

**Executive Director's Report**  
**October 19-20, 2016 Council Meeting**

**Budget**

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

**Council's New Five Year Plan**

- Our new plan was submitted electronically to the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD) on August 15<sup>th</sup>. We have received notification that it has been approved for funding beginning October 1, 2016.

**Membership Update**

- Vickie Davis resigned from the Council in July, creating a second vacancy on the Council.
- After recruitment efforts in Regions 5 and 9 failed to net any applications from individuals with developmental disabilities, recruitment was expanded statewide, as one of our two vacancies must be filled by a self-advocate. Three applications from self-advocates were received. A Membership Committee will consider these, along with five parent applications, and make a recommendation to the full Council at the October meeting.

**Staff Changes**

- Brandi Jones Chatelain resigned effective September 30<sup>th</sup> to prepare for the arrival of her baby girl. Brandi was an extremely talented and dedicated employee who will be greatly missed.
- We have already advertised to fill her position through Civil Service and have received 137 applications! We will begin reviewing these applications and interviewing as soon as possible.

**Policy and Procedures**

- The Policy and Procedures Manual was updated to reflect the following changes in policy that were previously approved by the Council:
  - Council's new mission statement;
  - Council meeting packet will be emailed (rather than mailed) in advance and a hard copy will be provided at the meeting;
  - Revised Council member responsibilities.
- The updated Policy and Procedures Manual is posted on the Council's website and a hard copy will be included in the meeting packet.

**Flood Relief**

- In collaboration with Northshore Families Helping Families, a Flood Relief Fund for Individuals with Disabilities and their Families was established to assist individuals with disabilities and their families affected by the flood.
- To date \$12,375 was donated and \$9,458 has been provided to individuals with disabilities and their families.

**LaCAN/LaTEACH**

- The Council's Annual Legislative Kick Off was held for our LaCAN/LaTEACH advocacy leaders as well as the Families Helping Families (FHF) Directors. Information was shared and discussed on the state-of-the-state in home and community based services, employment, and education. The participants made recommendations for the Council to consider for its legislative advocacy agenda.
- The first training combining LaCAN and LaTEACH leaders was held in preparation for the merger of both networks. Leaders engaged in activities to enhance their skills in developing

and supporting grassroots advocacy members as well as developing relationships with policymakers.

### **The New LaCAN - Louisiana Council's Advocacy Network**

- The long anticipated launch of the combined advocacy network, LaCAN, was on October 1<sup>st</sup>. Preparations for this merger have been underway for almost two years and the changeover went live on the 1<sup>st</sup> on our website and Facebook.
- The new email sign up form is also operational, allowing interested persons to use one form to select email alerts on Home and Community Based Services/Employment, Education, and/or our LaDDC News.

### **Community and Family Support System Task Force**

- The task force met for a second time and has its third meeting scheduled for October 10<sup>th</sup>. Many recommendations are still under consideration but two have already been adopted:
  - Advocate for an additional appropriation to bring all Local Governing Entities (LGEs) to an equitable State General Fund (SGF) level based on population, poverty, and other factors yet to be determined
  - Establish a mandatory minimum percentage of LGE state general funding to be dedicated to Act 378 programs

### **Advocacy Activities and Provision of Information**

#### Community Supports

- Successfully advocated for the following in the Council's July 5<sup>th</sup> meeting with Dr. Rebekah Gee, Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) Secretary:
  - To offer people on the waiver waiting list currently residing in an ICF/DD a ROW waiver opportunity (or Supports Waiver depending on their level of need). This will be a pilot program serving 50 people. If someone's needs cannot be met with the ROW, OCDD will move to the next person on the list.
  - That OCDD be granted programmatic oversight of ICFs/DD.
- As decided at the July Council meeting, a letter was sent to Dr. Gee advocating for direct services with an enhanced rate be amended into all the DD waivers for people with the highest level of complex behavioral and/or medical support needs and that LDH seek funding for these services in its budget request for FY18.

#### Education

- As decided at the July Council meeting, a letter was sent to BESE requesting a public hearing to address concerns regarding the proposed rule changes in Bulletin 1922 – Compliance Monitoring Procedures. In general, the concerns focus on parental involvement in the monitoring processes for special education services.
- Supported parent advocates in providing testimony at the public hearing regarding Bulletin 1922 on September 29<sup>th</sup>. Robert Paddy presented the information that was included in the Council's letter.

#### Employment

- 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

- Provided information through LaDDC News on the following:
  - Changes for Waiver Recipients in Self-Direction
  - Recruitment of Applicants for Partners in Policymaking
  - Recruitment of Applicants for Council Membership Vacancies

- Provided information through Facebook on various issues of interest to people with developmental disabilities and their families. Most notably was the DSP recognition campaign in which we shared over 25 Facebook posts to recognize and raise public awareness of the importance of the direct support profession beginning in July. As of September 19<sup>th</sup>, these posts had a reach of 178,407 views and generated over 6,476 responses (likes, loves, etc.), 717 shares, and 206 comments.

## **Collaborative Efforts**

### OCDD System Transformation Core Stakeholders Group

- While assessing the needs of people on the waiver waiting list, OCDD's plan is to try and meet as many needs as possible with available resources such as Medicaid services and state funded Act 378 services.
- For this to work, the group provided the following input on needed improvements to Personal Care Services available through EPSDT:
  - Rates needs to be increased
  - Managed Care Organizations' role in defining what is medically necessary should be changed
  - Family members should be able to serve as the child's DSP
  - Remove restriction that the service must be provided in the home.

### OCDD Mortality Review Committee

- Of the 27 cases reviewed this quarter, the Committee requested additional information for six and noted no issues related to potential abuse/neglect.

### Governor's Advisory Council on Disability Affairs (GACDA)

- With the DD Council objecting, GACDA passed a motion deleting language in the draft Employment First Executive Order being sent to the Governor calling for "eliminating the general use of vocational programs not fully integrated within the general workforce, side-by-side with co-workers without disabilities."
- GACDA approved several recommendations to be sent to the Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP), BESE, and LDOE Superintendent White for changes to the SEAP bylaws:
  - To increase membership whereby no members serve dual roles;
  - To increase the length of the meetings to all-day;
  - To encourage public comment to reflect openness and responsiveness;
  - To establish task forces to address substantive issues and that such task forces consist of SEAP and non-SEAP members appointed by stakeholder groups and professional organizations with knowledge of the needs of students with disabilities;
  - Furthermore, that these task force members receive pertinent information and data in enough time to adequately study the information and gather input from their constituencies, receive guidance from LDOE on all policy components required by federal and/or state law, and receive copies of final LDOE-proposed policy/budget/guidance after providing input as a task force prior to the submission of the item to BESE for approval.

### Louisiana Rehabilitation Council (LRC)

- The LRC approved a change from two to single-day meetings on the last Thursday of the month, quarterly, beginning October, 2016. LRC meetings will continue to occur in Baton Rouge.

### Louisiana ABLE Act Board

- Reviewed and approved minor revisions to the Louisiana ABLE program's draft Notice of Intent. The Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA) will administer the program with the ABLE Board serving as an advisory board.

### OCDD Person Centered Workgroup

This group was established to:

- Provide input on making individual plans and supports more person-centered;
- Reframe how the system approaches developing and implementing individual supports through the use of person-centered thinking.

### **Meetings Attended (by Executive Director) Since July 5, 2016**

Meeting with Michael DeCaire with Central LA Human Services Authority – July 7

OCDD System Transformation Core Stakeholders Group – July 12

DD Network meeting on Employment – July 13

Council meeting – July 20-21

Community and Family Support System Task Force – July 27

LaCAN/LaTEACH Leaders Conference Call – August 11

Community and Family Support System Task Force – September 7

OCDD/DDC Direct Support Professional Partnership Conference Call – September 8

Governor's Advisory Council on Disability Affairs – September 20

LaCAN/LaTEACH Legislative KickOff – September 22