

Executive Director's Report October 17-18, 2012 Council Meeting

Budget

- The budget report with expenditures through August 2012 is included in the packet.

Membership Update

- We are still awaiting the appointments of Deshae Lott Sadow, Erin Smith, Patsy White, Kris Hebert, Laura Brackin and Lillian Wise. We also have a vacancy representing the Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs. An Executive Director for that office has not been hired.
- Ruth Kennedy was appointed to the Council by the Governor effective September 4, 2012 to represent the Bureau of Health Services Financing.
- After extensive outreach we received twenty-one applications for the six upcoming vacancies on the Council from Regions I, II, III and X. The Membership Committee interviewed fourteen applicants who met the eligibility criteria and will meet on October 1st to make recommendations to present to the full Council.

Staff Update

- Keokah Sanders was hired and began work as a new Program Manager on September 4, 2012. We are now fully staffed.

Plan Update

- Amendments to our Five Year Plan, which include activities for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2013, were submitted to the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD) on August 15th. Our new plan year activities begin October 1st.

Advocacy Efforts

- At our quarterly meeting with the Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) Leadership on August 20th, Secretary Greenstein was unable to attend, but we advocated with Kathy Kliebert and Laura Brackin on the following issues:
 - For DHH to speak to Education Superintendent John White regarding the La. Special Education Center's recruitment of children to fill vacancies at the residential center and to share DHH's support of home and community based services with the superintendent;
 - That waiver recipients not be required to enroll in Bayou Health but instead be allowed to opt out;
 - That a strong Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is needed between DHH and the Local Governing Entities (regional human service districts and authorities) and that this MOU is strongly enforced to ensure the same level and quality of services are provided to individuals and families regardless of the region in which they reside;
 - That the criteria for emergency waiver slots be expanded and a certain percentage of all new slots be designated for emergency slots.
- At this same meeting we also inquired about the DHH policy "directive or letter" that is being written to document the New Opportunities Waiver (NOW) Fund Policy

agreed to by Sec. Greenstein and the status of the Money Follows the Person (MFP) initiative. The NOW Fund Policy had not been written but we were assured that it would be done as soon as possible. Regarding the MFP initiative, DHH is working internally on various systems change measures that are necessary to enable providers to convert their residential services to waiver services.

- A letter was written to the Commissioner of Administration in support of providing the total state match needed to draw down Louisiana's full vocational rehabilitation grant.
- The Act 378 Ad Hoc Committee made a recommendation to build accountability into the Flexible Family Fund program because of concern in DHH about the program's vulnerability in the next round of budget cuts. The committee suggested asking families to tell the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) how they planned to spend the subsidy on an annual basis. This could be recorded in their file as their "plan" and give OCDD some record of accountability without having to collect receipts.
- The Act 378 Ad Hoc also submitted comments to OCDD on the draft emergency rule implementing the new eligibility criteria for the Flexible Family Fund program. The committee recommended verifying income only on an annual basis and only requiring families to provide proof of income once their child reaches the top of the waiting list, rather than every year he/she is on the waiting list. The draft manual for this program is currently out for review and the full Act 378 Sub-Committee has been given the opportunity to submit comments.
- The Council submitted comments to the U. S. Access Board recommending that a minimum of 14% of emergency transportable housing units, such as FEMA trailers, be accessible to people with disabilities. The Access Board is currently revising the accessibility guidelines for emergency transportable housing.

Collaborative Efforts

Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP)

- SEAP members repeated a request for a breakdown of IDEA expenditures. SEAP passed a motion to have a presentation on the Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) by Dept. of Education (DOE) fiscal staff.
- The November SEAP meeting will address policy on transition of students currently eligible for LAA2. (LAA2 is being phased out so there will no longer be a grade level equivalent alternate assessment.)
- Concern over the impact of the policy that enables students with disabilities to have only five percent of the end of course test (EOCT) applied to their course grade was raised. The DOE was requested to analyze the data to determine the impact with students with disabilities passing courses compared to using the standard district percentage (between 15-30 percent).
- Following discussion on whether the SEAP agenda was determined by DOE staff or SEAP members, a motion passed to have a legal opinion on who has authority to establish the SEAP agenda.
- Patsy White serves as a member of SEAP, and Christy Cormier, the LaTEACH Statewide Coordinator, and Shawn regularly attend the SEAP meetings.

La. Rehabilitation Council (LRC)

- The LRC elected officers and Derek White is the new Chairperson
- La. Rehabilitation Services (LRS) Director Mark Martin reported changing LRS's focus from "services to employment." The LRC endorsed the concept. LRC members will participate on committees and the chairperson will serve on the Steering Committee.

La. Rehabilitation Services (LRS) Steering Committee

- This Steering Committee was established to pull together recommendations from three committees charged with changing LRS's focus from "services to employment."
- The three committees are Application and Eligibility, Individual Planning, and Employment Outcomes. The Steering Committee will work with committee recommendations and report to the LRS Director.
- A decision was made to institute a pilot project in one area to revamp how certain counselor duties are distributed, specifically job placement.

OCDD Mortality Review Committee

- Of the 43 cases reviewed this quarter, the Committee noted allegations of neglect confirmed against three providers from investigations by Health Standards. One of these was related to failure to access medical treatment in a timely manner; criminal charges are pending against the provider related to this situation.
- Health standards substantiated neglect on 5 of 5 allegations against one provider.
- Two corrective action plans were requested from providers related to training on response to health needs, and awareness of positioning and skin problems.
- No systemic concerns were noted this quarter.

Meetings Attended Since July 2nd

LaCAN/LaTEACH Legislative Debriefing – July 10

Meeting with Ruth Kennedy re: DD Council – July 12

Membership Committee – July 16

Families Helping Families of Greater Baton Rouge Board of Directors – July 17

Council Meeting – July 18-19

Office of Aging and Adult Services re: Community First Choice – August 8

DHH conference call re: Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget – August 9

Act 378 Ad Hoc Committee – August 10

Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget re: DHH's budget – August 14

Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget re: DHH's budget – August 15

Planning meeting with Sam and Kay – August 15

National Assn. of Councils on Dev. Disabilities Finance Committee – August 16

Presentation on Act 378 & Council to South Central LA Human Svcs Authority – August 17

Quarterly meeting with Kathy Kliebert, Laura Brackin, Sam Beech – August 20

Training for Families Helping Families of Acadiana – August 23

Executive Committee Conference Call – September 11

LaCAN Leader Training – September 14

Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget re: DHH's budget – September 20