

# ***Executive Director's Report*** ***January 16-17, 2008 Council Meeting***

## **Budget**

The budget report through November 2007 is included in the packet.

## **Membership Update**

- Lynn Cannon, Laura Head, Simone Honore-Chretien, Heather Mobley, and Roseland Starks were all appointed to the Council by Governor Blanco and Sam Beech, Kathy Kliebert, Kay Marcel, Nanette Olivier, Lois Simpson, and Phil Wilson were reappointed to serve another four year term.

## **Staff Update**

- Sara Carr began work on December 12<sup>th</sup> as our Contracts Reviewer. She is taking Debra Thompson's place who is retiring at the end of this year.

## **Disabilities Information Access Line (DIAL) Report**

Calls from persons with disabilities	418
Calls from parents/family members	220
Calls from professionals	<u>104</u>
Total disability related calls	742
DD Council calls (not counted as I&R)	78
Other calls	<u>199</u>
Total DIAL calls this quarter	1019
Hurricane related calls this quarter	8
Hurricane related calls to date	1360
Follow-up Calls Attempted	21
Follow-up Calls Completed	10
Satisfaction Reported	100%

## **Advocacy Activities**

- A letter was sent to Governor-elect Bobby Jindal from the Council in support of Kathy Kliebert remaining in the position of OCDD's Assistant Secretary. We also signed on to a joint letter from numerous organizations in support of Kathy.
- Advocacy continues in Congress for the 3,000 vouchers for Permanent Supportive Housing units in Louisiana. Throughout the quarter I sent several emails and made phone calls to our Congressional delegation and to the House and Senate leadership urging them to appropriate funds for these vouchers and encouraged others to do the same.

## **LaCAN**

- The LaCAN Kick-off was held on November 6-7<sup>th</sup> in Alexandria for the LaCAN Leaders and Families Helping Families (FHF) Directors to plan the 2008 Legislative Session.

- The Legislative Agenda has been finalized and a Fact Sheet has been developed for the LaCAN leaders and members to use when visiting legislators.
- Regional Round Tables with legislators are being planned for January and February and individual visits with legislators are being scheduled now.
- We still have a vacant LaCAN Leader position in Region X (Jefferson Parish).

### **Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 07 Program Performance Report (PPR)**

- Our FFY 07 PPR is due to the Administration on Developmental Disabilities on January 1<sup>st</sup>. It will be submitted before Christmas.

### **Website**

- Our website has been updated and redesigned, and we now have the capability to make most changes to it in house. This will save us a considerable amount of money and allow changes to be made immediately.

### **Collaborative Efforts**

#### **State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC)**

- All but one Regional Interagency Coordinating Council (RICC) had met prior to the last SICC meeting on Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>. Reports from each of these nine RICCs were heard at the SICC meeting and these reports will become a standard agenda item at all future SICC meetings. The Region 8 RICC had not met prior to the Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> meeting but was scheduled to meet later that month.
- One issue discussed at the Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> meeting was a concern that some families who intended to have their child's date on the New Opportunities Waiver waiting list protected discovered once their child transitioned out of Early Steps that the date had not been protected. This seems to have occurred because families did not fully understand forms they completed while their child was in Early Steps. OCDD will report on this situation in their lead agency report at each SICC meeting.

#### **Survey for People with Disabilities Consortium**

- The Department of Health and Hospitals and the LSU School of Social Work, Office of Social Service Research and Development held a meeting on November 13<sup>th</sup> to revise the instrument used to survey people with disabilities. The goal is to send out the survey in the Spring or early Summer of 2008.

#### **Positive Behavioral Support Project (PBS) at Louisiana State University**

- On November 8<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, Council staff participated in planning sessions to address students who need more intensive behavioral supports. The Advisory Committee on Positive Behavioral Support met on December 7<sup>th</sup> to review the progress of the project and identify areas of need for the project.
- As a result of this meeting, a need was identified to align laws and policies with positive effective practices related to discipline. Council staff initiated a sub-committee to review policies related to discipline with the goal of making recommendations for legislators to revise statutes. This sub-committee held a phone conference on December 18<sup>th</sup>.

#### La. Department of Education State Autism Advisory Committee

- The committee met on December 11<sup>th</sup> and established a focus and course of action to address needs of students with autism. A review of current projects and initiatives was provided.
- The committee determined that the most critical need was an assessment that would provide a 'state of the state' with regard to the capacity of Local Education Agencies to support teachers, teacher skill levels with instructing students with autism and the outcomes of students with autism.

#### Job Fair Committee

- Disability Job Fairs occurred in October in nine regions of the state (Alexandria, Baton Rouge, Houma, Lafayette, Lake Charles, Monroe, New Orleans, Northshore, and Shreveport). There were a total of 189 businesses and 1,645 job applicants.
- The Baton Rouge Job Fair was October 23, 2007 at the American Legion Hall on Wooddale in Baton Rouge. There were 31 businesses present and 199 job seekers were connected with these businesses.
- Final results of the employer surveys have not been received to be able to determine how many of these job seekers received interviews and/or jobs as a result of the regional Disability Job Fairs.

#### National Inclusive Schools Week (2007 Art Contest)

- The contest was a great success. There were 170 poster, artwork and essay entries, and 17 were selected as winners. The winning entries were displayed at the Mall at Cortana in Baton Rouge on November 3<sup>rd</sup> and are currently on display at State Archives.
- An awards ceremony was held on December 5<sup>th</sup> where keynote speakers Craig Blackburn and Lynette Fontenot spoke about how inclusion had made a difference in their lives. The winners were presented trophies from the Council and certificates from the Governor's Office by Patrick Dobard, Confidential Asst. to Supt. Pastorek.
- Immediately following the ceremony the winners and their teachers were also recognized at the BESE meeting.

#### La. Disability Summit

- The Power of Three: Partnerships for Better Community Living – La. Disability Summit was held in Alexandria on October 23-26<sup>th</sup>. There were 462 people registered and 426 people in attendance.
- The planning committee voted to hold a second Disability Summit in the Spring of 2009. Since the conference made an estimated profit of \$48,000, the committee discussed forming a non-profit organization to hold these funds and plan the 2009 summit.

#### DHH Transformation Grant Stakeholders Group

- The new assisted living waiver (called Adult Residential Care), tentatively scheduled for implementation in June 2008, is targeted to seniors and people

with physical disabilities. Four services are included in the waiver and two hundred slots were initially funded.

- In another presentation, OCDD reported that 28% of Medicaid funding for people with developmental disabilities was spent on waiver services in FY02 and 72% was spent on ICF/DD services. In FY07, 42% was spent on waiver services and 58% on ICFs/DD. The number of people is shifting as well. In FY02, 4416 people were served by waivers and 5560 people were living in an ICF/DD. In FY07, 7204 people were served by waivers and the people living in ICFs/DD had decreased to 4800.

#### Governor's Advisory Council on Disability Affairs (GACDA)

- At the November 14<sup>th</sup> meeting the GACDA discussed how successful October was for the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs (GODA), as Governor Blanco declared it disability awareness month. The campaign was promoted by sending out press releases, making media presentations, speaking engagements, and hosting an events calendar.
- GODA also has a new updated website which includes a wide array of information and resources for its constituents, state agencies, and Louisiana's disability advocates.
- A vision and ideas of how the Council can better serve the disability community over the next four years were developed. This information will be used to craft a revised Executive Order for Governor Elect Bobby Jindal.

#### Community Housing Advocacy Networks (CHANs) & Housing Advisory Group

- CHANs are being organized in all regions of the state. Monthly meetings are being scheduled. The purpose of the CHANs is to advocate for public housing and make sure that Housing Authorities' Consolidated Plans include housing for people with disabilities and the elderly.
- The Housing Advisory Group keeps abreast of progress on housing issues such as the Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) Units, the Housing Trust Fund, the Office of Mental Health Housing Initiative and the LAHousingSearch.org.
- Representatives from the Department of Health and Hospitals working on housing will speak at the Council meeting about some of these initiatives and what the Council can do in the legislative session to advance housing opportunities for people with disabilities.

#### Mental Health Planning Council (MHPC)

- Our Council has historically held a seat on the MHPC but this seat was vacated with the resignation of Vince Walker in December 2006. We submitted Sharon Dufrene's name as Vince's replacement but Sharon has still not been appointed.
- The MHPC recently revised its bylaws and the Council does not hold a permanent seat. I requested a permanent seat at the last meeting and this request was referred to the Membership Committee for a recommendation to be made to the full MHPC.

### **Meetings/Events Attended Since September 27, 2007**

Planning Ad Hoc Committee – October 1

Meeting with Council's Budget Analyst – October 2

National Assn. of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD) Conference in San Diego – October 6 – 9

La. Disability Summit in Alexandria – October 24 – 25

LaCAN Leaders' Conference Call – October 29

Human Development Center Constituency Advisory Council – October 29

NACDD Conference Call on Waiver Waiting Lists – October 29

Mental Health Planning Council – November 5

OCDD Resource Allocation Stakeholders Group – November 5

LaCAN Kick-off in Alexandria – November 6 – 7

Disability Summit Planning Committee – November 14

DHH Systems Transformation Grant – November 29

*TriAngle* Editorial Board – November 29

Meeting with Kathy Kliebert – December 4

Art Contest Awards Ceremony – December 5

Disability Rights Rally Planning – December 13

Governor's Awards Ceremony – December 14