



T · E · X · A · S  
PLANNING COUNCIL  
for  
DEVELOPMENTAL  
DISABILITIES

# HIGHLIGHTS

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## New TDHS attendant care program puts clients in control

Often, the inability to perform daily personal tasks, such as dialing a telephone, dressing oneself or writing a check, can keep a person with a disability from living in the community.

Last year, members of various advocacy groups, including the Council, and state agencies banded together to form the Attendant Services Task Force, under the auspices of the Coalition of Texans with Disabilities (CTD). The Task Force helped to coordinate testimony to the 69th Texas Legislature in support of a request by the Texas Department of Human Services (TDHS) to start a pilot attendant care project. The Legislature responded with an annual appropriation to TDHS of \$550,000 for each of the next two fiscal years, plus the authority to transfer an additional \$550,000 each year from other areas of the Department's budget to fund the pilot project through 1987.

Three service providers were chosen by TDHS in December through a competitive procurement process to provide these attendant care services. Experience in working with people with disabilities was a criteria for selection. (See accompanying article for information on service providers.)

The TDHS pilot attendant care program is different from many other attendant care programs because it is intended to be client managed. To the greatest extent possible, participants must be mentally and emotionally capable of hiring, supervising and terminating their own attendant. Services can be provided to adults with disabilities who are unable to direct their own care if a relative or friend is willing to share responsibility for directing the care without compensation.

"The purpose of our program," explained Ernest McKinney, director of in-home services, "is to demonstrate the concept of a client-managed attendant care system. If it proves feasible we will

go forth with a recommendation for additional funding. This is the first time TDHS has offered an attendant care service managed by clients so we are definitely interested in the outcome."

Each provider develops its own pool of potential attendants, determines client eligibility and level of need, pays for services, provides emergency back-up services, and coordinates with those clients interested in sharing living arrangements or other special attendant arrangements. Personal care services may be provided in the client's home, school or place of employment.

Fees for services are based on each recipient's income. For recipients whose monthly income is determined by the service provider to be over \$730, a sliding scale will be applied. Participants must need at least five hours of care a week.

"Our main concern now," said McKinney, "is to get the word out. We expect to serve between 225-300 people the first year of the program, so we need to act quickly to find eligible participants and qualified attendants."

McKinney said there is no reliable estimate as to the number of people that could use the program. Currently, TDHS serves over 20,000 people under a primary home program funded through Medicaid that provides similar services but is not client managed. Individuals can not participate in both the pilot project and the primary home care program at the same time.

Services under the pilot program will be provided through August 1987. Its success could result in a change in the manner in which attendant care services could be provided to some Texans with disabilities in the future.

### TDHS attendant care providers

The following organizations are contracted to provide services under the Texas Department of Human Services (TDHS) pilot attendant care program. Persons living in one of the service areas and interested in participating in the program as a client or an attendant should contact the service provider in their area immediately.

**City of San Antonio**  
1405 N. Main  
San Antonio, TX 78212  
Contact: Sam Garcia  
(512) 299-7247  
(512) 299-7241  
Serves Bexar County

**Concepts of Care**  
317 Peoples # 911  
Corpus Christi, TX 78401  
Contact: Diane Crawford  
(800) 242-3042 (toll free)  
Serves Hidalgo, Bee, Live Oak, Refugio, Kleburg, Jim Wells, and Willacy Counties

**Americare Professionals**  
107 West Camellia  
Orange, TX 77630  
Contact: Patsy Owers  
(409) 882-0523  
(409) 882-0524  
(409) 722-4050  
Serves Orange, Jefferson, Hardin, Newton, and Jasper Counties

For general information on the TDHS pilot attendant care program, contact German Valtierra, program specialist, TDHS, P.O. Box 2960, Mail Code 543-W, Austin, TX 78769, telephone (512) 450-3136.

## Meet the Council



Council member Tom Deliganis

Council member Tom Deliganis, Ph.D., received a pleasant surprise recently when San Antonio State School earned one of the highest ratings ever given within its five-state region in a look-behind survey by the federal Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA).

Deliganis serves as superintendant for the school, which houses 370 people with developmental disabilities. He was appointed to the Council last March by Governor Mark White as a consumer representative.

This is the first time HCFA has ever surveyed the school, although its services are reviewed periodically by the Texas Department of Health. The HCFA survey took into consideration the physical facility, administration and programming for residents. Results showed that 98.6 percent of the school's

residents were receiving active treatment, which means they are involved in learning and meaningful activities.

Deliganis credits the school's staff of some 470 individuals, a dedicated, hard-working volunteer group, and a very involved parents' association for the school's successful rating.

"Our staff functions as a team," he said. "They're very proud, very caring and well trained."

As a Council member, Deliganis serves as vice chairman of the Monitoring and Evaluation Committee and chairman of this year's nominating committee. In addition to his work with the Council, he is also involved as chairman of the administrative division of the American Association on Mental Deficiency, Region 5.

## Federal appropriations increase, as Balanced Budget looms in the future

Programs serving people with disabilities generally received a six-percent increase in appropriations for the 1986 fiscal from the U.S. Congress before legislators adjourned for the holidays.

Nationwide, the Developmental Disabilities Program received \$80.4 million, with \$53.4 million going to support state councils and their accompanying grants programs. Of this total, the Texas Planning Council is scheduled to receive \$2,746,427 for the 1986 fiscal year. Appropriations are basically determined according to each state's population and level of financial need. For the first time, this year's federal appropriation to Texas will be supplemented with a state appropriation of \$234,360 for the Developmental Disabilities Program, as approved by the 69th Texas Legislature.

### Balanced Budget Amendment

Although most programs serving people with disabilities received an increase in appropriations, the Balanced Budget Amendment could spell continued decreases in funding for all human service programs. The amendment, Public Law 99-177, was passed by Congress and signed into law by the President on December 12. The Balanced Budget Amendment was introduced in the U.S. Senate by Senators Phil Gramm (TX), Warren Rudman (NH), and Ernest Hollings (SC) as a means to balance the federal budget by 1991. Under the amendment, a deficit ceiling is set for each year. If appropriations approved by Congress exceed that ceiling, automatic spending cuts would go into effect. Half of the savings from spending cuts would come from domestic programs, half from defense.

The law begins with the current fiscal year, 1986, although cuts for this year only will be limited to \$11.7 billion. The total federal budget for the last fiscal year was estimated to be about \$960

billion, with domestic programs accounting for about \$430 billion of that total. Last year's deficit was a record \$211.9 billion.

Should the Balanced Budget Amendment mechanism be enacted, many groups, including the Council, are concerned about the effect of cuts in appropriations for programs serving people with disabilities. The mechanism would go into effect in order to keep the budget within the debt ceiling imposed by the amendment. Various Washington sources are estimating that human service programs should expect about a 4.3 percent decrease in fiscal year 1986 appropriations this spring if the mechanism is triggered. These sources also suggest a reduction of up to 25 percent in fiscal year 1987, unless Congress raises revenues or reduces expenditures through other means.

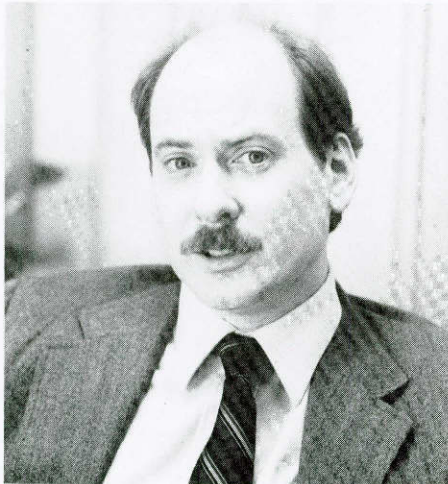
As this issue of *Highlights* goes to press, the constitutionality of the amendment is being questioned with a lawsuit. The lawsuit contends that the amendment provides authority to the executive branch of government that the Constitu-

# From the Executive Director

by Roger Webb

"If you don't care where you are going, any path will take you there."

The Texas Planning Council has been examining in great detail its goals and directions for the future. Long-range goals have been developed which are in-



tended to provide the Council and its Committees with a focus for all of its various activities. These goals were the initial step in developing the next **Three Year State Plan for Texans with Developmental Disabilities.**

The past few months have been very productive and rewarding for the Council. The process of developing goals and objectives causes all of us to look clearly at where we want to be in the future. For the Council, it has also provided a forum for mutual sharing of concerns, desires, and strategies which is central to the concept of a state planning council.

Planning processes, however, are not perfect. It is not always possible to achieve all that is desirable merely by planning for those outcomes. Rather, by carefully examining all of the various needs and concerns as well as the abilities and constraints on the Council, it is apparent that not all issues which are, in fact, high concerns for persons with developmental disabilities in Texas can be addressed as priorities in the coming years.

As we look to the future and develop our goals and strategies, we face many uncertainties. Funding for all human service programs will face further constraints at both the federal and state levels. Many other known and unknown factors will likely affect both our ability to follow our goals and the outcome of those efforts.

We therefore recognize that plans must have flexibility; they need not be static for long periods of time. The Council has always welcomed input about needs and issues in the state which affect the lives of persons with developmental disabilities. We hope that you continue to share with us your thoughts and suggestions in the future. Many of the concerns you have shared with us in the past are part of our next **State Plan**, and we need your input to know if our strategies are successful.

All of you are a part of the success of the Council. Both you and the Council have a vision of where we want to go. We now have to determine the best path to reach those goals. Together, we can make it happen.

## Budget Amendment

tion delegates to Congress. Critics say the legislation blurs the distinction between the executive and legislative branches of government, while proponents cite the need to reduce the federal budget deficit.

The following chart shows total appropriations for fiscal years 1985 and 1986, for several programs. The 1986 federal fiscal year began October 1, 1985.

For more information on federal appropriations for programs serving people with disabilities or the Balanced Budget Amendment, contact the Texas Planning Council.

### Federal Appropriations

	FY '85 Actual Appropriations (in millions)	FY '86 Appropriations (in millions)*
<b>Developmental Disabilities (total)</b>	\$75.8	\$80.4
State Grants (Councils)	50.3	53.4
Protection and Advocacy Agencies	13.8	14.6
University Affiliated Facilities	9.0	9.6
Special Projects	2.7	2.8
<b>Vocational Rehabilitation (total)</b>	\$1,234.0	\$1362.0
State Grant	1,100.0	1190.0
Independent Living	27.0	39.0
Training	22.0	27.0
Supported Work	-	9.0
Client Assistance Project	6.3	6.7
<b>Education for the Handicapped (Special Education) (total)</b>	\$1,321.27	\$1,411.0
State Grants	1,135.1	1,215.6
Preschool Incentive Grant	29.0	30.0
Early Childhood Education	22.5	24.0
Secondary Education and Transitional Services	6.33	6.6
Personnel Development	61.0	64.0

\* Totals do not include possible reductions resulting from P.L. 99-177, the Balanced Budget Amendment.

# News You Can Use

## PART

### Community Placement Guide

The Parent Association for the Retarded of Texas, Inc., (PART) has recently published its *Community Placement Guide and Checklist* for help in finding community living arrangements for a person with mental retardation. For more information, contact, PART, P.O. Box 26102, Austin, TX 78755-0102.

### Changing the Service Delivery System: A New Beginning

Copies of final project reports presented at "Changing the Service Delivery System: A New Beginning," the 1986 Developmental Disabilities Program Grants Conference, will be available from the Council upon request. Topics covered by grantees include community living, independent living skills training and early childhood intervention programs. Call Jennifer Roberie at (512) 445-8867 for more information.

## Clothing

Several businesses have developed clothing lines for people with disabilities who experience difficulties with contemporary clothing or with looking their best in it. Businesses offering catalogs for mail-order purchases include: Laurel Designs, 5 Laurel Ave., Belvedere, CA 94920; Techni-Flair, Box 40, Cotter, AR 72626; Clothing Design Concepts, 417 B Westview Dr., P.O. Box 1188, Manhattan, KS 66502; Rejoycers, 154 Willow Pond Rd., Gastonia, NC 28054; Mod Quad, 207 Elm St., Pittsfield, MA 01201, telephone (413) 443-5444.

### New director for Commission for the Blind

Pat D. Westbrook has been named the new commissioner of the Texas Commission for the Blind. He replaces John C. Wilson, who resigned the post January 10 after serving as executive director for more than three years.

### Social Security TDD

The Social Security Administration operates a toll-free telephone number, 1-800-325-0778, for people with hearing impairments.

## Calendar

February 13,14, statewide conference, Texas Respite Resource Network, Gunter Hotel, San Antonio. Call Jennifer Cernoch at (512) 228-2794 for more information.

February 19,20, annual Developmental Disabilities Program Grants Conference, "Changing the Service Delivery System: A New Beginning," Austin South Plaza Hotel. Call Jennifer Roberie at (512) 445-8867 for more information.

February 26,27 annual conference, Regional Rehabilitation Exchange, Hilton LBJ Hotel, Dallas. Call Vickie Cook at (512) 476-6861 for more information.

March 14, quarterly Council meeting, Texas Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities, Joe C. Thompson Center, Austin. Call (512) 445-8867 for more information.

March 14,15, Statewide Symposium on Deafness, Texas Association of the Deaf and National Academy of Gallaudet College, Embassy Suite Hotel, Austin.

## HIGHLIGHTS

**Highlights** is produced by the Texas Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities for distribution to Council members, grantees and other interested persons throughout the state. Organizations that serve persons who have developmental disabilities are encouraged to submit news items for publication. Inquiries may be addressed to Judy DeDonato, editor, Texas Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities, 118 E. Riverside Dr., Austin, Texas 78704; or telephone (512) 445-8867, TDD 445-8004. Taped copies are available upon request. Phototypesetting and printing by Texas Rehabilitation Commission Printing Services.

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