



The Intellectual
and Developmental
Disabilities Council
of Tarrant County

Welcome!

Disability Rights Texas

The Protection and Advocacy Agency for People with Disabilities in Texas

May 7, 2026

To transform the region into an inclusive community where individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) thrive.



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and Developmental
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of Tarrant County

We Are a Community Coalition Increasing Opportunities

meet & greet



Take this opportunity to introduce yourself!

- ❖ Who are you?
- ❖ How can you assist?
- ❖ What might you need assistance with?

Welcome

MEMBERS

- **Individual Members:**

- Stephanie Stone
- Joseph Barbarito
- Audra Ressel
- Leah Whitworth
- Kayla Glover
- Susan Cole
- Teresa Briscoe
- Carrie Tunson
- Shelly Lemman
- Iris Tule
- Julia Chalker
- Erin Fogarty
- Steve Brooks
- Meagan Bordelon
- Whitney Dragon
- Mihstiegh Boggs
- Deborah Norris
- Brittany Rudd
- Renae Arledge
- Cody Turner
- Mari Flores Gonzales
- Monetta Smith
- Stephanie Morris
- Katrina Willie-Musoma
- Courtney Caraway
- Sarah Stuckel

- Liliana Zumba-Acevedo
- Don Gilley
- Bryan Cotton
- Daniel Durany
- Cynthia Rodriguez
- Theresa Moffitt
- Heather Crawford
- Amber Luckey
- Gwen Li
- Sandra Rodrigo
- Ranella Franklin
- Richard Garrett
- Rene Aguilar
- Tammi Creed

- **Premier Partners:**

- Cook Children's Health Plan
- Cook Children's Medical Center
- Fort Worth ISD (Founding Partner)
- Tarrant County, the office of Judge Tim O'Hare (Founding Partner)

- **Elite Members:**

- Berry Family Services

- **Sponsor Members:**

- Green Oaks Education and Support

- **Professional Members:**

- Center for ASD
- Monica Santiago, 3-in-1 Advocacy

Your Name/Organization Belongs Here

www.IDDCouncil.org/join-us



JOIN A COMMITTEE

- ❖ **COMMUNICATIONS & PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE:** Identifies and schedules topics of interest for Council events and helps create and distribute information important to members of the Council and community through written and electronic media. Meets hybrid as needed.
- ❖ **SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE:** Calling all party planners, entertainers and creative thinkers! Let's plan programs that add value to the community, advocates and creates awareness of IDD. The committee is looking for parents, providers, community leaders and event planners to join us in finding and creating new opportunities. Meets hybrid as needed.
- ❖ **TRANSITION COMMITTEE:** Provides educators the opportunity to collaborate and discover resources to share with families in the path to adulthood. The committee consists of school counselors, transition specialists, parents and advocates interested in establishing or advancing opportunities for people with disabilities after high school. Help develop strategies that support families and students in schools and secondary education. Meets the 2nd Friday of the month from 9-10:30 a.m.



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SHOP, EAT AND SUPPORT THE IDD COUNCIL



amazon
wishlist

Kroger Shopper Card Community Rewards: <https://bit.ly/2Sw9WX1>

Rosa's Cards \$20 value / \$20 each: Email request with Qty: Rita@IDDCouncil.org

More info and ways to support our mission: <https://www.iddcouncil.org/partners>

PAYMENTS MADE EASY WITH ZELLE, PAYPAL, OR ON OUR WEBSITE!



zelle®



<https://paypal.me/IDDCouncil>



<https://myqrcode.mobi/d2648a48>
(www.IDDCouncil.org/gift)



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SHOUT OUT TO LAST MONTH'S AMAZING DONORS!

thanks
FOR YOUR
Support

- Stephanie Williams
- Bryan Cotton
- Mike Anderson
- Joseph Barbarito *"In honor of Autism Awareness Day"*
- Leah Whitworth

PAYMENTS MADE EASY WITH **ZELLE**, **PayPal**, OR ON OUR **WEBSITE!**



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<https://paypal.me/IDDCouncil>



<https://myqrcode.mobi/d2648a48>
(www.IDDCouncil.org/gift)



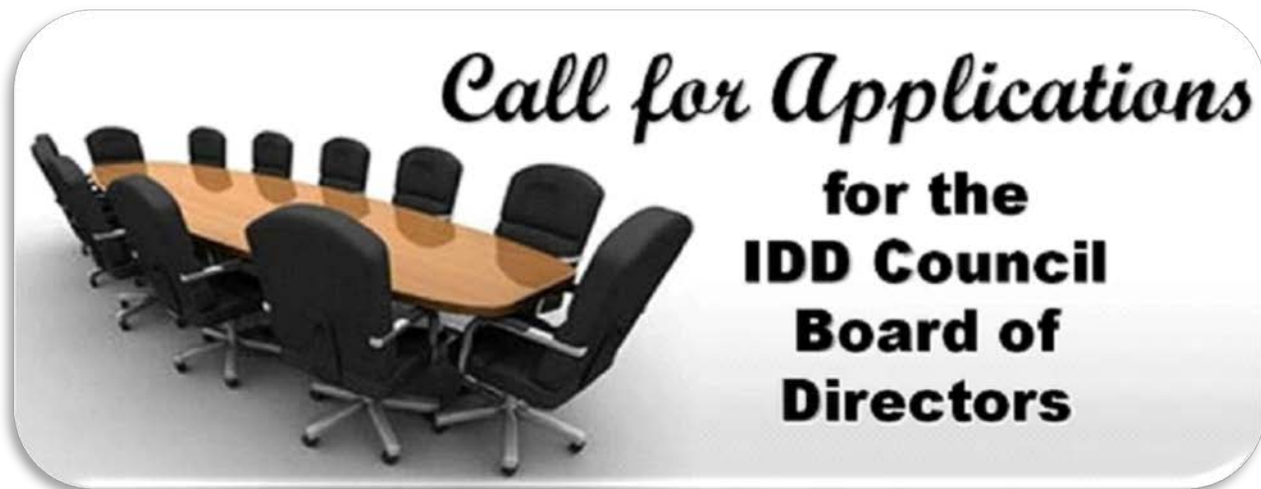
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SPONSORSHIP: BE SAFE SCREENINGS





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The IDD Council is accepting applications from outstanding leaders, self-advocates and caregivers to serve as Board members. Help us to grow and prosper in our work.

<https://www.iddcouncil.org/board-member-info.>



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UPCOMING EVENTS



MONTHLY MEETINGS

1ST THURSDAY EACH MONTH 9-10:30 a.m.

3136 W. 4th Street, Fort Worth

June 4 – The Impact of Public Vocational Rehabilitation

July 2 – No Meeting

August 6 – TBD

September 3 – CCHP Services

TRANSITION COMMITTEE MEETINGS

2ND FRIDAY EACH MONTH 9-10:30 a.m.

TCC Trinity River Campus, WIN Conference Room

Next meeting: Tomorrow, May 8

Summer Break: Lunch Dates TBD



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ABOUT OUR PRESENTER

Courtney Walker
Outreach Manager
Disability Rights Texas





The Protection and Advocacy Agency for People with Disabilities in Texas

Presented by: Courtney Walker, Outreach Manager

About Disability Rights Texas

- Part of the national Protection and Advocacy (P&A) System established in 1977 through federal law.
- Nonprofit legal firm with the mission to protect and advocate for the rights of Texans with disabilities to ensure their equal participation in society.
- Free legal advocacy services provided to Texans of all ages with a wide variety of disabilities.
- Watch our explainer video to learn more: www.DRTx.org/WhatWeDo

Services Offered

- Provide direct legal assistance to people with disabilities whose rights are threatened or violated.
- Protect rights of individuals and groups of people with disabilities through courts and justice system.
- Inform policy makers about how issues impact people with disabilities.
- Educate people with disabilities and family members about their rights.
- Make referrals to programs and services.

Key Focus Areas

- Accessibility
- Alternatives to Guardianship
- Community Integration
- Disaster Resilience
- Early Childhood Intervention
- Education (K-12)
- Employment
- Healthcare
- Housing
- Institutional Rights and Civil Liberties
- Transportation
- Voting

Accessibility

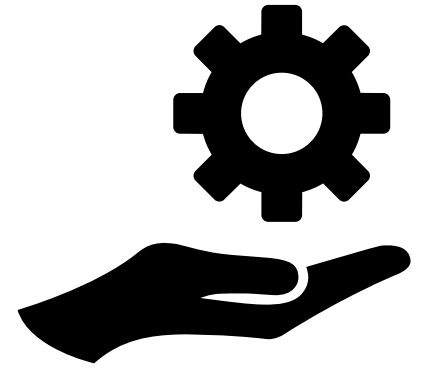
Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) related issues such as:

- Post-secondary education settings (colleges, trade schools, etc.)
- Standardized testing accommodations for adults (trade certifications, SAT, GRE, etc.)
- Private and public business building accessibility (hotels, restaurants, libraries, government buildings)
- Accessible communication for the deaf (usually in healthcare or court rooms)
- Service animal access issues
- Parking access issues
- Website accessibility issues



Alternatives to Guardianship

- Help people with disabilities to create Supported Decision Making Agreements (SDMAs).
 - ✓ SDMAs allow people with disabilities to make decisions and stay in charge of their lives without taking away their rights.
- Provide tools on our website that help people create their own SDMA.
- Represent people with disabilities who want their guardianship removed.



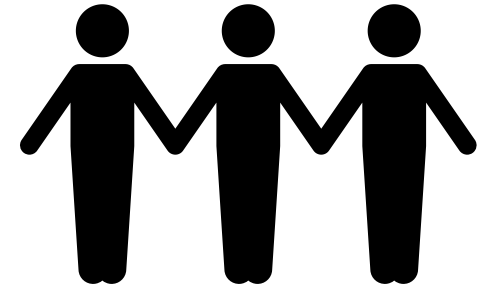
Linda's Story

- Experienced a mental health crisis
- Placed under guardianship
- Recovered
- Tried – unsuccessfully – to have the guardianship removed
- DRTx got involved and her rights were restored



Community Integration

- Ensure people with disabilities receive quality supports and services in the community so they don't have to be admitted to or stay in institutions or hospitals.
- Advocate for funding for home and community-based supports and services.



Richard's Story

- Admitted to a nursing home (age: 22)
- Stayed mostly in bed for 13 years due to a lack of services
- DRTx advocated for discharge from facility
- Richard lives in the community, has a job, and gets around with a wheelchair



Disaster Resilience

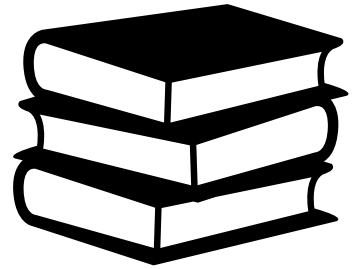
Disaster resilience is the ability of a community and/or person exposed to a disaster to recover from the effects of a disaster in a timely and efficient manner. People with disabilities are often impacted more seriously by disasters.

- Help Texans with disabilities be prepared for disasters.
- Advocate for accessible disaster services.
- Work with local, regional and state entities to create accessible and inclusive disaster plans.



Early Childhood and K-12 Education

- Advocate for early childhood intervention (ECI) services for birth to 3 years old.
- Advocate for the legal rights of students with disabilities in public and charter schools grades K-12 to receive:
 - Initial and follow-up evaluations to determine special education service eligibility
 - Instruction in classrooms alongside students without disabilities
 - Access to assistive technology
 - Positive behavioral supports that prevent them from being disciplined, restrained, or secluded because of a disability
 - Transition services needed to prepare for life after school

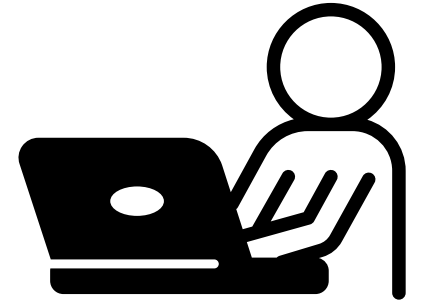


Bradley's Story

- Suicidal thoughts and hated going to school
- Tried to get services from the school
- DRTx got involved and advocated for Bradley
- Bradley succeeded in school, became happier, and enjoyed going to school

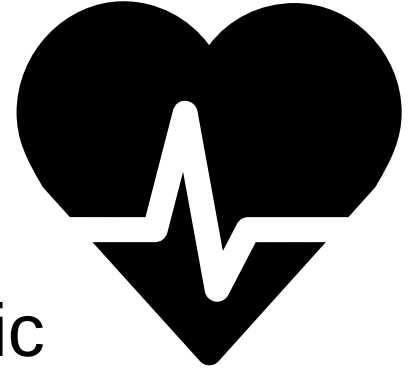


Employment



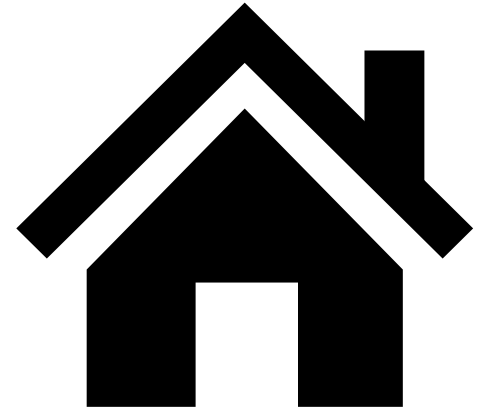
- Ensure employers do not discriminate in the hiring process because of a person's disability.
- Help people with disabilities get reasonable accommodations from their employers.
- Ensure people with disabilities are paid fair and legal wages.
- Advocate people with disabilities to obtain competitive and integrated employment opportunities of their choice.
- Assist people with getting services from the state vocational rehabilitation (VR) program through our Client Assistance Program (CAP).
- Advise people on the Social Security Administration's "Ticket to Work" program.

Healthcare



- Ensure people with disabilities and/or severe and chronic illnesses living in community settings or institutions have healthcare that provides all appropriate care and services.
- Help people with disabilities to fully understand and exercise their legal rights in receiving public health and/or mental health benefits, including their right to be notified about changes to benefits, appeal decisions, and have a fair hearing.

Housing



- Help people with disabilities obtain reasonable accommodations so they have access to affordable, accessible, and integrated homes or apartments where they choose to live.
- Ensure people with disabilities living in or moving to community group homes are not discriminated against by local government, home owner associations, or others.

Institutional Rights & Civil Liberties



- Monitor state supported living centers and psychiatric hospitals and investigate complaints of abuse, neglect, exploitation, other mistreatment
- Ensure those living in these settings are actively involved in planning for their treatment and do not receive treatment without agreeing to it.
- Advocate and help in transitioning people to community settings.
- Ensure people with disabilities are not restrained or isolated illegally.

Transportation

Ensure that public and private transportation providers follow the law in making their services accessible to people with disabilities. This includes:

- Bus companies
- Trains
- Airlines
- Taxis and shuttles



Voting

- Train people with disabilities on their rights so they can fully participate in the voting process.
- Conduct accessibility audits of polling sites.
- Educate election officials and poll workers on disability voting rights and maintaining accessibility at voting locations.



How to apply for DRTx services

- Statewide Intake Lines:
 - 1-800-252-9108
 - 1-866-362-2851 (Sign Language Video Phone)
 - 512-271-9391 (Purple 2 Video Phone)
- Online Intake: Intake.DRTx.org
- Self-advocacy resources, information about our services: www.DRTx.org

Ways to support our mission

- Subscribe to our newsletter: www.DRTx.org/Subscribe
- Follow us on Facebook, Twitter/X, Instagram, LinkedIn, and YouTube
- Buy cool merch from our online store: www.DRTx.org/Store
- Donate:
 - ✓ One time or monthly gift: www.DRTx.org/Donate
 - ✓ Text DRTxGive to 512-229-9109
 - ✓ Venmo: click on Search, then Make a donation, type in Disability Rights Texas.