

Background:

Title IV, Chapter 531, Section 531.0235 of the Texas Government Code requires TCDD, jointly with the Office of Prevention of Developmental Disabilities, to prepare a biennial report on the state of services to persons with disabilities in this state. This report is due to the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of the House of Representatives, and the commissioner of health and human services no later than December 1st of even-numbered years, prior to the beginning of each regular session of the Texas Legislature.

Six reports have been submitted to date. In addition to including recommendations to address the specific issues around health and human services delineated in the Government Code, TCDD has tailored each report to focus on an area that significantly impacts persons with disabilities. Key focus areas of previous Biennial Reports were:

- ✓ Overview of Current Services, Supports, and Needs (2000)
- ✓ Special Focus on Personal Assistance Services (2002)
- ✓ Special Focus on Housing (2004)
- ✓ Employment (2006)
- ✓ The state’s allocation of Resources to Provide Long-Term Services and Supports (2008)
- ✓ Representative Profiles of the Needs and Situations of People who are Waiting for Services in Texas (2010)

The Council has also approved funding for specific activities related to development of the Biennial Reports. These have included data collection activities (e.g. direct mail surveys), special focus research (e.g. HSRI *Closing the Gaps* report), and providing assistance for a Legislative Policy Symposium. Staff have reviewed discussion of the Public Policy Committee during the May meeting and developed recommendations for the 2012 Biennial Report Special Focus Topic and related activities, along with additional background information.

Council

Agenda Item 9.

Expected Action:

The Council will consider and make a final decision concerning the special focus topic(s), and related activities, for the TCDD 2012 Biennial Disability Report.

BIENNIAL DISABILITY REPORTS

GOVERNMENT CODE

Title IV, Chapter 531, Section 531.0235

Sec. 531.0235. BIENNIAL DISABILITY REPORTS. (a) The commissioner shall direct and require the Texas Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities and the Office for the Prevention of Developmental Disabilities to prepare a joint biennial report on the state of services to persons with disabilities in this state. The Texas Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities will serve as the lead agency in convening working meetings, coordinating and completing the report. Not later than December 1 of each even-numbered year, the agencies shall submit the report to the commissioner, governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house of representatives.

(b) The report will include recommendations addressing the following:

- (1) fiscal and program barriers to consumer friendly services;
- (2) progress toward a service delivery system individualized to each consumer based on functional needs;
- (3) progress on the development of local cross-disability access structures;
- (4) projections of future long-term care service needs and availability; and
- (5) consumer satisfaction, consumer preferences and desired outcomes.

(c) The commission, Texas Department of Human Services, and other health and human services agencies shall cooperate with the agencies required to prepare the report under Subsection (a).

As enacted by SB 374, 76th Texas Legislature

Topics of previous Biennial Reports:

2000: Overview of Current Services, Supports and Needs

2002: Special Focus on Personal Assistance Services

2004: Special Focus on Housing

2006: Special Focus on Employment

2008: The state's allocation of Resources to Provide Long-Term Services and Supports

2010: Representative Profiles of the Needs and Situations of People who are Waiting for Services in Texas

2012 Biennial Disability Report

Recommended Focus:

Impact of Funding on Specific Services

Background:

During the May 2011 meeting the Public Policy Committee made many suggestions for the focus of the 2012 Biennial Report. Suggestions by the committee included focuses on healthcare, education across all stages of life and its impact on employment, improving the availability of direct support workers in the community, and public transportation. Specifically, the Committee recommended that the quality, quantity and availability of these services be examined in light of reduced public funding for specific programs. The Council is now tasked with finalizing an area of focus for the 2012 biennial report.

Staff recommend that the focus of the 2012 Biennial Report examine the interconnectivity of education and employment and how funding reductions have impacted those discrete services as well as ancillary community supports (such as healthcare and transportation) that may help people with disabilities become employed and independent in the community.

Why this focus?

- Successful transition to independent, adult life in the community for people with developmental disabilities depends on adequately addressing key life areas related to education, work, recreation and leisure, home living, community participation, and opportunities to continue learning.
- The DD Council believes the service delivery system should provide comprehensive services and supports that meet people's needs, are easy to access and are cost effective and the Council has expressed a high interest in education and employment.
- In 2009 only 72% of students with a disability graduated high school after four years and 63% of the Texas population with any type of disability is not employed.
- The adequacy of funding is directly tied to the ability of any service system to meet the many complex and varied needs of people with developmental disabilities.
- The dropout rate of students with disabilities has steadily increased since 2004.
- The Texas Education Agency Part B performance plan 2005-2012 reported that not post-school students enrolled in a postsecondary training, technical school, community college or university and employed (72%), the second most common situation, representing 59% were enrolled in higher education or competitively employed and 26% reported they were enrolled by not employed, 28% reported that they were neither enrolled or employed.

What types of information will be included under this focus?

- Functions of local, state, and national government entities in education, employment, healthcare, community-based long-term services and supports and transportation.
- State of services and supports in Texas, including employment data and education indicators and other information that illustrates the need for services.
- Summary of recent policy and funding decisions impacting the quality, quantity and availability of services.
- Effectiveness of specific programs for children and youth with disabilities and how it influences their outcomes in achieving independence.

- Availability and effectiveness of specific programs for adults with disabilities that are specifically geared towards helping individuals achieve total independence, including becoming employed.

How we will acquire data?

- Quantitative data on certain federally-funded programs such as special education, vocational rehabilitation and Medicaid is produced by the administering state agencies. This data can be analyzed and included in the report findings.

It is anticipated that this activity would require three to four months and cost approximately \$15,000 to \$20,000.

- Additional quantitative data can be gathered from individuals with disabilities via a variety of methods, including online, print and telephonic surveys.

It is anticipated that this type of data collection would require four to 10 months and cost between \$18,000 and \$60,000 depending on the survey methods used.

- Qualitative data from individuals with disabilities and their family can be gathered via several focus groups of individuals with disabilities and their families throughout the state. This method would yield considerable detail from real people and could fulfill other goals and objectives of the Council.

It is anticipated that this type of data collection would require nine to 15 months and cost between \$90,000 and \$150,000.