



Bobby Jindal
Governor

Director's Report to the DD Council

January 14, 2011

Historically the winter months are the busiest time of the year for the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs, and 2010 was no exception. During the month of December we lost another position leaving our office with a full time staff of three. Typically, around the holidays, constituent calls increase dramatically. In the past three months GODA open 163 constituent cases. The vast majority of the cases involve financial needs assistance.

The Governor's Office of Disability Affairs and the Governor's Advisory Council on Disability Affairs hosted the Governor's Outstanding Leadership in Disabilities (GOLD) Awards Ceremony at the Old State Capitol on December 7, 2010. The GOLD Awards annually honor individuals in the disability community statewide for their outstanding achievements. A nomination committee compiled of disability advocates and individuals with disabilities selected the award winners from over 70 total nominations.

The ceremony featured twelve award winners who were introduced by their nominators. The GOLD Awards are a special tribute to those who have selflessly served Louisiana's disability community. The winners have achieved remarkable accomplishments and strive to make a positive impact in the lives of others. This celebration not only acknowledges the honors of the award recipients and nominees, but inspires all Louisiana citizens to build a better Louisiana. The 2010 Governor's Outstanding Leadership in Disabilities Awards included:

The Patsy Barrett Memorial Award is presented to a woman with disabilities, recognized for her leadership abilities and achievements as a disability advocate.

Award Winner: Sharon Hennessy, of Baton Rouge



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The Ken Vince Memorial Award is presented to a man with disabilities, recognized for his leadership abilities and achievements as a disability advocate.

Award Winner: Jared Armstrong, of Houma

The 2010 Volunteer of the Year Award is presented to an individual who has shown outstanding service through their commitment to enhancing opportunities for persons with disabilities.

Award Winner: Peggy Wales, of Mandeville

The 2010 Youth of the Year Award is presented to a young person with a chronic disability who has provided encouragement and inspiration to other young people with or without disabilities through their own individual achievement.

Award Winner: Norman Taylor, of Shreveport

The 2010 Employer of the Year Award is presented to an employer who provides real employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

Award Winner: Sodexo's, of Thibodaux

The 2010 Service Animal of the Year Award is presented to an outstanding service animal that assists his or her owner in their day-to-day activities.

Award Winner: Marie, of Shreveport

The 2010 Family of the Year is presented to a family who has a member or members with disabilities and through their involvement in the community have encouraged each other and families throughout Louisiana.

Award Winner: The Crownover Family, of Lafayette



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The 2010 Distinguished Merit Award is presented to an individual, organization or firm working in the disability field, in recognizing their consistent efforts to provide opportunities for persons with disabilities.

Award Winner: James Jackson, of Moss Bluff

The 2010 Educator of the Year Award is presented to an individual who has contributed significantly in educating persons with disabilities in the community.

Award Winner: Amy Veulleman, of Lake Charles

The 2010 Direct Support Professional of the Year Award is presented to an individual who has demonstrated a strong passion to enhance the lives of those they serve.

Award Winner: Betty Anderson, of Houma

The 2010 Veteran of the Year Award is presented to a veteran with a disability who has served honorably in the United States Armed Forces and has a record of exemplary service within the disability community.

Award Winner: Chester Alonzo of Slidell

The VeNora Hall AccessAbility Scholarship Award is presented to a young woman with a disability that exhibits leadership in the community.

Award Winner: Alexandria Williams, of Baton Rouge



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For 2011, the Governor's Advisory Council on Disability Affairs emphasized more participation in the activities and programs of the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs. Under the direction of GODA, initiatives were jointly devised by the council and GODA to further enhance disability community of Louisiana. The Council's ambition is to produce tangible products that directly benefit persons with disabilities. Each project will have various completion dates, depending on the level of involvement. All initiatives were started in September of 2010. Each initiative will be lead by a GODA Staffer who will coordinate the initiative committees and events. Council members were asked to review which initiative would best suit their talents and interests and to sign up for those relative projects at the close of the third quarter meeting. The ongoing council initiatives are:

1. ADA FLYER

- a. Create an electronic flyer.
- b. Flyer will list:
 - Federal resources
 - State resources
 - Local resources
- c. Flyer will contain hyperlinks to other resources.

2. ART SHOW

- a. Assist with dissemination of information.
- b. Assist with promotion of show.
- c. Judge entries for winners.

3. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

- a. Create a disability specific emergency preparedness kit.
- b. Kit will list:
 - Federal resources
 - State resources
 - Local resources

4. INCLUSIVE RECREATION

- a. Develop resource guide on "How to Create an Inclusive Sports League.



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5. GOLD AWARDS

- a. Assist in selection of winners.
- b. Finalize planning of ceremony.

6. DISABILITY COUNCIL COALITION

- a. Conduct a study on specific programs and initiatives for all disability councils, both local and state.
- b. Interview members of councils in the disability community, including:
 - Developmental Disabilities Council
 - LA Commission for the Deaf
 - Local mayor advisory councils

7. ELECTION FLYER

- a. A guide to voting in Louisiana for individuals with a disability.

8. ADA SYMPOSIUM

- a. Assign council members to do a cost analysis of event.
- b. Conduct a brief study to assess priority and needs for the event.

9. LOUISIANA YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM

- a. Conduct a cost analysis.
- b. Research available resources for the event and programs to include during the forum

In late 2010 Governor Bobby Jindal signed Executive Order NO. BJ 2010-19, amending the Executive Order that created the Governor's Advisory Council of Disability Affairs. The purpose of the amendment was to realign the council to better voice the concerns of the disability community. Previously, the council had thirty-eight members, with a large cross section of council positions comprised of state agencies. The realigned council now has twenty-eight members with all council seats either held by a person with a disability or a person who is an advocate for a person with a disability.



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The new council roster is:

Allen, Pam *Representative of the Louisiana Rehabilitation Council*

Bell, Yvonne *Member at Large*

Blackwell, Wayne *Statewide Independent Living Council Representative*

Brackin, Laura *Director of the ARC of Louisiana*

Breaux, Donna *Member at Large*

Chiles, Jan Hollier *Member at Large*

Cornwell, Benjamin J *Representative from Higher Education Disability Services*

Gill, David *Member at Large*

Hamilton, Willard D *Louisiana State Department of Treasury*

Hill, Kevin *Developmental Disability Council Designee*

Hill, Margaret *Louisiana State Fire Marshal's Office*

Jones, Robert B *Member at Large*

Kauffman, Stephen *Advocacy Center*

Lirette, Wanda "Carol" G *Member at Large*

Nesbit, Julie M *Louisiana Assistive Technology Access Network*

Octave-Nailor, Michelle *The Office of Elderly Affairs*

Rone, Keita O *Department of Education*

Simon, Scott *State Representative*

Watts, Mike *Department of Transportation Designee*

Thomas, Keisha *A Disability Navigator Program Appointee of the Louisiana Workforce Commission*

Dorsey, Yvonne *Louisiana State Senate Member, who sits on Health and Welfare*

Kliebert, Kathy *Representative of the Office of Behavioral Health*

Mosgrove, Veronica, *Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness*