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*Texas Planning Council
for Developmental Disabilities*



*An Investment
In Texans*

Annual Report
Fiscal Year 1995

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS-PAN AMERICAN



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The past year has brought on extensive discussion about the need for fundamental changes to many traditional health and human services. As the state and nation have grappled with how to reorganize programs and stretch resources, they have been directly confronted with the reality of how difficult it is to change existing systems.

Such realizations are nothing new to the Texas Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities (Texas DD Council). In fact, Councils were created to challenge the status quo, to create a vision of what is possible and to demonstrate how new ways of thinking and doing can be incorporated in the existing system.

The Texas DD Council is a 30-member, consumer-controlled board appointed by the governor. Its mission is to create change so that all people are fully included in their communities and exercise control over their own lives. As such, the Council works to ensure all Texans with developmental disabilities, about 300,000 individuals, have flexible, cost-effective supports and services available that meet their needs and allow them to be included throughout all life experiences.

As an innovator and instrument of change, the Council — and its counterparts in other states and territories — has a unique role in shaping the service system that becomes especially vital in this era of reform. This role includes collaborating with and bringing together consumers, family members, advocate groups, state agencies, service providers and policymakers to help the state meet its most pressing needs — needs like: keeping children in families rather than institutions; assisting adults to work in regular jobs with competitive wages and benefits; and enabling adults to live in their own homes.

As in the past, more than 80 percent of the Council's funds went to grant or staff directed projects during FY 1995. These included numerous direct service projects that demonstrated new and innovative approaches to providing supports and



"I always have loved children," notes Susan Walz, who works at a day care center in Houston. She also enjoys cruising the mall and spending time with friends.

services for people with disabilities and their families and showed how these approaches can be incorporated into the existing programs and funding streams. Other grants included systems change activities, technical assistance grants, public education and leadership training.

This report offers evidence of the real outcomes and accomplishments of the Council's grants and other activities. More importantly, on each page the words and pictures of real people who have benefited from Council efforts and activities bear witness to the ways in which the Council benefits all Texans by investing in children and families, the home, school, work, communities, leadership and the future.

As people throughout the nation try to figure out how to do more with less, the Texas DD Council remains a strong investment in the state and its citizens. Serving as an innovator, educator and instrument of change, the Council constantly scrutinizes programs for people with developmental disabilities, demands accountability and searches for better ways of meeting people's needs. This improves the service system, its outcomes and individuals' lives. All Texans benefit as people with disabilities gain opportunities to live, work, go to school and realize their dreams as productive members of their own home community.

"The DD Councils enable people with disabilities to dream that they too can have the American dream. But in order to do that, they must have control of their own lives. They must work in the marketplace receiving just and fair wages; they must have the technology they need to access education and support services; they must not be relegated to live in nursing homes or state schools; they must be treated with respect and dignity."

Joanne Jensen, Lewisville

Every day families go to extraordinary lengths to keep their children with disabilities at home, to include them in the community and to ensure they have quality lives. In order to stay together, however, families frequently need a variety of supports and services — such as respite, therapy and assistive technology. Families should not be torn apart and forced to seek institutional care for their children just because supports are not available.

“We have a 10-year-old son who has multiple disabilities. Because of the pilot programs that were initially funded by the DD Council in Texas, our son Jonathan lives in our home, rather than a nursing home or an institution for children.”

Brenda Ruesser, Bellaire

“Our family was changed forever by the extreme premature birth of our twin boys ... We were advised by medical personnel to place one son into a nursing home at taxpayer expense. ... The Council has given us the information and tools we need to help our children and others. This will lead to tremendous emotional savings for our family and tax savings for taxpayers.”

Cheryl Kloss, New Braunfels

The Texas DD Council is working hard to ensure that families can obtain the supports and services they need to stay together and to provide good options so that all children experience the nurturing, love and sense of belonging that come only from growing up in a permanent family relationship. Council activities include:

- ❑ Two demonstration projects and a systems change project are helping to move children from congregate living arrangements into homes and families. One hundred professionals are being trained under the systems change grant. Twenty-five families will receive direct services through the permanency planning projects with many others receiving ancillary benefits.
- ❑ The Council is supporting the development and improvement of multifaceted respite resources. These provide families or caregivers a needed break from the ongoing demands of supporting someone with a severe disability. The Council has been active in respite since 1987 and has cosponsored several national conferences. More than 600 people attended the 5th national conference on respite and family support in San Antonio in December 1994.
- ❑ The Inclusive Child Care Project continues to increase the statewide availability of child care. During FY 1995, the project held the first four of six symposia to develop regional solutions to child care issues.
- ❑ Four hundred and seventy copies of the videotape “ABCs of Inclusive Child Care” were distributed in FY 1995. It has received national and international attention.
- ❑ The Council is providing funds to several projects related to assistive technology. Council funds are allowing one project to provide information and referral on technology, while another has been able to expand its bilingual training statewide. A third project is providing training and technical support on assistive technology for children ages 0-3 in collaboration with the Texas Early Childhood Intervention Program. The Council also distributed about 300 videotapes on assistive technology.



Emily Murphree (third from left) and her sister, Angela Dancy (left), spend a weekend hanging out with their cousins Sarah (second) and Michelle Oney, while strengthening family ties at their grandparents' house in Weatherford.

Through a variety of activities and projects, the Texas DD Council is addressing the two prongs of living independently — obtaining housing which is controlled by the individual, whether rented, leased or owned, and the availability of supports that individuals with disabilities need to live in their own homes.

- ❑ The Consumer-Controlled Housing Initiative is providing training and technical assistance to consumers and professionals in Texas, including real estate agents, lenders and generic housing professionals, to help individuals with disabilities live in their own homes. The project also published a housing resource manual which it used at six regional trainings that began during FY 1995.
- ❑ Two of the local organizations that received technical assistance from the housing project obtained federal grants, one for rehabilitation of occupied housing and the other for tenant-based rental assistance for people with mental illness.
- ❑ The Personal Assistance Services Task Force is working to expand personal assistance services which help individuals with daily living activities as needed, such as eating, dressing and shopping.
- ❑ The Council also is concerned about the recruitment, retention and training of personal care assistants. As part of this effort, the Council funded a project which supported 41 individuals with developmental disabilities who were employed as personal care assistants.



Debra Hooks prepares to host a dinner party at her apartment in Austin. Debra lived in state institutions from the time she was eight until May 1995, when she moved into her own home with support from Community Options, Inc., and a group of friends.

For years, people with disabilities have had little or no control over where, how and with whom they live. In some cases, supports and services (such as personal assistance, transportation, home modification and assistive technology) have been linked to institutions, making it extremely difficult for people with disabilities to obtain those supports in conventional apartments, condominiums, duplexes or their own houses. In other cases, the lack of accessible, affordable housing limits people's opportunities to live independently in the community.

"My parents are in their sixties now. It's not my place to interfere in their house any more. ... The number one dream I have is to get a home of my own."

Susan Walz, Houston

"I'm a 33-year-old man with a disability. Most of the community-based programs that have empowered me in making my dreams of employment and independent living a reality have been supported with DD Council funds. I am now a taxpayer and live in my own apartment."

Tom Tyree, Austin

Throughout the state, children with disabilities are being included in regular classrooms where they learn, work and play with students their own age. For these students, special education is a support system, not a segregated placement. They benefit from educational opportunities, contribute to their school community, and acquire knowledge and skills that prepare them to be productive members of society when they grow up. Meanwhile, children without disabilities also benefit as they learn valuable lessons about life and as schools become more adept at accommodating diversity, personalizing education, and nurturing individual talents and capabilities.

"My daughter ... Rachel has received special education services in the regular classroom for two years and, as a result, our family has seen a seven-year-old child blossom into a beautiful, confident, energetic little girl."

Marene May, Irving

"The most positive thing about having Michele in the classroom has been her impact on the other students. ... She has given the other students the opportunity to see the similarities between themselves and Michele. ... She is also a role model for the other students."

Claudia Garner, Dallas High School Teacher

The Texas DD Council is involved in a variety of grant projects and activities designed to improve the education system and promote inclusion for students in Texas. These include:

- ❑ A statewide systems change grant, Inclusion Works!, is providing technical assistance to school districts, training, and information about inclusive education and its benefits. Inclusion Works! also hosted two statewide conferences on inclusive education during FY 1995, which were attended by about 2,680 parents, teachers and school administrators.
- ❑ The Council provided local systems change grants to the Fort Bend, Mansfield and Dallas independent school districts to demonstrate inclusive education. In October 1994, Mansfield ISD reported that its middle school campuses were fully inclusive.
- ❑ More than 1200 students with disabilities will be educated in regular classrooms as a result of efforts by Council grantees.
- ❑ The Council also is funding a statewide project that provides training to school personnel and parents to assist them in planning for the transition from school to adult life for students who have disabilities. The Texas Transition Task Force provided training to 281 individuals, in 28 sessions, during FY 1995.



Children learn together in a kindergarten class at Eanes Elementary School. (Photo by Richard Orton Photography)

The Texas DD Council has been involved in supported employment for a number of years and recently completed 13 projects that provided employment opportunities to 429 individuals with disabilities. The Council was also involved in planning a statewide summit on employment in July 1994. Current efforts focus on expanding opportunities for community integrated employment.

- ❑ Three projects are demonstrating the concept of changing from sheltered workshops and vocational day programs for people with disabilities to community integrated employment by providing training and employment opportunities. Because of these projects, more than 157 individuals have moved from sheltered employment to supported employment in the community.
- ❑ The Council is one of five state agencies collaborating on the Supported Employment Systems Change Grant from the federal Rehabilitation Services Administration. The three-year grant, awarded to the Texas Rehabilitation Commission, will expand the state's capacity to provide supported and competitive employment for people with disabilities.
- ❑ Training on supported employment was provided in 11 cities to 1,021 professionals from agencies collaborating on the systems change grant.
- ❑ During an 18-month project, a Council grant provided training to 2,000 consumers and family members on key amendments to the Rehabilitation Act of 1992. This training increased people's knowledge about how to use vocational rehabilitation services to obtain employment.
- ❑ Another project provided training to consumers, employers and advocates on community integrated employment.
- ❑ The Council prepared 6,000 copies of a report from the employment summit for dissemination. Also, 200 copies of a video on supported employment were distributed in FY 1995, bringing the total distributed to 1,380.

In Texas and across the nation, thousands of individuals with disabilities now have the opportunity to work in regular jobs in the community with competitive pay. This has provided individuals with higher wages, increased choice and control, career development and opportunities to interact with persons who do not have disabilities. Unfortunately, these opportunities are still limited. The state must not allow valuable human resources to slip through the cracks. Therefore, the Council is working hard to ensure everyone has the opportunity to make a contribution.

Janet Green sacks groceries at a store in Bryan. She has worked in the position for three years. (Photo courtesy of Junction Five-0-Five)



"People with disabilities don't need a check from the government. They need the rest of us to offer them a fighting chance to earn one."

Ed Rankin, Southlake

"I would like to see people like myself have more opportunities to get a job ... because we would have our own money to take care of things we need and that would sure save the government quite a bit of money, I'd say."

Michael Morena, Lubbock

When people with disabilities are welcomed into the community and receive the supports they need to live, work, play and attend school along with their peers, both the individuals and society benefit. Communities become enriched and more diverse, profiting from each person's gifts, abilities and potential. Individuals, meanwhile, gain the supports and opportunities they need to live meaningful, productive lives and to be good neighbors, friends, co-workers and citizens.

"People without disabilities need to realize that we all have gifts to offer. Most of us grew up not knowing people with disabilities and we've missed out."

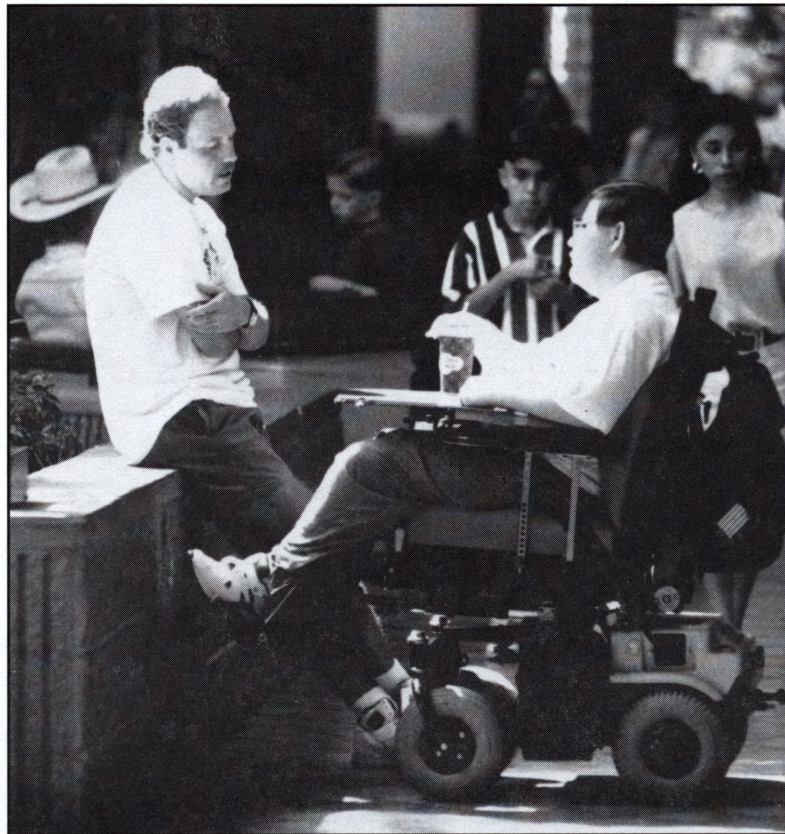
Gail Susik, Midland

"I have learned so many things that will help ensure a life of respect and dignity for my son Matthew. The DD Council gave me hope and finally, after 15 years, helped my family to feel a part, like we 'fit in.'"

Debbie Wheat Everett, Cisco

To promote the inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in everyday life and the community, the Texas DD Council actively seeks to increase the public's understanding and acceptance of disabilities and to ensure the supports individuals need are available. Council activities include:

- ❑ Community connections projects around the state were completed in FY 1995, after linking 287 isolated individuals with disabilities with people who fostered their inclusion in the community. A video and monograph feature a few of the friendships and share individuals' stories, thoughts and experiences.
- ❑ The Council developed an ongoing series of information sheets on "Working with the News Media" to increase media coverage and the public's knowledge about disabilities. The Council also sent out several news releases and guest editorials.
- ❑ The Texas Information and Referral (I&R) Project continues to establish local I&R networks that help people locate services they need. It has identified key I&R providers in 120 counties that know about the full range of services and resources available. These providers cover more than 90 percent of the state's population. The project also produced the third edition of its I&R directory during FY 1995.
- ❑ The Council responded to more than 350 general information requests from the public as well as hundreds of orders for videos, reports and other materials.
- ❑ More than 120 Texans were trained to facilitate personal futures planning by working with small groups to help individuals with developmental disabilities develop and reach long-term goals.



Shelby Staggs (left) and Danny Fagan enjoy a break at the mall in Lubbock. Their friendship eased Danny's move from a nursing home into the community and local high school.

While people with disabilities and family members are experts on the 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 Texas DD Council has made leadership training a priority. When people know how to provide input effectively, the system has to be more responsive. Also, through the development of leadership skills, more people with disabilities and family members are able to become decision makers on boards, commissions and advisory committees. Leadership activities during FY 1995 include:

- ❑ Thirty-five individuals completed Partners in Policymaking training in Texas, bringing the number of graduates to 164. Because of the demand for the extensive leadership training, two classes were started in the fall of 1995 with 73 new participants. The training prepares individuals to effectively influence public policy and obtain the most appropriate services for themselves and others.
- ❑ The Council provided stipends to 12 sponsoring organizations enabling 677 consumers and family members to attend conferences, workshops and training in order to access key information about services and supports they need.
- ❑ The Council continued funding for the Disability Policy Consortium which brings together 20 statewide disability organizations to educate public officials regarding policy issues concerning people with disabilities and their families. The consortium also provided leadership training in six parts of the state.
- ❑ The Council provided information to consumers and policymakers on current disability policy issues such as the proposed 1115(c) Medicaid waiver, health care and insurance, guardianship, education, SSI and employment.
- ❑ Under a Project of National Significance, the Council has studied the potential impact of modifying the federal definition for developmental disabilities. Seven focus groups were held across the state to get consumer input for the study.
- ❑ The Council cosponsored various conferences, workshops and speakers which shared state-of-the-art knowledge and ideas. Topics included housing, respite and family support, assistive technology, inclusive education and employment.



Gov. George Bush takes time to personally congratulate Larry Chevallier of Joinerville, his new appointee to the Governor's Committee for People with Disabilities. Larry is a graduate of Partners in Policymaking leadership training. (Photo by Nancy Van Loan)

To ensure that programs achieve desired results, policymakers, individuals with disabilities and family members must work in close partnership to design supports and services that fit individual, changing circumstances and allow people to control their own lives. The experiences and perspectives that only consumers can provide are critical to ensuring that limited resources are put to the best uses.

"Partners training teaches us not to sit back and let others do all the work. I now hold a parents' group with over 55 members. I am on the board of the Parent Information Exchange which helps over 500 families statewide and an active member of our school's Special Education Advisory Council. I receive numerous calls weekly from parents and consumers needing assistance. I encourage parent involvement to the maximum extent and encourage all to work toward their dreams."

Debe Niemann, St. Hedwig

"I help out extensively to all parents in Laredo. I've made over 10 appearances on television. ... I started an organization called Spina Bifida of Laredo. ... I've been asked to teach several teachers on inclusion."

Patricia Cruz, Laredo

*There is no time like the future. It's where our dreams reside. And where we face new challenges. It's also where we have to deal with the hard questions. Why are so many people still waiting for choices and opportunities — and why are so many still separated from their communities? Systems change slowly; if the vision of independence, inclusion and self-determination for all people with disabilities is to be a reality, then the urgency of people's lives means that we can't wait. As long as people are excluded and segregated, councils must be a catalyst to find a better way. The future **must** be now!*

"The DD Council is more than just training, more than programs. It has allowed many of us to dream again for the future. I know that life for my son who is eight years old and has disabilities will be a full life, one of expectations and dreams. ... To my family and many others, the DD Council has taught us how to 'strive' not just to thrive."

Chris Fox, Amarillo

"Sometimes I win, sometimes I lose, but I never give up!"

Carla Hanna, Sweeny

The projects and activities of the Council have repeatedly shown what is possible for people with disabilities. And yet, what is possible often doesn't exist in the reality of people's lives. At the same time, changes in society and emerging technologies make it critical that we continue to embrace and demonstrate new ways of doing things and state-of-the-art best practices. In FY 1996, the Council will undertake the following new initiatives.

- ❑ A statewide conference on building inclusive communities is scheduled in May 1996 which will explore best practices and the role all Texans have in creating inclusive communities.
- ❑ To enable more people to obtain community integrated employment, the Council plans to start a project in June 1996 to increase the use of Social Security Work Incentives programs in Texas, particularly Plans for Achieving Self-Support (PASS).
- ❑ Based on the ongoing success of the Council's three permanency planning projects which have helped to keep children in families, the Council plans to begin another permanency planning project in June 1996. In addition to increasing the number of children living in families, the project will improve collaboration between agencies and families.
- ❑ To help Texans with disabilities and their families successfully access managed care and obtain services that fully meet their health care needs, especially under Medicaid, the Council plans to fund a training and technical assistance project that begins in June 1996.
- ❑ Under a five-year grant which began in October 1995, the Office of Client Transportation Services in the Texas Health and Human Services Commission is developing four models for local coordination of transportation. Each will be in a different type of setting: metropolitan, urban/rural, rural and border.



Children who grow up together, like these students in Lubbock, gain valuable skills and experiences that will extend into adulthood as friends, neighbors and co-workers. Their shared experience in childhood will become the basis for creating a shared future — where all people belong. (Photo by Josephine Shaw, The Arc of Texas)

The Texas Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities asks a great deal of its grantees — to do what has only been imagined; to overcome barriers in policy, practice and attitude; to try another way and produce results. The grantees listed below accepted that challenge during FY 1995.

❑ **Permanency Planning (Texas Department of MHMR)** promotes supports and services for children with disabilities throughout the state to ensure they can live in the community with a family. Training and technical assistance are provided to agencies.

❑ **All Children Belong (Dallas County MHMR Center)**, a local permanency planning project, demonstrates a model for reunifying institutionalized children with developmental disabilities with their birth families or support families.

❑ **Shared Parenting (Abilene Regional MHMR Center)** helped families of children with developmental disabilities remain together by providing a second family to support the primary birth family. As an alternate to institutional care, up to 150 days of foster care respite and family support services were provided.

❑ **Texas Respite Resource Network (Santa Rosa Health Care)** facilitates the development and improvement of multifaceted respite resources which give families a needed break from the ongoing demands of caring for someone with a severe disability.

❑ **Inclusive Child Care (Dependent Care Management Group)** is promoting the development of a statewide system of inclusive child care services. Six regions across the state have received training and technical assistance. A video entitled "ABCs of Inclusive Child Care" was produced and widely distributed.

❑ **Consumer-Controlled Housing Initiative (Diana McIver and Associates)** provides training and technical assistance statewide to improve the knowledge of individuals and organizations about ways to develop affordable, consumer-controlled (owned, leased or rented) housing. The project also created a housing manual, used in conjunction with six regional trainings.

❑ **Community Living (Community Options, Inc.)** is providing needed supports and services that enable people with severe developmental disabilities to transition from institutional residency to community living. Circles of support, personal futures planning, technology, family supports, and supported employment are all used to assure community inclusion.

❑ **Quality Living Study (CFA, Inc.)** is evaluating community placement outcomes for Texans with developmental disabilities moving out of state schools.

❑ **Personal Assistance Services Task Force (Coalition of Texans with Disabilities)** was established in the early 1980s. This project provides staff support, coordinates efforts to develop a statewide PAS system, and disseminates information concerning personal assistance services. Studies have been completed concerning recruitment, retention and training of personal care assistants.

❑ **Personal Futures Planning (Texas Advocates)** provided individualized planning for adults with developmental disabilities through a problem-solving process that brings small groups together to help people meet their personal goals and increase the quality of their lives. Training in personal futures planning was provided in local information seminars across the state.

Just as a small pebble dropped into a pond sends ripples in all directions, the Texas Planning Council uses a small amount of funds to impact the entire state and its citizens. By investing in systems change, direct service demonstration projects, technical assistance, leadership training and other activities, the Council helps the state to use scarce dollars wisely and enable people with disabilities and their families to be contributing members of their community.

"Over the years, I have seen the tremendous benefits that have arisen because of the work of the Texas DD Council. They are the forerunner for many innovative programs preparing persons with disabilities to be able to function and be productive in the community."

Monica Moran, Dallas

"The Texas DD Council assisted us in supporting 15 people's movement from either a nursing home or state institution to an inclusive life in their home community. In addition, we were also given the opportunity to assist over 50 people in finding jobs! I consider the DD funding as a 'life-line' gift for the individuals we support."

*Patricia Moore, Austin
Community Options, Inc.*

“Funding for many successful pilots on personal assistance services and other community-based programs has been provided by DD Councils which remain on the ‘cutting edge’ of the development of innovative service delivery frameworks for people with disabilities.”

Laura Brown, Austin Coalition of Texans with Disabilities

“Through DD Council sponsored programs, people with disabilities are becoming tax payers instead of tax burdens, and families are finding ways to keep their children at home rather than placing them in costly state-funded residential facilities. ... State DD Councils give our children the opportunity to have meaningful lives. They inspire volunteerism and self sufficiency.”

Sherri Coles, Arlington

- ❑ **Project JOBS (The Arc of Texas)** provided training to consumers and advocates, through collaboration with local Arc offices, on the skills needed to find and maintain community integrated jobs. Employment networks were created in three communities.
- ❑ **Supported Employment (Austin-Travis County MHMR Center)** is converting a workshop to a community-based employment system. Individuals who were thought to require sheltered vocational services because of the nature of their disabilities are now benefiting from community integrated employment.
- ❑ **Supported Employment (Junction Five-O-Five)** provides community integrated employment options by involving local businesses in the planning and promotion of employment for people with disabilities.
- ❑ **Supported Employment (Collin County MHMR)** is closing its sheltered workshop. The project provides extensive training, consultation and technical assistance related to community inclusion to staff, consumers, parents and the community.
- ❑ **Personal Care Assistance Services (Goodwill Industries of Lubbock)** demonstrated the feasibility of employing people with developmental disabilities to provide personal assistance services. Job coaches were used to assist new employees on the job.
- ❑ **Rehabilitation Act Training (Advocacy, Inc.)** was initiated in response to changes in the Rehabilitation Act of 1992. The project conducted statewide training to increase awareness about vocational rehabilitation services. Consumers and advocates also learned how to access vocational rehabilitation services.
- ❑ **Community Connections (Arc of Northwest Harris County, El Paso Center of the Deaf, Handicapped Resource Association, Lubbock Regional MHMR Center, Midland Arc, and United Cerebral Palsy/Capitol Area) Projects** were funded in seven areas of the state, including a grant to the Arc #1688 which ended prior to FY 1995. Individuals with developmental disabilities who were isolated from community life were introduced to people in the community willing to foster their inclusion in community activities.
- ❑ **Community Connections Monograph (Clark and Associates)**, a 42-page document, includes personal stories and photographs of 15 friendships made through the Community Connections projects. The monograph also shows how the relationships changed people's lives.
- ❑ **Community Connections Video (Moving Images)** allows the public to meet people with disabilities and get to know them as friends and neighbors. The video lasts 16 minutes and includes four stories of relationships made through the Community Connections projects.
- ❑ **Conference Coordination (Credentials, Inc.)** provides support and assistance to Council staff for coordination of various training activities including a statewide best practices conference and regional seminars.
- ❑ **Consumer Stipends** are awarded to organizations sponsoring conferences, workshops, meetings and other events that enhance people's independence, productivity and inclusion in the community so that more people with developmental disabilities and their family members may attend.

□ **Inclusion Works! (The Arc of Texas)** provides support statewide to promote the inclusion of all students in neighborhood schools and regular classes. Inclusion Works! is involved in public awareness, technical assistance and training, teacher preparation and policy development. Public information funding is provided by the Texas Education Agency.

□ **Three Inclusive Education Demonstration Projects (Ft. Bend ISD, Mansfield ISD and Dallas ISD)** were funded in urban, suburban and rural areas of the state. Each model collaborates with the Inclusion Works! statewide project to identify critical elements needed to include students with disabilities. Training is conducted for school personnel, community leaders, parents, volunteers and school board members.

□ **Texas Transition Task Force (Advocacy, Inc.)** helps students with disabilities make the transition from school to adult life by advocating for the implementation of transition planning for students in special education. The task force also provides transition training to school personnel, families and local communities.

□ **Able Kids (Children's Habilitation Center)** provides training and technical support in the use of assistive technology in Early Childhood Intervention programs for children from birth to age three. Training and technical support will be provided in regions of the state considered underserved. A university-level pre-service class for professional therapists has been developed.

□ **Technology Learning Collaboration (United Cerebral Palsy of Texas)** provides assistance to a national outreach project funded by the U.S. Department of Education to conduct training for parents and practitioners on assistive technology for young children with disabilities. Council funds provide support to the project for printing of training materials, travel expenses of parents, computer equipment and project personnel.

□ **Texas Assistive Technology Partnership (The University of Texas at Austin)** provided assistance to the University Affiliated Program (UAP) in securing a three-year technology grant from the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research to establish a statewide consumer responsive system for the provision of technology-related assistance and services to people with disabilities. The Council also assisted the UAP by funding an information specialist position.

□ **Information and Referral (Texas Health and Human Services Commission)** publishes a directory of Information and Referral (I&R) providers, establishes local networks of I&R services, provides technical assistance in attaining professional I&R standards, and is developing a statewide electronic information and referral network.

□ **Disability Policy Consortium (Advocacy, Inc.)** is a group of 20 statewide advocacy organizations that work together to promote progressive public policy on behalf of Texans with disabilities.

□ **Partners in Policymaking** is a competency-based leadership training program which graduated its fifth class of Texans in April 1995. Partners in Policymaking builds participants' skills in influencing public policy and changing the system of supports and services to make it more responsive to people's needs. (Administrative support provided through a grant to **The Walsh Company**)

"The Texas Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities has been, and remains, the primary agency devoted to changing the archaic system of the past in favor of a new streamlined service delivery system. They are advocates of strong business/provider collaboration and true cooperative relationships amongst state agencies."

Paul Fagan, Bryan

"The funding that is received by the Councils is much more an investment than a Band-Aid. It represents direct services to families in the communities and their homes, with more than 80% in Texas used for grant projects which are changing the lives of people who can contribute to the greatness of our country which emerges from diversity."

Marian Sokol, San Antonio

While the total allotment of funds to administer the Texas Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities is relatively small, the benefits to people with disabilities and the state make the program worth many times that amount. More than 80 percent of the Council's revenue goes directly to grant and staff directed projects. Most of the grants provide nonfederal "matching funds" which equal at least 25 percent of their grant. The Texas Rehabilitation Commission (TRC) provides administrative support to the Council. In FY 1995, the Council also received a federal Project of National Significance (PNS) to study the potential impact of changing the definition of developmental disabilities.

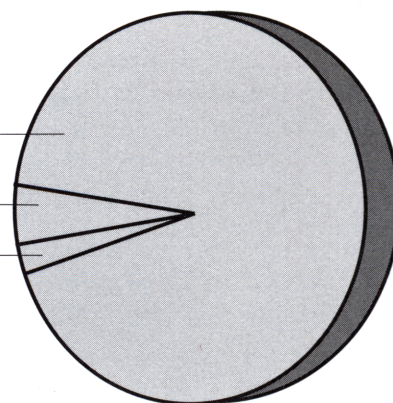
"I am a parent of a child with disabilities and have seen first hand numerous benefits of the Council's efforts to catalyze initiatives promoting independence and self-reliance for persons with disabilities. ... Planning Councils provide an effective apparatus for planning and funding state and local projects to assure folks with disabilities have a viable future."

Guy McCrary, Midland

FY 1995 Revenues

\$4,899,983

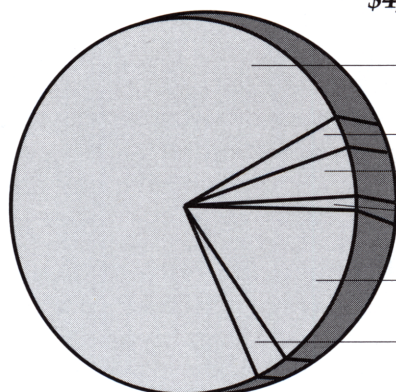
- 92.3% Federal DD Funds
- 5.0% State General Revenue Funds
- 2.7% PNS Award



FY 1995 Expenditures

\$4,899,983

- 74.3% Grant Projects
- 2.7% PNS Project
- 4.3% Staff Directed Projects
- 1.1% Council Support
- 14.6% Staff Activities
- 3.0% Administrative Support

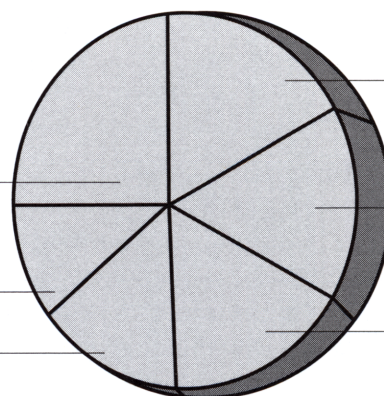


FY 1995 Investments

(through Grants & Special Projects)

- 24.7% Children and Families
- 10.2% The Home
- 15.5% Community

- 16.1% Work
- 17.5% Leadership
- 16.0% Schools



The Texas Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities

Council Membership Roster - Fiscal Year 1995

The Texas Planning 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.

Linda Parrish, Chair
College Station

Jerijean Houchins
Austin

State Agency Representatives:

Abel Alonzo
Corpus Christi

Theda Hoyt
Cypress

Bill Agnell
Texas Commission for the Blind
Nansi Morris, Alternate

David Lee Benson
Houston

Anita Smith Jones
Houston

Ann Horn
Texas Commission for the Deaf
and Hard of Hearing

Shenikwa Cox
Dallas

Federico Marquez
El Paso

Jaylon Fincannon
Texas Department of Mental
Health and Mental Retardation
Mark Johnston, Alternate

Tom Deliganis, Ph.D.
San Antonio

James McBryde
Abilene

Raul Garza, Jr., M.D.
San Benito

Jan Newsom
Dallas

Beverly Koops, M.D.
Texas Department of Health
Pam Farley, Alternate

Genevieve Hearon
Austin

Hector Saenz
San Antonio

D. J. Johnson
Texas Dept. of Human Services

J. Robert Hester, Jr.
Arlington

Billie Sue Sweitzer
Fort Worth

Jill Gray
Texas Education Agency
Forrest Novy, Ph.D., Alternate

Beth Holt
Marshall

Mildred Wait
De Soto

Dena Stoner
Texas Health and Human
Services Commission
Cathy Rossberg, Alternate

Representatives of a University, Advocacy, Inc., and the UAP:

Barbara Loera (Vice Chair)
University of Texas / Austin

Penny Seay
University Affiliated Program
University of Texas / Austin

Kaye Beneke
Texas Rehabilitation Commission

James Comstock-Galagan
Advocacy, Inc.
David Sloane, Alternate

Barbara Ellis
Texas Department on Aging

