

**Background:**

**Higher Education Request for Proposals (RFP):**

A Request for Proposals (RFP) for one “Higher Education for People with Developmental Disabilities” project was released on 12/11/09. However, no applications were received. At the May Committee meeting, the Project Development Committee discussed “next steps” for this activity. Council member Margaret Christen indicated that the Texas Education Agency (TEA) has additional information related to this proposed activity. Ms. Christen will share that information with the Committee. The Committee will discuss the information and provide additional direction to staff.

**Unsolicited Ideas:**

TCDD received three Unsolicited Ideas during the last quarter. These have been reviewed by the Sub-Committee according to the Council’s current process for considering Unsolicited Ideas. The Sub-Committee members agree that although these may be good ideas, none are very “new and different.” The Sub-Committee does not recommend further consideration of any of these ideas as specific activities at this time. All three Ideas are provided behind this tab for review by members. The Committee will determine whether to agree with the sub-committee recommendation, or may choose to discuss one or more ideas in more depth to provide additional direction to staff.

**Project Development Committee**

**Agenda Item 6.**

**Expected Action:**

The Committee will consider the recommendations from the Sub-Committee and make a final determination.

**Council Meeting**

**Agenda Item 9.**

**Expected Action:**

The Council will receive a report of the Committee’s discussion and determine appropriate action.

## UNSOLICITED IDEAS

*To Be Completed By Submitting Person or Organization*

1. Individual or Organization Submitting Idea: The Arc of Texas	
Contact Person: Rona Statman	Submittal Date: 7/8/10
Mailing Address: 8001 Centre Park Dr. #100 Austin, Texas 78745	Phone Number: 512-454-6694
E-mail Address: rstatman@thearcoftexas.org	

**\*\*By submitting this idea to TCDD, the organization and/or individual understands that other organizations may use this idea, with or without giving credit to the submitter.\*\***

***Ideas must not exceed one page, and the font must not be smaller than 12 pt.***

## 2. Background & Statement of Need: What is the problem or issue?

Transition planning and services for students with disabilities planning for their transition from school to post school life is not uniform or consistent from school to school or district or district. Many families, students and school personnel are not aware of the need to plan early and are not aware of the services available outside of the public education system. There is a lack of a coordinated effort between the family, student, public school and Health and Human Service Agencies. The result is many students leave the public school system without any significant transition planning and they are not prepared for a successful post school life. These students do not have services from adult service agencies and/or the skills necessary to continue their education, or to gain employment or independent living.

## 3. Description of Idea: What would solve this problem or address this issue?

Texas needs to develop and distribute a comprehensive Transition Manual to all students receiving special education services when they are in elementary, middle and high school. The HB 1230 (79th legislative session) report recommended that Texas develop a comprehensive transition manual. SB 1125 (80th legislative session) included the requirement for TEA and HHSC to collaborate to develop and distribute a comprehensive transition manual (SB 1125 did not pass). This comprehensive manual has not been developed. The manual should include: transition services; employment and supported employment services; social security programs; community and long-term services and support; postsecondary educational programs and services; information sharing with health and human services agencies and providers; guardianship and alternatives to guardianship; self-advocacy, person-directed planning, and self-determination; and contact information for all relevant state agencies.

## 4. Demographics: What group or groups of people would this help?

All students receiving special education services, their families, and allies including: DARS, DADS, Local MHMR staff, TEA, Regional Education Service Centers, Special and Regular Education teachers, Career and Technology Teachers, Transition Specialists, DARS transition counselors, job coaches, other public school personnel, all other HHS agencies and staff, Social Security Administration staff.

## 5. Possible Partners: What kinds of organizations or people could help to solve this problem?

The Arc of Texas, Advocacy Inc., HHSC, DADS, Local MHMR Centers, DARS, TEA, Local Independent School Districts, Regional Education Service Centers, Local and State Disability Advocacy Organizations, UT and Texas A&M Centers on Disabilities, SSA.

## UNSOLICITED IDEA: Sub-Committee Review

*To be completed by the TCDD Sub-Committee with Staff Support*

**Type of Project: *Demonstration, technical assistance, training, capacity building, or other type of activity.***

Capacity building (development of a transition manual)

**Is this an activity that is allowed under the DD Act, TCDD Policies, and Federal and State laws, and is it consistent with TCDD's Mission Statement?**

***(IF NO, note the reason below, but THE IDEA SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED FURTHER.)***

Development of materials that support and increase the capacity of individuals to advocate for themselves and their family is allowed under the DD Act, TCDD policies, and Federal and State laws. This idea is consistent with TCDD's Mission Statement, but creation of a transition manual would not necessarily help TCDD achieve its mission. Appropriate marketing, distribution, and use of the manual in such a way that it creates desired change in people's lives would be necessary.

**Is idea appropriate for TCDD to consider for a future activity given TCDD's goals and priorities? *(Consider things such as: Does the idea promote inclusion? Is the idea innovative? Is it likely to positively impact a group of individuals who are considered unserved or underserved? Is it likely to substantially impact a large group of people? Are there significant Public Policy implications? Would it build beneficial partnerships? Are there other characteristics of the idea to make it worth Committee discussion?)***

The activity by itself would not necessarily promote inclusion, but the manual could be used to promote inclusion. The idea is not highly innovative; it is actually an idea TCDD has been considering for several years but has not prioritized highly in part because concerns have been expressed that other guides are available. Effective marketing, distribution, and use of a good transition manual could benefit an extremely large number of people, and ensuring that the manual includes information/guidance to encourage culturally competent practices, it could benefit people who are considered unserved or underserved.

**Is idea a good fit with existing State Plan Goals? If "YES," which Goal and Objective? If 'NO,' does the sub-committee recommend an amendment to State Plan? (Aug 15 only!)**

This idea fits perfectly with State Plan Objective 3.6: Collaborate with other organizations and agencies to produce a guide to transition for students with developmental disabilities, by September 30, 2010. *(not completed due to other priorities)*

TCDD will implement a new state plan in October 2011. Should TCDD decide to implement this idea, a similar objective would need to be included in that state plan.

**Sub-Committee Recommendations:**

The Sub-Committee does not recommend consideration of this idea by the Council at this time.

## UNSOLICITED IDEAS

*To Be Completed By Submitting Person or Organization*

1. Individual or Organization Submitting Idea: The Arc of Texas	
Contact Person: Lisa Rivers	Submittal Date: July 2, 2010
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**\*\*By submitting this idea to TCDD, the organization and/or individual understands that other organizations may use this idea, with or without giving credit to the submitter.\*\***

***Ideas must not exceed one page, and the font must not be smaller than 12 pt.***

## 2. Background & Statement of Need: What is the problem or issue?

Self-advocates, parents and advocacy organizations have expressed concern about the ability of new MHMR community service coordinator's or MHMR staff's ability to create person centered plans that are representative of the wishes, dreams and goals of the individual with the disability. Current training options available to MHMR staff do not include a visual model with skilled facilitators in a person-centered planning model that is quickly gaining in popularity in Texas--PATH.

## 3. Description of Idea: What would solve this problem or address this issue?

An additional person centered planning tool like PATH (Planning Alternative Tomorrows with Hope) offers choice for individuals and families to best meet the needs of the individual. With an additional person-centered-training tool available, individuals with disabilities will be given the choices that are important to the mission of MHMR centers and the disability community. The Arc of Texas staffs have partnered with over 100 individuals with disabilities across the state in creating PATHs. Individuals have experienced tremendous success in reaching goals using the structure of PATH along with the proper natural supports---family, friends and other community members; the network of support. The PATH process identifies this network of support from the very beginning which helps to implement the plan.

## 4. Demographics: What group or groups of people would this help?

All Texans with disabilities receiving waiver services and Texan students receiving transition planning through the public school system. This plan also helps MHMR staff create partnerships with individual's served and community members. In addition, it would reduce their workload by spreading the workload to members of the support network who know and care about the individual the most! The Council of MHMR Centers has suggested sending an MHMR staff person to a PATH facilitator training to become an expert in person centered planning so that PATH can be offered as a choice to individuals served.

## 5. Possible Partners: What kinds of organizations or people could help to solve this problem?

The Arc of Texas; the Texas Microboard Collaboration; Texas Advocates; MHMR Center leadership and the Texas Council of MHMR Centers; Waiver service providers; Education Service Centers; Texas Education Agency; PATH leadership and initiators with Inclusion Press in Canada. The developers of PATH in Canada are eager to assist in this plan.

## UNSOLICITED IDEA: Sub-Committee Review

*To be completed by the TCDD Sub-Committee with Staff Support*

**Type of Project: *Demonstration, technical assistance, training, capacity building, or other type of activity.***

Training

**Is this an activity that is allowed under the DD Act, TCDD Policies, and Federal and State laws, and is it consistent with TCDD's Mission Statement?**

***(IF NO, note the reason below, but THE IDEA SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED FURTHER.)***

Providing training on PATH in a "train the trainer" format is allowed under the DD Act, TCDD policies, and Federal and State laws. This idea is consistent with TCDD's Mission Statement, but in and of itself this training would not actively contribute to the mission. Service coordinators would have to implement the training well for this to occur.

**Is idea appropriate for TCDD to consider for a future activity given TCDD's goals and priorities? *(Consider things such as: Does the idea promote inclusion? Is the idea innovative? Is it likely to positively impact a group of individuals who are considered unserved or underserved? Is it likely to substantially impact a large group of people? Are there significant Public Policy implications? Would it build beneficial partnerships? Are there other characteristics of the idea to make it worth Committee discussion?)***

The idea of training Community MHMR staff in person centered planning is not innovative, although PATH is a relatively new type of person-centered-planning. The training by itself would not necessarily promote inclusion, although PATH, when implemented, can be used to promote inclusion. The numbers of people impacted would depend entirely on how widely, how well, and for how long the PATH facilitators who are trained by this grant train other staff, and on the quality of the implementation of PATH by those staff that the facilitators train.

**Is idea a good fit with existing State Plan Goals? If "YES," which Goal and Objective? If 'NO,' does the sub-committee recommend an amendment to State Plan? (Aug 15 only!)**

There is no specific goal in the Council's current five year state plan. However, a new plan is currently being developed and will be implemented next year, and this type of activity could certainly be included if it is determined to be a priority area.

**Sub-Committee Recommendations:**

The Sub-Committee does not recommend consideration of this idea by the Council at this time.

## UNSOLICITED IDEAS

*To Be Completed By Submitting Person or Organization*

1. Individual or Organization Submitting Idea: Texas Advocates	
Contact Person: Tanya Winters	Submittal Date: 7/2/10
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***Ideas must not exceed one page, and the font must not be smaller than 12 pt.***

## 2. Background & Statement of Need: What is the problem or issue?

Texas Advocates has shown training for self advocates should be ongoing, consistent, repetitive, interactive, and encouraged by peers. Self Advocates know their voices count and use their voices with agencies and organizations at the local and state level. Self Advocates understand they can make choices in their lives. But in reality most self advocates don't. Self advocates are still not equal members of their own planning teams. They need specific, targeted, positive training and support to take personal responsibility for their lives, to put their skills into action to reach their personal goals. Current training and support does not address this gap to train and support self advocates to find support and advocate for themselves to make a difference in their own lives.

## 3. Description of Idea: What would solve this problem or address this issue?

Texas needs to continue to evolve and expand self advocacy training. Self Advocacy in Action will set participants up for success using a positive, hands-on model that will empower and support self advocates to put the puzzle pieces of their lives together. Self advocates will develop mentor/mentee relationships with people they choose and trust. A Coordinator will train and support mentor/mentee teams to create and implement short-term (3 month, modified Planning Alternative Tomorrows with Hope (PATH) with small, reachable action steps. The PATH offers a positive, interactive tool to capture self advocates' dreams. Participants' will explore independent living, education, employment and advocacy goals. Teams will share their journey with other self advocates at local and state meetings and using video diaries on DVD and posted on the web. Local self advocacy groups will provide feedback and support. Self advocates will plan, take action and responsibility to live positive, productive, and fully included lives.

## 4. Demographics: What group or groups of people would this help?

People with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families, and allies including: self advocacy groups, DARS/ MHMR staff, Special Ed teachers, Transition Specialists, and job coaches. Trained self advocates will share their successes and skills with other self advocates and organizations. In turn Self Advocacy organizations will grow and support other self advocates to reach their personal goals.

## 5. Possible Partners: What kinds of organizations or people could help to solve this problem?

The Arc of Texas Microboard Collaboration, State Supported Living Centers, MHMR Centers, DARS, Local Arc of Texas chapters, Local Independent School Districts, Local Self Advocacy groups, Local and State Disability Advocacy Organizations.

## UNSOLICITED IDEA: Sub-Committee Review

*To be completed by the TCDD Sub-Committee with Staff Support*

**Type of Project: *Demonstration, technical assistance, training, capacity building, or other type of activity.***

Demonstration & Training

**Is this an activity that is allowed under the DD Act, TCDD Policies, and Federal and State laws, and is it consistent with TCDD's Mission Statement?**

***(IF NO, note the reason below, but THE IDEA SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED FURTHER.)***

Providing self-advocacy training and support is allowed under the DD Act, TCDD policies, and Federal and State laws. Supporting self-advocates training or mentoring other self-advocates in Leadership & Advocacy is strongly encouraged in the DD Act (Councils are required to have a goal in their State Plans to do this). This idea is consistent with TCDD's Mission Statement.

**Is idea appropriate for TCDD to consider for a future activity given TCDD's goals and priorities? *(Consider things such as: Does the idea promote inclusion? Is the idea innovative? Is it likely to positively impact a group of individuals who are considered unserved or underserved? Is it likely to substantially impact a large group of people? Are there significant Public Policy implications? Would it build beneficial partnerships? Are there other characteristics of the idea to make it worth Committee discussion?)***

In and of itself, the activity would not necessarily promote inclusion, although inclusive activities would likely be a goal of participants which would result in increased inclusion. The idea is not highly innovative – it is a combination of several types of activities that TCDD has funded in the past. The number of people that this would impact is unknown at this time. It is likely that supporting increasing numbers of individuals with developmental disabilities to advocate effectively for themselves and to mentor others to do so would ultimately result in public policy change at local levels, over time, as policymakers become more responsive to self-advocates.

**Is idea a good fit with existing State Plan Goals? If "YES," which Goal and Objective? If 'NO,' does the sub-committee recommend an amendment to State Plan? (Aug 15 only!)**

This idea is an excellent fit with State Plan Objective 2.2: *Explore and consider funding, each year of the plan beginning with federal fiscal year 2009, activities to support individuals of all ages who have developmental disabilities to serve as leaders and/or mentors to other individuals with developmental disabilities.*

TCDD will implement a new state plan in October 2011; however, at this time, staff expect that ADD will continue to require inclusion of an objective such as the one above.

**Sub-Committee Recommendations:**

The Sub-Committee does not recommend consideration of this idea by the Council at this time.