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Building Community Across Texas It's Working!

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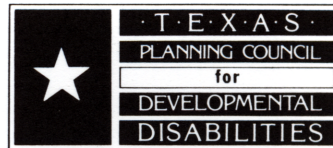
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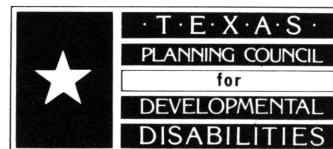
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TEXAS COUNCIL *for*
DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES



Annual Report Fiscal Year 1999 - Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities
(formerly Texas Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities)



Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities

(formerly Texas Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities)

4900 N. Lamar Blvd., Austin, TX 78751-2399

(512) 424-4080; 1-800-262-0334; (512) 424-4099 TDD; (512) 424-4097 Fax

E-mail: TXDDC@rehab.state.tx.us; Internet: <http://www.rehab.state.tx.us/tpcdd/Index.htm>

Building Community Across Texas: It's Working!

From El Paso to the Rio Grande Valley, Houston to the Panhandle, Dallas to the State Capitol, and the Gulf Coast to the piney woods in northeast Texas, people with disabilities are taking control of their own lives and joining in everyday experiences as valued members of their community. The Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities is helping make this a reality through a variety of projects and activities that are building inclusion and increasing opportunities for Texans with disabilities and their families. People like:

❖ **Walter Shammard** – Although he has cerebral palsy and lived in a state school from age 11 to 36, Walter was determined to succeed. He demanded an education and moved into the community. He now owns his own home in Austin and lives there with his wife, dog and a roommate. With assistance from the Texas Employment Project, Walter developed a resume, reference sheet and portfolio explaining his success and abilities. He obtained a part-time job at Office Depot, where he quickly became a valued employee.

❖ **A student in the Alvin area** – His parents repeatedly said they had never imagined that their son could work, and agreed to participate in the new School-to-Work Transition Local Demonstration Project through The Arc Unit 1688. The father accepted the project's invitation to attend the national TASH conference on inclusion. He was so impressed with what he learned, that he immediately set a date for his son's first meeting to do person/student-centered planning. He also began advocating for the project in the school, at his business and with other parents. "The neat thing to watch is parents' expectations changing when their family member is perceived to be employable, even though there are still things that have to be worked through such as SSI, benefits and transportation," explains Betty Ketchum, project director.

❖ **A family in Fort Worth, with a six-year-old daughter** – The daughter has seizures, uses a G-tube, has mental retardation and cerebral palsy, and is blind. Her family is trying to care for her, but they need some help. The mother does not speak English. She was told that her daughter would not qualify for nursing care any longer. The child is on the waiting list for In-Home and Family Support, the Medically Dependent Children Program and other services. The Texas Respite Resource Network, a Council grant, referred the family to the Children's Program at the Commission for the Blind for respite and other services, as well as the Texas Department of Human Services for attendant care services through Primary Home Care.

❖ **David and Pam Franco** – When surgery resulted in permanent brain damage for David in 1993, the couple regrouped and adjusted to their new life. "We didn't think we could ever be homeowners," Pam said. "We had pretty good credit, but with ongoing medical expenses and reduced income, we couldn't save enough for the down payment." In the fall of 1998, however, they learned about the Texas Home of Your Own Coalition. By obtaining assistance with their down payment and a low interest mortgage, the couple was able to move into their own home by March, with a fenced yard and plenty of neighborhood kids to play with their daughter.

The Council also has a variety of other projects, in addition to the employment grant that has eight demonstration sites and 25 local experts across Texas, the statewide respite network, transition projects in the Alvin area and Rio Grande Valley, and the HOYO project with housing coalitions in five communities. Some of the other areas the Council focused on in fiscal year 1999 are improving access to managed health care, ensuring children grow up in families, providing leadership training, improving transportation, expanding information and referral services so Texans can find supports they need, and working with people who are aging.

The Council also provided input in the state's Sunset Review of health and human services, other discussions on improving services, development of the state's Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and successful application for a federal grant to start a family support initiative in our state. This report provides an overview of the Council's projects and accomplishments in FY 1999, as we continue to work throughout the state to build community and increase opportunities for people with developmental disabilities across Texas.

Building Community through Employment

A variety of factors are making it easier for people with disabilities to obtain competitive jobs in the community, including the low unemployment rate, an expanding emphasis and success in achieving community-based employment, and better job preparation while in school. Despite this, about 75 percent of people with disabilities are still unemployed. Therefore, the Council continues to focus on assisting adults to obtain jobs in the community, with competitive wages and benefits. Some activities that increase success in employment are person-centered planning, career exploration/personal profiles, job development, job coaching and long-term supports – including natural supports, and using assistive technology to enhance skills. The following provides an overview of the Council's two employment projects in fiscal year (FY) 1999.

The Texas Employment Project

Imagine Enterprises uses demonstration sites, local experts, and national consultants to increase supported employment in Texas on a local level, so more people with developmental disabilities can obtain jobs in the community with competitive pay. During FY 1999, 25 individuals who were trained as "State Stewards" spent more than 4,000 hours providing technical assistance and promoting integrated employment in their local community. Local demonstration projects that started during the fiscal year in Austin, Fort Worth and Longview model best practices in employment and create changes in their local service delivery system. Demonstration projects were developed in Abilene, Collin County, Corpus Christi, El Paso and Richardson in FY 1998. The employment project also responds to calls from

across the state for training and technical assistance.

Other accomplishments in FY

1999 include providing information and support to more than 830 Texans regarding supported employment; co-sponsoring five vocational profile trainings (with TXMHMR); working to start regional Business Leadership Networks where employers take the lead in increasing work opportunities for job seekers with disabilities; and developing an extensive Internet site at <http://www.imagineenterprises.com>. The five-year project started in June 1997.



Social Security Work Incentives

The Texas University Affiliated Program at The University of Texas at Austin is helping Texans use work incentives to protect their disability benefits – such as SSI, SSDI and Medicaid – while the individuals become self-supporting. The primary focus is on Plans for Achieving Self-Support (PASS), which allows individuals to create their own employment plan based on personal desires and needs. The project began in June 1996, and it has created the Texas PASS Network, as well as a variety of training and educational materials, including an on-line news-

letter. The statewide network coordinates a Certified PASS Trainer Program and PASS Writer Program. It also works to have a trained resource person in each county in Texas to assist in developing PASS plans. The project trained more than 750 people on work incentives in FY 1999. The PASS Network and Imagine Enterprises (see previous grant) are coordinating training efforts across the state. Additionally, local Social Security Administration offices are using the network's trainers to educate Texans with disabilities and families about work incentives. The project has an Internet site at <http://uap.edb.utexas.edu/tpn.htm>.

Building Community through Education

In addition to the two projects directly addressing employment, two other projects are focusing on education and the move from school to careers. For most students with disabilities, success in this changeover depends on having a good system of supports in place long before graduation. To help make this possible, the Council started two school-to-work transition local demonstration projects in February 1999. These five-year projects are working to change local policy and practice to achieve a successful transition from school to careers for students with developmental disabilities in a rural community and in South Texas.

School Transition to Employment Project (STEP)

The Arc of Texas – Rio Grande Valley works with local school districts to demonstrate innovative ways to support and assist students with developmental disabilities so they can move successfully from school into the workplace with supports identified in the transition planning process. This project is located in the border area of South Texas where there is high unemployment and low income, including unincorporated towns (colonias). STEP is developing a local transition consortium and providing training and resources to parents, students, educators, businesses, and community leaders to help students achieve their desired future of community employment and living. During FY 1999, STEP held

numerous work-shops on transition and worked with educators, students, vocational counselors and families on person-centered planning and vocational profiling. The project identified 10-12 families to focus on so the students can experience a smooth transition from school to work and/or post-secondary training. The Arc of Texas has an Internet site at <http://www.thearcoftexas.org/>.

School
Transition to
Employment
Program

School-to-Work Transition Local Demonstration Project

The Arc Unit 1688 – Alvin, Texas, is working with the Alvin Independent School District to expand inclusion, from classrooms into workplaces and the community, to demonstrate effective transition for students who typically would receive services in segregated settings. During FY 1999, the project surveyed a large, rural community south of Houston, with a population under 30,000, and identified sev-

eral barriers to transition, including transportation, loss of benefits and employers' knowledge level. More than 150 people were trained on community inclusion or vocational profiling during the fiscal year, and nine students started person-centered planning. Introductory student-centered planning sessions are held on an ongoing basis to identify more participants for the project.

Building Community through Housing

Because there is a critical shortage of accessible, affordable housing in Texas and many adults with disabilities have limited incomes, few have been able to qualify to rent or buy their own home. Two Council projects made it possible for 14 individuals to buy a home in FY 1999, while 100 others rented affordable/accessible homes.

Consumer-Controlled Housing Enterprise (CCHE)

Enterprise Foundation provides training and technical assistance to Texas communities wishing to increase accessible, affordable, and consumer-controlled housing so more individuals with disabilities can buy or rent their own homes. This three-year project started in June 1997 and collaborates with the Texas Home of Your Own Coalition and other statewide disability organizations to improve housing options.

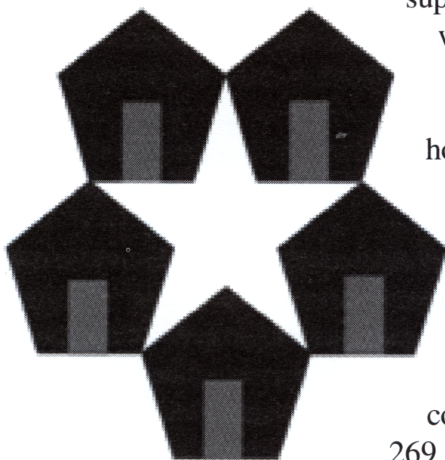
In FY 1999, CCHE provided support for a new, local housing coalition in Amarillo, as well as ongoing support for coalitions in El Paso, Houston, Lubbock, Lufkin/Nacogdoches, San Antonio and Tarrant County. These seven coalitions involve more than 70 organizations that are increasing independent living choices through a variety of community-based solutions such as completing local needs assessments, promoting universal design/basic accessibility through local brochures and ordinances, and obtain-

ing funds for accessible, affordable homes. The Lufkin/Nacogdoches coalition, for example, partnered with a local, nonprofit (Pineywoods HOME Team) during the fiscal year to secure funds to build 20 accessible, single-family rental homes – 10 in each city.

In addition to assisting five local coalitions in leveraging \$2.4 million that resulted in 100 units of accessible housing, CCHE provides assistance to other organizations and communities in competing for federal and state housing grants. The project assisted about 10 communities in applying for “mainstream” housing vouchers during FY 1999, as well as providing training and technical assistance across the state in developing local “Consolidated Plans” for federal HUD funds. Additionally, CCHE operates a toll-free information line and distributes information on housing. Their Internet site is <http://www.enterprise-foundation.org/programs/initiatives/cche/default.asp>.

Texas Home of Your Own (HOYO) Project

United Cerebral Palsy of Texas provides administrative support for the Texas HOYO Coalition which uses private and public partnerships, funding and



supports to demonstrate ways for individuals with disabilities to purchase their own homes. This includes assistance with down payments, mortgages and modifications to make homes accessible. The coalition has received 269 applications from

potential buyers in three parts of the state and helped 28 of them purchase homes. In addition to working in seven counties in Central Texas and having a statewide steering committee, Texas HOYO supported local affiliates in the Gulf Coast/Houston, El Paso and Rio Grande Valley.

In FY 1999, the coalition sponsored its first statewide conference on “Housing and Homeownership Opportunities for People with Disabilities.” The project also provided information on basic accessibility to state legislators, who approved SB 623 that requires new single-family homes funded by the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs to have “visitability.” Texas HOYO has an Internet site at <http://www.onr.com/user/texashoyo/>.

Building Community through Health Care

Just as the general public experienced a rapid surge in managed health care in the past decade, increasing numbers of Texans have enrolled in the state's Medicaid managed care program, STAR. In 1998, Texas became the first state to integrate Medicaid long-term and acute care in a managed care program on a large scale for adults with disabilities, with the creation of the STAR+PLUS pilot in Harris County. In 1999, the state started NorthSTAR, a seven-county pilot in the Dallas area that includes behavioral health services. To help people adjust to managed care and ensure people's needs are met, the Council created a managed care initiative in October 1996. This project was recently extended until May 2001.

Healthcare Matters!

Healthcare Matters! is a collaborative effort between **Advocacy, Inc.**, and the **Texas Respite Resource Network** that works to ensure Texans with disabilities can successfully enroll and participate in managed care. Its primary emphasis is on Medicaid managed care pilots in the Houston, Dallas and El Paso areas. In addition to providing information and training to people with disabilities and advocates, Healthcare Matters! works with managed care organizations, community-based providers, state agencies and policy makers to ensure appropriate services are provided for individuals with developmental disabilities. In 1999,

as the state prepared to start Medicaid managed care in El Paso, Healthcare Matters! worked with 27 local community-based organizations to set up and staff an El Paso Informal Education and Training Campaign. This campaign distributed more than 3,000 bilingual brochures on "Medicaid is Changing." Healthcare Matters! also distributes a monthly newsletter on managed care and comprehensive handbooks for consumers and providers. Its Internet site is at <http://www.advocacyinc.org/hcm/index.htm>.



Building Community by Analyzing People's Needs

Because of the Council's role in improving services and supports for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families, we constantly analyze people's needs, supports available, and ways to improve the service system. In conjunction with this role, Governor George Bush asked the Council to oversee a federal grant that examined services and supports in Texas for people with traumatic brain injury.

Texas Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Board

At the governor's request, the Council coordinated planning, development and administrative support for a state Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Advisory Board which recently made recommendations to improve services in Texas. Under a two-year, federal grant that ended in September 1999, the advisory board coordinated various public input activities, including nine public forums across the state to gather input about the service and support needs of individuals with traumatic brain injuries and their

families. The TBI Advisory Board also analyzed programs and services for individuals with traumatic brain injuries in Texas, as well as program limitations and restrictions. Additionally, the board developed a "Statewide Action Plan of Supports and Services for Individuals with Traumatic Brain Injuries and their Families" which includes recommendations to the state to improve services in Texas. Copies of their reports are available from the Council or on the Internet at <http://www.tdh.state.tx.us/injury/tbi99mar.htm>.

Building Community through Individual & Family Supports

A variety of Council projects are working to ensure that essential supports and services are available in Texas so families can raise their children at home and adults can live independently. These include projects to expand personal assistance services which help individuals with daily living activities, as well as supports and services for individuals with developmental disabilities who are aging (or their aging caregivers). Other projects provide families with an essential break from caring for an individual with disabilities, create new options so children with disabilities can grow up in a family rather than institutions, and work to meet people's financial needs in the future.

Personal Assistance Services Task Force

The Coalition of Texans with Disabilities provides information, training and technical assistance regarding personal assistance services (PAS), which help individuals with daily living activities such as eating, dressing and mobility. In addition to working to improve and implement state policies regarding PAS, the task force has regional teams throughout the state that work to increase local support for community-based services. The task force conducted numerous interviews during the fiscal year with

community leaders and potential team members. They also educated legislators regarding PAS in FY 1999, which helped pass legislation that will allow consumers an option of voucher payments for personal assistance services. The task force also worked with another project to host a statewide conference on Community Supports and Services for All Texans, Dec. 13-16, 1998. They have an Internet site at <http://www.cotwd.org/pas.html>.

Support for Individuals with DD who are Aging

The Texas Department on Aging works to integrate aging and disability services so aging individuals with disabilities and aging caregivers can easily access services from various entry points. Local work groups are now in 13* of the state's 28 Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs), with the newest one in the AAA of the Permian Basin (serving 17 counties around Midland). All of the local work groups complete a local needs assessment, and some have created resource directories. Areas being addressed include personnel training, community integration, and individualized life/futures planning, as well as

assisting people with advocacy skills, insurance matters, financial and estate planning, legal issues, and other supports and services. The five-year, systems-change project began in October 1996. Additional information on the project, work groups, and their accomplishments is on the Internet at <http://www.tdoa.state.tx.us/agedis.htm>.

* Work groups are in Alamo, Bexar County, Central Texas, Coastal Bend, Dallas City, East Texas, North Central Texas, Panhandle, Permian Basin, South East Texas, South Plains, Texoma and Tarrant County AAAs.

Building Community through Individual & Family Supports

Texas Respite Resource Network (TRRN)

TRRN at **Santa Rosa Health Care** works to expand the availability of respite services across the state for adults and children with disabilities so families can obtain a needed break from the ongoing demands of caring for a person with significant disabilities. In



addition to working on statewide policy, this project provides training, technical assistance and public information. TRRN also works with local groups to ensure families and people with disabilities are involved in designing services so the supports are

affordable, flexible and accessible. In FY 1999, TRRN continued to educate legislators regarding respite, which helped pass new funding for respite services through Early Childhood Intervention and the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services. Another new law will allow families and consumers the choice of voucher payments for respite and personal assistance services. Other educational efforts resulted in improvements in licensing for respite. The project also planned a Statewide Conference on Community Services and Supports, Dec. 13-16, 1998, with almost 300 participants. TRRN created an Internet site in November 1998, which got 29,000 hits in the first 10 months – an average of 2,900 per month. The site is at <http://www.texasrespite.org/>, and includes an on-line guide to respite services in Texas.

Families Are Valued

Texas Health and Human Services Commission works with family, community and state resources to improve the service system and ensure children with disabilities can each grow up in a stable, nurturing family. This five-year grant began in June 1996 and includes four local family collaboratives which are demonstrating permanency planning – a philosophy that helps families build on their strengths while linking supports and services. Local collaboratives are in Austin, Amarillo (Porter and Randall counties), El Paso and six rural counties near Richmond. Key project activities include: 1) assisting with statewide implementation of state law on permanency planning, blended funding strategies and service delivery restructuring; 2) implementation of independent case management and family support models; 3) training and technical assistance; 4) public awareness; and

5) case review. The project also supports 23 permanency planning sites started under a previous grant to the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation. In FY 1999, Families Are Valued conducted three regional focus groups to determine what families and providers believe are the barriers to services. In addition, the project started work on a federal grant, the “Texas Family Support Initiative,” that will create a State Family Support Policy Council to increase family involvement in designing and delivering support services, plus three local community councils to demonstrate systems change. The project also worked on a screening tool to identify elements necessary for permanency planning. Regional and statewide trainers on family support and permanency planning are listed on the Internet site at <http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/fav/fav.htm>.

Special Needs Master Pooled Trust Project

This project supports ongoing development of a statewide trust by **The Arc of Texas** to make estate planning more affordable and arrange for supplemental, special needs of individuals with disabilities in the future while ensuring continued eligibility for public benefits. Enrollment in the trust began in June 1997, with about 115 individuals enrolled at the end of FY 1999. Additionally, more than 14,300 people

have received technical assistance, information and training on financial planning services. The trust staff monitors government, legal and operational issues, and provides information on relevant laws and rules surrounding trusts and benefit programs to families, organizations and legal professionals. More information on the self-sustaining trust is on the Internet at <http://www.thearcoftexas.org/>.

Building Community through Leadership & Self-Determination

While people with disabilities and family members are experts on supports and services they need, they often live by rules, policies and decisions made by people who have no personal experience with disabilities. Therefore, the Council has made leadership training and self-determination a priority. Self-determination is a way of thinking that puts individuals with disabilities in charge of their own lives by increasing choice and personal responsibility. A variety of projects help ensure people with disabilities and families are involved in shaping policies and supports to fit individual needs and changing circumstances. The Council also started a community-based leadership training program in FY 1999.

Partners in Policymaking

The Walsh Company coordinates a leadership training program that prepares adults with disabilities and parents of young children with disabilities to influence public policy so Texans can obtain supports they need to be part of their communities. Participants meet two days a month, for eight months, to explore disability issues, best practices, and the policymaking and legislative processes. Then Partners work on local, state and national levels on issues which affect everyone, such as education, employment, transportation and housing. In the spring of 1999, 36 Texans graduated from Partners in Policymaking. Since 1990, 401 Texans

have graduated, and 39 more began training in the fall of 1999. The graduates represent 96 counties. In July 1999, 100

graduates received more training at



a Summer Institute. Additional information on Partners in Policymaking is on the Internet at <http://www.rehab.state.tx.us/tpcdd/PIP/partners.htm> and <http://www.walshco.com/partners.html>.

Community Leadership Development Project

Enterprise Foundation began organizing a local, leadership and advocacy training program for people with disabilities and their families under a new five-year grant that started in July 1999, near the end of the fiscal year. While this cross-disability project is based on the statewide Partners in Policymaking training, it will prepare participants in a least 10 communities to create meaningful change on

the local level. About 15-20 participants will be selected per community, who will attend eight monthly training sessions on topics chosen by the community. Partners in Policymaking graduates and other local advocates will serve as mentors for each class. Graduates will be eligible for additional training to prepare them to train more community leaders, under a train-the-trainer approach.

Disability Policy Consortium

The Disability Policy Consortium brings together 20 statewide advocacy organizations to discuss current issues, develop joint responses and promote progressive public policy concerning

Texans with disabilities and their families. In addition to educating policy-makers on disability issues, the Consortium provides input on implementation of legislation and makes recommendations for appointments to work-

groups and boards. **Advocacy, Inc.**, serves as the fiscal agent for the project which provides staff support for the Consortium. The group meets biweekly. During FY 1999, the Consortium concentrated its efforts on a variety of issues including education, employment, long-term care, community services, health care and managed care, children's issues, and Sunset bills on health and human services agencies. During the legislative session, the Consortium tracked numerous bills that would affect people with disabilities and posted bill summaries on their Internet site. The Consortium also posted a summary of significant bills passed by the legislature in FY 1999 at <http://www.dpctexas.org/>.



Building Community through Leadership & Self-Determination

Consumer Stipends

Consumer Stipends made it possible for about 800 Texans with disabilities and family members to attend 17 conferences, seminars and workshops in the state during FY 1999, which addressed current disability issues and community inclusion. Topics included education, health care services, early intervention services for infants, advocacy training and

community inclusion. Funds were allocated through sponsoring organizations for events in Arlington, Austin (3), Dallas (2), El Paso (1), Fort Worth (2), Houston (3), New Braunfels (1), San Antonio (3), and Tyler (1). The stipends are designed to promote individual empowerment and involvement.

Local/Regional Advocacy Support Networks

Local/Regional Advocacy Support Networks address cross-disability issues in three Texas communities by distributing information, providing advocacy/leadership training and working to make their communities more inclusive. The three-year projects sponsor a variety of workshops and have formed alliances with numerous other groups. The first project started in Houston in the fall of 1997, with two more starting in Austin and Houston in August 1998. The following organizations receive funding for local advocacy support networks:

Family to Family Network, Inc., (F2F)

holds educational workshops



throughout the year and to empower people with disabilities and families to control their own lives and to promote inclusion in their community. The nonprofit organization is a collaborative effort to provide support to families and improve access to services their children need. It publishes a resource guide and monthly newsletter, and informs members about legislative and policy changes that may affect them. F2F also holds monthly Get-2Gethers so families can network, as well as two social events annually. F2F has chapters in Houston, Spring/Klein, Spring Branch and Dallas. In FY 1999, the network also developed a comprehensive curriculum for parents about the Admission, Review and Dismissal (ARD) process, as well as a train-the-trainer model for parents to educate other parents in the ARD process. F2F's Internet site is <http://www.neosoft.com/~fam2fam/default.htm>.

Texas Advocates Supporting Kids with Disabilities (TASK) works to promote positive public policy and culturally diverse, inclusive communities for all children with disabilities. Most members of the statewide, nonprofit organization, which has its headquarters in Austin, are parents of children with disabilities and/or chronic illnesses. TASK holds monthly meetings; conducts advocacy training and other workshops; works with other disability organizations; sends out a newsletter and advocacy notices; educates lawmakers; and participates in public hearings, workgroups and advisory committees on disability issues. TASK held a statewide summit for parents on Oct. 14-16, 1999, which identified a need to strengthen advocacy training and increase the number of parents who provide input to legislation. Participants proposed several ways to link parents and keep them informed on disability news, such as setting up a statewide "listserv" and local parent networks. TASK already has an Internet site at <http://www.texaskids.org/>.

Parents as Case Managers, Inc. is using this project to expand its training into public school districts through a resource specialist program in Harris and Brazoria counties. The project holds numerous workshops, and resource specialists are required to conduct at least two trainings in their area each year. An annual conference provides updated information for the resource specialists. In FY 1999, the project teamed up with the Houston Independent School District to provide technical assistance on transition plans for high school students and to identify services and supports.

Building Community through Inclusion

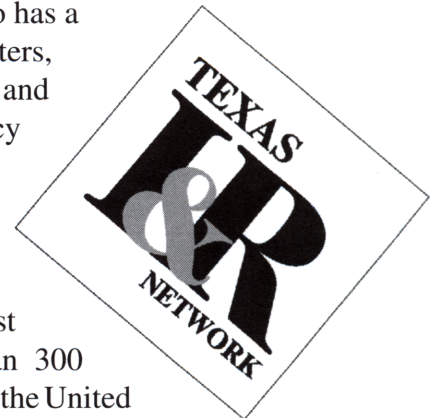
While all of the Council's projects include elements of community building and inclusion in everyday life, two of them focus specifically on helping people make connections. One of these is creating an automated, statewide information network regarding health and human services. The other is developing local models for transportation services in five communities, to determine how to improve services for all Texans.

Information and Referral Network

This project through the **Texas Health and Human Services Commission** covers 90 percent of the state's population by linking information and referral (I&R) providers in Texas that help people locate health and human services. In addition to developing local and regional data centers, the network will link regional databases in a centralized website, along with information from state health and human services agencies. During FY 1999, the project continued to expand and automate the network using the Internet. Also in 1999, the Texas Legislature passed legislation requiring all public and private agencies receiving state funds for health and human services to provide information on those services to the I&R Network and update the information at least quarterly. The seventh edition of a guide to I&R providers in Texas has been printed and is on the Internet at <http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/tirn/tirnhome.htm>.

The Internet site also has a list of local I&R centers, a directory of health and human service agency programs in Texas, reports and technical assistance bulletins, and an electronic mailing list that links more than 300

I&R professionals in the United States and Canada. Meanwhile, the network is active in a national effort to designate 211 as a single telephone number for community resources information. The I&R project continues to evolve into a public-private partnership, and the Council has extended its funding to help with network development until May 2000.



Local Transportation Coordination Models

The Office of Community Transportation Services, Texas Health & Human Services Commission is changing the way transportation services are planned, funded and provided, to meet the needs of all people, including individuals with disabilities. The model sites have pulled together transportation resources in five communities, including metropolitan (Houston), rural (Bastrop), urban (Denton), urban/rural mix (Galveston/Brazoria County) and border (El Paso) areas. Based on their success, the



Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and Texas Workforce Commission are funding similar initiatives in other communities. Other results include more people being served, local agencies combining and sharing transportation services/rides, reducing fares, improving routes and schedules, committing additional local funds, more inclusive planning and training over 1,000 people on accessible transportation systems. The project also is compiling information on each of the local models and their results to determine how to improve services for all Texans. The Office of Community Transportation Services is on the Internet at <http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/octs/home.htm>.

Investing in Texas

During FY 1999, the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities continued to invest more than 80 percent of its funds in grants and projects that benefit the entire state and its residents. These projects develop new and innovative approaches to support Texans with disabilities so children can grow up in families and individuals can live in their own homes, work in regular jobs, and participate in every day activities and experiences. Most of the grants provide non-federal "matching funds" that equal at least 25 percent of their grant. Additionally, the Texas Rehabilitation Commission provides administrative support to the Council. Projects include direct service demonstration grants, technical assistance, policy recommendations and leadership training.

The Council staff works on the behalf of the full Council to coordinate projects and activities on a day-to-day basis and monitor disability issues. Staff members focus

on public policy, public information, project development, grants management, and administration and support functions. Staff activities include monitoring state and federal policy and legislative affairs and providing input to policymakers about disability issues; developing and coordinating public information activities and products; responding to public inquiries; and interacting with state and federal officials, other state agencies and organizations.

Staff monitor grantee activities and accomplishments; provide technical assistance and consultation; oversee the application process, grant awards, and other grant procedures; provide training/assistance on grant policies and procedures; and coordinate grant reimbursements. Other activities include supporting the Council and Council Chair, and coordinating administrative and support activities for the Council and staff.

Summary of Revenues and Expenditures Fiscal Year 1999

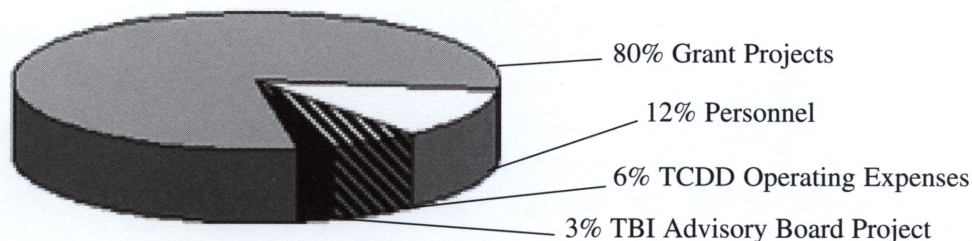
Revenues

Federal Allotment - DD Funds	\$4,113,194
Traumatic Brain Injury Planning Grant	76,319
Matching Funds for TBI Grant	<u>31,075</u>
Total Revenues	\$4,220,588

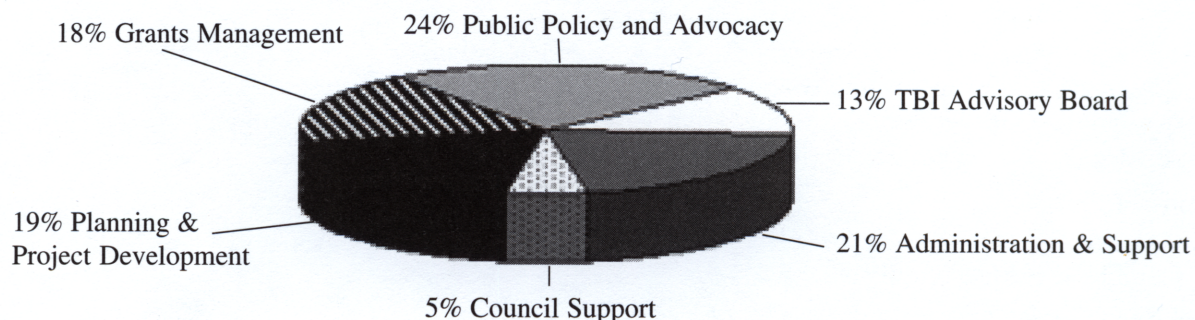
Expenses

Salaries & Benefits	\$499,837
TCDD Operating Expenses	249,947
TBI Advisory Board Project	107,394
Grants	<u>3,363,410</u>
Total Expenses/Obligations	\$4,220,588

Total Investments

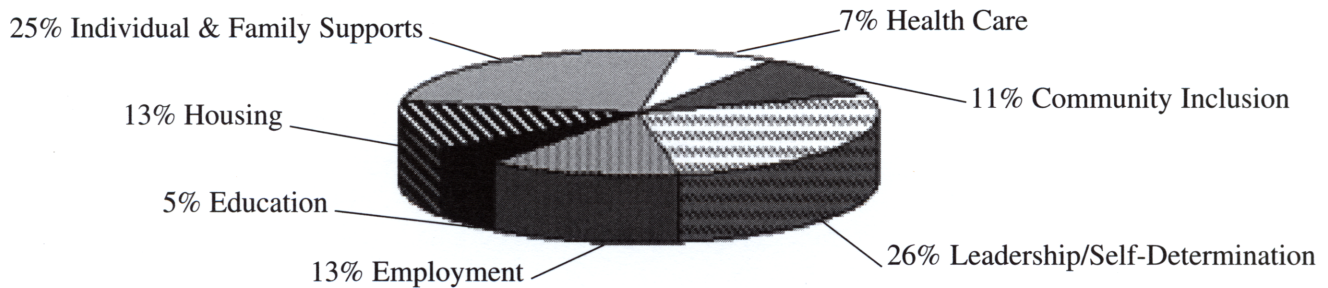


Investments in Staff Operations



Investments through Grant Projects

Percent of Grant Funds



Grant Projects

Employment

○ Texas Employment Project (Imagine Enterprises)	\$250,000
○ Social Security Work Incentives (UT-UAP)	250,000
Sub-Total	\$500,000

Education

○ School to Work Transition Projects (The Arc of Texas; The Arc Unit 1688)	\$200,000
Sub-Total	\$200,000

Housing

○ Consumer-Controlled Housing Project (Enterprise Foundation)	\$250,000
○ Texas Home of Your Own Project (United Cerebral Palsy of Texas)	245,000
Sub-Total	\$495,000

Health Care

○ Managed Care/Healthcare Matters! (Advocacy, Inc.)	\$259,625
Sub-Total	\$259,625

Individual and Family Supports

○ Personal Assistance Services Task Force (Coalition of Texans with Disabilities)	\$150,000
○ Texas Respite Resource Network (Santa Rosa Health Care)	233,561
○ Permanency Planning/Families Are Valued (Texas Health & Human Services Commission)	240,000
○ Support for Individuals with DD who are Aging (Texas Department on Aging)	250,000
○ Special Needs Master Pooled Trust (The Arc of Texas)	73,075
Sub-Total	\$946,636

Community Inclusion

○ Texas Information & Referral Network (Texas Health & Human Services Commission)	\$230,000
○ Transportation Project (Texas Health & Human Services Commission)	176,000
Sub-Total	\$406,000

Leadership

○ Partners in Policymaking (The Walsh Company)	\$510,500
○ Texas Disability Policy Consortium (Advocacy, Inc.)	250,000
○ Community Leadership Development (Enterprise Foundation)	150,000
○ Advocacy Support Network (Family to Family Network, Inc.)	24,952
○ Advocacy Support Network (Texas Advocates Supporting Kids with Disabilities)	25,000
○ Advocacy Support Network (Parents as Case Managers, Inc.)	25,000
○ Stipends	70,062
Sub-Total	\$1,055,514

Combined Project Total*

Total \$3,862,775

* Some of the Projects were funded with FY 1998 funds

The Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities

Council Membership Roster - Fiscal Year 1999*

The Texas Council is a 30-member board appointed by the governor. Council members include people with developmental disabilities, their parents or guardians, and representatives of each major state agency that serves people with developmental disabilities. The Council also has a representative from the state's University Affiliated Program, the state's protection and advocacy system (Advocacy, Inc.), and an institution of higher learning.

Jan R. Newsom, Dallas, Chair	<u>Representatives of</u>	<u>Agency Representatives continued:</u>
Joe Colunga, III, Brownsville (Vice Chair)	<u>a University, Advocacy, Inc.,</u>	John Scott Texas Department of Health Beverly Koops, M.D., Alternate
David Benson, Houston	<u>and the UAP:</u>	
Mary Durham, McAllen	Vickie Mitchell Sam Houston State University	D. J. Johnson Texas Dept. of Human Services
Raul Garza, Jr., San Benito	James Comstock-Galagan Advocacy, Inc.	Barry Waller Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation Pat Craig, Alternate
Genevieve Hearon, Austin	Judith Sokolow, Alternate	
J. Robert Hester, Jr., Arlington	Penny Seay University Affiliated Program University of Texas/Austin	Gene Lenz Texas Education Agency Tom Cowan, Alternate Susan Rose, Alternate
Beth Holt, Marshall		
Jeri Houchins, Round Rock	<u>State Agency Representatives:</u>	
Theda Hoyt, Cypress		
Gary Kay, Amarillo	Nansi Morris Texas Commission for the Blind Bill Agnell, Alternate	Geri Willems Texas Health and Human Services Commission Dena Stoner, Alternate
Amy Ley, Euless	Ann Horn Texas Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing	Dawn Bosley Texas Rehabilitation Commission
Linda Parrish, College Station		
David Ramo, Corpus Christi		
Rebecca Ratliff, Coppell		
Johnny Sauseda, Victoria		
Linda Ponder, Bryan	Christy Fair Texas Department on Aging	
One vacancy, due to a resignation		* Council membership and staff as of Sept. 30, 1999

Council Staff

Executive Director

Roger A. Webb

Grants Management

Carl Risinger,

Grants Management Director

Justin Okorochoa,

Grants Management Specialist

Barbara (Bobbi) Booker,

Grants Management Technician

Project Development

Yolanda Montoya,

Project Development Director

Laura Ham,

Project Development Specialist

Joel DeGuzman,

Project Development Technician

Administrative & Support

Coordinator (vacant)

Nancy Arms, Receptionist/Secretary

Public Policy

Frank Genco,

Public Policy Director

Susan Maxwell,

Public Policy Specialist

Lucy Walker,

Public Information Specialist

Systems Support

Rosalinda Lopez,

Systems Support Specialist

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