

Community and Family Support System (CFSS) Task Force Update

CFSS TASK FORCE MEMBERS (Listed in alphabetical order)

Jeanne Abadie – Advocate, Advocacy Center
Herman Bignar – Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities
Wesley Cagle – LGE DD Director, South Central LA Human Services Authority
Brenda Cosse' – Parent
Becky Craig – LGE Behavioral Health Deputy Director, Central LA Human Services District
April Dunn – Self-Advocate, Developmental Disabilities Council
Mylinda Elliott – Parent, LaCAN, Families Helping Families
Rebecca Ellis – Parent, Families Helping Families
Brad Farmer – LGE Executive Director, Acadiana Area Human Services District
Rocky Fuselier – Self-Advocate
Liz Gary – Parent
Laura Head - Parent
Michelle Hurst – Parent, Developmental Disabilities Council
Ashley McReynolds – Parent, LaCAN
Kelly Monroe – Advocate, Arc of Louisiana, State Personal Assistant Services
Steven Nguyen – Self-Advocate, Families Helping Families
Dr. Janice Peterson – Office of Behavioral Health
Bambi Polotzola – Parent, Governor's Office of Disability Affairs
Delery Rice – Parent, Developmental Disabilities Council
Dr. Monteic Sizer – LGE Executive Director, Northeast Delta Human Services District
Mark Thomas – Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities
Mauricia Walters – Parent, Families Helping Families
Sandee Winchell – Advocate, Developmental Disabilities Council

CFSS TASK FORCE MEETING DATES

Wednesday, July 27, 2016
Monday, August 15, 2016
Wednesday, September 7, 2016

RECOMMENDED GOALS

A Community and Family Support System that:

- is based on the guiding principles in Act 378;
- is person- and family-centered and person- and family-driven;
- provides access to the same level and quality of supports and services, regardless of where one lives in the state;
- is adequately and equitably funded to ensure the needs of all service populations in all regions can be met;
- utilizes consistent policies across the state;
- provides consistent high quality customer service across the state.

ACT 378 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Children, regardless of the severity of their disability, need families and enduring relationships with adults in a nurturing home environment. As with all children, children with developmental disabilities need families and family relationships to develop to their fullest potential.

Adults with developmental disabilities should be afforded the opportunity to make decisions for themselves and to live in typical homes and communities where they can exercise their full rights and responsibilities as citizens.

Services to persons with developmental disabilities should be responsive to the needs of individuals and their families, rather than fitting people into existing programs.

The family of each child with developmental disabilities shall be provided the support necessary so that the child may live in a stable family environment in an enduring relationship with one or more adults regardless of the severity of the disability of the child or the degree of support necessary.

Adults with developmental disabilities should receive the supports necessary to enable them to achieve their maximum potential through increased independence, productivity, and integration into the community.

The family support system shall be flexible, individualized, and family centered.

The needs of the entire family shall be considered in the development of the individualized family supports.

The family support system recognizes that families are best able to determine their own needs, rather than having their needs determined by the state or an agency.

The system shall have a program of outreach so that families may obtain family support at the time they learn of their child's disability, and so that people are aware of the availability of community supports when the need arises.

The system shall support and strengthen existing informal social networks and natural supports in addition to professional support services.

The system shall promote the use of existing community resources.

Adults with developmental disabilities should have supports and services provided in the community to meet their needs wherever the individual chooses to live and work.

The system shall be flexible to insure that unanticipated needs are met and that the provision of supports and services is not limited to the location and types of existing services.

A cash subsidy should be made available to eligible families for any of the purposes contained within the plan in order to enhance the family support system.