**Texas Governor’s Committee on People with Disabilities**

**SUMMARY MINUTES**

**May 5-6, 2022**

Tarrant County Community College, Trinity River Campus

300 Trinity Campus Cir., Board Rm. TRCF 2103, Fort Worth TX 76102

Videoconference Meeting via ZOOM. Meeting Materials Available at: <https://gov.texas.gov/organization/disabilities/committee-meetings>

**Call to Order**

Chair Richard Martinez verified quorum and called the meeting to order at 8:48 a.m. Chair Martinez appointed member Willis Acting Sergeant at Arms.

**Members Present**

Richard Martinez, Chair; Kori Allen; Ellen Bauman; Evelyn Cano; Elyse Lieberman, PhD; Eric Lindsay; Joseph Muñiz, Dylan Rafaty, Emma Faye Rudkin; Benjamin Willis; and Kris Workman

**Exofficio Representatives Present**

Clair Benitez, Office of Disability Service Coordination, Health and Human Services; Cheryl Gomez, Dept. of Family and Protective Services; Justin Porter EdD, Texas Education Agency; Claudia Peden, Texas Workforce Commission; Marsha Godeaux, Texas Dept. of Licensing and Regulation; and Sandra Breitengross Bitter, Texas State Independent Living Council

**GCPD Staff Present**

Ron Lucey, Executive Director; Norman Kieke; Randi Turner; Nancy Van Loan and Monica Villarreal

**Visitors**

Fort Worth Mayor Maddie Parker, Nilam Agrawal, Steven Aleman, Becky Harmon, Vivecca Hartman, Alfred Henderson, Jenna Henderson, Darlene Hunter, Steve Katten, Suki Lindsay, Griselda Lira, Linda Litzinger, Melanie Mack, Marissa Mahon, Patricia Nelson, Cecilia Papke, Cera Quintero, Angela Rush, Jolene Sanders-Foster, Tish Smith, Brandie Wiley, and Mike Wyss

**Approval of Committee Member** **Absence as Submitted**

Kristie Orr, PhD, aided TAMU’s administering of more than 2,000 final exams to students with disabilities. Chair Martinez suspended voting and approved the absence as excused.

**Approval of January 27-28, 2022 Summary Minutes**

Dylan Rafaty motioned to approve the Minutes as presented by the Recorder. Ellen Bauman seconded; motion was approved by roll call vote.

**Public Comment**

The Honorable Maddie Parker, 45th mayor from Fort Worth, has held conversations with her city committee to discuss goals on behalf of the community for people with different abilities. It is important to listen to the perspectives of all citizens. The City of Fort Worth, an older community, has begun a housing project using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.

Linda, Texas Parent to Parent, spoke on the computer-based electronic visit verification system used by personal attendants and supported employment services to clock in and out. Financial management services agencies (FMSAs) can edit a timesheet through a process called “visit maintenance” but are graded when maintenance occurs. FMSAs aren’t able to authorize bonuses over a new year timeframe.

Patricia, ManeGait Therapeutic Horsemanship, spoke about clients with disabilities whose therapies would be diminished if Texas Department of Transportation constructs a highway overpass near their property in McKinney. Construction noise and pollution will negatively impact individuals and disrupt the therapy services they receive.

Jolene Sanders-Foster, Coalition of Texans with Disabilities, presented a policy recommendation regarding shortened school days or early student pick-ups. Also called “shadowed discipline.” Schools frequently send students home for disciplinary reasons because they are understaffed, while the action is framed as a courtesy to the parent. This impacts attendance data and reinforces certain disability-based behaviors. Schools do not document the absences that result in denial of compensatory services.

Marissa spoke on mandatory cameras in special education classrooms as a safety precaution and protection for students who can’t self-report while pursuing an education in the least restrictive environment. The process to have access to watch the recorded footage should be transparent. Annual training should be mandated for parents, staff and school board members.

Vivecca Hartman, President of Deaf-Blind Multihandicapped Association of Texas, asks for HHS budget cap for the deaf-blind waiver to match the increase of service costs. To accommodate these costs, people are having to reduce services. Loved ones should be able to stay active and engaged.

Becky’s adult aged daughter receives services through the DBMD Waiver. For social interaction, she attends a dayhab facility, at times paid for by Becky. HHS appropriation is listed at $114,000 which has failed to keep up with the cost of living.

Melanie asked HHSC to review the waiting list of children and adults that would qualify for the DBMD Waiver. Identification is critical for those aged 18 and over as they transition out of high school and move into the community. Orientation and Mobility are critical supports.

Tish requests a legislative solution for stagnant DBMD Waiver waiting list, and steadily increase the appropriations slots. She has a daughter whose life has been transformed through the involvement of the Waiver program.

Cera Quintero, Team Select Home Care, read Allison’s statement. Through a vehicle accident, Allison’s daughter is now medically fragile and with disabilities. Respite care or having a nurse consistently provides the family the ability for her daughter to have a fuller life.

Lori wrote about adverse reactions from chemical, electromagnetic and other environmental exposure.

Cecilia spoke on mental illness and substance abuse. Many people face daily battles and experience social stigma. There are not enough resources.

Nilam said that upon entering the special education system, 98% of families have no information on procedures or what to expect. Her capstone project for Partners in Policymaking, “For This Child” is an educational training effort for parents. She is establishing modules in 13 disability categories. Videos need ASL and Spanish interpretation added; she asked if GCPD could help.

**Reports from Invited Exofficio Agency Representatives**

**Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC)**

Dana Williamson addressed an issue on the Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Setting Rule specific to intentional communities such as the 29 Acres property that serves people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Eligibility criteria written into Texas Administrative Code would not allow people receiving services under an HCBS waiver to receive care in an intentional community setting. To comply with the HCBS Settings Rule, HHSC is promulgating rules for Medicaid waiver programs.

Clair Benitez reported that time constraints for the implementation of ARPA FMAP funds dictated the removal of expanding a pilot project providing enhanced mental health services to people with IDD in the community, assistance with HCBS project management, and mitigating the impacts of COVID on provider compliance monitoring. Texas proposed new activities – a direct care employer registry and a proposal to improve the state’s HCBS infrastructure by enrollment through automation. HHSC identified technology needs. HHSC hosted a pop-up vaccination clinic in McAllen, in partnership with Valley Association of Independent Living, State Independent Living Council, Department of State Health Services and Tarrytown Pharmacy. The Office of Disability Services Coordination is leading the charge for the 2022 Promoting Independence Plan. HHSC’s implementation of Senate Bill 50 (87R), in partnership with TWC, is developing a process for assessing employment services available to persons enrolled in Medicaid waiver programs and using goals in the service planning process. HHSC is collecting data to accomplish provisions of the bill. The IDD-Behavioral Health Services division received funds for housing and community transition barriers for people with serious mental illness through the Money Follows the Person demonstration projects. Blind Children’s Program conducted an in-person camp in April; ten families participated, ASL interpreters and interveners attended, and 16 BCP staff volunteered support. Senate Bill 968 (87R) requires wellness checks for medically-fragile individuals during certain emergencies. Mr. Lindsay asked if people using power wheelchairs could be included in the list of individuals receiving wellness checks.

**Texas State Independent Living Council (TxSILC)**

Executive Director Sandra Breitengross Bitter reported four new members and one reappointment met in February. With an expectation of a successful pop-up vaccination clinic for people with disabilities, family members and caregivers, TxSILC is considering targeting other rural areas or clinics for kids in the DFPS system. Good Measure Community-Based Evaluation Project aims to learn and develop community outreach methods and expand on TxSILC’s current disability community partners and evaluate the effectiveness of services. National Council on Independent Living’s Provider Accessibility initiative uses the Barrier Removal Fund to ensure accessibility of managed care organizations’ websites. TxSILC is working with advocates and Panhandle Independent Living Center proposing that accessible parking placards be issued to non-residential facilities that provide disability services.

**Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS)**

Cheryl Gomez is the newest exofficio designee representing DFPS. Key personnel changes included: Dr. Brock Boudreau, promoted to Deputy Associate Commissioner for Child Protective Services; Sergio Gamino will lead efforts to reduce and/or eliminate the number of Texas foster children without a placement who require temporary emergency care; Ora Chisholm, Director for Foster Care Litigation Compliance; and Rachel Duer, promoted to Director of Faith-Based and Community Engagement. Adult Protective Services launched a pilot to bring technology to better support clients needing health assessments through the Forensic Assessment Center Network. DFPS launched [earlychildhood.texas.gov](https://earlychildhood.texas.gov/) in partnership with TWC, TEA, DSHS, and HHSC, for parents to find resources on Early Childhood Special Education, Children’s Autism, Children’s Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance programs, as well as local services. Next year’s conference will be in Galveston.

**Texas Education Agency (TEA)**

Dr. Justin Porter’s role for TEA has expanded to Chief Program Officer for All Programs for Special Populations. The Digital Curriculum Accessibility Committee will release a report that will be shared with the State Board of Education, whose focus is textbook adoption. The Special Education Finance Commission (SEFC) has met twice largely hearing from school districts. At future meetings, the Commission will hear from other national organizations with intensity on service and students’ needs. Expect an opportunity to give public comment. TEA has been asked to invite specialized speakers. GCPD members were interested in purchases made through the SSES program. The majority of purchases through the online marketplace are related to technology and supplies. TEA has trained grantees to review every purchase. Local education agencies may allocate funding as they see fit; there are no specific categories.

**Texas Dept. of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR)**

Mike Arismendez is the agency’s new executive director. Marsha Godeaux reported in-person meetings have concluded regarding TDLR’s strategic planning. Public comments may be submitted during Commission and Advisory Board meetings. The Architectural Barriers program added the Accessibility Professional Association as a training partner for Texas Accessibility Academies in conjunction with Building Professional Institute. Several trainings were conducted with regard to the proposed 2022 Texas Accessibility Standards. After the close of public comment period, TDLR reviews all comments, ensures they wouldn’t violate ADA, and reviews fiscal impact on facility owners. No one submitted comments on playgrounds.

**Texas Workforce Commission (TWC)**

Claudia Peden said the Vocational Rehabilitation Division is recruiting service providers and reviewing rates paid to providers. VR is developing a toolkit including an orientation video and a library of publications. A report on apprenticeship and internship opportunities will be submitted to the Rehabilitation Council of Texas (Rider 48). TWC is working with HHSC to conduct public awareness and education outreach campaigns (SB 1917) including availability of information and forms in multiple languages such as ASL and Spanish. The online portal “Start My VR” had 4,402 contacts since March. Members reported Start My VR is not available in Spanish and the buttons are not accessible. VR staff are working with previously connected employers and employment service providers in the six VR regions to build relationships through the Skills Training and Employment Project. Ms. Peden thanked Randi Turner for reviewing each training module for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Training Workgroup. Summer Earn and Learn is in its fifth program year for students with disabilities to attend pre-employment readiness training. Other updates on performance measures of disability programs and calendar items were included in the exofficio report. Anyone may submit an inquiry that TWC staff responds to, however, a legal guardian needs to be involved if the person is under the age of 18. Ms. Peden discussed TWC’s dispute processes.

**Policy Recommendation Development based on the Committee’s Issue Areas** (Access, Communications, Education, Employment, Emergency Preparedness, Health, Housing, Recreation, Transportation, and Veterans)

**Guardianship Workgroup Update**

C-chair Ellen Bauman said four recommendations that the Committee approved last October are in the draft Guardianship report which is currently being reviewed by Office of the Governor’s policy and legal staff. The Guardianship report goes in depth into the legal reasoning behind the recommendations.

**Service and Assistance Animals** **Workgroup Update**

Jeff Miller spoke on inconsistencies in Texas Human Resources Code Chapter 121 regarding definitions for service animals, assistance animals and emotional support animals, and clarifying the rights associated with those classifications. The workgroup proposed a policy recommendation highlighting revisions to Chapter 121, Sections 002, 003, 005, and 006:

* 121.002 Definitions. Separate assistance animal and service animal. Add illustrations of kinds of jobs an animal is trained to perform. An emotional support animal does not connote the same rights to access a public accommodation as a service animal.
* 121.003 Discrimination Prohibited. A person who is training a service animal should have the same rights and protections for an animal that is already trained. In terms of access to public accommodation, the right to access a public facility. Only assistance animals have rights and protections to access public housing.
* 121.005 Responsibilities. Clarifying the offense only applies to service animals. The changes clarify the legislative intent.
* 121.006 Penalties. Clarifying penalties should address only service animals, and not assistance or emotional support animals.

Ellen Bauman motioned to adopt this proposed policy recommendation, as submitted, and as a potential update to the GCPD’s Service Animal report. Dylan Rafaty seconded; and the motion was approved.

**Sign Language Interpreter Pay in Texas Public Schools Survey Results and Potential Policy Recommendations**

Susie Tiggs is former coordinator of the Sensory Support Network housed in Region 11 Education Service Center, and Twyla Loftin is current coordinator. Half of Texas deaf education programs reported 82 unfilled interpreter positions. The GCPD conducted a survey and learned the primary barrier for people not choosing educational interpreting was low pay followed by not being treated as a professional. The main reason people stayed was that the schedule fit their own personal schedules. Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) provided salary schedules for interpreters and bus drivers. In 14 school districts, bus drivers were paid at a higher rate even though sign language interpreters are required to have at least 60 hours of college, certification through the Board of Evaluators of Interpreters, and 100 hours of continuing education every five years, etc. HHSC’s Office for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services publishes pay scales based on needs and geographic areas. ODHHS pays from $5 to $15 more than school districts for individual interpreters, and $30 to $40 more for interpreter agencies. Currently, the regional day school programs for the deaf have a $33 million state allocation, the same since 1995. Twenty-one Texas deaf ed programs reported paying $4.5 million each year to contract interpreters because of shortages. Texas School for the Deaf and programs from other states have different pay scales for teachers, interpreters and para-professionals. The shortage of interpreters is a national issue. Possible solutions include working with TASB to recommend the school districts raise the pay; TWC could consider promoting interpreting as a profession. Both the Senate and House have Interim Charges related to educational workforce recruitment and retention. There are opportunities to give public testimony to the Finance Committee.

Elyse Lieberman motioned to ask GCPD staff to put this data and prescribed solutions in front of stakeholders and decision makers, with sensitivity of funding mechanisms. Ellen Bauman seconded; the motion was approved.

**Keeping Students with Disabilities Safe in Public Schools Policy Recommendations**

Steven Aleman, Disability Rights Texas, and Jolene Foster-Sanders, Coalition of Texans with Disabilities presented four policy recommendations based on last meeting’s initial discussion.

Cameras in the Classroom – components included requiring schools to inform parents of students with disabilities of their rights to access video surveillance, requiring the retention of video footage for a longer period of time, and the ease of restrictions and challenges parents encounter when they want to access those recordings.

Do Not Hire Registry – The State maintains a list of individuals convicted under Texas Penal Code that are ineligible for employment in Texas public schools. The goal was to keep sexual predators away from children. This recommendation would expand and clarify placement in the Registry all those who have harmed students with disabilities receiving special education services. Members sought clarification in language from Texas Education Code on aversive techniques - employing negative reinforcement to change a student’s behavior (punishment) or possible mental deficiency resulting from an aversive technique. It is mandatory for school districts and charter districts to check TEA’s Do Not Hire Registry. However, there have been instances where a person voluntarily leaves a district before resolving an investigation involving neglect.

Physical Restraint – There is a growing reliance on using physical restraint as a disciplinary tool. Prone restraints and supine restraints are dangerous and should be eliminated. This recommendation includes language on property damage or destruction, particularly when a behavior poses a threat of imminent serious harm to the student or others. Members asked for clarity in defining an “emergency” and who receives training on de-escalation.

Use of Force – In an emergency and as a last result, there are proper ways to conduct a restraint. The aim of this recommendations is to close a loophole in the Penal Code justifying the use of force when it is implemented in a way to protect the health and safety of a child. An enforcement mechanism is missing. There are no reporting requirements. It is likely that improper restraints are performed by people who have not received training on de-escalation techniques. Members agreed that individuals who are not trained should not be allowed to complete restraints on students.

Chair Martinez suggested the Committee create a body including Dr. Lieberman and Ms. Cano to clarify some language, in cooperation with Mr. Aleman and Ms. Foster. Consider combining the Do Not Hire Registry and Use of Force recommendations. The Office of the Governor can make a request to the Legislative Budget Board to review and provide a fiscal note.

Chair Martinez motioned to table all four recommendations because there was a lack of consensus. Elyse Lieberman seconded; motion was approved.

**Update on Implementation of Digital Accessibility in State Agencies, and Colleges and Universities**

Marie Cohan, Program Administrator, Department of Information Resources, gave an overview of DIR’s Statewide Digital Accessibility Program and reviewed preliminary data from the 2022 Information Resources Deployment Review (IRDR) survey that shows Texas’ accessibility goals are continuously improving. DIR's statewide digital accessibility program is a valuable resource in helping state agencies and institutions of higher education maintain compliance. DIR researches best practices and provides results on their website. DIR provides outreach and training to their customers, and creates tools, especially with regard to procurement. They review vendor contracts providing learning management systems, web scanning services, website accessibility testing and internal procurement policies. Texas Government Code 2054, Subchapter M gives DIR authority to make rules to align with federal law (WCAG 2.0AA) following Texas Administrative Code 206 (website compliance), Texas Administrative Code 213 (describes information resources). Ms. Cohan and her team discuss any challenges with digital accessibility and work with customers on any corrective actions. Customers are asked if they are following the industry’s WCAG Standards.

US Department of Justice released web accessibility [guidance](https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-issues-web-accessibility-guidance-under-americans-disabilities-act) in March aligning with the ADA. Ms. Cohan noted it is very important to maintain a culture of continuous monitoring and improvement when you talk about complying with any statute and for this purpose, it is for Electronic Information Resource accessibility. Information Resource Managers have training credit requirements.

Dylan Rafaty motioned to recess the meeting until the following day. Benjamin Willis seconded; Chair Martinez recessed the meeting at 4:46 p.m.

**Day 2 – May 6, 2022**

Chair Richard Martinez motioned to reconvene the meeting, which began at 8:35 a.m.

**Listening to the Dallas-Fort Worth Disability Community**

Fort Worth Mayor’s Committee on Persons with Disabilities

Al Henderson, city liaison, presented.Brandy Wiley chairs the Committee. Accessibility, education and awards, and community are their main priorities. They are in the process of moving to a new space near City Hall, and are partnering with different city departments to ensure accessibility. Viable transportation - affordable and dependable - is one of Fort Worth’s priority issue areas so citizens can get to work and appointments. The Committee has representation on Tarrant Transit Alliance and partners with Trinity Metro. Trinity Express has an electric bus, with state-of-the-art accessibility. They beta-tested voting polling places and are updating the city’s Transition Plan. The Committee celebrates White Cane Safety Day every year, and aids in securing nominations for the GCPD’s Barbara Jordan Media Awards and Lex Frieden Employer Awards.

Arlington Mayor’s Committee on People with Disabilities

Chair Darlene Hunter said Mayor Jim Ross is very supportive. The committee was formed as a nonprofit 501c3 model. They are working with the city parks and recreation department toward an accessible playground and inclusive park. Accessibility reviews are ongoing, ie, Arlington’s [Highlands](https://arlingtonhighlands.com/about), an open-air retail market and office spaces, the new Ranger Stadium and Texas *Live!* Over the last year, the City of Arlington has piloted self-driving cars and gathering data. Some vehicles are not large enough to carry a person who uses a power wheelchair.

**Executive Director Report and Staff Updates**

Ron Lucey highlighted staff accomplishments for the 2nd quarter of fiscal year 2022. The GovDelivery platform promotes the Accessibility and Disability Webinar Series and key Committee information to approximately 15,000 recipients. Staff are planning the annual Barbara Jordan Media Awards event in partnership with UTA’s College of Liberal Arts, College of Communications, and Disability History Minor program. A highlight video will be released publicly. Professor and author, Dr. Beth Haller will provide the keynote address. The event will feature a virtual “after party” to dialog with honorees. Staff have begun planning the October Lex Frieden Employment Awards, in partnership with Houston organizations. There is a huge need for employer recognition. Work is still ongoing with the Driving with Disabilities initiative; TAMU San Antonio is a new partner along with TxDPS and TxDMV. Mr. Lucey will submit a series of articles on interacting with people who have disabilities for the Office of the Governor’s internal wellness newsletter. Ms. Turner has agreed to speak during the National ADA Symposium. Ms. Villarreal is updating the GCPD’s Key Texas Laws and Resources’ webpages on accessible parking, guardianship, housing, mental health protections, tax exemptions, services for veterans, higher and public education. Mr. Norman Kieke joined the staff as Community Outreach and Information Specialist. His areas of responsibility will include further developing the network of mayors’ committees, coordinating GCPD’s events, and creating GovDelivery bulletins to disseminate disability information.

**Interim Charges for the 88th Legislative Session**

The Texas Legislature meets in odd-numbered years. In the even-numbered years there is an opportunity for exploring issues, called interim charges. The Speaker of the House and Lieutenant Governor for the Senate name the issues that are studied. There is invited testimony, but all Committees hold a public hearing at some point. Legislators want to hear personal accounts that affect persons with disabilities; this is an opportunity to visit with them. Monica Villarreal highlighted areas that align to GCPD’s priority areas:

Monitor House Bill 1728 (87R) promoting veteran’s hunting/fishing. Examining programs and treatments for veterans with PTSD and mental health issues, and reentry to civilian life. Monitoring relevant provisions of House Bill 2658 extending Medicaid eligibility for children for a full year. Evaluating the use and costs of guardianship, and specialty courts. Workforce retention and recruitment for educators and schools. House Bill 1525 Special Education Commission studying funding. Mental health services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Workforce opportunities for the Tri-Agency report. Affordable housing and struggles of people during the last few years. Mental health for emergency responders.

**Possible Policy Recommendations from Public Comment**

Jolene Sanders from CTD submitted a proposal on shortened school days. School personnel are contacting parents to pick children as un-recorded absences that circumvents federally required evaluations and services for students with disabilities. This denies FAPE. Solution would be to amend Section 25.0875 of Texas Education Code. Ms. Cano shared this happens frequently, particularly kids on the Autism Spectrum doing repetitive behaviors. Kids are not allowed makeup comp time for missing therapies. Sometimes it could be a medication issue, or need for a change of clothes for personal hygiene. A solution is that districts need to be documenting when kids are sent home. A Behavior Intervention Plan should exist, but we suspect these aren’t followed. Always occurs after 10:00 am when attendance is reported.

Dr. Lieberman noted schools are circumventing procedures for student safeguards; not coding suspensions purposefully. This recommendation needs the addition of a strong parent awareness campaign to explain the rights. Administrators need training. Might ask TEA to edit the procedures. Maybe require if the special ed student is going to be sent home from school, they need a copy of the procedural safeguards sent home with them.

Elyse Lieberman motioned to add procedural safeguards to the language of the proposed recommendation; seconded by Dylan Rafaty; the motion was approved.

Input from the Deaf-blind Multi-handicapped Association of Texas (DBMAT) was included as members discussed moving policy recommendations from the 87th Session. Training parents to be CNAs will be discussed at a future meeting.

**Bringing the Committee’s Recommendations from the 87th Session forward to 88th Session**

A spreadsheet guided the members’ review tp determine whether or not policy recommendations in each of the Committee’s priority areas should be carried forward.

ACCESS

1. Designate GCPD as lead coordination responsibility among state agencies for the annual distribution of service animal education materials …

Rafaty motioned to advance the recommendation; Bauman seconded; motion approved.

1. Clarify the differences in state law between the terms service animal and assistance animal in the Human Resource Code; remove the term “approved trainer”… discussed earlier on the agenda; approved.
2. Ensure effective training of law enforcement regarding service and assistance animals and legitimacy, and develop information campaigns. The service animal workgroup has a pending recommendation on this.
3. Increase the penalty of fraudulent representation of service or assistance animals and include additional penalty options such as community service and taking a court‑ordered disability public awareness class.
4. Work in collaboration with TWC to create public awareness training …

Rafaty motioned to package all service animal recommendations including education/outreach and move them forward; Lindsay seconded; motion approved.

1. Amend Chapter 469 of the Occupations Code, Elimination of Architectural Barriers, to adopt the Texas Accessibility Standards (TAS) to effectuate changes for Universal Changing Places … Discussion on starting with large public facilities based on the financial value of the building, and government buildings as a good show of faith. The 2023 International Code Council amendments pulled in national experts re specs.
2. Adding an adult changing table in the Capitol

Lindsay motioned to move two recommendations forward; seconded by Bauman. With two abstentions (Rafaty & Workman), motion approved.

1. Work with Texas State Preservation Board and Texas Facilities Commission to pass a concurrent resolution naming the “Lead On” Amenity Center after Justin Dart…

Bauman motioned to support this measure; Lindsay seconded; motion approved.

EDUCATION

1. TEA should allow teachers who want to teach children who use sign language to get their credentials by passing one of the following tests …

Lieberman motioned to advance the recommendation; Lindsay seconded; motion passed.

1. TEA require itinerant teachers of the deaf who work with students who use sign language to pass the TASC, TASC‑ASL or other test recognized credential by the agency …
2. Require a routine audit of teachers with the teacher of the deaf certification currently working with students who use sign language to ensure teachers have passed the TASC, TASC‑ASL or other test recognized by the TEA. …
3. The State Board of Educator Certification (SBEC) and TEA should explore options for adding a reference to TASC and TASC-ASL in the official certification record for each educator with proficiency in sign language…

Lieberman motioned to move the related recommendations forward; Bauman seconded; motion approved.

1. If a community college offers American Sign Language as a course for credit, then a public high school should ensure ASL courses are an option when offering dual credit classes to their students… Discussed ASL as a foreign language. Need to discuss with Higher Education Coordinating Board. Members tabled this recommendation.
2. Amend the Texas Education Code to create a procedure for school districts to determine whether an adult student with a disability has the ability to provide informed consent for their educational program. Members felt this is important to carry forward.

Lieberman motioned to continue to support this recommendation; Lindsay seconded; motion approved.

1. TEA should develop an expectation for student participation and student led ARD meetings starting no later than the age of transition, 14 … Lieberman said having students begin to actually lead their ARD meetings and take ownership of their own learning and their programming and their transition to post-secondary outcomes and goals is very different from meeting the minimum requirements of transition being present in a meeting and being passive in a meeting. Other stakeholders involved; Legislature doesn’t need to be involved. Cano would like to co-present a video on self-advocacy. Mr. Lucey would allow financial support. Rafaty said parent support needs to be emphasized. Conduct a training session at a future Parent-to-Parent conference.

Martinez motioned for GCPD work with TEA, ESC, parent stakeholders to move forward on recommending and taking into consideration comments made by members. And work with parent stakeholder groups, education service centers and TEA to develop training and education materials on students leading ARD meetings and self‑advocacy skills. Seconded by Lieberman; motion carried.

COMMUNICATION

1. Restore Health and Human Services' Office for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services funding levels to pre‑sunset, pre‑HHSC merger levels … Current practice does not meet legislative intent.

Lieberman motioned to advance the recommendation; Willis seconded; motion passed.

1. Support Service Providers. Discussion.

Lindsay motioned to move a group of five forward; seconded by Willis; motion passed.

1. To create a quantitative scorecard that aggregates and summarizes data regarding the accessibility of state agency websites, the Department of Information Resources should update the frequency of the data to be commensurate with the frequency of changes to the website… Discussion based on Marie Cohan’s presentation the day prior. The State has a free tool that scans the top 100 webpages for accessibility and finds about 40% of defects. TAC 206 says agencies must scan websites. Mr. Lucey wants to review the recommendation with DIR and revise the language.

Rafaty moved to table; Lindsay seconded. The motion was tabled.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

1. Reclassify a full-time vacant position within TDEM …

Ms. Turner has been trained to serve at the Special Operations Center as conduit for disability issues. Based on leadership response and the alternative approach, staff suggest this recommendation no longer be carried forward.

Bauman moved to remove this recommendation; Lindsay seconded; motion passed.

TO BE CONTINUED at the next GCPD Meeting.

**Future Meeting: July or August, 2022**

Members discussed potential dates. San Antonio was chosen for the location. To attempt an avoidance of the need for a fifth meeting, members asked that development of policy recommendations be the meeting’s focus.

Dylan Rafaty motioned for staff to organize the best scenarios and select a date for last week in July or first week of August. Eric Lindsay seconded the motion; approved by roll call vote.

**Adjournment**

Dylan Rafaty motioned to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Eric Lindsay. Chair Richard Martinez, adjourned the meeting at 12:28 p.m.

Submitted by Nancy Van Loan, Recorder

**FOLLOW UP ITEMS**

Dr. Lieberman asked Ms. Agrawal to share the “For This Child” parent training videos, once available publicly

Staff to provide *DRAFT* report from the Guardianship Workgroup

Staff to share wellness newsletter series

HHSC – analyze Electronic Visit Verification system & “visit maintenance” timesheet process

HHSC - Verify if it’s allowable to use Medicaid funds to cover transportation to locations offering vaccinations

HHSC – provide status on review of DBMAT Waiver data

TEA – provide the Digital Curriculum Accessibility Report; members asked to meet with Dr. Porter after the report is published

TWC – Governor’s Tri-Agency Workforce Strategies report (RECEIVED)

TWC – clarify the customer dispute process (RECEIVED)