

LOUISIANA DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL
April 17, 2008
MEETING

8:30 A.M.

Holiday Inn South
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

1. GREETINGS AND INTRODUCTIONS

- A. Lynette Fontenot, Chairperson of the Council, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Ms. Fontenot indicated 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

Jeanne Abadie
Sam Beech
Susan Berry, OPH
Donna Breaux
Lynn Cannon
Melissa Fayard
Lynette Fontenot
Rocky Fuselier
Laura Head
Simone Honore-Chretien
Kathy Kliebert, OCDD
Billie Ruth Kvaternik
Shelia Madison
Kay Marcel
Willie Martin
Ida Mialaret
Heather Mobley
Nanette Olivier, DOE
William Payne, OMH
Matt Rovira, GODA
Debbie Schilling
Phil Wilson, HDC

C. MEMBERS ABSENT

Sharon Dufrene
Trudye Jones
Jerry Phillips, BHSF
Lois Simpson, AC
Roseland Starks, LRS
Godfrey White, GOEA

D. STAFF PRESENT

Sara Carr
Shawn Fleming
Paige Freeman
Robbie Gray
Santee Winchell

Sharon Dufrene

E. GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

Sharon Buchert for Godfrey White – GOEA
 Daryl Johnson for Jerry Phillips - BHSF
 Dora Chandler - Guest of Lynette Fontenot
 Sheryl Doga - Guest of Lynette Fontenot
 Frances Hilburn – Committee Member
 Martha Whitlock – Committee Member
 Robert Levy - OMH
 Yvonne Bell – FHF Acadiana
 Mary Gaudin – Bayouland FHF
 Kim Detillier – Bayouland FHF
 BJ Chism – FHF of Northwest LA
 Dorothy Dantzler-Jefferson – FHF of Northwest LA
 Tammy Mayeaux – FHF of Northwest LA
 Chuckie Spearman – FHF of Northwest LA
 Njeri Camara – FHF of Northwest LA
 Tara DiSavdro – DHH- BHSF
 Patricia Young
 Richard Born
 Jamie Tindle – FHF of Greater Baton Rouge
 Carol Calix – FHF of Southeast Louisiana
 Laurent LeBien – CSHS/OPH
 Jeanne Gauthier – Northshore Families Helping Families
 Bobbie Bedney – FHF of Southeast Louisiana
 Tessie B. Difulco – Catholic Community Services

2. MINUTES OF JANUARY MEETING

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

Nanette Olivier requested corrections on pages 20 and 21 of the report. On page 20, Section E. third paragraph, 10th sentence (fourth line from the bottom) should read: “The other recommendation was to grant a diploma for children who pass the Carnegie units and pass the Graduate Equivalency Diploma Test (in lieu of passing the Graduate Exit Exam).” And on page 21, first paragraph, second sentence should state: “While federal law does not require the use of IQ testing, the Louisiana Department of Education will use IQ and/or adaptive behavior test results to identify the 1% of students who can be considered proficient in the area of alternate assessment.”

Kay Marcel noted a correction needed on page 11 Section C. second sentence should read: “Ten people are receiving adult services through the Metropolitan Human Services District through the mental health adult services program.”

Motion Passed - Moved to accept minutes as corrected. Willie Martin. Seconded by Shelia Madison.

3. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – Lynette Fontenot

- **Partners in Policymaking**

On January 18th, Sandee Winchell and Lynette Fontenot spoke at the opening of the Partners in Policymaking class. Ms. Fontenot also provided a presentation on assistive technology at the April 18th Partners class.

- **Legislative Visits**

Kay Marcel and Ms. Fontenot met with Senator Mike Michot on January 22nd and discussed an amendment to HB1 that is included each year which limits OCDD's ability to move funds from the developmental centers to the community as residents transition out. He agreed to watch for the amendment and work to prevent its inclusion in the bill.

On February 6th, Ms. Marcel and Ms. Fontenot met with Senator Eric Lafleur. He pledged to support the Council's efforts and agreed to offer an amendment to HB1 for the DSP wage increase. Since then the Council has decided to table that issue due to concerns raised by the administration and legislators over the cost of the NOW.

- **OCDD Resource Allocation Meeting**

Ms. Winchell, Ms. Marcel, and Ms. Fontenot attended the OCDD Resource Allocation Stakeholders meeting on January 22nd. The meeting addressed Resource Allocation Policy Issues in Louisiana. Speakers from the Human Services Research Institute in Oregon shared information about waiver services in other states. They presented suggestions for how Louisiana could implement some of the strategies they discussed.

- **Families Helping Families Contracts**

On February 29th, the Executive Committee participated in a conference call regarding the performance of Families Helping Families of Northwest Louisiana. After lengthy discussion and review of various options, the Committee determined that the issues raised required action that could not wait until the April council meeting. The Committee voted to terminate the Northwest center's contract and to use the remaining contract funds to establish a satellite center that will provide services in Region VII. The Committee also decided to cancel the stipend contract of Families Helping Families of Northwest Louisiana and provide stipends to families in Region VII through Families Helping Families of Northeast LA. The availability of these stipends will be advertised through other organizations.

The Committee also reviewed the revised proposal submitted by Families Helping Families of Louisiana. This proposal was requested due to changes in their operating structure. The Committee approved the proposal with the following conditions:

- The contract will remain a fee for service contract. However, the contract will be monitored according to specific costs associated with each deliverable. Provided all deliverables are produced and submitted according to the proposed timelines, the full monthly fee will be paid. If one or more deliverables are not produced the applicable cost for that deliverable will not be paid.
- A time frame must be provided for the complaint protocol.
- Center directors shall not be paid for their time on the contract since they are already being paid by their respective centers.
- Up to five thousand dollars may be spent toward finalizing a data collection and management system for the regional Families Helping Families network. If funds are used for the data management system and the data collection system is not successfully

implemented by September 30th Families Helping Families of Louisiana would be responsible for returning the entire five thousand dollars to the Council.

The Families Helping Families of Greater New Orleans chose to not sign the Council contract amendment that revised the standards of operation. The Committee accepted the Families Helping Families decision to not continue the contract with the Council and cancelled their center contract. Ms. Winchell solicited input from the directors of the Families Helping Families centers about the funds remaining from the Greater New Orleans contract for the current fiscal year. The consensus was to divide the remaining funds (\$20,841) among the other centers. The funds will enhance programs for adults.

The Council's state funds allocated for Families Helping Families of Greater New Orleans, now called Families Helping Families of Jefferson, for the next fiscal year and the future need to be reallocated. The Committee recommends that these funds be divided equally between the remaining nine regions, holding the funds for Region VII until a new center is established and funded. This decision will be voted on during new business

- **CARSA Legislative Agenda**

The Committee next reviewed the CARSA legislative agenda that had been submitted with a request for the Council's support. The Committee decided they could support only two issues, the three dollar DSP wage increase and additional NOW waiver slots. The remaining agenda items were discussed and it was decided that the committee needed more information to make an informed decision. Ms. Winchell will report more on this during the legislative report.

- **Additional Available Funds**

Ms. Winchell reported that the Council had approximately \$10,800 of additional funds to obligate prior to the end of June. These funds are available due to excess salaries and benefits and unexpended contract funds. Ms. Winchell informed the committee that additional funds may be needed for rally expenses. The committee voted to approve the expenditure of these funds for the rally if needed.

Ms. Winchell presented information to the Committee that additional excess contract funds are available due to the delay of implementation of OCDD's housing assistance contract. Also, the Council's rally expenses are not as high as expected due to donations from other entities. People First needs funds to support their annual conference to make it affordable for self advocates to attend. The Committee recommended paying for conference expenses to cover self advocates' hotel rooms, meals and other conference costs. This will be \$6,600 and will also be voted on during new business.

The Committee reviewed another revised proposal submitted for the contract by Families Helping Families of Louisiana. The Committee had a lot of questions on this proposal and the current activities of this contractor. They asked Ms. Winchell to schedule the Families Helping Families of Louisiana Executive Committee to meet with the Council's Executive Committee.

- **Stipends**

The Committee considered a stipend for one of the Council members. It was decided since one Council member was already going to that conference the stipend could be used to send the Council member to another conference. At present the Council has \$1,483 in the stipend fund.

The Committee reviewed and approved Billie Ruth Kvaternik's request for a stipend to attend the National Disability Rights Network's Annual Meeting in New Orleans in June for \$1,282. This leaves only \$200 in the Council member stipend fund. However, Ms. Winchell informed Ms. Fontenot that there are other travel funds available in the Council's budget that could be used for Council member stipends if additional requests are received and approved by the Executive Committee.

- **DD Council Forum**

On March 17th, Ms. Fontenot attended the DD Council Forum held by the DD Council, the Advocacy Center, and the Human Development Center to gather issues to include in the Council's planning meeting. Advocates were invited to attend and they had very good ideas which were used yesterday in the planning meeting.

- **Ms. Winchell's Evaluation**

Ms. Fontenot thanked those who participated in Ms. Winchell's evaluation process. The results were 66 strongly agree and 34 agree. Zero disagree and zero strongly disagree. Overall comments were that Ms. Winchell is an outstanding leader and advocate with broad knowledge of disability rights. She has a great passion for the work of the Council resulting in tremendous accomplishments as noted in her progress report. She definitely fulfills the qualities of the Position Summary for Executive Director of the Council. Based on these findings the Executive Committee recommends a four percent wage increase. Donna Breaux will discuss this under new business.

- **Trudye Jones' Resignation from the Executive Committee**

Trudye Jones has resigned her position on the Executive Committee. According to the bylaws, the Chair appoints an officer to fill an unexpired term due to a resignation, so Ms. Fontenot will be doing this as soon as possible. If anyone would be interested in serving as the at-large member of the Executive Committee, Ms. Fontenot asked them to let her know of their interest by Monday, April 21st. The Executive Committee normally meets the Wednesday morning of the Council meeting or when that is not possible like this month, they come in the day before. They also meet by conference call in between council meetings and do a lot of business by email.

- **Conferences**

The Executive Committee met on Tuesday, April 15th. Ms. Winchell informed the committee about the National Conference of State Legislatures that will meet in New Orleans in July. The National Association of Councils on DD will host a booth at the conference and Louisiana has been asked to provide two representatives for the booth. Donna Breaux and Ms. Fontenot will represent the Council in this booth. Ms. Winchell and Shawn Fleming will also attend the conference.

The National Disability Rights Network conference will be held in New Orleans in June. Lois Simpson submitted Ms. Fontenot's name to the conference coordinator who is from Washington D C. Ms. Fontenot was asked to give a presentation at the workshop promoting self determination. Ms. Fontenot thanked Ms. Simpson.

June 11th and 12th, Ms. Winchell and Ms. Fontenot will attend a NACDD conference in Washington D C. They will also make capital hill visits at that time.

Ms. Fontenot reminded everyone to please try to attend the Disability Rally on April 23rd. Last year's rally was a huge success. This year will be also!

4. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT - Sandee Winchell

Council members were given the opportunity to ask questions concerning the Executive Director's report mailed prior to the meeting.

Ms. Winchell discussed the following:

- **Emergency Management Disability and Aging Coalition**

Ms. Winchell stated that one of the results of the Council's collaborative effort with other agencies is the resource card paid for by OCDD that will be placed in every shelter for the shelter manager's use for people with disabilities. The card was passed around for everyone to view.

- **Letter to Dr. Erwin**

Ms. Winchell referred to a letter the Council mailed to Dr. Erwin, Chairman of the Metropolitan Human Services District Board. Due to the Planning meeting, there was no Act 378 Sub-Committee meeting, so Ms. Winchell shared the response from the letter. Dr. Erwin phoned Ms. Winchell several times in regards to the letter. He expressed concern about the Act 378 Funds in the mental health field in the New Orleans area that have not been utilized. Dr. Erwin is very aware of the need for mental health services in that region and stated he would personally look into the situation. He also asked Ms. Winchell for a lot of additional information which she provided with Robert Levy's assistance. Since that time, the Director of the Metropolitan Human Services District has stepped down. DHH has intervened by putting in a technical assistance team lead by Colonel McDonald. Col. McDonald called and asked to meet with Ms. Winchell as a result of the letter. Ms. Winchell met with him and shared the Council's concerns. He assured her that changes would be made. Ms. Winchell stated that the Act 378 Funds were not the only problem in that region. DHH is providing assistance with all services in that region.

- **Louisiana Election Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities Advisory Board (LEAD)**

The LEAD Advisory Board met last week. Representatives from the Secretary Of State's (SOS) office indicated they have a federal grant and are working in collaboration with the Advocacy Center to make the polling places in Louisiana accessible for people with disabilities. One of the things reported at the meeting was that at least 30 parishes do not have accessible polling centers. The SOS has federal money available to give these parishes to assist in making their polling places accessible, but the parishes are not accessing this money. The SOS is hoping the AC will be able to join them in appearing before these parish police juries and presenting a case stating they are out of compliance with the ADA and that funds are available to assist with making their polling places accessible. The Council is going to help by asking Families Helping Families or other local groups to identify a person with a disability in each parish to appear before the police jury with them.

- **OCDD Resource Allocation Stakeholders Group**

Ms. Winchell had previously been optimistic about the possibilities when Kathy Kliebert was leading the stakeholders group and it appeared the state was going to have resource allocation across the entire system. OCDD's plan based on stakeholder's input was for resources to be allocated in residential services and in the waiver. Ms. Winchell expressed reason for concern about things she had heard the Secretary of DHH say in his testimony in the legislative committees and in his interview responses for the TriAngle. Secretary Levine stated that Louisiana ranked 8th in total spending for people with developmental disabilities indicating that a substantial amount of money is dedicated to this population. He highlighted how Louisiana's New Opportunities Waiver (NOW) costs are almost \$20,000 per person more than the national average and are projected to get even higher. Mr. Levine's talk at the legislature about high cost was exclusively about the NOW and there has not been one mention of the developmental centers or the private ICF's. Even though Secretary Levine's report states Louisiana ranks 8th in total spending, which includes the developmental centers and the ICF's, there is no talk about reducing costs in the developmental centers or the ICF's. DHH is just concentrating on the waiver to control costs. Ms. Winchell stated that this is the biggest challenge the Council is facing as an advocacy organization right now. She went on to say that she believes the NOW may change from how it looks today and she thinks change is OK if it's done fairly and appropriately.

Lois Simpson, Phil Wilson, and Ms. Winchell used to meet with Dr. Cerise on a quarterly basis and have tried to have a meeting with Mr. Levine but have not had any success. They will continue trying to schedule a meeting. Kay Marcel asked if Mr. Levine was invited to our Council meeting and Ms. Winchell stated he was invited but she did not receive any response from his office. Ms. Marcel suggested issuing another invitation for the July meeting.

Discussion followed regarding the resource allocation model.

5. BUDGET REPORT – Shawn Fleming

Mr. Fleming discussed the following:

- **March 2008 Budget Report**

Shawn Fleming stated that the salaries and some of the related benefits decreased by \$16,600. These funds were moved to contracts. He also pointed out that it appears the Council has funds available in travel so if the Council needs more than the \$3,000 that was allocated for council member conference travel, the budget can withstand it. Some purchases have been made for the office and these will be reflected in the next budget report. Matt Rovira asked if the Council's budget was in good fiscal shape for the next year and Mr. Fleming confirmed that it was. There was a slight increase in State funds appropriated to the Council. These additional funds will go toward direct support for individuals with adult onset disabilities to help cover DSP wage increases. The Council hoped for an increase in federal funds but that bill was vetoed by President Bush. Next year's budget will reflect the increase in future anticipated federal allocations.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – Donna Breaux

Donna Breaux reported that the Council met yesterday as a Committee of the Whole to amend the five year plan. The Council used a new process of working through the planning session together instead of separating into committees. This approach went much better than anticipated. The two Committees met following the Committee of Whole and each committee will give the detailed reports of what was decided in its respective committee. Ms. Breaux commended the Council staff for their efforts in changing the process and providing information to Council members in a user friendly format. These improvements allowed the Council to move through the process more quickly than in the past.

Ms. Breaux reported the following funding discussions that were made by the Committee of the Whole:

Multi-year, Continuing Plan Objectives

Plan Activity	Current Funding	Funding Change	Proposed Funding
LaTEACH	\$ 60,000	\$ -	\$ 60,000
LaCAN	\$ 115,540	\$ 14,460	\$ 130,000
People First	\$ 110,000	\$ -	\$ 110,000
Partners	\$ 76,123	\$ 1,877	\$ 78,000
Stipends (FHF Centers & \$ 8,000 People First)	\$ 46,000	\$ -	\$ 46,000
TriAngle	\$ 13,386	\$ -	\$ 13,386
FHF Executive Director	\$ 55,000	\$ (55,000)	\$ 0
Books for All Kids: Literacy Accessibility	\$ -	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000
Early Autism Treatment Project	\$ -	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000
			\$ 527,386

Single-year Plan Objectives

Public Awareness (Inclusive Ed. Arts Contest)	\$ 7,000	\$ (3,500)	\$ 3,500
Disability Rights Rally	\$ 12,000	\$ (7,000)	\$ 5,000
Recreation Project	\$ 42,000	\$ (12,000)	\$ 30,000
Intern Program (conditional)	\$ 20,000	\$ 55,000	\$ 75,000
MFP Housing Assistance	\$ 33,000	\$ (13,000)	\$ 20,000
La. Youth Leadership Forum	\$ 17,500	\$ (7,500)	\$ 10,000
Partner's Reunion	\$ 20,000	\$ (20,000)	\$ 0
Inclusive Child Care	\$ 35,000	\$ (35,000)	\$ 0
Employment Study of ICF residents	\$ -	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000
Disaboom - Social Networking Outreach	\$ -	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
Campaign of Ending the Wait La. Videos	\$ -	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000
Employment SOPs	\$ -	\$ 42,862	\$ 42,862

\$ 241,362

Total Plan Expenditures for Fiscal Year 2009 Plan

\$ 768,748

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

Kay Marcel indicated that before the Committee meetings convened, it was agreed that given the time restraints and the tasks ahead of each committee, that the detailed language of the changes would be worked out by the DD staff at a later time. The plan will be ratified at the July meeting. Ms. Marcel discussed the Committee actions:

- Objective 1 The FFY08 plan has a strategy that would coordinate and fund a reunion of graduates in conjunction with a refresher course to enhance leadership skills. This will be noted as accomplished when the reunion is held this summer. The money from this became available for another use.
- Strategy 1.2 The amount of the stipend fund that is contracted out to the Families Helping Families Resource Centers has changed to \$46,000, with \$38,000 allocated to FHF Resource Centers and \$8,000 allocated to People First of Louisiana.
- Strategy 1.3 Provide financial support for the Louisiana Youth Leadership Forum (LYLF) for FY 2008 - 2009. Funding will be reduced from \$17,500 to \$10,000.

Objective 5 Revise strategy language as follows:

Develop and support local self-advocacy chapters and support volunteer advisors across the state.

Strategy 5.2 Evaluate and continue project if pilot project is successful.

I have no idea which objectives/strategies these statements in red above are referring to.

- Objective 6 Recommend that Objective 6 be noted as accomplished and remaining strategies moved to under Objective 7.
- Strategy 6.1 Delete \$22,485 for funding.
- Strategy 6.2 Recommended increasing cost of LaCAN from \$115,540 to \$130,000.
- Strategy 6.4 Incorporate a new strategy of developing video snippets of people on the waiting list that will be used as part of public awareness campaign through PSAs and featured on websites. The goal will be to educate the legislators and the public on the needs of people on the waiting lists. A total of \$15,000 will be allocated for this project.
- Objective 7 Recommending that Strategy 7.3 be deleted. All strategies under Objective 6 will move to Objective 7.
- Strategy 7.4 Monitor the transition of the guardianship program from OCDD to GODA to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of the program.

Objective 8

- Strategy 8.2 Noted as being accomplished and deleted.
- Objective 10 Noted as being accomplished.
- Objective 11 Advocate for DSP wages in Louisiana to reach or exceed the southern regional average. Work collaboratively with OCDD and Medicaid on their DSP wage initiatives. Add a Strategy about establishing a career ladder through collaborations with the Vo-Tech schools and other education persons.
- Objective 12 (was Obj. 11) Add language to the end of the following strategy:
- Strategy 12.1 "...student communications systems."
- Strategy 12.3 This strategy will make money available for OCDD to provide rental subsidies and start up funding for people with developmental disabilities transitioning out of institutions through the Money Follows the Person Grant and the amount was changed from \$33,000 to \$20,000.
- Objective 13 (new objective) Provide funds to pay a person with a disability part-time to establish and maintain an internet based social network for Louisiana citizens through Disaboom blog site. This project will be run by the Advocacy Center for \$5,000.

This was followed by a discussion.

C. HEALTH/EDUCATION/EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE – Sam Beech

Sam Beech discussed recommended Plan amendments proposed by the Health/Education/Employment Committee as follows:

Objective 13

- Strategy 13.1 Council will update the list of representations through the Council membership list.

- Objective 14 Change language from HB697 to SB546 to reflect current legislation **and extend the time frame of training.**

Objective 15

- Strategy 15.1 Continue to fund LaTEACH at the same amount (\$60,000). However, the art contest funding will be reduced from \$7,000 to \$3,500 and this will be the last year the art contest is funded.

Objective 17

(New Objective) Form an Ad Hoc Committee (Nanette, Debbie, Sam, Simone, and Lynn) to develop an SOP and contract to increase the capacity of public and school libraries to provide accessible reading materials and inclusive literacy based activities for children with developmental disabilities and their families.

(New Objective) Collaborate with OCDD and LSU-HDC to increase the capacity of providing early intervention for young children with Autism.

Objective 18 Increased the amount to fund the internship project to \$75,000. The committee will have an Ad Hoc Committee speak with the people running the internship project to resolve issues identified in the proposal and finalize any conditions and/or expectations. Lynn, Simone, Donna, and Sam are on the Ad Hoc committee. This and all Ad Hoc committees are open to participation of other Council members.

Donna Breaux stated that the people running this project will present after lunch. The goal today is to set up a meeting with them so if anyone is interested in serving on the Ad Hoc Committee please let Sam know after lunch. She encouraged at least one person from the other committee to join.

Objective 19 The DD Council will investigate the practices and issues related to meaningful employment options for people with developmental disabilities, particularly those residing in ICF facilities.

Strategy 19.1 DD Council will support an intensive study of the state of employment opportunities for people with developmental disabilities. The process will include input from stakeholders, including Council members, to assist with a design and development of the study. (Debbie, Laura, Heather, and Sam will form Ad Hoc Committee). Cost is \$35,000.

Objective 20 The DD Council will build the awareness of individuals with disabilities, their families, and potential employers about how to effectively employ people with disabilities and the benefits of employing people with disabilities.

Strategy 20.1 Develop an SOP and contract that will provide funding for an educational campaign that builds skills and acceptance of employers, family members, and self-advocates to have meaningful employment opportunities for people with developmental disabilities. The anticipated cost is \$42,682.

An Ad Hoc Committee has been formed to develop the SOP and review options and deliverables with the selected contractor. Lynn, Simone, Donna, Sam, and Jeanne are on the committee and members from the other committee are invited to participate.

Ms. Winchell indicated that an updated tracking list is in the packet that was passed out this morning. She also emailed the updated tracking list to all Council members and hoped everyone had a chance to view it in advance. Only one bill has been added to the list and all bills have been updated. There are not a lot of bills of great significance for people with developmental disabilities. There are some bills that are noteworthy to people with mental illness.

- HB 1 – This is the budget bill and will be the focus of a lot of the Council’s efforts this legislative session. HB 1 currently includes funding for 2,025 NOW slots. The Council is trying to get a language amendment to the bill to increase that number to 3,000 slots. The Council expects this to be extremely difficult because of opposition by the Division of Administration.
- HB 670 – Representative Patrick Williams introduced the bill to establish a center for Autism services in the Shreveport area. Kathy Kliebert and Ms. Winchell met with Representative Williams a week before the Council meeting to ensure it was not a segregated facility. He assured them that that was not his intent. His vision is to provide a center for research and training and to address obesity. He indicated this is one thing that he wants to do this session and he is not backing down from moving this bill forward. The land and the building are in place. He invited input from people to provide recommendations for any necessary amendments that clarify the intent of the bill. Sam Beech indicated that some parents went to Representative Williams regarding the lack of services or supports for children with Autism in the northwest Louisiana area. The parents want a place where they can go that will provide them information and assistance. Ms. Kliebert stated that there is no funding attached to the bill so there are not any direct services that will result from it. The intent is to seek federal funding through Autism grants. OCDD will work with developing the concept of services but not necessarily in the form of a building.
- There are three bills: HB 873, HB 923 and HB 987 that address issues related to giving people with disabilities easier access to voting.
- HB 914 and the companion bill SB647 will amend Act 481 (NOW trust fund) from only allowing the trust fund to fund new waiver slots to also paying for the annualization of waiver slots. These are administration bills by the chairman of the Appropriations and Finance Committees. They are likely to pass regardless of whether the Council likes it or not.
- HB 958 was authorized by Representative Foil and will require health insurance coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of children with Autism Spectrum Disorders. Nanette Olivier expressed her concern regarding lack of providers to serve children. Kathy Kliebert stated that the bill does not currently define what is covered in terms of services, but that the insurance companies will make sure it is narrow enough as to what they will or will not pay for.
- SB 182 is a mental health bill dealing with outpatient “commitment”. The Advocacy Center has concerns about this bill. Jeanne Abadie stated the AC is against it as it is written. She feels it can cause people more harm as far as forcing treatment without ensuring that the community services are in place. She stated the reasons for opposing the bill are posted on the Advocacy Center’s website which is www.advocacyla.org.
- SB 535 is a mental health parity bill. Last year’s mental health parity bill did not pass. This one is not as comprehensive as the one from last year. Ms. Winchell perceives this as taking a half step instead of a full step toward mental health parity.

- SB 546 will require DHH to work with the nursing board to establish regulations regarding DSP training on non-complex medical procedures. Timelines for this DSP training will be extended and people who self-direct their services will be included. The Council fully supports this bill.
- HB 862 will establish a mental health registry at DHH. Jeanne Abadie stated that the Advocacy Center is against this bill. The registry could allow people to be exploited and could be dangerous if this information is misused. The Council is marked as FOR the bill, but was not taking an active advocacy role on it. The Council will change its position to AGAINST. Ms. Kliebert stated OCDD cannot have a position, but has concerns about the bill.

Ms. Winchell stated there are very few bills the Council will take an active advocacy role because most of the bills are not perceived to have a significant impact on people with developmental disabilities. Even though the tracking list states what bills the Council is for and against, these positions do not mean that the staff will write letters for Lynette or activate a grassroots network related to that position.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Ms. Breaux stated that there is no unfinished business to discuss.

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. FIVE YEAR PLAN

Ms. Breaux stated that she provided the report of the Committee of the Whole and the two committee chairs have reported in detail. The DD staff will wordsmith the plan and the Council will review it again before it is ratified at the July meeting. It is necessary for the full Council to vote on the amended five year plan today that was developed during the planning meeting and reported on this morning.

Motion Passed - Moved to approve the amended five year plan as reported by Willie Martin. Seconded by Simone Honore-Chretien. 17 For. No opposition.

B. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Ms. Breaux stated that as reported by Ms. Fontenot in her Chairperson's report the Executive Committee has recommended the Council provide People First with \$6,600 to spend on their annual conference and to pay for travel expenses for self-advocates attending the conference.

Motion Passed - Moved to approve the funding for the People First conference by Debbie Schilling. Seconded by Nanette Olivier. Motion passed with 1 abstention.

C. FAMILIES HELPING FAMILIES

Ms. Breaux stated that another recommendation by the Executive Committee was to divide the FHF-GNO funds among the nine other FHF centers. The Council will hold Region VII's funds until the new Center contract is awarded.

Motion Passed - Moved to approve the division of funds as recommended by the committee by Nanette Olivier. Seconded by Ida Mialaret. 15 For. 1 Against. 1 Abstention.

D. LEGISLATIVE POSITIONS

Ms. Breaux reviewed a recommendation for the Council to approve the legislative positions that Ms. Winchell reported on with a change being made to HB862 from FOR to AGAINST.

Motion Passed - Moved to approve the Council's legislative positions by Willie Martin. Seconded by Sam Beech. 15 For. No opposition.

E. SELF DETERMINATION/COMMUNITY INCLUSION/HOUSING COMMITTEE

Ms. Breaux stated that the Committee will form an Ad Hoc Committee to review the proposals received in response to the SOP for the creation of the new Region VII FHF Center. If any members from the Health/Education/Employment Committee are interested in participating, please let the other committee know. A contract needs to be signed before the July Council meeting so the Ad Hoc Committee needs the Council's authority to select the contractor.

Motion Passed - Moved to give the Ad Hoc Committee the authority to select the FHF contractor by Laura Head. Seconded by Simone Honore-Chretien. 13 For. 1 Against. 1 Abstention.

F. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MERIT INCREASE (Other Business)

As stated in Lynette Fontenot's Chairperson Report, the Executive Committee recommended a merit increase for Sandee Winchell. Donna Breaux thanked everyone for their participation and response. Willie Martin stated he did not see the evaluation, but would like to voice his approval. Ms. Fontenot and Ms. Breaux did meet with Ms. Winchell and due to the comments received from the other Council members, are recommending a 4% merit increase for Ms. Winchell.

Motion Passed - Moved to approve the 4% merit increase by Simone Honore-Chretien. Seconded by Rocky Fuselier. 16 For. 0 Against.

10. COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

A. ADVOCACY CENTER

Lois Simpson submitted a report for the Council member packet but was not present at the meeting.

B. HUMAN DEVELOPMENT CENTER – Phil Wilson

Phil Wilson reported on the following:

- HDC hired Dr. Alicia Lowery on August 1st to serve as a new faculty member. Dr. Lowery is from the University of South Carolina. One attractive feature of her application is that she currently runs a project at the university which is designed to create opportunities for young people with significant disabilities to attend the university.
- HDC was asked by the Department of Education to help put together a team to provide pupil appraisal and support services in the greater New Orleans area. It is not something HDC wants to do on a regular basis, but this was an example of a time when extraordinary circumstances warranted assistance to the state. Through mutual agreement, the project will be phased out beginning next school year.
- HDC was fortunate enough to support Rocky Fuselier to attend the Legislative Advocacy Conference. It was a positive conference.
- HDC will be co-hosting a booth for the Association of University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities at the National Conference of State Legislators in New Orleans in July.
- HDC is actively looking for a building to house themselves and to enter into a relationship with providers in New Orleans for a project dealing with early intervention.

C. LEGISLATIVE VISITS – Council Members

Ida Mialaret visited a new representative, Tom Willmott, and had a very favorable first impression of him. He was very happy to learn of the Council and its availability to him. He made note of the contact numbers for any future questions. He also committed to coming to the rally next Wednesday.

Rocky Fuselier met with Senator Willie Mount. They discussed the waiver program and Senator Mount stated she is very much in favor of the waiver program. Mr. Fuselier also met with Representative Brett Geymann who expressed he was overwhelmed with information and reports about the waiver. He commended the Council for their efforts in getting the information to the Senators and Representatives.

Donna Breaux did not get to representatives in her region, but is working on another project in St. Tammany Parish. She met with Scott Simon, who uses a wheelchair due to an industrial accident. He voiced many concerns about the waiver and increased costs of care. Ms. Winchell stated that Representative Simon will be one of the keynote speakers at the rally.

Jeanne Abadie met with Representative Jean-Paul Morrell who indicated he was interested in authoring the amendment the Council was advocating for to increase the number of waiver slots. Ms. Abadie has not had a follow up visit, but sent him an email stating she would see him on April 23rd at the Rally.

11. STATE AGENCY REPORTS

A. GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ELDERLY AFFAIRS – Sharon Buchert

Sharon Buchert reported on the following:

- She spoke with House Speaker Pro Tem, Karen Carter Peterson, and she was very receptive to the Aging and Disability Resource Center. Representative Peterson requested letters in support of the center.
- GOEA is continuing without a Director. Ronald Blereau is the Acting Director until one is appointed.

B. OFFICE OF MENTAL HEALTH – William Payne

A written report was mailed out in the Council member packet.

William Payne reported on the following:

- The new agency head for the Office of Mental Health is Ms. Jennifer Kopke. Mr. Payne stated he will be retiring in a couple of months.
- A new three year grant was awarded to OMH called “WRAP.” It is a significant grant in terms of person centered recovery and wellness planning. There are a series of training sessions offered across the state for individuals with disabilities, providers, or anyone who would like to attend. The whole concept is for individuals to develop their own personal wellness and recovery plans.
- Mr. Payne touched on the various mental health issues in the state that OMH has taken initiatives to address. In the Governor's proposed budget for the coming year, there are funds that are directed specifically towards the greater New Orleans area to assist in re-establishing the service system. It will provide funding for programs such as community treatment programs for individuals with behavioral health issues in addition to mental health and substance abuse issues.
- Mr. Payne pointed out that a couple of legislative initiatives address mental health issues in the state. One bill is to establish Behavioral Health Crisis Centers for individuals who may have an acute crisis. The Centers will be staffed with individuals who are trained in the mental health field. This legislation was passed out of the House Health and Welfare Committee on April 16th.
- Another bill being considered is modeled after the statute in New York called “Kendra's Law.” This legislation will address people with a mental illness who are non-compliant with their treatment plans and pose a danger to themselves or others. These individuals may be ordered by the court to remain in treatment or be committed involuntarily. This bill is somewhat controversial. There is some question as to whether it will make it through the process.
- OMH and OCDD began a 12 bed program this year in central Louisiana, at Pineville, serving young adolescents who have a mental illness and a developmental disability.

This was followed by a discussion.

C. LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION – Nanette Olivier

A written report was mailed out in the Council member packet.

Nanette Olivier reported on the following:

- The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) has had a requirement since 2004 that kids with disabilities need to have their instructional materials provided to them in accessible format. The Department of Education (DOE) is gearing up now to make this a reality with LaAIM (Accessible Instructional Material). Louisiana is one of fifteen states working on this initiative.
- On Monday, April 21st, Ms. Olivier is hosting a meeting to discuss how DOE can assist districts with including children with significant disabilities in reading programs. The DOE hopes to develop guidelines for children who are not making progress under the current structure.
- A legislative committee met on Tuesday, April 20th, to address a bill regarding discipline in the schools and the issue of corporal punishment. The DOE is suggesting abolishment of corporal punishment in the Louisiana schools. Shawn Fleming stated that Superintendent Pastorek recommended language in SB304 that would require local education agencies to report information on the use of corporal punishments. This bill would require quarterly reporting and parents would have to sign a form to allow the school to whip their children. Cindy Arceneaux, Mr. Fleming, and Dr. Stewart Gordon presented to BESE on issues related to corporal punishment. After their presentation, BESE voted its position will be to recommend a language change to SB304 to abolish corporal punishment in Louisiana schools. Mr. Fleming also indicated that another area to seek regulations to address is on the use of physical restraints in schools. Ms. Winchell informed everyone that the latest issue of the Triangle newsletter contains two articles that Mr. Fleming wrote regarding the abolishment of corporal punishment in schools and on the need for regulations on the use of physical restraints.

Kay Marcel asked Ms. Olivier to elaborate on #4 in her report regarding the issue of the gap in achievement. Ms. Olivier stated that under No Child Left Behind the state must look at achievement levels of certain subgroups of students and address closing the achievement gap between all kids and kids of particular subgroups.

12. COUNT US IN – GOVERNMENT INTERNSHIP PROGRAM -
Maryal Mewherter, Bayouland FHF, and Dr. Glenn Atizzo, Nichols State University, presented on the Government Internship Program. A discussion followed the presentation.

13. STATE AGENCY REPORTS - CONT'D

E. OFFICE FOR CITIZENS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES – Kathy Kliebert

A written report was mailed in the Council member packet .

Kathy Kliebert reported on the following:

- The Metropolitan campus was officially vacated on February 27th and the property was officially turned over to the Division of Administration (DOA). There are apartments on the campus that are used for people in supported independent living. OCDD will maintain the property until the DOA works out another entity to take over the property.
- A resource allocation formula is being devised across all settings. OCDD is working on using the SIS La+ to develop a model for resource allocation of the waiver. At the end of April or beginning of May OCDD expects to have the first draft of the resource allocation model. The stakeholder group will meet again in mid-May to hear the suggestions of each of the subgroups and make final recommendations to the office.
- The Residential Options Waiver (ROW) is back at CMS for approval. OCDD received a call last week indicating that CMS is ready to discuss some of the answers OCDD submitted to CMS' questions. A conference call will be set up early next week. The ROW is important due to its ability to convert private ICFs to community based services. The goal of implementation is July 1st, but it is unclear if the ROW will be approved by then.
- CMS has put out rules, effective March 3rd, on targeted case management indicating that all of OCDD case management services must be billed in 15-minute increments along with some other requirements that OCDD is not currently doing. There have been numerous efforts in Congress to have a moratorium on these regulations. Secretary Leavitt has indicated he believes that the president will veto these efforts. These 15 minute increments are also included in the ROW and Money Follows the Person (MFP) applications, which may cause problems with approvals, since this is not current practice.
- The National Core Indicators Project is moving forward with all of the interviews and surveys being completed. The answers are compared across all states. In June, the statistics for the state will be received and Ms. Kliebert will share them at the July meeting.
- OCDD is continuing to work with their regional offices and districts to begin incorporating the waiver units. It will take time because of the Medicaid connection. The goal is by September 1st to have everyone integrated.
- The two bills that OCDD is directly involved in as far as testimony, are the revisions to Act 451 and SB234. SB234 has passed through the Senate but needs to be initiated in the House since it has funds attached to it. Ms. Kliebert indicated that she will keep Ms. Winchell updated on the bills being tracked by OCDD so everyone may be kept informed.

This was followed by a discussion.

F. BUREAU OF HEALTH SERVICES FINANCING – Darryl Johnson for Jerry Phillips

The report was presented by Darryl Johnson, Financial Officer for BHSF. Mr. Phillips sent his apologies for having to leave the meeting early due to being called away to the Legislature.

Mr. Johnson reported on the following:

- The Medicaid program submitted its 2009 budget to the Governor with five initiatives. These are to help the outcome of the citizens of the state of Louisiana, to outreach and enroll the uninsured, to increase recipient accountability, to provide options to institutional services and to limit fraud and abuse opportunities.
- The health outcomes of Louisiana citizens are being discussed by the continued implementation of the disease management program. In this program, BHSF is looking at the dollar amount used by healthcare providers to treat diseases in Louisiana and then meeting to discuss appropriate treatments and outcomes.
- Louisiana Children's Health Insurance Program (LaCHIP) has continued to reduce the number of uninsured persons in Louisiana. BHSF is enrolling the unborn of Louisiana into the program. There is also consideration into how the program is reimbursed. Louisiana is one of the few states that continues to service this population through its Medicaid agencies. They are looking to service by paying the premiums through private insurance companies such as the Office of Group Benefits. These moves are anticipated to increase access to care.
- The Community Care Program links citizens with physicians and clinics. This gives each recipient a medical home that directs care and ensures the proper use of services. The use of medical homes lowers the number of recipients using emergency rooms.
- The Medicare crossovers or coordination of benefits for hemodialysis patients increased 1.6% so the Legislature increased the rates on the Medicaid side.
- There was a 25% rate increase for the Early Steps Program. This program was cut in 2005 and has now been restored.
- In the Mental Health Rehabilitation Program, the moratorium on providers was lifted effective August 1, 2007. Hopefully, this will allow new providers to enroll. BHSF is projecting an increase of 20-35 new providers.
- The Provider Service Network is a network of operating providers that allows physicians to provide electronic records thereby increasing their efficiency.
- Paper performance is an attempt to reward providers who are doing an exceptional job to earn additional reimbursement for the services they provide.

F. OFFICE OF PUBLIC HEALTH – Dr. Sue Berry

A written report was mailed in the Council member packet.

Dr. Sue Berry reported on the following:

- The Statewide Parent Liaison Training was held on March 11th in Lake Charles. There are parent liaisons in each of the CSHS subspecialty clinics which are contracted through Families Helping Families. The content consisted of the introduction of the new Care Coordination Program, which will be a more systematic, comprehensive way of determining the needs of families coming to the clinics and linking them with community resources. Lisa Williams came from the Advocacy Center and taught about housing rights, registering to vote, and voting issues for persons with disabilities.
- CSHS has two model medical homes where they provide care coordinators in private practices. One of the practices is LSU's teaching clinic for its pediatric residents. CSHS wanted to know how effective these care coordinators are in helping families and the practice to meet medical home criteria. Surveys were done for care coordination and it showed an increase in family satisfaction. This was presented to the Louisiana Healthcare Quality Forum which is trying to design a way to implement this model medical of home health care especially in Regions I and V. The goal is to have care coordination in pediatric practices to become the standard. This data will be presented again to the Medical Home Summit in Baton Rouge on May 23rd. This will bring in several national experts to look at how the concept of medical home has been implemented in other states as well.
- The CSHS Care Coordination pilot was scheduled to be done in Alexandria during the week of April 21st, but is being delayed due to one of the key players being out on sick leave. This pilot will be much more systematic and in depth and it will be on a web based software system for more accessible information to be available on the child if he changes regions within the state. The larger goal is to have this system statewide over the next two years.
- The Birth Defects Monitoring System is mandated to be a statewide program. By the end of the year, CSHS will be up to 70% of births covered. With state funding received this year, CSHS was able to hire a second person to help in the program central office. There has been a booklet drafted of resource information for families that is still undergoing final revisions before it will be mailed to families of children with birth defects.
- The 2008 National Early Hearing, Detection, and Intervention Conference for newborn hearing screening was held in New Orleans in February. CSHS was the leader among states in this effort and was pleased to be able to host this conference. About 50 attendees stayed after the conference and helped with the rebuilding effort in New Orleans.
- In 2007, 328 hearing aids were issued through the Hearing, Speech and Vision program. The program also contracts with two vision screening specialists to train school personnel to provide vision screening. In 2007 over 780 professionals and volunteers were trained and over 16,000 preschool children received these services.

This was followed by a discussion.

H. GOVERNOR’S OFFICE OF DISABILITY AFFAIRS – Matt Rovira

Matt Rovira reported the following:

- An administrative change in GODA involved the re-establishment of the Statewide Independent Living Council. The body has still been meeting but SILC is established by executive order and when a new governor is elected, a new executive order establishing the SILC has to be issued.
- Mr. Rovira recommended that the new administration continue the Governor’s Advisory Council on Disability Affairs. This 36 member panel, comprised mostly of state agencies, was established in 1992.
- Mark Ford, the Assistant Director of GODA, was promoted to Director of Indian Affairs. The Assistant Director position will be filled by Joey Cooper. Two more vacancies will also be filled, a Youth Transition Coordinator and an Administrative Assistant for SILC.
- The Louisiana Guardianship Services will be transferred from OCDD to GODA. This stems from a recommendation from the Commission on Decision Making for People with Cognitive Disabilities. HB1 included funding for guardianship services in the amount of \$241,000 which covers a seven month period. GODA is seeking Advocacy Center and Council support for funding for a twelve month period to give GODA the full ability to implement the program. A justification memo and budget will be sent to the Council and the Advocacy Center for support.
- The Louisiana Youth Leadership Forum has 24 delegates for a four day intensive leadership program at LSU. The DOE is covering all costs associated with all keynote speakers. Mr. Rovira thanked FHF and the transition coordinators for conducting the interviews in the respective regions.
- GODA is working on emergency management and preparedness with the Governor’s Office. Mr. Rovira attended a number of planning sessions and has worked with leaders of a “sensory impairment” organization and had them tour the emergency headquarters and review plans.
- A survey indicated transportation as one of the main issues facing people with disabilities in Louisiana. Nadine Dunbar, the GODA Transportation Coordinator, has been working on numerous projects including a white paper questionnaire. There was a great response from state agencies that will be used to develop a white paper suggesting the development of a transportation coordination commission.

I. LOUISIANA REHABILITATION SERVICES – Roseland Starks

Roseland Starks submitted a report for the Council member packet but was not present at the Council meeting.

14. VISITOR SPEAKER – Njeri Camari

Njeri Camari asked to address the Council. Her comments are quoted below:

Ms. Camari, board member and Treasurer of Families Helping Families Northwest of Louisiana and a board member of Families Helping Families of Louisiana, extended her appreciation for the opportunity to speak to the Council. “I want to cover three very concise points. I want to speak on some issues and discussion with regard to, “fairness and equity” I believe was the terminology that was heard earlier. I realize some votes have already been taken by the Council, but I would like to impress upon the Council and leave something for them to base on that may be the opportunity to revisit some action already taken. With regard to some funding being taken from the FHF of NW La., I have some very grave concerns with how this vote was taken. This Council basically ratified a decision that had been made by the Executive Committee and I am sure that the Council placed full confidence in their Committee, but FHF-NWLA has some great concerns in that the members of the Council should represent Region 7, but I won’t call any names, one of which lodged a complaint and now serves on the Committee and has now been allowed to take a vote to pull these funds away from FHF-NWLA. There is also a member of the Council who has lodged a written concern about the qualification of the current FHF-NW LA Executive Director and that individual too has been allowed to vote on whether or not funding should be seized by the center. A process was in place whereby which the FHF-NWLA board has been trying to save and salvage some things that have been going on in the center. One of the Council members served as chair of the center of NW, and at the time of their service, the center was out of compliance of a legal board being in existence, however, since the new E.D. has been on board, there is a full functioning board. The Executive Committee of FHF-NW is in attendance today and in full support of the center. Lastly, there has been talk about a new center being opened in the region. We are concerned about the opening of this center because FHF of La has been charged by the Council in its creation to serve as a hub for a providing a measure for support and providing technical assistance for regional centers. We had a new ED came on board and unfortunately Louisiana did not have the proper process completed in place as to how centers would receive technical assistance. We also have had complaints or actions taken by the administration of this Council to which our chair has not been able to receive responses to telephone calls, messages made and left as well as emails. Our contract was pulled based on the 30-day clause. We have not been given any reason, no legitimate reason, other than the 30 day clause, for why it was our funding has been pulled from our Center. There was no opportunity given to redeem ourselves. I heard “all avenues are exhausted to ensure fairness and equity is done” and is it hard for me to pull it all together because so many things at various levels that been transpired that were just unfair as to what happened to the NW. FHF NW doors’ are open and do not intend on shutting down. We continue to receive favorable reports from all of the other contracts that are in place. I requested that the Executive Committee meet with the FHF Board. Contact was made to try to make this happen but that has not occurred. But with our entire executive board present I make this invitation and ask the Council to give consideration to the intent of FHF of La. to provide a network that supports the regional centers at which some activities that have occurred that is not in the spirit of things reported in the Council meeting.”

14. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Winchell stated Ms. Fontenot will be appointing a membership committee and Ms. Winchell will be sending out a recruiting email for applicants for DDC membership in the next week for regions 1, 2, 9 and 10.

Mr. Fleming stated that emails will be sent out regarding the formation of Ad Hoc Committees discussed today.

Ms. Fontenot asked Council members to complete the Council Meeting Evaluation Form before leaving the meeting.

Ms. Fontenot announced the next quarterly Council meeting will be held in Baton Rouge on July 16-17, 2008.

15. ADJOURNMENT OF BUSINESS MEETING

Motion Passed - Moved to adjourn the meeting by Willie Martin. Seconded by Ida Mialaret.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.