

CTD

2013 ANNUAL REPORT



YOUR **CTD** CORRESPONDENTS

A message from the Executive Director



Dear Friend of Disability Advocacy,

CTD's mission is to ensure that people with disabilities may live, learn, work, play, and participate fully in their community of choice. Strong, grand words. CTD takes many approaches to achieve our mission:

We **work with partners** large and small, on both ends of the political spectrum, on issues and projects we believe in. As major players of the My Medicaid Matters and Texas Forward campaigns, we are working toward a well-funded Medicaid system and a better supported state budget. Cooperating with other great organizations also allows us to hold informative and engaging events for consumers and advocates, like our annual Convention.

Through the legislative session and beyond, we take advantage of opportunities to **influence public policy** to the benefit of those with disabilities. We strive to engage all people in public policy, from everyday voters to decision makers at the national level. And, we support and participate in lawsuits that will set fair precedents for people with disabilities.

We highlight the extraordinary accomplishments and daily lives of individuals with disabilities here at home, and all over the world with our **public awareness initiatives** like the Cinema Touching Disability Film Festival, now ten years old!

Finally, we provide individuals who need home attendants the opportunity to remain independent in their communities, through CTD's **Consumer Directed Services (CDS)** Division.

One mission, multiple approaches; read on for more details. In 2014, we invite you to get involved and stay involved with CTD.

For a Barrier-Free Society,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dennis Borel". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Dennis Borel
CTD Executive Director

*About the Cover: See a certain resemblance to **60 Minutes**? It's intentional! Like the iconic television news magazine, CTD's Annual Report seeks to bring you timely information during your busy day.*

Coalition of Texans with Disabilities

Board of Directors

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

Executive Committee

President: Rodney Hanneman*
Vice President: Crystal Lyons* **
Secretary: Judy Telge
Treasurer: Frank Santos

At Large Members

Region 1: vacant
Region 2: John Curnutt*
Region 3: Regina Blye*
Region 4: Darrell Wilson*
Region 5: Marshall Burns*
Region 6: Francis Key*
Region 7: Gene Whitten-Lege
Region 8: Jet Schuler

* Person with a disability

** Parent of a child with a disability

Staff

Executive Director: Dennis Borel
Director of Advocacy: Chase Bearden
Director of Communications: Laura Perna
Film Festival Coordinator: William Greer
Editor/Researcher: Susie Angel
Chief Operations Officer: Denise Curtice
CDS Payroll: Amie Lynne,
Dyanna Matthews, Cheryl Smith
CDS Claims Analyst: Hup Holland

Interns

Spring Policy Intern: Sydney Paschall
Spring Film Fest Interns: Abby Waller,
Megan McEachern
Summer Film Fest Intern: Josselyn Sosa

2013: Session Highlights

Every minute counted with this biennium's legislative session. We put in late nights and long hours for our top priorities of community services, independent living, inclusion, and access. We also came to the table on many other issues.

Independent living emerged as a major focus for us this session. CTD and our partners succeeded in increasing the base wage for personal attendants in the State Budget, putting \$235 million more into the pockets of 121,000 community attendants over the 2014-2015 biennium. In addition, our efforts helped bring a combined \$612 million to expanded community services, including the Medicaid waivers program, the Promoting Independence program, and the Community First Choice Option (CFCO). In the fight to close and consolidate **State Supported Living Centers**, CTD and our partners secured several small, but relevant wins, including a budget rider for a 10-year study of the SSLC system.

... our efforts helped bring a combined \$612 million to expanded community services.

Medicaid was a huge topic this session, with lawmakers proposing plans for its maintenance, expansion, and reform. CTD supported Medicaid expansion bills, including HB 3791, Rep. John Zerwas' "Texas Solution". To no one's surprise, uncompromising conservatives refused to consider bills that would have addressed Texas' uninsured population and growing demand for Medicaid services. Although billions of federal dollars were left on the table, CTD and our allies don't see this session as a total loss for Medicaid. Inside the Capitol, we were successful in helping to pass some bills that in fact protect and improve this public service. Outside, CTD helped organize the largest disability rally ever in Texas on March 5th (see top right) to tell the legislature that **Texas Medicaid Matters**.



An estimated 3,000 Texans gathered at the State Capitol on March 5, 2013 to demonstrate their support for Medicaid. Photo courtesy of Kit O'Connell.

As the close of the regular session approached, CTD concentrated our efforts for our end game strategy. We identified good bills that were stalling and gave them an extra push. Conversely, we raised a flag on bills that were harmful to people with disabilities and had built up momentum.

The eleventh hour had much in store for **Senate Bill 7**, on Medicaid managed care reform, which was branded a contentious and confusing bill throughout the session. At the last minute, a state representative added an amendment that would have prevented Texas agencies from cooperating with the federal government, thus severely hampering or even killing many of the programs in SB7, including the CFCO. While the amendment stayed in the final version of SB7, CTD was among groups that helped negotiate for more appropriate language that preserves better services to the existing Medicaid population. As this piece of legislation moves forward, we will continue our close involvement, with Dennis Borel appointed to the State's Medicaid Managed Care Advisory Committee.

With new partners and allies, lessons learned, and indefatigable momentum, CTD is looking ahead to prepare for the next legislature in 2015. State Supported Living Centers, the state's claim of sovereign immunity from the ADA, and a lot more are in our sights. Plus, we are developing a communications initiative to engage our membership deeply in a conversation about public policy. Stay tuned!

Social Media Stats during the Regular Session

- 1/3: the portion of #txlege tweets that pertained to or came from the Texas Medicaid Matters March and Rally the day after the event
- 377: total views of CTD's live streamed events +
- 127: total views of live steam archives
- 136,846: total CTD Facebook post appearances

For a more detailed overview of CTD's efforts during the 83rd Legislature, see our 2013 Legislative Report. ■

2013: The Year in Pictures

From the 83rd Texas Legislature to the 10th annual Cinema Touching Disability Film Festival, 2013 brought a wealth of notable gatherings and organizational milestones for CTD. In the moments that we captured on film, we can trace the story of our efforts toward a barrier-free society. Pushing for greater access to healthcare, calling attention to disability issues and stories, and fighting for basic civil rights all form part of a larger picture.

Nov. 20, 2012. My Medicaid Matters Press Conference. Through ongoing participation in this campaign, CTD works to call media attention to the issue of Medicaid in Texas.



April 5, 2013. SB 7 Town Hall Meeting. Leaders from major state agencies discussed Senate Bill 7, a bill (now law) that significantly affects and expands Medicaid managed care. CTD co-hosted and live-streamed the event.



35th Annual Convention **March 4, 2013.** CTD co-located our annual conference with TALAC, concurrent with the legislative session. The program included a high-powered panel with the commissioners of DARS, DADS, and HHSC. More about our convention on page 6.

2012

2013



Dec. 4, 2012. State Rep. Mark Strama & CTD's Dennis Borel at the White House. Strama and Borel were among a select group of Texans invited to the White House for a workday to promote better federal-state collaborations.

35th Annual Convention **March 5, 2013. Texas Medicaid Matters March and Rally.** CTD joined our My Medicaid Matters partners and supporters from all over Texas at the State Capitol for the largest disability rights rally in state history. Roughly 3,000 Texans came out to demonstrate their support of Medicaid funding and expansion, and countless others participated online. The media took notice, too; over 100 newspapers, news channels, and political blogs reported on the event. For more on the Texas Medicaid Matters March and Rally, plus CTD's efforts on Medicaid-related legislation, see page 3.





May 10, 2013. William Greer and Dennis Borel

interview Dr. Temple Grandin. Teaming up with past Cinema Touching Disability Short Film Competition winner Alex Murphy, CTD caught up with the dynamic Dr. Temple Grandin in Dallas to discuss her new book, “The Autistic Brain,” autism and education, and more. Alex shot and edited “The Autistic Brain: An Interview with Dr. Temple Grandin,” which opened our Cinema Touching Disability Film Festival on Nov. 1. View it now at youtube.com/TXDisabilities. For more about the Film Fest, see page 7.

Oct. 17, 2013. New Staff photos. 2013 brought big internal changes. CTD’s Consumer Directed Services (CDS) Division staff expanded to four, with Amie Lynne, Dyanna Matthews, and Cheryl Smith joining Payroll, and Hup Holland hired on full time as a Claims Analyst (below, with COO Denise Curtice). To date, the CDS Division provides support to over 250 individuals around the state who manage their own attendant care services. To our Board of Directors, we welcomed Marshall Burns (Corpus Christi) and Darrell Wilson (San Antonio). Finally, we said goodbye to long time board member and friend, Eric Reed (El Paso, 1958- 2013).



2014



April 15, 2013. CTD’s William Greer at the Boston Marathon.

With celebrity sighted guide Peter Sagal, William completed this prestigious race minutes before the bombs exploded. Afterwards, CTD edited together a short film, “26.2: Austin to Boston”, detailing Will’s experience. It premiered at the Cinema Touching Disability Film Festival Nov. 2 and is available at youtube.com/TXDisabilities. For more on the Film Fest, see page 7.

Sept. 24, 2013. Op-ed with Arlene Wohlgemuth on SSLCs. CTD rattled cages and raised eyebrows when Dennis Borel co-authored a statewide editorial with Arlene Wohlgemuth of the Texas Public Policy Foundation, a watchdog for political conservatives and limited government. Two very different organizations got on the same page to call for the closure and consolidation of state supported living centers (SSLCs).

TEXAS WEEKLY AN EXCLUSIVE PUBLICATION OF THE TEXAS TRIBUNE



Oct. 31, 2013. CTD member Lorri Burnett visited our office to talk about her family’s legal battles over the private guardianship of Lynne P. (black and white photo). As CTD celebrates a big victory with the PASRR lawsuit, Lorri’s visit reminded us that the fight for individuals trapped in institutions is not over. For more on the PASRR suit, see page 6.

MORE in 2013 Advocacy

CTD's advocacy activities don't stop with the close of the Legislature. Researching and filing interim charge requests, community organizing, and participating in statewide campaigns are just a few of the ways that we keep the momentum going toward our mission.

Throughout the session, CTD worked on a number of projects with **Texas Forward**, a coalition of diverse groups and individuals advocating for a state budget that meets Texas' needs. Through the 2013 session, Texas Forward members collaborated on advocacy, rallies, communications, and trainings, including the **Our Future! Our Texas! March and Rally** on April 10. CTD staff participated in and helped guide the group's activities, and Dennis Borel served as a member of the Steering Committee. At the end of the session, this committee elected Borel as chair. We look forward to our continued leadership in this coalition.



In 2013, we were also thrilled to see the **PASRR lawsuit**, a years-long effort, turn a major corner. In December of 2010, CTD joined Disability Rights Texas, the ARC of Texas, and six individuals who had been unsuccessful in leaving their nursing facilities as plaintiffs in a class action lawsuit against the state of Texas. Together, we charged that the state had violated the ADA by "segregating these individuals in nursing homes and failing to provide them with the treatment and services they needed while there." This summer, we came to an interim agreement with the defense, which will address many of our concerns while allowing time to develop a long-term solution. Of the many provisions in the agreement: expanded community living options for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This decision will positively affect an estimated 6,000 individuals- more than would benefit from the closure or consolidation of SSLCs.

While the fight for community living over institutions is not over, this win moves us, and families like Lorri Burnett's, forward. ■

This decision will positively affect an estimated 6,000 individuals- more than would benefit from the closure or consolidation of SSLCs.

2013 Public Awareness

CTD's public awareness activities represent still other means by which we work to achieve our mission. Public education, the arts, recreation, and faith communities are a few of the areas we turned our attention to in 2013.



35th Annual Convention

We seek out opportunities to share our knowledge with the disability community and the general public. This spring, we held our annual convention concurrently with the **Texas Advanced Leadership and Advocacy Council (TALAC)** in Austin, where CTD experts spoke on current policy issues, advocacy and communication strategies, and agency information. In addition, we organized a panel with the commissioners of DADS, DARS, and HHSC to discuss changes in health care with convention attendees.

In 2013, we presented to United Healthcare and the Texas Sunset Commission on **Effective Interactions with People with Disabilities**. As we build a barrier-free Texas, state agencies and businesses alike must be prepared in communicating with consumers with disabilities. Often, a little forethought goes a long way! In addition, Newsletter Editor and Researcher Susie Angel participated in in-person and video trainings for the **Disabled Parking Enforcement Volunteer program** of the Travis County Constable (Pct 5).

Parking is an access and civil rights issue; training volunteers to help enforce parking laws seems simple, but it's a big step in bringing down barriers.

We couldn't be more pleased with the outcome of this year's annual **Cinema Touching Disability Film Festival and Short Film Competition**. Film fans and our supporters came in from all over Texas to celebrate ten years of Cinema Touching Disability. Standing room only audiences viewed:

- **Getting Up: The Tempt One Story**, with special guest Austin-based spray can artist Sloke One in attendance (below).
- **The Crash Reel**, SXSW 2013 Audience Favorite Documentary, recently short-listed for an Oscar!
- Finalists of the **Short Film Competition**. Entries from the documentary division called attention to the need for inclusive education and to the idea that a person's intellectual/ developmental disability isn't necessarily a burden. The narrative division entries featured more performers with Down syndrome than we've seen all year: breaking barriers through film!
- Selected 2013 **Pen 2 Paper** creative writing contest finalists and Grand Prize winner perform their poems.



Sloke One paints a mural in the style of Tempt One. Audience members bid on the piece later that night, proceeds benefitting CTD. Photo courtesy of Kayci Decker.

While the Film Festival is our biggest event of the year, we take pride in all of the awareness projects that we lead or participate in. Director of Advocacy Chase Bearden served as a consultant for **Getting Fit to Live, Work, and Play!**, a SILC initiative that aims to improve quality of life for people with disabilities through education and access to health and fitness programs and information. Dennis Borel continued his service on the **Core Foundation Accessible Fishing Pier** advisory board. The Pier reached a major milestone in 2013: 100% funded! Susie Angel continued her service on the advisory committee of the **Austin Interfaith Inclusion Network**, which held its second Symposium this fall.

While CTD knows that our accomplishments speak for themselves, we are humbled by and appreciative of the recognition we receive from others. We were honored to accept **PACT's Organization of the Year Award** this summer. Then in October, Chase Bearden was pleasantly surprised by a **Chairman's Commendation** from the Austin Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities for his advocacy work. ■

Join CTD

As a member-driven organization, CTD needs YOU. Join thousands of Texans with disabilities, families, workers, advocates, policy makers, and businesses in building a truly barrier-free Texas.

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

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

Advocate with us. At the Capitol or home, in a crowd, or as a crowd of one: make your voice heard! Join a campaign and access our advocacy resources.

Attend a CTD event, like our Annual Convention or Film Festival. Submit creative work to one of our artistic competitions. Check out special events and consumer education opportunities.

Follow us on social media.



@TXDisabilities

Visit us online.

www.TXDisabilities.org
info@txdisabilities.org

Contact us the old fashioned way.

316 W. 12th St., Ste. 405
Austin, TX 78701

(512) 478-3366

CTD is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization with Federal Tax ID #74-2071160. CTD is a social and economic impact organization benefitting Texans with all disabilities of all ages. CTD is a membership organization controlled by people with disabilities.

Thank you to our 2013 sponsors

Our sponsors represent a huge variety of businesses, from national pharmaceutical companies to local home health agencies. They have one important thing in common: they recognize the value of effective advocacy for disability and public health issues. CTD deeply appreciates each of our sponsors for allowing us to work toward our mission of a barrier-free Texas. Thank you to our major sponsors below.

