

## ***Executive Director's Report January 16-17, 2013 Council Meeting***

### **Budget**

- The budget report with expenditures through November 2012 is included in the packet.

### **Membership Update**

- The individuals who were approved at the October meeting – Rickii Ainey, Tracy Brown, Jason Durham, Melinda Ganes, Krista Scurria, and Monica Simmons – were submitted to the Governor's Office on November 14<sup>th</sup> for his appointment.
- Stephen Osborn's name was also submitted to represent the Department of Education and Hugh Eley was submitted for reappointment to represent the Office of Aging and Adult Services.
- We are still awaiting the appointments of Deshae Lott Sadow, Erin Smith, Patsy White, Kris Hebert, Laura Brackin and Lilian Wise.

### **Program Performance Review (PPR) Updates**

- Our Federal Fiscal Year 2012 PPR is not due to the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD) until mid March. It is normally due January 1<sup>st</sup>. AIDD has postponed the submission date until planned revisions to the format are completed.

### **DD Council Federal Appropriations**

- Council appropriations for the remainder of Federal Fiscal Year 2013 remain uncertain. With no agreement yet on averting the fiscal cliff, cuts to Councils and other programs that serve people with disabilities remain a harsh possibility.

### **Professional Development**

- I participated in a Leadership Development meeting for DD Council Executive Directors sponsored by the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities.
- Presentations by the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Commissioner and the authors of the *State of the States in Developmental Disabilities* from the University of Illinois were the highlights of the event.

### **Advocacy Activities**

- Fourteen months after the verbal agreement was reached, Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) Secretary Greenstein signed a written agreement specifying how funds in the New Opportunities Waiver (NOW) Fund shall be used. This agreement further specified that DHH would include funding for 200 NOW slots in their budget request in any year there were insufficient dollars in the NOW Fund to support those slots. A copy of this agreement is attached.
- Comments regarding the inclusion of children with disabilities in the Act 3 Early Childhood plan were submitted to the Dept. of Education through the online

survey form. These comments/talking points were also disseminated to Council members and to advocates through LaTEACH.

- For the past eleven months Council leadership has been raising concerns with DHH leadership about the inequity in the Individual and Family Support budgets in the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) regions and districts/authorities (LGEs) throughout the state. These concerns were also first raised at a meeting with the LGE Executive Directors on June 6, 2012 and again at a meeting with them on November 29<sup>th</sup>. The issue was detailed in the November 30<sup>th</sup> issue of *LaDDC News*, urging advocates to educate legislators on the need for additional funding for Individual and Family Support and to make their voices heard on the local level. We also developed performance measures for the Individual and Family Support program to help ensure that individuals and families would have equal access to services statewide. These measures were provided to DHH for inclusion in the Accountability and Implementation Plan which is used to monitor the LGEs' performance. At this time it is unknown if our suggested measures were included in the plan.
- Fact sheets were developed on five of the issues the Council adopted for its legislative/advocacy agenda:
  - Funding for 368 additional NOW slots
  - Restore and protect funding for Individual and Family Support Services
  - Protect the Flexible Family Fund Program
  - Secure additional state match for La. Rehabilitation Services
  - Promote Inclusive Settings and Prevent the Formation of Segregated Schools
- Shawn participated in the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education meeting and provided comments on two issues. Public comments were made against the acceptance of a charter school application for students with dyslexia, as this is a move toward creating segregated schools. Additional comments were made regarding the school accountability structure that currently incentivizes schools to not include students with disabilities.

## **Collaborative Efforts**

### **BrightStart Early Childhood Advisory Council**

- A summary of the Louisiana Early Childhood Education Act (Act 3) was provided. Supt. John White explained the strategies, activities and timeframe for the plan to implement the Act. Year 1 of the plan includes pilots to determine what works and what changes are needed.
- The intent of the La. Dept. of Education is to present the birth to 5 years old standards to the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) for approval in March 2013.
- Access to an online survey was available to receive public feedback and recommendations. The Council developed recommendations and provided comments on the survey.

### Louisiana Customized Employment Project

- A collaboration between the La. Dept. of Education and La. Rehabilitation Services
- The Council met with these two agencies to assist in developing strategies to enhance coordination between agencies and better align resources for improved transition and post-secondary employment outcomes

### Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP)

- The Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP) agenda, which continues to be determined by the Dept. of Education, did not contain any items that allowed SEAP to issue recommendations for any unmet needs and/or policy issues related to students with disabilities. SEAP members requested the capacity to change the bylaws to allow SEAP members to have control over the agenda.
- No reports were provided related to the breakdown of Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) expenditures or the Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) despite repeated requests for this information by SEAP members.
- The Council provided information related to SEAP functions and regulations, state funding (MFP) factors and the La. Special Education Center. Recommendations were also made for SEAP to learn the cycle of education policy decisions and to receive an orientation on operating as a state advisory panel.

### State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC)

- It was discussed that the Act 3 Early Childhood Education Plan in its current form does not address the needs of children with disabilities. Stakeholders were encouraged to submit comments asking that children with disabilities be included.

### OCDD Mortality Review Committee

- Of the 25 cases reviewed this quarter, the Committee noted no issues of abuse/neglect and requested no corrective action plans.

### OCDD System Transformation Stakeholders Group

- Seeking input from stakeholders in transforming OCDD's service system
- Purpose is to balance the service system and improve access, quality, cost effectiveness and efficiency
- Expected outcomes:
  - Serving more persons in home and community based services
  - Achieving cost effectiveness in home and community based services vs. institutional options
  - Reducing institutional reliance
  - Providing access to appropriate services based upon need, *when* it is needed
  - Increasing utilization of natural and community supports vs. paid supports

### La. Oral Health Coalition

- The coalition voted to keep their current priority areas: Access, Education, Prevention, Surveillance & Evaluation, and Workforce.
- The plan's access goal and objective can easily be modified to specifically include people with developmental disabilities. As they are currently written:
  - *Increase access to quality, comprehensive and continuous oral health services for all Louisiana citizens throughout their life stages.*
    - *By 2013, support policies and regulatory changes that would lead to an expansion of Medicaid coverage for pregnant women, adults, and seniors.*
- The coalition has committed to include people with developmental disabilities when the plan is updated in the Spring.

### Other Collaborative Efforts

- La. Rehabilitation Council
- Governor's Advisory Council on Disability Affairs
- La. Association of Professionals in Supported Employment
- La. Rehabilitation Services Steering Committee
- Education Estimating Conference

### **Meetings Attended Since October 1<sup>st</sup>**

Quarterly meeting with B. Greenstein, K. Kliebert, L. Brackin, K. Marcel – October 1

Membership Committee – October 1

Meeting with Families Helping Families of Greater Baton Rouge – October 4

Meeting with DHH Leadership re: DD Council budget – October 9

State Interagency Coordinating Council – October 10

LaCAN/LaTEACH Legislative Kick Off – October 11

People First Annual Meeting – October 13

Council Meeting – October 17 – 18

OCDD System Transformation Stakeholders Group – November 8

L & M Policy Research Interview – November 9

Meeting w/ DHH re: Outcome Measures for Individual & Family Support – November 15

DD Council Executive Directors Leadership Meeting – November 26 – 28

Meeting with Mark Thomas re: disability savings account legislation – December 4

Meeting with Ruth Kennedy re: Money Follows the Person Grant – December 4

Governor's GOLD Awards Ceremony – December 5

Meeting with Stephanie Patrick re: collaboration – December 6

Conference call with Northshore Families Helping Families – December 7

Conference call with LaCAN Leaders – December 13

Meeting with website designers – December 14



# State of Louisiana

Department of Health and Hospitals

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Developmental Disabilities Council

November 15, 2012

Ms. Sandee Winchell, Executive Director  
Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council  
P. O. Box 3455  
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-3455

Dear Ms. Winchell:

Please be advised that the Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) is in agreement that for every \$66,000 deposited into or unencumbered in the New Opportunities Waiver (NOW) Trust Fund, an additional NOW slot shall be added up to 500 additional slots in a given year. NOW Trust Fund monies shall be used to sustain phased in slots for the next three full fiscal years.

DHH is also in agreement with the provisions included in Act 481 of 2007 (R.S. 39:100.61) whereby unencumbered monies in the fund at the end of the fiscal year shall remain in the fund. Any interest earned shall be used in the calculation for additional NOW slots.

Further, DHH is committed to including a minimum of two hundred (200) New Opportunities Waiver slots in its annual budget requests beginning with the Fiscal Year 2014 request.

Should you have any questions, please contact Laura Brackin, Assistant Secretary of the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, at 225-342-0095.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B.D. Greenstein".

Bruce D. Greenstein  
Secretary