

## **Governor's Office of Disability Affairs**

### **Quarterly DD Council Report September 23, 2014**

The Governor's Advisory Council on Disability Affairs met on September 3, 2014. The Council heard presentations on MLTSS (Managed Long-term Supports and Services), the Secretary of State's Disability Program for voting, and the 2014 Disability Works Job Fairs. Resources from the council's meeting can be found on GODA's website. October is Disability Employment Awareness Month. In addition to having worked with the Louisiana Workforce Commission on the proclamation, GODA plans on having a constituent services representative at a number of job fairs, visiting the independent living centers, and continuing to reach out to workforce stakeholders. The next Advisory Council meeting is scheduled for December 3, 2014.

The Statewide Independent Living Council was established to support the efforts of citizens with disabilities to live independently in the community of their choice. At their quarterly meeting on October 9, the council discussed ways to promote awareness of independent living initiatives and heard from stakeholders from disability councils across the state. The council is currently seeking membership applications for: 1.) Advocates of, and for, individuals with a disability 2.) Representatives from a private business. If you know of someone who may be interested in applying, please contact [laura.meaux@la.gov](mailto:laura.meaux@la.gov).

The Governor's Outstanding Leadership in Disabilities (GOLD) Awards Ceremony will be held on November 12, 2014 at the Old State Capitol. The event honors individuals, organizations, agencies and employers whose contributions have advanced the opportunities of individuals with disabilities or for those who have been selfless in serving the disability community in Louisiana. The 2014 Awards are: Educator of the Year, Volunteer of the Year, Direct Support Professional of the Year, Veteran of the Year, Service Animal of the Year, Family of the Year, Employer of the Year, Youth of the Year, Patsy Barrett Memorial Award, Ken Vince Memorial Award, and the Distinguished Merit Award. For more information on the event, please contact [jamar.ennis@la.gov](mailto:jamar.ennis@la.gov).

The Governor's Office of Disability Affairs' Inclusive Art Show was held this past August at the Governor's Mansion. The art helps bring greater awareness of the importance of inclusion in today's society. Award winning pieces are often loaned to exhibits across the state. For more information on participating in the show or showcasing the art, please contact [sara.spencer@la.gov](mailto:sara.spencer@la.gov).



(2014 Inclusive Art participants)