



**Bobby Jindal**  
Governor

## **Governor's Office of Disability Affairs**

The Governor's Office of Disability Affairs continues to experience adjustments directly related to the current economic environment in the state. GODA is pleased to be operating at full staff for one full quarter. During the last three months GODA has experienced a tremendous increase in constituent inquires. Historically on average the office fields 500 constituent calls a year, but this year GODA is on pace to field north of 600 calls. The new employees have transitioned nicely into their new positions and have immediately added value. For the first time in GODA's history we successfully published our first newsletter, "The Quarter."

Our focus for the last few months has been on establishing and growing relationships at the local governmental level. We have targeted local mayor's committees and municipality governments that can directly assist in aiding persons with disabilities. The process has contributed to our Mayor/Municipality Disability Report, which will be released shortly.

A tremendous amount of time has been dedicated to the Streamlining Government Commission during the past few weeks. Governor Jindal has stated that this commission is not charged with creating another binder with some good opinions and ideas that will just sit on a shelf and collect dust. This commission is to make real, lasting reforms in state government. As this commission searches for ways to streamline government – everything is on the table. If it's a good idea to improve our current system and maximize efficiencies, it should be explored by this group, and if decided on, it should be swiftly implemented. The commission will examine each agency's



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constitutional and statutory duties in an effort to reduce the size of state government and create savings by improving the efficiency of state government. Specifically, the commission will target programs and agencies whose functions can be consolidated or eliminated, in addition to identifying opportunities for privatizing and outsourcing current state functions.

The upcoming October 6<sup>th</sup> Governor's Advisory Council on Disability Affairs meeting has been cancelled. Instead we are having executive committee meeting in its place. The council is working diligently with state agencies to ensure that all new emergency evacuation shelters are fully ADA accessible. In addition, GODA met with leaders at LSU as a result of the direction of the council to assist and advise the university on disability related issues.

Our office is busy preparing for October and Disability Awareness Month. Governor Jindal has recently issued four proclamations highlighting disability related issues. GODA is working with DSS and The Work Pays commission to put on Job Fairs for 2009. The job fairs dates and locations listed at the end of the report.

Our office recently took part in the grand opening of the "Ward 3 Multi-Complex Center." This multi-purpose recreational facility has one of Louisiana's first all inclusive playgrounds, where all children, with and without disabilities can develop essential skills for life as they learn together through play. Adventure Cove is a 12,000 square foot all inclusive



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playgrounds comprised of decking, ramping, and transfer points that allow all children to play safely.

Please note that in an effort to increase public awareness and acknowledge the efforts of those that have advanced the quality of life for Louisiana's disability community, the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs annually host the Governor's Outstanding Leadership in Disabilities Awards. Awards are presented to individuals, organizations, agencies and employers whose contributions have advanced the opportunities of individuals with disabilities or for those who have been selfless in serving the disability community in Louisiana. The GOLD Awards will be held on December 8th, 2009 at the Old State Capital. For nomination packets, or further information please email Jamar Ennis at [Jamar.Ennis@la.gov](mailto:Jamar.Ennis@la.gov). Please mail completed nomination packets to the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs at 150 North 3rd Street, Suite 129 Baton Rouge, LA 70802. The 2009 GOLD Award Categories are:

- Educator of the Year award
- Ken Vince Memorial award
- Veteran of the year award
- Youth of the year
- Outstanding Direct support personnel award
- Employer of the year award
- Patsy Barrett memorial award
- Volunteer of the year award
- Distinguished merit award
- Family of the year award
- Service animal of the year award



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**2009 Louisiana Job Fairs  
 Lead Agency  
 Louisiana Rehabilitation Services  
 Sponsored By  
 Louisiana Medicaid Infrastructure Grant**

<p>2009 LOUISIANA JOB FAIRS          for persons with disAbilities          Thursday, October 22, 2009          Doors open to public 9:00 am till 2:00pm          Louisiana Technical College          3250 N. Acadian Thruway East          Baton Rouge, LA 70805</p>	<p>2009 LOUISIANA JOB FAIRS          for persons with disAbilities          Thursday, October 1, 2009          Doors open to public 9:00 am till 12:00 pm          Knights of Columbus #2732          1578 W. Hall Ave.          Slidell, LA. 70458</p>
<p>2009 LOUISIANA JOB FAIRS          for persons with disAbilities          Wednesday, October 21, 2009          Doors open to public 9:00 am till 12:00 pm          Heymann Performing Arts Center          1373 S. College Road          Lafayette, LA 70503-290</p>	<p>2009 LOUISIANA JOB FAIRS          for persons with disAbilities          Wednesday, October 7, 2009          Doors open to public 9:00 am till 12:00 pm          Business and Career Solutions Center          4250 5th Ave.          Lake Charles, LA 70607</p>
<p>2009 LOUISIANA JOB FAIRS          for persons with disAbilities          Tuesday, October 20, 2009          Doors open to public 9:00 am till 12:00 pm          Eastbank Regional Library          4747 W. Napoleon Ave.          Metairie, La 70001</p>	<p>2009 LOUISIANA JOB FAIRS          for persons with disAbilities          Wednesday, October 7, 2009          Doors open to public 9:00 am till 12:00 pm          Christ United Methodist Church          1204 Crabapple Drive          Shreveport, LA 71118-4097</p>
<p>2009 LOUISIANA JOB FAIRS          for persons with disAbilities          Wednesday, October 21, 2009          Doors open to public 9:00 am till 12:00pm          Monroe Civic Center          401 Lea Joyner Expressway          Monroe, LA 71201</p>	<p>2009 LOUISIANA JOB FAIRS          for persons with disAbilities          Thursday, October 29, 2009          Doors open to public 9:00 am till 12:00 pm          Evergreen Cajun Center          4695 W. Main Street          Houma, LA 70360</p>
<p>2009 LOUISIANA JOB FAIRS          for persons with disAbilities          Wednesday, October 21, 2009          Doors open to public 9:00 am till 12:00pm          City of Pineville, Main Street Community          Center 708 Main Street          Pineville, LA 71360</p>	<p align="center"><b>WISE Event          REGISTRATION:</b>          Please register on-line at  <a href="http://www.socialsecurity.gov/work/wise.html">www.socialsecurity.gov/work/wise.html</a> or          by calling 1-877-743-8237 (V/TTY)</p> <p align="center"></p>