

Executive Director's Report January 20, 2011 Council Meeting

Budget

- The budget report with expenditures through November 2010 is included in the packet.

New Office

- We moved into our new building the week of Thanksgiving. All in all, the move went smoothly thanks to the hard work of the staff. We are still working out some kinks with the new voicemail system so please bear with us, but do let us know of any problems you encounter trying to reach us so we can correct them.
- Location is 626 Main Street. Please come see us anytime; we ask for a call ahead to arrange parking.

Membership Update

- The names of the individuals that were approved by the Council in October were submitted to the Governor's Office of Boards and Commissions in August. We are awaiting word from the Governor's Office on their appointment.
- Roseland Starks has left La. Rehabilitation Services. Ken York, LRS Assistant Director since 2008, will oversee operations at LRS and attend Council meetings until a permanent director is named.

Professional Development

- The staff hosted and participated in a two-day training on an online data collection and management system (DD Suite) for DD Councils that will be used for submission of our Program Performance Report (PPR) to the federal government. The Administration on Developmental Disabilities (ADD) also plans to convert to DD Suite for our annual plan submission in the near future. The Massachusetts Council conducted the training at our office and we were joined by staff members from the Mississippi, Wisconsin and Arkansas Councils.

Federal Fiscal Year 10 Program Performance Report (PPR)

- Our FFY 10 PPR is due to the Administration on Developmental Disabilities on January 1st. It will be submitted before we leave for the New Year's holiday.

Public Input for Five Year Plan

- Two public forums were held, one in Baton Rouge and another in Shreveport, in collaboration with the Human Development Center and the Advocacy Center. The input from those forums was provided to members of a blue ribbon panel of state disability leaders who recommended strategies for the

DD Network to consider including in their planning efforts over the next five years. Recommendations for funded projects are included in your packet and will be narrowed down at the January meeting as a first step in our planning process.

- Two concept proposals were also received from the public for consideration for inclusion in our new Five Year Plan. These will also be considered at the January meeting.

Advocacy Activities

- A stakeholder group was formed by OCDD in late October to try and avoid a December 1st rate cut of 5.8% to the New Opportunities Waiver (NOW). The group agreed with the decision to end the phase-in for resource allocation and bring NOW recipients within their level's recommended support hours, recognizing there will still be exceptions made for people whose needs cannot be met by the number of support hours allocated for their level. The target date for implementation was initially January 1, 2011 but OCDD has since realized it will be impossible to make all necessary plan revisions by that deadline.
- A meeting was held with Office of Behavioral Health (OBH) Assistant Secretary Kathy Kliebert to express the Council's concerns regarding the lack of expenditure of OBH Act 378 funds in several regions/districts/authorities. A subsequent meeting was held with the director of Metropolitan Human Services District where Ms. Kliebert expressed OBH's commitment to the Act 378 programs and we both expressed the importance of appropriately expending the funds.
- LaCAN and LaTEACH are currently co-hosting legislative roundtables throughout the state where they are educating individuals with developmental disabilities, family members and legislators on the Council's advocacy agenda. Council members and LaCAN and LaTEACH members have begun to make legislative visits
- As directed by the Council, a letter was sent to the Governor expressing the importance of the Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs and concern that the office has been without an Executive Director for an extended period of time.

Collaborative Efforts

State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC)

- The SICC made a recommendation to OCDD that evaluators become employees or contractors of the System Point of Entry (SPOE). The evaluator would be part of the SPOE team and accountable to the Early Intervention Coordinator. The evaluation team would consist of the parent, intake coordinator and two other Early Intervention disciplines based on screening and family concerns.

- Effective December 1st the Dept. of Health and Hospitals imposed a 2% rate reduction to Medicaid reimbursed EarlySteps direct services (OT, ST, PT, Audiology, Psychology) provided in the natural environment.
- A 2% rate reduction will also be applied to all Part C reimbursed services provided in the natural environment with the exception of Family Service Coordination, Autism Screening, Applied Behavior Analysis, Certain Audiology Testing, Interpreter, and services provided in special purpose inclusive settings or special purpose centers. The effective date for implementation of these rate reductions will be upon completion of the fee schedule system adjustment and is targeted for dates of service beginning January 1st.

Coordinated System of Care – Family Support Organization (FSO) Subgroup

- Local Family Support Organizations are being established to provide Medicaid billable supports and services. The state level Family Support Organization will serve on the governance body to the Coordinated System of Care.
- Criteria are being defined for selecting Family Support Organizations and anticipated deliverables at the regional and state levels.

OCDD Mortality Review Committee

- Of the 23 cases reviewed this quarter, the committee found systemic concerns in two cases which were referred to the appropriate personnel at OCDD central office for follow-up and/or change in policy:
 - Inadequate mandates on infection control training.
 - A breakdown of appropriate response to early signs of emergent medical problems.
- Indication of rights violations were noted in one other case. The case was appropriately referred by the treating hospital to the police and Adult Protective Services (APS). Health Standards responded by conducting a licensing review which resulted in deficiencies filed against the direct service provider.
- The committee found concerns in no cases for which a plan of correction was requested by OCDD of the provider.

La. Rehabilitation Council

- The Council received an update from Roseland Starks and staff regarding the La. Rehabilitation Services (LRS) Plan and budget. Due to deep cuts, LRS has taken several steps to reduce spending, including consolidating services and revising its order of selection process.
- Ms. Starks reported there is a possibility LRS will have to close all orders of selection, resulting in serving no new individuals.

High Level Leadership Council (HLLC) of the Medicaid Infrastructure Grant

- The HLLC met several times during the quarter in conjunction with the WorkPays Coalition to provide input on development of the Medicaid Strategic Plan. The DD Council representatives continued to advocate for inclusion of an Employment First policy in the plan. Unfortunately, Employment First was not included.

- The Environmental Scan Committee completed its task of collecting information on all existing employment-related services in Louisiana.

Meetings Attended Since October 4, 2010

Meeting with Sec. Greenstein, Sam Beech, Kay Marcel – October 5
 LaCAN's Legislative Kick Off – October 7
 Meeting with Kathy Kliebert re: Act 378 – October 8
 Meeting with OBH Staff re: Act 378 – October 8
 State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC) – October 13
 Meeting with Sec. Greenstein re: DDC's budget – October 13
 Council Meeting – October 20-21
 OCDD Stakeholder Group re: rate cuts – October 25
 Meeting with Laura Brackin, Sam Beech, Kay Marcel re: collaboration – October 26
 Families Helping Families (FHF) Directors Conference Call re: stipends, CFS funds – October 27
 Meeting with MHSD and Kathy Kliebert re: Act 378 funds – October 27
 Senate Finance Committee re: DHH's budget – October 28
 OCDD Stakeholder Group re: rate cuts – November 1
 LaCAN Leaders Conference Call re: regional rallies – November 4
 Senate Finance Committee re: DHH's budget – November 4
 DD Network Public Forum in Shreveport – November 9
 Meeting with OCDD and Advocacy Center re: Resource Allocation – November 12
 DD Network Public Forum in Baton Rouge – November 16
 Meeting with Laura Brackin and Kay Marcel re: collaboration – November 16
 Executive Committee – November 18
 OCDD Stakeholder Meeting on Resource Allocation – November 30
 DD Network Blue Ribbon Panel – November 30
 DD Suite Training – December 1-2
 Governor's Office of Disability Affairs GOLD Awards Ceremony – December 7
 SICC Nominating Committee – December 9
 LaCAN Leaders Conference Call re: Resource Allocation – December 10
 Rally Planning Meeting – December 13
 OCDD Resource Allocation Provider Meeting in Region II – December 14
 FHF Directors Network – December 15