

Background:

The Executive Summary entitled, “Building Community Capacity through Collaboration” is provided in this binder; the Project Development Committee will discuss possible funding of this project as a strategy to meet Goal 5, Objective 2 of the TCDD FY 2012 – 2016 State Plan. This objective reflects the need for communities to develop supports for individuals who need a significant degree of support, and their families, so that admission into an institution might be avoided.

The Executive Summary builds on the concept that communities have their own set of characteristics that make them unique, much like individual people or families do. When individuals and families work with providers to develop an array of services and supports that will help them meet their personal goals, there is no “one size fits all” model; the need for and the availability of unique or atypical supports may be identified in the process of exploring individual goals. Likewise, there is no “one size fits all” model for community service systems; providers and their partners must continually work to discover and develop the resources present in their individual community.

The proposed project would provide support to up to four communities to begin to establish a formal way for community-based organizations and individuals to work together to develop supports for the members of their communities who might have high levels of need.

The Committee will also discuss other ideas related to State Plan Implementation, including;

- the current status of the Outreach and Development grants;
- a possible opportunity to partner with the Hogg Foundation to support pastors to transform their communities; and
- an Executive Summary proposing projects to implement State Plan Goal 6, Objective 2 to promote self-advocacy at conferences through encouraging and providing funding for speakers, including self-advocates.

Project Development Committee

Agenda Item 9.

Expected Action:

The Project Development Committee will review the information provided, provide guidance for next steps, and may recommend proposed new projects to the Council for consideration.

Council

Agenda Item 6.

Expected Action:

The Council will consider recommendations from the Project Development Committee.

Funding Proposal

Building Community Capacity through Collaboration

Background

Texans with developmental disabilities report various barriers to receiving the services and supports they need to fully participate in their communities. Obvious barriers include the inability to pay for needed services and difficulty finding qualified providers. Large numbers of Texans are uninsured and/or living in poverty. The Texas Medical Association reported in 2010 that less than 42 percent of physicians accepted Medicaid. In the mental health arena, although Community Centers typically serve more individuals than the number for which they receive state funding, only a portion of those in need receive services. The Hogg Foundation for Mental Health estimates that in FY10, only 34% of adults with serious, persistent mental illness and 29% of children with severe emotional disturbance received treatment through community mental health services. These are barriers that may be beyond TCDD's ability to significantly impact through grant funding.

Less obvious but still challenging barriers arise from characteristics of the service system that may be more amenable to change. Supporting communities to integrate and coordinate the services and supports available at a local level may address fragmentation of the service system and could lead to identification of additional informal community-based supports and resources. In fact, the state-level Integration of Health and Behavioral Health Services Workgroup, established by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) and comprised of individuals representing various constituencies, found that strategies were needed to encourage integration in both private and public sectors. The workgroup recommended that support be given to providers and healthcare entities integrating their practices, perhaps in recognition that it is unrealistic to assume that providers have the resources to do this while also adapting to the changing expectations of funders and continuing to provide services to their local community.

The diversity of the needs and resources present in local communities makes it difficult for the statewide system to drive integration and coordination of care in local communities. Texas is home to nine counties that are more populous than some states; it is also home to the least populous county in the country - Loving County, population 82 (in 2010). The Houston metropolitan area is now the most ethnically diverse large metropolitan area in the country, and Harris County, where Houston is located, is more populous than at least twenty other states. Four Texas counties are among the 100 counties with the highest median income in the country, and seven Texas counties are in the 100 poorest counties in the country. The HHSC FY 2011-15 Strategic Plan identifies disparities in care among groups of people: "Minority populations are often underserved or served inappropriately...Disparities in care also affect residents of underserved or rural areas." HHSC notes that Texans in rural areas face limited access to affordable health care and to trained health professionals; increased need for geriatric services; prolonged response times for emergency; limited transportation options; and limited economic development.

If the capacity of some communities wasn't already stretched thinly enough, natural disasters, such as Hurricane Ike, wild fires and tornadoes have substantially impacted some local service systems. The HHSC FY 11-15 Plan notes the damage from Hurricane Ike "caused severe strains on community capacity to provide...basic health care, specialty health services, child care, public education, and senior support systems. Hurricane Ike compounded the impacts on individuals with disabilities... Longer-term, these communities may continue to face challenges in areas such as mental health, individual physical health, and a variety of epidemiological hazards."

The TCDD 2012-2016 State Plan noted these needs, identified related opportunities, and listed Council strengths that could be used to support communities to develop their own individualized solutions. The Council noted strengths related to participation by representatives of state agencies and the DD Network partners on the Council; access to information; and the flexibility to fund different strategies and to partner with many and varied organizations. These strengths allow the Council the opportunity to facilitate change in communities by collaborating with community organizations and service providers and to apply knowledge from, and build on, past successes.

TCDD's related successes include: providing funding for a group of collaborators to establish EveryChild, Inc., as its own entity focused on preventing institutionalization of children; supporting the expansion of the Baylor College of Medicine Transition Clinic to meet the needs of the local community; developing multiple Project DOCC sites tailored and/or adapted to the communities in which they were located; and participating in the Texas Integrated Funding Initiative, which established Systems of Care communities in areas around the state. TCCD has shown that collaboration between self-advocates, families, providers, and other non-traditional partners can positively impact communities in lasting ways.

Organizations and individuals in some communities around Texas have already developed collaborative initiatives, successfully tapping into the existing strengths of their community, and are working on shared goals. The following are examples of existing community collaborations that reflect the type of collaboration that might be developed through this project:

- The Community Action Network: A partnership of Central Texas agencies, organizations and individuals who work together to achieve sustainable social, health, educational and economic outcomes through engaging the community.
- The East Texas Behavioral Healthcare Network: A network comprised of 11 community mental health and IDD centers that cover 70 Counties in Texas. The network was established in 1998 as a response to the unique challenges that these organizations face in delivering care effectively and efficiently to consumers living in the region. The network has been effective in developing economies of scale, assisting with quality of services, and delivering training initiatives for the member centers since the inception of the program.
- The Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Needs Council of Tarrant County: A collaboration of public and private agencies, as well as individuals who have IDD and their caregivers. The organization works to revolutionize the service delivery system in Tarrant County, Texas, for people with IDD and their families. Its members develop plans for long-term changes in the system while addressing key issues and providing immediate solutions where possible.

- Texas Integrated Funding Initiative Communities: Local Systems of Care that meet the needs of children and youth with serious mental health needs and their families. Families and youth work in partnership with public and private organizations so services and supports are effective, build on the strengths of individuals, and address each person's cultural and linguistic needs.

TCDD has the resources to fund and provide technical assistance to local communities that are interested in developing and/or strengthening collaborative efforts such as these “networks.” Additionally, TCDD can ensure that networks established through TCDD funding reflect TCDD’s values and philosophy, and address the issues identified in Goal 5 of TCDD’s State Plan.

State Plan Goal

Goal 5: Demonstrate how to prevent unnecessary admissions to State Supported Living Centers (SSLC) by supporting community organizations in at least 1 HHS Region to increase their capacity to provide community-based services that support people with developmental disabilities to improve and maintain their health and to have access as needed to necessary healthcare, behavior supports, and/or respite, by 9/30/2016.

Objective 2: Provide funding to enable at least 10 organizations working in the target region(s) to implement plans that will increase their capacity to provide healthcare services, behavior supports, and/or respite to support people with developmental disabilities living in the community by 9/30/2016.

Expected Outcome(s)

- Four communities will establish or strengthen a community support network of diverse organizations and individuals collaborate to increase their community’s capacity to provide culturally appropriate, person-centered or family-centered healthcare services (including both physical and mental health), behavior supports, and/or respite to community members who have developmental disabilities and their families.
- Four community support networks will support people with developmental disabilities and their families to take leadership or other active roles in creating change in their communities.
- Four community support networks will ensure that individuals and organizations involved in creating change in their communities reflect the diversity of that community.
- Four community support networks will each develop a strategic plan and identify resources necessary to build the capacity of their community to provide culturally appropriate, person-centered or family-centered healthcare services (including both physical and mental health), behavior supports, and/or respite to community members who have developmental disabilities and their families.

Project Description

Phase 1

Award up to 4 grant(s) to support a group of organizations/individuals in a certain geographic community to:

- (1) Establish and/or strengthen a network of appropriately diverse organizations and individuals who are committed to developing and supporting inclusive communities; and
- (2) Develop a strategic plan and identify resources needed to build the capacity of the community to provide high quality, community-based, person-centered and/or family-centered healthcare services, behavior supports, and/or respite to support people with developmental disabilities.

The recipient of each grant will be the community organization responsible for identifying and seeking the commitment of organizations and individuals in the community; convening an appropriately diverse network that includes self-advocates and family members; facilitating the network to assess the strengths and needs of the community; ensuring the development of a strategic plan and identification of resources needed to implement the plan; and complying with TCDD's grant monitoring and reporting processes. Other organizations or individuals participating in the network will be responsible for participating actively in the process; contributing resources (including in-kind) to the process as they are able; and ensuring that the strategic plan builds on the strengths/assets that exist in their community to address the identified needs.

TCDD expects that the network members will include self-advocates, family members, behavior analysts, providers, local authorities, local colleges or universities, and/or local medical providers.

Phase 1 funds may be used for staff to coordinate the process; consultant services; materials needed to conduct outreach; training and technical assistance; a community survey; travel; and/or other activities or items necessary to support the development of the network and the plan.

Phase 1 may take no longer than 18 months, but may be completed sooner.

At the completion of Phase 1, the network is responsible to complete and submit the strategic plan describing the communities targeted issue(s) and planned approach as noted above. Each network will have the opportunity to request additional funding from TCDD to implement their plan when the strategic plan is submitted. Implementation of the plans is Phase 2.

Phase 2

TCDD will review plans completed by the recipients of Phase 1 grants and applications for grant support to implement that plan and may award funds for all or part of the strategic plans presented. The recipient(s) of each Phase 2 grant will be the organization responsible for the implementation of the plan and compliance with TCDD's grant monitoring and reporting processes. Only one organization from each network developed through Phase 1 may apply for the funds to implement the plan. The network members should select the organization that will apply for Phase 2 funding.

In the application for funding for Phase 2, the network would be required to include information from the community assessment to support their strategic plan. The proposed plan must address:

- (1) How the plan's relates to Goal 5 of the TCDD FY 2012-2016 State Plan;
- (2) How the change achieved through the plan will either be sustained beyond the funding period or will result in permanent systems change;
- (3) How specific public policy implications will be identified, and if they will be addressed, the strategy to be used;
- (4) How people with developmental disabilities and people who are members of groups who are identified as being underserved or unserved were involved in the planning process; and
- (5) How people with developmental disabilities and people who are members of groups who are identified as being underserved or unserved will be involved in meaningful ways in the implementation of the plan.

Phase 3

TCDD will discuss the information and understanding gained through the process and determine how to use the information to inform future activities and/or public policy recommendations.

Proposed Funding Amount

Phase 1: Up to \$75,000 per grant, for up to four (4) grants.

Phase 2: Exact amount to be determined. For planning purposes, up to \$150,000 per grant, per year, for up to four (4) grants, would be reserved.

Phase 3: Funding to be determined.

Proposed Duration

Phase 1: Up to 18 months.

Phase 2: Up to 5 years, depending on plans submitted for funding.

Phase 3: Duration to be determined.

Other Considerations

Priority would be given to projects that propose to address identified disparities in access and/or quality of services.

Funding Proposal Executive Summary Promotion of Self-Advocacy at Texas Conferences

Background

TCDD stipends assist more than 500 individuals with developmental disabilities and/or their family members to attend various conferences and seminars each year. Additionally, TCDD occasionally receives requests from other organizations to provide financial assistance for or to “co- sponsor” conferences. Although TCDD has funded, hosted, and/or contributed to the support of various types of conferences, the Council rarely provides financial support to bring in individual speakers or panels.

Currently, the types of support that TCDD staff provide to organizations holding conferences include:

- Providing handout materials (such as the People First Language Materials);
- Disseminating promotional information about conferences via media releases and materials;
- Presenting at the conference when possible; and
- Registering and staffing an exhibit table or booth at events.

One impact of current financial times is that it is increasingly difficult for organizations holding conferences that benefit people with developmental disabilities to have the financial ability to pay speaker fees and at times, even to reimburse their travel expenses. Unfortunately, this means both that fewer Texans have the opportunity to hear from and meet nationally known speakers, and that individuals who do not have disposable income are unable to present or serve on panels at conferences if it would require travel and/or an overnight stay. This situation creates the opportunity for TCDD to promote an increased understanding of the importance of self-advocacy, self-determination, and full inclusion by offering financial assistance for organizations who wish to contract with speakers who are experts in these topics or in related topics that are consistent with TCDD’s philosophy.

Three different mechanisms could be used to facilitate these outcomes:

1. Supporting self-advocates to serve as speakers at in-state conferences;
2. Sponsoring plenary speakers at in-state conferences; and/or
3. Sponsoring concurrent sessions or “tracks” at in-state conferences.

Council Procedures, as noted below, currently allow: the Executive Director to approve stipends for financial assistance for individuals attending a conference; the Executive Director and Chair to jointly approve “non-financial sponsorship” of conferences; and the Executive Committee to approve financial sponsorships.

Council Procedure #4: TCDD Co-Sponsorship of Conferences

Financial Sponsorship. *If financial sponsorship is requested, the Executive Committee will review each request individually and can take various actions, including disapproval;*

approval of sponsorship for a specific function such as a speaker, stipends, etc.; or approval of other types of support as appropriate

Non-Financial Sponsorship. *If Non-financial sponsorship is requested, the Executive Director and the Council Chair will make a decision based upon the program's consistency with the Council's philosophies.*

-Approved by the Council February 7, 1997

The DD Act Amendments of 2000 **require** Councils to include a goal and/or an objective in their State Plans to “support opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities who are considered leaders to provide leadership training to individuals with developmental disabilities.” Currently, TCDD addresses this requirement through peer to peer advocacy training projects. However, the TCDD FY 2012-2016 State Plan includes an activity to promote self-advocates as speakers.

TCDD staff propose developing a grant project to increase the number of Texas conference speakers, mentors, or facilitators who are self-advocates; and propose developing a process through which TCDD can sponsor plenary session speakers and/or concurrent session presentations or “tracks” that are related to advancing self-advocacy, self-determination or inclusion. Such opportunities can promote the Council’s vision and values and can further self-advocacy efforts in Texas.

State Plan Goal(s)

Goal 6: Work with others to double the number of identified leadership development and advocacy training programs that are able to provide culturally appropriate training for people with developmental disabilities without ongoing grant funding from TCDD, by 9/30/2016.

Objective 2: *Each year of the plan, support opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities who are considered leaders to provide leadership training to individuals with developmental disabilities who may become leaders.*

Activity 1: Each year provide opportunities for groups organizing disability-related conferences to apply for stipends to support speakers, mentors, or facilitators who have developmental disabilities and who have a philosophy consistent with that of TCDD.

Expected Outcome

1. TCDD would sponsor at least 50 different self-advocates who have diverse backgrounds to speak and/or serve as a mentors or facilitators at in-state conferences by 9/30/2016.
2. TCDD would sponsor at least 20 general or concurrent session speakers at conferences by 9/30/2016.

Project Description

1. **Support for Self Advocates as Speakers:** TCDD would develop a Request for Proposals (RFP) for an organization to provide administrative support, outreach and promotion for this activity. The selected grantee will:

- Use a range of communication strategies that are culturally appropriate for multiple different cultures to locate, evaluate, and promote self-advocates who are public speakers and/or facilitators;
 - Advertise and promote self-advocates as speakers and provide information, using a range of culturally appropriate communication strategies, about how organizations hosting conferences may apply for financial support for self-advocates to serve as speakers;
 - Review and evaluate applications from organizations hosting conferences for support of self-advocates to present, and provide information to TCDD for final review and approval;
 - Ensure that:
 - Any one speaker is be supported by TCDD funds more than 3x per year in the first year of the grant and 2x per year each year after that.
 - Presenters show evidence that they have presented previously at a reasonably similar event and provide references.
 - No more than 5 self advocate presenters or panelists, and not more than 20% of the total number of presenters or panelists, are supported per conference.
 - No organization would be eligible for support for speakers for more than 1 conference yearly. Conferences could also apply for a stipend grant to assist attendees.
 - Awards do not exceed \$7500 per event, and conference hosts provide a 10% match.
 - Reach out to existing Speakers' Bureaus to promote inclusion of self-advocates in their pools of speakers.
 - Disburse funds; and
 - Provide quarterly reports to TCDD.
2. **Sponsorship of Plenary Speakers:** TCDD staff would develop a process through which organizations could apply for TCDD sponsorship of a plenary session speaker. The proposed process will be reviewed by the Executive Committee with final approval by the Council as appropriate. The process would outline application requirements, guidelines by which applications would be evaluated, limitations on funding amounts, expectations and responsibilities of the applicant organization, and a recommended review and approval procedure. Staff propose that Plenary Speaker sponsorship requests would be approved jointly by the Council Chair and the Executive Director.
 3. **Sponsorship of concurrent session speakers or "tracks":** TCDD staff would develop a process through which organizations could apply for TCDD sponsorship of concurrent session speakers or tracks. The proposed process would be reviewed by the Executive Committee with final approval by the Council as appropriate. The process would outline application requirements, guidelines by which applications would be evaluated, limitations on funding amounts, expectations and responsibilities of the applicant organization, and a recommended review and approval procedure. Propose approval jointly by Council Chair and Executive Director. *This would likely be a very staff intensive process, which must be taken into consideration.*

Proposed Funding Amount

Support for Self Advocates as Speakers: Up to \$125,000 award (that amount would include up to \$75,000 per year for direct support of speakers).

Sponsorship of Plenary Speakers: Up to \$75,000 available for all speaker supports in this category, per year; up to \$7500 per event, for up to one event per year per organization. This is consistent with the current stipends policies.

Sponsorship of concurrent session speakers or “track”: Up to \$75,000 available for all stipends in this category, per year; up to \$7500 per event; and not more than 5 sessions per event.

Proposed Duration

Support for Self Advocates as Speakers: Up to four years.

Sponsorship of Plenary Speakers: To be determined from review after first year; quarterly reports to Executive Committee and Council.

Sponsorship of concurrent session speakers or “track”: To be determined from review after first year; quarterly reports to Executive Committee and Council.

Other Considerations

Related projects that might be considered include working with an organization, or organizations, that provide training to help people to develop presenting skills, to enable them to include and supports self-advocates to participate fully in their trainings.