

## ***Executive Director's Report July 22, 2010 Council Meeting***

### **Budget**

- The budget report through May 2010 is included in the packet.

### **Membership Update**

- Simone Honore-Chretien has resigned from the Council due to her family's move to Texas. Upon review of the state's census data, the Council's current geographic representation, and after consultation with the Executive Committee, it was decided that Simone's position will be filled with a parent from Region IX rather than Region IV. Recruitment of applicants from that region will begin immediately.
- Don Gregory was appointed as the new Medicaid Director and agreed to represent his agency on the Council. He was quickly appointed by Governor Jindal to the Council.

### **Advocacy Activities**

- Shawn and educational advocate leaders met with Supt. Paul Pastorek and members of his management team to discuss positions on various issues addressed with current legislation. There was agreement in positions on corporal punishment, restraint/seclusion, and positive behavior supports in schools. This information helped provide direction to the grassroots advocacy efforts.
- The Disability Rights Rally on April 28<sup>th</sup> attracted over 500 people to the State Capitol to bring attention to the waiver waiting list, the reforms in the Governor's Budget and the cuts to community services. Although not as many people attended as in 2009, the crowd was much more engaged than in past years and many participants said it was the best rally to date.
- Letters were written and delivered throughout the legislative session to legislators on several issues according to the Council's positions.
- Individuals with disabilities and family members, including several Council members, were provided information and support to provide testimony before the Appropriations and Finance Committees regarding the reform measures in HB1, before the House and Senate Education Committees on Restraint and Seclusion and Corporal Punishment, and before the Senate Health and Welfare Committee on the expansion of large ICFs/DD.
- LaTEACH was very active throughout the legislative session with Corporal Punishment and Restraint/Seclusion being the most active issues on the Council's advocacy agenda. Numerous - sometimes daily - action alerts were necessary throughout the session. LaCAN's activity was dictated by the unusual budget timeline of this legislative session with actions needed in very short timeframes coupled with long periods of inactivity. Both situations presented new challenges for the grassroots networks. A joint debriefing was held on June 29<sup>th</sup> to discuss these and plan for the future.
- In collaboration with OCDD and the Arc of LA, we successfully advocated for the \$4.2 Million in the Community and Family Support Fund to be used to speed up the processing of waiver slots and on one-time expenditures for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families statewide. These dollars were deposited into the fund from the sale of Metropolitan Developmental Center.

## **Westat – ADD Evaluation**

Under contract with the Administration on Developmental Disabilities (ADD), two people from Westat arrived on May 24<sup>th</sup> to evaluate the Council as part of an evaluation of ADD's grant programs. They spent two days interviewing our staff, Council members, recipients of Council leadership training, and collaborators in increasing access to home and community based supports. They then left for New Orleans to visit the Advocacy Center and the Human Development Center. In addition to Louisiana, Westat will be visiting 19 other states and territories. The results of the evaluation will be shared in the aggregate.

## **Collaborative Efforts**

### **Money Follows the Person (MFP) Coordinating Council**

- The MFP demonstration has been extended through 2016. Two eligibility requirements have been relaxed: the six-month minimum in-patient stay requirement has been reduced to 90 days, and the requirement that an individual be receiving Medicaid benefits for at least 30 days has been reduced to one day.
- Transitions to date are as follows: 18 people with DD; 18 Elders; 11 people with Physical Disabilities (PPD). Number of individuals enrolled and waiting to transition this year: 32 in ICFs/DD; 3 Children in nursing homes; 22 Elders; 57 PPD.
- Specific barriers to transitions encountered by both program offices are a lack of affordable accessible housing, transportation, housing modifications, equipment and medicines.

### **Children's Choice Work Group**

- This group met once on March 18<sup>th</sup> to make recommendations for additional services for Children's Choice but also made recommendations for improvements to the waiver to better meet the needs of families. In three months, very little has been done to implement any of these recommendations.
- The group received correspondence on June 30 reporting that the process was beginning to incorporate some of the recommendations. We have continued to follow-up with OCDD to try and expedite this process and have requested to be included in a meeting with Medicaid that will be held to discuss the recommendations.

### **OCDD Direct Support Professional (DSP) Coalition**

- A survey is being disseminated to DSPs through their providers to determine wages and benefits, training, public assistance, outside employment, and other issues that will assist the state and providers in developing mechanisms to assist in recruitment and retention of a quality workforce.

### **Autism State Team**

- The team reviewed the Louisiana State Autism Team Work Plan and progress on each of the four major areas of Identification/Pupil Appraisal, Higher Education, Professional Development, and Marketing. Significant plans are being created that are merging the identification, pre-service and inservice initiatives. Activities will address various recognized skill competencies desired by individuals working with students with autism.
- The La. Dept. of Education also received feedback on proposed rule language for the inclusion of a behavior analyst as a recognized credential that LEAs may hire.

### Positive Behavioral Support (PBS) Project at LSU Advisory Committee

- The La. Dept. of Education (LDE) announced the LSU-PBS project will not be funded past June 30, 2010 but IDEA funds would continue to support LDE staff and support regional coalitions.
- Feedback regarding the plan to emphasize expenditures for trainings with discrepant districts appeared to change the direction the LDE presented to the Advisory Committee.
- The LSU-PBS project is continuing to function by providing its services at cost but many of the services it provides are anticipated to dwindle without state financial support.

### OCDD Mortality Review Committee (MRC)

- Thirty-eight cases were reviewed by the Mortality Review Committee this quarter. No indications of rights violations were noted. The committee found concerns in two cases for which a plan of correction was requested by OCDD of the provider. Specific systemic concerns were noted in one case.

### State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC)

- The SICC discussed what is being done to comply with midyear budget cuts to EarlySteps. In order to avoid rate reductions for the system, EarlySteps will require strict adherence to the *service guidelines process* and *annual redetermination of eligibility process*. Children who are determined to no longer meet the eligibility criteria will be terminated from services at the completion of their service authorizations.

### **Meetings Attended Since April 1, 2010**

State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC) – April 14

House Education Committee re: HB732 – April 14

Senate Health & Welfare Committee re: SB539 – April 14

House Education Committee re: HB405 – April 20

House Health & Welfare Committee re: HB959 – April 28

Disability Rights Rally – April 28

Money Follows the Person Coordinating Council – May 4

OCDD Direct Support Professional Coalition – May 5

Conference Call with Lois Simpson & Phil Wilson re: Westat Evaluation – May 5

National Assn. of Councils on D D Conference Call re: Westat – May 12

*TriAngle* Editorial Board – May 20

Presentation to Partners in Policymaking – May 21

Westat Evaluation – May 24-25

Meeting with People First staff – May 27

House Appropriations Committee re: HB1 – May 27

Meeting regarding Community & Family Support Fund – June 1

Senate Finance Committee re: HB1 – June 9

Admin. on DD Technical Assistance Institute, Washington D.C. – June 23-25

Meeting with LaTEACH State Leadership Team – June 28

LaCAN/LaTEACH Legislative Debriefing – June 29