

2012 Annual Report

The highlights of CTD's work in

ADVOCACY

PUBLIC AWARENESS

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

and more

Also in this report



CTD is proud to unveil our new home online: **TXDisabilities.org!** Whether you're an advocate, a participant in one of CTD's annual events, a business leader, or a STAR+PLUS consumer, we've put everything you need in one place!



Save the Date: March 4 & 5, 2013

Join CTD in Austin for our 35th Annual Convention. Disability groups from all over Texas will host their conferences on these dates. When the meetings end, we hit the Capitol together!

From the Executive Director

December 2012 | Austin, Texas

Dear Friend of Disability Advocacy,

With 2013 just around the corner, you may notice that CTD is going through a few changes. First and foremost, we are launching **TXDisabilities.org** to better serve the community of Texans with disabilities, families, friends, advocates, and service providers. After reading this report, you'll recognize the look and feel of our new site, and we hope you'll feel right at home there! **TXDisabilities.org** is just part of our communications upgrade designed to bring the full force of people with disabilities into advocacy and make the world a better place.

Let's not shy away from talking about the disability community as a force. We've got the numbers, the economic power, a potential swing vote in elections, and the might of being right. I'm always reminded of the advice Dolores Salazar of El Paso's Volar CIL gave me 12 years ago: "If we can get together, nothing can stop us!" Dolores did not mean that people with disabilities should steamroll their way to unneeded handouts, extra benefits, or free rides. She simply meant there should be no barriers to people with disabilities taking their rightful place as fully included, responsible, contributing members of society. And when barriers are present, we should fight to bring them down!

The Texas Legislature did not meet in 2012, yet CTD had significant advocacy successes. Please take a few minutes to read through our annual report for these victories, as well as our public awareness and community work. As you prepare for 2013, stand with CTD to propel fair and decent public policy and practice forward.

For a Barrier-Free Society,



Dennis Borel, Executive Director

SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

TXDisabilities.org and CTD's communications upgrade would not have been possible without the generous support of the project's major donors:



We appreciate their vision in valuing the voice of Texans with disabilities.

Our Board

CTD's Board of Directors reflects the population of Texas in terms of type of disability, geographic representation, ethnicity, and income level.

Executive Committee:

President: Rodney Hanneman* (San Antonio) community advocate

Vice President: vacant

Secretary: Crystal Lyons* ** (Corpus Christi) transportation advocate

Treasurer: Frank Santos (Austin) Owner, Santos Alliances

At Large Members:

Region 1: Eric Reed* (El Paso) Board of Directors, Volar CIL

Region 2: John Curnutt* (Borger) elections advocate

Region 3: Regina Blye* (Austin) Executive Director, Texas SILC

Region 4: vacant

Region 5: Judy Telge (Corpus Christi) Executive Director, Coastal Bend CIL

Region 6: Francis Key* (Dallas) Carden Law Office

Region 7: Gene Whitten-Lege (Houston) Owner, In-Home Attendant Services

Region 8: Jet Schuler (Tyler) Owner, Touch of CLASS

Our Staff



From left: Susie Angel*, Chase Bearden*, William Greer*, Bryson Smith*, Rachel Griffin*, Laura Perna, Tanya Barrow, Dennis Borel.

Not pictured: Terri Stellar*, Hup Holland*.

* Person with a disability

** Parent of a child with a disability

Advocacy in 2012

While the Legislature does not convene during even numbered years, CTD’s advocacy efforts continued in full force in 2012. We worked hard on statewide campaigns, advocacy training, consumer protection measures, and much more.



There’s a national campaign underway to inform policy-makers and the public about the benefits of Medicaid and what could happen to Americans if Medicaid were reduced or eliminated. CTD is a driving force on the steering committee of **My Medicaid Matters TX**, helping to plan press events and organize other campaign activities. MMMTx’s final press conference of 2012 took place at CTD’s office, by the Capitol (above). In keeping with the holiday season, policy experts, families of children with disabilities, business leaders, healthcare workers, and seniors told reporters and TV cameras why they were thankful for Medicaid. Learn more about this campaign at www.MMMTx.org.



CTD also takes a leading role in **Texas Forward**. This campaign brings together a broad spectrum of organizations that promote a balanced approach to state budget decisions. Member organizations vary widely in their missions, but all believe that meeting the needs of Texans and moving our state forward to greater prosperity and opportunity will require more than simply belt-tightening and cuts in education, healthcare and other vital public services. CTD has been heavily involved in the strategic planning of Texas Forward and in preparing the campaign for the upcoming legislative session. To learn more about Texas Forward, visit www.TXForward.org.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Dennis Borel and CTD: Advocate of the Year



CTD was honored to receive advocacy awards from all over the state in 2012. **San Antonio Independent Living Services (SAILS)** named CTD Executive Director Dennis Borel Advocate of the Year at its ADA Celebration, held every July. Since 1981, SAILS has worked to make San Antonio and the surrounding counties a better place to live, work and play for people with disabilities.

Texas Parent to Parent (TxP2P) also



honored Dennis with an Advocate of the Year Award this September. TxP2P works to support children with disabilities, chronic illness, and other special needs by empowering their families.

In October, the **Volar Center for Independent Living** in El Paso recognized CTD’s work as State Wide Systems Advocate in 2012. Volar advocates for human and civil rights and community options and empowers people to live the lives they choose.



CTD has enjoyed long, fruitful partnerships with SAILS, TxP2P, and Volar. We feel privileged to receive their accolades!

Advocacy in 2012

Training & Presentations

We took this interim year not only to prepare for the 2013 Legislative Session ourselves, but also to work with advocates and organizations all over the state. From the Disability, Education, and Employment Conference in **Beaumont** to Volar CIL's Annual Our Lives Conference in **El Paso**; from our own convention in **McAllen** to the SILC's Annual Conference in **Dallas**, we travelled far and wide to train our members and allies on successful advocacy strategies. Current Board President Rodney Hanneman journeyed all the way to **Chicago** to present at the Allies in Self Advocacy Summit on advocacy in Texas!

Consumer Protection

CTD put \$2 million into the pockets of community attendants in the **CBA program** by uncovering a flaw in state administration, then fighting upstream to get the problem recognized and fixed.

Each year, CTD staffers serve on a variety of workgroups and boards. In 2012, we worked with the **Consumer Directed Workgroup, Direct Workforce Committee, Rehabilitation Council of Texas, Texas Board of Architectural Examiners, Promoting Independence Advisory Council**, and many more!

In Senate hearings, CTD testified against **Electronic Visit Verification (EVV)**, an unpopular system for tracking attendant hours. Because of our efforts and those of our partners, state senators granted consumer directed services programs an exemption from an EVV requirement.

Community Development

Our own **consumer directed services agency** continued to grow in 2012. In February, we trained a group of new CDS partners to help us serve our clients in Beaumont and El Paso.

CTD brokered a meeting among executives from **DARS**, the federal State **AmeriCorps** office and the Texas administrators at the **OneStar Foundation**. The result was a commitment to collaborate on expanding community service opportunities in AmeriCorpsVISTA for people with disabilities.

CONSUMER SPOTLIGHT

CTD Says No to Unethical HMO



This year, Molina Healthcare, an HMO operating in Medicaid managed care, announced a 10% cut to providers and the removal of dental, transportation and behavioral services to consumers. CTD immediately recognized how this would negatively affect consumers: in attendant care alone, the 10% cut would slash wages close to the federal minimum, jeopardizing the quality and availability of community care. CTD had been building a business relationship with Molina, but severed all ties with the HMO upon learning of their change in policy. We issued a press release condemning their actions, returned their sponsorship money, and strongly supported ADAPT's "Leave Molina" campaign to encourage consumers to switch HMOs (over 18,000 did). Lastly, CTD secured a commitment from Rep. Mando Martinez to file consumer protection legislation to prohibit such practices.

It is our hope that the backlash from Molina's attempted money grab at the expense of their customers will prevent similar situations from arising in the future.

CTD Events in 2012

iMake a Difference



“iMake A Difference!”, the **34th Annual Convention** of The Coalition of Texans with Disabilities was held in McAllen, TX Sept. 14-15, 2012. Several outstanding local politicians joined us, including **State Reps. Sergio Munoz and Eddie Lucio III** (left, with attendees), who reaffirmed their support for the disability community, and **Rep. Armando “Mando” Martinez**, who announced his intent to file legislation protecting consumers in Medicaid managed care programs. During the classic **grass roots resolutions process**, members decided on CTD public policy initiatives for the 2013 Legislative Session and elected long time board member Rodney Hanneman of San Antonio as CTD Board President.

Cinema Touching Disability

We had a blast at this year’s Film Fest! Dave Dauber from **The Gene and Dave Show** had our audience rolling in the aisles as our special guest emcee at the Alamo Drafthouse South Lamar. Highlights of the Fest included...

- the premiere of **Welcome To CTD**, produced by one of last year’s Short Film competition winners, Alex Murphy
- top films from the 2012 **Short Film Competition**
- action drama **The Lookout**
- the documentary **Shooting Beauty**
- kung fu classic **Master of the Flying Guillotine**

Pen 2 Paper



Nearly 70 pieces of fiction, non-fiction, and poetry were submitted to this year’s creative writing contest, plus our first ever comic entry. New sponsor **Carve Magazine** will publish selected winning entries next year! Entrants had the change to present their work at **Cinema Touching Disability** and at a local **Half Price Books** reading. Check out videos from Half Price on our Youtube Channel, www.youtube.com/txdisabilities.

HONORS & RECOGNITION

William Greer Serves as Judge for Austin Film Society



Make Watch Love Film

This summer, the **Austin Film Society** invited Cinema Touching Disability Founder and Coordinator William Greer to serve as a Round 1 Judge of entries to the **Texas Filmmakers' Production Fund (TFPF)**. Once a year, the Austin Film Society awards these grants to emerging film and video artists in the state of Texas whose work shows promise, skill, and creativity. CTD is delighted that William has been selected to participate in this prestigious event in the Austin film community.

We're in the News!

In 2012, CTD staff members and events appeared in newspapers, television, news blogs, and radio shows around Texas, including...

Austin American-Statesman

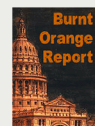
The Dallas Morning News

★ **THE TEXAS TRIBUNE**

San Antonio Express

FORT WORTH
Star-Telegram

public news service
NEWS IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST



COLLABORATION AND COMMUNITY

CTD 2.0

CTD has finally joined the 21st century online! Over the years, it had become plain that our old website just wasn't cutting it. So, during the spring of 2012, we hired a local web consultant firm to design something new. Whether you're an advocate, a participant in one of CTD's annual events, a business, or a STAR Plus consumer, we've got everything you need in one place at www.TXDisabilities.org.

In keeping with our new look, logo, and website, we wanted to reach out to potential members in a new way. We worked with local filmmakers to produce two video projects. Up-and-comer David Bukstein directed a brand new **Public Service Announcement** (PSA) for us. Between December 2011 and January 2012, we shot six different spots on location all over Austin to capture how some of our members exemplify our mission. Also this winter, Alex Murphy, winner of the 2011 Cinema Touching Disability Short Film Competition, volunteered to shoot and edit an information video about CTD. We premiered **Welcome to CTD** at our 2012 Film Festival, and it's been a hit ever since! View Bukstein's and Murphy's fine work at www.TXDisabilities.org!

Out and About



Don't get the idea that we were stuck behind our computers all year! In 2012, CTD staff was heavily involved in tons of community events in our home base of Austin. To kick off the year, the whole staff attended the Grand Opening of **Kenguru** (left), a Pflugerville-based producer of

wheelchair accessible cars. Staffers helped plan **White Cane Day**, **Disability Mentoring Day**, the **ADAPT Fun Run**, and the **Accessible Fishing Pier** on Lady Bird Lake. We served on committees for **SafePlace**, the **OneStar Inclusion Team**, and the **Austin Mayor's Council for People with Disabilities**. We helped **Texas Rowing for All** earn a big grant from the Olympic Opportunity Fund. We always enjoy working with our friends at other organizations, and we can't wait to see what partnerships emerge in 2013!

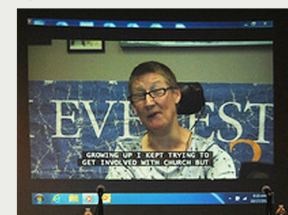
COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

CTD Staffers serve as experts in Interfaith Inclusion Project

CTD VISTAs Susie Angel and Terri Stellar were recruited to help plan and participate in the **Keep Austin Faith Inclusive Symposium** in October. The purpose of this one-day event was to gather religious leaders, people with disabilities and their families and service providers to discuss ways to make faith communities more accessible and inclusive. The symposium screened several short videos, including ones of Terri and Susie (below) telling about their own spiritual journeys.



Susie also sat on a question and answer panel with other people with disabilities.



The symposium was presented by OneStar Foundation, Jewish Family Service, and Texas A&M University's Center on Disability and Development, and was funded through a grant from The Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities.

GET INVOLVED at www.TXDisabilities.org

As a member-driven organization, CTD needs YOU to succeed in our mission. What does membership in CTD entail? We want you to be involved in our efforts in ways that work for you.

Sign up as a member and join thousands of Texans with disabilities, families, workers, advocates, policy makers, and businesses in building a truly barrier free Texas.

Subscribe to The Messenger, our free monthly e-newsletter, to stay current with CTD events, advocacy opportunities, disability news, and more!

Donate. Your donation is your personal commitment to our cause and work. Large or small, every donation counts at CTD!

Be an Advocate. At the Capitol or home, in a crowd, or as a crowd of one: make your voice heard! Learn about our current campaigns and our access advocacy resources.

Participate in a CTD event. Attend our annual Convention or Film Festival, submit creative work to one of our artistic competitions, and keep an eye out for special events and consumer education opportunities.

Follow Us on Social Media. We use our Facebook and Twitter pages to stay in touch with members, post photos, inform you about special offers, and more!

GET INVOLVED SPOTLIGHT

Visit TXDisabilities.org to learn more about joining CTD and benefits for members, signing up for the newsletter, donating, and more.

Save the Date:

CTD's 35th Annual Convention and Rally March 4 & 5, 2013 in Austin TX.

We're on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, LinkedIn, and Flickr [@TXDisabilities](#).

