

Consideration of Unsolicited Ideas

Tab 18

Background:

The Unsolicited Idea Sub-Committee has reviewed two Unsolicited Ideas:

- National Parent Helpline® Outreach
- Project Search

The Ideas as submitted and the Sub-Committee's recommendations are located behind this Tab. The Council may choose to have further discussion and/or action on these ideas.

Council

Agenda Item 12. G.

Expected Action:

The Council will review information and provide guidance to staff as appropriate.

UNSOLICITED IDEAS

To Be Completed By Submitting Person or Organization

1. Individual or Organization Submitting Idea: Parents Anonymous® Inc.	
Contact Person: Jodi Doane	Submission Date: 07-01-2011
Mailing Address: 675 W. Foothill Blvd. #220 Claremont, CA 91711	Phone Number: 909.621.6184*210
E-mail Address: jdoane@parentsanonymous.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?

Texas parents who are living with developmental disabilities and raising children, or who are raising children living with developmental disabilities, deserve somewhere to turn to, a resource to count on, when they are looking for emotional support, have questions related to parenting situations, or need help effectively advocating for their children's or family's safety.

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

The National Parent Helpline® will conduct unique outreach to parents and caregivers of children living with developmental disabilities, as well as adult parents and caregivers living with developmental disabilities who are raising children. Outreach will introduce the toll-free telephone line and discuss the specialized training Helpline Advocates receive to ensure that individuals living with, or caring for others living with, developmental disabilities have access to the necessary tools to advocate effectively for themselves and their families.

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

- Texas parents of individuals living with developmental disabilities, wanting to learn more
- Texas parents living with developmental disabilities and raising children, wanting to learn more
- Texans caring for someone living with developmental disabilities, wanting to learn more

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

- The National Parent Helpline®
- Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities
- Autism Speaks
- USC Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities

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.*

Technical assistance

**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.**)**

Yes, this is an allowable activity and 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?)

Yes, it is appropriate as it promotes inclusion. However, as written, it appears that the submitter would like for funding to be given to their organization so that they may conduct outreach on behalf of the hotline they already operate. There are most likely many other similar organizations who would like the same assistance.

The idea is not innovative. Federal special education dollars already fund 3 Parent Training and Information (PTI) centers in Texas. In addition, parenting strategies are taught by many of our state and national disability group specific to the disabling condition. Many other groups could do this.

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 might be a good fit with the proposed FY 2012-2016 State Plan

Goal 3: *Conduct ongoing educational campaigns in collaboration with community leaders, organizations, and businesses to enable them to better support, include, and/or provide services to people with developmental disabilities by 9/30/2016.*

Objective 3: *Provide information and/or technical assistance to at least four organizations that promote general community development so that they may better include, support, and address the needs of community members who have developmental disabilities.*

Sub-Committee Recommendations:

The Council might wish to consider ways to increase access to parenting information when discussing strategies to achieve Goal 3, Objective 4. However, providing funding directly to this particular organization to conduct outreach for their hotline is not recommended.

UNSOLICITED IDEAS – BACKGROUND AND INSTRUCTIONS**About TCDD's Unsolicited Ideas Process:**

The Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities (TCDD) welcomes creative ideas to address the Goals and Objectives in the TCDD State Plan. Organizations or individuals may submit ideas at any time. A Sub-Committee of the Council will review these at least twice a year and may recommend developing the idea into specific activities that may be implemented through:

- A grant awarded through a competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) process;
- Adding to or changing the activities of a current project;
- Contracting with an individual, organization, or agency;
- Adding to or changing TCDD staff activities; or
- Another appropriate mechanism.

TCDD prefers ideas or activities that are likely to create lasting change or to establish programs that will continue to exist after the Council's financial support ends. **TCDD no longer accepts requests for funding for a specific project or activity except those in response to Requests for Proposals (RFPs).**

The Council typically does not fund:

- Operational costs for existing programs
- Start-up costs for new businesses or organizations
- Buildings, vehicles, or large equipment (such as playground equipment)
- Programs that are not fully inclusive (such as centers specifically for people with disabilities)
- Direct support services
- Therapy or treatment (including hippotherapy or creative/expressive arts therapies)

Instructions for Completing the Form:

Answer each of the following questions in one or two sentences (or bullets). Use 12 point font or larger, and submit no more than one page. If more detail is needed you will be contacted.

- 1. Name and Contact information.** The person who knows the most about the idea should be listed as the contact.
- 2. Background & Statement of Need:** Describe the problem your idea will address. This should be a barrier or situation that keeps many people with developmental disabilities from being fully included in their communities and exercise control over their own lives.
- 3. Description of Idea:** Briefly describe what should happen to create the necessary change.
- 4. Demographics:** State who you think will benefit most from this idea. Describe all important characteristics: geographic area; age; type(s) of disability; ethnicity; income levels; education level.
- 5. Possible Partners:** If possible, state those types of organizations – or name specific organizations – that might be interested and able to complete these types of activities. You may include your organization if you wish, however this will not be considered a request for funding for your organization to carry-out the idea.

For questions, contact:

Joanna Cordry
Joanna.Cordry@tcdd.state.tx.us
512-437-5410

Submit your completed form to:

Barbara Booker
Barbara.Booker@tcdd.state.tx.us
6201 E. Oltorf, Suite 600
Austin, TX 78741
512-437-5438

UNSOLICITED IDEAS

To Be Completed By Submitting Person or Organization

1. Individual or Organization Submitting Idea: Socorro ISD Special Education Services	
Contact Person: Tom Laign	Submittal Date: 4-12-2011
Mailing Address: 12300 Eastlake Drive	Phone Number: 915-937-1888
E-mail Address: tolaign@sisd.net	

****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?

There is a huge disparity between employment between individuals with a disability and individuals with no disability. In March 2011 less than 18% of adults with a disability were employed, compared to 63% of adults with no disability. In Socorro Independent School District, there are over 60 individuals with disabilities who are seeking employment

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

This idea would be to develop a framework for a job training program which would include total workplace immersion that facilitates a seamless combination of classroom instruction, career exploration, and on-the-job training and support. The goal for each student is competitive employment somewhere in the community using the skills they have acquired through real-life work experience combined with training in employability and independent living skills.

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

Students who are receiving special education services and who fit the following guidelines. Our students are predominantly Hispanic and low-income.

- Appropriate social and communication skills
- Ability or take direction
- Grooming and hygiene skills
- Minimum of 18 years of age
- Independent toileting and feeding skills
- Ability to pass a drug screen, felony check and immunizations
- Willingness to access independent transportation options
- Desire to work in a health care setting
- Currently receiving from Division for Rehabilitation Services

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

Socorro ISD
Project Search
Sierra Providence East Medical Center
Se Puede Partnerships in Action
Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services, Division for Rehabilitative Services

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

**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.)**

Yes, this is an allowable activity and 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?)

Yes, it is appropriate as it promotes inclusion and is a model that has been highly successful in many different areas of the country. However, as written, it appears that the submitter would like for funding to be given to their organization so that they may conduct outreach on behalf of the hotline they already operate. There are most likely many other similar organizations who would like the same assistance.

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 with the proposed FY 2012-2016 State Plan Goal and Objective:

Goal 2: *Establish at least two programs that assist Texans with developmental disabilities to gain competitive employment and/or to increase their personal income and assets, and that continue to operate after the completion of a maximum of 3-5 years of TCDD funding, by 9/30/2016.*

Objective 3: *Partner with other organizations to expand and evaluate the impact of Project SEARCHⁱ in Texas, by 9/30/2016.*

Sub-Committee Recommendations:

The Council is already considering an objective to implement this idea.
