



TEXAS COUNCIL *for*
DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES

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Profiles of Grant Projects

February 2012

QUALITY ASSURANCE

Advocacy, Capacity Building, and Systemic Change activities that result in improved

**Statewide Advanced Leadership and
Public Policy Advocacy Training**

Project Period: September 1, 2008
August 31, 2013

Project Director: Dalun Zhang
Texas A&M Research Foundation
2701 General Services Complex, 1260
TAMU, 750 Agronomy Rd.
College Station, TX 77843
(979) 862-6451
talac.tamu.edu
e-mail: dalun@tamu.edu

This project will provide advanced leadership and advocacy training plus broad networking opportunities through an annual, three-day conference for disability advocates in Texas. The project also will provide financial support for 15 of the conference participants to attend the statewide Youth Leadership Forum training as role models to support cross-generational mentoring and to facilitate networking between experienced advocates and developing youth leaders. Additionally, the project will develop accessible online training modules.

**Local Basic Advocacy Training Project:
Disability Leadership Network of Houston**

Project Period: June 1, 2009
May 31, 2012

Project Director: Mary Jane Williams
Family to Family Network
13150 FM 529, Suite 106
Houston, TX 77041
(713) 466-6304
[familytofamilynetwork.org/programs/
disability-leadership-program](http://familytofamilynetwork.org/programs/disability-leadership-program)
e-mail: f2fnetwork@sbcglobal.net

This basic local advocacy training project will be in the greater Houston and surrounding areas. This may include Brazoria, Chambers, Ft. Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery and Waller counties. The project will train 100 adults with disabilities, family members of people with disabilities, and other interested community members on basic topics related to self-determination, self-advocacy, person-centered planning, history and philosophy, and inclusive education. The participants will develop and practice leadership and advocacy skills and make connections with other community members.

Leadership Development and Advocacy Skills Training Project: SILC

Project Period: February 1, 2012
January 31, 2015

Project Director: Regina Blye
Texas State Independent Living Council
5555 N. Lamar Blvd., Suite J-103
Austin, TX 78751
(512) 371-7353
<http://www.txsilc.org>
e-mail: regina@txsilc.org

This project will hold an annual statewide, cross-disability, multi-agency conference to promote the independent living philosophy. SILC plans to host the conference in Dallas in 2012, Austin in 2013, and Corpus Christi in 2014. Attendance is targeted for at least 350 individuals the first year with the intent to add 75 more participants with developmental disabilities each year. The conference will provide technical assistance and training on independent living; opportunities to develop peer relationships through collaborative learning and personal networking; and sessions on self-advocacy, legislative advocacy and leadership.

SER – Jobs for Progress of the Texas Gulf Coast, Inc. Expansion of Existing Leadership Development and Advocacy Skills Training Project

Project Period: December 1, 2011
November 30, 2013

Project Director: Ciara Major
201 Broadway St.
Houston, TX 77012
(713) 773-6000
serhouston.org/Programs/Advocacy-Training
e-mail: ciara.major@serhouston.org

SER plans to serve 200 individuals by adding a train-the-trainer approach to its leadership and advocacy skills program which will provide workshops and online training videos as well as other materials. The project will recruit area service providers, community advocates and individuals with developmental disabilities to become self-advocates and learn how to teach others these skills in their own agencies, schools, organizations and neighborhoods. Trainers will attend a regular 1-2 day training session plus an additional session where they gain more in-depth knowledge and skills in teaching, communication and workshop coordination.

Youth Leadership and Advocacy Expansion Project: West Texas

Project Period: October 1, 2011
September 30, 2013

Project Director: Sandy Hardy
Imagine Enterprises
4025 Concord Drive
Abilene, TX 79603
(254) 434-9369
imagineenterprises.com/youth.html
e-mail: shardy@imagineenterprises.com

Using a Peer Mentoring training model, Imagine Enterprises will increase the capacity and impact of graduates of the Youth Leadership and Advocacy project. The project will train six peer-to-peer trainers who will instruct 50 youth as peer mentors over two years. Peer-to-peer trainers recruited from current graduates will receive intensive support and coaching from Imagine staff to provide training in peer-to-peer supports, leadership, advocacy, community living, continued education and employment. Imagine will partner with the Betty Hardwick Center, Region 14 Education Service Center and Not Without Us Center for Independent Living.

**Youth Leadership and Advocacy
Expansion Project: Far West Texas**

Project Period: October 1, 2011
September 30, 2013

Project Director: Ricardo Razo
Education Service Center - Region 19
6611 Boeing Drive
El Paso, TX 79925-1010
(915) 780-1919
esc19.net
e-mail: rrazo@esc19.net

The Region 19 Education Service Center and the Paso Del Norte Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) program will expand the impact of their YLF training program and to serve as a resource to other organizations in the community. The project will provide advanced leadership development and advocacy building activities for young people with disabilities, ages 16-21, who need continued support and advanced training to participate in school and non-disability community organizations such as the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Seminar, the El Paso Mayor's 100 Teens Program, and the United Way Global Youth Day Organization.

**Expansion of Paso del Norte Children's
Development Center's Leadership
Development and Advocacy Skills
Training Project**

Project Period: October 1, 2011
September 30, 2013

Project Director: Gilda Gil-Lopez
Paso del Norte Children's Development Center
1101 E. Schuster Ave.
El Paso, TX 79902
(915) 544-8484
pdnchildrens.org
e-mail: gilda.lopez@pdnchildrens.org

This project will add a parent-to-parent mentoring component to the current Leadership Academy for Families program. It will recruit 40 more families to participate in the leadership academy; expand outreach in neighborhoods and communities with high concentrations of underserved populations; and optimize developmental, educational, healthcare and social services interventions for children with disabilities and their families by improving parents' advocacy abilities.

**Expansion of Brighton School's
Leadership Development and Advocacy
Skills Training Project**

Project Period: October 1, 2011
September 30, 2013

Project Director: Patrick Cervantez
Brighton School, Inc.
14207 Higgins Road
San Antonio, TX 78217
(210) 826-4492
brightonsa.org/index.php/pals/palsoverview
e-mail: pcervantez@brightonsa.org

In the first year, the Parent Alliance for Learning and Support (PALS) Program will provide classroom and hands-on training for 200 parents of children with disabilities on general advocacy and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), 60 young adults with disabilities in self-advocacy and 40 professionals/community members in general advocacy. Recruitment is ongoing through collaborating partners and outreach agencies working with children and young adults with disabilities. Training is provided in English and Spanish.

HEALTH

Meaningful Relationships

Project Period: April 1, 2011
March 31, 2014

Project Director: Wendie Abramson
SafePlace
P.O. Box 19454, Austin, TX 78760
(512) 267-7233
safeplace.org
e-mail: wabramson@safeplace.org

SafePlace is developing an ongoing, replicable demonstration project to help individuals with developmental disabilities develop meaningful relationships with other people based on shared interests. This project will partner with people with developmental disabilities, service providers and various groups such as recreational, volunteer, service and faith-based groups in Austin and the surrounding area, as well as Seguin/Guadalupe County. SafePlace will provide small, educational workshops and/or individual discussions with project participants on social/recreational interests, relationship barriers and solutions, healthy relationships with family and friends, and safety. The project also will create individualized action plans based on the participants' personal interests to help them build relationships. Additionally, it will provide technical assistance to disability service agencies to change their policies and/or increase supports to develop relationships.

EDUCATION

Texas A&M University Higher Education for People with Developmental Disabilities

Project Period: January 1, 2012
September 30, 2017

Project Co-Directors: Dalun Zhang and
Cheryl Grenwelge
Texas A&M Research Foundation
2701 General Services Complex, 1260 TAMU
750 Agronomy Road, Suite 2701
College Station, TX 77843-1260
(979) 862-6451
e-mail: dalun@tamu.edu;
cgrenwelge@tamu.edu

This “Bridge to Career in Human Service” program will provide an inclusive postsecondary education program for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The rigorous academic course of study and enrichment classes will prepare students for employment in health and human services, with a wide range of choices. The program will provide a full-year of training including supervised, field-based experience leading to a certificate and job placement. A “How To” manual will be created that other colleges and universities can use to adopt or replicate this program.

Higher Education for People with Developmental Disabilities: DARS

Project Period: January 1, 2012
December 31, 2016

Project Director: Laura Villarreal
Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative
Services (DARS)
4900 North Lamar Blvd.
Austin, TX 78751
(956) 389-8950
e-mail: Laura.Villarreal2@dars.state.tx.us

Project HIRE (Helping Individuals Reach Employment) is an innovative program to support individuals with severe developmental disabilities to complete post-secondary education at South Texas College. Through this project, the Division for Rehabilitation Services (DRS) in the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) will supplement its Vocational Rehabilitation Program (VR) with wrap-around services that VR does not currently provide. This will provide one-on-one supports such as educational coaches, individual and family support, and college/employment readiness. The wrap-around services will help participants succeed in post-secondary education and job training and ultimately achieve employment.

Higher Education: Connections for Academic Success and Employment

Project Period: October 1, 2011
 September 30, 2016

Project Director: DeAnn Lechtenberger
 Texas Tech University
 Office of Research Services
 203 Holden Hall
 Lubbock, TX 79409
 (806) 742-3884
cms.educ.ttu.edu/news-and-information/newsletter/september-newsletter-2011/deann-new-grant
 e-mail: deann.lechtenberger@ttu.edu

Project CASE (Connections for Academic Success and Employment) will help students with developmental disabilities, ages 18-25, who are interested in furthering their education beyond high school, exploring careers and pursuing meaningful employment. Project CASE is a rural partnership of the Burkhart Center for Autism Education and Research; Texas Tech University; South Plains community college; the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS); and local business partners.

Teacher Education for Inclusive Education

Project Period: June 1, 2007
 August 31, 2012

Project Director: DeAnn Lechtenberger
 Project IDEAL
 Texas Tech University
 College of Education
 P.O. Box 41071, MS 1071
 Lubbock, TX 79409-1071
 (806) 742-1997 x 302
projectidealonline.org/index.php
 E-mail: deann.lechtenberger@ttu.edu

Project IDEAL (Informing & Designing Education for All Learners) is designed to help prepare prospective general-education teachers to work more effectively with students who have disabilities. Project IDEAL helps create discussion within teacher preparation programs about the importance of preparing teacher candidates to work in inclusive settings. It also provides user-friendly resources to both stimulate and challenge general educators about the critical nature of their role in working with students who receive special education services. At the broadest level, Project IDEAL is about systems change to help bridge the divide between the preparation of special and general educators so they can work more effectively with all learners. At its narrowest focus, Project IDEAL is about helping general education teachers make a positive difference in the lives of students with disabilities.

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports Project: Head Start

Project Period: June 1, 2008
May 31, 2013

Project Director: Anna Phillips
Region 17 Education Service Center
1111 West Loop 289
Lubbock, TX 79416
(806) 792-4000
esc17.net/default.aspx?name=pbsp.homepage
e-mail: david.jenkins@esc17.net
alternate email: aphillips@esc17.net

This project seeks to expand the current PBIS project to recruit, train, and support individuals to provide positive behavioral interventions and supports to people with diverse needs living in communities throughout Texas. This project will expand PBIS strategies to staff employed by Head Start programs, early childhood settings, child care settings and pre-school settings. Specifically, the project will improve behavior intervention skills and knowledge of staff in child care, public school pre-K, ECI Head Start and other settings that serve children with disabilities ages 2 to 5. The project is expected to reduce the number of students expelled from childhood settings.

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports Project: Impacting Disproportionality

Project Period: June 1, 2008
May 31, 2013

Project Director: Val Meixner
Region 17 Education Service Center
1111 West Loop 289
Lubbock, TX 79416
(806) 792-4000
esc17.net/default.aspx?name=pbsp.homepage
e-mail: vmeixner@esc17.net

This project seeks to expand the current PBIS project to recruit, train, and support individuals to provide positive behavioral interventions and supports to people with diverse needs living in communities throughout Texas. This project will expand PBIS strategies with special emphasis placed on intervention specifically aimed at impacting disproportionality. The project will implement research-based strategies that have been shown to reduce the number of disciplinary referrals (rates of suspension and expulsion of greater than 10 days in a school year of children with disabilities by race and ethnicity); establish procedures to monitor at-risk students to prevent escalating disciplinary action and support their success in school; and increase their skills in the area of cultural competency.

EMPLOYMENT

Texas Customized Self-Employment: A Regional Self-Employment Project

Project Period: December 1, 2007
November 30, 2012

Project Director: Lee Brown
Community Healthcore
(formerly Sabine Valley Center)
P.O. Box 6800
Longview, TX 75608
(903) 237-2379
communityhealthcore.com/txcsep
e-mail: lee.brown@CommunityHealthcore.com

This project will increase competitive employment outcomes for individuals with disabilities through customized self-employment. Individuals with disabilities, their families and local collaborating agencies will be trained in how to develop and implement an individualized self-employment program. These training aspects will include assistance in obtaining natural supports and funding for the self-employment enterprise. The project will help potential business owners in taking the steps needed to become self-employed. This will occur through the development of a customized business plan for self-employment, testing for feasibility of the plan and securing funding to implement the plan.

Art Works: Creative Industries A Statewide Self-Employment Project

Project Period: August 1, 2007
July 31, 2012

Project Director: Celia Hughes
VSA Texas
3710 Cedar St. # 7
Austin, TX 78705
(512) 454-9912
vsatx.org/artworks.html
e-mail: celia@vsatx.org

By developing micro-enterprises in the arts, this project will increase competitive employment outcomes for individuals with disabilities. Business, arts and disability service providers will work together to engage 100 artists with disabilities in a variety of training aspects. These include three different skill areas: applied and fine arts; marketing and financial management; and professional development/career readiness. The project will establish six regional artist groups as self-sustaining organizations.

COMMUNITY SUPPORTS

Inclusive Faith-based Communities
Symposium Project: Austin Interfaith
Inclusion Network

Project Period: February 1, 2012
 January 31, 2015

Project Director: Liz Darling
 OneStar Foundation
 816 Congress Ave, Suite 900
 Austin, Texas 78701
 (512) 287-2062
<http://www.onestarfoundation.org>
 e-mail: liz@onestarfoundation.org

OneStar Foundation, Jewish Family Services and Texas A&M University Center on Disability and Development will partner to create the Austin Interfaith Inclusion Network which serves the Travis County area. The network will host an annual symposium in Austin for representatives of 50 faith-based communities. Symposium participants will create organizational and community-wide inclusion action plans to make a difference in the lives of more than 500 individuals with disabilities and their families.

Inclusive Faith-Based Communities
Symposium Project: West Central Texas

Project Period: February 1, 2012
 January 31, 2015

Project Director: Michelle Parker
 West Central Texas Regional Foundation
 3702 Loop 322
 Abilene, TX 79602
 (325) 672-8544
www.wctcotg.org
 e-mail: mparker@wctcog.org

This project will work to fully include people with disabilities in faith-based communities in Callahan, Jones and Taylor counties. The project will host two educational symposiums designed to present best practices and dispel misperceptions regarding disabilities. It will also prepare a self-evaluation tool that faith-based organizations can use to assess their programs and physical structures with regard to persons with developmental disabilities. This will be used to publish an online directory of faith-based organizations that lists accessible programs and structures. The project will also provide assistance to faith-based organizations to help them with understanding the benefits of inclusive programming for all and outreach techniques.

Public Policy Collaboration Activities
Advocacy Network Statewide

(aka TxP2P Adopt-a-Legislator Program)
 Project Period: February 1, 2011
 January 31, 2016

Project Director: Laura Warren
 Texas Parent to Parent (TxP2P)
 3710 Cedar Street, Box 12
 Austin, TX 78705-1449
 (512) 458-8600; (866) 896-6001
txp2p.org
 e-mail: Laura@txp2p.org

This project is developing a statewide advocacy network and recruiting parents of children with developmental disabilities, young self-advocates and siblings to advocate on community-based issues in health and human services, accessible transportation and housing, meaningful employment, and appropriate education for people with disabilities. These volunteers "adopt" their local representative and have on-going interactions with the legislator or staff. TxP2P provides training and support to the advocates.

**Alternatives to Guardianship:
Volunteer Supported Decision-Making**

Project Period: April 1, 2011
March 31, 2014

Project Director: Lettitia McPherson
The Arc of San Angelo
P.O. Box 1922
San Angelo, TX 76902
(325) 657-0308
e-mail: lettitiadc@aol.com

This project will establish a program to develop a trained pool of volunteers willing to support individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and other cognitive disabilities in making decisions about their own lives, as an alternative to guardianship. Volunteers who will be matched with an individual with disabilities based on shared interests, trained on disability issues and decision making, and supported in their efforts. Training will include problem-solving scenarios, what constitutes Informed Consent, the differences in Substituted Judgment and Best Interest vs. Supported Decision-making, as well as the risks of establishing an unnecessary guardianship. The project will start in Tom Green County the first year, expand into Concho and Irion counties the second year, and Menard and McCulloch counties in the final year. TCDD has partnered with the Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) to create this pilot program, under a bill passed by the Texas Legislature in 2009. DADS convened a workgroup to develop the general rules and overall structure of the pilot program, and the agency will oversee evaluation of the pilot and make recommendations to the legislature about using supported decision-making advocates as an alternative to guardianship.

**Texas Microboard Collaboration:
Statewide**

Project Period: September 1, 2008
May 31, 2013

Project Director: Lisa Rivers
The Arc of Texas
8001 Centre Park Drive
Austin, TX 78754
(512) 454-6694
www.thearcoftexas.org/site/PageServer?pagename=partners_microboard
e-mail: lrivers@thearcoftexas.org

The Texas Microboard Collaboration will provide individuals with disabilities a system to achieve self-determination with support from people who know and care about them. Microboards are non-profit organizations made up of small groups of family members and friends who provide knowledge and support that some individuals with disabilities need to obtain services and supports for a self-determined life. Microboards may apply to be providers of Medicaid Waiver Programs such as the Home and Community Service Program (HCS). This project will provide technical assistance in forming microboards, filing charters with the Secretary of State, board training, state board requirements, and ongoing training and materials for 75 microboards. For microboards choosing to be a service provider, the collaboration will provide technical assistance concerning the application for being a provider, provider certification, staffing and ongoing changes, and training in updates concerning Medicaid Waiver rules.

Consumer Stipends

This project, which is coordinated by Council staff, provides stipends that enable consumers and families without organizational support to attend conferences, workshops, meetings and other events. Funds of up to \$6,000 are awarded to organizations sponsoring events in Texas that promote consumer empowerment and involvement in activities that enhance independence, productivity and community integration for people with developmental disabilities. Organizations must apply for stipends at least 90 days before an event. For more information on stipend applications, go to txddc.state.tx.us/grants_projects/rfstipends.asp or contact the Grants Management Director at (512) 437-5435. Since the project began in late 1989, more than 300 stipend grants have been awarded.

CROSS CUTTING PROJECTS

These projects impact multiple issue areas.

Barbara Jordan Endeavors Corporation Outreach and Development Project

Project Period: August 1, 2011
July 31, 2012

Project Director: Thelma Scott
Barbara Jordan Endeavors Corporation
17217 Hafer Rd. #1202
Houston, TX 77090
(281) 444-8820 or (832) 487-5848
barbarajordanambassadors.org
e-mail: endeavors@sbcglobal.net

To better understand the different values, cultures and customs that exist in Texas and how cultural issues may impact the way services should be provided, TCDD is building a relationship with Barbara Jordan Endeavors Corporation to improve the lives of individuals from ethnic minority cultures. This initiative will raise awareness of resources the disability community can use. Consultants from different agencies and organizations will provide information about their services during monthly workshops for cross-cultural families and students.

Light and Salt Association Outreach and Development Project

Project Period: August 1, 2011
July 31, 2012

Project Director: Linda Feng
Light and Salt Association
9800 Town Park Dr., Ste. 258B
Houston, TX 77036
(713) 988-4724
light-salt.org/English/
e-mail: helensun98@gmail.com

To understand better the different values, cultures and customs that exist in Texas and how cultural issues may impact how services should be provided, TCDD is building a relationship with Light and Salt Association to improve the lives of individuals from ethnic minority cultures. This project will increase the knowledge, resources and skills that Asian American families have for raising children with developmental disabilities. It will also increase public awareness of Asian American children impacted by developmental disabilities in the greater Houston area. Additionally, the program will provide training for families that have children with developmental disabilities and help their children develop life skills to become independent.

**Friends and Families of Asians
with Special Needs (FFASN)
Outreach & Development Project**

Project Period: February 1, 2011
March 31, 2012

Project Director: Chung-Ying K. Chen
Friends and Families of Asians with Special
Needs

P.O. Box 421766
Houston, TX 77242-1766
(281) 840-8435

FFASN.org

e-mail: FFASN.Houston@gmail.com

alternate email: taiwantexas@earthlink.net

To understand better the different values, cultures and customs that exist in Texas and how cultural issues may impact how services should be provided, TCDD is building a relationship with the Friends and Families of Asians with Special Needs to improve the lives of individuals from ethnic minority cultures. This initiative will educate approximately 75 Asian families to be more effective advocates for their children and to promote awareness concerning the barriers facing Asian families with children with developmental disabilities.

Projects that Ended in the Past 12 Months

**Apalachicola Creek Indians:
Outreach & Development Project**

Project Period: January 1, 2011
December 31, 2011

Project Director: Mary Sixwomen Blount
Apalachicola Creek Indians

113 N. First Street, Mabank, TX 75147
(903) 880-0240

e-mail: sixwomen@yahoo.com

To understand better the different values, cultures and customs that exist in Texas and how cultural issues may impact how services should be provided, TCDD built a relationship with the Apalachicola Creeks Indians to improve the lives of individuals from ethnic minority cultures. Persons with developmental disabilities who used Tribal Referral and Information Services completed 25 satisfaction surveys. Based on the findings, individuals who are waiting for Home and Community-based Services (HCS) independent living services received classes in nutrition and cooking. The project also increased community inclusion through participation in a community choir and a rodeo reading program.

**Parents as Partners in Special Education/
Spanish Speaking Outreach &
Development Project**

Project Period: January 1, 2011
December 31, 2011

Project Director: Myrta Torres
The Arc of Greater Houston

P.O. Box 924168
(713) 957-1600

aogh.org

Houston, TX 77292-4168

e-mail: mtorres@thearcofgreaterhouston.com

To understand better the different values, cultures and customs that exist in Texas and how cultural issues may impact how services should be provided, TCDD built a relationship with The Arc of Greater Houston to improve the lives of individuals from ethnic minority cultures. The Arc provided culturally appropriate training to 62 persons with developmental disabilities and family members regarding special education advocacy, Medicaid waivers and guardianship. The project also hosted a Spanish Resource and Advocacy Conference with 171 participants.

ASSET AmeriCorps: Statewide

Project Period: October 1, 2008
October 31, 2011

Project Director: Jean Langendorf
Easter Seals
1016 La Posada, Suite 145
Austin, TX 78752
(512) 472-8696
[centraltx.easterseals.com/site/
PageServer?pagename=TXCA_chsasset](http://centraltx.easterseals.com/site/PageServer?pagename=TXCA_chsasset)
e-mail: jangendorf@eastersealstx.com

ASSET AmeriCorps (Active Service Solutions for Economic Transition) assists people with disabilities to be more independent by learning how to handle money, get appropriate assistive technology and find affordable, accessible housing. Trained AmeriCorps members (ASSET Navigators) will work with people with disabilities in small groups or one-on-one, based on individual needs and goals. The project will provide training in at least eight areas -- Austin, Corpus Christi, Fort Worth, Houston, San Antonio, Waco/Killeen, Dallas and El Paso. During the first project year, 37 navigators -- many with disabilities -- will be recruited for a year of service and assist about 200 individuals with disabilities. Easter Seals is working with other local organizations to recruit and host AmeriCorps members with disabilities from diverse backgrounds. Local navigator teams will be able to meet the needs of people with disabilities from diverse cultures and languages. The teams will also organize community volunteer projects.

Specialized Advocacy Training Project

Project Period: September 1, 2008
October 31, 2011

Project Director: Amy Mizcles
The Arc of Texas
8001 Centre Park Drive
Austin, TX 78754
(512) 454-6694
[www.thearcoftexas.org/site/
PageServer?pagename=advocacy_index](http://www.thearcoftexas.org/site/PageServer?pagename=advocacy_index)
e-mail: amizcles@thearcoftexas.org

This project will work in El Paso, Brownsville and Houston to build local advocacy collaborations (LACs) and train 50 individuals in basic systems advocacy and 30 people in advanced systems advocacy for public policy. The LACs will work with a local community organizer to determine issues, priorities, strategies and timelines for attaining their local goals on impacting public policy. Each LAC will then educate and seek support of their local legislative delegations, a total of 38 legislators. Each trained individual will make 10 legislative visits or contacts for a total of 800 or more contacts. The local LACs will involve key community leaders, including faith-based organizations, chambers of commerce, schools, hospitals, judges and others who may have existing relationships with legislators. This will include prominent minority organizations and other TCDD past and current projects.

**Local Basic Advocacy Training Project:
Houston**

Project Period: September 1, 2008
August 31, 2011

Project Director: Francesca Garcia
SER – Jobs for Progress
201 Broadway St.
Houston, TX 77012
(713) 773-6000
serhouston.org/Programs/Advocacy-Training
e-mail: Francesca.Garcia@serhouston.org

This project will operate in Harris County and the surrounding areas. One hundred participants will be recruited from minority communities (African American, Hispanics and Asians) to participate in four training sessions based on fundamental topics related to self-advocacy and topics of local interest. The project also will support individuals with disabilities and other advocates to actively practice their advocacy skills. Additionally, the project will host four resource fairs which will provide information and resources to connect participants to the business community and organizations which support people with disabilities.

**Local Basic Advocacy Training Project:
Greater Tarrant County**

Project Period: September 1, 2008
August 31, 2011

Project Director: Richard E. Garnett
The Arc of Greater Tarrant County
1051 Haskell, Suite 106
Fort Worth, TX 76107
(817) 877-1474
arctc.org
e-mail: richard.garnett@arctc.org

This project will train 300 individuals, including at least 125 individuals with developmental disabilities and 100 family members in Tarrant, Johnson, Hood, Wise and Parker counties on leadership, community organizing and advocacy skills. Individuals will enroll in a one-day introductory training and orientation session followed by on-going monthly training and peer-to-peer support. Trainees will participate in real world advocacy with local, county, school and state governments. An Advocacy Leadership Council will encourage individual action and peer-to-peer support. When trainees complete the set of achievements, they become full members of the council and will receive an Advocacy Leadership Certification at a year-end presentation that recognizes achievements, including individuals chosen as mentors and trainers for the third year of the project. The project also will work to improve opportunities for the advocates to serve on local boards and work groups.

**Local Basic Advocacy Training Project:
Parent Alliance for Learning and Support**

Project Period: September 1, 2008
August 31, 2011

Project Director: Lorene Dillard
Brighton School, Inc.
14207 Higgins Road
San Antonio, TX 78217
(210) 826-4492

brightonsa.org/index.php/pals/palsoverview
e-mail: ldillard@brightonsa.org

Over three years, the Parent Alliance for Learning and Support (PALS) Program will recruit 152 young adults with disabilities, ages 15-22, from Bexar, Comal, Bandera and Kendall counties. Advocacy training will be provided over five sessions on self-determination, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and general advocacy. This will coincide with training for 452 parents and 154 professionals/community members to improve results related to IDEA, general and self-advocacy, and the long-term success for young adults with disabilities and the community at large. To help ensure diversity and promote learning, the project will use hands on learning activities, visual supports, and handouts in the participant's first language (Spanish, American Sign Language, Braille, etc.). Classes will be held in areas accessible to public transportation. The PALS Program works with partners in the disability, professional and religious community.

**Specialized Advocacy Training Project:
Mental Health Leadership and Advocacy
Training**

Project Period: September 1, 2008
August 31, 2011

Project Director: Robin Peyson
National Alliance on Mental Illness Texas
2800 S. IH 35 Fountain Plaza, Suite 140
Austin, TX 78704
(512) 693-2000

namitexas.org
e-mail: rpeyson@namitexas.org

NAMI Texas is collaborating with local and diverse groups in six communities to assist consumers with mental illness, their families and others to become strong advocates for change. Over three years, the project will train 150 advocates in urban and rural areas, starting in Austin and Amarillo, followed by Houston and East Texas, and then San Antonio and El Paso. People completing the two-day training will be awarded a Mental Health Leadership and Advocacy Certification. Trainees in each of the six communities will form local advocacy committees and work together to each make at least 10 documented contacts with public officials and produce at least two articles or events for the news media each year. The six committees will build on historic nontraditional partnerships of NAMI and DBSA within the faith-based, elderly and ethnic minority communities. At least two participants in each community will be invited to become local advocacy trainers.

**Advocacy “U” Resource Center:
Statewide**

Project Period: September 1, 2008
August 31, 2011

Project Director: Steve Taylor
Syracuse University
805 S. Crouse Avenue
Syracuse, NY 13244
(315) 443-3851
advocacyu.org
e-mail: staylo01@syr.edu

The statewide resource center will develop an interactive, accessible, and user-friendly website containing information on training events in Texas, training modules developed by TCDD grantees, and newly developed or adapted training materials. It will pay special attention to the needs of people with developmental disabilities and ethnically diverse groups. The project will develop an online clearinghouse that contains the following information: ongoing advocacy and leadership training programs related to disability issues; programs unrelated to disability issues that provide training on general advocacy leadership; training materials and modules that have been reviewed, catalogued and, if necessary, updated and revised to address specific audiences (e.g. Hispanics, African Americans, Asians, and Native Americans); information on speakers, advocacy leaders and resources that can be used by Texas disability, advocacy and family organizations; and links to national organizations and resources on advocacy and leadership development.

**African American Family Support
Conference: Houston**

Project Period: September 1, 2010
August 31, 2011

Project Director: Sandra Williams
Parents Anonymous
675 W. Foothill Blvd., Suite 220
Claremont, CA 91711
(909) 621-6184, ext 220
<https://strengthening-families.org/gctaafsc>
e-mail: swilliams@parentsanonymous.org

This Gulf Coast of Texas African American Family Support Conference was modeled on the Central Texas African American Family Support Conference (CTAAFSC) hosted annually by Austin Travis County Integral Care (ATCIC). The conference was held on Aug. 4, 2011, in Houston with 121 participants. The conference was designed to closely follow the Central Texas model to strengthen the knowledge and skills of individuals with developmental disabilities, their families, community members and professionals on available health care services (behavioral and physical) through culturally sensitive education supports and partnerships. It also promoted the development of supports and services necessary for individual with disabilities to be fully integrated in their communities. Parents Anonymous, Inc., worked in partnership with local organizations and community partners from both the public and private sector in Houston and the surrounding areas. TCDD released a Request for Proposals in January 2012 to continue the conference by awarding funds to an organization that was involved in planning and coordinating the 2011 event. The conference was free to individuals with disabilities and their family members. Attendance was also open to professionals and other individuals, including people of other ethnic and racial groups besides African Americans, especially people from the most underserved and rural communities in the region.

Statewide Advocacy Network Development

Project Period: September 1, 2008
August 31, 2011

Project Director: Sandra Williams
Parents Anonymous, Inc.
675 W. Foothill Blvd., Suite 220
Claremont, CA 91711
(909) 621-6184
parentsanonymous.org
e-mail: swilliams@parentsanonymous.org

This project will assist Regional Networks in working together and supporting each other in their efforts to promote leadership and advocacy and in improving developmental disabilities systems in Texas. The Statewide Advocacy Network will be comprised of representatives from local organizations within three Regional Networks. The Statewide Advocacy Network will consist of members from TCDD's Local Leadership and Advocacy Projects and other stakeholders. The Statewide Advocacy Network will assist the Regional Networks with collaborating, building peer-to-peer relationships and supporting each other through innovative communication strategies, training and technical assistance.

Youth Leadership and Advocacy Project: Statewide

Project Period: September 1, 2006
August 31, 2011

Project Director: Dalun Zhang
Texas A&M Research Foundation
3578 TAMU
College Station, TX 77843-3578
(979) 862-6514
txylf.tamu.edu
e-mail: Dalun@tamu.edu

This project is a statewide initiative to increase the leadership and advocacy skills of 30 Texas youth with disabilities each year. The 30 participants will be recruited from three regional youth leadership and advocacy projects located in East Texas, West Texas and Far West Texas. The statewide project will host a four-day intensive training session on a college campus each year including visits to the State Capitol and development of personal plans of action. Participants who complete personal plans will also meet for one day to share, reflect and plan future leadership activities. The delegates will receive ongoing mentoring to strengthen their skills.

YouthWorks! Leadership and Advocacy Project: East Texas

Project Period: July 1, 2006
June 30, 2011

Project Director: Nikki Roberts
Goodwill Industries of Central East Texas, Inc.
301 Hill Street
Lufkin, TX 75904
(936) 632-8838, Ext. 241
lufkingoodwill.org
e-mail: nikki.roberts@lufkingoodwill.org

This youth development and advocacy training project will operate in Angelina county with the principle city of Lufkin. It will serve 60 youth who will be recruited from the school district and the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS). Youth will attend training consisting of eight components, a three-day summary session, and an accessible ropes course. Goodwill Industries has existing partnerships with DARS and the school districts that have committed to the project.

**Youth Leadership and Advocacy Project:
West Texas**

Project Period: June 1, 2006
May 31, 2011

Project Director: Angela DeLeon
Imagine Enterprises
1402 Spring Cress Lane
Seabrook, TX 77586
(281) 474-7887
imagineenterprises.com/youth.html
e-mail: angeladeleon01@aol.com

This project will support 60 youth with disabilities per year to increase their leadership and advocacy skills. Students will be recruited from 43 school districts from 13 counties and the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitation Services (DARS). Participants will receive an intensive six days curriculum with adult mentors providing support and feedback to students during training and to complete an activity. An annual West Texas Summer Institute will increase enthusiasm and continuity. Collaboration will be made with the statewide youth leadership project, local and regional agencies, organizations, businesses and foundations to develop on-going funding and support of youth leadership activities.

**Youth Leadership and Advocacy Project:
Far West Texas**

Project Period: July 1, 2006
June 30, 2011

Project Director: Ricardo Razo
Education Service Center - Region 19
6611 Boeing Drive
El Paso, TX 79925-1010
(915) 780-1919
www.esc19.net
e-mail: rrazo@esc19.net

The Education Service Center - Region 19 and the Paso Del Norte Youth Leadership Forum (PDNYLF) Project will provide year-round leadership and advocacy building activities for students with disabilities, activities to engage parents, follow-up activities and a comprehensive project evaluation. The project will serve the 12 independent school districts and charter schools in the Education Service Center - Region 19 service delivery area of El Paso and Hudspeth counties in far west Texas. They will also work with the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS).

**Transition Medicine Program:
Expansion Project**

Project Period: March 1, 2008
February 28, 2011

Project Director: Cynthia Peacock
Baylor College of Medicine
Department of Medicine
1709 Dryden, Suite 5.86, Houston, TX 77030
(713) 789-0199
bcm.edu/medpeds/transitional.html
e-mail: cpeacock@bcm.edu

This initiative trained health care workers on how to care for people with chronic illnesses/disabilities and provided outreach to community health care providers and families of children with disabilities. The project offered physician/social work consultative services to 1,246 patients with disabilities, ages 14-25, with chronic childhood illnesses/disabilities and their families who needed assistance with transitioning services from pediatric health care to adult health care. Additionally, 661 people with disabilities, family members, community organizations and health care providers received social work services for linkage to formal and informal community supports. Educational sessions were provided to 99 physicians and other health professionals regarding transitioning issues/services. The project ended with support from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services – Leadership Education in Adolescent Training grant, the Hearst Foundation, and Philanthropic support; which provided funds to hire a physician, an adult primary care resident and a registered nurse.

Updated 2/2/12