

Executive Director's Report

July 16-17, 2008 Council Meeting

Budget

The budget report through May 2008 is included in the packet.

Membership Update

- Jennifer Kopke's name was submitted to the Governor's Office for appointment to the Council to represent the Office of Mental Health.
- Brandon Burriss is the new Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs. His name was also submitted to the Governor's Office for appointment to the Council.

Disabilities Information Access Line (DIAL) Report

We have recently contracted for a new foreign language translating service for DIAL and will begin tracking the calls we receive from non-English speaking callers. Previously we were using a volunteer translating service that had become unreliable.

Calls from persons with disabilities	293
Calls from parents/family members	168
Calls from professionals	<u>96</u>
Total disability related calls	557
DD Council calls (not counted as I&R)	30
Other calls	<u>172</u>
Total DIAL calls this quarter	759
Hurricane related calls this quarter	5
Hurricane related calls to date	1374
Spanish Speaking Callers	16
Follow-up Calls Attempted	19
Follow-up Calls Completed	10
Satisfaction Reported	100%

Advocacy Activities

- With Lynette and Kay, I met with Senate Finance Committee Chairman Mike Michot (twice) and member N. Gautreaux. Additionally I met with committee members Senators Broome, LaFleur and Walsworth, and former Senator Tom Schedler, all regarding HB 914.
- Also with Lynette and Kay, I met with DHH Secretary Alan Levine and his Executive Staff, Division of Administration Commissioner Angelle Davis, and Kristy Nichols with the Governor's Office regarding HB 914. Kay and I had a second meeting with this group. As a result of our advocacy efforts and LaCAN's grassroots advocacy, the administration did not go forward with this bill after it had passed without opposition in the House.

- A 10 minute news video was produced to air on cable TV to bring attention to the waiting list, the NOW Trust Fund and HB 914. Kay and I were interviewed at the office and two families on the waiting list were interviewed and filmed at their homes where they shared their personal stories. This news video was aired on cable stations across the state for over a week during the time the Council was advocating against HB 914.
- I provided testimony before the Senate Health and Welfare Committee on HB 1341 - the DSP/Family Members bill.
- Letters were sent throughout the legislative session to legislators and the Governor on HB 1341, HB 958 (autism insurance bill), several voting accessibility bills, and a language amendment for additional waiver slots in the budget. Finally, a letter was sent to the Governor to thank him for recognizing the needs of people with developmental disabilities during the legislative session.
- Numerous emails and phone calls were made to Congress to advocate for the inclusion of funding for 3,000 vouchers for Permanent Supportive Housing in the Supplemental Appropriations Bill. Council members, LaCAN Leaders, FHF Directors, DD Council Directors around the country and others were enlisted to help. This collaborative advocacy effort by innumerable advocacy organizations around the state was finally successful last week when \$73 Million was included in the bill for Louisiana.

LaCAN

- The Disability Rights Rally on April 23rd attracted a record number of over 800 people to the State Capitol to bring attention to the waiver waiting list. Fourteen Council members attended.
- LaCAN members were active this legislative session in record numbers as well. Confirmed actions in response to one alert regarding HB 914 were a record breaking 448. Many LaCAN members also showed up in their yellow rally T-shirts on several occasions at the Capitol, so much so that WWL Channel 4 in New Orleans did an excellent news story on the waiver waiting list. One of our LaCAN members and I were interviewed and a portion of Lynette and one of our LaCAN leaders' testimony was aired. You can access this through our website if you would like to see it.
- A debriefing of the legislative session with the LaCAN Leaders and FHF Directors is planned for the end of July. This is always very helpful to learn where we need to improve for next year.
- We still have a vacant LaCAN Leader position in Region X (Jefferson Parish).

Collaborative Efforts

OCDD Resource Allocation Stakeholders Group

- OCDD shared its plans to implement the resource allocation model to allocate funding for services to New Opportunities Waiver (NOW) recipients based on an individual's assessed type and level of needs. The levels will be identified through assessments using the Supports Intensity Scale (SIS) and LA+.
- Implementation of this model is scheduled to begin in September 2008 for new NOW recipients and would be phased in with current NOW recipients over the next few years.
- Data on the SIS/LA+ assessments were also used to explore resource allocation models. The strongest model that emerged was a six-level system of categorizing NOW recipients based on three primary levels and/or type of need: 1) General

Support Needs; 2) Medical Support Needs; and, 3) Behavior Support Needs. While it is expected for each person to have specific needs and/or characteristics and may not fit the mold of any of these levels, these levels will provide a general description and classification system for the model.

- The final step will be establishing rates that can be used to budget the allocation of available resources to individuals based on their level and/or type of need. OCDD will receive various rate plans to consider based on current costs of various services. Stakeholders will be involved in the process of determining the most equitable and reasonable rates to coincide with individuals' needs.
- The entire plan still must go through the administrative rule making process.
- Stakeholders have made it clear to OCDD and DHH that in addition to applying the resource allocation model to NOW recipients they expect this model to also be applied to people in residential settings to address the more significant problem of the disproportionate and unnecessary distribution of resources to cover large and small institutional services in Louisiana. Data shared by OCDD revealed that more than a quarter of the people in the Developmental Centers are at the lowest level of need.

Positive Behavioral Support Project (PBS) at Louisiana State University

- On April 4th, Council staff provided a presentation on Positive Behavior Support to the FHF-Northeast Education Summit in Monroe.
- At the May 23rd PBS Advisory Council meeting, the LSU project shared significant progress in developing regional coalitions to support PBS initiatives and activities at a more local level. LSU project staff also began training on secondary level interventions and supports. There was discussion about the content of the secondary training and future plans of the project.
- On June 12th, council staff participated in a planning session to consider training materials and issues that address the needs of students with the most severe challenging behaviors.

Division of Educational Improvement and Assistance (Dept. of Ed – DEIA)

- At the May 2nd DEIA special education directors' quarterly update, the following information of significance was provided:
 - As a result of corrective action taken by Jefferson Parish there have been significant positive results in behavioral practices and outcomes, academic supports and outcomes and more inclusive placement of students with disabilities.
 - The Louisiana Low Incidence Disabilities Consortium anticipates coursework and professional development opportunities will be available in Fall 2008. For more information visit: www.lalidc.org
 - The Louisiana Parent Training and Information Center (LaPTIC) has online training sessions available. To see the upcoming training schedule click the blinking light at <http://www.laptic.org/>
 - The Department presented on an initiative to increase the Accessibility of Instructional Materials.
- State Autism Advisory Committee
 - The State Autism Committee met on April 3 and reviewed progress and made decisions about needed tasks to conduct a statewide needs assessment and make revisions to Bulletin 1508.

- State Performance Plan Steering Committee
 - An update on Annual Performance Report (APR) indicators was provided.
 - After much discussion and nearly split voting the committee chose to keep the criteria to identify Local Education Agencies as having disproportionate representation. A final decision on the criteria will be made at the Fall meeting.
 - The committee decided on selection indicators for on-site monitoring for the 2008-2009 school year. The committee chose to keep two indicators regarding low performance on 8th grade LEAP and high rates of suspensions/expulsions and consider preschool placement as another indicator.
 - The Committee reviewed and developed suggestions for improvement activities for four indicators that the state has not met its target.

Human Development Center

- Council staff participated in a training session hosted by the Human Development Center and the American Association for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities – La. Chapter on “Transition from Sheltered Work to Real Employment: Beneficial for All!”
- The training also featured updates on LRS and OCDD employment services.

National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL)

- Plans are underway for Louisiana to co-host the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD) booth at the NCSL annual meeting in New Orleans on July 23 – 25. Lynette, Donna, Shawn and I will represent our Council at the event.
- In addition to a NACDD banner, a La. Developmental Disabilities Council banner will be hanging at the booth and our tri-fold Council board will be displayed.
- Since it is in New Orleans, most Louisiana legislators are expected to attend so this will be a wonderful public relations opportunity for the Council.
- I will be selecting an original oil painting from New Orleans to raffle off at our booth. Free “tickets” for the raffle will be business cards so we will have a record of legislators and staff who visited our booth.

Community Housing Advocacy Networks (CHANs) & Housing Advisory Group

- Housing advocates created a mass public awareness campaign that contributed to the \$73 million secured from Congress for Louisiana’s Permanent Supportive Housing vouchers.

Louisiana Youth Leadership Forum (LYLF)

- LYLF is being rescheduled for the summer of 2009 due to the change in leadership at the Governor’s Office of Disability Affairs.
- The planning committee will decide the appropriate steps to move forward with a forum next year.

Disability Job Fairs

- Job Fairs will be held across the state in October. Dates, locations, and more information about the job fairs may be obtained at www.lampp.org.

- This is the fifth and final year that Medicaid Purchase Plan will sponsor the job fairs. Another organization will need to sponsor the 2009 job fairs and there has been discussion about ways to establish seed money for next year.
- In the past four years more than 5800 job seekers were connected with 714 businesses across the state.

Meetings/Events Attended Since March 27, 2008

Nat'l Assn. of Councils on Dev. Dis. (NACDD) Conference Call on Institutional Closures - March 31

NACDD Conference Call re: National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) – April 1

LaCAN Leaders Technical Assistance Conference Call – April 7

Senate Health and Welfare Committee - SB 546 – April 9

Rally Planning Committee – April 10

La. Election Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities (LEAD) Advisory Board – April 11

Disability Rights Rally – April 23

Families Helping Families of La. Executive Committee – April 24

NACDD Conference Call re: NCSL – April 24

House Appropriations Committee – Public Testimony on HB 1 – April 28

Executive Committee Conference Call – April 29

House Insurance Committee – HB 958 – April 30

Meeting with DHH Human Resources – May 2

House Appropriations Committee – DHH – May 5

House Health and Welfare Committee – HB 1341 – May 7

Meeting with Senator Mike Michot re: SB 647 – May 7

Partners in Policymaking presentation on Systems Change and Community Organizing – May 9

Families Helping Families Directors – May 14

Meeting with Rep. Scott Simon – May 15

Employment Ad Hoc Committee Conference Call – May 15

Meeting with Senator Tom Schedler re: HB 914 – May 19

TriAngle Editorial Board – May 28

Senate Health and Welfare – HB 1341 – May 28

OCDD Resource Allocation Stakeholders Group – June 2

Meeting with Senators Michot and Nick Gautreaux re: HB 914 – June 4

Meeting with DHH, DOA, and Governor's Office officials re: HB 914 – June 4

Meeting with Senator Broome re: HB 914 – June 5

NACDD Conference Call re: NCSL – June 5

Senate Finance Committee – Public Testimony HB 1 – June 6

Families Helping Families SOP Ad Hoc Committee Conference Call – June 6

Meeting with DHH, DOA, and Governor's Office officials re: HB 914 – June 10