

**LOUISIANA DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL  
APRIL 21, 2011  
MEETING SUMMARY**

8:30 A.M.

Holiday Inn South  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

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**1. GREETINGS AND INTRODUCTIONS**

A. Sam Beech, Chair of the Council, welcomed everyone to the meeting. She 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. Beech 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  
Sue Berry, OPH/CSHS  
Lynn Cannon  
Pranab Choudhury  
Brenda Cosse'  
Hugh Eley, OAAS  
Rocky Fuselier  
Reginald Garey  
Laura Head  
Valerie Hiser  
Julia Kenny, OCDD  
Kay Marcel  
Andrew Merlin  
Heather Mobley  
Chasedee Noto  
Michelle Octave, GOEA  
Nanette Olivier, DOE  
Bambi Polotzola  
Olantha Scott  
Lois Simpson, AC  
Nicole Soileau  
Phil Wilson, HDC  
Stephen Yazbeck

**C. MEMBERS ABSENT**

Donna Breaux  
Brandon Burris, GODA  
Mary Elizabeth Christian  
Don Gregory, BHSF  
Roseland Starks

**D. STAFF PRESENT**

Shawn Fleming  
Paige Freeman  
Robbie Gray  
Kevin Hill  
Derek White  
Sandee Winchell

**E. GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE**

Frances Hilburn  
Martha Whitlock  
James Sprinkle, FHF at the Crossroads  
Justin Ward, Guest of Reginald Garey  
Stephanie Mire, Transcriptionist  
Chelsea Milson, Guest of Nicole Soileau

## **2. SUMMARY OF JANUARY MEETING**

Ms. Beech requested a motion to accept the summary from the January meeting.

Sue Berry stated that on page 12 instead of "all of the co-pay services" it should read "direct clinical services."

Motion passed. Motion to accept the January summary with correction made by Val Hiser. Second by Brenda Cosse'. Passed without objection.

## **3. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT –Sam Beech**

Sandee Winchell, Kay Marcel and Ms. Beech met with DHH Secretary Bruce Greenstein and discussed provider rate cuts, the lack of specialized services for people living in the community and revenue possibilities for waiver services. They also had conference calls with Julia Kenny where they discussed the rule for the Cash Subsidy Program, changes in the Children's Choice Waiver, the Residential Options Waiver and Resource Allocation.

Ms. Beech went on legislative visits in Region 7 with LaCAN leader Duane Ebarb.

On February 25<sup>th</sup>, Ms. Beech attended an employment training called Customized Employment being piloted in Bossier Parish.

On March 2, Val Hiser, Olantha Scott, Donna Breaux, Ms. Winchell and Ms. Beech participated on the Orientation Ad Hoc Committee. The entire orientation outline was reviewed and revisions were made. The new Orientation is to take place in January 2012.

The Region 7 Rally was held on March 12<sup>th</sup> with over 500 people attending and several legislators speaking.

On March 24<sup>th</sup>, Ms. Beech participated on a full assembly membership meeting with the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD). The purpose was to vote on recommended changes to the DD Act Reauthorization. The Public Policy Committee produced 21 potential recommendations, of which 16 passed.

In July, the Council will be electing officers. Nanette Olivier, Phil Wilson, Heather Mobley and Ms. Hiser agreed to participate on the Nominating Committee with Ms. Olivier serving as Chair of the committee.

## **Executive Committee Decisions**

In March, the Executive Committee considered a request and agreed not to pursue legislation similar to the federal Rosa's Law as part of the Council's advocacy agenda. Some people believe that too many changes are taking place in the DD service delivery system and opening up the developmental disability law right now would not be advisable. The Executive Committee conducted Ms. Winchell's annual evaluation. Ms. Beech stated that Ms. Winchell does an excellent job as Executive Director of the DD Council and the results of the evaluation only further confirmed this.

Ms. Beech stated that in light of the current economic situation and budget Ms. Winchell respectfully requested that the Council not consider a salary increase. This is the third year Ms. Winchell has declined a pay raise.

A discussion followed.

### **4. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Sandee Winchell**

Ms. Winchell welcomed Stephen Yazbeck and Brenda Cosse' to the Council. The Cash Subsidy and Individual and Family Support survey response was tremendous. The LSU Human Development Center compiled and analyzed the results of the survey. The plan is to prepare a one or two page summary that can be provided to legislators, the Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) Secretary and other public officials. The overall response of the recipients reveals they are very satisfied with the programs and they find the benefits they receive very beneficial.

Ms. Marcel and Ms. Winchell visited with DHH Secretary Greenstein and were successful in getting one million dollars restored to the OCDD and the Individual and Family Support budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>. If the money had not been restored internally, an amendment to HB 1 by the legislature would have been required to appropriate the money. These are the flexible Act 378 funds for families to use for goods and services.

Ms. Winchell reminded Council members that May 15<sup>th</sup> is the deadline to file their Financial Disclosure forms. State law requires that all Council members are to file these forms with the Ethics Commission.

A discussion followed.

### **5. BUDGET REPORT – Shawn Fleming**

The Council is on track with expenditures. Mr. Fleming discussed the handout regarding the breakdown of expenditures.

A discussion followed.

## 6. LEGISLATIVE REPORT – Sandee Winchell

Ms. Winchell reported on the list of bills prepared for the Council to consider its positions and advocacy on issues contained in legislation. She went through the list of bills providing a brief explanation on each one and indicating whether any action has already been taken.

A discussion followed. Council members provided information on the legislation on the list and on additional bills and provided feedback on the Council's positions.

Motion passed. Motion to accept the advocacy agenda as amended and also authorize staff to change the position as long as it meets the mission of the Council made by Lynn Cannon. Second by Val Hiser. Passed without objection.

## 7. COMMITTEE REPORTS – Sam Beech

Ms. Beech reported that since the committees did not meet, there are no Committee reports. The draft plan was approved by the Committee of the Whole and must be approved by the Council. The final version will be voted on in July.

Motion passed. Motion to accept the Five Year Draft Plan to be finalized in July made by Lois Simpson. Second by Chasedee Noto. Passed without objection.

## 8. COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

### A. ADVOCACY CENTER (AC) – Lois Simpson

Ms. Simpson stated her report was up to date and waived her time.

### B. LEGISLATIVE VISITS – Council Members

Val Hiser met with Representative Walter Leger who is extremely supportive of the Council and its advocacy efforts.

Rocky Fuselier met with Representative Brett Geymann regarding the State Personal Assistance Services (SPAS) program. Representative Geymann stated he is interested and wants to help.

Kay Marcel, Mauricia Walters, the LaCAN Leader in Region IV, and Michelle Marks, the LaTEACH Coordinator of Region IV, along with others met with Senator LaFleur regarding provider rate cuts. Senator LaFleur stated he would be interested in co-sponsoring restraint/seclusion legislation. He is in support of the Council and its advocacy efforts and the reforms being made by DHH.

Ms. Marcel also met with Representative Simone Champagne.

Pranab Choudhury met with Senator Dan Claitor and Representative Franklin Foil regarding the Council's advocacy efforts. He was informed that there is lobbying against the Council's efforts for community supports and in support of nursing home admissions.

## 9. STATE AGENCY REPORTS

### A. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DOE) – Nanette Olivier

Ms. Olivier reported there have been concerns from families about getting children through the evaluation process to be identified as in need of special education services. If someone in a school system is having problems or is advocating about this issue, they should contact Nancy Hicks at the Department of Education at (225) 342-3340 or [Nancy.hicks@la.gov](mailto:Nancy.hicks@la.gov).

DOE is in the planning process for five Hope Davis summits across the state. DOE will work with the Picard Center to develop packets for each school system detailing performance and outcomes for students with disabilities. After reviewing the data participants can ask pertinent questions about the practice of the school systems and how their practices are related to outcomes. For more information, contact either Ms. Olivier or Debra Dixon at DOE.

A discussion followed.

### B. CHILDREN'S SPECIAL HEALTH SERVICES (CSHS) – Sue Berry

Due to budget cuts, Children's Special Health Services (CSHS) closed 30 percent of the smallest clinics and made cuts to the money used for hospitalizations, pharmacy, care coordination, contracts, and staff. Most of the CSHS clinics remain open.

The Birth Defects Monitoring Network is now operated state wide enabling CSHS to tell if any congenital anomalies or babies born with specific medical conditions might be linked to environmental toxins. The next focus of that program will be improvement in education and prevention by working with March of Dimes and other stakeholders.

### C. OFFICE FOR CITIZENS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (OCDD) – Julia Kenny

Mark Thomas and Ms. Kenny held stakeholder meetings with families and individuals around the state regarding Resource Allocation.

The Money Follows the Person rebalancing is allowing person centered thinking to be infused into employment planning. Ms. Kenny suggested Rosemary Morales speak about employment transitioning at the next Council meeting.

Transitioning for individuals from developmental centers will be above target. Out of the targeted 184, about 160 people have transitioned and 75 people are waiting.

A discussion followed.

### D. OFFICE OF AGING AND ADULT SERVICES (OAAS) – Hugh Eley

OAAS is working on the implementation of the Community Choices Waiver. The implementation target date has been moved from June 6<sup>th</sup> to July 1<sup>st</sup>.

A partnership between GE and Intel has been providing very useful technological assistance to OAAS on solutions out there to help people remain in their homes.

OAAS is serving more people in the community than in the history of the state of Louisiana. About 45 percent of recipients with disabilities are getting community based services instead of being in a nursing home.

As of April 19<sup>th</sup>, the John J. Hainkel Home has been privatized. The state still owns the building, but a non-profit organization has taken over the operations.

OAAS is still trying to get the Assisted Living Waiver approved. CMS did not approve it because they want to get some of the excess nursing home beds rebuilt into assisted living units and provide waiver services for people. So people with needs that cannot be met from a cost effective standpoint will have an option other than a nursing home.

A discussion followed.

#### **10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Ms. Beech indicated that the Council must ratify the 2011 Plan Amendments to add the Act 378 Survey, change from a single Rally to Regional Rallies and replace the Emergency Registry with the Transportation initiative as discussed at the October 2010 Council meeting.

Motion passed. Motion to accept ratifying the 2011 Plan Amendments by adding the Act 378 Survey, changing from a single Rally to Regional Rallies and replacing the Emergency Registry with the Transportation initiative made by Kay Marcel. Second by Val Hiser. Passed without objection.

#### **11. NEW BUSINESS**

None to discuss.

#### **12. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

#### **13. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Next Council meeting  
July 20-21, 2011

#### **14. ADJOURNMENT OF BUSINESS MEETING**

Motion passed. Motion to adjourn made by Lynn Cannon. Second by Olantha Scott. Passed without objection.