

Executive Director's Report
July 16 – 17, 2014 Council Meeting

Budget

- The budget report with expenditures through May 2014 is included in the packet.

Membership Update

- Stephen Osborn has left the Department of Education. We are awaiting the department's recommendation for his replacement on the Council.
- Allison Rouse resigned from the Council. The Membership Committee will meet on July 1st to recommend a replacement.
- The appointments of Bonnie Buckelew, Donnica Conway, Michelle Hurst, Delery Rice and Donna Spears and the reappointment of Kris Hebert are still pending.
- We have vacancies on the Council for representatives of the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD), the Department of Education, the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs, and the Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs.

DD Council Federal Appropriations

- The National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD) reports that the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies (which has jurisdiction over DD Council funding) has approved a \$156.8 billion FY15 spending bill, level with FY14 funding, but higher than the \$155.7 billion allocated in the House bill. The Subcommittee bill included a recommended additional \$1 million from FY14 for DD Councils. It is NACDD's understanding this increase is specifically for technical assistance and cross DD Council initiatives. The recommended allocation to the DD Councils would have to be approved by the full Senate Appropriations Committee, the full Senate and the House before becoming final.

Ad Hoc Committees

Two ad hoc committees met this quarter:

- The **Act 378 Consumer Care Resources Ad Hoc Committee** made recommendations for changes to the proposed Individual and Family Support/Consumer Care Resources policy manual developed by the Office of Behavioral Health (OBH) at the Council's request. The manual is currently under review by OBH Management.
- The **Executive Director Evaluation Process Ad Hoc Committee** developed draft recommendations to modify the current evaluation process. These recommendations will be presented to the full Council for consideration at the October meeting.

Advocacy/Legislative Activities and Provision of Information

- Planned and implemented LaCAN's advocacy campaign. With the exception of the effort to constitutionally protect supports and services, every item on the

Council's legislative agenda in regard to individual and family supports was achieved. As a result, approximately 1,200 individuals with developmental disabilities will receive waiver services; individuals in three regions of the state – mainly those on the waiting list and in urgent need of supports – will receive Individual and Family Support (IFS) services; the Council's funding for Families Helping Families (FHF) will be restored to its FY10 level; and La. Rehabilitation Services will not have to cut services. This was one of the Council's most successful years in recent history!

- Provided information and support to ten LaCAN members in testifying before the Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees in support of funding for waiver slots, IFS, FHF, and Vocational Rehabilitation Services. Provided information and support to four LaCAN members in testifying before the Senate Finance Committee in support of the protection of critical supports and services. Provided information to legislators and legislative staff on all of these programs. Organized seven “yellow shirt days” in these Committees and on the Senate Floor with a total of 204 LaCAN members attending.
- Planned and implemented LaTEACH's advocacy campaign. The Council succeeded in providing a pathway to promotion and a diploma for students with disabilities. This was a monumental accomplishment! While our efforts to improve the method by which the achievements of students with disabilities are counted in school performance scores and to change the funding formula in the Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) relating to students with disabilities did not succeed, legislators and BESE were fully educated on these issues.
 - Provided support to LaTEACH members in testifying before the House and Senate Education Committees in support of a pathway to promotion and graduation for students with disabilities. Provided information and support to legislators and legislative staff on this issue. Organized four “purple shirt days” in these Committees and on the House Floor with a total of 122 LaTEACH members attending. Provided support to the LaTEACH Statewide Coordinator in testifying before the Senate Education Committee on how the proposed funding formula included in the MFP will impact students with disabilities.
- Provided support to LaTEACH members in testifying before BESE on the MFP and promotion policies.
- Letters were written and sent to legislators expressing concern or support for Priority 1 and 2 issues on the Council's legislative list and action alerts were released for Priority 1 issues. A list with the outcome of all legislation the Council tracked and/or advocated for is included in the meeting packet.
- In response to the Update on Managed Long Term Supports and Services (MLTSS) from the Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH), a letter was sent to Secretary Kathy Kliebert outlining where the update was aligned with the Council's positions on MLTSS and where changes or more specificity is needed.
- Recommendations/comments that were developed at the April Council meeting in regard to the State's plan for IDEA Part B activities were submitted to the Department of Education.

- Advocated/discussed the following issues in the Council's quarterly meeting with DHH Secretary Kliebert and in subsequent phone calls:
 - Availability of and criteria for Emergency Waiver Slots
 - Online Provider Data
 - La. Special Education Center
 - The inclusion (or not) of EarlySteps in MLTSS
 - Council's Legislative Agenda
 - DHH's Legislative Agenda
- Provided two webinars on Diploma Pathways. Provided a presentation on Effective Advocacy at the Inclusion Matters 2014 Conference.
- 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 and education. 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.
- Discussed the Dept. of Education's role on the Council and working collaboratively to improve outcomes for students with disabilities with Superintendent John White.

Collaborative Efforts

Advocacy Coalition to Protect Critical Services

- The Council, the Advocacy Center and AARP jointly led the coalition of 24 advocacy and trade organizations to try and protect supports and services for vulnerable populations from a disproportionate share of future budget cuts. While the legislature did not pass the constitutional amendment, the coalition plans to continue to discuss other options.

OCDD System Transformation Core Work Group

- Validation of the waiver waiting list is almost complete. There are 13,047 people who remain on the list at this time. Eighty-eight percent of those are Medicaid eligible; 4,826 of those waiting receive some type of services. For additional data on the waiting list and more about system transformation go to: <http://www.dhh.louisiana.gov/assets/docs/OCDD/SystemTransformation/StakeholdermeetingPowerPoint062414.pdf>
- As a requirement for the federally funded Balancing Incentive Program, DHH is developing a uniform screening process for OCDD, OBH and the Office of Aging and Adult Services (OAAS) and revising the Developmental Disabilities System Entry process. The core group reviewed the draft screening and entry process and made recommendations for changes.
- The purpose of the screen is to identify likely candidates for MLTSS and send a referral directly to the appropriate agency. This process is intended to "close the loop" in eligibility. If an individual does not meet the criteria for one office, but meets it for another, the referral and all of their data will be sent to the appropriate office.

Louisiana Housing Corporation's Fair Housing Task Force

- This new Task Force was created to ensure that fair housing federal guidelines are met. Task Force members include organizations from across Louisiana that represent affordable housing, urban and rural planning, individuals with disabilities, mortgage lenders and others.

Louisiana Rehabilitation Council (LRC)

The LRC

- Successfully advocated with the legislature for restoration of funds to La. Rehabilitation Services (LRS) that were cut in the Executive Budget,
- Voted to request reports from LA Workforce Commission (LWC) on its HiRE and STAR systems in order to assist LRS consumers to have greater access to potential employers,
- Voted to request reports from LWC's Office of Workforce Development and its Disability Navigator Program and Disability Employment Initiative,
- Continued to request that LRS re-open a local office on Orleans Parish's east bank, and
- Elected new officers. Derek White ended his term as Chairperson on May 31st.

OCDD Mortality Review Committee

- Of the 59 cases reviewed this quarter, the Committee referred two to Health Standards related to possible abuse/neglect and noted one in which an allegation of abuse/neglect against the provider was confirmed for failure to document signs and symptoms of a medical issue and seek timely medical care.

Louisiana APSE Chapter

- The Public Policy Committee continued to meet to develop a proposal creating a way forward for making Louisiana an Employment First state.
- Elections were held and Derek White was elected President.

State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC)

- As required by the U.S. Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), LA is developing a Statewide System Improvement Plan (SSIP) that includes specific activities and areas that must be included. The SICC and its work groups are providing input into the development of the SSIP.
- EarlySteps just received its determination for this year's annual performance of "Meets Requirements," the highest rating given by OSEP.

National Disability Employment Awareness Month Coalition

- Representatives of several advocacy groups met at the Advocacy Center to discuss strategies to promote employment of people with disabilities in conjunction with National Disability Employment Awareness Month in October.

Meetings Attended Since April 1, 2014

OCDD System Transformation Large Stakeholders Group – March 31
House Appropriations Committee re: DHH/DD Council budget – April 1

Meeting with Catherine Maraist with the Dept. of Justice – April 3
Conference Call with Advocacy Coalition to Protect Critical Services – April 4
Meeting with BESE Member Holly Boffy and Michelle Hurst – April 4
Senate Finance Committee re: DHH/DD Council budget – April 7
Meeting w/ Rep. Schroder, Dept. of Education, Holly Boffy, parents re: HB1015 – April 7
State Interagency Coordinating Council – April 9
Meeting w/ Well Care re: Managed Long Term Supports & Services (MLTSS) – April 10
Conference Call with Advocacy Coalition to Protect Critical Services – April 11
House Appropriations Committee for Public Testimony on HB1 – April 14
Council meeting – April 16-17
Meeting w/ Rep. Schroder, Supt. John White, parents re: HB1015 – April 22
Senate Health and Welfare Committee re: Medicaid Expansion – April 23
OCDD System Transformation Core Stakeholders Group – April 25
Meeting with Sec. Kliebert, Mark Thomas, Kay Marcel – April 25
Senate Finance Committee re: SB355 – April 28
House Appropriations Committee re: HB1 – April 28
House Education Committee re: HB1015 and 993 – April 29
Meeting w/ Rep. Schroder, Supt. White, parents re: HB1015 – April 30
Senate Floor re: SB355 – May 5
Conference call with Human Development Center re: HB1015 – May 6
Conference Call with Advocacy Coalition to Protect Critical Services – May 7
House Floor re: HB1015 – May 7
Act 378 Ad Hoc Committee – May 9
Executive Committee – May 14
Senate Education Committee re: HB1015 – May 22
Senate Finance Committee for Public Testimony on HB1 – May 23
Senate Finance Committee re: HB1 – May 25
Executive Committee – May 27
Meeting with OBH re: Act 378 Ad Hoc Recommendations – May 30
Conference call with FHF of Southeast LA Board – June 2
Legislative Debriefing for LaCAN, LaTEACH, FHF – June 19
Executive Director Evaluation Process Ad Hoc Committee – June 25
Meeting with Supt. John White, Kay Marcel – June 26
OCDD System Transformation Core Stakeholders Group – June 27