

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

Budget

- The budget report with expenditures through May 2016 is included in the packet.

Federal Allotment

- The Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD) is reallocating a portion of the Puerto Rico DD Council's award and it is being proportionately reallocated to the other Councils. Our Council is receiving a one-time allotment amount of \$29,284 for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 16, bringing our total allotment for FFY16 to \$1,405,007.
- Estimates for DD Councils' FFY17 allotments have been released. While the estimated amount is based on flat funding from Congress, FFY17 has a one percent set-aside for "Grants System Cost." This will result in a one percent reduction in the amount our Council will receive for FFY17, or a total estimated amount of \$1,362,432.

Action Plan for FFY 17

- Public input was solicited on the FFY17 Action Plan the Council approved at the April meeting. Only one technical language change was made to the plan as a result.

Membership Update

- Tara LeBlanc was appointed by the Governor to the Council on April 26th.
- We recruited applicants with developmental disabilities from the Lake Charles region to fill the position left vacant by Donna Spears' resignation. A Membership Committee will make a recommendation to the full Council at the July meeting.

Disability Rights Day

- Disability Rights Day was held April 5th with confirmed attendance of 326 individuals. Participants visited legislators throughout the day sharing fact sheets detailing the importance and necessity of funding for various supports and services for people with disabilities.
- A rally program was held at noon and included comments from Governor John Bel Edwards, the first ever sitting governor to speak; legislators; Bambi Polotzola, parent advocate and Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs; and event emcees April Dunn and Micah Moscovis.
- Participants were also in attendance as Representative J. Rogers Pope and Senator Regina Barrow presented resolutions in their respective chambers commending the DD Council and LaCAN for its advocacy efforts and officially designating April 5, 2016, Disability Rights Day in Louisiana.

Community and Family Support System Task Force

- As decided at the April Council meeting, a task force is being created to make recommendations to improve the Community and Family Support System.
- Delery has appointed 23 people to serve in this capacity. The first of three meetings will be held on July 27, 2016.

Advocacy Activities and Provision of Information

Community Supports

- Successfully planned and implemented LaCAN's advocacy campaign to restore funding in the budget to preserve existing services for people with developmental disabilities.
 - Provided information and support to sixteen LaCAN members in testifying before the Appropriations, Finance, and Ways and Means Committees in support of funding for

waiver slots, the Human Services Districts/Authorities, Families Helping Families, and other services for people with disabilities. Provided information to legislators on all of these programs. Organized five “yellow shirt days” in these Committees with a total of 159 LaCAN members attending.

- Discussed the following issues in the Council’s first quarterly meeting with Dr. Rebekah Gee, Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) Secretary:
 - Challenges the Council faces in its oversight of the Community and Family Support System
 - Budget cuts to Act 378 services
 - Managed Long Term Supports and Services (MLTSS) for people with developmental disabilities.
 - The high rate of institutionalization in Louisiana and ideas for decreasing those numbers.
- A letter was sent to Dr. Gee advocating for corrected 1099s to be issued to Flexible Family Fund recipients who had received 1099s indicating the subsidy was countable income. Provided additional information on this issue to Deputy Secretary Michelle Alletto. DHH subsequently informed the Council it was issuing the corrected 1099s.
- Advocated for the needs of people with developmental disabilities in relation to Managed Long Term Supports and Services in a meeting with Representative Walt Leger and other advocates.

Education

- Planned and successfully implemented LaTEACH’s advocacy campaign to increase transparency and stakeholder input into policies and practices. The legislature passed:
 - SB 317/Act 522 to require the LA Department of Education (LDOE) to report incidents of restraint/seclusion by school system annually. It also establishes the Advisory Council on Student Behavior and Discipline to provide advice and guidance to the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) and LDOE regarding best practices in providing support to schools in addressing student behavior.
 - SB 310/Act 485 to require LDOE to report special education statistics and funding annually.
 - Provided information and support to 8 LaTEACH members in testifying before the House and Senate Education Committees in support of these issues. Provided information to legislators, legislative committees, legislative staff, and LDOE on these issues. Organized 2 “purple shirt days” in these Committees with a total of 29 LaTEACH members attending.
- Provided information to legislators and before legislative committees on several Priority 2 Council issues:
 - HB 862/Act 226 to limit parental liability of certain students with behavioral challenges in school
 - SB 335/Act 303 that addressed potential discrimination of students by prohibiting schools from requesting medical information from students applying. This law will also allow previous students with disabilities who passed courses but not the exit exams to petition for a high school diploma.
- Shared information at Special Education Advisory Panel meeting regarding concerns over limited information related to Local Education Agency (LEA) determinations and recommendations related to LDOE’s proposed rule changes regarding special education monitoring.
- Submitted recommendations to LDOE relative to proposed rule changes for special education monitoring of school systems.

Employment

- Drafted an Employment First Executive Order, in collaboration with the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs, for the Governor's consideration.
- Advocated for certification of employment support professionals and for a system of quality monitoring and improvement for supported employment provider agencies at the LA Rehabilitation Council meeting.

General

- Hosted a Legislative Debriefing for LaCAN, LaTEACH and FHF Leaders where we shared information on the outcomes of the legislative session and the current state of affairs in both home and community-based services, education, and employment. Information was shared and feedback was solicited on LaCAN and LaTEACH's activities before and during the session, emphasizing what was most effective and what we can do to improve in the future.
- Provided information through LaDDC News on the following:
 - Governor Edwards speaking at Disability Rights Day
 - Schools' Use of Communication Plan Developed by LA Experts
 - Regional Advocacy Workshops
 - Council's FFY17 Action Plan and Position Papers
 - Recruitment of Applicants for Council Membership Vacancy
 - Impact of Legislative Session of People with Disabilities and Their Families
- Provided information through Facebook on various issues of interest to people with developmental disabilities and their families.

Collaborative Efforts

OCDD System Transformation Core Stakeholders Group

- OCDD is not proceeding with MLTSS for people with developmental disabilities at this time.
- OCDD is proceeding with the needs assessments of people on the waiting list so the waiting list can be prioritized according to need in the future.
- OCDD still plans to move to a consolidated waiver at some point in the future but cost neutrality must be maintained so this move cannot take place at this time.

OCDD Mortality Review Committee

- Of the 57 cases reviewed this quarter, the Committee requested additional information for six and noted Health Standards substantiated abuse/neglect in one case.

Governor's Advisory Council on Disability Affairs (GACDA)

- GACDA will monitor the resolutions passed in the 2016 legislative session regarding accessibility.
- GACDA made the following recommendations:
 - For the Governor to issue the Employment First Executive Order. If the Executive Order is issued, GACDA will monitor implementation of the recommendations made by the Employment First Task Force.
 - For State Facility Planning staff to receive training on ADA compliance.

Meetings Attended (by Executive Director) Since April 4, 2016

Executive Committee – April 4

Disability Rights Day – April 5

Meeting with Michelle Alletto and Mark Thomas re: Act 378 services – April 8

House Appropriations Committee re: HB1 – April 12

Mtg with Dr. Rebekah Gee, Michelle Alletto, Mark Thomas, Delery Rice, Michelle Hurst – April 14

Governor's Advisory Council on Disability Affairs Legislative meeting – April 15

House Appropriations Committee/Yellow Shirt Day re: HB1 – April 18
Council meeting – April 20-21
Meeting with Rep. Leger re: HB 790 – April 26
House Health and Welfare Committee re: HB 790 – April 27
House Appropriations Committee re: HB1 – May 2
OCDD System Transformation Core Stakeholders Group – May 9
National Assn. of Councils on DD Self-Advocacy Conference Call – May 11
DD Network Collaboration – May 13
Senate Finance Committee/Yellow Shirt Day re: HB 1 – May 15
House Education Committee/Purple Shirt Day re: SBs 310 and 317 and HB 771 – May 18
Senate Finance Committee/Yellow Shirt Day re: HB 1 – May 27
Mtg w/ OBH Asst Secretary Dr. Jim Hussey and Dr. Janice Petersen re: Act 378 – June 1
Governor's Advisory Council on Disability Affairs – June 21
Meeting w/ Council members and other parent advocates – June 23
Meeting with Bambi Polotzola re: Act 378 – June 27
Legislative Debriefing for LaCAN, LaTEACH, FHF Leaders – June 29
Mtg with Dr. Rebekah Gee, Michelle Alletto, Mark Thomas, Delery Rice, Michelle Hurst – July 5