

**Executive Director's Report
October 16-17, 2013 Council Meeting**

Budget

- The budget report with expenditures through September 2013 is included in the packet.

Membership Update

- Since my last written report, I learned of Ruth Kennedy's resignation from the Council. Lou Ann Owen, Deputy Medicaid Director, has been recommended to the Governor for appointment to replace Ruth.
- I was informed that Jason Durham and Rickii Ainey will not be appointed to the Council. Two remaining positions remain to be filled. Melinda Ganes' name was resubmitted and Paula Moreau's name was submitted as the Council's recommendations to the Governor.
- Brandon Burris' term ended September 30th. His name was submitted to the Governor's Office for reappointment.

DD Council Federal Appropriations

- DD Councils across the country received a cut in their Federal Fiscal Year 2013 (FFY13) grant awards due to sequestration. Our Council's allotment for FFY13 was \$1,328,158 which amounted to an \$83,400 reduction from the previous year.
- There is no agreement in Congress on a spending bill yet for FY14 however we have been informed by the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD) that no changes are expected in the near future for DD Council funding.

New Officer Orientation

- The new Executive Committee was provided an informal training to orient them to the Executive Committee and their new leadership roles on the Council.

LaCAN/LaTEACH

- The Council's Annual Legislative Debriefing was held for our LaCAN/LaTEACH advocacy leaders as well as the Families Helping Families Directors and People First Executive Director. This event is an opportunity to reflect on what we as an advocacy network did well during the session and what we need to improve upon in the future.
- The LaCAN/LaTEACH Regional Leaders also gathered for a day-long training to review the previous year's data and overall performance. The group discussed and updated the Advocacy Leaders' Responsibilities and Expectations.

2013 Advocacy Leadership Conference – Together One Voice

Two nationally known speakers and four legislators will speak at the Council's advocacy conference on October 29th. Topics include:

- Grassroots Advocacy
- Effective Communication

- Networking and Relationship Building
- Advocacy in the Social Media Age
- The Power of the Collective Voice

Check out the full agenda on our website. If you are not already registered, there is still time. Don't miss out!

Advocacy/Informational Activities

- Provided information and recommendations (through *LaDDC News* and *LaCAN*) to assist individuals with disabilities, family members and advocates in understanding and developing a response to the Department of Health and Hospitals' (DHH) concept paper on managed care for long term supports and services.
- Provided support to the parent of a child with a disability testifying at the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) meeting on the impact of closing a school rated as failing that was providing appropriate supports and services to her child. Shared information regarding how failing schools tend to have disproportionately high percentages of students with disabilities relative to schools rated as 'A' and 'B' schools and how this creates a situation in which the process of closing these schools disproportionately disrupts continuity in a school for students with disabilities.
- Recommended BESE consider increasing representation of parents with students with disabilities on the Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) Task Force. BESE did not increase the size or change the make-up of the MFP Task force but did include Ashley McReynolds as an alternate to Rana Ottallah (in her absence).
- Provided support to six parents testifying to the MFP Task Force and provided information regarding various models and implications of funding formula used by other states. At the September 4th meeting the Task Force requested for the Department of Education to research and share the actual cost of providing services to students and determine inequities caused from using different funding formula across school systems. Multiple Task Force members indicated how the information presented at the September 23rd meeting did not provide the actual costs of educating students as requested and requested additional information on costs.
- Provided a webinar to fulfill requests by parents seeking additional information on education funding.
- Provided information (through *LaDDC News* and *LaCAN*) to individuals with disabilities and family members on DHH's planned changes to the Medicaid Purchase Plan, Disability Medicaid and the LaMOMS program.

Collaborative Efforts

Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) System Transformation Work Group

- The following ideas were discussed to address the waiting list and serve more people in home and community based services:

- prioritize the waiting list based on need;
- provide exactly what an individual needs, when they need it – which may not necessarily be waiver services;
- remove people from the list who are receiving other services that currently meet their needs, those who do not currently have a need for services, and those who live in residential settings;
- move from four waivers to one;
- provide front end support coordination.
- Research is being done on eligibility for home and community based services and waiting lists in other states

OCDD Mortality Review Committee (MRC)

- Of the 38 cases reviewed this quarter, the Committee noted Health Standards substantiated neglect in two cases related to recognizing signs of medical problems and follow-up; one case related to recognizing and responding to medical emergencies that require an immediate call to 911 and adherence to the individual's prescribed medical regimen/intervention; and one case related to inappropriate feeding and monitoring in which the provider was found for immediate jeopardy on several counts for the individual who passed away and for other individuals sampled.
- Further, the MRC requested corrective action plans for issues regarding treatment and monitoring of medical issues for one individual; the insufficient addressing of repeated choking incidents in one individual's Comprehensive Plan of Care (CPOC); and the assigning of responsibilities to the mother of one waiver recipient that the mother was not physically able to perform.

Lifetime Respite Coalition

- Participants discussed ways to raise public awareness about the need for respite services, including a public service announcement. Participants also discussed strategies for sharing this need with policymakers, such as, through story cards and legislative visits.

La. Rehabilitation Council (LRC)

- Recent appointments to the LRC have brought it nearly into compliance with its membership mandates. Officer elections were held and Derek White was re-elected Chairperson for another year.
- The LRC approved:
 - an Action Plan
 - a letter to provide information to the U.S. Department of Education concerning its federal registry entry regarding the re-interpretation of the word 'reservation' in the Rehabilitation Act as suggested by a report from the Government Accountability Office,
 - a plan to disseminate its triennial consumer satisfaction survey,
 - a decision to revamp La. Rehabilitation Services (LRS) data reports for its committees.

LRS Employment Initiative Steering Committee

- Reviewed recommendations from committees including documentation of sobriety for people with substance abuse issues, revisions to how secondary disability is handled, and the issue of paying for advance degrees.

Louisiana APSE Chapter Board

- Approved support of two employment-related conferences including the National Association of Multicultural Rehabilitation Concerns conference in New Orleans July 25-27 and the Louisiana Rehabilitation Association conference November 13-15 in Baton Rouge

Louisiana Oral Health Coalition

- The coalition is developing a new 5 year plan. An objective addressing Medicaid was rewritten to include people with disabilities.

BrightStart Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC)

- The BrightStart grant ended August 31, 2013 so the BrightStart ECAC no longer exists. By Executive Order, the State's ECAC is now under the Children's Cabinet.
- The ECAC will have members as noted in Act 3 and in the executive order and all members will be appointed or re-appointed to the new ECAC to work on Act 3 issues under the Children's Cabinet.

BrightStart Inclusion Workgroup

- Recommendations will be made to Early Childhood Advisory Council workgroups and pilot sites. Inclusion Workgroup members who are on Pilot Leadership Teams will report back to the workgroup with the data and issues presented by the pilots. Trends from data will be shared with DD Council for advocacy.
- The workgroup is requesting the following information be collected from the pilots:
 - Number of children with IFSPs/IEPs in pilots
 - Number of children enrolled in early childhood programs
 - Numbers which are identified from assessment and referred and qualify
 - Drop outs, transitions, unmet needs
 - For children in EarlySteps, what services are the children getting at 3?
 - Number of children who don't have IFSPs, but not reaching Teaching Strategies Gold outcomes.
 - What will happen with expected growth data for individual children when not meeting expectations?
 - Were there referrals generated from the list of children who did not meet expectations?
 - Are the pilots using the strategies regarding children with disabilities as described in their proposals?

State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC)

- A planning meeting was held to discuss Phase 1 of the Statewide System Improvement Process, a performance indicator from the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) to improve child outcomes. The SICC will suspend its standing committees while workgroups move forward in three areas:
 - Professional Development
 - Equity within the System
 - Outcomes

Other Collaborative Efforts

Special Education Advisory Panel

Governor's Advisory Council on Disability Affairs

Meetings Attended Since July 1, 2013

Employment First Rate Sub-Committee – July 1

OCDD Employment First Work Group – July 2

State Interagency Coordinating Council – July 10

Meeting with Sec. Kliebert, L. Brackin, S. Beech, K. Marcel – July 17

Council Meeting – July 17 – 18

OCDD System Transformation Stakeholders – July 19

LaCAN/LaTEACH Legislative Debriefing – July 23

Executive Committee – July 29

Advocacy Conference Planning Committee – August 8

LaCAN/LaTEACH Leader Training – August 9

Meeting with United Health Care Plan President and CEO – August 9

Staff Retreat – August 15

DD Council Executive Directors' Conference Call – August 22

OCDD System Transformation Stakeholders Work Group – August 23

Medicaid Purchase Plan Conference Call – August 29

Monthly meeting with Laura Brackin – August 30

NACDD Social Media Webinar – September 5

Advocacy Conference Planning Call with speaker Marcia Avner – September 9

Executive Committee – September 11

New Officer Orientation – September 11

Meeting w/ Allan Bergman re: Managed Long Term Supports & Services (MLTSS) – September 12

Monthly meeting with Laura Brackin – September 17

Advocacy Strategy Meeting re: HB532, 533 and SB76 – September 20

Meeting w/ FHF-GBR Staff on MLTSS – September 23

OCDD System Transformation Stakeholders Work Group – September 27