members, and others located around the state who would benefit from training on alternatives to guardianship, TCDD may consider funding an additional project to develop and conduct training for individuals with disabilities and family members, using the information gained and lessons learned from the activities described here. TCDD staff anticipate such a project would require a larger funding amount and a longer duration.

ⁱ *Texas Guardianship Cases: Improving Court Processes and Monitoring Practices in Texas Courts*, Texas Office of Court Administration, November 2014.

http://www.txcourts.gov/media/701080/GUARDIANSHIP-STUDY_11-12-14-Final.pdf

Future Project Funding Priorities

Tab 10

Background:

This chart includes all projects previously approved by the Council that have not yet been initiated. The Project Development Committee reviews the Priority List each quarter, adds new projects recommended for approval by the Council, and may recommend revisions to the priority order as the Committee determines is appropriate.

Project Development Committee

Agenda Item 8.

Expected Action:

The Committee will review Future Project Funding Priorities and recommend revisions to the Council.

Council

Agenda Item 10. C.

Expected Action:

The Council will consider recommendations from the Project Development Committee.

TCDD Future Funding Activities Priority List

As of November 7, 2014

#	Organization/Activity	Possible Projects	Funding "Up To"	Council Approved	Expected RFP Post	Expected Start	Expected End
N/A	Outreach & Development Projects – 2.0 Projects for up to 18 months	5/yr	\$10,000/project	10/25/2013	TBD	FY 14-16	Variable
N/A	Developmental Disability Policy Fellows Program Award up to 2 two-year Fellowships in each of Year 1 and Year 2 up to 3 yrs.	1	Year 1 up to \$135k Year 2 up to \$270K Year 3 up to \$135K	8/9/2013	2/21/2014 1/16/2015	8/1/2014 7/1/2015	5/31/2016 5/31/2017
1	Targeted Online Training up to 2 yrs.	12 Webinars /podcasts	Up to \$15K	5/8/2014	NA	9/1/2014	8/31/2016
2	Understanding Employment Options and Supports Conference up to 2 yrs.	1	\$150,000/yr.	10/25/2013	6/6/2014	12/1/2014	11/30/2016
3	Culturally Competent Family Support up to 4 yrs.	5	\$75,000/yr.	5/3/2013	6/6/2014	12/1/2014	11/30/2018
4	Leadership Development and Advocacy Training up to 5 yrs.	4	*\$75,000/yr.	5/8/2014	TBD	TBD	TBD
5	Partnership with African American Clergy to Support Families up to 5 yrs.	1	\$75,000/yr.	5/3/2013	N/A	TBD	TBD
6	Accessible Transportation Project Year 1 -3 funding up to \$150k; Year 4 up to \$125k; and Year 5 up to \$100k up to 5 yrs.	1	\$150,000/yr.	10/25/2013	TBD	TBD	TBD
7	Support for Student Research-Related Expenses on Disability-Related Topics up to 5 yrs.	TBD	\$25,000/yr.	11/7/2014	TBD	TBD	TBD
N/A	Support for Full Participation of Self-Advocates on Workgr up to 1 yrs.	1	\$50,000/yr.	8/9/2013	N/A	9/1/2013	8/31/2014

1. Up to \$10K for development of the template and guide; up to \$15K per year, for development of up to 12 products using the template.

4. Additional Funding may be made available to provide reasonable accommodations.

Legend	Open RFP or Proposals received are under review at time of printing.
	Proposals have been approved, awarded or project is in process of beginning since last Council meeting.

Background:

Minutes of the November 6, 2014, 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
November 6, 2014**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Kristen Cox, Chair	Stephen Gersuk	Brandon Pharris
Hunter Adkins	Jennifer Kaut, DARS	Penny Seay, TCDS
Kristine Clark	Penny Larkin, DADS	Lora Taylor
Andrew Crim	Ruth Mason	April Young, HHSC
Mary Faithfull, DRTx	Michael Peace	

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Mateo Delgado	Amy Sharp, TAMU-UCEDD
Sara Kendall, DARS	

Council Members Present

Cindy Swain, TEA
Richard Tisch

STAFF PRESENT

Roger A. Webb, Executive Director	Celina Galván Linda Logan Jessica Ramos	Joshua Ryf Koren Vogel
Belinda Carlton		

GUESTS PRESENT

Amy Fawell
Harold Liller, OAG
Darryl Powell
Don Taylor

CALL TO ORDER

The Public Policy Committee convened on Thursday, November 6, 2014, in the Limestone II Room at the Marriott Austin South, Austin, Texas 78704. Committee Chair Kristen Cox called those present to order at 1:35 p.m.

1. INTRODUCTIONS

Committee Chair Kristen Cox asked the Committee members and staff to introduce themselves, and share what they would say to Governor-elect Greg Abbott, if they encountered him and had 30 seconds to speak with him.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Amy Fawell, President of Mothers Advocating for Medical Marijuana for Autism (MOMMA) reiterated her public comments to the Committee of the Whole and added that TCDD, if they select to endorse a bill, should not endorse a CBD oil only bill since it would only impact a small percentage of children or illnesses. Ms. Fawell also stated that medical marijuana is not a cure, but a quality of life issue.

3. REVISIONS OF TCDD POSITION STATEMENTS

Chair Kristen Cox introduced the Community Living Position Statement and explained the different proposed revisions included in the binder.

After much discussion, Stephen Gersuk made a motion.

MOTION: To recommend the Council adopt the Community Living Position Statement labeled 'Gersuk Proposed Revisions with Staff Suggestions.'

MADE BY: Stephen Gersuk

SECOND: Lora Taylor

ABSTENTIONS: Jennifer Kaut, Penny Larkin, and April Young

The motion **failed** with seven opposed, three in favor, and three abstentions. Chair Cox clarified that the Community Living Position Statement stands as approved at the May 8, 2014, Public Policy Committee meeting.

Chair Cox introduced the Education Position Statement. The committee discussed how to handle additional revisions submitted "at the 11th hour." Public Policy Director Jessica Ramos suggested that the Committee consider revisions included in the binder since most were simply reordering text for readability and consistency with other position statements and consider late recommendations during the February meeting. Cox agreed.

MOTION: To recommend Council adoption of the Education Position Statement, as presented in meeting materials.

MADE BY: Brandon Pharris

SECOND: Lora Taylor

The motion **passed** unanimously. (Attachment 1 as revised.)

Chair Cox introduced the Access to Health Care Position Statement to the Committee. Director Ramos highlighted proposed revisions.

MOTION: To recommend Council adoption of the Access to Health Care Position Statement, as revised.

MADE BY: Lora Taylor

SECOND: Hunter Adkins

ABSTENTIONS: Jennifer Kaut, Penny Larkin, and April Young

The motion **passed** with three abstentions. (Attachment 2 as approved.)

Chair Cox introduced the Right to Privacy Position Statement. Ramos highlighted proposed revision. Members agreed to revise a portion of the final bullet to strike “originally” so the sentence reads “Directories of an individual’s personal information should be used only as originally allowed by the individual.”

MOTION: To recommend Council adoption of the Right to Privacy Position Statement with one revision.

MADE BY: Brandon Pharris

SECOND: Penny Seay

ABSTENTIONS: None

The motion **passed** unanimously with the noted revision. (Attachment 3 as approved.)

4. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

The Committee reviewed the minutes from the May 8, 2014, Public Policy Committee meeting.

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the May 8, 2014, Public Policy Committee meeting, as presented.

MADE BY: Hunter Adkins

SECOND: Brandon Pharris

ABSTENTIONS: Kate Layman and Penny Larkin

The motion **passed** with two abstentions.

The Committee reviewed the minutes from the August 7, 2014, Public Policy Committee meeting.

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the August 7, 2014, Public Policy committee meeting, as presented.

MADE BY: Lora Taylor

SECOND: Brandon Pharris

ABSTENTIONS: Mary Faithfull and Penny Seay

The motion **passed** with two abstentions.

5. MEMBER UPDATES

There were no Committee member updates.

6. SELECTION OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair Cox asked for a nomination or a volunteer from the Public Policy Committee for a member of the Nominating Committee. Hunter Adkins nominated herself.

MOTION: To approve Hunter Adkins as the designated member of the Nominating Committee.

MADE BY: Hunter Adkins

SECOND: Lora Taylor

ABSTENTIONS: None

The motion **passed** unanimously

7. PUBLIC INFORMATION REPORT

Communications Coordinator Joshua Ryf reviewed the Public Information Report, highlighting increased engagement in social media, a passive media tool, and emails, a direct communication tool. Committee members asked how to receive the emails. Mr. Ryf stated that he would provide instructions to all the Committee members on how to sign up for the e-newsletter, *TCDD Connection*.

8. 2014 BIENNIAL DISABILITY REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

Public Policy Director Ramos reviewed proposed policy recommendations for the 2014 Biennial Disability Report.

MOTION: To recommend Council approval of the policy recommendations for the 2014 Biennial Disability Report as presented.

MADE BY: Brandon Pharris

SECOND: Lora Taylor

ABSTENTIONS: None

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

Chair Kristin Cox called for a ten minute break at 3:05 pm.

Chair Cox reconvened the meeting at 3:20 pm.

9. PUBLIC POLICY ISSUES

Public Policy staff provided updates regarding public policy activities including Employment First, Legislative Appropriation Requests (LARs), Sunset Review Activities, an update on State Supported

Living Center Activities, and Federal Policy Issues including Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Settings Rule Input and Medical Marijuana.

Public Policy Director Ramos reviewed the issue of Medical Marijuana for the Committee and indicated that a bill may be introduced during the 2015 Regular Legislative Session. Council member Lora Taylor stated that she is watching the issue closely, and would like to see Texas adopt some form of medical marijuana legislation, and encouraged the Council to adopt a resolution supporting medical marijuana for limited conditions.

Committee member Taylor made a motion to support “whole plant” legislation for medical marijuana. Chair Cox requested that the motion be tabled until the February 2015 meeting so that additional data could be collected. Committee member Taylor agreed.

Ms. Ramos updated the Committee on HCBS Settings Rule Input. The next draft of the transition plan will be posted on November 7, 2014, for a 30-day public comment period.

Ramos reviewed a summary of recommendations from the Texas Employment First Task Force Report. Executive Director Roger Webb is Chair.

Ramos provided an overview of LAR Exceptional Items for the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) and the Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS), and apprised the Committee on the potential impact of budget Reduction Options for FY 2016 – 2017.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Committee Chair Kristen Cox adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Roger A. Webb
Secretary to the Council

Date

Background:

A. State Policy Issues

TCDD Staff will provide an update regarding recent public policy activities.

Discussion topics include:

- Sunset Review Activities
- 2015 Legislation
- Guardianship
- Medical Marijuana

B. Update on State Supported Living Center Activities

The Committee will receive an update on recent activities involving State Supported Living Centers.

Discussion topics include:

- State Supported Living Center (SSLC) Long-term Plan – DRAFT
<http://www.communitynowfreedom.org/uploads/Rider39DraftReport.pdf>

C. Federal Policy Issues

TCDD Public Policy staff will provide an overview of the status and implementation of various federal legislative initiatives that impact people with developmental disabilities including an update on the Able Act.

Important Terms

Legislative Appropriations Request (LAR): a document prepared by each state agency and institution which details the amount of funding each agency is seeking from the legislature.

Public Policy Committee

Agenda Item 6.

Expected Action:

The Committee will receive updates on these items and may make recommendations for consideration by the Council.

Council

Agenda Item 16. B.

Expected Action:

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



Tx Council/Developmental Dis. Bill Status Report

01-20-2015 - 11:58:06

 - Action in the date range  - Link to Related Information () - Priority

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

SB 226 Ellis, Rodney(D) Relating to the applicability of the death penalty to a capital offense committed by a person with an intellectual disability.

Remarks: Would eliminate the death penalty is a punishment for a person with an intellectual disability.

Bill History: 12-03-14 S Filed

EDUCATION

HB 43 Gonzalez, Mary(D) Relating to the creation of a task force to evaluate state assessment instruments administered to public school students with significant cognitive disabilities.

Remarks: Would create a 40-member task force to evaluate state assessments for public school students with cognitive disabilities.

Bill History: 11-10-14 H Filed

HB 70 Gonzalez, Mary(D) Relating to prevention of discrimination and harassment in public schools.

Remarks: Would prohibit a school employee or student from discriminating, harassing or retaliating at school, school event, while transporting based on actual or perceived ethnic, cultural, sexual orientation/identity or disability. Periodic training required.

Bill History: 11-10-14 H Filed

HB 73

Gonzalez, Mary(D)

Relating to academic assessment of public school students with significant disabilities.

Remarks: Would require TEA to develop portfolio or other assessment for students with cognitive disabilities or who are medically fragile receiving special education services if standardized assessment is an inappropriate measure of achievement.

Bill History: 11-10-14 H Filed

HB 279

Simmons, Ron(R)

Relating to eligibility for a public education grant of certain students receiving special education services.

Remarks: Would amend provisions governing receipt of a public education grant to attend public school in another school district or a transfer to another public school in the district where the student resides and to give preference to students at risk of dropping out of school or participating in the special education program. The exception to preference remains the same for all students, that is, a district may give preference over students at risk or eligible for special education to students already enrolled and their siblings or other children living in the same household.

Bill History: 11-12-14 H Filed

HB 356

Gonzalez, Mary(D)

Relating to a federal waiver to exempt public school students with significant cognitive disabilities from annual assessment requirements imposed by federal law.

Remarks: Would require TEA to apply to the US Department of Education for a waiver of the annual alternate assessment of students with significant cognitive disabilities required by the No Child Left Behind Act and IDEA.

Bill History: 11-21-14 H Filed

HB 435

Raymond, Richard(D)

Relating to the instruction of American Sign Language in public high schools.

Remarks: Would allow the instruction of ASL in public high schools via teleconferencing.

Bill History: 12-03-14 H Filed

HB 440 Gonzales, Larry(R) Relating to adapting the public school physical education curriculum to accommodate the needs of students with mental disabilities.

Remarks: Would require accomodations in physical education classes for students with a mental illness, intellectual and developmental disabilities, or pervasive developmental disaorder.

Bill History: 12-04-14 H Filed

SB 176 Seliger, Kel(R) Relating to the Texas School Accountability Dashboard.

Remarks: Would add several data requirements to School Accountability Dashboard, including progress of students in special education.

Bill History: 11-12-14 S Filed

GUARDIANSHIP

HB 257 Farney, Marsha(R) Relating to a justice or judge having an interest in a business entity that owns, manages, or operates a private correctional or rehabilitation facility.

Remarks: Would change a judge's conflict of interest from owning to 10% to owning any share of a business.

Bill History: 11-12-14 H Filed

HEALTHCARE

HB 614 Davis, Sarah(R) Relating to establishing an advance directive registry.

Remarks: Would require a statewide website for posting advance directives so that doctors can find out immediately the patient wishes.

Bill History: 01-06-15 H Filed

SB 89 Ellis, Rodney(D) Relating to the expansion of eligibility for medical assistance to certain persons under the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Remarks: Would require expansion of Medicaid as allowed under the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

Bill History: 11-10-14 S Filed

HIGHER ED & EMPLOYMENT

HB 174	Martinez Fischer, Trey(D)	Relating to requiring a living wage for those that do business with the state. Remarks: Would require state agencies, vendors, and contractors and political subdivisions to pay employees the greater of \$10.10/hour or the federal minimum wage. This could be particularly significant for persons with disabilities working at subminimum wage and associated with the Texas State Use Program. Bill History: 11-10-14 H Filed
SB 36	Zaffirini, Judith(D)	Relating to requiring the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to maintain an inventory of postsecondary educational programs and services for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Remarks: Would require Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to keep, distribute, and update biennially an inventory of postsecondary educational programs and services provided by public colleges and universities to people with IDD. List would be shared on board's website and with TEA. Bill History: 11-10-14 S Filed
SB 37	Zaffirini, Judith(D)	Relating to a study of the participation of individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities in public higher education. Remarks: Would require TEA to maintain data on participation of people with IDD in public higher education. Would require TEA and Comptroller to have MOU outlining how offices will work in conjunction. Bill History: 11-10-14 S Filed
SB 38	Zaffirini, Judith(D)	Relating to creation of an employment-first task force advisory committee. Remarks: Would create advisory committee of 11 or fewer members to make recommendations to the Employment First Task Force on increasing post-secondary education and access for individuals with IDD. Advocates have recommended that the Higher Education Coordinating Board would be the more appropriate location for this committee. Bill History: 11-10-14 S Filed

HOUSING

SB 267 Perry, Charles (F)(R) Relating to the regulation by a municipality or county of the rental or leasing of housing accommodations.

Companions: HB 738 Larson, Lyle (Identical)
1-15-15 H Filed

Remarks: Would allow owners and others to refuse to rent to individuals with housing choice vouchers or based on source of income. Legal case have found income discrimination creates a disparate impact.

Bill History: 12-19-14 S Filed

SB 278 Watson, Kirk(D) Relating to an increase in the amount of the residence homestead exemption from ad valorem taxation by a school district and the increase of the exemption amount in subsequent years to reflect inflation.

Remarks: Would raise residence homestead exemption to \$25,000 benefitting fixed income homeowners. One of many bills this session related to ad valorem taxation. Would reduce the limitation on the total amount of ad valorem taxes that may be imposed by a school district on the homestead of a senior or person with a disability to reflect the increased exemption amounts, and the protection of school districts against the resulting loss in local revenue.

Bill History: 01-07-15 S Filed

SB 282 Watson, Kirk(D) Relating to the period for which certain property acquired by a charitable organization to provide low-income housing may be exempted from ad valorem taxation.

Remarks: Would increase from 5 to 10 years exemption from ad valorem tax for non-profit, low income housing. Could act as incentive to increase housing options for people with disabilities.

Bill History: 01-07-15 S Filed

LONG TERM SERVICES & SUPPORTS

HB 504	Guillen, Ryan(D)	Relating to designating the second full week in September as Direct Support Professionals Week.
	Remarks:	Would designate the 2nd week in September as Direct Support Professionals Week.
	Bill History:	12-12-14 H Filed
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HB 607	Davis, Sarah(R)	Relating to the creation of the State Supported Living Center Realignment Commission.
	Remarks:	Would require an SSLC realignment commission for closure and consolidation. Needs respectful language edit.
	Bill History:	01-06-15 H Filed
<hr/>		
HB 620	Bonnen, Greg(R)	Relating to electronic benefits transfer cards used for recipients of benefits under certain assistance programs.
	Companions:	HB 747 Bohac, Dwayne (Identical) 1-15-15 H Filed
	Remarks:	Would require a photograph on electronic benefits card for SNAP benefits.
	Bill History:	01-07-15 H Filed
<hr/>		
HB 765	King, Susan(R)	Relating to ensuring that certain military members who reside out of state and their dependents maintain their positions on waiting lists for certain assistance programs provided by health and human services agencies.
	Companions:	SB 169 Uresti, Carlos (Identical) 11-10-14 S Filed
	Remarks:	Would ensure that military families stationed outside of Texas maintain their interest list position in their absence. Limit to one year maintenance on wait list after duty ends, killed or dies in service.
	Bill History:	01-16-15 H Filed
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HB 730 Lucio III, Eddie(D) Relating to the use of public school counselors' work time.

Companions: SB 165 Lucio, Eddie (Identical)
11-10-14 S Filed

Remarks: Would require 90% of school counselor time devoted to counseling and guidance. Administering assessments is not considered counseling.

Bill History: 01-15-15 H Filed

SB 125 West, Royce(D) Relating to certain assessments for children in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services.

Remarks: Would require developmental psycho-social & trauma assessment of child who enters conservatorship.

Bill History: 11-10-14 S Filed

SB 133 Schwertner, Charles(R) Relating to mental health first aid training for school district employees and school resource officers.

Remarks: Would expand the list of school districts employees for whom LMHAs would be paid \$100 for mental health first aid training. The funds available for training would be subject to previous limitations of the lesser of 3 percent or \$40,000 per LMHA. DSHS would be required to annually report the numbers of educators, other school district employees, and others who received training.

Bill History: 11-10-14 S Filed

SB 164 Lucio, Eddie(D) Relating to a notification requirement if a school counselor is not assigned to a public school campus.

Remarks: Would require open enrollment charter schools to post website notice if there is no FT counselor for 30 days.

Bill History: 11-10-14 S Filed

SB 239 Schwertner, Charles(R) Relating to student loan repayment assistance for certain mental health professionals.

Remarks: Would establish a loan repayment assistance for physician, advanced practice nurse and clinical social work students who complete up to five years practice with Texas Department of State Health Services

Bill History: 12-15-14 S Filed

MISCELLANEOUS

HB 145 Martinez Fischer, Trey(D) Relating to certain legislative deadlines.

Remarks: Would require the legislature to prioritize Sunset legislation, the budget, and legislation in response to the public school finance lawsuit. After the 100th day of the 2015 session, no other business would be considered in either chamber until bills related to those issues are sent to the governor.

Bill History: 11-10-14 H Filed

HB 532 McClendon, Ruth Jones(D) Relating to the ability of a nonexempt employee to participate in certain academic, extracurricular, and developmental activities of the employee's child.

Remarks: Would allow nonexempt employees who work at least 30 hours a week to use between 8 and 20 hours in a year and employees who work less than 30 hours a week between 8 and 15 hours in a year to participate in the employee's child's school and developmental activities. Limits apply.

Bill History: 12-17-14 H Filed

HB 659 Raymond, Richard(D) Relating to the waiver of state park, museum, and other state-operated facility entrance fees for persons with certain disabilities.

Remarks: Would allow people with intellectual or developmental disabilities and their paid attendant to have free admission to state parks, museums or other state operated facilities.

Bill History: 01-12-15 H Filed

SJR 9 Taylor, Van (F)(R) Proposing a constitutional amendment to provide for review or approval of state agency rules by the elected members of the legislature.

Remarks: Would allow legislature to review, approve, repeal agency rules.

Bill History: 11-10-14 S Filed

Guardianship Reform & Supported Decision-Making

Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities public policy staff continue to be engaged in advocacy efforts that will advance the Council's position on guardianship:

- The vast majority of people with disabilities do not need guardians.
- Individuals should receive support, education or training to develop their capacity to make decisions for themselves, so that the guardianship may be averted.
- The interests of the individual and opportunity for maximum self-reliance must be considered at every point in the consideration of guardianship or its implementation.
- Alternatives to guardianship should be proven before guardianship is found to be the most appropriate and least restrictive alternative.

TCDD policy staff have worked with multiple groups to assess Texas' system of guardianship and alternatives, address policy and practice issues, develop proposals to strengthen alternatives to guardianship for individuals with disabilities, and educate and inform stakeholders about alternatives. A recent study by the Texas Office of Court Administration found that 51% of guardianship cases involved a person turning 18 and 58% were due to intellectual and developmental disability.¹ The promise of the Americans with Disabilities Act is an empty promise if a person with disabilities is under guardianship.

Network of Guardianship Stakeholders (WINGS)

TCDD staff participation on the Texas Office of Court Administration Texas Working Interdisciplinary Network of Guardianship Stakeholders (WINGS) helped shape eight recommendations for reform that include three priorities in the TCDD position on guardianship:

- Services to coordinate alternatives to guardianship should be established.
- A standardized form, focused on a person's capabilities rather than limitations, should be developed for courts to obtain an accurate and detailed assessment of a proposed protected person's functional limitations.
- A template should be created to assist guardians in developing a person-centered plan.
Texas Council for Development Disabilities/DADS will provide person-centered planning templates and training online.

Guardianship and Supported Decision Making Workgroup (GRSDM)

The GRSDM ad hoc cross-organization collaborators met every month for the past 18 months to develop seven policy recommendations to advance alternatives to guardianship, educate and inform the public and policy makers on guardianship reform and supported decision-making and build support for positive changes. The GRSDM established a website to house the proposals. Please see www.grsdm.org.

Guardianship Reform & Supported Decision-Making

Proposals for Guardianship Reform and Supported Decision-Making

1. Respectful language matters. We need to change the impersonal term “ward” to “person under guardianship.”
2. The person proposed for guardianship or a person under guardianship should know the rights that they get to keep and these rights need to be communicated to them in a way they understand.
3. Supported decision-making agreements should be established in code as an informal alternative to guardianship where individuals could choose people they trust to help them understand the decisions they need to make and to communicate their decisions to others.
4. Alternatives to guardianship should be listed together in code with a directive to the court to determine whether alternatives could meet the needs of the person rather than guardianship.
5. Guardians should have requirements for at least monthly visits to individuals committed to institutional settings and provide timely responses to calls, emails or letters about the person.
6. The court should be required to determine if formal and informal supports are in place or available that enable individuals to meet their needs for food, clothing, or shelter, care for their physical or mental health, manage financial affairs and/or make decisions so that guardianship may be averted or limited.
7. Individuals under guardianship should, if possible, be able to make decisions about where they reside.

Texas Judicial Council

When the opportunity arose TCDD and Disability Rights Texas testified before the Elders Committee of the Texas Judicial Council about people with disabilities being impacted significantly by guardianship decisions and their need for protections of their civil rights to make important decisions without the need for a full or limited guardianship. At this meeting the chair of the Elders Committee voiced support for some of the proposals. The Elders Committee requested and received endorsement by the [Texas Judicial Council](#) for a majority of the seven proposals to advance alternatives to guardianship. The proposals will be drafted as legislation and will carry weight since they come from the Texas Supreme Court and its Judicial Council.

The Judicial Council endorsed the following reforms:

1. Supported decision-making agreements (GRSDM #3);
2. Requiring that a court make a finding that no less restrictive alternatives (GRSDM #4);
3. Requiring that the court find by clear and convincing evidence that alternatives to guardianship have been explored and determined not to be feasible (GRSDM #4);

Guardianship Reform & Supported Decision-Making

4. Requiring that the applicant or applicant's attorney certify to the court that alternatives to guardianship have been explored (GRSDM #4);
5. Requiring court approval before a guardian places a ward in a more restrictive care facility;
6. Requiring that the court consider the ward's right to make personal decisions about residence (GRSDM #7);
7. Defining supports and services and considering those resources in determining the need for a guardianship and the limits of power or authority of a guardian over an incapacitated person (GRSDM #6);
8. Requiring that the capacity assessment state whether improvement in the proposed ward's condition is possible and, if so, state the period of time after which the individual should be re-evaluated to determine if the guardianship is necessary;
9. Requiring the court to consider the adult's preference of the person to be appointed guardian by the court; and
10. Requiring that the applicant's attorney be certified by the State Bar of Texas as having successfully completed a course of study in guardianship law and procedure and by increasing the certification from three to four hours, with one hour of that training on alternatives to guardianship and supports and services available to proposed wards.

The Judicial Council also endorsed requiring that attorneys have one hour of training on alternatives to guardianship and services and supports available to individuals.

Training Stakeholders and the Judicial System on Guardianship Alternatives

We are hopeful that meaningful reform will be enacted by the 85th Texas Legislature. Training about the reforms will be necessary. TCDD facilitated a group of attorneys who represent individuals with disabilities and elder Texans in guardianship cases to discuss how to approach training to advance alternatives. TCDD staff drafted an executive summary for a possible project to raise awareness and provide training to attorneys, judges, service providers, people with disabilities and their family members on the alternatives to guardianship, when they are appropriate, and how to use them. That proposal will be considered by the Project Development Committee.

Next Steps

The momentum for change that supports the position of the Council is real. The recommendations in this report will increase opportunities for, and protect the civil rights and well-being of, people with developmental disabilities. If you wish to advocate for guardianship reform staff there is a one-pager in your binder materials that you can share with legislators.

Guardianship Reform & Supported Decision-Making

ⁱ Texas Guardianship Cases: Improving Court Processes and Monitoring Practices in Texas Courts. Texas Office of Court Administration. Pg. 5. Retrieved January 15, 2105 from http://www.txcourts.gov/media/701080/GUARDIANSHIP-STUDY_11-12-14-Final.pdf

Background:

The Council periodically reviews TCDD’s Position Statements. Staff solicited input this quarter regarding proposed revisions from Council members on the Education Position Statement.

Revisions suggested by Council members and/or staff are included in the draft materials. Comments in **PURPLE** represent input from Council members; comments in **RED** represent suggestions from TCDD staff.

Public Policy Committee

Agenda Item 7.

Expected Action:

The Committee will consider suggested changes to the TCDD Education Position Statement and recommend revisions to the Council.

Council

Agenda Item 9.

Expected Action:

The Council will consider revisions to the TCDD Education Position Statement recommended by the Public Policy Committee and determine final action.



Education

Draft Position Statement

The Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities supports the position that all students have a right to learn, play and work with students their own age, with and without disabilities, in the same schools, classrooms and other educational and extracurricular programs attended by their brothers, sisters and neighbors, and that schools, classrooms ~~and programs~~, and related transportation must be both physically and programmatically accessible to all students. It is the position of the Council, as well as the policy of the state, that all children should be treated with dignity and respect when addressing their behavioral and academic ~~and behavioral disciplinary~~ needs.

All students regardless of individual needs must be provided with individualized inclusive academic and vocational ~~appropriate~~ instruction, ~~research-based positive behavioral interventions and evidence informed~~ supports, access to the general curriculum, extracurricular activities and related services in the least restrictive environment. Related services refer to developmental, corrective, and other supportive services, including psychological, counseling and medical diagnostic services and transportation ~~includes but are not limited to adaptive aids, assistive technology, modifications, therapies and supplementary aids~~. The delivery of individually appropriate instruction and related services must be provided by qualified teachers and service providers with administrative support and opportunities for continued and ongoing professional development in all areas of identified need.

Comment [STA1]: Therapies are specifically included in IDEA – speech, mental health, occupational, whatever is necessary

All people with disabilities in Texas should have the opportunity to achieve their maximum potential for independence, productivity and integration into the community. Education is a lifelong process ~~which that~~ is vital to attaining a full and complete life. The ~~postsecondary~~ results of an appropriate public school education for students with disabilities should be evidenced by employment, enrollment in postsecondary education, engaged community involvement, or both all within one year of leaving high school.

Charter schools or schools accepting voucher payments must provide students the same educational rights and opportunities that they would be accorded in the public education system. The Council believes that schools that accept state or federal money to educate students must accept any student with a ~~developmental~~ disability who may apply for admission to that school; abide by federal and state education laws that protect the rights of all students ~~with disabilities~~; abide by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act that requires

any entity receiving federal funds to include people with disabilities in its program, and accept any student at the state rate of payment asking for no additional tuition or fees beyond the normal fees required by the student's local education agency. If these criteria are not met, ~~then~~ the Council ~~adamantly~~ opposes publicly funded school vouchers and charter schools. The Council does not support any initiative that would deplete funds from the public education system and ultimately from those available for the education of students with disabilities.

The full inclusion of Texas students with disabilities should be approached as a value and underlying philosophy by which we educate all students. We believe that successful inclusion requires that teacher education programs prepare all educators and administrators, not only those in special education services, to work with the full range of students in inclusive settings. Special education is not a separate educational system, but rather a service provided to people with specific needs within the general educational system. Professional preparation programs should emphasize the shared responsibility of all educators and administrators for every student.

Full inclusion requires the ongoing, shared responsibility of students, parents, guardians, educators, administrators and the community at large to ensure that all students have the same opportunities to learn, to play, to be engaged with peers, and to fully experience student life.

Approved ~~November 7, 2014~~

Background:

Staff compiled a report of recent public information activities for the Committee's review.

Discussion topic includes:

- Public Information Report
- Article: 2014 Texas Biennial Disability Report
- Invite your friends to like TCDD

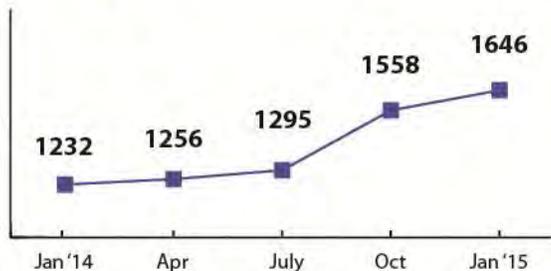
<u>Project Development Committee</u> <u>Agenda Item 6. A.</u>	<u>Expected Action:</u> The Committee will receive an update regarding recent public information activities and provide guidance as needed. No action is anticipated.
<u>Public Policy Committee</u> <u>Agenda Item 8.</u>	<u>Expected Action:</u> The Committee will receive an update regarding recent public information activities and provide guidance as needed. No action is anticipated.
<u>Council Meeting</u> <u>Agenda Item 16. A.</u>	<u>Expected Action:</u> The Council will receive a report of Committee discussions on this item. No action is anticipated.

TCDD Public Information Report

February 2015

Social Media

Facebook Fans



Twitter Followers



Top Facebook posts



MEET MEGAN MORGAN, DD POLICY FELLOW

Megan Morgan is the Developmental Disabilities (DD) Policy Fellow with The Arc of Texas. During her fellowship, Megan will develop a Texas Public Policy Campaign Toolkit designed to achieve policy goals that promote self-determination and self-advocacy in Texas.

Reach: **2,068**; Post clicks: **113**; Likes, comments & shares: **157**



GUESS WHAT TEXAS CITY RANKED HIGHEST

In observance of Disability Employment Awareness Month, WalletHub identified the cities with the most suitable conditions for individuals with disabilities. They analyzed the 150 most populated cities across 23 key metrics, ranging from the number of physicians per capita to the rate of employed people with disabilities to park accessibility. Where does your city rank?

Reach: **1,964**; Post clicks: **144**; Likes, comments & shares: **31**



THE ABLE ACT: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

This article answers 10 important questions about the Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act.

Reach: **1,932**; Post clicks: **70**; Likes, comments & shares: **49**



LEGO WHEELCHAIR PROPELS TURTLE

When Blade could no longer support his own weight and move around, a vet developed a "wheelchair" made of Legos.

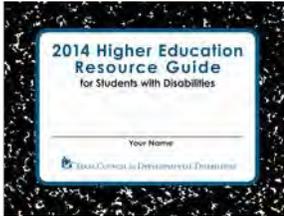
Reach: **1,615**; Post clicks: **37**; Likes, comments & shares: **39**

Reach: the number of unique people who received impressions of a Page post

Post Clicks: the number of times a person clicks anywhere on a post (image, video, link, "See More")

Likes, Comments & Shares: the sum of all likes, comments and shares on a post

Website Posts & Articles



2014 Higher Education Resource Guide Released

October 31, 2014

The 2014 Higher Education Resource Guide for Students with Disabilities is available for order and download. The guide includes information for future college students, parents, and educators.



Report Finds Limited Progress in SSLC Settlement Agreement

October 31, 2014

In 2009, the State of Texas entered into a Settlement Agreement with the DOJ to address concerns and deficiencies in the state's SSLCs. An independent assessment found that limited progress has been made.



Employment First Task Force Makes Recommendations

November 17, 2014

The Employment First Task Force was established to promote competitive employment of people with disabilities. The Task Force approved recommendations outlined in their first report to the Legislature.



2014 Texas Biennial Disability Report

December 3, 2014

TCDD and TOPDD jointly-issued the 2014 Texas Biennial Disability Report. The report details the state of services to people with disabilities, outlines present and future needs, and makes recommendations.



Communication Aids for Students with Disabilities — What You Need to Know

December 10, 2014

According to guidance issued jointly by DOJ and DOE, public schools are responsible for ensuring communication with students with disabilities is as effective as communication with all other students.



Texas Transition and Employment Guide

December 11, 2014

The Texas Transition and Employment Guide provides secondary transition resources to facilitate a young person's progress towards post-secondary goals for education, employment, and community living.



Sunset Advisory Commission Adopts Recommendation to Continue TCDD

December 11, 2014

The Sunset Advisory Commission adopted Sunset staff report recommendations regarding TCDD. The recommendations, which were adopted without modification, include the continuation of TCDD for 12 years until 2027.



Get Ready for the 84th Texas Legislative Session

January 2, 2015

The 84th Session of the Texas Legislature begins on Tuesday, January 13, 2015, with adjournment set for Monday, June 1. Regular sessions last for 140 days in odd-numbered years, with the possibility of special sessions for up to 30 days, at the direction of the governor.

Info Requests & Distribution

E-newsletter: The e-newsletter, *TCDD Connection*, was distributed on Jan. 5 to 876 contacts.

I&R Requests: Staff responded to 32 requests for information and referral.

Materials Distributed

- People First Language Handout: 6
- Higher Ed Guide (English): 36
- Higher Ed Guide (Spanish): 13
- The Next Step (DVD): 5
- BDR (English): 8
- BDR (Spanish): 1
- Council Brochure: 2
- Every Member Matters: 2



2014 Texas Biennial Disability Report

The Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities (TCDD), in collaboration with the Texas Office for Prevention of Developmental Disabilities (TOPDD), issued the 2014 Texas Biennial Disability Report.

The report details the state of services to persons with disabilities in Texas; outlines present and future needs for consumer-friendly, appropriate, and individualized services and supports; and makes recommendations related to those services.

In each Texas Biennial Disability Report, TCDD and TOPDD have elected to provide additional detail on current state level policy discussions related to services for persons with developmental disabilities. This includes recently enacted state and/or federal legislation, or policy discussions with state agency partners about the delivery of health and human services.

The report summarizes the key federal and state legislative actions that are changing the landscape of long-term services and supports in Texas. These include:

- implementation of the Affordable Care Act,
- workforce innovation and employment, and
- new rules for Medicaid home and community based settings.

At the state level, the system of services and supports for people with disabilities is impacted by the statewide expansion of managed care, implementation of Employment First policies, and the Sunset Commission review and recommendations for health and human service agencies (including TCDD and TOPDD).

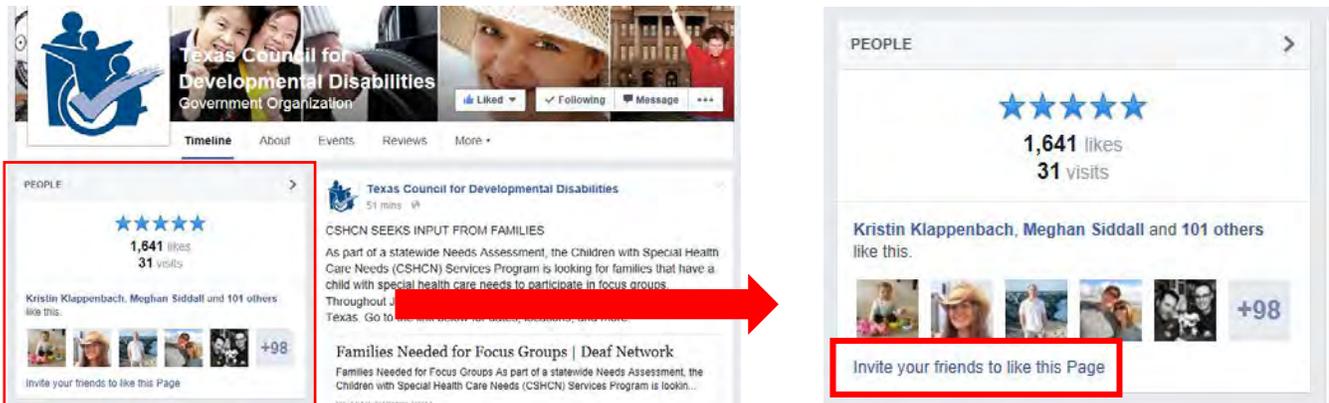
The Texas Biennial Disability Report is mandated by Senate Bill 374, which was passed by the 76th Texas Legislature (1999) (R). The report is submitted to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Executive Commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission, no later than December 1st of each even-numbered year.

Invite Your Friends to TCDD

STEP 1. Log-in to Facebook and enter “Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities” in the search box.



STEP 2. When you are on TCDD’s page, in the PEOPLE box, click “Invite your friends to like this Page.”



STEP 3. Invite your friends one-by-one by clicking “Invite.” Click “See All Friends” and have access to all of your friends.



Background:

A newspaper article from Tyler is enclosed that lays out the multiple perspectives about medical marijuana issues for the 2015 legislative session. The link to the article is available at <http://www.tylerpaper.com/TP-News+Local/212089/families-fight-for-legalization-of-medical-marijuana#.VL0aamTF8IQ>

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

The Committee will receive an update regarding medical marijuana policies. The Committee may provide guidance to staff or recommendations for Council consideration.

Council**Agenda Item 11.****Expected Action:**

The Council will receive a report of Committee discussions on this item and may consider recommendations offered from the Committee.

HOME NEWS **YES!** SPORTS OBITS LIFE PHOTOS VIDEOS ADS AUTOS JOBS REAL ESTATE GOGUIDE OUTDOOR

ROSE FESTIVAL

Local State National World Business Health Opinion JFK

[Home](#) / [News](#) / [Local](#) / Families fight for legalization of medical marijuana

Families fight for legalization of medical marijuana

Published on Saturday, 17 January 2015 21:39 - Written by [Adam Russell](mailto:arussell@tylerpaper.com), arussell@tylerpaper.com



Photo by Sarah A. Miller/Tyler Morning Telegraph. Dean Bortell holds several small pill containers for his daughter Alexis. The Bortell family is asking state legislators to file a bill to legalize cannabis oil, a form of medical marijuana that may help his 9-year-old Alexis Bortell who suffers from intractable epilepsy which doesn't respond to pharmaceutical medicines.

Dean Bortell feels as if he's failed his 9-year-old daughter Alexis.

It's his natural, fatherly duty to care for his child when she suffers, he said.

Bortell has been there for her childhood scrapes and bruises. He was by her side in the hospital when at a year old, she battled pneumonia. Doctors prescribed medicine, and she got through it, he said.

But a year and a half ago, Alexis was diagnosed with something he and traditional medicine can't fix.

Alexis suffers from intractable epilepsy, which can trigger seizures at any time, but mostly while she sleeps. She rarely has friends visit, because a compromised immune system can contribute to the frequency and severity of seizures. She also has never slept over at a friend's house because her seizures tend to happen at night.

Her mother, Analiza, sleeps by her side each night, waiting for movements that might represent a triggering seizure.

"My long-term fear is that she won't have a normal life, that she won't be able to be a kid, that she won't be able to live as high a quality life as she could and that her seizures might cause irreversible, debilitating damage if they escalate as she ages," Bortell said. "My short-term fear is SUDEP, sudden unexpected death by epilepsy."

The Bortells tried more than a dozen medications and medicine combinations trying to minimize the frequency and severity of Alexis' seizures. But the medications only made the events worse, "like throwing gasoline on a fire," Bortell said.

Alexis became violent on some medications. She became "zombie-like," on others, Bortell said, and physically injured herself on others.

The Bortells have crisscrossed the country searching for answers and treatment alternatives, but the only successful option they say they've found isn't legal in Texas.

Alexis' epileptologist and a team of neurologists believe cannabis extracts — including cannabidiol (CBD) and tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) — could succeed where traditional medicines failed.

Bortell said he's angry because he feels the state of Texas has failed him and thousands of other families by not yet recognizing the benefits of medicinal marijuana.

Alexis is a registered medical marijuana patient in Colorado but can't take her prescribed medicine because her parents would face felony charges if Child Protective Services finds the drug in her system.

Bortell said he is at the end of the rope and is prepared to move to Colorado if legislation to allow Alexis access to medical marijuana does not become law this legislative session.

But in a ruby-red Republican state like Texas, proposals to legalize marijuana have garnered little traction. However, a wave of medical evidence showing cannabis's medicinal benefits and public outcries for change from desperate families may be shifting the tide.

Public opinion is changing so much so that a group of Republicans are leading the way this legislative session to legalize medical cannabis in limited instances and in limited forms.

State Sen. Kevin Eltife, R-Tyler, has drafted a bill that would legalize cannabidiol-heavy oils used to treat epileptic seizures. The bill would address cases of intractable epileptic seizures and is supported by the Epilepsy Foundation of Texas.

Eltife said these severe epileptic conditions and CBD treatments were brought to his attention by Arp nurse Marcy Bingham, whose son, Jacob, 8, suffers from one of the rarest and most debilitating forms of intractable seizures — Dravet syndrome.

Jacob uses a wheelchair, can't speak and requires around-the-clock medical supervision. His condition continues to deteriorate.

"This bill puts the focus on the patients, most of them children, who deal with horrible seizures on a daily basis," he said. "I try to put myself in the parents' situation, and it has to be tough to know something is there that can help their child but the state says, 'No, you can't.'"

THE FACE OF MEDICAL MARIJUANA

Eltife said he believes Texas legislators will proceed cautiously when it comes to medical marijuana. But he believes his bill will gain broad support and give thousands of patients and parents treatment options they and their doctors should have.

The CBD oil, which is applied to food or rubbed into the patient's gums, would be highly controlled and does not contain enough THC to give users the euphoric "high" associated with marijuana, Eltife said.

"This is to help their condition, not get them high," Eltife said.

Rep. Stephanie Klick, R-Fort Worth, will file a similar bill in the House.

Eltife said he will be open minded when it comes to other bills that might expand medical cannabis for other illnesses, including cancer, Parkinson's disease and ALS, but that he's focused on helping children, such as Jacob and Alexis.

Alexis said she's ready to be a face for the legalization of medical cannabis in Texas. Bortell said he would have been shocked if he'd been told two years ago that he would be lobbying to legalize medical marijuana. He said he's a Republican, Christian conservative and a disabled veteran who assisted in interdiction efforts in the war on drugs in and around the Caribbean.

But his daughter's health prompted action, he said.

Moving is an option for Bortell, who is a software engineer for the Denver-based Catholic Health Initiatives, that would mean uprooting Alexis and her 5-year-old sister, Avery, from the only home they've ever known. But it would mean leaving behind grandparents, friends and their church, he said.

"We want to stay and fight for Alexis and thousands of other families who might feel they don't have a voice," Bortell said. "If we lose this time, we'll move, but we will continue to speak out."

Alexis has been speaking out and said she does so for children, such as Jacob, who can't speak for himself.

She's spoken in front of more than 2,500 people at a Dallas/Fort Worth National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws rally and will make the rounds, meeting House and Senate members on Tuesday during Patient Alliance For Cannabis Therapeutics' patient lobby day.

The Bortells live in Texas House District 33, represented by Rep. Scott Turner, of Frisco, and Senate District 2, represented by Sen. Bob Hall, R-Canton, who both have conservative, Tea Party-type ideals.

Hall said it would be inaccurate to say he supported medical marijuana but that he supports "treatments and drugs legitimately prescribed by legitimate doctors."

The freshman senator met with the Bortells recently, and while he sympathizes with them and other sick Texans, he said the details, such as setting limitations of access and determination of need within any bill regarding the medical use of marijuana, would decide whether it gets his vote.

"People need to have access to treatments and drugs their doctors prescribe, and that runs the spectrum from pharmaceuticals that aren't available in the U.S. to marijuana," he said. "But I will not support weak legislation."

Hall "has questions and concerns, and I understand that," Bortell said. "But he was nothing short of a statesman, because he was willing to listen and actively engaged in the conversation. That's all we want is for them to listen, because if they hear the stories and what a growing number of doctors are saying, it should be a no-brainer."

But, Bortell is worried other legislators may take a stance similar to Turner, who told the family he would not support any cannabis bill.

In an October statement to the Bortells, Turner said, "I understand that a parent would do almost anything to reduce the suffering of their child, and my thoughts and prayers are with the families facing these difficult situations. At this time, however, I do not support legalizing marijuana for medical purposes. In addition to significant moral and ethical concerns, there is widespread disagreement in the medical profession regarding the safety, effectiveness and long-term side effects of this proposed treatment.

"As a legislator, I will continue to engage in a thoughtful process, speaking to medical professionals, fellow clergy, families, ethicists and other medical professionals, so I can continue to make an informed, principled decision in this matter," Turner wrote.

Turner didn't respond when asked by the Tyler Morning Telegraph at a recent Austin event about his stance on medical marijuana to help people with debilitating diseases.

When asked if he was aware Rep. Klick would file CBD legislation in the House, Turner said he was aware of the bill and would listen. "I'm a good listener," he said.

The Texas Sheriffs Association has gone on record that it would vigorously oppose legislation with cannabis components, including medical marijuana, broad legalization or decriminalization. Bortell also expects pharmaceutical companies that have invested billions of dollars in FDA-approved drugs to lobby to stop medical cannabis bills.

Dr. Bob Deuell, a 30-year family physician who served as District 2 state senator from 2003-2015, said his main concern would be controlling the drug. He said the abuse of prescribed medications is a real problem, and that he suggests only

specialists, such as general neurologists, should prescribe the drug as a medicine of last resort.

Deuell noted a recent Journal of Neuroscience study that showed the detrimental effects of marijuana on young brains.

“It’s addictive, and it causes damage,” he said. “I don’t think it should be the first line of defense, but if a specialist refers it, I don’t think its use should be restricted (by that patient).”

But he said some prescription drugs, such as hydrocodone and oxycodone, are “more dangerous than medical marijuana.”

Deuell said he had a file of bills that would have addressed laws restricting the use of medical marijuana similar to Eltife’s. He said he’s glad Eltife is carrying it.

The Bortells said they have received nothing but support, albeit, reluctant and probing at times, from other legislators.

MEDICINE vs. “POT”

The District of Columbia and 23 other states, including Colorado, Illinois, New Mexico, Arizona and California allow the medical use of cannabis. Colorado’s medical marijuana laws allow eight qualifying conditions, including cancer, glaucoma, HIV/AIDS, muscle spasms, seizures and severe pain. Other states’ conditions lists vary but include drugs for Alzheimer’s, multiple sclerosis, PTSD and migraines.

Mrs. Bingham sees Eltife’s bill as the only chance for Jacob, who has multiple seizures each day because of advancing Dravet Syndrome.

Like the Bortells, the Bingham have traveled the country to meet with geneticists, neurologists and other specialists looking for options. But after trying 16 medications with no relief, they are considering moving to Colorado for access to a kind of CBD oil that has helped hundreds of Dravet Syndrome sufferers.

“We’re desperate,” Ms. Bingham said. “There are no more drugs to give him. The ones they have given him have caused horrific side effects, and we’re asking to use extracts from a plant but the state of Texas has said, ‘No, no, no.’”

The high-CBD concentrated strain, Charlotte’s Web, is named after Charlotte Figi, a Dravet patient, who suffered hundreds of seizures each week before she began taking daily doses of the oil. Since she began treatment, she has reported dramatic physical and cognitive improvement.

The Epilepsy Foundation Texas believes CBD oils should be an available treatment option if patients, their family and their physician-led medical teams feel it might reduce the number of seizures and limit the possibility of severe consequences including death and major disability.

The Epilepsy Foundation will support the limited use of non-euphoric cannabidiol (CBD) rich oil in Texas for the treatment of severe epilepsy as directed and guided by board certified physicians.

“We support Sen. Eltife’s bill, so Texans and their families do not have to move from our state to have access to this promising treatment option.

“CBD oil is an important ray of hope for those who have not found success with current treatments,” said a foundation spokesman in an emailed statement.

But Bortell said Charlotte’s Web would not help his daughter, because the ratio of CBD is too high and does not help a large number of intractable seizure sufferers.

Bortell said ratio numbers in the pre-filed version of the bill released by Eltife’s office appear to be at the threshold of what would help Alexis. “That’s where the doctors told us to start,” he said. “It’s an arbitrary number until doctors experiment with the ratios to find what works for her.”

Neurologist William Gilmer, chairman of the Texas Medical Association's Science and Public Health committee, said Bortell's concern is exactly why government should allow scientific studies of the hundreds of natural compounds in cannabis and determine their uses and effectiveness in various forms on various illnesses.

The medical association likely will support broader legislation regarding medical marijuana, but his personal opinion is that government should not dictate his treatment options if his opinion is backed by science.

The Bortell's situation is "the perfect example of why we should open this substance up to research. What constitutes the right ratio? Science answers those questions," he said. "In my mind the Legislature should not tell me what I can and can't prescribe if there is scientific evidence supporting it."

Dallas/Fort Worth National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws Director of Operations Max Davidson called any bill suggesting Colorado-style legalization of recreational marijuana "dead on arrival."

Davidson said the group is focused on medicinal use and helping patients with debilitating illnesses, including epilepsy, various forms of cancer and even PTSD. But the group does not support "CBD-only" legislation that could narrowly limit its value to millions of suffering Texans, he said.

The group also wants to see marijuana possession decriminalized for people carrying less than one ounce of pot. Legalization remains the group's long-term goal, he said.

"Right now we are focused on helping people who are suffering and dying needlessly. It's a pro-life stance, a quality of life stance," he said. "But the organization is broadly focused on repealing marijuana prohibition in Texas and around the country, because it's an antiquated, ignorant law."

Eltife said he would not support broad legalization of marijuana, and he doesn't expect legislators will view his bill as a foot in the door for recreational marijuana.

"No. We're talking medicine. We're talking about something that will be highly regulated and prescribed by board certified doctors. I truly believe that if (legislators) look at the facts and the medical benefits patients are experiencing in other states, they'll view it as medicine and that is what I'm presenting and supporting," Eltife said.

The Bortells said Colorado has one of the most stringent processes in the country when it comes to prescribing medical marijuana. Two board-certified specialists verified Alexis' condition warranted access to medical marijuana in Colorado.

The family doesn't care how heavily regulated the drug might be as long as they have access.

Bortell acknowledged arguments, including Turner's regarding the lack of research and unknown side effects on patients and negative effects on brain development in young users. But quickly added that each could be refuted by various merits.

He'd rather risk points off his daughter's IQ rather than infertility, liver and kidney damage and even death, which are side effects of legal prescription drugs prescribed to her.

Alexis could not finish her school aptitude tests while medicated, he said. She scored in the top 4 percent nationally on her last test. He said legislators could expect to hear compelling testimony from patients and doctors regarding the benefits of medicinal marijuana.

At their doctor's recommendation, Alexis is not using any prescription drugs now. Her parents monitor her around the clock, looking for warning signs, such as mood changes or blinking eyes — telltale signs a seizure could be looming.

Bortell is hopeful legislators listen. He is hopeful they listen to patients and families and doctors who see the benefits of cannabis and approve a bill that will allow his family to stay home.

“All we’re asking for is a chance,” he said. “When the gavel falls in May, we’ll know if we have to leave Texas.”

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Background:

Minutes from the November 5, 2014, meeting are included for your review.

Audit Committee

Agenda Item 2.

Expected Action:

The Committee will review, revise as appropriate and approve.

**AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING
DRAFT MINUTES
NOVEMBER 5, 2014**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Andrew Crim, Chair	Scott McAvoy	Lora Taylor
Mary Durham, Council Chair		

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Roger Webb, Executive Director	Martha Cantu	Koren Vogel
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GUESTS PRESENT

Harold Liller, Office of the Attorney General

CALL TO ORDER

The Audit Committee of the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities convened on Wednesday November 5, 2014, in the Limestone 2 Room at the Marriott Austin South Hotel, 4415 South IH-35, Austin, TX 78745. Committee Chair Andrew Crim called the meeting to order at 1:32 PM.

1. INTRODUCTIONS

Committee members, staff and guests were introduced.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Committee reviewed the minutes from the August 7, 2014, Committee meeting. No revisions were offered

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the August 7, 2014, Audit Committee meeting as presented.

MADE BY: Scott McAvoy

SECOND: Lora Taylor

The motion **passed** unanimously.

3. INTERNAL AUDITOR FOR TCDD

Chair Crim discussed the recent meeting with associates from Weaver and Tidwell, LLC regarding their presentation to provide Internal Audit services. Crim and Audit Committee member Scott McAvoy participated in the interview with TCDD staff and all were in favor of the proposal. Executive Director Roger Webb noted that TCDD contacted firms on a list of qualified bidders through the Texas Multiple Award Schedule (TxMAS) and that Weaver was the only firm to submit a proposed statement of work. He also noted that Weaver submitted an application and was interviewed with a favorable response during the previous bid process but Rupert and Associates was selected at that time due to their experience with TCDD. Additionally the Weaver firm includes Adam Jones who was previously the TCDD contact at Texas Education Agency which brings knowledge of TCDD's relationship with the designated state agency. Crim noted that the only concern with the proposal from Weaver was an aggressive proposed timeline but this can be adjusted to the Council's schedule.

MOTION: To recommend Council approval of Weaver and Tidwell, LLC as the TCDD Internal Auditor.

MADE BY: Mary Durham

SECOND: Lora Taylor

The motion **passed** unanimously.

4. OTHER DISCUSSION ITEMS

It was noted that since John Morris has been replaced on the Council, the Audit Committee is lacking one member. Webb noted that a discussion on roles and responsibilities of the Audit Committee will be deferred until the additional member of the Committee is selected. Members and staff discussed the purpose of internal audit activities with Crim noting that the Risk Assessment Tool is especially helpful in determining the Council's areas of vulnerability. It is unknown if the new audit firm will continue to use that format or if they will use a different approach. It is expected that an Audit Plan for fiscal year 2015 will be presented at the February meeting.

ADJOURN

Committee Chair Crim adjourned the Audit Committee meeting at 1:47 PM.

Roger A. Webb
Secretary to the Council

Date

Background:

As staff reviewed last quarter, TCDD recently solicited proposals for internal audit services beginning this fall. The Council approved contracting with Weaver & Tidwell to provide those services. Weaver met with TCDD executive staff to develop a risk assessment of TCDD activities and to propose an internal audit plan for the remainder of FY 2015 and for FY 2016-2017. That information was not available when this binder was collated but will be provided by email or express mail when available. Copies of all materials will also be available for all members at the meetings.

Audit Committee

Agenda Item 3-4.

Expected Action:

The Audit Committee will review the proposed FY 15 Internal Audit Plan and recommend action to the Council.

Council

Agenda Item 8.

Expected Action:

The Council will consider recommendations from the Committee and approve the TCDD FY 15 Internal Audit Plan.

Background:

The Council will review the minutes from the November 7, 2014, Council meeting and November 6, 2014, Committee of the Whole meeting.

Council

Agenda Item 3. A.

Expected Action:

The Council will review, revise as appropriate, and approve the minutes from the August meetings.

**COUNCIL MEETING
DRAFT MINUTES
NOVEMBER 7, 2014**

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Mary Durham, Council Chair	Stephen Gersuk	Penny Seay, UT CDS
Hunter Adkins	Manda Hall, DSHS	Amy Sharp, A&M CDD
Kimberly Blackmon	Jennifer Kaut, DARS	Cindy Swain, TEA
Kristine Clark	Penny Larkin, DADS	David Taylor
Gladys Cortez	Ruth Mason	Lora Taylor
Kristen Cox	Scott McAvoy	John Thomas
Andrew Crim	Michael Peace	Rick Tisch
Mary Faithfull, DRT	Brandon Pharris	April Young, HHSC

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT

Mateo Delgado	Diana Kern	Dana Perry
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STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Roger Webb, Executive Director	Celina Galvan	Fernando Rodriguez
Martha Cantu	Cynthia Ellison	Joshua Ryf
Belinda Carlton	Linda Logan	Koren Vogel
Joanna Cordry	Jessica Ramos	

GUESTS PRESENT

Ivy Goldstein, DSHS	Darryl Powell	Carrie Warner
Ayaan Musa	Leah Seyoum-Tesfa	

CALL TO ORDER

The Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities convened on Friday, November 7, 2014, in the Salon A Room of the Marriott Austin South Hotel, 4415 South IH-35, Austin, TX 78745. Council Chair Mary Durham called the meeting to order at 8:36 AM.

1. INTRODUCTIONS

Council members, staff and guests were introduced.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were offered to the Council.

3. CONSENT ITEMS

Council members reviewed minutes of the August 2014 Council and Committee of the Whole meetings and no corrections were offered. Chair Durham reviewed excused absences for the meeting to include Mateo Delgado, Diana Kern and Dana Perry.

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the August 8, 2014, Council meeting and August 7, 2014, Committee of the Whole meeting and the excused absences as noted.

MADE BY: Andy Crim

SECOND: Scott McAvoy

The motion **passed** unanimously.

4. CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Durham reviewed Council member appointments made by Governor Perry's office on October 9, 2014. John Thomas, a self-advocate from Abilene, was appointed to replace Joe Rivas for a term to expire in 2017. Ruth Mason, a parent advocate from Houston, was appointed to replace Susan Vardell for a term to expire in 2019. Michael Peace, a self-advocate from Poteet, was appointed to replace John Morris for a term to expire in 2019. Brandon Pharris, a self-advocate from Beaumont, was appointed to replace Cindy Johnston for a term to expire in 2019. Andrew Crim, Mateo Delgado, Stephen Gersuk and Lora Taylor were re-appointed to terms to expire in 2019. All new members have attended orientation and are eligible to vote. Durham also noted that John Thomas has agreed to serve on the Audit Committee.

5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Roger Webb discussed Sunset Commission recommendations for TCDD. Sunset staff have recommended continuing TCDD as an agency in state law until 2027 and recommend that TCDD monitor sustainability of grant projects after TCDD funding ends. Members asked about public input to rename the agency the Texas Council on Disability Issues. Webb noted that while issues related to developmental disabilities are oftentimes similar to issues for individuals with other disabilities, funding is provided by the DD Act for DD Councils that focus on developmental disability issues. The Sunset Commission did not recommend a name change for TCDD at this time.

Webb next reviewed the recent Strategic Fiscal Review required by the Legislative Budget Board (LBB). As part of the budget preparations for the 2015 legislative session, state agencies were asked to provide performance measures for work in fiscal years 2010 – 2014 with projections for fiscal years 2015 – 2017. Operations Director Martha Cantu and other staff developed considerable information.

Webb discussed the opportunity for Council members to make legislative visits during February 2015 meetings. Public Policy staff will coordinate with members during the quarter regarding issues and policy priorities as well as the logistics for visits to the Capitol. Webb reviewed that members who wish to discuss topics not on the TCDD priorities/platform may do so. However, if those topics are not consistent with the Council positions the member is really doing separate business from the Council and would be expected to share travel expenses with TCDD.

5. GRANTEE PRESENTATION: REACH OUTREACH AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

TCDD Grants Management Specialist Cynthia Ellison introduced Leah Seyoum-Tesfa and Ayaan Musa of REACH which is an Outreach and Development project in Dallas, Collin and Tarrant counties that works with East African (Ethiopian, Eritrean and Somali) families of children with disabilities, primarily autism. The grantee holds monthly meetings for families as well as phone/email contact with other families to teach leadership and advocacy skills. Grantee staff attend ARD meetings, provide case management, accompany families to medical visits, and provide resources as well as counseling and support. Staff spoke at community awareness events, coordinated social events and developed organizational binders to help families coordinate services. Challenges for the project included addressing social stigma of disabilities as well as bridging the differences in religious and cultural communities.

7. SELECTION OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEMBER

Chair Durham provided the responsibility of the Nominating Committee charge to bring forward recommendations at the February meeting for the Council Vice-Chair and the Consumer (Self-Advocate) Member-at-large to the Executive Committee. Durham reviewed Council policies that do not set term limits for the Consumer Member-at-large to the Executive Committee but limit the Vice-Chair to two serving consecutive terms. Vice Chair Andy Crim is serving in his second term and not eligible for another term per this provision. Durham also noted that members of the Nominating Committee could not nominate themselves for either position. State agency representatives are eligible to serve on the Nominating Committee but not eligible to serve as Vice-Chair. Durham added that each standing Committee appoints a member to the Nominating Committee and the third member is selected from the Council. Project Development Committee Chair Gladys Cortez reported that David Taylor was selected from that Committee and Public Policy Committee Chair Kristen Cox reported that Hunter Adkins was selected from that Committee. Council member Rick Tisch nominated Kristine Clark as the third member and she was accepted by acclamation.

MOTION: To suspend for one year the Council policy limiting the Vice-Chair to serving no more than two consecutive terms.

MADE BY: Gladys Cortez for the Project Development Committee

SECOND: Scott McAvoy

Cortez reported that the Project Development Committee discussed this policy and given the number of new members to the Council, the current Sunset Commission Review, and the uncertainty of the Chair's position since Durham is serving in a hold-over capacity, the Committee thought it prudent to allow the Nominating Committee to consider Crim in addition to other members for this position. Cortez clarified that this is recommendation is not intended to pre-determine Crim as the nominee but it leaves the option open for that consideration. Webb added that many Council members have felt that the extra time required to serve as Vice-Chair (as well as Audit Committee Chair) is not something to which they are able to commit.

The motion **passed** without opposition. Stephen Gersuk abstained from voting.

Durham reminded members who are interested in either position to contact Nominating Committee members and submit their name. Crim added that he is happy to discuss the responsibilities of the position with anyone who may be interested.

8. CONSIDERATION OF TCDD INTERNAL AUDITOR

Audit Committee Chair Andy Crim welcomed Lora Taylor and John Thomas as new members of the Audit Committee. He reminded members that TCDD Internal Auditor Jaye Stepp has resigned from Rupert and Associates and that firm no longer has staff to provide internal audit services to TCDD. Applications for internal audit services were solicited through the Texas Multiple Award System (TXMAS) and the firm of Weaver and Tidwell, LLC submitted a proposal. The firm was interviewed by staff and members of the Audit committee and found to have a good proposal. The new auditor will develop the TCDD Audit Plan for FY 2015.

MOTION: To accept Weaver and Tidwell, LLC as the internal auditor for TCDD

MADE BY: Andy Crim for the Audit Committee
(Motions from a Committee do not need a second)

The motion **passed** without opposition. John Thomas abstained from voting.

9. STATE PLAN PROGRESS AND SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS

Project Development Committee Chair Cortez reported that the Committee discussed the TCDD State Plan Goals and Objectives and did not wish to make amendments at this time.

MOTION: To accept the current TCDD State Plan without revisions.

MADE BY: Gladys Cortez for the Project Development Committee
(Motions from a Committee do not need a second)

The motion **passed** unanimously.

10. FUTURE ACTIVITIES FOR STATE PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Cortez reported on Project Development Committee discussion on the Executive Summary for Support for Expenses for Research on Disability-Related Topics.

MOTION: To approve funding for Support for Expenses for Research on Disability-related Topics for up to 3 projects at \$25,000 per year for up to five years.

MADE BY: Gladys Cortez for the Project Development Committee
(Motions from a Committee do not need a second)

Planning Coordinator Joanna Cordry further explained the proposed project noting the intent is to provide assistance to students working on disability related topics which would result in data collection that TCDD could use in developing state plan goals and objectives. Members discussed the requirement of universities to collect 15-20% of grant funding in administrative fees. It was noted that as part of the RFP, TCDD could ask for “no indirect costs” or limit those costs to 10%.

The motion **passed** without opposition. Andy Crim abstained from voting. (Attachment 1)

Cortez reported that the Committee discussed Future Project Funding Priorities suggested adding the new project.

MOTION: To add Support for Expenses for Research on Disability-related Topics as #7 on the Future Project Funding Priorities list.

MADE BY: Gladys Cortez for the Project Development Committee
(Motions from a Committee do not need a second)

The motion **passed** unanimously. (Attachment 2)

11. REVISIONS TO TCDD POSITION STATEMENTS

Public Policy Committee Chair Kristen Cox reported that the Committee did not take action on the Community Living Position Statement. Revisions to the Access to Health Care Position Statement are recommended as presented. Revisions to the Education Position Statement are recommended as presented but additional input was provided just prior to the meeting so this statement will be reviewed again in February. Revisions to the Right to Privacy Position Statement are also recommended with one additional revision to those presented.

MOTION: To approve revisions to the Access to Health Care, Education and Right to Privacy position statements as presented.

MADE BY: Kristen Cox for the Public Policy Committee
(Motions from a Committee do not need a second.)

The motion **passed** without opposition. April Young, Manda Hall and Michael Peace abstained from voting. (Attachments 3-5)

12. TCDD BIENNIAL DISABILITY REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

Public Policy Committee Chair Cox reported that the Committee recommends acceptance of the Biennial Disability Report Recommendations as presented. She reviewed the recommendations which include rebalancing the long-term care services systems with cost-effective policies to provide for community inclusive opportunities, developing strategies to prevent unnecessary placement of children in state supported living centers, and addressing the direct support workforce shortage.

MOTION: To accept Biennial Disability Report Recommendations as presented.

MADE BY: Kristen Cox for the Public Policy Committee

The motion **passed** unanimously. (Attachment 6)

13. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Durham discussed appeals of two funding decisions and indicated that the Executive Committee affirmed their previous decisions on appeals from Travis County and from Volar Center for Independent Living. Neither appellant showed procedural errors in the review process. And the TCDD appeals process is not intended as an opportunity to provide additional information that could have been provided in the original proposal. To do so creates a two-step review process and would require all other applicants to have the same opportunity.

Executive Director Webb reported on the extensive Committee discussion regarding the Building Community Capacity through Collaboration projects and decisions regarding projects from Volar Center for Independent Living, Texas Tech University and A Circle of Ten. Durham noted that the Committee approved names of potential reviewers to serve on review panels for proposals submitted to RFPs. Committee members did not have questions regarding the Quarterly Financial Reports from the provided materials.

The Executive Committee reviewed Council member and staff Conflict of Interest disclosures and found no concerns. It was noted that new members are submitting their disclosure forms but that Ruth Mason is verbally reporting her employment with Disability Rights Texas (DRT) at this time.

Durheim noted that Committee assignments will be reviewed after new members have attended meetings of both committees. However, Ruth Mason will be assigned to the Public Policy Committee due to her employment with DRT and the potential conflict for her to be on the Project Development Committee.

Durheim reviewed the Committee's discussion on succession planning procedures for the Executive Director position but noted that there is no current plan for Webb to vacate this position. The Committee reviewed key job functions and the knowledge, skills and abilities required for the position. The Committee also discussed potential interview questions as well as the process for conducting interviews. Vice-Chair Crim noted that this is a prudent exercise to have procedures ready and will reduce the time needed to fill the position if needed. Webb commented that other DD Councils have had issues filling the position in a timely fashion. Should the need occur, Chair Durheim will appoint a transition committee with two members of the Executive Committee and two members from the Council. Recruiting will be done as a nation-wide search.

15. AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

Audit Committee Chair Crim again noted that the new auditor will develop the Audit Plan for FY 2015. This is expected to be presented at the February Council meeting.

16. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Project Development Committee Chair Cortez had no further items to report.

17. PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

Public Policy Committee Chair Cox reported that the Committee received policy updates on agency Legislative Appropriations Requests, health and human services agencies Sunset Commission reviews, and TCDD input on agency rule development.

The Committee also had preliminary discussion on the topic of medical marijuana as a treatment for seizure disorders and autism and will discuss this further at the February meeting. Webb noted that material on this issue is provided in handouts and Council Member Lora Taylor reported on her recent research and discussions on this topic noting that current studies are being conducted at Texas Children's Hospital. She expects it to be addressed in the upcoming legislative session.

18. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES

Council members discussed dates of future meetings February 4-6, 2015, at the Holiday Inn Austin Midtown, May 6-8, 2015, and August 5-7, 2015. Dates for the fall meeting are tentatively scheduled for November 4-6, 2015, pending hotel availability.

Members expressed their appreciation for TCDD's increased social media presence and Communications Coordinator Joshua Ryf was recognized for these efforts.

ADJOURN

Council Chair Durheim adjourned the meeting at 10:43 AM.

Roger A. Webb
Secretary to the Council

Date

Attachment 1

Executive Summary

Support for Expenses for Research on Disability-related Topics

Project Goal

State Plan Goal 7, Objective 2, Activity 3: Support the Council to develop and fund projects to explore innovative ideas and/or provide timely solutions to emerging needs, as funds allow.

Proposed Funding Amount

Up to \$25,000 per year per proposed research project for research-related expenses, accommodations for self-advocates, and stipends for self-advocates or stakeholders who could not otherwise participate, for up to 3 projects.

Proposed Duration

Up to five years per project.

Background

TCDD's FY 2012-2016 State Plan notes that additional, as-yet-unavailable data may be needed to better understand complex issues, to develop innovative solutions to existing problems, and to enable TCDD to evaluate the degree to which its activities result in improving the lives of people with developmental disabilities. For example:

- The state does not routinely gather specific data regarding individuals who have developmental disabilities and are not receiving the services and supports they need to be included in their community. In 2010, TCDD surveyed a sample of individuals who were on the interest list for CLASS, HCS, or both. Survey responses were received from 1,922 people. Responders provided some demographic information and answered questions regarding what services they were receiving, what prompted them to sign up on an interest list, which service from a list of available services they would want first if offered, and when they expected their service needs to change. The data informed the TCDD 2010 Biennial Disability Report and recommendations. Additional data regarding needs can benefit TCDD in both capacity building and advocacy efforts.
- TCDD is aware that people who are ethnic and racial minorities and people living in rural areas are generally more likely to be unserved or underserved. Through the Outreach and Development grants and other outreach efforts, TCDD is more aware of some of the attitudinal and practice barriers preventing some individuals who strongly identify with an ethnic or racial minority group from receiving appropriate services. However, to fully understand how widely these barriers are experienced and whether or not the barriers are being addressed effectively, TCDD would need data collected from across the state.
- Younger individuals with developmental disabilities who grew up attending their neighborhood schools and being included in their communities may have had significantly different experiences than older individuals who generally had less support. However, TCDD rarely receives input from individuals in their teens and twenties. Having better information about the experiences and world views of this younger group could help TCDD to effectively reach out to

and attract young self-advocates to be involved in advocacy activities. It would also enable TCDD to better foresee and plan for the types of opportunities that adults will want in the future.

- The evaluation of certain activities in the State Plan would be best performed by independent researchers. Examples include an evaluation of Higher Education programs that prepare individuals with developmental disabilities for careers (Activity 3 under Objective 2.1); activities to evaluate TCDD's leadership and advocacy programs (Goal 6); and possibly activities to respond to the recommendation of the Sunset Commission staff to conduct ongoing evaluation of grant projects for 3-5 years after completion of funding from TCDD.

These types of data collection activities are generally beyond TCDD's existing staff resources, as is independent research that could result in the development of new, innovative models for providing services and supports.

At the May 2014 Project Development Committee meeting, Committee members expressed interest in providing funds to support research-related expenses for students working on disability related topics if that research would further inform the Council's Goals and Objectives. The Committee felt that various data collection activities would be useful. The Committee also noted that supporting students who are interested in disability-related topics might encourage new researchers to focus on disability issues in their future careers. TCDD staff have developed this idea further, taking into account some barriers that would make the activity, as originally envisioned, unwieldy:

- "Grants" cannot be awarded to individuals.
- TCDD can contract with individuals. However, contracts are reimbursed after expenses are incurred (no advancing of funds) which likely would be difficult for students on limited budgets.
- Awarding a grant to an organization that is not closely connected to the student's school to disburse funding to individuals for research might result in insufficient technical oversight of student research.

TCDD staff recommend awarding TCDD grant funds to academic programs that are willing to support faculty advisors to provide oversight of student work. That support would be considered a "matching contribution," although TCDD may not be able to capture the support as "match." TCDD funds could be used for research-related expenses, stipends or accommodations for a self-advocate to serve as an advisor or colleague to work with the students, and stipends to support the participation of other stakeholders who tend to be underrepresented in the type of research being done, if stipends are necessary to allow that involvement.

Expected Outcome

Products expected from the project include a final report that provides a thorough explanation of the background, methodology, conclusions, and limitations of the research.

In addition to the products, the primary outcome of these particular projects would be increased knowledge of at least one specific issue of importance to the Council, resulting in improved decision-making.

Other potential outcomes would include potential changes to students' perceptions of the benefits of collaborating with individuals who have developmental disabilities on research projects.

Project staff would be expected to report on the following Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Performance Measure:

SA01 People trained in area related to goal/objective.

Project Description

TCDD funds will support at least one university, college, technical school, or professional school located in Texas to oversee research projects related to TCDD State Plan Goals and Objectives. Each project must include at least two researchers, one of whom must be a student and one of whom must be an individual with a developmental disability. There would be no upper limit on the number of researchers who may be involved in the project, and preference would be given to projects that will involve a number of students in a group project, as this would enable a larger number of students to be exposed to work that supports the Council's mission and might result in encouraging several students to consider further work or employment that benefits people with developmental disabilities.

Research must be directly related to an existing State Plan Goal and Objective, be conducted in a manner that is consistent with the mission and positions of the Council, and adequately address and/or identify disparities or disproportionalities. It must also provide TCDD with new information about:

- best practices in providing services and supports to individuals with developmental disabilities, including best practices in promoting self-advocacy, leadership and self-determination;
- the needs of Texans with developmental disabilities and their families;
- the direct experiences of individuals who have developmental disabilities; or
- TCDD's success or failure to create systems change.

If approval by an Institutional Review Board is required, the program receiving the grant funds and the faculty providing oversight would be responsible for obtaining approval. Funding for activities may be withheld if approval is not obtained.

TCDD would allow funds to be used to support stipends for researchers who are also stakeholders if needed; accommodations for individuals with developmental disabilities (including expenses for an attendant); transportation, meals, and lodging for research-related travel; equipment and materials to support implementation of surveys, interviews, or focus groups; expenses related to processing and analysis of data; or indirect costs of the sponsoring organization per TCDD policies. Other expenses may be approved if required for project activities.

Other Considerations

TCDD may either stipulate what the topic of the research might be or allow researchers to propose topics.

Attachment 2

TCDD Future Funding Activities Priority List

As of August 8, 2014

#	Organization/Activity	Possible Projects	Funding "Up To"	Council Approved	Expected RFP Post	Expected Start	Expected End
N/A	Outreach & Development Projects – 2.0 Projects for up to 18 months	5/yr	\$10,000/project	10/25/13	TBD	FY 14-16	Variable
N/A	Developmental Disability Policy Fellows Program Award up to 2 two-year Fellowships in each of Year 1 and Year 2 up to 3 yrs.	1	Year 1 up to \$135k Year 2 up to \$270K Year 3 up to \$135K	8/09/13	2/21/14 1/16/15	8/1/14 7/1/15	5/31/16 5/31/17
1.	Targeted Online Training up to 2 yrs.	Up to 12 Webinars/ podcasts	*\$10K for "set up" \$15K/yr for products	8/08/14	NA	12/1/14	8/31/16
2.	Understanding Employment Options and Supports Conference up to 2 yrs.	1	\$150,000/yr.	10/25/13	12/01/14	6/01/15	5/31/17
3.	Culturally Competent Family Support up to 4 yrs.	5	\$75,000/yr.	5/03/13	12/01/14	6/01/15	11/30/18
4.	Leadership Development and Advocacy Training up to 5 yrs.	4	*\$75,000/yr.	8/08/14	TBD	TBD	TBD
5.	Partnership with African American Clergy to Support Families up to 5 yrs.	1	\$75,000/yr.	5/03/13	N/A	TBD	TBD
6.	Accessible Transportation Project Year 1 -3 funding up to \$150k; Year 4 up to \$125k; and Year 5 up to \$100k up to 5 yrs.	1	\$150,000/yr.	10/25/13	TBD	TBD	TBD
N/A	Accessible Parking Awareness Campaign Phase 2 – two proposals to be reviewed by TCDD November 2014 (TBD if interested)	TBD	TBD	TBD	N/A	TBD	TBD
N/A	Support for Full Participation of Self-Advocates on Workgroups up to 1 yrs.	1	\$50,000/yr.	8/09/13	N/A	9/1/13	8/31/14

1. Up to \$10K for development of the template and guide; up to \$15K per year, for development of up to 12 products using the template

4. Additional funding may be made available to provide reasonable accommodations.

Legend	Open RFP or Proposals received are under review at time of printing.
	Proposals have been approved, awarded or project is in process of beginning since last Council meeting.

Attachment 3

Access to Health Care

Draft 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 support the expansion of Medicaid for Texas under the federal Affordable Care Act. The expansion would have covered an additional 1.2 million Texans by 2016. We support the position that in any consideration of changes to the healthcare 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 healthcare reforms they should:

- Ensure patients are empowered to control and decide how their own healthcare dollars are spent;
- ~~Eliminate pre-existing condition exclusions;~~
- Ensure unencumbered access to specialty care;
- Make healthcare 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 and mental health services and supports;
- Provide services in the context of a patient centered 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 and/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 healthcare 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 and affordable access to health coverage programs and not be burdened with disproportionate costs;

The Council is concerned about proposals to block grant Medicaid because people with disabilities are especially vulnerable to reductions in Medicaid spending since they typically require more health services and long term supports that call for deep reductions in Medicare and Medicaid payments.

Reforms are necessary to strengthen the current Medicaid program so that it provides accessible, high-quality healthcare services to people with disabilities enrolled in the program; with examples changes that include, but are not limited to, evidence-based practices and payment structures that attract providers.

Reviewed May 3, 2012



Education

Draft Position Statement

~~All people with disabilities in Texas should have the opportunity to achieve their maximum potential for independence, productivity and integration into the community. Education is a lifelong learning process which is vital to attaining a full and complete life. The postsecondary results of an appropriate public school education for students with disabilities should be evidenced by employment, enrollment in postsecondary education, or both within one year of leaving exiting high school.~~

Comment [COU1]: "Leaving" sounded too much like dropping out and of course graduation is not always the final outcome.

The Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities supports the position that ~~It is therefore the position of the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities that~~ all students, have a right to learn, play and work with students their own age, with and without disabilities, in the same schools, classrooms and other educational programs attended by their brothers, sisters and neighbors, and that schools, classrooms and programs must be both physically and programmatically accessible to all students. It is the position of the Council, as well as the policy of the state, that all children should be treated with dignity and respect when addressing their behavioral and disciplinary needs.

All students regardless of individual needs must be provided with individualized appropriate instruction, research-based positive behavioral interventions and supports, access to the general curriculum, and related services in the least restrictive environment. Related services include but are not limited to adaptive aids, assistive technology, modifications, therapies and supplementary aides. The delivery of individually appropriate instruction and related services must be provided by qualified teachers and service providers with administrative support and opportunities for continued ~~and~~ ongoing professional development in all areas of identified need. ~~It is the position of the Council, as well as the policy of the state, that all children should be treated with dignity and respect when addressing their behavioral and disciplinary needs.~~

~~All people with disabilities in Texas should have the opportunity to achieve their maximum potential for independence, productivity and integration into the community. Education is a lifelong process which is vital to attaining a full and complete life. The postsecondary results of an appropriate public school education for students with disabilities should be evidenced by employment, enrollment in postsecondary education, or both within one year of leaving high school.~~

~~The Council supports the position that~~ Charter schools or schools accepting voucher payments must provide students the same educational rights and opportunities that they would be accorded in the public education system. The Council believes that schools that accept state money to educate students must accept any student with a developmental disability who may apply for admission to that school; abide by federal and state education laws that protect the rights of students with disabilities; abide by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act that requires any entity receiving federal funds to include people with

disabilities in its program, and accept any student at the state rate of payment asking for no additional tuition or fees beyond the normal fees required by the student's local education agency. If these criteria are not met, then the Council adamantly opposes publicly funded school vouchers and charter schools. The Council ~~is opposed~~ does not support ~~to~~ any initiative that would deplete funds from the public education system and ultimately from those funds available for the education of students with disabilities.

(Continued)

The ~~Council supports the position that~~ full inclusion of Texas students with disabilities should be approached as a value and underlying philosophy by which we educate all students. We believe that successful inclusion requires that teacher education programs prepare all educators and administrators to work with the full range of students in inclusive settings. Special education is not a separate educational system, but rather a service provided to people with specific needs within the general educational system. Professional preparation programs should emphasize the shared responsibility of all educators and administrators for every student.

~~The Council supports the position that~~ Full inclusion requires the ongoing, shared responsibility of students, parents, guardians, educators, administrators and the community at large.

~~It is therefore the position of the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities that all students have a right to learn, play and work with students their own age, with and without disabilities, in the same schools, classrooms and other educational programs attended by their brothers, sisters and neighbors, and that schools, classrooms and programs must be both physically and programmatically accessible to all students.~~

Reviewed July 26, 2012



Right to Privacy

Draft Position Statement

The Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities recognizes that people with disabilities have the same right to privacy as all people have in our nation. Confidentiality has historically been a cornerstone in providing services and medical care to people. The level of privacy protected under the Fourth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution is being challenged by the rapidly developing interactive technologies with a quickly emerging global information infrastructure.

In this age of the evolving information and communication technologies, the Council recognizes the positive role that the electronic media brings to the compilation and exchange of information. Our government agencies, businesses and non-profit agencies now have the advantage of quick exchange of information and the ability to gather and analyze massive amounts of information. This new capacity can help in streamlining business, reducing costs and ensuring appropriate services for people. However, this new capacity for data collection can also be used intentionally or unintentionally to the detriment of the people the government agencies serve. The Council supports the position that the following basic principles should be applied to all information data collection systems:

- ❑ Individuals, government entities, nonprofit organizations, and businesses have a shared responsibility for the secure use of personal information.
- ❑ Prior to the collection and dissemination of personal and identifiable information, each individual should be advised of:
 - the specifics of personal information to be collected and/or released;
 - the entity which is collecting the information and the entity to which the information will be released;
 - the purpose for which the information is to be collected and/or released;
 - the individual's legal rights to privacy and confidentiality of personal information;
 - the administrative procedures to follow to review personal information;
 - the process to remove, correct or add information that has been entered in a data collection system;
 - the avenues of recourse to recover damages in the case of improper use and/or disclosure of personal information; and
 - the degree of risk that personal information may be inadvertently collected by other entities through the electronic transmission processes.

(Continued)

- ❑ Those who obtain, possess or retain personal information should make efforts to ensure that such personal information is not inadvertently shared, obtained, or collected by unauthorized parties through the process of electronic data transmission.
- ❑ Directories of an individual's personal information should be used only as originally allowed by the individual. Personal identifiable information ~~which~~ may include: personal identity;
 - social security number;
 - religious, political or organizational affiliations;
 - employment; educational, medical, psychiatric, psychological, and financial status, and
 - legal history; and
 - family status ~~should be used only as originally allowed by the individual.~~

Reviewed ~~February 9, 2012~~

Attachment 4

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 to set direct service wages at levels commensurate with the value and scope of the service.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
DRAFT MINUTES
NOVEMBER 6, 2014**

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Mary Durham, Council Chair	Ivy Goldstein, DSHS	Penny Seay, UT CDS
Hunter Adkins	Stephen Gersuk	Cindy Swain, TEA
Kimberly Blackmon	Jennifer Kaut, DARS	David Taylor
Kristine Clark	Diana Kern	Lora Taylor
Gladys Cortez	Penny Larkin, DADS	John Thomas
Kristen Cox	Scott McAvoy	Richard Tisch
Andrew Crim	Michael Peace	
Stephen Gersuk	Brandon Pharris	

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT

Mateo Delgado	Amy Sharp, A&M CDD	Nancy Walker, HHSC
Dana Perry	Ruth Mason	

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Roger Webb, Executive Director	Cynthia Ellison	Jessica Ramos
Martha Cantu	Celina Galvan	Fernando Rodriguez
Belinda Carlton	Sonya Hosey	Joshua Ryf
Joanna Cordry	Linda Logan	Koren Vogel

GUESTS PRESENT

Beverly Boyd	Jeff Kaufmann	Amy Ransleben
Alyssa Enriquez	Harold Liller, OAG	Megan Sumbera
Amy Fawell	John Morris	Don Taylor
Cheryl Grenwelge	Pat Morse	Carrie Warner
Kathy Griffis-Bailey	Darryl Powell	

CALL TO ORDER

The Committee of the Whole of the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities convened on Thursday, November 6, 2014, in the Salon A Room of the Marriott Austin South, 4415 South IH-35, Austin, TX 78745. Council Chair Mary Durham called the meeting to order at 10:50 AM.

1. INTRODUCTIONS

Council members, staff and guests introduced themselves.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public comments were provided by Amy Fawell, president of Mothers Advocating Medical Marijuana for Autism (MAMMA). Fawell feels this is an important emerging issue for treatment for people with seizure disorders and autism and expects legislation to be introduced during the upcoming session. Fawell offered herself as a resource to answer Council member questions.

3. CHAIR AND MEMBER UPDATES

Chair Durham welcomed new members who were appointed by the Governor on October 9, 2014. John Thomas was appointed to a term ending in 2017. Ruth Mason, Brandon Pharris and Michael

Peace were appointed to terms ending in 2019. Andy Crim, Mateo Delgado, Stephen Gersuk and Lora Taylor were also reappointed for terms to end in 2019. Executive Director Roger Webb clarified for members whose terms expire on February 1, 2015, that if appointments or re-appointments are not made before the end of their term, members continue to serve in a “holdover” capacity. Webb noted that appointments to the Council are not usually made during the legislative session since Council appointments do not require Senate confirmation. He does not expect new appointments until summer or fall 2015 but it is unknown how the new Governor’s office will handle business.

Durheim and Webb presented plaques to out-going Council members Kathy Griffis-Bailey, Jeff Kaufmann and John Morris, thanking them for their service to Texans with disabilities.

Durheim discussed membership to the Public Policy and Project Development committees. Kristine Clark has requested to move to the Public Policy Committee. New Council members will attend one committee meeting this quarter and the other committee next quarter, then Durheim will evaluate requests for membership to the respective committees.

Durheim discussed the process to select members for the Nominating Committee that will present nominations at the February 2015 meeting for Council Vice-Chair and the Consumer (Self-Advocate) Member-at-large to the Executive Committee. Durheim noted that the coming year may be somewhat challenging in that TCDD is going through the Sunset Review process, there are several new members to the Council and she is serving in a “holdover” capacity from 2011. While it is unlikely that she would be replaced during the next year, it is a possibility. Durheim asked members to consider suspending the provision in Council Policies that limits the Vice-Chair to two consecutive terms so that current Vice-Chair Andy Crim could be considered to continue in his leadership role in addition to other members. Durheim emphasized that she was not advocating for Crim to continue, only the possibility for it to be considered. Durheim also mentioned that Nominating Committee members cannot nominate themselves for either position. State agency representatives are eligible to serve on the Nominating Committee but are not eligible to be Vice-Chair. Members who are interested in serving in either position were asked to inform the Committee of their interest.

Members provided updates on events in their personal lives including additions to their extended families, challenges faced by family members, etc. Council member Lora Taylor provided information about her recent advocacy efforts to change accessible parking laws to designate spaces for “van only” parking. She has made several visits with legislators and talked with Governor-elect Greg Abbott who expressed his support. Taylor expects legislation to be introduced in the upcoming session. TEA representative Cindy Swain updated members on a project to be finalized in February that reviews student placements in in-school suspension and out-of-school suspension as well as disciplinary alternative educational placements and judicial placements. This project will discuss how students with disabilities are placed in these environments.

4. GRANT PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

TCDD Grants Management Specialist Cynthia Ellison provided highlights of grant projects that will present during this quarter’s meetings. REACh Outreach and Development project will present at Friday’s Council meeting. This project provides support for East African families of children with disabilities in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

Staff from the Texas A&M University Bridge to Career (B2C) in Human Services project were in attendance at the meeting to talk about that project. Ellison introduced Cheryl Grenwelge and Megan Sumbera who provided information to members.

5. PRESENTATION: TEXAS A&M HIGHER EDUCATION PROJECT

Grenwelge and Sumbera discussed this project that provides inclusive post-secondary education to students with intellectual and developmental disabilities to prepare them for employment in the human services field. Partners include Brazos Valley Center for Independent Living, Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services and other local agencies. Students attend a 4-week summer session where they live on campus and receive daily classroom instruction as well as independent living skills training. Students then complete fall and spring semesters of academic training, career observation, volunteering and a paid practicum. 38 total students have graduated from the first three cohorts of this project and 25 more are currently enrolled. The project is moving towards sustainability, has received accreditation from the National Association of Direct Support Professionals, and is recognized by Texas A&M University as an adult continuing education program. Beverly Boyd of Brenham Outreach Advisory Council and Pat Morse of Brazos Valley Center for Independent Living discussed their organizations' partnerships with this program. Alyssa Enriquez and Amanda Ransleben discussed their experiences as students in the program and their current jobs as direct support professionals. The program intends to expand training to other areas of human services including child care and teaching assistants.

6. ANNUAL SUMMARY OF STATE PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

TCDD Planning Coordinator Joanna Cordry briefly discussed "next steps" for Council members to consider in their annual review of the state plan. She reviewed the format of material provided for members which shows state plan goals and objectives, the status of each project related to those objectives, and suggested next steps. Members will discuss this information in the Project Development and Public Policy Committee meetings.

7. TCDD COUNCIL QUIZ GAME

TCDD Communications Coordinator Joshua Ryf presented training on various subjects related to developmental disabilities in the form of a trivia quiz game. Subjects included the Developmental Disabilities Act, History of the Disability Movement, and TCDD policies and procedures. This format was well received by members.

8. PUBLIC POLICY UPDATES

TCDD Public Policy Director Jessica Ramos provided a public policy update including results of statewide elections and how this will impact legislative committees and representation for members. Ramos also discussed recommendations for health and human services agencies from the Sunset Commissions and the suggestion to reorganize those agencies into one large agency with seven divisions.

ADJOURN

Council Chair Durham adjourned the Committee of the Whole at 2:25 PM.

Roger A. Webb
Secretary to the Council

Date

Background:

During the November Council meeting, Hunter Adkins, Kris Clark and David Taylor were selected as members of the Nominating Committee. Those members selected David Taylor to Chair the Committee this year and report the Committee’s nominations to the Council. The Committee will provide recommendations for the Council Vice-Chair and the Consumer Member-at-Large to the Executive Committee. Nominations from the floor may also be accepted.

A summary outlining Nominating Committee Procedures and the Council’s election process is included.

Council

Agenda Item 6-7.

Expected Action:

The Council will elect a Vice-Chair and Consumer (Self-Advocate) Member-at-Large to the Executive Committee.

Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities (TCDD) Nominations for Council Vice-Chair and Self-Advocate (Consumer) Member of the Executive Committee

Hunter Adkins, Kris Clark and David Taylor were selected during the November meetings as the Nominating Committee to bring forward nominations during the February 2015 meeting for Council Vice-Chair and for the Self-Advocate (consumer) Delegate-at-Large to the Executive Committee. Those members have selected David to serve as Chair.

The Committee solicited recommendations from Council Members for both of these positions and will present a nomination for each position during the Council meeting. A few sections from TCDD Policies are included in this document that describe the qualifications and duties of officers, provisions for nominating the Vice- Chair, responsibilities of the Nominating Committee, and provisions for nominating the self-advocate (consumer) delegate-at-large who is a member of the Executive Committee. Note that members of the Nominating Committee cannot nominate themselves to either position.

VICE CHAIR:

- Members eligible to be nominated for Council Vice-Chair are shown in **Table 1** on the following page.
- When considering a nomination for Council Vice-Chair, please remember that in addition to the “usual responsibilities” as Vice-Chair, this person also Chairs the Audit Committee.
- TCDD Policies provide that an agency representative to the Council is **not** eligible to serve as Council Vice-Chair (i.e. members representing: DADS, DARS, DSHS, HHSC, TEA, Disability Rights Texas, the Center for Disability Studies at UT-Austin, and the TX A&M Center for Disability and Development).
- Although TCDD policies stipulate that Council members may serve no more than two consecutive, one-year terms as Vice-Chair, the Council decided to set aside that provision for this year to allow the Committee to consider Andy Crim as well as other members for Vice-Chair.
- Current Chairs of Committees (Gladys and Kristen) are eligible to be nominated for Vice-Chair.

CONSUMER DELEGATE AT LARGE:

- Members eligible to be nominated for the self-advocate (consumer) member of the Executive Committee are shown in **Table 2** on the following page.
- Council Policies do not limit the number of terms a member may serve as self-advocate (consumer) member of the Executive Committee.
- Diana Kern is currently serving in her second term as the self-advocate (consumer) member of the Executive Committee, and is eligible to be nominated for another term.
- Hunter Adkins has also previously served as the self-advocate (consumer) member.

Table 1: Council Members Eligible for the Office of Council Vice-Chair

Council Member	Term Expires	From
Hunter Adkins	2015*	Lakeway
Kimberly Blackmon	2015*	Ft. Worth
Kris Clark	2017	San Antonio
Gladys Cortez	2017	McAllen
Kristen Cox	2015*	El Paso
Andrew Crim	2019	Ft. Worth
Mateo Delgado	2019	El Paso
Stephen Gersuk	2019	Plano
Diana Kern	2015	Cedar Creek
Ruth Mason	2019	Houston
Scott McAvoy	2015*	Cedar Park
Michael Peace	2019	Poteet
Dana Perry	2015	Brownwood
Brandon Pharris	2019	Beaumont
David Taylor	2017	El Paso
Lora Taylor	2019	Houston
John Thomas	2017	Abilene
Rick Tisch	2015	Spring

- Indicates member is eligible to be appointed for another term as Council member.

Table 2: Council Members Eligible for Nomination for Self-Advocate (Consumer) Delegate-at-Large to Executive Committee

Council Member	Term Expires	From
Hunter Adkins	2015*	Lakeway
Kimberly Blackmon	2015*	Ft. Worth
Mateo Delgado	2019	El Paso
Diana Kern	2015	Cedar Creek
Michael Peace	2019	Poteet
Brandon Pharris	2019	Beaumont
John Thomas	2017	Abilene

- Indicates member is eligible to be appointed for another term as Council member.

V. OFFICERS

- A. Positions and Qualifications. Officers of the Council shall be a Chair and Vice-Chair. A representative of a state agency may not serve as an officer of the Council.
- B. Appointment and Election Procedures.
1. The Council Chair shall be designated by the Governor to serve a term at the will of the Governor.
 2. The Council Vice-Chair shall be elected by the Council at the first regular Council meeting of the new calendar year except for a vacancy. The term of office for the Council Vice-Chair shall be one calendar year. No member may hold the office of Council Vice-Chair for more than two consecutive full terms.
- C. Vacancies in Office
1. A vacancy in the office of Council Chair may be filled only by the Governor. The Council Vice-Chair shall perform the duties of the Chair during the period of vacancy.
 2. A vacancy in the office of Vice-Chair may be filled by a majority vote of the members present at any scheduled meeting of the Council. Vice-Chairs elected in this manner shall serve until the election of a Vice-Chair at the first regular Council meeting of the new calendar year.
- D. Duties of Officers
1. The Chair is responsible for the general supervision of all activities of the Council in order to assure that the objectives of the Council are executed in the best possible manner. The responsibilities of the Chair shall include, but not be limited to, the following duties:
 - (a) The Chair shall preside at all Council meetings.
 - (b) The Chair shall serve as the Chair of the Executive Committee and as a voting, ex-officio member of all committees except the Nominating Committee.
 - (c) The Chair shall appoint the members of all standing and ad hoc committees except the Nominating Committee and the Executive Committee.
 - (d) The Chair shall appoint Chairs of all standing committees in a manner prescribed in Article VI of these bylaws. All such appointments are subject to the approval of the Council.
 - (e) The Chair shall call special meetings of the Council, as necessary.
 - (f) The Chair shall approve the agenda for each Council meeting.
 - (g) The Chair shall represent the Council at public meetings and conferences and in dealing with other organizations or shall designate an alternate to do so.
 - (h) The Chair shall approve out-of-state travel of Council members or staff pursuant to travel procedures established by the Executive Committee.
 - (i) The Chair shall provide advice and consultation to the Executive Director concerning activities conducted by Council staff.
 - (j) The Chair shall prepare the annual performance evaluation of the Executive Director after considering input from Committee Chairs and Council members.

- (k) The Council Chair shall be authorized to act for the Council on matters which require Council action when neither the appropriate committee(s) nor the full Council can meet, providing:
 - i. input is solicited from the Council Vice-Chair, the Chair of the appropriate Committee, and other members of the Council reasonably known to be knowledgeable about the matter at hand (For purposes of this sub-section, "input" means to receive and disseminate information.); and,
 - ii such action shall be reviewed by the appropriate Committee of the Council when it next meets.

In the event three or more Council members place in writing a request for recession of this authority to the Executive Committee, this authorization may be temporarily suspended by the Executive Committee pending full review by the Council. The Executive Committee shall review and affirm or disaffirm such actions and recommend to the Council continuance or discontinuance of authority for such matters.

- 2. The responsibilities of the Vice-Chair shall include, but not be limited to, the following duties:
 - a. The Vice-Chair shall perform the duties of the Chair in all cases when the Chair is unable to serve.
 - b. The Vice-Chair serves as Chair of the Audit Committee.
 - c. The Vice-Chair shall be a voting ex-officio member of all other committees except the Nominating Committee.
 - d. The Vice-Chair shall assume such additional duties as may be requested by the Chair.

VII. COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL

- G. Nominating Committee Duties and Composition
 - 1. The Nominating Committee shall have the following powers and duties, and others that may be designated from time to time by the Council:
 - (a) Presents a recommendation to the full Council for the office of Council Vice-Chair at the winter Council meeting.
 - (b) Presents a recommendation to the full Council for a primary consumer delegate-at-large to the Executive Committee at the winter Council meeting.
 - 2. Each standing committee except the Executive Committee shall elect one member for the Nominating Committee prior to the fall Council meeting.
 - 3. At the fall Council meeting, the Council shall elect a member who is not an Executive Committee member to serve as a member of the Nominating Committee and, if necessary, an additional member to ensure a committee of not less than three nor more than five members. The members of the nominating committee shall select a Chair from among the members of the committee.

COUNCIL PROCEDURE #7: NOMINATING COMMITTEE ELECTION PROCEDURES

1. **Council Member Input.** The Nominating Committee shall solicit input from Council members prior to determining nominations for Council Vice-Chair and for Consumer Member-at-Large to the Executive Committee.
2. **Meetings.** Meetings of the Nominating Committee shall be restricted to members of the Committee only.
3. **Members Not Eligible.** Nominating Committee members are not eligible for nomination for Vice-Chair or Consumer Member-at-Large.
4. **Nominations from the Floor.** Nominations by Council members from the floor will follow presentation of each nomination by the Nominating Committee. Nominations from the floor do not require a second.
5. **Ballot.** If more than one individual is nominated for a position, the election shall be by secret ballot. The Nominating Committee Chair shall count the ballots and announce the outcome.
6. **Vacancy.** A vacancy in the office of either position may be filled by a majority vote of the members present at any scheduled meeting of the full Council. Nominations shall be made by the Chair of the Nominating Committee, with additional nominations accepted from the floor. Individuals elected in this manner shall serve until regular elections at the next winter Council meeting.

Quarterly Council and Committee Meetings

Tentative Dates

May 6-8, 2015

Marriott Austin South

August 5-7, 2015

Embassy Suites – San Marcos

November 4-6, 2015

February 3-5, 2016

Council Meeting

Agenda Item 17.

Expected Action:

Discussion only; no action is anticipated.

Background:

Updated documents of Council Member Information.

- Council Roster
- Committee Roster
- Member Terms

TEXAS COUNCIL FOR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

COMMITTEE ROSTER

February 2015

Public Policy Committee¹

Kristen Cox, Chair

Hunter Adkins

Michael Benz (Amy Sharp-Alternate), Texas A&M Center on Disability and Development

Kristine Clark

Mateo Delgado

Mary Faithfull (Patty Anderson-Alternate), Disability Rights Texas (DRT)

Stephen Gersuk

Sara Kendall, Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS)

Ruth Mason

Penny Seay, UT-Austin Center for Disability Studies

Lora Taylor

Nancy Walker (April Young-Alternate), Health & Human Services Commission (HHSC)

Penny Larkin, Department of Aging & Disability Services (DADS)

Project Development Committee¹

Gladys Cortez, Chair

Kimberly Blackmon

Manda Hall, MD (Ivy Goldstein-Alternate), Department of State Health Services (DSHS)

Diana Kern

Scott McAvoy

Dana Perry

Cindy Swain (Barbara Kaatz-Alternate), Texas Education Agency (TEA)

David Taylor

Rick Tisch

***Michael Peace, Brandon Pharris, and John Thomas have not yet been assigned to a committee.

Audit Committee

Andrew Crim, Chair

Scott McAvoy

Lora Taylor

John Thomas

Mary Durham (non-voting ex officio)

Executive Committee

Mary Durham, Chair

Andrew Crim, Vice-Chair

Gladys Cortez, Project Development Committee Chair

Kristen Cox, Public Policy Committee Chair

Diana Kern, Consumer Member-at-Large

¹ The Chair (Mary Durham) and Vice Chair (Andrew Crim) of the Council are voting, ex-officio members of the Public Policy and the Project Development Committees.

TEXAS COUNCIL FOR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Ending Dates of Member Terms

Terms Expire February 1st

2015	2017	2019
Hunter Adkins	Kristine Clark	Andrew Crim
Kimberly Blackmon	Gladys Cortez	Mateo Delgado
Kristen Cox	Mary Durheim (2011*)	Stephen Gersuk
Diana Kern	David Taylor	Ruth Mason
Scott McAvoy	John Thomas	Michael Peace
Dana Perry		Brandon Pharris
Richard Tisch		Lora Taylor

* serving in a holdover capacity for a term that expired in 2011.

Agency/Organization Representatives (Alternates)

Disability Rights Texas

Center for Disability Studies (UT)

Center on Disability and Development (A&M)

Texas Education Agency

Texas Health and Human Services Commission

Dept. of Aging and Disability Services

Dept. of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services

Dept. of State Health Services

Mary Faithfull (Patty Anderson)

Penny Seay

Michael Benz (Amy Sharp)

Cindy Swain (Barbara Kaatz)

Nancy Walker (April Young)

Penny Larkin

Sara Kendall

Manda Hall, MD (Ivy Goldstein)