

**LOUISIANA DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL
JANUARY 19, 2012
MEETING SUMMARY**

Holiday Inn South
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

8:30 A.M.

GREETINGS AND INTRODUCTIONS

Sam Beech, Chair of the Council, welcomed everyone to the meeting. She stated there are forms on the table for anyone wishing to address the Council. Time is allowed at the end of the meeting for people to speak for five minutes each. Ms. Beech reminded those present that Council Bylaws do not allow for proxy voting; anyone representing a Council member cannot vote on any issue.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Sam Beech
Susan Berry, CSHS
Donna Breaux
Brandon Burriss, GODA
Pranab Choudhury
Brenda Cosse'
Rocky Fuselier
Reginald Garey
Laura Head
Julia Kenny, OCDD
Kay Marcel
Mark Martin, LRS
Heather Mobley
Chasedee Noto
Michelle Octave, GOEA
Nanette Olivier, DOE
Bambi Polotzola
Olantha Scott
Phil Wilson
Stephen Yazbeck

MEMBERS ABSENT

Lynn Cannon
Mary Elizabeth Christian
Hugh Eley, OAAS
Don Gregory, BHSF
Valerie Hiser
Andrew Merlin
Lois Simpson

STAFF PRESENT

Sandee Winchell
Shawn Fleming
Derek White
Robbie Gray
Paige Freeman

GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

Rebecca Ellis, LaCAN Leader, Region IX
Liz Gary, PIP Coordinator
Lori Green Johnson, BHSF
Tammy LeBlanc for Hugh Eley, OAAS
Deshae Lott Sadow
Stephanie Mire, Transcriptionist
Candace Ricard for Don Gregory, BHSF
Erin Smith
James Sprinkle, FHF at the Crossroads
Justin Ward, guest of Reginald Garey
Patsy White
Martha Whitlock

SUMMARY OF OCTOBER MEETING

Ms. Beech requested a motion to accept the summary from the October meeting.

Motion passed. Motion to accept the October summary made by Michelle Octave. Second by Brenda Cosse'. Passed without objection.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT –Sam Beech

On December 5th, Ms. Beech participated on the Council Structure Ad Hoc Committee along with Donna Breaux, Nanette Olivier, and Kay Marcel. The committee goal was to determine if there could be a better format for Council meetings. Following a review of the meeting attendance, the survey taken last year, the time line of meetings, mentors, and voting on Council positions, the Committee developed four recommendations. The first three recommendations, which involve Council staff and do not require a vote, are:

- Council staff will create a template for all the state agency reports that would include a section for any action taken impacting policies, progress on any Council state plan initiatives, and response to any Council recommendations.
- Council staff will remind mentors of new Council members to call their respective charges and remind both members to sit next to one another at meetings.
- A request will be sent to state agency representatives who cannot attend committee meetings to appoint a designee to attend for them.

The fourth recommendation which will require a vote is to invest in a consultant to observe a meeting and make recommendations to improve Council effectiveness.

On December 12th, Ms. Beech participated on the Ad Hoc Committee regarding Increasing the Federal Drawdown for the Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS). Nanette Olivier will report on this committee's recommendations.

On December 2nd and January 4th, Ms. Beech and Ms. Winchell participated in the OCDD Workgroup on Family Members as Paid Caregivers. Ms. Beech revealed that the issue is personal since she uses two family members as paid caregivers for her son. Ms. Beech and Ms. Winchell spoke in opposition to imposing a forty-hour per week limit for family members to serve as paid caregivers. However, providers, support coordinators and the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) represented on the workgroup spoke in favor of this limit.

On January 17th, Ms. Beech, Ms. Winchell and Ms. Marcel participated in the quarterly meeting with Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) Secretary Bruce Greenstein, Kathy Kliebert, Julia Kenny, Mark Thomas and Amy Bamburg. Topics of discussion included the Money Follows the Person initiative, additional NOW slots, and the Flexible Family Fund. Secretary Greenstein expressed strong support for the Money Follows the Person initiative and stated he worked on Money Follows the Person rules and regulations when he worked for Medicaid. The Council will be advocating for 200 NOW slots in the upcoming legislative session and funding for these slots is included in OCDD's budget at this time. However, Secretary Greenstein said that his main priority is to keep provider rates at current levels and maintaining current services; this is more important than bringing on more services. The last item discussed was the Family Flexible Fund, formerly known as Cash Subsidy. DHH wants to apply means testing for eligibility. It was determined further discussion is needed on this issue. It is felt that Secretary Greenstein is very much in favor of home and community-based services. He knows and understands the cost effectiveness of home and community-based services and he believes in the individuals' rights to choose where they want to live and receive services.

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee discussed the legislative action plan and visiting legislators. The decision was made that each regional team will have the discretion to decide whether a legislator who attends the round table is visited. If a familiar legislator participates in the entire round table it is not necessary to visit them in their home office. If they only attend for a few minutes then leave or if they are a new legislator, then it is suggested they be visited in their home office.

The Administration on Developmental Disabilities is hosting a Self-Advocacy Summit in Chicago in April. The Executive Committee asked Rocky Fuselier to represent the Council at the summit.

The Executive Committee discussed the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Committee on Council Structure and Effectiveness. The Louisiana Association of Nonprofit Organizations (LANO) provides board development technical assistance and has experience in board governance issues and strategic planning. It is recommended a consultant attend the April meeting and perform an assessment throughout the meeting then offer recommendations prior to the July Council meeting. The contracts are anywhere from \$1,500 to \$2,500 depending on the scope of work and hours required. The National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD) has a technical assistant grant for up to \$3,000 the Council can apply for to defray some of these costs. Also, Sheryl Matney from NACDD can assess the Council meeting and provide input on the best way to implement LANO's recommendations.

MOTION PASSED. Motion to pay a consultant from LANO, if the NACDD grant is not approved, to perform an assessment throughout the April Council meeting and offer recommendations for the July meeting made by Donna Breaux. Second by Chasedee Noto. Passed without objection.

MOTION PASSED. Motion for the Council to write a letter to OCDD expressing concerns about the rule making on family members as paid caregivers made by Donna Breaux. Second by Kay Marcel. Passed without objection.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Sandee Winchell

Ms. Winchell recognized and congratulated Shawn Fleming for receiving the Distinguished Merit Award from the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs.

Ms. Winchell discussed the meeting with Secretary Greenstein regarding Money Follows the Person and what this means for people with developmental disabilities in the state. When the Council pursued this policy through legislation seven years ago it failed to pass in the legislature. The Council is hopeful that people currently living in private residential facilities will have a chance at receiving waiver services because of Secretary Greenstein's favorable response to this proposal.

Due to recent elections of new legislators and the legislative session starting earlier than usual, there is a very short timeline for legislative visits and the Legislative Round Tables. Each Regional team should consist of the LaCAN Leader, the LaTeach Coordinator, the Families Helping Families Director and all Council members in a region. The regional round tables begin the week of January 23rd and Ms. Winchell encouraged each Council member to attend. A letter of introduction to legislators, facts sheets and an article from the LaDDC News on the Restraint/Seclusion bill that passed last year were given to team leaders to take on their legislative visits. The purpose of these visits is to develop a personal relationship with each legislator, especially with the new legislators, and provide information on the Council and our advocacy agenda.

A discussion followed.

BUDGET REPORT – Shawn Fleming

The Council is on track with expenditures. Mr. Fleming discussed the handout regarding the breakdown of expenditures.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

➤ ACT 378 SUB-COMMITTEE – Kay Marcel

The committee received information from state agencies that implement the various components of the Community and Family Support System. Due to concerns about some of the information presented, Ms. Marcel shared two decisions that the sub-committee made:

- In reviewing allocations and expenditures of the Individual and Family Support funds in the regional OCDD offices and Districts and Authorities, there are concerns about

spending. Mark Thomas and Herman Bignar will meet with each regional office/district/authority to discuss their projections through the end of the State Fiscal Year to determine the amount expected to be unspent.

- There was also discussion regarding the formula used to determine the budgeted amount in each region/district/authority because it appears the amount in some areas doesn't necessarily match the population. The committee recommended the staff research the historical budget allocations for each region/district/authority and write a letter to OCDD recommending that they adjust the formula and budgeted allocations where needed. The letter should also include a request to move funds from regions that are not spending their Individual and Family Support funds to regions that need the funds.

All Act 378 expenditures in the Office of Behavioral Health, and the Office of Aging and Adult Services contract were on track.

➤ SELF DETERMINATION/COMMUNITY INCLUSION/HOUSING COMMITTEE – Kay Marcel

The committee reviewed activities and objectives in the Plan and made revisions to be voted on:

- Activity 1.2.1 under the objective about “Individuals with developmental disabilities will participate on cross-disability and culturally diverse leadership coalitions” currently reads, “Provide information and technical assistance to People First of Louisiana board members and other leaders to participate...” and it names various councils and other identifying coalitions. The committee recommends deleting the “and technical assistance.” The reasoning is the Council provides support to People First for that organization to provide technical assistance.
- The committee also recommends deleting Activity 2.1.2 under the objective “Improve the quality of community-based supports and services for Louisianans with developmental disabilities.” The activity addresses advocating for the use of National Core Indicators to indicate the degree that Medicaid home- and community-based services are responsive to individual needs. The committee recommends deleting the activity because DHH is already using the National Core Indicators.
- Activity 2.2.1 under the objective “DSPs serving Louisianans with developmental disabilities will receive competitive compensation.” The committee recommends changing “Advocate for” to “Monitor and participate” since Act 299 called for DHH to look at this very issue.
- Under Activity 3.2.1 the committee recommends deleting “to educate juvenile court judges, the Louisiana Court Appointed Special Advocates Association...” due to other entities working on this.

MOTION PASSED. Motion to adopt the language changes as reported by Ms. Marcel in the Five-Year Plan made by Donna Breaux. Second by Chasedee Noto. Passed without objection.

Phil Wilson mentioned and reminded the committee to monitor the Department of Labor's proposed regulations that would ensure home care workers have minimum wage and over-time protection. This could have a positive impact on wages for Direct Support Professionals.

The committee received an update on People First of Louisiana .

Two concept proposals were received:

- A proposal for funding assessments of using assistive devices in natural settings was discussed. If the Council funded this project it would be considered supplanting and prohibited by our DD Act. Dr. Wilson was interested in learning more about LATAN's history of service provision in this area and volunteered to research it further.
- The other proposal considered was a program for a supported independent living ombudsman program. The committee is very interested in the proposal and directed the staff to gather additional information to present the basic components and funding needed to make it effective and workable.

➤ HEALTH/EDUCATION/EMPLOYMENT – Bambi Polotzola

The committee reviewed and determined a course of action on some of the objectives not on target yet. Those objectives were:

- Objective 6.1 "Access to quality medical services for individuals with developmental disabilities will increase" is so broad that the committee feels the scope needs to be narrowed a bit. It was discussed having Dr. Sue Berry provide one or two ideas for good initiatives. Also staff will research information to quantify issues and pinpoint possible areas to address.
- Objective 6.3 states that waiver recipients 22 years old and older will have access to dental services. Due to the budget and the Residential Options Waiver (ROW) being the only waiver that provides this service, the committee realizes this may not happen but, if it is going to be addressed, the cost needs to be researched.
- The committee will meet with the staff at the Department of Education (DOE) to review and develop specific suggestions on policy and practice change for Objective 7.2.
- Staff will develop recommendations for a specific outcome for Objective 8. This pertains to children participating in EarlySteps to demonstrate improved outcomes. Ms. Olivier shared how an initiative of the DOE will ensure every child entering kindergarten will have some type of communication device if they need one.

- The Inclusive Recreation objective 10.1 is on track.

The Arc of Louisiana provided updates on the transportation project funded last year. The website, begun with Council funds, has been adopted by the Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) as the point of information for regional transportation planning bodies. Legislation may be proposed by the Inter-Agency Coordinating Transportation Council. The committee recommends the Council review legislation if proposed and consider adding this to the advocacy agenda.

MOTION PASSED. Motion for staff to review legislation regarding transportation if proposed and allow for Ms. Beech to respond on behalf of the Council made by Donna Breaux. Second by Brenda Cosse'. Passed without objection.

➤ LRS FUNDING AD HOC COMMITTEE – Nanette Olivier

At the October Council meeting, the discussion about Louisiana Rehabilitation Services' (LRS) on-going struggle to draw down the full amount of Federal funds available was discussed. The ad hoc committee made the following recommendations:

- Mark Martin with LRS, Nancy Hicks and Nancy Roan with the Department of Education (DOE) and representatives of the Louisiana Rehabilitation Council will meet to revisit a proposed collaborative initiative called Exit-to-School similar to what was done in Lafourche Parish. Exit-to-School is designed to be a school-to-work transition program. Local school districts collaborate with community vendors and the regional LRS office to establish a system of school-to-work services for students with disabilities in local high schools. The local community vendor or school district provides vocational services for students up to 2 years prior to their exit from school. The goal is to have students completing high school prepared and ready to enter the workforce.
- Mr. Martin, Debbie Schum, head of College and Career Readiness at the Department of Education, Ms. Hicks and Joe May, President of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System will meet to discuss admission of students with disabilities into the state's technical schools - specifically to address the issue of reading level of some students with disabilities that prevents many from getting accepted into technical schools.

➤ MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE – Rocky Fuselier

The Membership Committee of Brandon Burriss, Donna Breaux, Ms. Marcel, and Mr. Fuselier reviewed applications from four self-advocates in Region IV to replace Nicole Soileau who resigned from the Council. The committee is recommending Kris Hebert from Lafayette to be submitted to the Governor for appointment on the Council.

Motion passed. Motion to accept the recommendation of the Membership Committee of Kris Hebert made by Chasedee Noto. Second by Pranab Choudhury. Passed without objection.

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

➤ HUMAN DEVELOPMENT CENTER (HDC) – Phil Wilson

HDC is going to begin offering a 40-hour competency-based core training curriculum in Supported Employment. Dr. Wilson acknowledged and thanked Mr. Martin for LRS' strong position that job coaches and employment specialists in the state will, at some point in time, need to complete a 40-hour competency- and university-based training curriculum.

HDC started a venture with Dr. Sue Berry with the Office of Public Health and Tiger Care Clinic for an interdisciplinary diagnostic for children on the Autism spectrum or suspected of being on the spectrum.

Dr. Wilson shared a web-based presentation on the new HDC building.

A discussion followed.

STATE AGENCY REPORTS

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

Mr. Burriss spoke about the Governor's Outstanding Leadership in Disabilities (GOLD) Awards ceremony and the upcoming Legislative Session.

Mr. Burriss shared that the goal of GODA is to be able to create changes that are tangible and that make a direct impact in the lives of people with disabilities. Strategies to accomplish this goal are the creation of a list of twenty things believed to make positive changes in the disability community and making GODA's website more accessible.

Education reform will be talked about a tremendous amount during the next couple days. Charter schools are a big part of the Governor's education reform. The Governor's mission is to grow the charter school role and to give children with disabilities access within charter schools. Mr. Burriss encouraged members to discuss this during LaCAN and LaTEACH visits.

A discussion followed regarding the Art Contest.

➤ DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DOE) – Nanette Olivier

Mr. John White is the new Superintendent of the Department of Education.

There will be some changes in terms of how DOE communicates with schools. Newsletters will no longer be issued by the Department. The Department will send a “Blast” to school districts twice a week. Anyone interested in receiving the “Blast” may contact Robyn Hargrave.

At the October meeting Brenda Cosse’ inquired about closed captioning on the live stream of State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) meetings. Ms. Olivier stated that captioning is not available on this system and BESE is going to try to at least remove the button or put a message that captioning is not available.

DOE is involved in a federal project with 19 other states to help children with significant disabilities have a communication device by the time they enter Kindergarten.

DOE received a \$142 million grant and is accepting proposals from districts who want to participate in the initiative to improve literacy outcomes for disadvantaged students which includes children with disabilities.

Ms. Olivier shared a web-based resource for educators and families around the state. The main site is designed to support the needs of struggling learners in school systems, whether or not they have an identified disability. The “Top 10” portion of the website is dedicated to students with significant disabilities. Council members are encouraged to share this information with parents of students with disabilities, general educators and special educators.

A discussion followed.

➤ CHILDREN’S SPECIAL HEALTH SERVICES (CSHS) – Sue Berry

The Family Resource Center at Children's Hospital is expanding to help families transitioning to the private sector from Office of Public Health (OPH) clinics. It will be open to all children attending neurology clinics beginning January 23rd. OPH will review the capacity and how many families use the center, and then gradually expand to other clinics in Children's Hospital. The Center is in Suite 2020 and everyone is encouraged to visit.

The transportation stipend system is active in Alexandria with seven families served to date. This service is for families of children with special healthcare needs who need assistance to keep medical appointments where Medicaid will not provide transportation, mostly due to out of parish travel. Stipends provide mileage, hotel and meal support. OPH is hoping to expand in July to other regions via Families Helping Families Centers. It is funded 100% by a three-year federal grant and hopefully Title V funds will continue the service after the grant expires.

OPH is expanding regional information workshops. These workshops inform Public Health staff about other public health programs that serve children with special healthcare needs to improve care coordination.

CSHS received the results from the 2010 National Survey of Children with Special Healthcare Needs, a survey conducted every four or five years. The survey includes six national performance indicators that gauge access to healthcare services for children with special healthcare needs. CSHS is above the national average in two areas: insurance coverage and access to community-based services. Areas that are not as strong include: families receiving coordinated comprehensive care from a primary care provider, emphasis on kid med, newborn screening for metabolic diseases, and services for youth transitioning to adulthood. The CSHS epidemiologist will conduct more analysis to determine the reasons behind the results.

Louisiana Birth Defects Monitoring Network just reached statewide capacity. January is National Birth Defects Prevention month and CSHS partners with March of Dimes to distribute flyers and educate pregnant women and women considering pregnancy about folic acid and medications safe to take during pregnancy.

The Hearing, Speech and Vision program is teaming up with Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) to distribute information and educate parents about newborn hearing screening and how getting early intervention by six months improves language and school outcomes tremendously.

A discussion followed.

➤ OFFICE FOR CITIZENS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (OCDD) – Julia Kenny

Ms. Kenny reported on the Money Follows the Person Demonstration Grant (My Place). OCDD is at 33% of their target this year of 67 people. One of the biggest barriers is that the average transition time from a Supports and Services Center into waiver services is about 141 days. OCDD is trying to streamline that process. Public housing is also an issue as local entities have different interpretations of housing requirements. Money Follows the Person pays for things typically not covered by Medicaid such as a ventilator that allows babies in Neo-Natal Intensive Care (NICU) to go home. To date, OCDD has moved eight children out of nursing homes with most going into host homes or returning to their families with supports from the Residential Options Waiver (ROW). OCDD also uses the ROW and host homes as a crisis diversion for kids with behavioral challenges. This deters putting children in state institutions. OCDD is marketing My Place enrollment by sharing a video of families that have experienced great successes.

Secretary Greenstein will give a definitive answer to the Council whether or not DHH will include the Money Follows the Person legislation in their legislative package by the end of the week. Details of the initiative were discussed.

OCDD held Employment First Listening Sessions across the state. The office is cataloging the information collected and will look at incentives to pay for supported employment services. OCDD also wants to review the New Opportunities Waiver

(NOW) and the Supports Waiver to see why providers are not moving in that direction. OCDD is still struggling with data collection and they have worked closely with the Supported Employment Leadership Network because data across state lines is like comparing apples to oranges.

OCDD faced a lot of challenges in the budget. Originally resource allocation was planned to be phased. Last year it was determined to collapse that phase in. For some reason Medicaid utilization rates were very high. Criteria has been developed to identify people who are outliers in resource allocation. Since December 13th, OCDD is about 45% of the way to having all the planning meetings completed. A letter went out that the office knew would have a ripple effect and people would be concerned. Other states that don't provide the robust services as Louisiana are not having these challenges. When people meet and disagree, they need to have another review done and understand that if they appeal, their hours will not be dropped while they go to the administrative law judge. OCDD wants to use resources wisely to meet the needs of as many people as possible.

Since July 1, 2011 OCDD has moved 275 individuals out of developmental centers into the community.

The state is looking at family members as paid caregivers and when natural supports could happen in the family. Direction from the DHH Secretary was to set a cap on the number of hours that family members can provide paid care. A workgroup met twice and will meet again following revisions to the draft proposed rule. OCDD knows the forty hour a week limit is scary for people and is looking at national trends. DHH never developed a policy around Act 333 from 2008 so anyone who was a caregiver prior to 2008 is grandfathered in. If a family member is depending on this as their livelihood DHH believes forty hours is reasonable. OCDD is also considering something similar to companion care for the aging population called Senior Link where a daily stipend is paid to the family member living with the recipient to carry out certain things such as assisting with medical appointments.

A discussion followed.

CHANGES TO THE SUPPORT COORDINATION SYSTEM - Mark Thomas, OCDD

Mark Thomas presented on the changes to the Support Coordination System in Louisiana.

STATE AGENCY REPORTS CONTINUED

➤ OFFICE OF AGING AND ADULT SERVICES (OAAS) – Tammy LeBlanc for Hugh Eley

The new Community Choices (CC) Waiver was implemented on October 1st replacing the Elderly and Adult Disabled Waiver. With the CC Waiver there are some additional services people are offered such as a wide range of nutritious meals that meet all dietary standards and assistive technology. One example is activity sensor monitoring that uses sensors mounted in the home to track the person's activity. If the person falls or opens a door, it can automatically call people on a list. It can also be set to detect if a person is going to the

bathroom often and alert the nurse to look at their medications. OAAS believes this is a way for family members to have some peace of mind.

There are over 25,000 people on the Community Choices waiting list. OAAS discovered that thirty percent of the people on the waiting list were receiving other services, primarily long-term personal care services. OAAS was able to serve an additional 5,000 people by making programmatic changes, with resource allocation being one of them. With the increase in individuals served, there has been no increase in nursing facility admissions.

OAAS data on quality of services reveals home- and community-based services have done better than or as well as nursing facilities on every health indicator category. More people are served in the community with less money, and the quality exceeds nursing facility care. This is very powerful information for legislators to know. To increase the capacity of the support coordination agency to handle transitions, OAAS is continuing training and has hired a transition coordinator for every region. To date 146 individuals have transitioned into the community and another 99 transitions are currently in the process.

The State Personal Attendant Program (SPA) has an additional \$100,000 from the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) that will be used to serve people on the waiting list.

The Community Case Abuse/Neglect investigators not only investigate reports of elderly abuse but also act as a type of case manager finding resources for people and assisting families with transitions of loved ones.

A discussion followed.

➤ BUREAU OF HEALTH SERVICES FINANCING (BHSF) – Candace Ricard for Don Gregory

Ms. Richard highlighted information regarding the number of slots allocated and people served for each waiver in the BHSF quarterly report. She also provided the number of slots offered since the beginning of the state fiscal year (July 1, 2011) for each waiver. This information is contained in the table below:

Waiver	Number of Slots Allocated	Number of People Served	Number of Slots Offered since July 1, 2011
New Opportunities Waiver (NOW)	8832	8008	303
Children’s Choice	1475	1310	210
Supports Waiver	2050	1779	358
Residential Options Waiver (ROW)	210	27	

Adult Day Healthcare Waiver	825	720
Community Choices Waiver	4603	4415

Ms. Richard indicated that BHSF is working with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to get approval to add self-direction and add additional therapy services to the Children’s Choice waiver and to renew the Residential Options Waiver and Adult Day Healthcare Waiver as they are set to expire at the end of September and June, respectively. The self-direction option will also be added as an option for the Community Choice waiver. Currently there are 128 NOW recipients participating in that option with the short term plan to expand to approximately 500 individuals. There is a budget request to further increase the number of NOW recipients using self-direction by approximately 1500 additional individuals.

A discussion followed.

➤ LOUISIANA REHABILITATION SERVICES (LRS) – Mark Martin

LRS has been holding off filling positions due to the budget and only individuals with the most significant disabilities are currently receiving services. There are five orders of selection to determine eligibility for services cut. LRS is in the process of eliminating order of selection four and five due to federal money not being drawn down. It is in the plan to draw down those federal funds and serve individuals with less significant disabilities again.

LRS was fortunate to have legislation passed last year that puts up to 1% of the annual budget of the Office of Workers’ Compensation (OWC) into the Second Injury Trust Fund (SITF). The OWC annual budget is approximately \$4.6 million. Initially LRS received 50% of the SITF money and approximately four federal dollars for every state dollar provides about \$460,000. Close to 216 people have been successfully rehabilitated and are maintaining or obtaining employment through the program.

LRS is in collaboration with the Homeless Alliance of Baton Rouge which works with homeless veterans. They contracted with UpLIFTD to receive \$50,000 that was used as match for four to one federal dollars allowing expansion of their program to include an employment aspect. The program allows homeless individuals access to a doctor, a dentist, or a psychologist.

LSU Health Services Center in New Orleans is conducting additional training to vendors that provide Supported Employment services. These services impact individuals with developmental disabilities as well as individuals with chronic mental illness.

Ms. Avis Brown, the Transition Coordinator at state office and Peggy Hail, through the Transitional Learning Collaboration Program will present at the Texas Transition Conference on program barriers to self empowerment faced by transition students.

There are no bills in the upcoming legislative session that directly impact LRS at this time. It is desired to have the funding for the Second Injury Trust Fund to increase above one percent.

Due to mid-year budget cuts the LRS office in Leesville will be shut down.

A discussion followed.

➤ **GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ELDERLY AFFAIRS (GOEA) – Michelle Octave**

GOEA is the local point for access of home and community-based services funded through the Older Americans Act. Through the Councils on Aging nutritious meals, respite, assistance and other information is provided within each parish.

The Aging and Development Resource Center is also a conduit for persons wanting information and reference to available services.

A discussion followed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

None to discuss.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Council meeting is April 18th and 19th. This is the Planning meeting and the exact time will be sent out at a later date.

Kevin Hill, who was with the Council for almost five years, resigned.

Ms. Winchell reminded those who have not signed up to receive LaDDC News to sign up via the website or to email staff.

Adjournment of Business Meeting

Motion passed. Motion to adjourn made by Kay Marcel. Second by Brenda Cosse'. Passed without objection.