

## ***Executive Director's Report April 20-21, 2011 Council Meeting***

### **Budget**

- The budget report with expenditures through February 2011 is included in the packet.

### **Membership Update**

- Brenda Lee Cosse' from Slidell and Stephen Yazbeck from Covington were appointed to the Council by the Governor.
- The LRS Director position has not been filled so that position on the Council remains vacant.

### **Public Input for Five Year Plan**

- Our DD Network survey stays on our website year round but in anticipation of our planning meeting we sent a notice to all of our collaborators asking them to disseminate it to others hoping to get an increased response.

### **Cash Subsidy and Individual and Family Support Survey**

- A survey was developed and mailed out to 3,566 recipients of the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) Cash Subsidy and Individual and Family Support programs and the Office of Behavioral Health (OBH) Cash Subsidy and Consumer Care Resources programs. A postcard reminding people to complete the survey followed a week later. As of April 1<sup>st</sup>, 1,697 surveys have been returned! This represents an astounding 47.6%!
- The Council's toll free number was included on the survey and our office received a constant stream of phone calls for several weeks from people with questions or needing assistance. Paige and Sara did an excellent job fielding these calls.
- We contracted with the Human Development Center to enter and analyze the data and should have a final report by the Council meeting.

### **Advocacy Activities**

- In February, BESE referred the Louisiana Department of Education (LDE) proposed guidelines for the use of seclusion rooms and restraint practices in schools to the Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC). BESE received the letter with the Council's recommendations and the LDE indicated support of the vast majority of the Council's recommendations. SEAC concurred with the Council's recommendations. The exception was a lack of agreement on the extent of oversight at the district level. LaTEACH leaders (Christy Cormier and Rebecca Ellis) and Shawn supported three parents of children with autism in sharing their experiences with their children being restrained at school.
- We have continued to assist OCDD in providing accurate information to New Opportunities Waiver (NOW) recipients and their families regarding the implementation of Resource Allocation and to individually advocate on their behalf when necessary.
- Led the statewide planning of nine regional rallies and coordinated the efforts of the nine rally planning committees. Our staff attended eight of the rallies across the state.

Over 2,000 people attended the rallies and all but one had press coverage. Pictures and press coverage can be found on our website under What's New.

- In our quarterly meeting with Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) Secretary Bruce Greenstein, Sam, Kay and I talked about the need to develop greater community capacity to support people with developmental disabilities and psychiatric needs in order to prevent institutionalization. We also discussed the shortage of Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) and how the training requirements could be changed to attract additional family members and special education personnel into the field.
- Several legislators have been visited to provide information and support to some of our Council members and LaCAN members.
- Kay and I met with Secretary Greenstein on April 1<sup>st</sup> to advocate for the restoration of \$1 Million in Act 378 Individual and Family Support Funds that were cut from the FY12 OCDD budget. We will know if our advocacy was successful next week.
- OCDD agreed to increase the rate of NOW offers so that all available slots for which funding was appropriated in 2007, 2008 and 2010 will be filled by the end of FY11 due to our advocacy efforts.
- The NOW is being submitted to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for renewal. Advocated for the following issues:
  - supported employment rates to be raised to the same level as in the Supports Waiver,
  - rates for sheltered workshops to be decreased, and
  - the number of days for supported employment follow-along to be increased.OCDD agreed to these changes in principle but must check with Medicaid and Legal on the supported employment changes before they can be included in the renewal application.
- The NOW renewal application contained the number of designated emergency waiver slots and the current criteria to receive an emergency slot. Also advocated for removal of these details so both of these could be changed more quickly through the rulemaking process.
- A fact sheet on the Council and three human interest stories about individuals who have benefited from the Council's efforts were prepared for NACDD and Council members to use when visiting Louisiana's Congressional delegation.

## **Collaborative Efforts**

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

- Multiple workgroups met to finalize creation of essential elements of the CSOC model. Assistance was provided to develop criteria and processes for selecting candidates to serve as family and advocacy representatives on the state and local governing boards. Announcements seeking applications for the state governance board went out and the selection committee will make a determination of representatives by March 29<sup>th</sup>.
- The first CSOC state governance meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 1, 2011.

### OCDD Mortality Review Committee

Of the 18 cases reviewed this quarter, the committee found no abuse/neglect issues and no indication of rights violations. There were systemic concerns in two cases which were referred to the appropriate personnel at OCDD central office for follow-up and/or change in policy:

- Poor communication between providers and support coordinators on changes in medication, and
- Lack of training for staff, family, and medical personnel regarding signs, symptoms and risk associated with aspirations and aspiration pneumonia.

### La. Rehabilitation Council

- The LRC established a publicity committee to help inform consumers of the LRC's activities and public forums. The Executive Committee voted to review the LRC's functions outlined in the federal Rehabilitation Act and its bylaws with the full Council.

### Work Pay\$ Coalition

- Three committees were created, each to implement activities under one of the three Goals in the Medicaid Infrastructure Grant (MIG) Strategic Plan.
- The Coalition also by consensus supported the language for draft legislation to extend Medicaid Purchase Plan (MPP) Advisory Council draft legislation.

### State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC)

- The SICC will develop a strategic plan for 2011-2013 that provides goals, sets priorities and aligns the work of the SICC and EarlySteps system. The plan will provide a common framework for EarlySteps from local to state level.
- Information is currently being collected from families and providers on the regional level through surveys and Regional ICC meetings as input for the plan.

### **Meetings Attended Since October 4, 2010**

State Rally Planning Committee Conference Call – January 5

Region II Legislative Roundtable – January 12

State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC) – January 12

Meeting with Kathy Kliebert and Fla. Parishes Human Services Auth. re: Act 378 – January 13

Presentation at Partners in Policymaking – January 14

Council Meeting – January 19-20

Region IX Legislative Roundtable – January 25

State Rally Planning Committee Conference Call – February 2

Conference Call with Julia Kenny, Sam Beech, Kay Marcel – February 3

Technical Assistance for Region II LaCAN Leader – February 10

National Assn. of Councils on DD (NACDD) Finance Committee – February 10

Meeting with Rep. Scott Simon – February 11

Meeting with Sen. Mike Michot, Rep Page Cortez, Kay Marcel, Lynette Fontenot – February 17

Meeting with Julia Kenny – February 18

Meeting with Sylvia Bush and Roma Kidd re: CARSA's rally participation – February 22

Governor's Office of Disability Affairs Art Contest Award's Ceremony – February 23

Executive Committee Conference Call – February 24

OCDD Resource Allocation Meeting in Baton Rouge – February 28

Quarterly Meeting with Sec. Greenstein, Sam Beech, Kay Marcel – March 1  
Orientation Ad Hoc Committee – March 2  
Families Helping Families Directors Conference Call re: new contracts – March 9  
Orientation for Stephen Yazbeck in Covington – March 15  
OCDD Resource Allocation Meeting in Covington – March 15  
Region V Rally in Lake Charles – March 16  
Region IX Rally in Hammond – March 17  
Meeting with Kathy Kliebert re: OCDD Act 378 Family Support Funds – March 24  
OCDD NOW Renewal Stakeholders – March 24  
House Appropriations Committee re: DHH's Budget – March 30  
Money Follows the Person Coordinating Committee – March 31  
Meeting with Sec. Greenstein, Kathy Kliebert, Julia Kenny, Kay Marcel re: Act 378 funds –  
April 1  
Meeting with Julia Kenny re: Act 378 reporting – April 1