



Dear Chair Durham,

For the past three years, Texas Advocates has run Project SAVE, Self-Advocate Voices Engaged. We have trained people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) in 8 state-supported living centers (SSLCs). We have done trainings in Austin, Rio Grande Valley, San Antonio, Richmond, Lubbock, El Paso, Denton, and Corpus Christi. Next month, we will do our final training at Brenham SSLC. All of our trainings have been half SSLC residents and half community residents.

SAVE has been a very successful grant. We have helped a self-advocacy group in El Paso to join Texas Advocates. Five other graduates of SAVE joined state and local self-advocacy groups as Board members. Some groups have visited their legislator. Many SSLC residents have moved into the community since they finished SAVE, taking their self-advocacy skills with them.

Unfortunately, Project SAVE is ending May 31, 2015. The Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities (DD Council) has no other grants focusing on people in the SSLCs. We think this should be changed. There are several thousand people with I/DD in the SSLCs. As more people leave, it is even more important to prepare them to advocate. And the ones who stay need to know to self-advocate too.

We are asking the DD Council to create an additional grant for the SSLCs, specifically Mexia and San Angelo. These two centers were not touched by SAVE. They have a lot of people who have been accused of crimes but never convicted (alleged offenders). This would be an ideal focus for one grant to work on.

Thank you for taking our input into account, and for not letting three years of progress between the DD Council and people with disabilities in the SSLCs end.

Sincerely,

Kendra Kerbow,
President, Texas Advocates

Bridget Allen
Mary Bishop
Charles Jurek*
Judith Laufer
Carol Maxwell
Bryce Phillips*
Rick Razo
Joe Tate,
Members, SAVE Project Advisory Committee

*Former SSLC Resident



TEXAS COUNCIL *for*
DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES

Mary Durham, Chair
Kristen L. Cox, Vice Chair
Roger A. Webb, Executive Director

6201 E. Oltorf, Suite 600, Austin, TX 78741-7509
E-Mail: tcdd@tcdd.texas.gov
Website: www.tcdd.texas.gov

(512) 437-5432
(800) 262-0334
Fax (512) 437-5434

May 5, 2015

Dear Ms. Kerbow and Members of the SAVE Project Advisory Committee,

Thank you for your commitment to providing self-advocacy training for people with developmental disabilities. TCDD will review your idea and input with the appropriate Committee of the Council at one of the Council's quarterly meetings and may choose to develop it into a future project.

Councils are required by federal law to develop Five Year State Plans that goals, objectives and activities we plan to work on during that period. The Council will also consider your letter as public input about needs in the state of Texas as we develop our next Five Year State Plan for FY 2017-2021.

If the Council decides to develop the idea into a project to specifically address the needs you describe, we will likely start with a new Request for Proposals (RFP) to consider what organization has the best idea for implementing the project. TCDD does not generally award funds without some open bidding process. Also, the start date of the project would depend on how the Council prioritizes this project compared to other planned projects and when funding is available.

One of the types of projects that TCDD has planned is a Leadership and Advocacy Training project. The Council has authorized funding for up to four projects of this type and we expect to post the RFP for those projects in September of 2015. Texas Advocates may be interested in submitting a proposal at that time for the project you describe in your letter.

Feel free to contact Joanna.Cordry@tcdd.texas.gov if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Mary Durham (cu)". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mary Durham, Chair