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

**Summary Minutes DRAFT**

**January 27-28, 2022**

Texas Capitol Extension, 1100 Congress Ave., E1.030, Austin TX 78701

Videoconference Participation via ZOOM

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

**Call to Order/** **Roll Call/** **Introductions**

Motion by Eric Lindsay to call the meeting to order, seconded by Ellen Bauman. Chair Bangor began the meeting at 8:15 a.m.

**Members Present**

Aaron Bangor, PhD; Kori Allen; Ellen Bauman; Evelyn Cano; Elyse Lieberman, PhD; Eric Lindsay; Richard Martinez; Joseph Muniz; Kristie Orr, PhD; Dylan Rafaty; Emma Faye Rudkin; and Kris Workman

**Exofficios Present**

Marsha Godeaux, TDLR; Sandra Breitengross Bitter, Texas SILC; Clair Benitez, HHSC; Justin Porter, EdD, TEA; Claudia Peden, TWC; Catherine Samuel, DFPS

**Visitors Present**

Steven Aleman, Kathryn Ballard, Leah Beltran, Wallis Brozman, Melanie Brunson, Kerri Miller-Carr, Cathy Cranston, Norma Crosby, Nancy Crowther, Wade Davis, Rabih Dow, JoAnne Fluke, Tory Guerra, Tanya LaVelle, Linda Litzinger, Daniel Martinez, Jeff Miller, Kelsey Murray, Pat Pound, Lukas Simianer

**Approval of October 27, 2021 Summary Minutes**

Motion by Dylan Rafaty to accept Minutes as submitted; seconded by Evelyn Cano. Motion passed.

**Public Comment**

Lukas Simianer, Founder and CEO of Clusive, submitted a written comment on an e-learning platform he built for and by people who have low vision or are blind. There is a lack of awareness by the tech industry and lack of venture capital.

Kerri Miller-Carr, senior advocate for Disability Rights Texas, discussed the opportunity to help determine this non-profit’s priorities through a community survey. The deadline to receive input is April 1. As of a month ago, there have been 650 responses.

Linda Litzinger, Texas Parent 2 Parent, said telehealth was beneficial to families during the Covid pandemic. Now it is time to return to home visits for occupational and physical therapies for children with disabilities. Providers should earn a fair hourly pay plus mileage. HHSC should address the electronic visit verification system and differing rates of pay.

Tory Guerra is a parent of twins who received ECI services through Easter Seals. As a student with autism, her son also receives supports through special education. During Covid, the school district failed to provide requested accommodations so the family hired someone. Secondly, Ms. Guerra described a scenario where a classmate inappropriately showed his genitals to the female twin. An investigation by a third-party was denied and the parents were barred from participating in the process. The person who took the interview did not have training in interacting with a child with neurotypical systems. There needs to be accountability and a better system in place to ensure kids are safe at school. Thirdly, she asked the Committee to consider a recommendation for Special Education Advisory Committee (SEPAC) to address systemic issues in the community. Parents need to form partnerships with local education agencies to shape local programs by providing reliable input. Region Service Centers could serve as a trusted source for guidance.

Kathryn Ballard formed a private business in Abilene 20 years ago to serve the deaf community. Individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing need advocates and jobs. There are very few available interpreters.

Kelsey Murray, Williamson County’s new disability specialist, is a resource to emergency managers during disasters, and scheduling Covid vaccinations.

Tanya LaVelle, policy specialist with Disability Rights Texas, said affordability and the availability of housing vouchers is a statewide issue. Many face evictions and become homeless. Texas received $16 billion in ARPA funds but there was no funding allocated to housing assistance. The Texas Rent Relief program administered by TDHCA closed due to lack of funding. Consider awarding some of the $3 billion in Texas’ Rainy Day Fund for rent relief, expanding or supporting housing incentives.

Jeff Miller, policy specialist with Disability Rights Texas spoke about the need to clarify the definition of service animals. Physicians are confused about writing prescriptions for someone with a disability who needs a service animal. A policy recommendation proposed by the GCPD’s Service Animal subcommittee should be comprehensive.

**Reports from Invited Exofficio Agency Representatives, includes follow up topics from previous meetings**

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

Marsha Godeaux, Regulatory Program Management Division, summarized the report. TDLR has named Mike Arismendez as the agency’s executive director; Brian Francis retired. The Architectural Barriers program is proposing a 2022 edition for the Texas Accessibility Standards. In the 2022 TAS, TDLR will propose the implementation of adult changing stations. The driver safety and transportation network companies expand TDLR’s reach to include transportation issues relevant to persons with disabilities. Health Professions programs bring a heightened TDLR emphasis on serving Texans with disabilities.

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

Executive Director Sandra Breitengross Bitter reported the Office of the Governor appointed four new Council members. Three centers for independent living (CILs) are involved in Covid vaccine outreach to underserved populations and educational campaigns through Dept. of State Health Services - Disability in Action (Abilene), Disability Connections (San Angelo) and Mounting Horizons (Galveston). TxSILC is working with the independent living network and HHSC to increase the public healthcare workforce utilizing American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. TxSILC has begun working on the sexual assault of women with disabilities issue, funded by a US DOJ grant. Specifically, an internal look at rape crisis centers and CILs in serving people with disabilities in a trauma-informed manner. Several GCPD members are interested in collaborating. Rider 83 from the last legislative session requires TxSILC to report on core services of CILs and purchased services managed through HHS contracts. TxSILC is looking at an emergency plan for communication and response using the CIL network.

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

Catherine Samuel, Internal Audit Management and Accessibility, gave the names of new executive leadership – Corliss Lawson, Deputy Commissioner; and Julie Frank, Chief of Staff. The report included significant agency initiatives related to disability programs, and list of released publications. Managers have a new tool for identifying and measuring accessibility compliance of documents. GCPD members asked if DFPS had information to help the public understand guardianship and alternatives such as Supported Decision-making agreements, training about waiver programs, and training from Texas School for the Deaf for advocates who accommodate children who are deaf with effective communication.

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

Clair Benitez, Director of the Office of Disability Services Coordination discussed the following: HHSC’s receipt and distribution of American Rescue Plan (ARPA) funds. HHSC distributed the stakeholder-driven statewide Intellectual Developmental Disabilities Strategic Plan. HHSC launched an AmeriCorps VISTA Project to enrich the lives of older Texans and their caregivers. HHSC requested organization administrators take a behavioral health peer services provider survey to share insight on opportunities and challenges. HHSC notified users of older electronic devices regarding the shutdown of 3G networks. HHSC’s Medicaid and CHIP Services division will transition to a separate division operated under the State Medicaid Director. HHSC’s Chief Program and Services Office is realigning structures to highlight and better meet goals and outcomes for persons with disabilities, women, family, older adults. The first step is an internal review. The written report included updates on HHS programs and responses to follow up items.

**Texas Education Agency (TEA)**

Justin Porter, Associate Commissioner, Chief Program Officer, Special Populations, Programs and Policy, referenced a link on their website to the Dyslexia Handbook, approved by State Board of Education. Dr. Porter highlighted data on inclusion. TEA has seen a significant increase in the number of students served by special education - nearly 606,000 - after identifying students with learning disabilities. The number of students in special education has increased at a higher rate than students placed in a mainstream setting. Teachers in general education classrooms need training. Research from 2010 indicated 70-80 percent of students with disabilities, with appropriate accommodations, should be performing on grade level with non-disabled peers. Teachers designing their learning instruction in a universal approach solves many access problems.

School districts should have access to $275 million in federal funding to support IDEA activities. A priority of TEA’s commissioners is to recruit teachers into the profession, due to a long-standing shortage. Members expressed concern about inconsistent instructional methods students received during the pandemic. Dr. Porter replied effective school/district framework looks at practices and programs, based on local control. Least restrictive environment calculations come from federal entities.

**Texas Workforce Commission (TWC)**

Claudia Peden, Program Manager, Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Policy and Program Support, reported customers continue to receive service in virtual and in-person manners. Effective January 1, Lizet Hinojosa and Juan Garcia will assume dual roles as Director and Deputy Director for the Office of Disability Employment Strategies, respectively. Ms. Hinojosa will continue to serve as Director for the Business Enterprises of Texas, and Mr. Garcia will continue to serve as Manager for Purchasing from People with Disabilities. AIRA, visual interpretation using an app on someone’s phone, is a service offered in all VR offices for customers and staff.

Rider 48, passed by the 87th Texas Legislature, requires funds appropriated for apprenticeship programs and VR to conduct an inventory of opportunities for people with disabilities. A workgroup is researching information and data elements to include in the report due to the Rehabilitation Council of Texas and the Legislature. October 1, 2021 there was an increase of 22.5% to Supported Employment providers; on February 1, the number of forms will be reduced. A workgroup suggested a new tool called the Career Planning Assessment for work skills, interests and preferences. A new project, Skills Training to Employment, is built upon a pilot with Walgreens and Winco Foods. The successful model will partner with employers and employment service providers and offer paid work experience for up to 12 weeks. TWC’s new StartMyVR online portal opened 3,143 tickets for the VR program and 56 for Independent Living Services for Older Individuals who are Blind program. We Hire Ability is a year-round program. TWC will recognize employers as nominations are reviewed and approved.

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

**Discussion on Service and Assistance Animals**

Texas law commingles the terms service animal and assistance animal. Fraudulent usage is increasing. Randi Turner gave an overview of definitions for service animals, assistance animals, and emotional support animals in a variety of scenarios. Depending on the setting – ie, housing, public streets, retail businesses, city libraries, county courts, local VR offices, or airlines - animals may not receive the same level of legal protections. A table explained certification or written verification requirements, training, enforcement authorities and penalties. Texas statute protects service animals from harm. Law enforcement officers need training on Human Resources Code. Members reviewed former policy recommendations.

Pat Pound, former GCPD director and member spoke about harm caused when people use assistance animals fraudulently. Some people bring an animal into an environment where it would otherwise not be allowed, or claim by purchasing a vest or letter from an Internet source, their animal should be deemed a service animal. The issue impacts the safety and quality of life for people with disabilities who rely on service dogs for independence.

Rabih Dow, Guide Dogs for the Blind, a national organization, said they co-sponsor Guide, Signal and Service dogs. Their website maintains information about state laws. California Assembly Bill 468 is one approach that addresses the online sale of fraudulent IDs. The impact of fraud on retail business is significant; owners and employees are confused. Data shows growing proliferation in public places. People with visual impairments rely on public transportation. The proliferation of fraudulent ESAs has spread to taxis, trains, rideshares, etc. Drivers are overwhelmed when deciding what is legitimate and what is fake.

Wallis Brozman, Canine Companions, the largest service dog provider and national center, shared statistics and her personal testimony. Of people using service dogs, 93% encounter fraud meaning an untrained animal was aggressive or out of control, or causing distraction by barking. Under the Fair Housing Act, letters are written from online sources without any real investigation and submitted to landlords.

Wade Davis, Texas Blinded Veterans Association, testified he appreciates the independence his guide dog affords him. Law enforcement can not become involved unless a dog is harmed. Laws would protect true service animals.

Humans may misrepresent animals as emotional support or service animals when they are not truly a medical necessity, or well trained. This is an opportunity to pass policies to tighten the restriction of how fraud occurs. Civil penalties may be placed on businesses not following the practice. Healthcare practitioners’ policies may be tightened by verifying credentials and setting guidelines. People with disabilities who use task-trained service dogs earned the right to be in public spaces after rigorous training. Sellers must be held responsible for this predatory action.

GCPD can make recommendations to amend state law, such as Human Resources Code but cannot exceed federal law. A working group starting in February will further explore and formalize any policy recommendations. Members discussed two policy recommendation proposals:

* A healthcare practitioner’s requirements …
* Person or business that sells fraudulent letters or equipment…

Chair Bangor heard consensus, with a few minor language revisions. Aaron Bangor motioned to adopt these two proposals with guidance to staff to adjust wording slightly: how specific or broadly to use “guide or signal” or assistance dog; mention an enforcement mechanism; and adding a general disclaimer to avoid contradicting federal law. Elyse Lieberman seconded the motion; motion passed.

**Survey on Sign Language Interpreter Pay in the State of Texas**

GCPD surveyed a specific audience to gather information as to why retention and recruitment of qualified American Sign Language interpreters in the public school system has been such a challenge.

**Keeping Students with Disabilities Safe**

Steven Aleman, Senior Policy Specialist, Disability Rights Texas (DRTx), spoke about students hurt by school staff while at school. Students with disabilities are overrepresented in disciplinary actions, restraints, and in incidence by violence by school staff. Most students with disabilities identified were students with autism. Mr. Aleman proposed ideas for the 88th Legislature: extending the retention period of a recorded video surveillance to a minimum six months to allow parents an opportunity to verify or document any allegations; and ensure parents are aware of access to the resource. Using technology to blur or mask a section of the video or obtaining parental consent protects the privacy of students who aren’t being targeted. Secondly, someone who has a history of hurting a student should not be allowed to remain in the classroom. TEA has a tool called “Do Not Hire Registry” that targets sexual offenders in public schools; DRTx asks the registry include people identified as abusing students. Thirdly, DRTx seeks reforms in the areas of better data and more widely available, proactive training to help with interactions between staff and students with disabilities. Coalition of Texans with Disabilities and DRTx are available as resources.

**Cost Containment Recommendations in all Home and Community-based Services Programs** – Cathy Cranston and Nancy Crowther spoke, representing the Personal Attendant Coalition of Texas (PACT). The effort to improve the wages and livability for personal care attendants has been an issue for 16 years in home and community-based services programs. Attendants make $8.11 an hour. Finding a personal care attendant and affordable, accessible and integrated housing are interconnected issues. HHSC primarily manages the funding. PACT suggested the following cost containment strategies: Seek a new department to oversee transition of current long-term services and supports, with a focus on home and community-based services. Provide education on the benefits and use of the consumer-directed services model. Supported consultation within the community gives the consumer assistance from their fiscal management service agency to help recruit and retain attendants. Minimize rising healthcare costs when someone experiences medical issues elevating them to hospitalization. Implement a community attendant back up system. HHSC should divert people from nursing homes to less expensive home and community-based programs. Implement a hospital to community program with the services of an attendant instead of transferring people to nursing facilities. Refer people on existing waiting lists such as CLASS, to a less costly program such as Community First Care and receive attendant care in their homes. Demographics: 300,000 work in Texas serving 250,000 consumers with disabilities, children and seniors. The majority of attendants are women, and people of color; median age is 50 years old. Attendants work with no benefits, health insurance, vacation or sick leave. PACT asked GCPD to become more involved, and educate the decision makers on the importance of investing in the community attendant workforce.

**Executive Director Report and Staff Updates**

Ron Lucey shared recent accomplishments of staff outreach and stakeholder activities, interagency collaborations, policy development, performance measures, and budget. Highlights included:

* Driving with Disability initiative and launch of new web page, public service announcements and billboard campaign. TAMU San Antonio is a new partner. Will distribute posters/brochures to DPS offices statewide.
* Conducted a successful Lex Frieden Employment Award as a hybrid event in partnership with TWC and Workforce Solutions’ Austin location.
* Begun planning for Barbara Jordan Media Awards with partner UT Arlington’s College of Liberal Arts (Disability Studies and Communication).
* Completed TDEM’s State Operations Center training in preparation of future emergency disasters; she will provide subject expertise on disability and/or access and functional needs. (R Turner)
* Distributed announcement on Sunset of 3-G Networks in partnership with Texas Technology Access Program.
* Revised the Service Animal Key Laws & Resource webpage. (M Villarreal)
* Surveys (2) – interpreter pay and older individuals who are blind
* DME Power dependent medical equipment workgroup continues to meet, after Winter Storm Uri; public comments provided to PUC.
* Guardianship subcommittee continues to meet to develop and issue a report, expected completion of Spring 2022
* GCPD’s Accessibility and Disability Webinar Series. Held webinars on paratransit and veterans services.
* Addressed a group of medical students at UT Austin about people first and respectful language. (60 students)
* Special Recognition for Aaron Bangor who has served as a GCPD member and chair from 2007 to 2022.

**Meeting Recess**

Motion from Ellen Bauman to recess the GCPD meeting; seconded by Emma Faye Rudkin. Motion passed.

**Day 2, Reconvene Meeting**

Motion from Dylan Rafaty to reconvene the GCPD meeting; seconded by Eric Lindsay. Motion passed.

**Continuation of Policy Recommendation Development**

**Policies Protecting the Rights of Parents with Disabilities**

Norma Crosby and Daniel Martinez, National Federation of the Blind of Texas, spoke about a false presumption that someone can’t care for a child because of a parent’s blindness or other disabilities. Parents who are blind lose custody of their children arbitrarily. Individuals planning to adopt or foster a child are denied that opportunity for no other reason than the adult was blind. Mr. Martinez shared personal experiences when he was subjected to unlawful questioning. There is a need for educational awareness of what parents with disabilities can do. Parental rights need to be protected. NFBTx has worked with 16 other states to propose legislative changes that would make it illegal for courts and child protection agencies to make decisions impacting the sanctity of the family solely on the basis of disability. The DFPS exofficio does not believe this would be a valid reason to remove a child and can verify if there are any specific applicable policies. Members asked about the accessibility of required agency forms. A state law could mandate basic levels of training specifically that disability alone could not be a factor, without specific incidence of abuse, in removing a child.

Evelyn Cano motioned to develop a proposed policy recommendation, incorporating language from NFBTx. Dylan Rafaty seconded; the motion carries.

**Listening to the Abilene Disability Community**

JoAnne Fluke, Abilene Citizens Advisory Board for People with Disabilities, is proud and blessed that there is a committee addressing disability issues.

In 1994, the issue of transportation was raised. The Advisory Board was created in 2017 (with support from then Mayor Williams) to make sure buildings were as accessible as possible. First the Convention Center was reviewed and leadership learned about making emergency exits accessible, adding accessible fire alarms, lighting, signage and updating ramps for better safety on walkways in front of the cars. Later, they looked at City Hall, the airport and local zoo for areas such as better lighting to spotlight interpreters, counter height, lighter weighted doors, and an adaptable lectern. Abilene is trying to be “all inclusive.” In 2022, they are hoping the city approves a life event checklist including accessible restrooms, a quiet place for someone experiencing sensory overload, or a battery recharging station. According to the Census, the population of Abilene is 15% people with disabilities, but the Advisory Board suspects it is higher, when considering physical and invisible disabilities.

Leah Beltran, Executive Director, Disability in Action Center for Independent Living gave an overview. The doors opened in 2008; growth has been amazing. Disability in Action serves six counties and provides resources. Their top areas for persons with disabilities encountering barriers are transportation, housing and medical care. In 2015, they began a partnership with TXDOT and received an accessible 14-passenger bus. Contributions from the community help fill the gaps. The cost of transportation can be big barrier for people with disabilities. With support from TXDOT, reduced ride costs will help people that need a ride from a rural area to urban for medical visits. The Regional Planning Transportation Committee offers a website as an opportunity to coordinate rides. Housing is a problem in Abilene, as it is statewide. If someone qualifies and receives a voucher, there is a lack of appropriate housing. Different agencies do not cover deposits. The director of programs is on the Abilene Housing Authority Board. Ms. Beltran explained it can be difficult for people with disabilities in rural areas to get specialized medical care.

**Policy Development Discussion on New Topics within GCPD’s Policy Areas** (Access, Communications, Education, Employment, Emergency Preparedness, Health, Housing, Recreation, Transportation, and Veterans)

Chair Bangor shared the foundation of policy development. The process begins by a recommendation proposal form submitted by a stakeholder or GCPD member. Staff researches the issue and perhaps a subject matter expert is invited to address the Committee. GCPD submits the proposal through the Governor’s Office for review. Stakeholders could work with legislators. As private citizens, Members can offer personal testimony, however, GCPD is allowed to only provide unbiased resources.

Dylan Rafaty commented larger school districts have dedicated Special Education Parent Advisory Committees (SEPAC) appointed by their board of trustees. Engaging families is an effective method to build relationships (with

TEA), solve problems, and improve services and programs. Ellen Bauman proposed to review this further and seek input from our TEA exofficio, Dr. Porter. Staff can plan a meeting with TEA designee and stakeholder.

Evelyn Cano motioned to convene a meeting with TEA and Justin Porter or his designee to explore and develop a policy recommendation for the Special Education Parent Advisory Committee (SEPAC) issue; seconded by Dylan Rafaty; motion carries.

Dylan Rafaty would like to learn more about veterans with disabilities accessing Texas’ state parks, and guidelines for gaining free access. He suggests someone from Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept. speak at a future meeting to learn about processes involved, and existing recreation programs for visitors with disabilities.

Elyse Lieberman would like to explore the implementation and curriculum for special education academies, with a balance between overwhelming teachers and training them in appropriately meeting the needs of students with disabilities. Ellen Bauman also would like to explore what kinds of relief to offer to teachers. Members will form a series of questions for TEA then formulate a policy.

Emma Faye Rudkin suggested designating a DFPS employee to focus solely on kids who are deaf. There is a need for continuous awareness. An ombudsman for children in conservatorship may have more authority or at least access to policy decisions. Staff will help Ms. Rudkin draft a policy proposal, then send someone to an advisory meeting of DFPS. Secondly, having an adult advocate in courtrooms, with a child who is deaf, would be beneficial when making life-altering decisions.

Kristie Orr suggested exploring mandatory training about accessibility for college campus faculty and staff. It would have value if supported by campus administration. Staff will assist in fleshing out the idea. She also wants to serve on the service animal workgroup.

Eric Lindsay believes in continuing the conversation on Emotional Support Animals. Language seems to be the key, rather than challenging policy. He would like to join the service animal workgroup. Secondly, he looks forward to a future discussion on veteran access to parks and wants to be careful at over-privileging any group over at the expense of others.

Members further discussed the earlier presentation on service animals.

The California law did not include an enforcement mechanism or stipulate a fine on a person misrepresenting the animal. The presentation focused on healthcare professionals taking shortcuts in certification, and people knowingly and fraudulently selling items. Existing Texas law mentions fines, but you need to convince a police officer to file a charge; and/or go to the local district attorney. Some stakeholders were concerned about unintended consequences and moving the requirement from Human Resources Code to Penal Code. Individuals use service dogs to help manage PTSD. Defining a need of someone with intellectual developmental disability benefiting from a service dog versus “comfort.” Someone with a behavioral health illness might not understand about bringing an untrained animal into a public setting. There is not a regulatory agency where service animals can be verified through a registry or database. Leading blindness advocacy organizations oppose the concept of the need for a certificate because the impact on someone’s life would become unbearable. The Committee might incorporate into a recommendation a public campaign that shows the harm done by having fraudulent service animals. People are not aware of the negative impact someone experiences. TAMU posted a resource on their website relating to the treatment of service animal handlers on college campus. Agencies providing vocational rehabilitation services must provide information on an annual basis on the rights and responsibilities of people using service animals. Staff suggested working with the Secretary of State where businesses submit required forms, or the Texas Comptroller. The workgroup can further explore these ideas.

Richard Martinez brought forth an idea which has become an epidemic during COVID - illegal parking in accessible spots by independent drivers picking up and delivering food. Corporations such as Door Dash or Grub Hub should consider advising their employees against illegal parking. An active partner, Disability:IN, might be an avenue for further discussion. Eric Lindsay motioned directing staff to explore the increase of awareness to independent drivers of food delivery companies regarding accurate use of accessible parking; Dylan Rafaty seconded the motion; motion passed.

**Individual Member Reports**

Emma Faye Rudkin: Aid the Silent and volunteer health professionals will help with evaluating about 20 children, then receive hearing aids in partnership with the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley.

Dylan Rafaty: Plano will conduct a Listening Tour to provide long-range planning. City of Plano is moving forward to modify city council chambers to exceed accessible standards. He encouraged staff at Plano Events Center on how to provide accessible events & reached out to Plano Events Center.

Evelyn Cano: announced the Disability Chamber of Commerce in Rio Grande Valley is planning a disability fair in partnership with Workforce Solutions. Working with Kumori who invited 25+ employers to the fair. Provided 25 laptops free of cost to individuals with disabilities with help from Telemundo, a Spanish language broadcaster, and Comcast for communication access.

Kori Allen: The metroplex is an interesting jigsaw of transit authorities. The City of Coppell does not have public transportation, so they began a pilot program in conjunction with Lyft, to serve the need. The rider pays $5, and the city pays the balance of the cost to transport the rider to their destination. A fundraiser benefitting Little People of America, will help send people to their regional conference in Arlington.

Ellen: The report of the Guardianship subcommittee will hopefully be available by April.

Aaron: The Disability:In conference will occur in the Metroplex in July. He encouraged participation by organizations during the Disability Equality Index application period.

**Future Meeting:**

Aaron Bangor motioned directing staff to prepare for the next meeting to be held in Arlington, in conjunction with the 2022 Barbara Jordan Media Awards. BJMA event partner UT Arlington prefers early May. Ellen Bauman seconded the motion; motion passed.

**Adjournment**

Dylan Rafaty motioned to adjourn the GCPD meeting; seconded by Emma Faye Rudkin. Motion passed. Chair Bangor adjourned the meeting at 12:23 p.m.

Submitted by:

Nancy Van Loan, Recorder

Attachment: Follow Up Items