

**Executive Director's Report**  
**January 18-19, 2017 Council Meeting**

**Budget**

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

**Program Performance Review (PPR)**

- Our Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2016 PPR was due to the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD) on January 1<sup>st</sup>. This was submitted before the Christmas holidays.

**Membership Update**

- The Governor appointed Hilary Bordelon and Jill Egle' on November 9<sup>th</sup> to fill the two vacancies on the Council. The appointment of Sharon Buchert to represent the Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs is still pending.
- Dr. Phil Wilson has submitted his resignation from the Council and designated Dr. Alan Coulter to represent the Human Development Center. His appointment by the Governor is also pending.

**Council Member Orientation**

- Three of our newest Council members and one individual awaiting appointment will participate in an orientation session at the Council office in January prior to the Council meeting.

**Staff Changes**

- On November 21<sup>st</sup> Brenton Andrus was promoted into the Program Manager position left vacant by Brandi Jones Chatelain.
- We have hired De'Van Stephenson and Rodney Anthony to fill our two Program Monitor positions. They both began work with us on January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**LaCAN**

- Fact sheets were developed on four of the issues the Council adopted for its legislative/advocacy agenda and are available on our website [here](#).
- The fact sheets will be sent to all legislators with a cover letter introducing the Council's advocacy agenda on January 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Our LaCAN Leaders are in the process of scheduling legislative visits and making plans for the 2017 Legislative Roundtables. The schedule of Roundtables can be found on the homepage of our website [here](#). Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

**Community and Family Support System (CFSS) Task Force Recommendations**

- Bambi Polotzola and I met with the Executive Directors of the Human Services Districts/Authorities on December 15<sup>th</sup> to discuss the task force's recommendations, specifically that the Council would be advocating for the following:
  - An additional appropriation to bring all Local Governing Entities (LGEs) to an equitable State General Fund (SGF) level;
  - To establish a mandatory minimum percentage of LGE state general funding to be dedicated to Act 378 programs.
- We requested that they take these recommendations back to their boards and send feedback to me by January 20<sup>th</sup>.

## **Families Helping Families (FHF) Ad-Hoc Committee**

- Committee met to discuss how the Council can better support the FHF Centers' capacity to provide the same level and quality of service to all individuals with disabilities and their families.
- Members determined what characteristics a Center should have to be effective and provide high quality services.
- Recommendations on how the Council could support the Centers were developed and will be presented to the Self-Determination/Community Inclusion Committee in January.

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

### Community Supports

- Advocated with Commissioner of Administration Jay Dardenne to include full funding for Families Helping Families in the Council's budget when the Governor's FY 18 Executive Budget is released.
- Advocated for the following in the Council's October 4<sup>th</sup> meeting with Dr. Rebekah Gee, Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) Secretary. (This was reported at the October meeting)
  - The Community and Family Support System Task Force recommendations
  - The need for an enhanced waiver rate for individuals with complex behavioral and/or medical needs
  - The inclusion of funding for waiver slots in LDH's budget request
  - The need for an increased rate and policy changes in the EPSDT personal care services program
- Advocated for an additional appropriation to bring all districts/authorities to an equitable State General Fund (SGF) level and that a mandatory minimum percentage of districts/authorities' state general funding be dedicated to Act 378 programs in meetings with LDH Deputy Secretary Michelle Alletto and the Governor's Health Policy Advisor Steve Spires.

### Education

- Provided comparative review of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and No Child Left Behind on Governor Edwards' Advisory Council on ESSA and developed recommendations related to supporting schools. Shawn chaired the Subcommittee on Supports for Struggling Schools.
- Advocated for Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) to construct an accountability system with universal design features allowing value added for schools appropriately serving any student, regardless of need and starting achievement levels. BESE is considering how to address flaws in the accountability system highlighted by schools serving high rates of students with disabilities.
- Advocated for La. Department of Education (LDOE) to continue work on alternate standards until the standards are perceived as meaningful for students with significant cognitive disabilities.
- Met with BESE and LDOE requesting information on contractual activities using IDEA funding be provided to the Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP) over the course of the year. LDOE agreed this information would be provided.
- On the Advisory Council on Student Behavior and Discipline, advocated for LDOE to provide information on how data from Local Education Agencies are validated and for the advisory council to focus on recommendations to LDOE/BESE regarding how to support schools implementing their Discipline Plans according to the Model Master Discipline Plan.

### 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.

- Provided input on making the individual planning process for waiver participants more person-focused and more in keeping with the Council's position and OCDD's position on Employment First at the OCDD Person Centered Workgroup meeting.

### General

- Provided information through LaDDC News on the following:
  - Recruitment of Self-Direction Mentors
  - Disability Employment Awareness Month
  - 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 Disability Employment Awareness Month campaign when we highlighted and promoted the employment of people with disabilities throughout October. A total of 3,110 reacted to this campaign by liking, sharing or commenting on the posts.

### **Collaborative Efforts**

#### OCDD System Transformation Core Stakeholders Group

- Provided input on OCDD's plan to communicate the assessment of need and prioritization of the waiver waiting list to those waiting for services

#### OCDD Mortality Review Committee

- Of the 25 cases reviewed this quarter, the Committee requested additional information for one case and noted several confirmed allegations of neglect against one direct support provider.

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

- GACDA approved the following legislative agenda recommendations:
  - fully fund LA Rehabilitation Services
  - legislation seeking to rebalance resources for telecommunication services from landlines to cellular service
- GACDA also approved motions to:
  - develop a transportation survey to determine the needs of individuals with disabilities
  - discuss with the Governor's policy department legislation eliminating the use of corporal punishment on students with disabilities
  - request the Governor take steps to advance Employment First initiatives and make Louisiana a model employer

### **Meetings Attended (by Executive Director) Since October 4, 2016**

Meeting with Dr. Rebekah Gee, Michelle Alletto, Mark Thomas, Delery Rice, Michelle Hurst – October 4  
 OCDD System Transformation Core Stakeholders Group – October 4  
 Community and Family Support System Task Force – October 10  
 Membership Committee – October 11  
 Conference call with Office of Behavioral Health re: Act 378 – October 11  
 Budget meeting with LDH – October 12  
 State Interagency Coordinating Council – October 13  
 Council meeting – October 19-20  
 Meeting with John White, Jamie Wong, Delery Rice, Bonnie Buckelew, Shawn Fleming – October 31  
 Meeting with Michelle Alletto, Mark Thomas, Janice Peterson re: CFSS recommendations – November 3  
 Meeting with Commissioner Jay Dardenne, Bambi Polotzola re: FHF funding – November 4  
 Meeting with Robin Wagner, Julie Foster, Brenton Andrus re: housing – November 4

LaCAN Leader Training – November 10

GOLD Awards Ceremony – November 16

Meeting with Steve Spires re: CFSS recommendations – November 16

Families Helping Families Ad Hoc Committee – November 29

OCDD/DDC Direct Support Professional Partnership Conference Call – November 30

Human Services Interagency Council – December 15