

Peer Review Comments on the TCDD State Plan for FY 2012-2016

Background: After Council State Plans were submitted in August 2011, the federal Administration on Developmental Disabilities (ADD) coordinated a Peer Review process using teams that consisted of Council Executive Directors, staff, Council members, and others). TCDD received the Review Team's comments on November 10, 2011; they are summarized below. None of the comments are substantive, and TCDD can choose to address comments in Plan Amendments for FY 13. *Staff responses to comments are in italics.*

Reviewers Provided the Following General Comments

- The Comprehensive Review and Analysis is very detailed, objective, and summarizes challenges frankly. "This Plan is notable for facing **head on** the challenges that exist in the state."
- A workgroup drafted language for goals and objectives; reviewers acknowledged that the full Council gave input, but suggested TCDD consider involving the full Council in drafting language.
 - *Staff Response: Reviewers may not have completely understood the role of, and need for, the workgroup.*
- The "Plan contains seven substantial goals which appear to be a heavy load to tackle." Limiting the scope of work on goals to geographical regions "sounds wise, indeed."
- The Plan could benefit from more goal emphasis on leadership and self-advocacy.
- Consideration could be given to enhancing (the evaluation plan) with a logic model.

Reviewers Identified the Following Strengths

- "Information was gathered in a variety of ways and from a variety of sources, both traditional and novel." The "Texas as a Town of 100" exercise is both novel and effective.
- The strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) analysis is laid out in detail and shows good understanding of the State's strengths and weaknesses.
- A broad range of goals and objectives flow logically from the SWOT; milestones seem carefully developed.
- The goal selection process is explained well; the goal selection rationale is very clear and logical.
- The goals are measurable, and the evaluation plan is well-thought-out and sophisticated.

Reviewers Identified the Following Weaknesses

- Some information was not presented (insurance, prevention and long term services, subminimum wage and workshop issues, integrated employment programs, participation of persons with developmental disabilities on Boards and Committees).
 - *Staff Response: Some of these items are not required; some were included but perhaps not seen by reviewers; and some is not available. TCDD can include additional information in Amendments.*
- The process to identify unserved or underserved populations was not spelled out.
 - *We believe the sources of information were clearly spelled-out.*
- Goal 4, related to transportation, does not specify a target number in the goal. Goal 5 quantified activities rather than the objective; listings of organizations with which TCDD will collaborate are limited.
 - *Staff Response: Goal 4 requires baseline measurement to be done as first step. Goal 5 can be re-written. Names of specific organizations with whom TCDD intends to partner can be provided as we identify them.*

Reviewers' Recommendations

- Consider expanding involvement of Council members in writing Plan goals and objectives.
- Provide additional information as noted in weaknesses.
- Goal 7 (staff activities) needs to have stronger evaluation measures or be incorporated into other goals.
- Goals 4 and 5 could be quantified better; some activities are "very cursory."
 - *Staff Response: TCDD can add additional information and/or detail in FY 13 Amendments as appropriate.*