

## ***Executive Director's Report July 18-19, 2012 Council Meeting***

### **Budget**

- The budget report with expenditures through May 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 Ruth Kennedy.
- Six applicants are currently being interviewed by the Membership Committee for the Council vacancy in Region IX. The committee will meet on July 16<sup>th</sup> to select a candidate to recommend to the full Council.
- Recruitment is currently ongoing for applicants from Regions I, II, III and X. The deadline for these applications is September 1, 2012.

### **Staff Update**

- We received budget spending authority from the legislature to fill our vacant Program Manager position and will be interviewing the week of July 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **DD Council Federal Appropriations**

- We received notification on June 14<sup>th</sup> that the full Senate Appropriations Committee approved level funding for DD Councils (\$75 Million) for Fiscal Year 2013. Sam, Kay and Bambi sent letters to Sen. Landrieu requesting her support of this level of funding. She serves on this committee.

### **Advocacy Activities**

- We were extremely busy during the 2012 Legislative Session coordinating the Council's advocacy efforts. Letters were written for Sam's signature and delivered to legislative committee meetings in support or opposition of issues affecting people with developmental disabilities addressed in sixteen pieces of legislation. We also met with legislators throughout the session providing them with information on how legislation would impact people with disabilities.
- LaCAN members were supported in testifying before the Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees in support of funding for additional NOW slots, restoration of funding for NOW attrition slots and restoration of all cuts to DHH's budget. We organized three "yellow shirt days" in these Committees with a total of eighty LaCAN members attending these meetings.
- We advocated for a more equitable distribution of OCDD Act 378 Individual and Family Support funds among regions/districts/authorities to better reflect the population distribution in the state. The Human Services Interagency Council (HSIC) will review the distribution of funding across regions and develop recommendations for revising the formula taking into account 2010 Census data at its July meeting.
- We advocated for DHH to take into account waiver recipients who have complex medical needs and to allow them the option of opting out of Bayou Health. DHH has not yet

announced a decision on this population but has postponed the enrollment of all waiver recipients into Bayou Health.

- Shawn and Bambi met with members of Louisiana's Congressional delegation in Washington to inform them of the Council's work and our advocacy efforts to preserve services for people with developmental disabilities in the state's current fiscal situation. They also had the opportunity to thank Sen. Landrieu for her amendment a few years ago that increased the FMAP for Louisiana.

## **Collaborative Efforts**

### **OCDD Mortality Review Committee**

- Of the twenty cases reviewed, the Committee noted one confirmed allegation of neglect from investigations by Health Standards related to failure to report trauma in a timely manner. In addition, two corrective action plans were requested related to the premature approval of Hospice (instead of going to skilled nursing or other waiver service) and inadequate documentation from support coordination in a major illness report.

### **AIDD Self-Advocacy Summit – LA State Team**

- Rocky Fuselier represented the Council at the Self-advocacy Summit in Chicago sponsored by the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD).
- Technical assistance was provided to the Louisiana State Team in developing the state's self-advocacy plan. Summit participants returned with tasks to complete their goals of sustainability for self-advocacy and People First (PFL) independently controlling its own funding. As a result, self-advocates are working on increased PFL membership through outreach to youth organizations and educational institutions.
- PFL is working with a grant writer to seek funding separate from the Council.

### **College and Career Readiness Commission**

- The Commission received information on proposed changes to simplify common core standards, evaluation processes and options for students to complete pathways.
- Feedback was provided to the Commission by the Council that changes should provide students with developmental disabilities options for competitive employment. In addition, core standards, accountability and exit options should be equitable for all students including those with significant disabilities.

### **Child Care Stakeholder Group**

- The purpose of this group is to include children with disabilities in the Dept. of Children and Family Services Child Care Assistance Program rating system. The group developed recommendations for the definition of special needs, criteria to establish the special needs rate, to determine other supports, procedures to obtain support, and potential funding sources.
- Additionally the group met to provide input on the Quality Rating System. Inclusion of children with disabilities is an indicator of quality. The committee will recommend practices changes within the next few months.

### OCDD Employment First Work Group

The group developed outcomes for the five-year implementation plan that include, among others:

- All OCDD waivers will operate on consistent service definitions, rates and rules that incentivize supported employment. (Year 2)
- Vocational assessment, employment and career planning will be components of every planning meeting and will result in a plan for employment as part of their Plan of Care.
- Employment providers will be trained and qualified to serve people with disabilities, including those with a range of support needs.

### **Meetings Attended Since April 1, 2012**

OCDD Employment First Work Group – April 3

Meeting with LANO consultant – April 10

State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC) – April 11

Appropriations Committee re: HB1 – April 16

Quarterly meeting with Sec. Greenstein, K. Kliebert, L. Brackin, S. Beech, K. Marcel – April 16

Meeting with Sam and Rocky re: Annual Evaluation – April 16

Appropriations Committee re: Public Testimony on HB1 – April 17

Council Meeting – April 18-19

Meeting with DHH re: Bayou Health – April 30

Appropriations Committee re: HB1 – May 1

Meeting with LANO consultant – May 2

LaCAN Leaders Conference Call – May 4

Appropriations Committee re: HB1043 – May 7

FHF Directors Conference call – May 11

OCDD Employment First Sub-Committee – May 16

EarlySteps Ad Hoc Committee – May 17

OCDD Employment First Work Group – June 5

OCDD Act 378 meeting with regions/districts/authorities – June 6

Executive Committee – June 13

OCDD Brainstorming Session – June 14

Conference call with L. Brackin and M. Thomas re: FHF/LaCAN – June 27, 2012

Presentation at Down Syndrome Governmental Affairs Conference – June 30