

**LOUISIANA DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL
JANUARY 17, 2013
MEETING SUMMARY**

8:30 A.M.

Holiday Inn South
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

MEMBERS PRESENT

Sandra "Sam" Beech
Laura Brackin, OCDD
Donna Breaux
Brandon Burris, GODA
Pranab Choudhury
Brenda Cosse'
Hugh Eley, OAAS
Rocky Fuselier
Val Hiser
Kay Marcel
Andrew Merlin
Chasedee Noto
Stephanie Patrick, AC
Bambi Polotzola
Deshae Lott-Sadow
Erin Smith
Phil Wilson, HDC

STAFF PRESENT

Paige Freeman
Shawn Fleming
Robbie Gray
Brandi Jones
Keokah Sanders
Derek White
Sandee Winchell

MEMBERS ABSENT

Susan Berry, OPH/CSHS
Lynn Cannon
Mary Elizabeth Christian
Reginald Garey
Ruth Kennedy, BHSF
Mark Martin, LRS
Stephen Osborn, DOE
Olantha Scott

GUESTS PRESENT

Rickii Ainey
Tracy Brown
Jason Durham
Melinda Ganes
Kristopher Hebert
Monica Simmons
Patsy White
Stacy Marks, LRS
Margaret McGarity, GOEA
Jeff Sadow, Guest of Deshae Lott
Sadow
James Sprinkle, FHF Crossroads
Liz Gary, Partners Coordinator
Rebecca Ellis, Northshore FHF
Chad Clark, Guest of Kristopher Hebert
Julie Johnston, OPH/CSHS
Ashley McReynolds, LaCAN Leader
Region 2

SUMMARY OF OCTOBER MEETING

Motion passed. Motion to accept the summary with the changes indicated below made by Chasedee Noto. Second by Stephanie Patrick. Passed without objection.

Changes made: Monica Simmons' name to be added to the approved recommendation of members (p. 5). The spelling of Andrew Merlin's name was corrected (p.5). The Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS) report was corrected designating that LRS, not the Louisiana Workforce Commission (LWC), continues seeking alternative funding sources (p.8) and LWC, not LRS, was awarded the 2.3 million dollar grant (p. 9).

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – Sam Beech

Ms. Beech shared her participation in the Inclusion Matters Conference and the Legislative Round Table in region seven. Issues discussed at the quarterly meeting with Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) Secretary Bruce Greenstein, DHH Deputy Secretary Kathy Kliebert and Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) Assistant Secretary Laura Brackin included: the Louisiana Special Education Center; sharing provider data online; additional funding for New Opportunities Waiver (NOW) slots, restoration and protection of funding for the Individual and Family Support and Flexible Family Fund programs.

Ms. Beech welcomed new Council members. Governor Jindal appointed the following five Council members: Deshae Lott Sadow, Erin Smith, Laura Brackin of OCCD, Steve Osborn of the Department of Education and Chasedee Noto (reappointment).

The Executive Committee directed staff to shorten the Council meeting summaries.

The committee also recommended adding school accountability to the Council's advocacy agenda.

MOTION PASSED. Motion to advocate for the creation of a study commission of stakeholders to review the school accountability system and make recommendations for revision that will ensure schools are not penalized for including students with disabilities made by Val Hiser. Second by Phil Wilson. Passed without objection.

The Executive Committee discussed the Council's action plan for Council members' involvement in legislative advocacy. Ms. Beech urged Council members to serve as advocacy leaders in responding to action alerts for LaCAN and LaTEACH.

MOTION PASSED. Motion to accept the three position papers: Inclusion, Community Support, and Employment made by Val Hiser, second by Brenda Cosse', passed without objection.

MOTION PASSED. Motion to increase up to seven thousand dollars of funding, if necessary, for the State Rally on May 1st made by Chasedee Noto, second by Donna Breaux, passed without objection.

The Council planning committee membership was announced to include: Brenda Cosse', Hugh Eley, Rocky Fuselier, Kris Hebert, Kay Marcel, Deshae Lott Sadow, Stephanie Patrick, Bambi Polotzola, Patsy White and Sam Beech.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Sandee Winchell

Ms. Winchell discussed recent budget cuts due to an Executive Order calling for an expenditure freeze. These cuts were in addition to the mid-year budget cuts mentioned in the latest LaDDC News. DHH reduced their budget by an additional 7.3 million dollars and the Council lost \$13,362 of state funds impacting Families Helping Families Centers' contracts.

A meeting with Magellan regarding behavioral health services for people with dual diagnoses was discussed.

Council members' involvement in legislative advocacy was encouraged.

BUDGET REPORT – Shawn Fleming

Mr. Fleming shared the Council expenditures through December 2012.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SELF-DETERMINATION/COMMUNITY INCLUSION/HOUSING COMMITTEE –

Kay Marcel

People First of Louisiana selected their legislative agenda including support for the ABLE Act at the Federal level, Louisiana Rehabilitation Services funding, funding for additional NOW slots, and avoiding additional provider cuts.

My Choice produced five training sessions with two new topics of emergency preparedness for natural disasters and staying safe in your community.

The Advocacy Center reported challenges with the new Supported Living Ombudsman Project but expect to meet the contract deliverables.

MOTION PASSED. Motion to accept recommendation of the concept proposal on research of best practices in developing and using natural supports be considered by the Planning Committee for the FFY14 plan made by Rocky Fuselier, second by Andrew Merlin, passed without objection.

The Committee considered but recommends that the concept proposal on Adult Protective Services not be moved forward for the FFY14 plan. Alternative proposal was recommended.

MOTION PASSED. Motion for staff to research a proposal for a contract that would establish a program like the Court Appointed Special Advocate for children (CASA) for vulnerable adults for consideration by the Planning Committee in the FFY Plan made by Donna Breaux, second by Val Hiser, passed without objection.

MOTION PASSED. Motion to request DHH to establish an online provider data management system that will provide data online related to agency performance for people receiving waiver services to better choose providers and consideration of including satisfaction data from waiver recipients who are in self-direction made by Chasedee Noto, second by Andrew Merlin, passed without objection.

The Committee discussed reduction of the number of residents in private Intermediate Care Facilities for people with Developmental Disabilities (ICFs/DD) and the System Transformation initiative of the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities and Secretary Greenstein's plan to visit the Louisiana Special Education Center.

ACT 378 SUB-COMMITTEE – Kay Marcel

Expenditure reports from Office of Behavioral Health (OBH) revealed spending is on track for adult services with only concern in Region 6 due to delay in contract approval. OBH anticipates this contract being approved within the month and fully spending these resources.

Committee requested a report from OBH before the next quarter.

Committee reviewed a written report on the children's services in OBH. Five regions do not appear to be on track with spending their Consumer Care Resources funds. Council staff were directed to also get information regarding why Flexible Family Fund slots are not filled when there is a reported waiting list.

The Office of Aging and Adult Services Supported Living Program reported a statewide waiting list of 123 people, indicating inadequate capacity to provide needed services and the need for increased funding.

OCDD Individual and Family Support Program expenditures in most regions are on track. The Committee requested OCDD provide information in the report to reflect money encumbered.

Two other issues discussed included possible changes to policy regarding portability of Individual and Family Support services across regions and accountability measures for Human Service Districts and Authorities.

The Committee discussed the filling of Flexible Family Fund slots that OCDD has not filled while identifying recipients no longer eligible due to new eligibility criteria.

HEALTH/EDUCATION/EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE – Bambi Polotzola

MOTION PASSED. Motion to fund the Arc of Baton Rouge \$19,000 in FFY13 plan for training materials for mentor/coaching development and provide training sessions for mentors/coaches related to trans-disciplinary teaming/primary service made by Brenda Cosse', second by Val Hiser, passed without objection.

The "Roux-Roux" project declined Council funding conditions.

The Committee recommended three concept proposals to move forward for consideration in the FFY 14 plan.

MOTION PASSED. Motion to accept recommendation of the concept proposal on an independent study on OCDD and LRS regarding supported employment be considered by the Planning Committee for the FFY14 plan made by Kay Marcel, second by Chasedee Noto, passed without objection.

MOTION PASSED. Motion to accept recommendation of the concept proposal on trans-disciplinary teaming/primary service provider model of early intervention be considered by the Planning Committee for the FFY14 plan made by Andrew Merlin, second by Chasedee Noto, passed without objection.

MOTION PASSED. Motion to accept recommendation of the concept proposal on supported employment mentoring model be considered by the Planning Committee for the FFY14 plan made by Andrew Merlin, second by Brenda Cosse', passed without objection.

The Committee recommends not moving forward with the concept proposals: AbiliMall, Arts program and the Transportation Initiative. The committee directed staff to get more information regarding the AbiliMall program and speak with the Department Of Transportation and Development regarding the status of Transportation Louisiana.

The committee recommends filing a complaint with the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) regarding violations of IDEA and request OSEP provide assistance to the Department of Education (DOE) in operating the Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP). The Committee also recommends filing freedom of information requests to support SEAP members accessing education information. Discussion focused on the inability of SEAP to make recommendations or obtain information from the DOE.

MOTION PASSED. Motion to file an official complaint to OSEP regarding violation of IDEA with conducting SEAP and have OSEP provide assistance on operating SEAP and file a freedom of information request for information related to special education funding expenditures, programs, policies and related correspondence made by Chasedee Noto, second by Val Hiser, passed without objection.

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

ADVOCACY CENTER (AC) – Stephanie Patrick

Cuts to hospice services and Early Childhood Supports and Services were discussed.

Concerns about how the waiver waiting list is being managed and Louisiana not participating in the Medicaid expansion were shared. The Advocacy Center is focusing on transition for students in special education.

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT CENTER (HDC) – Phil Wilson

HDC is preparing two major grant proposals. One is a collaborative with The National Center on Data Quality from OSEP. Another grant is a core grant for base level of HDC funding.

Concerns over the Department of Education suspension of the State Autism Team and drastic reductions of funding for professional development projects were shared.

STATE AGENCY REPORTS

OFFICE OF AGING AND ADULT SERVICES (OAAS) –Hugh Eley

Difficulties were shared with the 1915 Community First Choice Option program that are not going to be resolved.

Status on Objective 2.2 regarding DSPs competitive payment and cost reimbursement efforts were shared. A correction in the Council's status report that DHH is not currently collecting cost reports from providers. After feedback DHH changed the plan. DHH will begin collecting cost reports sometime in the fall, for the current fiscal year (July 2012 – June 2013).

Information on the Life Span Respite Summit planned for March 1st, 2013, was shared by Tammy LeBlanc.

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ELDERLY AFFAIRS (GOEA) – Margaret McGarity

Louisiana Answer website has been delayed. Information about role of regular contact with seniors as a critical part of Meals on Wheels was discussed. A request was made for information about the types of disabilities of people that call and a summary of problem areas.

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF DISABILITY AFFAIRS (GODA) – Brandon Burris

GODA has a full Council for the first time in about 18 months. GOLD Awards, upcoming legislative session, constituent calls and the Art Contest were discussed.

LOUISIANA REHABILITATION SERVICES (LRS) – Stacy Marbs for Mark Martin

Efficiencies reported by LRS include reductions in the number of assessments by counselors, elimination of quotas on application and eligibility for counselors, and only counting closed rehab cases towards production. Supported Employment activities include elimination of on-site training and revised milestones. Council assistance was requested by LRS to conduct the comprehensive state wide needs assessment as part of their 2014 state planning process. Council members requested information on the number of closed cases that are in supported employment.

Lunch Presentation

A presentation on Transformation of the Developmental Disabilities System was provided by Laura Brackin, Assistant Secretary, Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities.

STATE AGENCY REPORTS CONTINUED

OFFICE FOR CITIZENS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (OCDD) –

Laura Brackin

Dr. Brackin responded to questions about waivers, waiting lists, My Place, Employment First activities, employment and support coordinator trainings.

OFFICE OF PUBLIC HEALTH (OPH) – Julie Johnson for Dr. Sue Berry

Concerns regarding cuts to the Title 5 grant were shared. The Birth Defects Program grant is entering year four.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None to be discussed

NEW BUSINESS

None to be discussed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Council meeting is April 17th and 18th. The Planning Committee will meet in February and present a plan.

ADJOURNMENT OF BUSINESS MEETING

MOTION PASSED. Motion to adjourn made by Brenda Cosse', second by Andrew Merlin, passed without objection.