

LOUISIANA DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL
January 19, 2017
MEETING SUMMARY

Holiday Inn South
Baton Rouge, LA

8:30 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Sue Berry, OPH/CSHS
Craig Blackburn
Hilary Bordelon
Randall Brown Jr.
Sharon Buchert, GOEA
Carmen Cetnar
Alan Coulter, HDC
April Dunn
Jill Egle'
Michelle Hurst
Raymond Jasper
Tara LeBlanc, OAAS
Mark Martin, LRS
Paula Moreau
Lou Ann Owen, BHSF
Stephanie Patrick, AC
Bambi Polotzola, GODA
Delery Rice
Stuart Simon
Tara Nunez-Smith
Mary Tarver
Patsy White
Jamie Wong, LDOE

MEMBERS ABSENT

Bonnie Buckelew
Donnica Conway

GUESTS PRESENT

Melissa Bayham, LRS
Donna Breaux, Caregiver Homes
Tiffany Dickerson, OCDD
Nicholes Fisher
Ashley Jefferson, OBH
Kim Jones, AC
Angela Lorio
Rhena Mertz, Transcriptionist
Kelly Monroe, Arc of Louisiana
Julie Baxter Payer, Governor's Office
James Sprinkle, FHF at the Crossroads

STAFF PRESENT

Brenton Andrus
Rodney Anthony
Shawn Fleming
Kourtney Gaines
De'Van Stephenson
Derek White
Sandee Winchell

SUMMARY OF JANUARY MEETING

MOTION PASSED. Motion to accept the summary of the January Council meeting made by Kristopher Hebert, second by Tara Smith, **passed without objection.**

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – Delery Rice

Ms. Rice welcomed new Council members Hilary Bordelon, Jill Egle' and Alan Coulter.

Ms. Rice announced the following Committee appointments:

- Alan Coulter to the Education/Employment Committee
- Sharon Buchert and Phil Wilson to the Self Determination/Community Inclusion Committee.
- Carmen Cetnar to the Act 378 Sub-committee
- Bambi Polotzola, Michelle Hurst, Raymond Jasper, Robert Paddy, Mary Tarver, and Bonnie Buckelew to the Planning Ad Hoc Committee

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MOTION

The Executive Committee recommended that invitations to the Legislative Kickoff and Debriefing be limited to self-advocate and family Council members.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION PASSED.

A substitute motion by Bambi Polotzola, seconded by Michelle Hurst, to keep the Legislative Kickoff and Debriefing events as they have always been held, with only LaCAN Leaders, FHF Directors and Partners in Policy Making coordinator participating passed by a vote of 15 to 3.

MOTION PASSED.

The Executive Committee recommendation that Sandee, and Shawn in her absence, be granted authority to take or change a position on policy issues requiring action when there is not time to convene the Executive Committee as long as those positions are in line with the Council's mission and values passed without objection.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Sandee Winchell

Ms. Winchell welcomed new Council members and introduced two new Council staff, De'Van Stephenson and Rodney Anthony. Ms. Winchell shared how she requested Commissioner Dardenne to consider including the full \$500,000 of Council state general funds in the original Executive Budget.

BUDGET REPORT – Shawn Fleming

Mr. Fleming indicated the impact of the flood and other issues with some contracted initiatives being on target and shifts in staff that have caused slight salary changes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SELF DETERMINATION/COMMUNITY INCLUSION COMMITTEE – Michelle Hurst

The Committee reviewed recommendations from the Ad Hoc Committee on Families Helping Families Centers and offered two motions for Council consideration.

MOTION PASSED.

The Committee recommendation for the Council to fund an initiative to provide Peer-to-Peer Support and Customer Service training to Families Helping Families Center staff as well as training for the Families Helping Families Centers' Boards at an approximate cost of \$20,000 passed without objection. The Families Helping Families Ad-Hoc Committee will develop desired outcomes for this training.

MOTION

The Committee recommended the Council consider amending the Families Helping Families Standards of Operations with regard to the relationship standard of the Families Helping Families Center Director. The recommendation is a FHF Director should only include a parent or direct caregiver of an individual with a developmental disability or an individual with a developmental disability. The Center may seek a comprehensive waiver from the Council for an applicant that is qualified, experienced, and proven to be capable of upholding the Center's mission but who is the parent, family member or direct caregiver of an individual with a disability or individual with a disability.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION

A substitute motion was made by Stuart Simon, seconded by Craig Blackburn, for the relationship standard of the Families Helping Families Center Director be modified to only include a parent or direct caregiver of an individual with a developmental disability or an individual with a developmental disability. The Center may seek a comprehensive waiver from the Council for an applicant that is qualified, experienced, and proven to be capable of upholding the Center's mission but who does not meet the criteria above.

AMENDMENT TO SUBSTITUTE MOTION (FAILED).

An amendment to the substitute motion was made by Bambi Polotzola, seconded by Craig Blackburn, for the relationship standard of the Families Helping Families Center Director be modified to only include a parent or direct caregiver of an individual with a developmental disability or an individual with a developmental disability. The Center may seek a comprehensive waiver from the Council for an applicant that is qualified, experienced, and proven to be capable of upholding the Center's mission but who does not meet the criteria above. The waiver must include how the center will fulfill the peer to peer support component.

April Dunn called the question on the Amended Substitute Motion (bringing the Amended Substitute Motion to a vote), Carmen Cetnar seconded, passed without objection.

The amended substitute motion failed by a vote of 11 to 8.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION PASSED.

Another substitute motion made by Bambi Polotzola, seconded by Hilary Bordelon, for the relationship standard of the Families Helping Families Center Director be modified to only include a parent or direct caregiver of an individual with a developmental disability or is an individual with a developmental disability. The Center may seek a comprehensive waiver from the Council for an applicant who is the parent, family member or direct caregiver of an individual with a disability or is an individual with a disability and is qualified, experienced, and proven to be capable of upholding the Center's mission. The waiver must include how the center will fulfill the peer to peer support component. The substitute motion passed without objection.

MOTION PASSED.

The Committee recommendation for the Council to request the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities prioritize housing on their advocacy agenda and partner with other national groups to advocate for additional 811 Project Rental Assistance vouchers passed without objection.

MOTION PASSED.

A motion for the Council to support prohibiting corporal punishment in schools for students with disabilities made by Bambi Polotzola, seconded by Patsy White, passed without objection.

EDUCATION/EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE – Robert Paddy

The Committee reviewed a definition of stakeholder input provided by staff and decided to create a workgroup to further define stakeholder input.

The Committee discussed the proposed alternate standards for students with significant cognitive disabilities called the Louisiana Connectors and decided to recommend the Council take no action and not send a letter to BESE regarding the Notice of Intent for the Louisiana Connectors.

The Committee received three reports on employment related to the status of transitioning to CMS home and community based settings rules for employment, information on certification of employment support professionals and the Employment First workgroup of the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs.

ACT 378 SUB-COMMITTEE – Bambi Polotzola

The Committee requested that the Capital Area Human Services District's (CAHSD) Executive Director attend the April meeting to discuss the purpose of the Consumer Care Resources (CCR) program and CAHSD's police mentor contracts funded with CCR funds.

The subcommittee expressed concerns for budget cuts made to Act 378 programs for people with developmental disabilities by some districts/authorities. The statewide Individual and Family Support budget has been reduced by \$225,774 and the statewide Flexible Family Fund (FFF) budget by \$225,468.

The committee discussed the variability of the FFF waiting list, specifically that of Acadiana Area, Florida Parishes, and Jefferson Parish and requested that OCDD obtain additional information from these three districts/authorities regarding their large waiting lists.

The subcommittee also discussed the Flexible Family Fund program still being referred to as the Cash Subsidy Program by some Districts/Authorities and requested that OCDD follow up with all districts/authorities to ensure the correct language is used.

COUNCIL AGENCY REPORTS

LOUISIANA REHABILITATION SERVICES (LRS) – MARK MARTIN

Mr. Martin discussed the roll out of the Pre-Employment Transition Services (PETS) initiative and collaborative efforts with the Louisiana Department of Education on Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) program. LRS received a 20 percent budget cut last year.

ADVOCACY CENTER (AC) – KIM JONES

Ms. Jones thanked Stephanie Patrick for her years of representing the Advocacy Center on the Council. She highlighted a few major areas the AC has been focusing on, namely: expanding the ability of individuals with disabilities to vote; educational environments/settings as a result of disciplinary actions; and the quality of services and supports in schools as well as in psychiatric treatment facilities.

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF DISABILITY AFFAIRS (GODA) – BAMBI POLOTZOLA

Ms. Polotzola shared GODA's legislative recommendations:

- For the State to be a model employer and employ people with disabilities in government.
- To fully fund the state match for LRS
- To ensure equitable funding for schools across all school systems
- To rid corporal punishment in school for students with disabilities
- Provide equitable funding across human services districts and authorities
- Funding to full vacant waiver slots
- Create a stable funding source for the telecommunication fund to support assistive technology for people with hearing impairments.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (LDOE) – JAMIE WONG

Ms. Wong apologized for her report not being delivered. She shared three LDOE initiatives relative to graduation pathways: a session at the Jump Start convention; a 2 million dollar grant to build pathways for students with disabilities; Bossier Parish Community Schools held a graduation ceremony for fifteen individuals who were awarded high school diplomas as a result of Act 303 of 2016.

Ms. Wong also reported that the state funding for local schools to provide extended school year services was removed from the LDOE budget. Local school systems are still required to provide those services using IDEA allocations.

OFFICE OF AGING AND ADULT SERVICES (OAAS) – LOU ANN OWEN for TARA LEBLANC

Ms. Owen referred members to the numbers reported in the quarterly report.

OFFICE OF PUBLIC HEALTH (OPH) – SUE BERRY

Dr. Berry highlighted a few training opportunities and initiatives. OPH will host a Resource Information Workshop in Lafayette to help providers and family members understand local resources. There will be two parallel programs- one for families and one for providers. The Family Resource Center at Children’s Hospital, a program of Children’s Special Health services, is helping families locate resources wherever they live in Louisiana prior to being discharged from the hospital.

BUREAU OF HEALTH SERVICES FINANCING (BHSF) – LOU ANN OWEN

Ms. Owen provided updates on Medicaid expansion. The state is up to 380,000 new enrollees. She also explained the efforts to correct issues related to changes in the state’s fiscal agent for people participating in self-direction.

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT CENTER (HDC) – ALAN COULTER

Dr. Coulter mentioned a number of capacity building opportunities being offered by LSU-HDC. Training seminars are scheduled on updates to federal education laws, fetal alcohol syndrome, and Multi-Tiered Systems of Supports.

OFFICE FOR CITIZENS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (OCDD) – MARK THOMAS

Mr. Thomas shared updates on the closure of Evergreen (previously the NorthLake Supports & Services Center), resulting from the successful transition of 300 individuals out of this facility, and the successful renewal of the New Opportunities Waiver with the federal Medicaid office. OCDD also has an ICF/DD pilot program whereby 30 offers have been made to residents to date to transition out of those facilities with home and community-based waivers.

OCDD is seeking funding in its 2018 budget to increase waiver slot offerings to people on the waiting list and enhancing the waiver rate to serve individuals with complex needs. OCDD is also working with the Council to build the capacity of providers in

serving people with more intense medical and behavioral needs. Additional funding is also needed to cover overtime compensation of direct support professionals. All of these requests are in the midst of continued budget shortfalls so it's unlikely they will be funded.

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ELDERLY AFFAIRS (GOEA) – SHARON BUCHERT

Ms. Buchert shared efforts in collaborating with the Department of Insurance and Medicare to ensure people get support in getting medications at no or low cost. She reported numbers of complaints and resolutions by the long term care ombudsman and calls to the Aging and Disability Resource Centers.

GUEST PRESENTATION – Julie Baxter Payer from the Governor's Office

Ms. Payer shared the Governor's priorities and current status of the budget shortfall.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION PASSED.

A motion to have the Council support the prohibition of corporal punishment for students with disabilities in schools as a priority one issue on its legislative agenda was made by Bambi Polotzola, seconded by Sue Berry, **passed without objection.**

MOTION PASSED.

A motion to authorize activating LaCAN for the special session to advocate for funds to support DD services, made by Stuart Simon, seconded by April Dunn, **passed without objection.**

MOTION PASSED.

A motion to add to the LaCAN Advocacy Agenda enhanced rates for waiver recipients with complex behavioral and medical needs and funding for an additional ten hours a week of individual and family support to Supports Waiver made by Robert Paddy, seconded by April Dunn **passed without objection.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Council meeting is April 19th and 20th.

ADJOURNMENT OF BUSINESS MEETING

MOTION PASSED.

A motion to adjourn made by Stuart Simon, seconded by Craig Blackburn **passed without objection.**