

Governor's Office of Disability Affairs

Report to the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council

June 30, 2017

Legislation signed into law by Governor Edwards

HB 79	Foil, Franklin	Prohibits corporal punishment for certain students with exceptionalities.
HB 253	Smith, Patricia	Revises terminology referring to the deaf and hard of hearing.
HB 337	Stokes, Julie	Provides for an individual income tax credit for improvements made to residences of people with certain disabilities.
HB 582	Smith, Patricia	Provides relative to the telecommunications tax for the deaf.
SB 152	Carter, Troy	Provides relative to identification of Special Needs Person and law enforcement training regarding mental health.
SB 58	Mills, Fred	Provides relative to statewide human services districts & authorities.

Employment First Workgroup

Meetings were held monthly from February through June. David Hoff from UMass, an employment first expert facilitated the meetings. A report with recommendations was drafted and is being finalized by David Hoff. The report will be available to be utilized for advocacy, planning, and monitoring.

ADA Symposium

The ADA Symposium is scheduled for July 26, 2017 at the Claiborne Building in Baton Rouge. Accessology will present in the morning regarding legal requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. There will be breakout sessions in the afternoon regarding a more in-depth look into employing people with different abilities in business and government, impacting communities through local disability awareness councils, and programmatic possibilities in higher education. The target audience will be local, parish, and state government, post-secondary institutions, businesses, community organizations, religious organizations, people with disabilities and/or access and functional needs as well as their advocates. To RSVP, register [here](#).

GOLD Awards

GODA will host the Governor's Outstanding Leadership in Disabilities (GOLD) Awards on November 15, at the Old State Capitol. Two new awards this year are the Elected Official of the Year and the Public Servant of the Year. The deadline for submitting nominations is Monday, October 2nd, 2017. [Click here to download the nomination packet.](#)

Inclusive Arts Contest

"Together We Succeed" is the theme of this year's contest. All entries must be received by September 1. Details are available at <http://gov.louisiana.gov/page/disability-affairs>.

Website: Newsletters, Statewide Events Calendar, & Resource List

The Governor's Office of Disability Affairs publishes a monthly newsletter, has a statewide events calendar, and a resource list which is posted on the Governor's webpage at <http://gov.louisiana.gov/page/disability-affairs>.