

LOUISIANA DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL
April 20, 2017
MEETING SUMMARY

Holiday Inn South
Baton Rouge, LA

8:30 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Sue Berry, OPH/CSHS
Craig Blackburn
Randall Brown Jr.
Sharon Buchert, GOEA
Bonnie Buckelew
Donnica Conway
Alan Coulter, HDC
April Dunn
Jill Egle'
Michelle Hurst
Kim Jones, AC
Tara LeBlanc, OAAS
Mark Martin, LRS
Paula Moreau
Lou Ann Owen, BHSF
Robert Paddy
Bambi Polotzola, GODA
Stuart Simon
Tara Nunez-Smith
Mary Tarver
Patsy White
Jamie Wong, LDOE

STAFF PRESENT

Brenton Andrus
Rodney Anthony
Shawn Fleming
Kourtney Gaines
De'Van Stephenson
Derek White
Sandee Winchell

MEMBERS ABSENT

Hilary Bordelon
Carmen Cetnar
Kristopher Hebert
Raymond Jasper
Delery Rice
Mark Thomas

GUESTS PRESENT

Melissa Bayham, LRS
Donna Breaux, Caregiver Homes
Nicholas Fisher
Sue Gregg
Brian Gool
Julie Foster-Hagan, OCDD
Ashley Jefferson, OBH
Ashley McReynolds, LaCAN
Scott Meche, Capital Area Human
Services District
Rhena Mertz, Transcriptionist
Kelly Monroe, Arc of Louisiana
Christy Paulsell
Mike Teacue
Jamie Tindle, FHF Greater Baton Rouge

April Dunn called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. She announced that Chairperson Delery Rice was recovering from surgery so she would be chairing the meeting.

SUMMARY OF JANUARY MEETING

MOTION PASSED. Motion to accept the summary of the January Council meeting made by Michelle Hurst, seconded by Bonnie Buckelew.

Correction to minutes. Dr. Berry requested a correction related to her report in reference to the Family Resource Center at Children's Hospital. Specifically, the final sentence of the information related to the Office of Public Health (OPH) on page six will read:

- The Family Resource Center at Children's Hospital, a program of Children's Special Health Services, is helping families locate resources prior to being discharged from the hospital.

Motion passed without objection.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – April Dunn

Ms. Dunn welcomed Sharon Buchert and Kim Jones as official members of the Council following the appointment to the Council by Governor Edwards since the last meeting.

Ms. Dunn directed members to the information in the Chair's written report, but pointed out that Ms. Rice had appointed a Nominating Committee that will select a slate of officers. The committee will be chaired by Bambi Polotzola and consist of Carmen Cetnar, Donnica Conway, Stuart Simon, and Mark Thomas. If anyone is interested in being considered for an officer position they should notify Ms. Winchell prior to May 1st.

Ms. Dunn recognized Craig Blackburn, Raymond Jasper and Patsy White for having fulfilled their service and terms as members of the Council.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Ms. Dunn shared recommendations from the Executive Committee.

MOTION PASSED. The Executive Committee's recommendation for two changes in the evaluation process of the Executive Director:

- delete the requirement that a progress report be written by the Executive Director; and,
- change survey of council members on Executive Director's performance from biannually to annually.

passed without objection.

MOTION PASSED. The Executive Committee's recommendation for the following positions and priority levels on issues addressed in proposed legislation:

- against requiring applicants for employment with a home and community based provider be responsible for the cost of the pre-employment criminal history and security check required by law, addressed in HB245, at level 2
- for updating laws relative to behavioral health to reflect current practice and terminology, addressed in HB341, at level 3

- neutral on revising license and bed fee amounts for facilities and providers licensed by the LA Department of Health, addressed in HB414, level 3 passed without objection.

MOTION TABLED. The Executive Committee's recommendation that Sandee receive a 4% raise based on her performance and evaluation results, however per Sandee's request this raise would be contingent upon the staff receiving a raise next fiscal year.

Motion to amend offered by Dr. Berry to stipulate raise will be contingent on being permitted by the Legislature and civil service, seconded by Stuart Simon.

Substitute Motion to table the amended motion until the July Council meeting made by Randall Brown, seconded by Mark Martin, passed without objection.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Sandee Winchell

Ms. Winchell shared details of recent testimony she and Ms. Dunn provided to the House Appropriations Committee related to the Council's advocacy agenda and the questioning by the committee members. Council members' advocacy activities were highlighted on the thermometer display. Information about issues in pending legislation pertinent to people with developmental disabilities was shared and discussed, in particular, the Council's efforts to establish a dedicated percentage of funds in the Human Services Districts/Authorities for Individual and Family Support Services and Flexible Family Funds for people with developmental disabilities and to increase representation of people with developmental disabilities on the boards of the Districts/Authorities.

MOTION PASSED. A motion for the Council to support the sale of the Northwest Supports and Services Center to the Arc of Acadiana, made by Sharon Buchert, seconded by Paula Moreau, passed without objection.

BUDGET REPORT – Shawn Fleming

Mr. Fleming highlighted how travel expenditures faced increased auditing as a result of legislation from 2016. The delays in payments caused by these audit changes suppressed the amount of expenditures last quarter. Mr. Fleming apologized to Council members for any inconvenience caused by their travel checks issued without routing numbers last quarter.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE – Bonnie Buckelew

MOTION PASSED. The Education and Employment Committee's recommendation for the adoption of the definition of authentic stakeholder input and the metric used to indicate stakeholder input developed by the workgroup to be used by the Council, passed without objection.

The Committee requested data from LA Rehabilitation Services (LRS) on the percentage and total amounts of federal funding for LRS forfeited each of the past eight years.

The Committee received five reports on employment activities in the plan. Derek White shared efforts related to advocacy for state funding to access the full Vocational Rehabilitation federal allotment; sharing information on Social Security benefits planning services; disseminating research on employment; the initiative promoting benefits of and providing peer-to-peer support for competitive integrated employment; and, the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs Employment First Taskforce. Mark Martin provided information on implementation of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

The Committee received four reports on education activities in the plan. Mr. Fleming shared information related to advocacy for an accountability system that values students with disabilities; monitoring policy/implementation of Act 833 of 2014; monitoring rates of students with disabilities across schools; and, advocacy for data for monitoring education systems.

SELF DETERMINATION/COMMUNITY INCLUSION COMMITTEE – Michelle Hurst

The committee received an update on the partnership between the Council and the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) in training and providing ongoing technical assistance direct support professionals and provider agencies in working with individuals with complex medical and behavioral needs and Ms. Hurst asked Julie Foster-Hagan to share information related to this initiative with the Council. Ms. Foster-Hagan shared data revealing reductions in emergency room visits, critical incidents, staff injuries, and staff turnover combined with improvements in community relationships and increased employment of individuals served by agencies participating in the training.

ACT 378 SUB-COMMITTEE – Bambi Polotzola

The Act 378 Sub-Committee made two decisions. First, the subcommittee will request copies of contracts with each Human Services District/Authority from the La. Department of Health. Second, Ann Darling with the Office of Behavioral Health will follow up to provide an update to the subcommittee on whether the updated Consumer Care Resources policies and procedures are in effect; on which performance indicators the districts/authorities are being monitored; and how are they to meet the indicators should no program be in place.

PLANNING AD HOC COMMITTEE - Michelle Hurst

MOTION PASSED. The Planning Ad Hoc Committee's recommendation to adopt the [revisions to the FFY17-FFY21 plan](#) and [FFY18 activities](#), both contractual and non-contractual, as developed by the Planning Ad Hoc Committee, passed without objection.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE – April Dunn

The Membership Committee, comprised of April Dunn, Hillary Bordelon, Carmen Cetnar, and Raymond Jasper, considered four applicants to fill Council member vacancies for two self-advocate and one parent position on the Council. Only one self-advocate application was received and two of the positions must be filled by self-advocates to maintain compliance with the DD Act.

MOTION PASSED. The Committee's recommendation that Jill Demeritt, a parent from Lake Charles, and Jill Hano, a self-advocate from River Ridge, be approved by the Council and sent to the Governor, passed without objection.

MOTION PASSED. A motion to contact Brittany Quebedeaux to see if she is still interested in being considered for Council membership, and after considering her and all other applicants, the Membership Committee be granted the authority to submit the name of a selected candidate directly to the Governor for Council appointment, made by Robert Paddy, seconded by Bonnie Buckelew, passed without objection.

COUNCIL AGENCY REPORTS

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF DISABILITY AFFAIRS (GODA) – BAMBI POLOTZOLA

Ms. Polotzola shared the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs' positions on issues in legislative instruments being considered. Some initiatives Ms. Polotzola highlighted included the Employment First Work Group, the Inclusive Arts Contest, and the Americans with Disability Act Symposium. Ms. Polotzola announced Jamar Ennis left GODA to serve as the Director for the Louisiana Youth Center for Excellence.

ADVOCACY CENTER (AC) – KIM JONES

Ms. Jones shared the Advocacy Center's priorities and positions on issues in legislation. Ms. Jones highlighted a number of issues the Advocacy Center is pursuing or conducting follow-up activities, including the Chisholm lawsuit, community resources for people with mental health challenges and the Louisiana Rehabilitation Services implementation of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

OFFICE OF PUBLIC HEALTH (OPH) – SUE BERRY

Dr. Berry highlighted the success of the Resource Fair at Children's Hospital and the Resource Information Workshop in Lafayette. Dr. Berry shared interagency activities designed to improve developmental screening of young children for developmental, autism, social-emotional and environmental concerns. Another initiative highlighted was the Hands and Voices (H&V) and the Guide by Your Side (GBYS) program which are parent driven support groups for deaf and hard of hearing children and their families.

BUREAU OF HEALTH SERVICES FINANCING (BHSF) – LOU ANN OWEN

Ms. Owen indicated Medicaid rates for Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) are tied to Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) rates since BCBS is the largest insurer in Louisiana. Subsequently, in response to shifts in BCBS rates, Medicaid rates for ABA were reduced at the end of last year, then increased at the start of this year.

Louisiana is in the process of implementing Electronic Visit Verification to help combat fraud, waste and abuse. The system will monitor what time a Direct Support Professional actually begins and ends the provision of service. Ms. Owen asked if people have trouble with this new system to call the program offices or waiver office.

Finally, Ms. Owen shared success with transitioning self-direction back to Acumen.

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT CENTER (HDC) – ALAN COULTER

Dr. Coulter highlighted the start-up of the LSU-HDC early learning center and encouraged assistance with seeking well qualified applicants to work with young children (birth through two years of age). The Louisiana School Psychology Internship program enters its 26th year of recruiting and training school psychologists. Dr. Coulter announced the LSU-HDC annual Institute of Multi-Tiered Systems of Support.

OFFICE FOR CITIZENS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (OCDD) - Julie Foster Hagan (for MARK THOMAS)

Ms. Foster-Hagan indicated OCDD will be issuing waiver slots in order to meet the maintenance of effort required for wavier programs and due to increased numbers of slots opening up due to attrition. Fifty-five NOW slots will be filled; the majority of those will be emergency slots and the remaining will be first-come, first-served. OCDD is also filling 125 Children's Choice slots with the majority of those going to children in emergency situations. OCDD has screened 5,500 of the people on the waiver waiting list. Of those screened about twelve percent are in the emergent category, 38 percent will need waiver supports within the next one to five years, and fifty percent do not have any unmet needs. OCDD intends to use that information for future requests of types of waivers and numbers of slots to better meet people's needs. OCDD is in the process of amending Louisiana's waiver program from a first-come, first-served system to a tiered waiver and then a consolidated waiver.

Ms. Foster-Hagan shared that OCDD is one of 21 states that has received initial approval on its Home and Community Based Settings Transition Plan. OCDD has also created an ICF/DD unit that will provide training to ICF/DD providers on a variety of issues.

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ELDERLY AFFAIRS (GOEA) – SHARON BUCHERT

Ms. Buchert shared efforts in assisting people with getting prescriptions that are too expensive or if the drug is not covered. She also shared handouts about Medicare and the phone numbers of the sites of the resource centers and programs to help people navigate the system and find resources.

LOUISIANA REHABILITATION SERVICES (LRS) – MARK MARTIN

Mr. Martin acknowledged Ms. Dunn and Ms. Winchell for their testimony before the Appropriations Committee and answering all the committee members' questions.

Since LRS has insufficient state match to draw down all of Louisiana's available federal grant funds, LRS is not serving any orders of selection, so people are determined eligible and put on a waiting list. It would take an additional \$5 million in state funds to

draw down the full allotment. Mr. Martin shared how budget cuts resulted in staff reductions, from 326 in 2010 to 180 today. WIOA became an unfunded mandate, because 15% of vocational rehabilitation dollars have to be spent on students with disabilities in high school. In the past year LRS enrolled over 4,000 students with disabilities into its pre-employment transition services program.

Mr. Martin introduced Steve DeBreuhl who spoke about the Randolph Shepherd program that assists individuals who are blind or visually impaired with setting up and running businesses in federal and state buildings.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (LDOE) – JAMIE WONG

Ms. Wong highlighted the network LDOE is trying to build to help students with career counseling and work force preparation opportunities.

OFFICE OF AGING AND ADULT SERVICES (OAAS) –TARA LEBLANC

Ms. Leblanc reported their vacant waiver slots are frozen and OAAS did not receive additional funding to fill slots in next year's budget. The only waiver offers are emergency priority for people with ALS.

Input on Title V Block Grant – SUE BERRY

Dr. Berry sought Council input on the Title V Block Grant from the Bureau of Maternal and Child Health with the purpose of improving access to health care services to children with special health care needs. Dr. Berry discussed the priorities developed for the grant proposal, including: access to quality health care; social, emotional and mental health supports for families; help finding services for children and youth with special health care needs; better understanding of health disparities; and up-to-date surveillance systems and facts on health needs of women, children and youth. After sharing the goals and accomplishments from last year and answering questions Dr. Berry collected survey responses from Council members and guests.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Ms. Winchell gave an update on advocacy efforts related to Human Services Districts and Authorities board composition and equity across the state in resources to support people with developmental disabilities.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Council meeting is July 19th and 20th at the Embassy Suites in Baton Rouge.

ADJOURNMENT OF BUSINESS MEETING

MOTION PASSED. A motion to adjourn by Mark Martin, seconded by Patsy White, passed without objection.