

## ***Executive Director's Report January 21-22, 2009 Council Meeting***

### **Budget**

- The budget report through November 2008 is included in the packet.
- In anticipation of a budget deficit this state fiscal year, we were asked by the administration to submit a plan to cut \$35,253 in state general funds that would cause the least hardship on the people we serve. We proposed taking the funds from the nine Families Helping Families centers that have an operational contract with the Council. We provided a strong justification against these cuts and hopefully they won't have to be realized.
- The Division of Administration has also cut \$42,952 of our federal funds for salaries for next state fiscal year. We are in the process of appealing this decision.

### **Membership Update**

- On November 16<sup>th</sup> the Governor appointed Dr. Mary Elizabeth Christian and Pranab Choudhury to the Council and reappointed Donna Breaux and Jerry Phillips. Although Val Hiser, Andrew Merlin and Olantha Scott's names were submitted at the same time, they have not yet been appointed. I have been in frequent communication with the Governor's Office of Boards and Commissions and have been told that these individuals will be appointed prior to the January meeting.
- Upon receipt of Trudye Jones' letter of resignation, we solicited nominations of self advocates from Region II. The existing applicants on file from that region were also reviewed. The Membership Committee interviewed and selected Chasedee Noto from St. Amant as the Council's nominee to replace Trudye. Her name was also submitted to the Governor's Office and she too should be appointed prior to the January meeting.
- Jennifer Kopke notified me that she has a standing conflict with our quarterly Council meetings and will therefore not be able to attend. The Executive Committee discussed whether to have Robert Levy appointed to the Council to represent OMH or change this Council seat to the Assistant Secretary of the Office of Aging and Adult Services (OAAS). The Executive Committee will make a recommendation to change the seat to OAAS at the Council meeting.

### **Staff Update**

- As decided at the October Council meeting, the DIAL program and positions were to be phased out. Robert Caulk was able to secure another position within DHH rather quickly and left us on November 28<sup>th</sup>.
- We have not yet been able to fill the Program Manager position vacated by Kandi Smith. We have re-advertised for the position and will begin another round of interviews after the holidays.
- With the elimination of the two DIAL positions, we are creating another Program Manager position. We have submitted this new job description to DHH Human Resources where it has been approved and will now be forwarded to Civil Service for approval. Upon approval, we will begin the process to fill that position as well.

**Disabilities Information Access Line (DIAL)**

- Beginning on December 1, 2008, the DIAL line was forwarded to our regular Council phone lines where it is being answered by our other office staff. Callers are asked their parish and are transferred to the Families Helping Families in their region. They are also given the FHF number for future reference.
- Beginning January 1, 2009, the DIAL number will be taken over by the FHF State Association.
- Below are the numbers for this quarter prior to December 1st.

Calls from persons with disabilities	264
Calls from parents/family members	132
Calls from professionals	<u>48</u>
Total disability related calls	444
DD Council calls (not counted as I&R)	28
Other calls	<u>93</u>
Total DIAL calls this quarter	565
Hurricane related calls this quarter	10
Hurricane related calls to date	1417
Follow-up Calls Attempted	17
Follow-up Calls Completed	10
Satisfaction Reported	100%

**Federal Fiscal Year 08 Program Performance Report (PPR)**

- Our FFY 08 PPR is due to the Administration on Developmental Disabilities on January 1<sup>st</sup>. It will be submitted before Christmas.

**Advocacy Activities**

- A letter and email were sent to the Governor regarding the abuse at Pinecrest Developmental Center and requested that a plan be developed for the consolidation and closure of the state's developmental centers.
- Numerous legislators have been visited to provide information and support to some of our LaCAN leaders and Council members.
- Fact sheets were developed on consolidation and closure of developmental centers and resource allocation across all settings. Materials were also prepared and sent to Council members to assist members in making legislative visits.
- Lynette, Kay and I met with staff in the Governor's Office to educate them on the Council and discuss the Council's legislative agenda, particularly the consolidation and closure of developmental centers.

**LaCAN**

- The LaCAN Kick-off was held on November 20<sup>th</sup> in Lafayette for the LaCAN Leaders and Families Helping Families (FHF) Directors to plan and train for the 2009 Legislative Session.

- A new leader has been hired to cover Regions I and X but our Region II leader has resigned so recruitment efforts are underway to fill that new vacancy.

## **Collaborative Efforts**

### Focus Group

- The focus group hosted by the Council, Advocacy Center and Human Development Center to gather public input for our plans will be held in Baton Rouge on February 10, 2009.
- An invitation list to represent a broad constituency is currently being compiled. All Council members are welcome to attend to observe the process.

### OCDD Resource Allocation Stakeholders Group

- The implementation of the resource allocation model for the 2,025 new NOW recipients was again delayed when OCDD was not included on the November Joint Legislative Budget agenda. The office had to begin filling slots without using the model in order to have sufficient time to fill them all prior to June 30, 2009.
- The Resource Allocation Model was approved by Joint Budget on December 19<sup>th</sup>. The stakeholders group and OCDD are in agreement that the model will be applied to existing NOW recipients and residents of private and public ICFs/DD beginning in July 2009. Policy and procedures for how the model will be implemented for this second group must still be developed.

### DHH Stakeholders Group

- This group was formed in November to meet with the DHH Secretary and his Executive Staff on a quarterly basis at our request. In previous administrations the Council, Advocacy Center and Human Development Center met quarterly with the DHH administration, but we have not been able to secure a meeting with the Secretary until now. The group has been expanded to include additional DD advocates and aging advocates.
- The DHH staff provided an update on Louisiana's Comprehensive Long Term Care Reform Plan which involves other state departments such as Labor, Transportation and Education. DHH said many of the objectives in the plan have been stalled due to the change in administration.
- The Secretary made a commitment not to proceed with implementation of Medicaid's new managed health care plan on people with developmental disabilities until DD advocates have had a chance to provide input into how that population would be served.
- Advocates also brought up the consolidation and closure of developmental centers and resource allocation across all settings but there was not time to discuss either of these issues.

### State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC)

- The SICC is going through a transition period with several new members coming on board, a new Executive Director and new officers who will be elected at the February meeting. As a result, it has been difficult to get a quorum and conduct business in the recent past.

- Orientation for new members will be held in January.

#### Autism State Task Force

- The group met three times, including participation in a meeting between the Department of Insurance, insurance company representatives and stakeholders, to develop plans and provide input on implementation of Act 648 that requires autism services to be covered by some insurance.
- The task force also developed a tip sheet for parents and initiated plans for training physicians in the identification of autism and appropriate referral for interventions.

#### OCDD Mortality Review Committee

- The Council is newly represented on this committee which reviews all deaths of individuals who were receiving waiver services to ensure there was no negligence in their care that contributed to their death.
- After the review of all the planning documents, progress notes, etc., the committee can also make recommendations to the provider for improvements in their service provision even when there is no negligence found in the death of the individual.

#### Positive Behavioral Support (PBS) Advisory Committee

- The PBS Project at LSU and regional coalitions shared plans and activities in PBS. Discussion revolved around the model of regional teams and the variation in capacity among the regions in co-developing and implementing plans that promote PBS.
- There was also discussion about the content of the secondary and tertiary training materials.

#### State Performance Plan Steering Committee

- The Louisiana Dept. of Education was notified by OSEP (U.S. Office of Special Education Programs) that it needs assistance with meeting requirements of Part B of the IDEA.
- Specific areas determined by OSEP that LDE needs assistance in include: transition from Part C (EarlySteps) to Part B, transition from high school, General Supervision, disproportional identification/classification, and discipline.

#### Accessible Instructional Materials (AIM) Stakeholders Meeting

- The Louisiana Dept. of Education revealed an online system for ordering text books and instructional materials that simultaneously will order alternate formats of these materials for students identified with print disabilities.

#### DD Council Inclusive Schools Art Contest

- The contest was a great success with almost 100 poster, artwork and essay entries. There were 20 entries selected as winners with 57 winning artists.
- Superintendent Paul Pastorek recognized the art contest at the December BESE meeting and thanked the participating schools for helping to promote disability awareness and inclusive education.

### Disability Job Fairs

- This was the last year that the job fairs were funded by the Louisiana Medicaid Purchase Plan because the grant has ended. There has been no report of another agency continuing the job fairs at the state level.
- The planning committee hopes that local organizations will continue job fairs in each region.

### Louisiana Indian Education Association (LIEA)

- The 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary LIEA Indian Youth Leadership Camp will be held March 13 – 15, 2009 in Bunkie. LIEA will advertise for participation of American Indian students with disabilities in the *TriAngle* and will also collaborate with FHF to outreach to these individuals.
- LIEA is also planning a 2009 event at Poverty Point in North Louisiana.

### Meetings Attended Since September 29, 2008

Resource Allocation Fairness Across Settings Committee – September 29

LaCAN Leader Conference Call for technical assistance – October 3

Nat'l Assn. of Councils on Dev. Dis. (NACDD) Conference in Milwaukee – October 5 – 7

OCDD Mortality Review Committee – October 8

Meeting with Rep. Kevin Pearson – October 10

Meeting with Rep. John Schroder – October 10

Meeting with Rep. Scott Simon – October 10

End the Wait Campaign Ad Hoc Committee – October 14

Resource Allocation Stakeholder Group – October 17

Fairness Across Settings Committee – October 17

Advocacy Center Awards Ceremony – October 17

Emergency Management Disability Coalition – October 20

LaCAN Leadership Team – October 23

Meeting with DHH Human Resources – October 24

OCDD Mortality Review Committee – November 5

DHH Stakeholders – November 5

Statewide Independent Living Council – November 6

OCDD HCR 160 Committee – November 10

State Interagency Coordinating Council – November 12

Meeting with Rep. Franklin Foil – November 13

Partners Reunion – November 14

Fairness Across Settings Committee – November 19

LaCAN Kickoff in Lafayette – November 20

*TriAngle* Editorial Board – November 24

Meeting on Institutional Closure hosted by Texas DD Council in Austin – December 3 – 4

Meeting with video producer re: End the Wait and Employment Campaigns – December 8

Governor's Disability Awards Ceremony – December 10

Meeting with Sen. Mike Michot – December 17

Meeting with Natalie Robottom & James Quinn in Governor's Office – December 17

Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget re: Resource Allocation – December 18