

Background:

A report of recent public information activities is included for the Committee’s review.

Discussion topics include:

- Statistics
- Social Media
- Top 20 Webpages
- Blog Posts
- Information Requests and Distribution
- Information about Guardianship Alternatives Online
- Barriers to Transportation in Texas (blog post)

<p><u>Committee of the Whole</u></p> <p><u>Agenda Item 6.</u></p>	<p><u>Expected Action:</u></p> <p>The Committee will receive an update regarding recent public information activities and provide guidance as needed. No action is anticipated.</p>
<p><u>Council Meeting</u></p> <p><u>Agenda Item 14. B.</u></p>	<p><u>Expected Action:</u></p> <p>The Council will receive a report of Committee discussions on this item. No action is anticipated.</p>

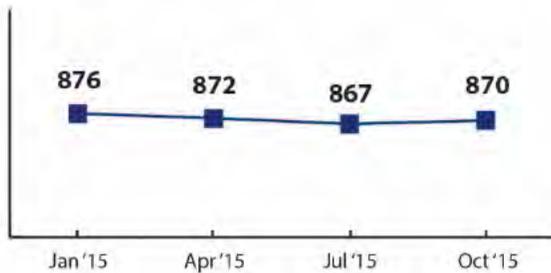
TCDD Public Information Report

November 2015

Overview



Email Subscribers



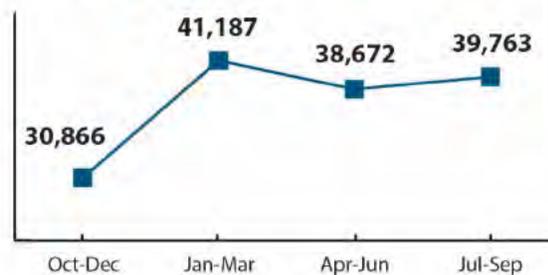
Facebook Fans



Twitter Followers



Website Visits



Social Media

Top Facebook Posts

Post Message	Total Reach
BREAKING: JUDGE HALTS THERAPY CUTS	14,914
PUBLIC HEARING ON MEDICAID THERAPY RATES (MONDAY)	14,027
HAPPY ANNIVERSARY, ADA!	7,923
MEDICAID THERAPY RATES CUT UPDATE: LAWSUIT FILED AGAINST HHSC	7,412
FIND OUT HOW AUTISM SERVICES COULD CHANGE IN TEXAS	6,979
REPORT: TEXAS MEDICAID PROGRAM RANKS 50TH	6,734
UPDATE: HHSC HEARING ON CUTS TO THERAPIES	5,764
UPDATE: HHSC WITHDRAWS PROPOSAL TO CUT MEDICAID THERAPY RATES	5,290
MEDICAID'S THERAPY RATES CUT AFFECT CHILDREN	4,913
LATEST REPORT: HHSC WILL CUT MEDICAID THERAPY RATES	4,880

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

Notes:

- Prior to this quarter, the highest reach for a TCDD Facebook post was about 6,000 people. This quarter, six posts have exceeded the previous record.
- TCDD's top Facebook post prior to 2015 had a reach of about 2,400. In 2015, more than 20 posts have had a reach of 2,400 or more.

- The 84th Texas Legislature instructed the Health and Human Services Commission to implement cost containment measures specific to acute therapy services. The proposed Medicaid rate reductions and policy changes primarily targeted services for children with disabilities. This issue was the topic for seven of TCDD's top 10 Facebook posts during the last quarter.
- TCDD original content – an ADA anniversary graphic and a blog post about autism services – were successful on Facebook.
- TCDD capitalized on the increase in engagement and used the profile page to invite new people to like the page.
- The friends of TCDD's profile page may be converted into likes for TCDD's page.

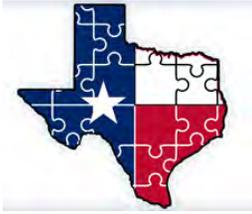
Website

Top 20 Webpages Visited with Average Time on Page (Oct. 1, 2014 – Sep. 30, 2015)

Pages highlighted in **bold** feature original TCDD content designed to educate the public.

Webpage	Number of Pageviews	Avg. Time on Page (min:sec)
Entire website	150,488	1:36
1. Home Page	20,330	1:12
2. Texas Legislature	13,263	2:14
3. People First Language	10,813	3:59
4. Blog post: Updated Texas Service Dog Law 14 Facts for 2014	10,486	4:02
5. Funding Available for Grants	2,800	0:50
6. What is a Developmental Disability?	2,527	1:35
7. Jobs	2,506	0:32
8. Publications and Multimedia	2,000	1:46
9. Blog post: Medicaid Waiver Foster Payments Become Tax Exempt	1,842	5:14
10. Current Grant Projects	1,518	0:43
11. Staff Directory	1,397	1:50
12. Blog post: Update: Autism Services in Texas	1,353	3:07
13. About Us	1,320	0:37
14. News & Information	1,180	0:55
15. Grants	1,172	0:24
16. Legislative Advocacy Tips	1,067	2:06
17. Materials Order Form	1,063	2:04
18. Contact Us	1,059	1:39
19. Blog post: Texas Teachers to Study Mental Health, Positive Behavioral Interventions	1,027	4:22
20. Resources	1,002	0:29

Blog Posts



Update: Autism Services in Texas

Due to action taken by the Texas Legislature and guidance from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, more people with autism spectrum disorder may have access to the services and supports they need.



RFP: Leadership and Advocacy Training Programs

TCDD issued an RFP to fund up to four organizations to provide leadership development and advocacy skills training to individuals with disabilities and their family members. The deadline to apply is October 28, 2015.



RFP: Summits Aim to Improve Transportation Systems

TCDD issued an RFP to fund one organization to coordinate and host at least three summits that will result in increased use of accessible transportation by people with DD. The deadline to submit a proposal is October 28, 2015.



RFP: Trainings to Increase Use of Alternatives to Guardianship

TCDD issued an RFP to fund one organization to develop and provide training that will increase the use of alternatives to guardianship, including supported decision-making and other services and supports. The deadline to submit a proposal is October 2, 2015.



Barriers to Transportation in Texas

An estimated 1.9 million Texans with disabilities do not leave their homes due to a lack of adequate transportation services. Learn more about the barriers to transportation and how you can get involved to develop solutions.

Information Requests & Distribution

E-newsletter: The e-newsletter, *TCDD Connection*, was distributed in August to 867 contacts.

Emails: The following single-topic email blasts were issued:

- TCDD Council & Committee Meetings: August 5-7, 2015
- RFP: Leadership & Advocacy Skills Training
- RFP: Alternatives to Guardianship Trainings
- RFP: Accessible Transportation Summits
- Transportation Barriers in Texas

I&R Requests: Staff responded to 56 requests for information and referral.

Materials Distributed

- Higher Ed Guide (English): 30
- Higher Ed Guide (Spanish): 54
- The Next Step (DVD): 192

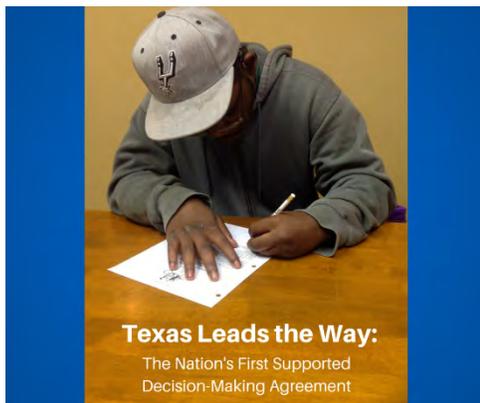
Information about Guardianship Alternatives Online

TCDD Website

The 84th Texas Legislature passed significant legislation to advance alternatives to guardianship for people with disabilities. Guardianship Alternatives Resources are featured on the TCDD website, including information about supported decision-making and the supported decision-making agreement form.



TCDD Facebook Page



The First Supported Decision-Making Agreement

Travan Carter of San Angelo was the first person in Texas to sign a supported decision-making (SDM) agreement. Travan was also the first person in the United States to sign an SDM agreement because Texas is the first state to put SDM in law.

Guardianship is a legal tool that allows a person to make decisions for another person. SDM is a new alternative to guardianship that supports people to make their own decisions and stay in charge of their lives, while receiving any help they need to do so. Travan wanted an SDM agreement so he could make his own decisions, such as choosing where to go and who to visit, just like everybody else.

Prior to signing the SDM agreement, the process had actually begun for Travan to be placed under guardianship. Guardianship would have removed Travan's rights to make his own decisions and would have assigned control of his life to someone else. Fortunately, Travan had been working with The Arc of San Angelo, and they were aware of the SDM bill that eventually passed during the 84th Texas Legislature. With assistance from The Arc of San Angelo, Travan was able to divert guardianship and execute an SDM agreement.



GRSDM Awards Banquet

The Guardianship Reform and Supported Decision-Making (GRSDM) workgroup held an awards banquet to recognize the efforts of some individuals to advance guardianship reform during the 84th Texas Legislative Session.

Speakers and Outstanding Leadership Award recipients from the event (L-R): Judge Guy Herman, Representative John Smithee, Dawn Carlton, David Slayton (OCA Director), Chief Justice Nathan Hecht, Senator Judith Zaffirini, Jessaca Bond, Dennis Borel (CTD Executive Director), and Belinda Carlton (TCDD).



Barriers to Transportation in Texas

An estimated 1.9 million Texans with disabilities do not leave their homes due to a lack of adequate transportation services. Barriers to transportation may prevent a person with a disability from getting to their job, accessing non-emergency medical care, taking care of everyday household errands, or just participating in recreational and social activities. According to a recent report from the National Council on Disability, while progress related to transportation has been made over the last 10 years, significant barriers remain.

Some barriers to transportation and mobility include:

- **Insufficient infrastructure** – A lack of adequate sidewalks, curb cutouts, and paved paths may prevent people with mobility challenges from accessing public transportation.
- **Fragmented and decentralized Medicaid transportation** – Multiple providers in an area may not coordinate scheduling.
- **Medical Transportation Program (MTP) rules and regulations** – An individual using MTP can only complete the transport for the designated medical purpose. For example, if a person needs to pick up a prescription as a result of a medical appointment, he/she would have to return home and schedule a separate ride to get the prescription. Also, MTP is only for an individual and an attendant. If the person using MTP has a child, the child is not allowed to accompany the parent even if childcare is unavailable.
- **A non-responsive transportation system** – When a person with a disability experiences an issue with a transportation system, it is difficult for them to have the issue addressed because the system lacks adequate tracking, reporting, and documenting procedures necessary for response.

- **Geographic boundaries** – Many transportation systems are limited to geographic boundaries. For example, some transportation providers in urban areas can't travel beyond certain predetermined boundaries. This rigid system can make it difficult to coordinate travel to different cities and towns and may lead to gaps in service.
- **Ride sharing services** – New and innovative transportation options that serve many people, like ride sharing services, may not be affordable or accessible, and may discriminate against individuals with disabilities.

Public transportation is a complicated but important issue for people with disabilities in Texas. Barriers to transportation need policy-driven solutions developed by stakeholders with experience and knowledge of the current system. The Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities (TCDD) is currently accepting proposals for a project that will bring together stakeholders to learn about transportation policy and to collaborate to develop solutions. To learn more about this opportunity to work with others to develop solutions to transportation issues, check out TCDD's Accessible Public Transportation Summit Request for Proposals. Proposals must be submitted by October 28, 2015.

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