

Texas Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities



April 12, 2024

Presentation to Texas Judicial Commission on
Mental Health



Texas Office of the Governor

GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE ON PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES



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About the GCPD

- The leading state agency that looks at disability issues from a cross-disability perspective.
- Established in September 1950 by Governor Allan Shivers as the Texas Governor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped.
- Continued by executive order until the Texas Legislature renamed and statutorily created the Texas Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities (GCPD) in 1991.





Our Mission



The Texas Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities (GCPD) works to further opportunities for persons with disabilities to enjoy full and equal access to lives of independence, productivity and self-determination.



Committee Organization

- Twelve members appointed by the Governor.
- Seven members must be people with disabilities.
- Ex-officio or advisory members from seven state agencies.



Ex-officio or Advisory Members

- Texas Workforce Commission
- Texas Department of Family and Protective Services
- Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation
- Texas Department of Criminal Justice
- Texas Education Agency
- Texas Health and Human Services Commission
- State Independent Living Council
- Other agencies as required.



10 Issue Areas

- Access
- Communications
- **Criminal Justice**
- Education
- Emergency Management
- Employment
- Health
- Housing
- Transportation
- Veterans



What We Can Do for You

- **LISTEN** to disability advocates.
- Identify and share best practices on local disability policy issues and solutions through the network of mayor and county committees on disabilities.
- Study and analyze policy issues within our 10 policy issue areas.
- Issue reports containing best practices and recommendations seeking:
 - Legislative solutions or
 - Administrative solutions.
- Work within existing state agency policies and programs to advocate for better policy implementation.



GCPD Can . . .

- Use our communication channels to share information on local, state, and federal disability policy issues.
- Serve on state task forces and advisory committees.
- Provide invited resource testimony to House and Senate committees on disability-related legislation.
- Provide GCPD policy resources to disability advocacy organizations.
- Provide comment to the Office of the Governor's policy team on bills affecting Texans with disabilities.



GCPD Cannot . . .

Advocate in favor of
or against any
specific legislation.



Accessibility and Disability Trainings

- Accessible and Disability Policy Webinar Series
- Target audience includes ADA Coordinators and Local Committee Members
- Free training from statewide experts
- Fully accessible training with real-time captioning using the Zoom platform



<https://gov.Texas.gov/organization/disabilities/training-webinars>



Making Recommendations

**Interim Report: A Study Regarding the Use of
Certain Public Transportation Services by Persons
with Disabilities**

Prepared for:
Members of the 84th Texas Legislature



Texas Governor's Committee on Pe
December 31, 2

**Interim Report: A Review of
Accessible Parking for
Persons with Disabilities**

Prepared for:
Members of the 85th Texas Legislature



Texas Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities
November 1, 2016

**A Report on
Support Service Providers
(SSP)**



Governor's Committee on Peop
January 5, 2017

**Texas Governor's Com
People with Disabil**



Policy Recommendations for the 2018-2019 Bienni
85th Legislative Session: January 2017



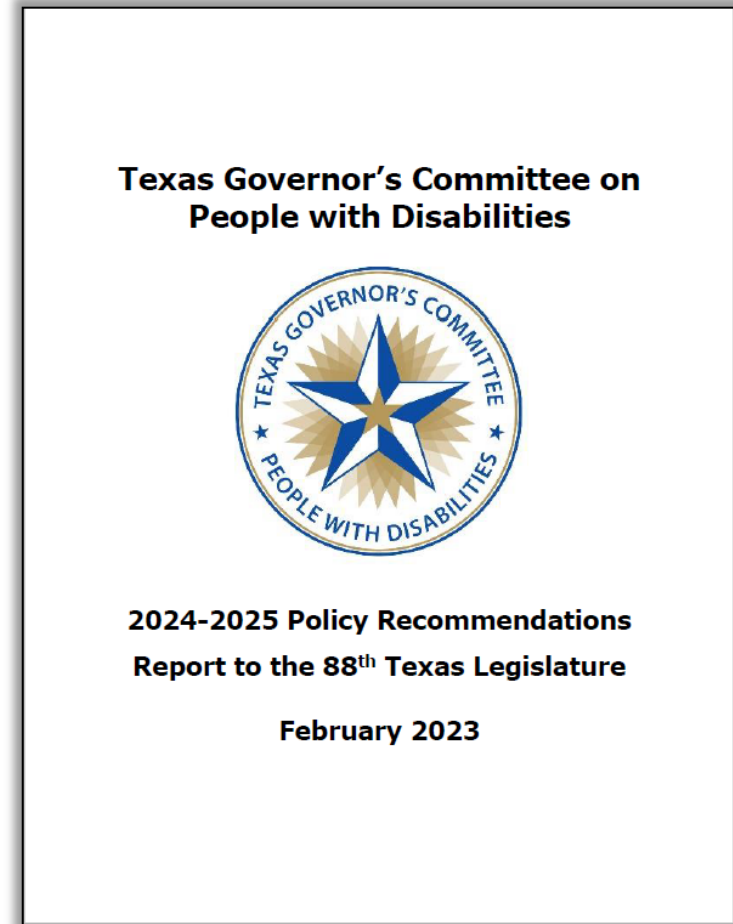
Texas Office

GOVERNOR

DISABILITIES

Biennial Report to the 88th Legislature

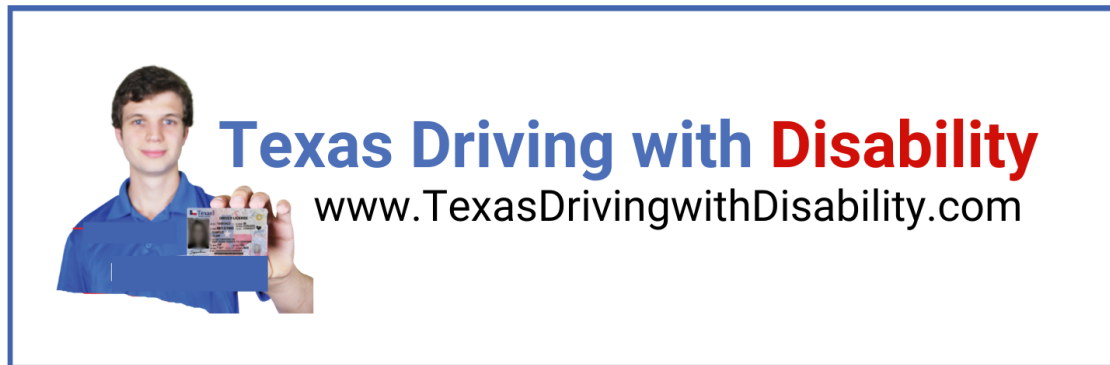
- Access the full GCPD Policy Recommendations <https://gov.texas.gov/organization/disabilities/gcpd-reports>



Addressing Systemic Concerns

- Listen to concerns of all Texans and reach out to underserved populations
- Look for opportunities to address systemic concerns
- Fill out the form below to bring issues to our attention:
<https://gov.texas.gov/organization/disabilities/policy-form>
- Committee can also receive testimony in writing or in person at quarterly meetings
Send to: gcpd@gov.texas.gov





- This Texas trail-blazing program focuses on improving the interaction between law enforcement and drivers with disabilities with unique communication needs. Texans now have the option to disclose “Communication Impediment” directly on the front of their Driver License or State ID or when registering their vehicle through the DMV. This will alert the trained officer of an individual who may be slower to respond or one who is deaf or hard of hearing.
- Law Enforcement Training:
 - [TCOLE Course 4055](#): Understanding Communication Impediment for the Peace Officer (*online continuing education training for law enforcement officers*)
 - [TCOLE Course 7887](#): Interacting with Drivers who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing (*mandatory training for law enforcement officers*)



Policy Proposals to the 88th Legislature

- HHSC should task the Statewide Behavioral Health Coordinating Task Force with studying ways to increase the availability and awareness of high-quality, comprehensive care for people with mental health (MH) diagnosis and IDD.
- Form an advisory coalition with subject matter experts from HHSC's Early Childhood Intervention Program (ECI), the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), and the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to study and make recommendations on pre-service and annual professional development opportunities for providers on supporting children with developmental delays and disabilities, supporting early childhood mental health, and other related topics.



Criminal Justice and Mental Health Policy Topics of Interest

- Mental Health Diversion Courts
- Supported Decision-Making Agreement Recognition
- Jail Releases of 17-year-olds with Disabilities without Parental Notification
- Elopement of People with Disabilities – Statewide Alerts



Next GCPD Quarterly Meeting

- April 25th & 26th
- Held at the Region 16 Education Service Center and online via Zoom.



Contact us

Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities

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