

Governor's Office of Disability Affairs

Report to the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council

September 30, 2016

Governor's Office Leadership in Disabilities (GOLD) Awards

The Governor's Office of Disability Affairs will host the 2016 Governor's Outstanding Leadership in Disabilities (GOLD) Awards on November 16, 2016 at the Old State Capitol. The GOLD Awards is an opportunity for Louisiana to pay tribute to the achievements and dedication of individuals in the disability community. These awards are as follows:

Distinguished Merit Award	Patsy Barrett Memorial Award
Ken Vince Memorial Award	Educator of the Year
Youth of the Year	Family of the Year
Volunteer of the Year	Employer of the Year
Service Provider of the Year	Direct Support Professional of the Year
Veteran of the Year	Service Animal of the Year

Winners of the Inclusive Arts Contest will also be recognized at the GOLD Awards.

Governor's Advisory Council on Disability Affairs (GACDA)

GACDA met on June 21, 2016, at the state capitol. The recommendations and discussions were:

Accessibility committee recommended drafting a letter to FEMA to include in their interview assessment to survivors questions in regards to access and functional needs.

Education committee recommended drafting a letter to the Special Education Advisory Panel with recommendations to be considered in their current review of their bylaws;

Employment committee discussed promoting National Disability Employment Awareness Month (#LaNDEAM) during the month of October with partners.

Transportation committee recommended developing a survey to help identify transportation needs and resources for people with disabilities by geographic location.

The next meeting is scheduled for December 6.

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Louisiana Emergency Management Disability and Aging Coalition

The Louisiana Emergency Management Disability and Aging Coalition (EMDAC) has been aggressively working throughout the flood rescue and recovery. The mission of EMDAC is to advocate for and support emergency management efforts that serve all people in Louisiana, particularly people with disabilities and those who are aging. The goal of EMDAC is to serve as a collaborative resource, so that appropriate emergency management-related services and supports are equally accessible to people with disabilities and those who are aging.

Numerous non-profits, GOHSEP, the Advocacy Center, state and federal agencies, individuals and others worked rescue and continue to work recovery efforts for people with disabilities and their families. The Governor's Office of Disability Affairs (GODA) has participated in daily EMDAC and LA Disaster Housing calls. The entire staff of the Governor's Office of Programs and Planning visited every Red Cross and state-run shelter, addressed concerns and reported to leadership, specifically trying to identify unmet medical or disability-related need and other needs for people with disabilities and their families. GODA has responded to hundreds of requests for assistance from people with disabilities and their families affected from the flood. We also attended faith-based flood-related meetings and other town hall meetings.

GOV Talks

The Governor's Office of Programs and Planning has hosted monthly town hall presentations with panelists, audience, and a moderator. The first GOV Talks was held on August 10. Ruth Kennedy was the guest panelist and provided information regarding Medicaid Expansion. The second GOV Talks was held September 21 at BRCC and the panelist included members of FEMA, SBA, and GOHSEP.

Website and Newsletters

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