

**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 11<sup>th</sup> 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.

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Roger A. Webb  
Secretary to the Council

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Date