

## ***Executive Director's Report October 21, 2010 Council Meeting***

### **Budget**

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

### **Membership Update**

- Julia Kenny, OCDD's new Assistant Secretary, was appointed by the Governor to the Council. Michelle Octave was also appointed to represent the Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs.
- The Membership Committee is currently interviewing applicants to fill the two vacancies in Region IX and will have individuals selected for the Council meeting. If approved by the full Council, their names will be recommended to the Governor for appointment.

### **Professional Development**

- The staff is participating in a twelve week online training series, "Navigating the Future in Turbulent Times," presented by some of the most renowned leaders in the field of developmental disabilities such as John O'Brien, Beth Mount, Steve Edelman and Tom Nerney. Topics include community membership, inclusive education, employment and self-determination.
- Council members wishing to participate in any of the remaining online sessions (\$15 - \$25 each) are encouraged to do so. Council stipend funds can be used to cover the cost of this training. Contact Sandee for more information.

### **Plan Update**

- Our Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2011 Plan Amendments were submitted to the Administration on Developmental Disabilities (ADD) on August 15<sup>th</sup> and have been approved by ADD.
- A timeline has been created for development of the new Five Year Plan leading up to the April 2011 planning meeting. Two public forums are scheduled to gather public input and we have invited a blue ribbon panel to assist us in refining the comments into tangible ideas the Council can consider for implementation.
- We are also conducting outreach to ask stakeholders to complete our online survey, "Tell the Council What you Think."

### **Administration on Developmental Disabilities (ADD)**

- Sharon Lewis, the newly appointed Commissioner of ADD and the parent of a child with developmental disabilities, is making a concerted effort to open up her administration and engage her constituency. She is encouraging individuals, family members, and advocates to describe their vision of the future for individuals with developmental disabilities. ADD will use these comments in developing goals and priorities for their five year strategic plan. Commissioner Lewis is asking those submitting comments to focus on one of four specific questions which are posted online at [www.envision2010.net](http://www.envision2010.net).
- Anyone interested in receiving news updates from ADD directly can do so by joining their listserv. Simply send an email to [add\\_information@acf.hhs.gov](mailto:add_information@acf.hhs.gov) asking to be placed on the email list.

## **Advocacy Activities**

A letter was sent to Supt. of Education Paul Pastorek with the Council's recommendations in response to the Department of Education's draft guidelines for the use of seclusion rooms and restraint.

A letter was sent to DHH's new Secretary, Bruce Greenstein, requesting a meeting with him to discuss reforming the DD system and building community capacity. Kay Marcel, representing LaCAN, also sent a similar letter. Kay, Sam Beech and I will be meeting with the Secretary on October 5<sup>th</sup>.

At the Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS) Public Meeting on the LRS State Plan in Baton Rouge, recommendations were submitted regarding the use of measureable outcomes and baseline data when writing performance indicators, such as the number or percentage of people with disabilities who obtain employment will increase by x amount, student participation in the IEP process would begin for all necessary students by the time they reach 16 years of age, etc. It is also important to align the definition of "significant disability" across agencies.

## **Collaborative Efforts**

### **State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC)**

- The strict adherence to eligibility guidelines did not result in a reduction in the number of children enrolled in EarlySteps. The projected expenditures actually increased by \$500,000, but DHH did not cut the program because it falls under one of the department's priorities - preventive services.

### **OCDD Mortality Review Committee**

Of the 47 deaths reviewed this quarter, the committee found systemic concerns in three cases:

- Transition of an individual from North Lake Supports and Services Center who had complex health issues and passed away after the standard consultation of the Transition Team.
- Direct Support Professional (DSP) documentation system for daily notes and communication between DSP shifts.
- Inadequate recognition of signs and symptoms of aspiration and the side effects and management of anticonvulsant drugs.

These concerns were referred to the appropriate personnel at OCDD central office for follow-up and/or change in policy.

### **Autism State Team**

- The group reviewed the proposed guidelines on restraint and seclusion and recommended that the proposed document not be used and a stakeholder task force be convened to draft a set of guidelines.
- Also reviewed were the requirements for a behavior analyst to work in schools. The team is developing a tool to recognize teachers with competencies in autism specific areas.

### Louisiana Rehabilitation Council (LRC)

- Louisiana Workforce Commission (LWC) Executive Director Curt Eysink shared his vision of integration of La. Rehabilitation Services into the LWC.
- The LRC received an update from Roseland Starks and staff regarding the LRS State Plan and public input. Input predominately focused on LRS's placement within LWC's organizational structure. The current plan includes placing LRS within the Office of Workforce Development. The LRC strongly reiterated its recommendation and voted to send a letter of such to Curt Eysink that LRS have equal status as the existing Offices in the LWC.
- Preliminary results from the 2010 LRS consumer survey indicated general improvement in overall satisfaction. Further results will be analyzed after follow-up surveys are completed.

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

- The HLLC is writing the Strategic Plan for the MIG. Vision and mission statements were developed.
- No position regarding Employment First has been adopted by the HLLC but the DD Council and others are pushing this agenda. The HLLC heard a presentation on Employment First and how other states have implemented Employment First initiatives.
- The Environmental Scan Committee has substantially completed its task of collecting information on all existing employment-related services in Louisiana.

### United Houma Nation Vocational Rehabilitation Services (UHN VRS) Conference

- Included information about work incentives for people with disabilities and discussed the need for increased outreach and disability awareness in the tribal community.
- Provided feedback on ways to help tribal citizens feel more comfortable with accepting services and to encourage them to follow up with UHN VRS once services are complete.

### Long Term Care Systems Transformation Grant Stakeholder Group

- The Long Term Care Systems Transformation Grant (LA STG) held its final stakeholders meeting.
- Louisiana now has cross-waiver teams that will review on-going quality data, reports, and initiatives and develop strategic plans for future quality improvement in all aspects of Long Term Care. Self assessment tool was developed that can be reviewed on a periodic basis to continue to measure on-going efforts in quality improvement.
- The Information Technology goal resulted in a quality management system redesign that includes an electronic database that will be used by OAAS and OCDD. The Support Coordination Monitoring (SCM) was piloted this last year (2010) and will operate as a web-based database application system that helps in measuring quality of performance of Support Coordination Agencies. The SCM web-based database application system will track performance of support coordination agencies and measure compliance with CMS Quality Assurances.
- Housing options are improved as a result of the LA STG. An assisted living model drawn upon information compiled through a demonstration project in Regions 6, 7,

and 8 is expected to be available on the DHH website by November 2010. The assisted living “toolkit” will use a web-based technical assistance guide for assisted living developers, providers and consumers.

- Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) is becoming a national housing model linked with voluntary flexible community services. Louisiana is the first state to do PHS across populations so anyone with a significant disability that causes difficulty for the individual to obtain or maintain housing is eligible.

#### LDE Pupil Appraisal Institute

- Shawn presented at the Louisiana Department of Education’s Pupil Appraisal Institute. The Institute focused on building skills and strategies to improve identification of students with autism.

#### Dept. of Ed (LDE) State Performance Plan/Annual Perf. Report Steering Comm.

- The committee agreed with Council staff in recommending that LDE adjust its criteria for determining when a Local Education Agency (LEA) “Needs Substantial Intervention” (indicating a substantial failure of the LEA to meet or comply with the targets set for performance indicators and student and system results). Targets for each State Performance indicator were selected.
- Other major issues discussed included: Changes to the data for determining graduation and dropout rates is now based on dropout rates; issues with the data management system allowing each student to have multiple exit outcomes (or to be counted as dropping out more than once); misrepresentation of the degree of successful resolutions of complaints since IEP mediations/facilitations are not counted as resolutions and most cases are now resolved through the IEP mediation process; and changes in understanding and practice of LEAs implementing IEPs prior to the child’s third birthday.

#### Meetings Attended Since July 2, 2010

Meeting with Brenda Bohrer, Dept. of Economic Development – July 6

Supported Employment Meeting at HDC – July 13

State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC) – July 14

Meeting with Kathy Kliebert and Julia Kenny – July 20

LaCAN State Leadership Team Annual Planning – August 11

Families Helping Families of LA Association Conference Call – August 12

Meeting with Don Gregory – August 25

High Level Leadership Council (HLLC) Sustainability Committee – August 26

LaCAN Leaders Training – August 31

*TriAngle* Editorial Board Conference Call – August 31

Act 378 Ad Hoc Committee – September 17

Meeting with Arc of LA – September 20

Membership Committee Conference Call – September 21

Nat’l Assoc. of Councils on Dev. Disabilities Conference in Orlando – Sept. 26 – 28

Work Pays Coalition and HLLC – October 1