

**LOUISIANA DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL**  
**October 16, 2008**  
**MEETING**

8:30 A.M.

Holiday Inn South  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

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1. GREETINGS AND INTRODUCTIONS

- A. Lynette Fontenot, Chairperson of the Council, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Ms. Fontenot stated there are forms on the table for anyone who would like to address the Council. Time is allowed at the end of the meeting for people to speak for five minutes each. Ms. Fontenot reminded those present that Council Bylaws do not allow for proxy voting; anyone representing a Council member cannot vote on any issue.

B. MEMBERS PRESENT

Sam Beech  
Susan Berry, OPH  
Donna Breaux  
James Bulot, GOEA  
Brandon Burris, GODA  
Lynn Cannon  
Sharon Dufrene  
Lynette Fontenot  
Rocky Fuselier  
Simone Honore-Chretien  
Kathy Kliebert, OCDD  
Billie Ruth Kvaternik  
Kay Marcel  
Heather Mobley  
Roseland Starks, LRS  
Phil Wilson, HDC

C. MEMBERS ABSENT

Jeanne Abadie  
Melissa Fayard  
Laura Head  
Trudye Jones  
Jennifer Kopke, OMH  
Shelia Madison  
Willie Martin  
Ida Mialaret  
Nanette Olivier, DOE  
Jerry Phillips, BSHF  
Debbie Schilling  
Lois Simpson, AC

D. STAFF PRESENT

Sara Carr  
Shawn Fleming  
Paige Freeman  
Robbie Gray  
Kevin Hill  
Sandee Winchell

E. GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

Lacey Abshire – Guest of Lynette Fontenot  
 Dora Chandler – Guest of Lynette Fontenot  
 Pranab Choudhury  
 Mary Elizabeth Christian  
 Valerie Hiser  
 Robert Levy for Jennifer Kopke, OMH  
 Andrew Merlin  
 Olantha Scott  
 Tessie DiFulco – Catholic Charities of Baton Rouge  
 Liz Gary – Partners in Policymaking Coordinator  
 Yvonne Bell – Families Helping Families of Acadiana  
 Tammy Clark – Guest of Billie Ruth Kvaternik  
 Tara DiSandro for Jerry Phillips, BHSF

2. MINUTES OF APRIL MEETING

Ms. Fontenot entertained a motion to accept the Minutes from the July meeting.

Motion Passed Moved to accept minutes Kay Marcel. Second by Billie Ruth Kvaternik.

3. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – Lynette Fontenot

Lynette Fontenot discussed the meetings and activities she has been involved in since the July meeting:

- **National Conference of State Legislators (NCSL)**  
 Sandee Winchell, Shawn Fleming and Ms. Fontenot attended the National Conference of State Legislators in New Orleans on July 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. The Council's booth looked great. Louisiana representatives and senators came by the booth. Ms. Fontenot thanked them for their support of the Council's issues during the legislative session. Representative Burns came by and said he wanted to meet Ms. Fontenot because he has a print of her art. He and his staff were extremely nice and interested in the Council's mission and goals for individuals with disabilities. Ms. Fontenot also visited with Representatives LaBas and Robideaux at the Mardi Gras Party at the Superdome. Ms. Fontenot stated it was an honor to represent the Council at this conference.
- **Human Development Center's Constituent Advisory Council (CAC) Meeting**  
 On August 15<sup>th</sup> Ms. Fontenot attended the CAC meeting in New Orleans. An election was held to select a new chairperson for the Advisory Council. Mr. Reginald Gary was selected as the new chairperson of the council.

- **Resource Allocation Meeting**

On September 29<sup>th</sup> Ms. Fontenot attended the Resource Allocation meeting at the Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH). Kathy Kliebert reported that the plan for the cost effective allocation of home and community based services had been completed. This model will be implemented with people entering the New Opportunities Waiver for the first time this fall and will phase in with existing waiver recipients beginning in July 2009. The results indicate a very cost effective program. Ms. Kliebert will provide more details during her report.

- **National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD)**

Ms. Fontenot and Ms. Winchell attended the fall conference of NACDD in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The sessions Ms. Fontenot attended were enjoyable, especially those about inclusion in communities. She met some individuals who wanted to know about her computer and programs and also had the opportunity to speak to Chairpersons and Executive Directors from other states. The Figure Heads, who are hip hop artists, performed and also presented information at one of the sessions. They use music to encourage inclusion in the classroom and beyond. This three year project seems to be going well and is in partnership with the Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities.

- **Executive Committee Meeting**

The Executive Committee met on October 15<sup>th</sup> and considered whether a Council member should be counted as present at a meeting if the member only attends the meeting for a short period of time. After considering several options, the Committee will recommend that the Council adopt a policy that Council members must be present for the business/voting portion of the meeting in order to be considered present at that meeting. This will be voted on during new business.

Sandee Winchell reported that the number of disability related calls on the DIAL line have been decreasing over the past four years. DIAL is a duplication of service with the Council's funding of Families Helping Families since the centers also provide information and referral. One of the DIAL employees, Juliette McMurry's temporary appointment ended on October 31<sup>st</sup>. Ms. Winchell recommended that the Council eliminate the DIAL line completely. Callers to the Council needing information and referrals could be transferred to the Families Helping Families in their region. The DIAL line will be phased out and the full time DIAL specialist, Robert Caulk, would be given time and assistance in securing other employment. This one and one half position would be combined into one program manager position. The Executive Committee agreed with this recommendation and this will be voted on during new business.

The Committee approved a staff recommendation to begin some preliminary planning at the January Council meeting. Council member ideas and concept papers from the public would both be discussed in January to give staff time to gather estimated costs and other information on the potential initiatives before the April meeting. The solicitations of proposals could then be released shortly after the April meeting on the selected initiatives.

The Committee next discussed the Council's legislative advocacy plan and decided to recommend that the Council implement the same plan that was carried out last year. Council members will visit legislators by region, with their LaCAN leader, if possible. Council members who are about to rotate off and nominees who have not yet been appointed by the governor will all be included. Members will begin with legislators on the House Appropriations, Senate Finance, and both Health and Welfare Committees. Ms. Winchell will provide more details about these visits in her report. This plan will be voted on during new business.

All Council members will have an opportunity to make recommendations for the Council's legislative agenda. The Executive Committee discussed some possibilities and will recommend that the Council's legislative agenda include several messages:

- Increase waiver slots by protecting the NOW trust fund.
- New average cost of the waiver will be \$44,208 for the 2,025 people coming onto the NOW this year using the resource allocation model. This model makes the cost of the waiver predictable.
- The resource allocation model needs to be implemented across ALL settings, including residential.
- Develop a plan to consolidate and close developmental centers. Developmental centers cost \$171,000 per person.

The Committee reviewed the orientation evaluation comments from last year and discussed how to improve orientation for our new Council members in January. Some great ideas were generated. All veteran Council members are encouraged to attend to help make it a success.

The Executive Committee decided to make \$7000 in emergency funds available to individuals with disabilities and their families who were affected by Hurricanes Gustav and Ike. Families Helping Families centers in the affected areas are giving out the funds.

#### 4. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT - Sandee Winchell

Ms. Winchell discussed the following:

- **New Council Members**

Ms. Winchell welcomed the guests present who were selected as potential Council members and are awaiting appointment by the Governor. She stated that the current members who are rotating off will remain on the Council until the new ones are appointed.

- **DIAL**

Ms. Winchell passed out a chart and graph showing the number of Disability Related Calls made to DIAL beginning in the last quarter of 2004. The calls have decreased over the years due in a large part to Families Helping Families being created. The recommendation of the Executive Committee is to discontinue DIAL and phase it out. The DIAL line will roll over to the Council's line and Council staff will transfer callers to the Families Helping Families in their area. This one and a half DIAL position will enable the Council to create another Program Manager position in the office. There is a Program Manager position vacant due to the departure of Kandi Smith that the office is currently trying to fill.

Ms. Winchell stated it was a very difficult decision to abolish the DIAL position, but as Executive Director she felt she did what was best for the Council.

- **Legislative Visits**

Ms. Winchell stated that as the veteran Council members know, Legislative advocacy is one of the Council members' main responsibilities. The three mandates from the Federal government to Councils are advocacy, capacity building, and systems change and legislative visits really do involve all three of these. If the member lives in a region with more than one legislator, the LaCAN leaders in the region can help. The office will be mailing out information packets to the members containing a DD Council fact sheet, talking points, and materials regarding the Representative and Senators on the four key committees, Appropriation, Finance and the two Health and Welfare Committees who need to be targeted. She also encouraged the potential members and members rotating off to join in the effort of advocacy for people with disabilities in Louisiana.

- **National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL)**

Ms. Winchell stated the conference was a great opportunity to showcase the Council on a state and national level. There were not as many legislators from Louisiana as expected but they were able to meet legislators from all over the country and serve as ambassadors for the national organization.

- **National Executive Directors' Retreat and NACDD Conference**

Ms. Winchell stated that since the July meeting she has attended the National Executive Directors' retreat and along with Ms. Fontenot, the NACDD conference. She stated it was a great opportunity to network with other DD Council executives. She went with a list of ideas and questions and stated that if anyone was interested in the information she returned with that she would meet with them at a later time.

- **2007 Annual Report**

Ms. Winchell referred to the Annual Report in the Council member packet. She pointed out that one of the works of art on the front cover was that of Yvonne Bell's, the Director of Families Helping Families Acadiana, son. He was one of the winners of the 2007 Art Contest. She stated the Annual Report was truly a joint effort of Robbie Gray, Shawn Fleming, Paige Freeman, and Sara Carr, along with herself. It was started by Kandi Smith and when she left, it became a group project. The office has a few extra copies if anyone would like one.

Ms. Winchell asked if anyone had any questions about her written report. Billie Ruth Kvaternik asked when the Round Table discussions would kick off because she would like to participate in them.

Lynn Cannon referred to the \$7,000 the Council gave Families Helping Families to help hurricane victims and what the Council is doing to meet the needs not yet met. Ms. Winchell stated that the FHF centers requested money to assist people in their regions and Shawn Fleming was able to scrape together \$7000 from funds not spent from the various contracts. Unfortunately, the Council has no additional funds. The Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Developmental Disabilities has a disaster case management program but families we have referred have reported very poor response. The biggest request has been financial assistance to pay monthly bills due to disposable income being spent to evacuate.

## 5. BUDGET REPORT – Shawn Fleming

Shawn Fleming referred to the budget report from August 2008 included in the Council members' packet. The handout passed out was the end of the 07 Fiscal year so Mr. Fleming stated he would email out the current FY budget.

Mr. Fleming referred to the contracts amount stating there was \$10,000 less obligated in the budget last year than in 2007. There were \$31,000 of contract funds unexpended due primarily to the \$20,000 from OCDD.

The August 2008 and the September 2008 had differences due to the position vacancy in the office. Everything else is in line with the budget.

## 6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

### A. ACT 378 SUB-COMMITTEE – Kay Marcel

Kay Marcel discussed the Act 378 Sub-Committee actions as follows:

- **Agency Reports** - Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS), Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) and Office of Mental Health (OMH) budget reports show they are in line with spending during the first quarter of the fiscal year.
- **LRS** – During the July meeting there was concern regarding the issue of family complaints on availability of the Resources for Independent Living provider. There continues to be minor issues with timing of staff but no systemic issues continue.
- **Federation of Families** – Certain regions have limited activities. The Council Act 378 funds only provide for staff at the state level. The differences between regions in activity levels are related to some regions (5, 6, 7, and 8) acquiring other contracts and subsequently paid staff while the other regions depend exclusively upon volunteers.
- **Supported Living Contracts of Northwest Louisiana, Inc** –The Council's SFY 10 budget included a request for an additional \$88,018 to increase services for four (4) additional people with adult onset disabilities. The Office of Aging and Adult Services (OAAS) is also seeking an increase of \$600,000 to serve additional individuals in more regions. The Council wants to combine its funds with OAAS funds through an interagency transfer to OAAS each year. It was also recommended allowing consumer choice of providers by offering multiple providers to choose from. The overall goal is to get a waiver to support people with adult onset disabilities and get federal match funds for state dollars. Louisiana does not break out the cost for different populations in nursing homes therefore the nursing home rate is presented as very low. The Council is requesting that DHH break out the data in an effort to identify the cost effectiveness of having a waiver for these individuals.
- **Cash Subsidy Eligibility Changes** – The concern raised was whether Autism should be screened to ensure that all children with that categorical label from their school system meets the cash subsidy promulgated rule of a severe or profound disability. Cash subsidy provides \$258 a month for families of children with severe/profound disabilities. There are some categories of disabilities that do not require additional screening for cash subsidy eligibility and some that do. Other Health Impaired is an exceptionality that represents a range of severity levels, and children with that exceptionality are therefore screened to determine whether they meet the severity level. Currently children with Autism are automatically eligible,

but autism rates have increased dramatically. Given autism is a spectrum disorder and some children with autism may not meet the criteria as a developmental disability, the request is to recommend the development of a screening tool to determine the severity level of children with the educational classification of autism. There was a 7 to 3 vote within the committee to recommend the screening for students with autism. The three who voted against are parents of children with autism.

A discussion followed.

## B. SELF-DETERMINATION/COMMUNITY INCLUSION/HOUSING – Kay Marcel

Kay Marcel discussed the Health/Education/Employment Committee actions as follows:

- **Families Helping Families Association** – A presentation was given by Jamie Tindle of FHF of GBR and Jeanne Gauthier of Northshore FHF regarding the FHF Association. A handbook was passed around stating the purpose of the association and the criteria for the new directors to meet to join the association. Site visits to regional centers by association members will occur on a quarterly basis to ensure accountability of and support is provided to individual centers. There will be quarterly directors' meetings occurring immediately after each site visit to collaborate on staff training materials, the mechanism of procedures and protocols to address issues, and customer satisfaction surveys that will be given out on an annual basis.

One question asked was whether the centers provide adult services because most seem to be centered toward education. Ms. Tindle responded that each center does provide some adult services and activities but that each center has different activities and initiatives according to their region's needs. She encouraged everyone to contact their local center asking to schedule more adult oriented activities if they perceived this as a need.

Ms. Tindle indicated that eight centers are members of the Association and the three which are not are FHF-Northwest, Jefferson, and FHF-Region 7. The goal is to have them join the association eventually.

The fiscal office of FHF Association is located at FHF Acadiana and the point person for FHF Association is Jamie Tindle of FHF-GBR.

- **People First** – A report was received from Bonita Plaisance for Becky Zito. People First and the Advocacy Center, in collaboration with the Secretary of State's office, provided training to individuals on voting rights, people first language for self-advocates, and employment. The Board's annual meeting resulted in the development of position and mission statements.



- **End the Wait Campaign** – Lois Simpson, Becky Zito, Kathy Kliebert and Sandee Winchell met on October 14, 2008 to discuss outcomes, targeted audience, and message to craft.
  - Audience: Governor, DHH Administration, Legislators, and general public.
  - Message: ***A waiting list is not a service.*** (This message is identified with by the disability community)
  - Method: PSAs for T.V. and radio. Short snippets (video and/or pictures) with someone providing a narrative story of an individual on the waiting list at their own home or a success story of someone in their own apartment. End each clip with a picture of a child and the question, “Is this my future?”
  - Print media – Kay Marcel presented an idea of a tri-fold to target the governor and legislators with:
    - Short vignettes of stories on slender ‘cards’
    - Fact sheet on funding and system description (resource allocation model, ACT481, etc) and fact sheet on closing developmental centers.
    - Action steps for individuals to take.
  - Timeline: Print media ready for November 20, 2008. PSAs for January 2009.
  
- **OCDD and Medicaid Direct Support Professional Initiatives** – Kathy Kliebert stated the following:
  - There are many DSP initiatives but few have been started.
  - A DSP wage study was conducted and the data received, but a recommendation has not yet been made on the percentage of the rate that must be used for DSP wages and related costs. Ms. Kliebert expected to hire someone the last week of October to address this full time.

A discussion followed.

### C. HEALTH/EDUCATION/EMPLOYMENT – Sam Beech

Sam Beech discussed the Committee actions:

- **Status of Plan Activities** – The Inclusive Recreation/Positive Behavioral Support project has a nine minute parent video and the committee suggested viewing it at the January committee meeting.
  
- **Inclusive Schools Art Contest** – Judging was open Monday, October 13th through Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup>. Everyone was encouraged to go to the State Library and vote for their favorite art. Winners will be displayed October 28<sup>th</sup> through November. The committee recommended the art be displayed during November and December at the BESE meetings. The

awards ceremony is scheduled for December 4<sup>th</sup> at LSU Cook Conference Center. The art will be available for display around the state after December and may be displayed in conjunction with FHF events.

- **Meeting with Superintendent Pastorek** – A meeting will be held with Superintendent Pastorek on Wednesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, in hopes of changing his mind regarding children with disabilities. Christy Cormier (LaTEACH Statewide Coordinator), Sam Beech, Cindy Arceneaux (Parent Training and Information Center), and other FHF-SW staff will be present at the meeting. Issues to be discussed are:
  - Access to general curriculum
  - Perception of value of all students
  - Stakeholder involvement in policy making and reviewing
  - Segregation of students/special education issues
  
- **Change in Unsolicited Proposals process** – The planning process began three months early and concept proposals are to be accepted from October 1<sup>st</sup> – December 15<sup>th</sup>. Council members will decide at the January meeting which ideas they want additional information on for the April meeting.
  
- **Transportation Initiatives of other states** – Transportation was listed by self-advocates who responded to the Council’s survey as a top issue that the Council should address. DD staff have been researching transportation initiatives in other states.
  - The Missouri Council held a “Transportation Solutions” conference in June 2007 with national transportation experts. Those who attended the conference were invited to apply for funding for a transportation project for their communities with the focus on solutions to local transportation issues. Three projects were funded for a maximum of \$75,000 each. Funding was distributed in two phases: the planning phase began October 2007 and was \$25,000. The implementation phase began October 2008 and two of the three that applied received funding.
  - A community of about 8,000 people started a Demand Service where people call the local police dispatcher one day in advance to schedule rides (\$2 each way) within the city limits. They also partnered with OATS, the public transit system, to provide transportation three days a week (Tuesday through Thursday). Another was a rural county south of St. Louis who received state and federal funds to purchase a van to provide a route system five days a week for several rural communities that link to the St. Louis Metro system.

- Florida uses a “Coordinated Transportation” system in which a Coordinating Council determines a transportation broker that is used for all transportation needs (i.e., people with disabilities, elderly, medical needs, etc.). Transportation advocates need to determine how to sell the idea to local transportation representatives.

#### D. FUNDING AD-HOC – Sam Beech

Ms. Beech reported the following allocations of the \$47,500 for 2009:

- Jambalaya Inclusive Recreation Project currently funded in the 2009 plan at \$30,000 will receive an additional \$6,000.
- Development of a Housing Website for \$1,050. (Arc of LA).
- Funding for one Home of Your Own program and training to develop six others - \$20,000 (Arc of LA).
- My Choice training for individuals with developmental disabilities by individuals with developmental disabilities at \$10,000 (Arc of LA).
- An unfunded strategy was added to the plan to assist boards of regional Human Services Authorities and Districts in developing and implementing training and technical assistance plans.

#### 7. COUNCIL’S LEGISLATIVE AGENDA – Sandee Winchell

Ms. Winchell referred to the two handouts passed around before the meeting, the Summary of Resource Allocation Fiscal Impacts/Comparisons and the Level Distribution from Different Settings.

Kathy Kliebert reported that the anticipated average costs of the 1500 slots filled last year appear to be around \$64,000 which is significantly lower than the \$70,000 of previously filled waiver slots. This anticipated reduction in average cost may be attributed to the lower level of need of individuals receiving new slots as compared to those receiving waiver slots in previous years.

In addition to communicating to legislators about resource allocation lowering the cost of the waiver, it is important that resource allocation is also applied fairly across all settings. The best argument to use for fairness across settings is the chart showing the low levels of needs of individuals in residential settings that provide 24 hour services. Waiver recipients receiving more than what they need will have their services reduced. Residential services recipients receiving more than what they need should have their services reduced as well so more people can be served from the waiting list.

Another message that the Executive Committee recommended is that the NOW Trust Fund needs to be protected in order to fund additional waiver slots for people on the waiting list.

The last recommendation is for a plan for the consolidation and closure of developmental centers.

A discussion followed that included a recommendation to initiate legislation after a bill in North Carolina that mandates disability awareness education in all schools during disability awareness month.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Donna Breaux

None to discuss.

9. NEW BUSINESS – Donna Breaux

Ms. Breaux indicated that the recommendation for the Council's Legislative Agenda, as discussed in the Executive Committee, includes the messages that Ms. Winchell mentioned as well as possible legislation to incorporate a disability awareness curriculum in Louisiana schools during October.

Motion Passed Moved to accept the positions regarding Fairness across Settings and Resource Allocation, additional waiver slots, the NOW Trust Fund and closing developmental centers for the Council's Legislative Agenda, with the addition of the amendment regarding the Disability Awareness Curriculum in schools by Kathy Kliebert. Second by Lynn Cannon. For – 12. Against – 0. Abstain – 2. Motion passed.

Committee Recommendations – Executive Committee made two recommendations. The first was in reference to the attendance policy, which states that in order for a Council member to be counted present at the business meeting, they must attend at least the voting portion of the meeting. The second recommendation was to fade out the DIAL line over a period of time.

Motion Passed. Motion to accept recommendation that Council members must be present during voting portion of meeting to be considered present by Lynn Cannon. Second by Sharon Dufrene. For – 13. Against – 0. Abstain – 1.

Motion Passed. Motion to accept recommendation to remove DIAL program from the Five Year Plan by Lynn Cannon. Second by Kay Marcel. For – 14. Against – 0.

Recommendation by the Act 378 Sub-Committee to require children with Autism to be screened for eligibility for the cash subsidy.

Motion withdrawn. Motion to accept by Kay Marcel. Second by Sam Beech.

Ms. Winchell recommended that since there were so many people who felt strongly about this issue an Ad Hoc committee should be formed to make recommendations before the next Council meeting.

Motion Passed. Motion to form an Ad Hoc committee by Sharon Dufrene. Second by Lynn Cannon. For – 14. Against – 0.

## 10. COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

### A. HUMAN DEVELOPMENT CENTER (HDC) - Phil Wilson

Dr. Wilson reported on the following:

- The third annual HDC Institute will be held on October 23, 2008 at the Hampton Inn in New Orleans. The theme is “Response to Intervention” There will be six keynote speakers who have experience with the topic.
- HDC is in the process of planning another conference on Autism Spectrum Disorder for June of 2009.
- Dr. Wilson has begun working on three different projects that are completely or partially funded by the Council. HDC is collaborating with OCDD and EarlySteps on a project to train educators on effective intervention services for young children with Autism Spectrum Disorder or those at risk of being identified. This project has a strong component of family/parent involvement. He is excited that five or six agencies will be working together on this initiative.
- The HDC also is working a project with the University of New Orleans and Louisiana Tech, with funding support from the Department of Education that will provide course work for educators of students along the Autism Spectrum.

## 11. STATE AGENCY REPORTS

### A. LOUISIANA REHABILITATION SERVICES (LRS) – Roseland Starks

Roseland Starks reported on the following:

- The Department of Social Services has had a change in administration. There is a new interim Secretary, Kristy Nichols, the Deputy Secretary is Susan Sonnier and the new Undersecretary is Ruth Brown.
- The pilot program for Support Service Providers (SSP) has been funded again so LRS is able to provide the SSP for people who are deaf/blind in some communities. It has been going well in the Baton Rouge and Lafayette area. LRS is hoping to expand the program before the year is out.
- LRS had Emergency Preparedness and Emergency Response during the hurricanes. They had interpreters and SSPs ready and available if necessary.

12. Support Coordination in Louisiana – Kathy Kliebert, Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD)

Ms. Kliebert provided a presentation on Support Coordination in Louisiana.

13. State Agency Reports Continued

B. OFFICE OF PUBLIC HEALTH (OPH) – Susan Berry

Dr. Berry touched on the following from her report:

- In August Children’s Special Health Services (CSHS) had their Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Block Grant Review. It went incredibly well.
- CSHS has continued the Care Coordination pilot in CSHS clinics in Region 1.
- OPH has also started revising their Policy Manual which is very outdated. This overlaps with one of the quarterly statewide Parent Liaison Trainings, so they will be sure to have parent input in each decision.
- The website has recently been updated to make it more user friendly and to include more activities and links. The website can be accessed through the DHH website: [www.dhh.la.gov](http://www.dhh.la.gov).

C. GOVERNOR’S OFFICE OF DISABILITY AFFAIRS (GODA) – Brandon Burris

Brandon Burris touched on the following from his report:

- He stated that it had been a very interesting first 100 days. The GODA budget has been redone completely to take on new programs. GODA dealt with two hurricanes. During Gustav, the office workers put in 96 hours in six days as the administration asked GODA to oversee the Governor’s phone line during the late night shift. The phone line averaged 1300 phone calls per day. Everyone did a great job and learned a lot.

- The first Governor's Advisory Council meeting was held on August 26th.
- The Governor's Awards Ceremony will be held on December 10th in the Old State Capitol.
- There will be a statewide events calendar put on the GODA website. He encouraged everyone to get involved and let his office know about any events going on in the state. This will also be on the Governor's website.
- Mr. Burris has embarked on a Families Helping Families tour. He expressed that he needs to know what the centers do to better do his job.
- He touched on the Art Contest sponsored by the Council. He was very impressed and stated he would like to take the art to be displayed at the Governor's Awards Ceremony.

A discussion followed.

#### D. GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ELDERLY AFFAIRS (GOEA) – James Bulot

Dr. Bulot reported on the following:

- GOEA is working with DHH on a Quality Management program that involves the larger Medicaid, DD waivers, and long-term PSA waivers. They are looking at it from a consumer prospective trying to identify the areas that can be improved for these services for individuals.
- They are also working with GODA on a APS/CPS workgroup trying to identify admissions of the protective services and whether they are for adults or seniors. One part of this is the educational component where they are teaching the different kinds of abuse and how to recognize it.
- Transportation for the developmental disabled and aging network is an issue that is being addressed. It's especially difficult for rural areas that don't have mass transportation due to the costs.
- Housing is another issue for the disability community. Some Council on Aging centers have gotten into the housing business for people with disabilities as well as for the elderly. There are still some problems with providing adequate services getting some of the older housing up to speed.

A discussion followed.

#### E. BUREAU OF HEALTH SERVICES FINANCING (BHSF) – Tara DiSandro for Jerry Phillips

Tara DiSandro reported on the following:

- The reimbursement rate for skilled nursing for the NOW waiver was lower than the Medicaid state plan rate and BHSF recently got CMS approval to get the NOW rate to what the state plan offers.

- BHSF has applied for an 1115 demonstration waiver for Hurricane Gustav. It approves exceptions for the regular billing policies. It was approved by CMS.

A discussion followed.

F. OFFICE FOR CITIZENS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (OCDD) -  
Kathy Kliebert

Kathy Kliebert reported on the following:

- The things that are being requested by OCDD for the budget next year are increases in both Cash Subsidy and Family Support dollars, 1,000 flexible waiver slots, a Support Coordination rate increase, an Early Steps provider increase and Autism initiatives. These are requests only and are not departmental approved yet, nor Division of Administration approved.
- The Residential Options Waiver was not going to be approved the way it was written. Ms. Kliebert called CMS and they sent OCDD a letter telling them what language to use in order to get approval.

A discussion followed.

G. OFFICE OF MENTAL HEALTH (OMH) – Robert Levy for Jennifer Kopke

Robert Levy reported on the following:

- During Hurricane Gustav, OMH was involved in working with the special needs shelters as well as some of the Homeland Security sites.

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Winchell asked everyone to make note that the January meeting is going to have an extra day at the beginning due to new Council member Orientation.

She commended Robbie Gray for her hard work on the Art Contest.

Ms. Fontenot announced the next quarterly Council meeting will be held in Baton Rouge on January 21-22, 2009. Orientation will begin on January 20, 2009.

13. ADJOURNMENT OF BUSINESS MEETING

Motion Passed - Moved to adjourn the meeting by Kay Marcel. Second by Kathy Kliebert.

The meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.