



TEXAS COUNCIL *for*
DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES

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Brenda Coleman-Beattie, Chair
John C. Morris, Vice Chair
Roger A. Webb, Executive Director

September 28, 2011

Members, Project Advisory Committee and Ad Hoc Committee Members – 2011 Gulf Coast of Texas African American Family Support Conference:

On behalf of the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities (TCDD), we sincerely thank you for your involvement in the 2011 Gulf Coast of Texas African American Family Support Conference (GCTAAFSC) in the Greater Houston area.

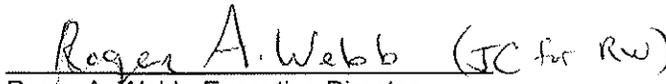
You may already have received information that the Council voted during its August quarterly meeting to discontinue funding Parents Anonymous (PA) to coordinate support for years two and three of the GCTAAFSC project. As you are certainly aware, this conference replicates the Central Texas African American Family Support Conference model developed by Austin Travis County Integral Care, which has received national commendation. TCDD's decision to discontinue funding to Parents Anonymous for this project in no way suggests any change in the Council's continued commitment to providing funding to support two years of an annual Gulf Coast of Texas AAFS Conference.

Although it was not a criterion for selection, as a result of our experience with PA during the time period to establish the GCTAAFSC, TCDD believes it is crucial to the long term viability and success of this effort to have an organization with a presence within the geographic region. We believe this is essential for the conference to effectively build capacity and sustainability. TCDD applauds the substantial support and involvement from all of you and your organizations that was a key part of the success of the first conference. There are two primary reasons for the decision: First, TCDD also expected and encouraged the grantee to utilize various other opportunities to garner additional support for the initial event and in so doing strengthen the long-term sustainability of the conference. Second, guidance and monitoring of this project required a disproportionate share of TCDD staff time and effort in order to support as best possible what we agree was a very successful first conference. Parents Anonymous, Inc., exercised their right to appeal the Council's decision to not continue funding to their organization for this project. The Council's appeals process, designed in a manner consistent with state requirements, concludes with a review of the appeal at our quarterly meetings in early November. We know that you understand the importance of following existing procedures. Therefore, we must delay further discussions with you concerning how best to continue our support of the future GCTAAFSCs until this matter is discussed fully at the November Council meeting and next steps outlined for the process to move forward with the 2012 GCTAAFSC conference planning.

Again, on behalf of the Council we thank you for your efforts as a team and individually to support a very successful first event. And, please accept our assurance that the Council continues to be committed to the GCTAAFSC. We plan to follow-up with the GCTAAFSC Project Advisory Committee and Ad Hoc committees as soon as possible after the appeals process has been completed.

Respectfully,


Brenda Coleman-Beattie, Council Chair


Roger A. Webb, Executive Director

Copy: Iliana Gillman, Director of Communications, Austin Travis County Integral Care