

Executive Director's Report
January 20 - 21, 2016 Council Meeting

Budget

- The budget report with expenditures through November 2015 is included in the packet.

Program Performance Review (PPR) and Plan Updates

- Our Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2015 PPR and amendments to our Five Year Plan are both due to the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD) on January 1st. Both of these will be submitted before the Christmas holidays.

Membership Update

- Mary Tarver and Mark Martin were re-appointed to the Council by the Governor in November.
- The remaining nominees will be considered for appointment by Governor-Elect Edwards.

Council Member Orientation

- Our two newest Council members and three of the individuals awaiting appointment participated in an abbreviated orientation session at the Council office. Although a lot of information was presented in a short amount of time, it provided an overview of who the Council is, what we do, and how we operate.

2015 Advocacy Leadership Conference: Creating a Meaningful Life

- The Council's conference on November 19th drew an attendance of 105 people including 17 self-advocates and 57 family members. Attendees heard from two national speakers, Al Condeluci and Deborah Whitfield, about the importance of advocacy, social capital, and building natural supports to create a meaningful life for themselves and those they know with developmental disabilities.
- The conference also featured a legislative panel during which Senator Jack Donahue, Representative John Schroder, and Representative Ledricka Theiry praised the Council's grassroots advocacy efforts and gave tips for our continued success.

LaCAN/LaTEACH

- Fact sheets were developed on four of the issues the Council adopted for its legislative/advocacy agenda and are available on our website at <http://www.laddc.org/content.cfm?id=409>
- Our LaCAN/LaTEACH Leaders are in the process of scheduling legislative visits and making plans for the 2016 Legislative Roundtables. The schedule of Roundtables can be found on the homepage of our website here: <http://www.laddc.org/files/2016RoundtableSchedule.pdf>. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.
- LaCAN and LaTEACH continue to grow in membership with LaCAN adding 64 members and LaTEACH adding 24 since October 1st. We are struggling in some regions in being able to fill our leader positions.
- The Council approved the uniting of LaCAN and LaTEACH several years ago to occur on October 1, 2016. The staff have been planning for the merger and we plan to make the public announcement at our Roundtables, through a LaDDC News article, and through LaCAN and LaTEACH Info Alerts. Members of the combined network will be able to select if they want to receive information on issues relating to home and community based services (including employment), education, or both. The new name will be Louisiana Council's Advocacy Network (LaCAN).

Advocacy Activities and Provision of Information

Community Supports

- Advocated/discussed the following issues in the Council's quarterly meeting with Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) Secretary Kathy Kliebert:
 - Concerns regarding lack of consistent service provision by the Local Governing Entities (LGEs) across the state. Developed strategies to address these concerns.
 - The status of the administrative rule on the allowable use of Act 378 funds.
 - Concern that people in self-direction will have a difficult time implementing the new Dept. of Labor rule regarding overtime pay for Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) without accounting assistance. Secretary Kliebert indicated DHH would provide technical assistance to those in self-direction. DHH has requested \$55 million to cover the overtime cost in FY17 and asked for the Council's support.
 - DHH's plans to address issues in the DD system Managed Long Term Supports and Services (MLTSS) was designed to fix: Waiting List, Money Follows the Person, and Support Coordination.
 - Concern about the overall lack of safe, affordable housing for people with disabilities.
 - Funding for 200 NOW slots included in DHH's budget request
 - Council's support for full compliance of the Home and Community Based Services Settings Rule and its impact on sheltered workshops/employment
 - Frozen waiver slots due to mid-year budget deficit
- Sent a letter of support to Governor-Elect John Bel Edwards for Mark Thomas to be retained as Assistant Secretary of the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities.
- Advocated for policy recommendations related to people with developmental disabilities and their families on the Governor-Elect's Healthcare Transition Team.
- Advocated for policy recommendations related to students with disabilities on the Governor-Elect's K-12 Education Transition Team.
- Joined AARP, the Advocacy Center, and other organizations in a letter to Governor-Elect Edwards requesting that Secretary Kathy Kliebert remain in her position until a deep and expansive search is conducted for a new DHH Secretary.

Education

- Provided BESE information related to adoption of achievement level cut scores for PARCC assessments taken in the Spring of 2015 related to:
 - Issues with eligibility determinations of students relative to [Act 833 of 2014](#) resulting from the delay of issuing student performance on tests taken in the Spring of 2015.
 - Claims that achievement levels will ensure Louisiana students graduate with the same skills as students in other states are false. Most states do not require performance on standardized tests to earn a high school diploma.
 - Achievement levels considered were not criterion-based but relative to student performance and distribution levels on NAEP. Therefore, the standards are norm-based and not more rigorous than previous standards.
 - Students with disabilities tend to be ranked toward the bottom of norm-referenced systems – by definition – making the achievement levels and accountability system in Louisiana essentially re-identify students with disabilities.
 - Clarity of expectations was eliminated with the removal of all the descriptions in Bulletin 118 defining what it means to meet a standard.
- Provided information related to allocation of funding to charter schools to the Minimum Foundation Program Task Force. Beginning in 2015 funding allocations to charter schools are based on weighted student counts for the state share of funds in the Minimum Foundation Program; however, local funds continue to be allocated on a per student basis, regardless of student characteristic. The MFP Task Force passed a motion for LDOE to work with the Council in submitting a request for an expedited Attorney General's opinion on the

interpretation of R.S. 17:3995 regarding distributions of local funding shares to charter schools. As of 12/18/15 LDOE has not provided a draft of the AG opinion request.

Employment

- Advocated at the Workforce Symposium for the LA Workforce Commission (LWC) to have individuals with disabilities, their families, and advocates provide input to the statewide and regional Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act (WIOA) plans.

General

- Provided information through LaDDC News and Facebook on the following:
 - Council's 2016 Legislative/Advocacy Agenda and upcoming activities
 - DHH freezing waiver slots to address the mid-year deficit
 - People with developmental disabilities who are currently receiving services from one of the Office of Aging and Adult Services' waivers (or on those waiting lists) will transfer to the developmental disability service system
 - Principals shared effective inclusive practices at a statewide meeting
 - New overtime rule for DSPs impacting services to individuals with developmental disabilities
 - Online provider questionnaire helps individuals and families make informed choices
 - Public input sought on the Council's Plan for Federal Fiscal Years 2017-2021
 - Webinars on the integration of behavioral health services into Bayou Health

Collaborative Efforts

OCDD Mortality Review Committee

- Of the 50 cases reviewed this quarter, the Committee referred one case to Health Standards that they will now investigate for possible abuse/neglect. The committee also recommended training for decubitus for direct support provider staff related to another case.

Louisiana Rehabilitation Council (LRC)

LRC approved committee recommendations to:

- Draft recommendations for revisions to the Governor's Executive Order establishing the LRC, including considerations from final Workforce Innovation Opportunities Act (WIOA) regulations (when published) and
- Request that the LA Rehabilitation Services Director publish the schedule for the focus groups that are going to be conducted around the state regarding the development of a report card in order to provide more informed vendor choice for clients.

LA Housing Corporation (LHC) Fair Housing Task Force

- Shared concerns over the lack of safe, affordable, and accessible housing for individuals with developmental disabilities. A follow up meeting is being scheduled with all parties involved in the Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) Program to share specific concerns and to request a simplified fact sheet or flow chart outlining the housing programs (PSH and others) available to people with developmental disabilities and how to apply.

EarlySteps/ Professional Development Committee of the SICC

- EarlySteps held a stakeholder meeting to review and develop activities for the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) and the State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC) workgroup action plans. The stakeholder group reviewed evaluation components and requirements for submission of Phase II of the SSIP (due April 1, 2016).
- SICC Professional Development Committee members updated recommendations for the early childhood implementation plan (SSIP Phase II) and for a new professional development system format.

Inclusion Workgroup

- Federal law reauthorized the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) requirements. The LA Department of Education (LDOE) invited Inclusion Workgroup members Sam Beech, Toni Ledet, and Brenda Sharp to participate in the development of the new plan due in March 2016 to better include children with disabilities in the CCAP process.
- Recommendations created by the Inclusion Workgroup and previously shared with the Department of Children and Family Services were shared with LDOE. This recommended CCAP process is based on individualized need according to the Individualized Family Support Plan (IFSP). LDOE requested to see proposals for both a flat rate and an individualized process. The Inclusion Workgroup discussed and recommended a proposal for the CCAP structure to present to LDOE.

Early Childhood Care & Education (ECCE) Advisory Council

- The ECCE made recommendations to LDOE's proposed changes to licensing regulations during the November meeting. In December, the ECCE endorsed the LDOE Early Childhood Funding Model (with a few revisions). The proposed funding model will be presented to BESE in January and the report is to be submitted by January 15, 2015.
- An ad hoc committee with some of the ECCE Advisory Council members will convene prior to the January BESE meeting to determine funding options to recommend to BESE.

Meetings Attended (by Executive Director) Since October 5, 2015

Meeting with DHH Officials re: Council's FY17 budget – October 7

Council Applicant Interviews with April Dunn – October 8

Phone conference with Hugh Eley re: Act 378 issues – October 9

Membership Committee – October 14

Council meeting – October 21-21

OCDD/Medicaid Webinar on Behavioral Health integration into Bayou Health – October 27

National Association of Councils on DD Member Services Committee – October 28

Meeting with Mark Thomas, Herman Bignar re: Act 378 issues – October 29

Sec. Kathy Kliebert, Mark Thomas, Michelle Hurst – November 2

DD Network Collaboration meeting (Phil Wilson, Lois Simpson, Stephanie Patrick) – November 3

Meeting with Mark Thomas, Michelle Hurst re: OCDD/Council collaboration – November 9

Executive Committee – November 9

Governor's Office of Disability Affairs Awards Ceremony – November 18

Advocacy Leadership Conference – November 19

New Council Member Orientation – November 20

Meeting with Lou Ann Owen, Michelle Hurst re: Medicaid/Council collaboration – November 23

Meeting with Michelle Hurst, Jeanne Abadie re: Act 378 issues – November 23

Meeting with Hugh Eley, Jeanne Abadie re: Act 378 issues – November 24

Governor-Elect's Healthcare Transition Team – December 1 and 2

Meeting with Sheryl Matney to plan Council Retreat – December 4

Meeting with OCDD staff re: collaboration on capacity building of providers/DSPs – December 7

Meeting with Liz Gary re: Partners in Policymaking planning – December 8

Governor-Elect's Healthcare Transition Team – December 8

Partners in Policymaking Ad Hoc Committee – December 15

Governor-Elect's Healthcare Transition Team – December 15