



Texas House of Representatives
District 147 • Fax (512) 463-1260 • Phone (512) 463-0524

PRESS STATEMENT

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Contact: Melissa Loe
melissa.loe@tcdd.state.tx.us
(512) 437-5441

Helpful Interventions to Host African-American Support Conference

Rep. Garnet Coleman (D-Houston) announced that the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities awarded \$33,687 to Helpful Interventions for the first year of a project to plan and host the Gulf Coast African American Family Support Conference.

“This three-year project will strengthen people’s knowledge about both behavioral and physical health care services while working to reduce prejudice and eliminate health disparities for African-Americans,” Coleman said. “This will make it easier for individuals with disabilities to be fully included in their communities.”

In the first year of the project, Helpful Interventions will host meetings to research systemic and resource disparities in the Houston area African-American community. Their findings will be used in planning a conference in 2013, which is expected to be attended by at least 200 families. The conference will be modeled on the Central Texas African American Family Support Conference hosted annually by Austin Travis County Integral Care.

TCDD is a 27-member board, dedicated to improving the lives of more than 475,000 Texans with developmental disabilities. The council uses a variety of activities – such as grant projects, technical assistance, public awareness and leadership training – to enable people with disabilities to live and participate in the community. Developmental disabilities are severe, chronic disabilities that occur before the age of 22, such as autism, cerebral palsy, intellectual and developmental disabilities, mental illness, traumatic brain injury and epilepsy.

More information on TCDD and its projects is at <http://www.txddc.state.tx.us> or call (800) 262-0334.