

Executive Director's Report ***October 15-16, 2008 Council Meeting***

Budget

- The budget report through August 2008 and the final budget for the entire State Fiscal Year ending in June are included in the packet.
- We are submitting a request to the Administration for an increase of \$88,000 in state funds for our Act 378 Supported Living Program. These additional funds will allow the provider to increase Direct Support Professional (DSP) wages and provide services for up to four more individuals with adult onset disabilities to stay in their own homes.

Membership Update

- We learned after the July Council meeting that Brandon Burris, James Bulot and Jennifer Kopke had actually been appointed to the Council prior to the meeting, but we nor they had been notified of their appointment before the meeting. All were appointed to fill the incomplete terms of their predecessors and Dr. Bulot and Ms. Kopke will need to be reappointed after 10/1/08.
- The names of the five individuals recommended by the Council at the July meeting have been submitted to the Governor for appointment. In addition, Jerry Phillips, representing Medicaid, and Donna Breaux, as an officer, are eligible for reappointment; therefore their names were also sent to the Governor.

Staff Update

- The interview process to fill the Program Manager position vacated by Kandi Smith was interrupted by Gustav. Shawn and I hope to have this position filled by the Council meeting.
- Juliette McMurry will complete her three year temporary appointment with the Council as a part-time DIAL Information Specialist and will be leaving us at the end of October. The DIAL calls have continued to decline over the past year and I saw no need to make this a permanent position.

Disabilities Information Access Line (DIAL) Report

Calls from persons with disabilities	243
Calls from parents/family members	202
Calls from professionals	<u>58</u>
Total disability related calls	503
DD Council calls (not counted as I&R)	13
Other calls	<u>151</u>
Total DIAL calls this quarter	667

Hurricane related calls this quarter	38
Hurricane related calls to date	1407
Spanish Speaking Callers	33
Follow-up Calls Attempted	22
Follow-up Calls Completed	10
Satisfaction Reported	100%

Hurricane Relief

- The Executive Committee made \$7,000 available to provide some immediate relief to families impacted by Gustav, and then Ike. This was distributed through five Families Helping Families (FHF) Centers in the southern regions and was pretty much spent in one day.
- The FHF Directors are continuing to communicate the unmet needs of families to us. We have in turn communicated these needs to federal officials in an attempt to get additional relief to people with disabilities and their families. Three of the directors and I will speak with Federal Disaster Case Management Program officials in Washington D. C. tomorrow to enlist their assistance in identifying resources for our families.

Other Announcements

- Our Partners in Policymaking Reunion was canceled for the weekend of September 19th by the Embassy Suites Hotel due to the hotel being booked by FEMA employees and utility workers. It has been rescheduled for November 14-15th.
- The stipend fund of \$3,000 for Council members to access to attend conferences, workshops or other educational opportunities will become available again at the start of our new plan year October 1, 2008. Council members wishing to apply for a stipend out of this fund may request an application form from the Council office.

Plan Update and Annual Report

- Our Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 09 Plan Amendments were submitted to the Administration on Developmental Disabilities on August 15th and have been approved.
- Our FFY 07 Annual Report was published and has been disseminated to Louisiana's legislators and Congressional delegation, state agencies, state and federal officials, Families Helping Families Centers and DD Councils across the country. A copy is included in your packet and it is also available on our website.

Advocacy Activities

- A fact sheet was developed on controlling costs in the New Opportunities Waiver program and the whole developmental disabilities system for LaCAN and DD Council members to use when visiting legislators. This is attached.

- The current issue of the *TriAngle* includes an article on the concept of “Fairness Across Settings” and the strong advocacy many believe will be required to achieve this in Louisiana. This advocacy needs to begin now on the grassroots level and at every policy table where we are able to gain a seat.

LaCAN

- A legislative session debriefing was held with LaCAN Leaders and Families Helping Families Directors to discuss the rally, attendance at legislative committee meetings, response to action alerts, and other LaCAN activities. Some preliminary suggestions for LaCAN’s 2009 Legislative Agenda were developed.
- The LaCAN leaders are currently planning and conducting their regional round table events with members and legislators and have already begun scheduling and making legislative visits to begin preparing for the 2009 legislative session.
- The leader positions in Regions I and X remain vacant and we are having trouble attracting any applicants for those positions.

Collaborative Efforts

OCDD Resource Allocation Stakeholders Group

- The two hurricanes have delayed the implementation of the resource allocation model, but OCDD is still pushing for implementation with new NOW recipients sometime this fall. The distribution of the new 2,025 NOW slots was also delayed, so OCDD should be ready to implement resource allocation when the new NOW recipients are ready for their planning process.
- The leveling system has been tweaked from the last Council meeting. Rather than assigning a dollar amount (or rate) to each level of need, the levels will vary by the number of direct support hours a person needs. Any additional services the person requires can be added to his plan, regardless of the level he is assigned.
- The levels will be determined based on an individual’s assessed type and level of needs through an assessment using the Supports Intensity Scale (SIS)LA+.
- OCDD announced at the last stakeholders’ meeting that it intends to implement the resource allocation model to current NOW recipients and people in residential settings beginning in 2009. However, we believe strong advocacy efforts from the Council, LaCAN and others will be necessary to counteract the expected opposition to the application of this model in ICF/DD settings from proponents of residential services.

Governor’s Advisory Council on Disability Affairs (GACDA)

- GACDA members identified possible issues on which GACDA could focus:
 - legislation that will support disability awareness in the school curriculum
 - educating school children and agencies on People First language
 - the illegal use and lack of enforcement of accessible parking spaces
 - disability education and awareness in the workforce

State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC)

- I have just received notification of my appointment to the SICC and am looking forward to taking a more active role in early intervention.
- Janet Mora began September 15th as the new Executive Director of the SICC. She previously worked at the Department of Education as the Autism Coordinator.

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

- At the August BESE High School Redesign Committee meeting, BESE admonished the Department for not producing alternative options for students with disabilities to earn a high school diploma and directed the Department to bring forth final recommendations in December 2008.

Autism State Task Force

- The Task Force reviewed progress and provided input on the following initiatives: an awareness campaign, an assessment of needs of current practices in identification and services across the state, EarlySteps Autism screening initiative, development of quality indicators and early intervention pilot (funded in part by the Council), and the ramifications and plans for addressing the passage of HB958 (Autism Insurance Mandate).
- A stakeholder group on the EarlySteps Autism Early Behavioral Intervention pilot discussed the purpose of the pilot (i.e., research vs. service), developed a plan to visit model sites around the country to consider components to include in the Louisiana pilot and discussed evaluation methodology. Among the components for the model the group agreed on a 'structured hybrid' model that will have a combination of embedded components from models identified with demonstrated outcomes.
- Council staff led a meeting between insurance industry representatives and parents and professionals of children with autism regarding HB958. The meeting provided an initial forum for the industry representatives to receive input from stakeholders on developing an implementation plan for providing insurance coverage for services to children with autism. The stakeholders developed additional plans to address needed areas to ensure the implementation of the insurance coverage. Some of the plans include education of physicians on identification methods and effective research-based interventions, communication and training of parents, and addressing the coordination of benefits between Medicaid and health care providers.

National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL)

- On July 23 – 25 Lynette, Shawn and I worked in the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities' (NACDD) booth at the NCSL annual meeting in New Orleans. We had an opportunity to speak to Louisiana legislators in an informal setting about the Council and encouraged them to call upon us as a resource.

- We also were proud to represent our national organization and all DD Councils to legislators from all over the country.

Community Housing Advocacy Networks (CHANs) & Housing Advisory Group

- The Baton Rouge CHAN heard a presentation from Habitat for Humanity Louisiana about the homeownership program for the very poor and updates on Go Zone funding and LA Housing Trust Fund. CHAN plans to impact local housing through focusing on attending Consolidated Planning meetings.
- CHAN members will receive training on Low Income Tax Credits and presentations by the City Planner on HOME and Community Development Block Grant funds at future meetings to be better educated to impact the consolidated plan.

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.
- The Baton Rouge Committee has over 20 employers scheduled to attend its job fair and is working on more. Promotion of the job fairs statewide continues.

Positive Behavioral Support Project (PBS) at Louisiana State University

- At the PBS Advisory Committee meeting, the LSU project shared significant progress in developing regional coalitions to support PBS initiatives and activities at a more local level. There was discussion about the content of the secondary and tertiary training as well as future plans of the project.
- There was concern that a lack of a decision from the Department of Education to commit to continuation of PBS funding may put services from the current program in jeopardy.

Meetings Attended Since July 7, 2008

Membership Committee – July 7

TriAngle Editorial Board – July 14

National Conference of State Legislatures in New Orleans – July 23 - 25

Funding Ad Hoc Committee – July 29

LaCAN Debriefing in Alexandria – July 30

Meeting with Kathy Kliebert - August 13

LaCAN Leader Conference Call – August 14

Emergency Management Disability Coalition - August 15

Families Helping Families Directors – August 19

Meeting with Mary Jacob and Stephanie Campo re: LaCAN – August 22

OCDD Resource Allocation Stakeholders Group – August 29

Disaster Case Management Briefing with GOEA – September 9

Nat'l Assn. of Councils on Dev. Dis. (NACDD) Conference Call – September 10

DD Councils Executive Directors' Retreat in Montana – September 18 -19

Disaster Relief Call with FEMA, HHS, Homeland Security, Red Cross, etc. – September 23