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Mary Durham, Chair

Andrew Crim, Vice Chair

Roger A. Webb, Executive Director

October 15, 2014

Ken Levine, Director
Sunset Advisory Commission
P.O. Box 13066
Austin, Texas 78711-3066

Dear Mr. Levine:

TCDD appreciates the manner in which Sunset Commission staff conducted the review of the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities. Sunset staff, led by Erick Fajardo, were courteous and respectful throughout their work, and demonstrated a keen interest in understanding the work of the Council and staff.

TCDD has only brief comments on the two recommendations in the report:

Recommendation 1.1 Continue the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities for 12 years.

TCDD appreciates the confidence you and your staff have shown in the importance of the Council's work in the recommendation for continuation. TCDD supports this recommendation.

Recommendation 1.2: Direct TCDD to track the five-year outcomes of grant projects designed to continue beyond the TCDD funding period and compare actual outcomes to intended outcomes.

TCDD supports this recommendation. TCDD is participating in discussions with the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, TCDD's federal authority, about possible reportable output and outcome measures for all DD Councils, including some measures regarding the impact after grant funding concludes. TCDD has delayed developing a reporting methodology until those decisions are finalized, but expects to move forward in the next year. Generally, 10-12 projects conclude TCDD funding each year. Of those, approximately 6-8 have activities that TCDD expects to continue. From our knowledge of the status of those projects, we feel that most were successful. Even so, TCDD concurs with the recommendation to develop the capability to track outcomes after funding has ended.

We also note that the continuation of project activities after TCDD funding concludes is only one measure of the success and impact of TCDD grant projects. We also learn from efforts of projects that struggle unsuccessfully to find resources to continue project activities. Although the success of TCDD funded projects is not determined by the continuation of project activities alone, we agree with the recommendation that a more comprehensive track methodology will provide useful information for future decisions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger Webb", written in a cursive style.

Roger A. Webb
Executive Director