

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

Budget

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

Membership Update

- The Membership Committee met on March 27th and selected Delery Rice, a parent of a child with Down Syndrome from Region X. Her name was submitted to the Governor to fill an immediate vacancy.

Ad Hoc Committees

Three ad hoc committees met this quarter:

- The **Planning Ad Hoc Committee** made recommendations for changes to contractual and non-contractual activities for the FFY15 plan. These recommendations will be considered by the full Council at the April meeting.
- The **Council Format Ad Hoc Committee** developed recommendations to modify the current Council meeting format to better achieve systems change. These recommendations will be presented to the full Council for consideration at the April meeting.
- The **Partners in Policymaking Ad Hoc Committee** developed recommendations to improve recruitment of applicants and keep graduates engaged in systems change advocacy. These will be considered by the Self Determination/Community Inclusion/Housing Committee at its April meeting.

Advocacy Activities

- Numerous legislators have been visited to provide information on issues important to people with developmental disabilities and their families and to provide support to some of our Council members and LaCAN/LaTEACH members.
- Council staff participated in nine roundtables to support our LaCAN/LaTEACH Leaders and assist in educating legislators on the Council's agenda throughout the state.
- Letters were written and sent to legislators expressing concern or support for issues important to people with developmental disabilities and their families.
- Advocated/discussed the following issues in the Council's quarterly meeting with DHH Secretary Kathy Kliebert (these were verbally reported at the January meeting):
 - Medication Administration for People in Self Direction
 - Online Provider Data
 - Amending the Supports Waiver
 - Council's Legislative Agenda
 - DHH's Legislative Agenda

- Provided information to BESE that inequities in the Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) distributions across school systems for students with disabilities continue to be unresolved.
- Provided presentation to the Special Education Advisory Panel on redefining success for students with disabilities through changing criteria for promotion and earning a diploma and making adjustments to the school performance score to account for progress on goals on students IEPs. Assisted parents with sharing perspectives of the proposed MFP and annual performance report for students with disabilities.

2014 Disability Rights Rally

- Our annual rally was held on the Capitol steps on March 19th. We have confirmation of 422 people in attendance, but that number is an under-representation since some people miss our sign-in sheets. In addition to the two legislators who were on the agenda to speak, several others took the microphone to express support for the services people with developmental disabilities need to live in their own homes.
- In addition to gathering on the steps for the rally, participants were able to speak individually with legislators who came out of committee meetings or off the floor to discuss our issues.
- There was press coverage of the rally and issues on the Council's legislative agenda in Lake Charles, Shreveport and Baton Rouge.

Collaborative Efforts

OCDD System Transformation Core Work Group

- Advocated to maintain current policy/procedures in the Flexible Family Fund program
- Provided recommendations regarding how to implement the interim assessment OCDD plans to complete on people on the waiver waiting list. The information obtained from this assessment will be used to develop a prioritization system for the waiting list and to guide the design of the Managed Long Term Supports and Services (MLTSS) system so it will meet the needs of recipients. Residents of ICFs/DD and nursing homes on the waiting list will not participate in this interim assessment, however a validation process is being used to determine their interest in remaining active on the list.
- Provided recommendations regarding the array of service options that should be included in the MLTSS system

Managed Long Term Supports and Services (MLTSS) Advisory Group

Provided recommendations to achieve the state's rebalancing goals:

- Provide financial incentives or assessing financial penalties for plans that fail to meet rebalancing goals.
- Design rate structures which incentivize rebalancing,
- Continue to participate in CMS initiatives such as Money Follows the Person and the Balancing Incentive Program

- Require the Managed Care Organizations (MCO) to employ people with experience in serving people with DD in their own homes in the community and share the philosophy that ALL people with DD can live successfully in their own homes with appropriate supports. Language to this effect should be included in the RFP and contract.
- Hold the MCO accountable for compliance with the integration mandate in the ADA. If someone with significant needs wants to live in their own home but can be served at less cost in an institutional setting, the individual's choice to live at home must be honored and protected. The integration mandate should be included in the RFP and MCO contract.
- Any savings from rebalancing should be used to serve people on the waiting list. Provided recommendations regarding a wide array of supports and services that should be included in the MLTSS system.

Advocacy Coalition to Protect Critical Services

- Developed a proposal and fact sheet to educate legislators on the need to protect funding for services for vulnerable populations in light of the constitutional amendment approved by the 2013 Legislature to protect nursing homes and ICFs/DD and the one currently being proposed to protect higher education.

Louisiana Rehabilitation Council (LRC)

The LRC approved:

- Joining a coalition of advocates to inform policy makers of the benefit of protecting certain programs, including VR, for people with disabilities, contingent upon support from the La. Workforce Commission (LWC),
- Support of a plan to provide students with disabilities a diploma pathway as proposed by the Louisiana Association of Special Education Administrators, the DD Council, and others,
- Writing a letter of support of La. Rehabilitation Services' placement in LWC (if needed)

OCDD Mortality Review Committee

- Of the 36 cases reviewed this quarter, the committee noted two issues of abuse/neglect and these allegations have already been substantiated by Health Standards. In one of the cases, the committee recommended referral to Adult Protective Services.
- No corrective action plans were requested by the committee this quarter.

Louisiana APSE Chapter

- The Public Policy Committee met to draft a proposal creating a way forward for making Louisiana an Employment First state.

Project WORC (Work Opportunity through Resource and Capacity Building)

- Provided input to the project on how to outreach to African-American students in Louisiana who have Emotional, Intellectual and/or Behavioral Disabilities and who have an Individual Plan for Employment (IPE) with LRS.

Meetings Attended Since January 1, 2014

Meeting with Sen. Mills re: protecting critical services – January 6
Meeting with Sec. Kliebert, M. Thomas – January 7
Conference Call with Advocacy Coalition to Protect Critical Services – January 7
State Interagency Coordinating Council – January 8
Meeting with Hugh Eley re: Combining Comm. & Family Support and State Personal Assistance Services (SPAS) – January 9
Managed Long Term Supports and Services (MLTSS) Advisory Group – January 9
Presentation at Partners in Policymaking – January 9
Council Meeting and Orientation – January 14 – 16
Region 9 Roundtable in Mandeville – January 21
Advocacy Coalition to Protect Critical Services – January 23
DHH Press Conference re: funding for waiver slots – January 23
Planning Ad Hoc Committee – February 6
OCDD System Transformation Core Stakeholders Group – February 10
Region 2 Roundtable – February 11
Region 1 and 10 Roundtable in New Orleans – February 12
Meeting w/ The Advocate's Editorial Board re: protecting critical services – February 12
Region 3 Roundtable in Gray – February 17
Conference Call with Kay and Sam re: Council Format – February 18
Council Format Ad Hoc Committee – February 20
Conference Call with Advocacy Coalition to Protect Critical Services – February 21
Partners in Policymaking Ad Hoc Committee – February 24
Meeting w/ Kay and Dr. Rochelle Dunham re: Consumer Care Resources – February 25
OCDD System Transformation Core Stakeholders Group – February 28
Executive Committee – March 5
Advocacy Coalition to Protect Critical Services – March 6
House Health and Welfare Committee re: HB185 – March 12
Interview on Tune-In morning TV show to promote the rally – March 13
OCDD System Transformation Core Stakeholders Group – March 14
LaCAN Leaders Monthly Conference Call – March 14
Interview on Jim Engster radio show to promote the rally – March 17
Disability Rights Rally – March 19
Meeting with Sen. Mills re: protecting critical services – March 19
Conference Call with Advocacy Coalition to Protect Critical Services – March 21
Meeting with Magellan re: MLTSS – March 26
Membership Committee – March 27
OCDD System Transformation Core Stakeholders Group – March 28