

LOUISIANA DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL

July 16, 2015

MEETING SUMMARY

Holiday Inn South
Baton Rouge, LA

8:30 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Sam Beech
Sue Berry, OPH/CSHS
Craig Blackburn
Brenda Cosse'
Vickie Davis
April Dunn
Kristopher Hebert
Michelle Hurst
Raymond Jasper
Mark Martin, LRS
Margaret McGarity, GOEA
Paula Moreau
Lou Ann Owen, BHSF
Stephanie Patrick, AC
Delery Rice
Ellis Roussel, GODA
Stuart Simon
Donna Spears
Mark Thomas, OCDD
Patsy White
Jamie Wong, DOE

STAFF PRESENT

Sara Carr
Shawn Fleming
Kourtney Gaines
Robbie Gray
Brandi Jones
Derek White
Sandee Winchell

MEMBERS ABSENT

Bonnie Buckelew
Donnica Conway
Terry McFillen
Ellis Roussel
Erin Smith

GUESTS PRESENT

David Albarado
Tiffany Dickerson, OCDD
Cindy Deshotel (Donna's PCA)
Joanette Dunn
Rebecca Ellis
Paige Freeman
Julie Foster, OCDD
Liz Gary, Partners In Policymaking
Coordinator
Lynsey Hebert, Transcriptionist
Tammy DeBiasi, OAAS
Jennifer Lanceslin
Ashley McReynolds, LaCAN/LaTEACH
Leader Region 2
Scott Meche, Capital Area Human
Services District
Kelly Serrett, Arc of Louisiana
James Sprinkle, FHF at the Crossroads

SUMMARY OF APRIL MEETING

Sam Beech called the meeting to order at 8:30 and requested a motion to accept the summary of the April Council meeting, with the addition of the DD Council's Recommendations and Collaborative Action Plan on Community Supports.

Motion passed. Motion to accept the summary of the April Council meeting with the addendum made by Donna Spears, second by Patsy White, passed without objection.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – Sam Beech

Ms. Beech participated in Disability Rights Day and the Council Format Ad Hoc Committee meeting.

Ms. Beech and Sandee Winchell approved a stipend request for \$85 for Michelle Hurst to attend the Public Affairs Research Council annual meeting that included a forum with the gubernatorial candidates.

Ms. Beech approved the allocation of an additional \$4,000 for the Advocacy Leadership Conference. The original estimated amount was \$12,000 but after contacting the national speakers and getting hotel quotes it was necessary to make an additional \$4,000 available.

Executive Committee recommended the following amendments to the draft plan:

- Add activity 1.4.3 to provide support for the registration cost for ten self-advocates to attend the 2015 REACH conference for \$1,600.
- Add activity 3.2.5 to provide support for the development of an elective course for use in university social work programs to enhance services to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families for approximately \$2,500.
- Add 3.2.6 to provide support for the development of a training program for social workers to enhance services to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families for \$12,000.
- Change the amount of funding in activity 8.1.1 from \$6,000 to \$32,000 to provide funding for training and mentoring in the early intervention primary service provider model including implementation of accountability measures.

MOTION PASSED. Motion made by Mark Thomas and second by Brenda Cosse' to approve the recommended changes to the Council's draft plan. Passed without objection.

MOTION PASSED. To approve the Executive Committee's recommendation to email, rather than mail, the Council meeting packet. (The meeting agenda will be emailed with links to each report. All documents will also be posted on the Council's website. A hard copy of the reports will be provided at the meeting; a hard copy of the meeting summary

will not be provided.) Motion by Donna Spears, second by Vickie Davis. Passed without objection.

When it is time to RSVP for the next council meeting there will be a space to check off to indicate if the council member does not want a hard copy of the council meeting packet.

On June 29th Ms. Hurst, Ms. Winchell, and Ms. Beech met with DHH Secretary Kathy Kliebert, Mark Thomas, and Hugh Eley. The following issues were discussed:

- DHH is not operating as though they have a budget deficit and the filling of waiver slots will be done according to a phase-in plan.
- DHH should have a decision by the end of July regarding whether DHH will move forward and release the Request for Proposals (RFP) for Managed Long Term Supports and Services (MLTSS) for the Office of Aging and Adult Services population. DHH is moving forward with the RFP for the developmental disabilities population.
- The use of Act 378 funds in administrative rule and Accountability Implementation Plan.
- An update on the Residential Options Waiver known as the ROW.

MOTION PASSED To approve the Executive Committee's recommendation to grant the Membership Committee authority to select a DD Council candidate for North Louisiana and submit that name straight to the governor. Motion by Paula Moreau, second by Craig Blackburn. Passed without objection.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Sandee Winchell

Ms. Winchell reported on the rate of Council member participation in legislative advocacy activities. April Dunn was the most active Council member.

Legislative Advocacy Results:

- LaCAN – funding to fill vacant waiver slots for people with developmental disabilities, restoration of the \$170,000 cut to Families Helping Families (FHF), and \$500,000 for EarlySteps.
- LaTEACH – the passage of Senate Bill 267 will clarify that all schools will receive funding based on the same funding formula beginning in this 2015-2016 school year. The budget also included an additional \$5.4 million in the high cost fund to meet the extraordinary cost of serving students with extra high cost needs.

Ms. Winchell mentioned the FHF Annual Report provided to Council members and asked for assistance in recruiting Partners' applicants.

BUDGET REPORT – Shawn Fleming

Mr. Fleming shared the Council expenditures through June 2015.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

NOMINATING- Phil Wilson

The committee recommended the following slate of officers for the Council:

- Chairperson- Delery Rice
- Vice Chairperson- April Dunn
- Self Determination/Community Inclusion/Housing Committee Chair- Michelle Hurst
- Health/Education/Employment Committee Chair- Bonnie Buckelew
- Member at Large- Donna Spears

Ms. Beech asked if there were any nominations from the floor. There were none.

MOTION PASSED. To approve the slate of officers recommended by the Nominating Committee. Motion by Lou Ann Owen, second by Mark Thomas. Passed without objection.

SELF DETERMINATION/COMMUNITY INCLUSION/HOUSING COMMITTEE – Michelle Hurst

The council will help educate individuals and families on the benefits of employment and enlist Families Helping Families in doing so through peer to peer support.

CMS is accepting public comments on its proposed regulations on managed care. The committee recommends giving Ms. Winchell authority to review comments by the Advocacy Center and national organizations and submit comments on behalf of the Council. The Council's comments would also be shared with others.

MOTION PASSED. Motion made by the Self-Determination Committee to give Ms. Winchell authority to submit comments to CMS on managed care. Passed without objection.

HEALTH/EDUCATION/EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE – Patsy White

The Committee reviewed the status reports of collaborative action activities to achieve desired outcomes for education and child care and early intervention. The Committee also received information related to employment with updates on the new Medicaid rules related to home and community based settings and the transition to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act. A request for information on what committees were available for parents to join and how to go about joining those committees was made.

The committee members offered suggestions to improve future status reports on action plans. Discussions involved determining whether action steps achieve the intended outcome.

ACT 378 SUB-COMMITTEE – Stephanie Patrick

The committee is going to ask OCDD to consider the following suggestions for changing the Flexible Family Fund reapplication process to make it more family friendly:

- Bypass the interview when it is clear the child's disability will not improve to the point where he/she would no longer qualify.
- Send the questions and allow the family to respond in writing.
- Community support professional could recall the answers from the previous year and only ask for updated information.
- Tell the family in advance what topics or questions will be included in the interview.
- Ensure all questions are necessary.

The committee recommends that the council seek legislative approval for transferring the \$500,000 allocated for EarlySteps to an Individual and Family Support (IFS) pool at OCDD's office to allow districts and authorities to apply for these funds to meet unmet needs. The goal of the council's advocacy was to expand the eligibility criteria for EarlySteps and the \$500,000 is not enough to do that. \$2.7 million was needed for the expansion. As a result of budget cuts, many families have lost their funding for IFS.

MOTION PASSED. Motion made by the Act 378 Committee for the council to seek legislative approval to transfer the \$500,000 allocated for EarlySteps to an IFS pool at OCDD Central Office allowing districts and authorities to apply for funds if needed. Abstentions by Lou Ann Owen and Mark Thomas. Passed without objection.

COUNCIL FORMAT AD HOC – Sam Beech

Ms. Beech provided the following recommendations from the Council Ad Hoc Committee:

Each priority committee chairperson and a staff member will meet with each agency representative of the Council on an annual basis to discuss collaborative activities in the Council's plan. Input will also be sought from the agency representatives during this meeting regarding any changes they would like to see in the Council meeting format.

Beginning with the January 2016 Council meeting:

- The afternoon discussion will be an opportunity for the Council to provide input to agency representatives on various policy/practice issues.
- Issues will be solicited from the agency representatives. If none are received, committee chairpersons and staff will generate a list. Council members can send ideas for issues to the committee chairpersons and/or staff.
- One or two issues will be discussed at each meeting, depending on the complexity of the issue and the time needed for input.

- Each discussion will begin with background information on the issue, followed by Council member input for the agencies involved.

Agency Reports – continue with same format for verbal reports:

- Only provide information/updates not included in written report
- Entertain questions

MOTION PASSED. Motion by the Council Format Ad Hoc Committee to approve the recommendations as stated. Passed without objection.

RATIFICATION OF THE PLAN

MOTION PASSED. Motion to ratify final year of five year plan by Kristopher Hebert, second by Michelle Hurst. Passed without objection.

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ELDERLY AFFAIRS (GOEA) – Margaret McGarity

The GOEA is working with The Department of Insurance in taking applications for the low income assistance program.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (LDOE) – Jamie Wong

Ms. Wong provided some preliminary results on the impact of the eligibility changes for the LAA-1 assessment criteria; specifically how many additional students took the assessment. Between the spring assessment in 2014 and spring assessment in 2015 approximately 1,200 additional students in grades 3 through 10 are taking this assessment. Of that group of kids, about 59 percent of them were in the mild intellectual disability classification which is what LDOE was expecting to see. Only about 28 percent of students who are classified as mild intellectual disability are taking the LAA-1. The vast majority are still taking regular assessments. The highest increase in students switching to this assessment was in 6th, 7th and 8th grades. That is what LDOE was expecting. There were no high increases in 3rd through 5th grade. The increases started in 6th grade and 7th grade had the highest number who transitioned to this assessment.

Regarding monitoring of Act 833, Ms. Wong reported that the LDOE is going to communicate to districts what they've seen as the average identification of students eligible for Act 833 across the state and then how districts compare to that. If districts are extremely high or extremely low the LDOE will ask them to report how they are implementing Act 833. At this point the LDOE can only monitor regarding a child's eligibility for Act 833, not what the IEP team decides to do from that point.

OFFICE FOR CITIZENS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (OCDD) – Mark Thomas

Mr. Thomas reported OCDD's phase-in plan to fill the 805 frozen waiver slots. The slots include 155 New Opportunities Waiver slots, 237 Children's Choice slots, and 413 Supports Waiver slots. These slots will be phased-in as follows:

TARGETED CERTIFICATION PLAN				
MONTH	NOW	CCW	SW	MONTHLY TOTAL
JUL	0	0	0	0
AUG	20	60	70	150
SEP	25	50	70	145
OCT	35	45	75	155
NOV	30	35	65	130
DEC	30	30	65	125
JAN	15	13	45	73
FEB	0	2	20	22
MAR	0	2	3	5
APR	0	0	0	0
MAY	0	0	0	0
JUN	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	155	237	413	805

"Attrition" slots are also funded and are being filled.

There are 470 persons with developmental disabilities in self-direction, almost 150 more than last year. There is no waiting list for self-direction.

Act 178 will provide a tax incentive to employers who hire people with disabilities. It's a pilot program limited to 100 people.

Mr. Thomas talked about what OCDD is doing to bring its home and community based services into compliance with the new CMS settings rule. Their main focus is in the area related to employment. OCDD has been working on their definitions of employment to ensure they are compliant. The Supports Waiver has been amended to dedicate 50 slots to kids who are in high school and transitioning out to community based employment. Moving forward OCDD wants to increase those dedicated slots to 100. Career planning is taking place for all persons in congregate work settings and their time in that setting is limited. OCDD is working with LRS on an MOU for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. The Support Coordination agency agreements include an incentive to have 10 percent of their caseload become competitively employed in the course of a year. The providers are completing a self-assessment and

are being trained. OCDD will monitor a random sample to determine compliance. It is OCDD's opinion that most, if not all, of their congregate work settings are not in compliance.

Mr. Thomas also provided the status of Electronic Visit Verification and a fiscal agent for self-direction. He also reported that DHH was moving forward with Managed Long Term Supports and Services for people with developmental disabilities.

OFFICE OF AGING AND ADULT SERVICES (OAAS) – Tammy DeBiasi

Ms. DeBiasi reported that OAAS is continuing to offer waiver slots, in both the Community Choices and Adult Day Health Care (ADHC) Waivers. The only program that will be impacted by the Home and Community Based Services Settings Rule is the ADHC waiver because it's a center based program. OAAS is working with a consultant from CMS on this.

The Money Follows the Person grant is ahead of its benchmarks. Louisiana has until 2018 to continue transitioning people out of institutional settings under the grant.

Regarding Electronic Visit Verification (EVV), DHH plans to train providers at provider meetings and host webinars. Acumen will also be provided information to be shared with those in self-direction. Ms. DeBiasi will send Ms. Winchell a question and answer fact sheet on EVV for her to share with the Council.

BUREAU OF HEALTH SERVICES FINANCING (BHSF) – Lou Ann Owen

Ms. Owen reported that DHH sent talking points on EVV to the support coordination agencies who were told to share the information with the people they support. EVV will begin in September.

The discontinuation of the LA Health Insurance Payment Program (LaHIPP) has been delayed until December 1, 2015 to give recipients adequate notice of the change.

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT CENTER (HDC) - Phil Wilson

Dr. Wilson reported that HDC uses a process called Q sort to get information from individuals, particularly individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, about what they perceive as their high priority needs. They collected information from 150 people and will share results with the DDNetwork partners.

HDC received an Early Head Start Partnership grant in Greater New Orleans to build capacity within five existing childcare providers in the community to serve 232 families. HDC is also opening an inclusive preschool program at LSU Health Sciences Center in the HDC building in September.

HDC and Sue Berry have used the health care professional training the Council funded and expanded the number of modules and the individuals who will benefit from it so the

Council is getting a greater benefit from its initial investment. Dr. Berry and HDC are also in partnership in the Autism Spectrum Disorder Interdisciplinary Diagnostic Clinic that serves families but also trains future physicians, psychologists, speech and occupational therapists, etc. They also hope to begin a similar type of developmental interdisciplinary clinic.

HDC is working with LRS on a third party agreement to support high school students with disabilities attend community college classes and work in a paid apprenticeship program. When they leave the community college with a certificate of completion of a technical competency they will already be employed.

ADVOCACY CENTER (AC) - STEPHANIE PATRICK

Ms. Patrick encouraged members to submit their own comments on the proposed Medicaid regulations on managed care, in addition to the Council's comments that will be submitted, and said everyone is welcome to use the AC's draft comments as a guide.

The AC plans to conduct video interviews with the gubernatorial candidates and survey the legislative candidates and will share these results so people with disabilities can make informed decisions.

OFFICE OF PUBLIC HEALTH (OPH) – Sue Berry

Dr. Berry shared that OPH submitted the block grant application. It provides the financing for the children with special healthcare needs program that directly provides services for children with disabilities and chronic health conditions.

The needs assessment is conducted by surveying all pediatricians and family practitioners in the state and by holding ten focus groups of families of children with disabilities. Seven priority needs were identified:

- Ensure high performing essential maternal child health (MCH) screening and surveillance systems, such as newborn hearing and genetic screening, lead surveillance and birth defect surveillance;
- Improve access to and quality of primary care, reproductive health and specialty clinical services including care coordination;
- Improve social behavioral health supports with a focus on child and family well-being and resiliency;
- Improve the ability of care systems to serve and support children, adolescence and children with special healthcare needs through transitions, both from EarlySteps to the school system and transition of adolescent to adulthood for independence;
- Bolster local capacity to promote and protect health and well-being of children, care givers, and families;
- Advance understanding of drivers of disparities in MCH and children with special healthcare needs outcomes and to work towards equity;

- Actively and meaningfully engage youth and families in building local level leaders across the state.

LOUISIANA REHABILITATION SERVICES (LRS) – Mark Martin

Mr. Martin discussed some of the changes that will be required as a result of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act (WIOA).

The Louisiana Workforce Commission (LWC) has chosen to submit a combined state plan, which means the plan will include not only the mandated partners, but other partners as well. Memorandums of Understanding will be developed with OCDD and Medicaid. Strategic workgroups are meeting. Last year LRS met all of its performance indicators, but WIOA will change those indicators. The final regulations have not yet been released. WIOA places heightened emphasis on serving youth and students with disabilities. Pre-employment transition services must be available to all students with disabilities. Fifteen percent of the VR allotment must be spent on these services. Pre-employment transition services (PETS) include job exploration counseling, work based learning experiences, counseling on opportunities for enrollment and comprehensive transition to post-secondary education program, work readiness training to develop social skills and independent living, and introduction in self-advocacy. These are the only five areas that can count toward the required 15 percent. LRS is funding a pilot program to provide workplace readiness training/work based learning experience to students.

LRS is in the process of revising supported employment whereby supported employment vendors can receive a \$1,000 bonus if the individual they are supporting in competitive integrated employment meets two out of three of the following criteria: works more than 20 hours/week; makes more than \$10/hour; receives health benefits.

PRESENTATION ON THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT TO CELEBRATE THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY BY SANDEE WINCHELL

DISCUSSION OF COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE DESIRED OUTCOMES IN EMPLOYMENT

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None to be discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

None to be discussed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were two public comments. Rebecca Ellis urged the Council to make full funding for LRS a top priority on its legislative agenda. Jennifer Lancelin expressed the importance of beginning pre-employment transition at an early age.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Council meeting is October 21st and 22nd. Ms. Beech announced that this is her last meeting as chairperson and expressed appreciation for the opportunity to serve.

ADJOURNMENT OF BUSINESS MEETING

MOTION PASSED. Motion to adjourn made by Brenda Cosse', second by Stuart Simon, passed without objection.

DD Council's Recommendations and Collaborative Action Plan for Employment July 29, 2015

Needs

- An understanding by individuals with disabilities, their families, and professionals in the various service systems that it is possible for people with DD, including those with substantial employment support needs, to have successful competitive, individualized, integrated employment
- State appropriation to draw down full federal vocational rehabilitation (VR) grant to serve those waiting for waiver services

Action Steps

- The DD Council will post its employment videos on social media
- The Human Development Center and the Advocacy Center will send a joint flyer on their Work Incentives and Planning Assistance (WIPA) programs to LA Rehabilitation Services (LRS), the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD), and Families Helping Families Centers
 - LRS will disseminate the WIPA program flyer to
 - The Louisiana Rehabilitation Council,
 - Rehabilitation Counselors, regional and area managers and other LRS staff,
 - Community rehabilitation programs, and
 - Individuals and families they serve
 - OCDD will disseminate the WIPA program flyer to
 - Regional managers and other OCDD staff
 - Support Coordination agencies and community providers
 - Individuals served in sheltered workshops and their families

- Families Helping Families will make the WIPA program flyer available to local education agencies, Individualized Education Program (IEP) teams, parents and individuals with disabilities
- The DD Council will continue to share information regarding the availability of WIPA through Facebook and LaDDC News.
- The DD Council will encourage Families Helping Families Centers to host meetings in which individuals with disabilities and families can share their competitive individual, integrated employment success stories with other individuals with disabilities and families
- The DD Council will consider adding advocating for a state appropriation that will draw down the full federal vocational rehabilitation award to its 2016 Legislative Advocacy Agenda

Needs

- Improved quality of services from supported employment Community Rehabilitation Programs (CRPs)

Action Steps

- The DD Council will monitor LRS' new provider report card system and quality outcomes.

Needs

- Stakeholders will know and participate in the process of how Louisiana implements the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)

Action Steps

- The DD Council will continue to push out information on LA Workforce Commission's (LWC) working groups to oversee the implementation of WIOA.

Needs

- Sufficient funding through the vocational rehabilitation, education and waiver systems
- Effective transition planning that results in employment
- Improved integration and collaboration of local LRS offices and local education agencies
- An understanding by individuals with disabilities, their families, and professionals in the various service systems that it is possible for people with DD, including those with substantial employment support needs, to have successful competitive, individualized, integrated employment

Action Steps

- OCDD will identify individuals who have moved from Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities (ICF/DD), are not in sheltered workshops, and are not employed, and refer them to LRS, when age-appropriate.
- The DD Council and Families Helping Families centers will publicize the availability of programs like DECA and paid internship programs.
- The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) will encourage local education agencies (LEAs) to collaborate with LRS/LWC in fully implementing WIOA initiatives.
- The DD Council will advocate for the Louisiana Workforce Commission (LWC) to:
 - Approach the design of the workforce development system in Louisiana from a universal design perspective
 - Include a broad range of stakeholders to participate in formal planning for implementation of WIOA. Specific recommendations of stakeholders to invite include:
 - The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE)
 - A cross-section of local education agencies (LEAs) and
 - previous/current and prospective users of vocational rehabilitation services and the supported employment program, their families, and advocates
- The DD Council will recommend the LDOE issue guidance for IEP meetings to include the expectation of employment beginning in elementary school
- The DD Council and Families Helping Families Centers will disseminate newsletter articles on research pertaining to paid employment
- The DD Council will recommend the LDOE consider issuing general guidance on the benefits of paid employment for high school students with disabilities