

**LOUISIANA DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL**

**October 22, 2015**

**MEETING SUMMARY**

Holiday Inn South  
Baton Rouge, LA

8:30 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Sam Beech  
Sue Berry, OPH/CSHS  
Craig Blackburn  
Bonnie Buckelew  
Brenda Cosse'  
April Dunn  
Kristopher Hebert  
Michelle Hurst  
Paula Moreau  
Stephanie Patrick, AC  
Delery Rice  
Ellis Roussel, GODA  
Stuart Simon  
Donna Spears  
Mary Tarver  
Mark Thomas, OCDD  
Jamie Wong, DOE

STAFF PRESENT

Brenton Andrus  
Shawn Fleming  
Kourtney Gaines  
Robbie Gray  
Brandi Jones  
Derek White  
Sandee Winchell

MEMBERS ABSENT

Donnica Conway  
Vickie Davis  
Raymond Jasper  
Mark Martin  
Margaret McGarity  
Lou Ann Owen  
Patsy White

GUESTS PRESENT

Sharon Buchert, GOEA  
Wesley Cagle  
Ashley Courville  
Tammy DeBiasi, OAAS  
Cindy Deshotel (Donna's PCA)  
Ken Ehrle  
Julie Foster, OCDD  
Liz Gary, Partners In Policymaking  
Coordinator  
Lynsey Hebert, Transcriptionist  
Eric Jennings  
Mary Johnson  
Jeanne LeVelle, Medicaid  
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  
Sue Ellen Stewart  
Ken York, LRS

## **SUMMARY OF JULY MEETING**

Delery Rice called the meeting to order at 8:30 and requested a motion to accept the summary of the July Council meeting, with the addition of the DD Council's Recommendations and Collaborative Action Plan on Community Supports. Ms. Rice welcomed Mary Tarver who was joining the Council for the first time.

**MOTION PASSED.** Motion to accept the summary of the July Council meeting with the addendum made by Kristopher Hebert, second by Bonnie Buckelew, passed without objection.

## **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – Delery Rice**

Sam Beech and Ms. Rice both participated in the planning ad hoc committee meeting. Ms. Rice participated in the new officer training session, and the membership committee meeting. Ms. Rice will be appointing a planning ad hoc committee to meet in February or March to develop plan activities for federal fiscal year 2017. Since we did not receive enough applications to hold a 2016 Partners in Policy making class, Ms. Rice appointed a Partners Ad Hoc Committee to make recommendations regarding alternative advocacy leadership training. The members of this ad hoc committee were April Dunn, Patsy White, Paula Moreau, Ashley McReynolds, Liz Gary and Ms. Rice. The recommendations made by this Ad Hoc Committee were presented to the Self-Determination Committee and will be discussed during that committee's report. The Executive Committee met yesterday and made several recommendations for your consideration.

The Executive Committee recommended the Council accept these five items for its 2016 legislative advocacy agenda:

- Provide waiver services to 1,000 individuals on the waiting list with an amendment to the budget for \$3.43 million in state matching funds to phase in 250 slots in each of the four DD waivers.
- Provide employment and related supports to people with disabilities by increasing the state match for Louisiana Rehabilitation Services to draw down the full federal allotment with an amendment to the budget for approximately \$5 million in state funds.
- Provide for more equitable access to individual and family support services across the state with amendments to the budget for \$818,532 to bring the IFS budgeted amounts to \$1.60 per capita across the state and \$122,780 to add 15 percent to each Local Governing Entity (LGE) receiving additional funds to cover administrative costs. This total amount is \$941,312.

- Provide for consistent policy implementation and service provision by the Local Governing Entities across the state in collaboration with the Department of Health and Hospitals and LGEs.
- Increase transparency and stakeholder input into policies and practices through:
  1. More groups with representation of parents of students with disabilities and individuals with disabilities and
  2. Publicly available data on student demographics, outcomes, funding, discipline, and other crucial elements.

**MOTION PASSED.** Motion to accept these five items for the Council’s 2016 Legislative Advocacy Agenda; passed without objection.

**MOTION PASSED.** Motion to eliminate all activities not currently included in the Council’s Federal Fiscal Year 2016 plan or the Five Year Plan beginning Federal Fiscal Year 2017, passed without objection. This will eliminate a separate collaborative action plan.

**MOTION PASSED.** Motion for the Council to hold a retreat on January 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with the January Council meeting in place of orientation to strengthen the Council’s capacity and bond and reenergize as a Council, passed without objection.

**MOTION PASSED.** Motion to transfer the area of health to the Self Determination/ Community Inclusion/ Housing Committee, passed without objection.

Erin Smith has resigned from the Council.

Ms. Rice recognized and thanked Brenda Cosse’ for her five years of service on the Council, two of which she served as vice chair.

Ms. Rice recognized and thanked Sam Beech for her 17 years of service on the Council. Ms. Beech served four years as chairperson and then most recently stepped in to complete the unexpired term of Kay Marcel who moved to Iowa.

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT – Sandee Winchell**

Ms. Winchell welcomed Mary Tarver, and newest staff member Brenton Andrus.

Ms. Winchell reported on the following:

- In July the Council voted for us to advocate to move the EarlySteps funding that we had successfully advocated for to individual and family support in the Local Governing Entities (LGE) that had unmet need in the highest levels of priority. With support from members of the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget, and working closely with DHH and OCDD, these funds are in the process of being transferred to five local governing entities and will directly assist individuals

and families in need. The five LGE's that will receive funding are Florida Parishes, Capital Area, Acadiana, Jefferson Parish and Northwest Louisiana.

- Work on the Council's legislative advocacy agenda begins tomorrow. Council members will be sent factsheets on all of the issues and a list of the legislators by region, coupled with the names of the LaCAN and LaTEACH leaders, the Families Helping Families directors, and the Council members in each region. The goal is for this advocacy team to visit the legislators in each region. Ms. Winchell asked members to plan to attend the legislative roundtable in their region. She shared the legislative advocacy thermometer, indicating Council member activity over the past year and encouraged them to increase their participation this year.
- The Council's upcoming Advocacy Leadership Conference.
- Successful negotiation with the Division of Administration for the reduction of the Office of State Procurement fee from \$50,000 to \$9,100.

## **BUDGET REPORT – Shawn Fleming**

Mr. Fleming shared the Council expenditures through September 2015.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **SELF DETERMINATION/COMMUNITY INCLUSION/HOUSING COMMITTEE – Michelle Hurst**

The committee recommended to accept the following alternative proposal for Partners contract activities for fiscal year 2016:

- Offer regional training to people unable to participate in partners.
- Connect Partners alumni with others in their region.
- Reengage Partners alumni in the Council's system change advocacy efforts.
- Develop a plan for the Partners program going forward 2017 and beyond.
- Coordinate planning of Partners 2017 class.

**MOTION PASSED.** Motion to accept the alternative proposal for Partners contract activities for fiscal year 2016, passed without objection.

Ms. Hurst reported the committee discussed ways to promote self-direction and will reach out to the Support Coordination Alliance to ask for their assistance in promoting self-direction.

The Council did not receive any proposals for the Social Worker Solicitation of Proposals by the stated deadline. Since the dollar amount was very small for this there's no need to develop a new initiative to expend those funds. A social worker with the Office of Public Health did volunteer to review the first four existing training modules developed for other disciplines. These were submitted

to the Louisiana Social Work Board and approved as CEUs for social workers. They plan to review the remaining four and do the same.

Council staff would like the recommendations of families, self-advocates, and direct support professionals to be included in the Council's media campaign to promote the direct support profession.

### **HEALTH/EDUCATION/EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE – Bonnie Buckelew**

The committee recommended the Council staff will provide a report on issues related to graduation rates pursuant to House Resolution 209 and a small group of Council members will meet by telephone conference with LDOE and Council staff to make recommendations for the report to BESE. Currently those serving on this committee will be Jamie Wong, Shawn Fleming, Kristopher Hebert, Mark Martin, and Sam Beech. If anyone else is interested they can let Mr. Fleming know.

**MOTION PASSED.** Motion that Council staff will provide a report on issues related to graduation rates pursuant to HR 209 and a small group make recommendations for the report to BESE, passed without objection.

The committee discussed industry based certifications in the school setting and the potential that there are some students with disabilities who are not receiving their accommodations. The committee did not have the data on the exact number of times that was occurring so Council staff will request specific case studies reporting instances of industry based certification assessments that did not offer appropriate accommodations and will submit these case studies to LDOE. LDOE will look into issues related to any reported failure of having accommodations provided for assessments and report back to the Health/Education/Employment Committee at the January 2016 meeting.

Ms. Buckelew reported the committee discussed the status of the collaborative action plan, and an update on the delay of the completion of the dental curriculum by HDC.

### **ACT 378 SUB-COMMITTEE – Sam Beech**

Ms. Beech reported the committee recommended the Council write a letter to DHH Secretary Kathy Kliebert to pursue institutional diversion for the Community Choices Waiver and prioritize the Office of Aging and Adult Services Act 378 waiting list by need.

**MOTION PASSED.** Motion that the Council write a letter regarding institutional diversion and prioritizing waiting list by need, passed without objection.

Ms. Beech also reported the Office of Behavioral Health will follow up with the Northeast Delta Human Services Authority related to the lack of expenditures for Consumer Care Resources in the entire month of June. They will also follow up with Northwest

Louisiana Human Services District related to delay of expenditures in both Consumer Care Resources and Flexible Family Funds during this first quarter.

The Office of Behavioral Health will consider strengthening language in their performance indicator related to the local governing entities policies on consumer care resources and flexible family fund to include the adoption of state policy or the alignment of their own policy with state policy, Act 378, and other applicable laws.

### **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT – APRIL DUNN**

Ms. Dunn reported that the Membership Committee included Delery Rice, Patsy White, Paula Moreau, Brenda Cosse' and herself. The committee interviewed fourteen applicants for three positions on the Council and selected Bambi Polotzola from Region 4, Robert Paddy from Region 7, and Tara Nunez Smith from Region 9 for the Council's consideration. If approved, these names will be submitted to the Governor's Office.

**MOTION PASSED.** Motion to submit Bambi Polotzola, Robert Paddy, Tara Nunez Smith and Randall Brown, Jr. to the Governor's Office. (The original committee motion was amended by Brenda Cosse', seconded by Paula Moreau, to add Randall Brown, Jr. to the list of names to replace Erin Smith who recently resigned from the Council.) Passed without objection.

**MOTION PASSED.** Motion to approve Carmen Cetnar from Region 4, Vince Almond from Region 7, and Hilary Bordelon from Region 9 as alternates, passed without objection.

### **COUNCIL FORMAT AD HOC – Delery Rice**

Ms. Rice offered the committee motion to accept the Five Year Plan. Ms. Rice reported that in developing the Five Year Plan for Federal Fiscal Year 2017 through 2021 the committee considered input from the Council's public forums, public input survey, and staff presentations of the State of the State in establishing priorities and outcomes for each area of emphasis. The committee then developed goals, objectives, and implementation strategies. In the inclusion of implementation strategies consideration was given to what needs to happen to achieve outcomes, but also Council resources and the likelihood a strategy could be accomplished. Much of the language for the outcomes in the Five Year Plan and some of the implementation strategies were developed from the Collaborative Action Plans.

**MOTION PASSED.** Motion to add an objective under goal Community Support 1 to say Louisiana's reliance on public and private institutions will decrease. Motion by Stephanie Patrick, second by Kristopher Hebert, passed without objection.

**MOTION PASSED.** Motion to approve the plan as amended, passed without objection.

### **COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS**

## **LOUISIANA REHABILITATION SERVICES (LRS) – Ken York**

Mr. York reported on the following:

- For two consecutive years LRS met its federal performance indicators which hasn't happened in years.
- The population LRS serves is rapidly changing with the focus now on transition age as a result of the Workforce Innovation Opportunities Act. LRS has employed a three prong approach to providing pre – employment transition services (PETS) :
  1. Actively pursuing third party cooperative agreements with school systems.
  2. Linked community rehabilitation providers with designated schools in a pilot.
  3. LRS staff counselors are providing direct services, especially in the Monroe region. The provision of PETS has been challenging but LRS is working through them.

## **GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ELDERLY AFFAIRS (GOEA) – Sharon Buchert**

Ms. Buchert reported the following:

- GOEA received a no cost extension on their No Wrong Door to grant explore the best approach for implementing supportive technology such as No Wrong Door screening tool and data exchange. GOEA is talking to other states and their technology partners to better understand the effectiveness of their No Wrong Door systems supporting technology as well as the funding model they're using for the technology.
- Conducted a survey to learn how well potential customers know how to access supports they need and how well providers perceive their ability to respond to consumer needs.
- The Louisiana Senior Prescription Program also serves people with disabilities who cannot afford their prescriptions. The program will work with the drug manufacturer to get the medicine.

## **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DOE) – Jamie Wong**

Ms. Wong provided two updates:

- The high school graduation grant packets were submitted and 65 applications are in the process of being reviewed.
- Last week BESE approved allocations for the Believe and Prepare Education Grants. A little over a million dollars is going out to school districts that are specifically focused on building up teacher preparation programs for special education educators and getting more people certified.

## **OFFICE FOR CITIZENS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (OCDD) – Julie Foster**

Ms. Foster reported the following:

- OCDD will be holding webinars on the Behavior Health Integration into Bayou Health specific to individuals with developmental disabilities on October 27<sup>th</sup>.
- On October 20<sup>th</sup> a Notice of Intent went out to modify the Residential Options Waiver (ROW). OCDD and OAAS are working to move 231 people currently in the Community Choices waiver or the Adult Day Health Care waiver who have a statement of approval for developmental disabilities services into the ROW. These individuals would be better served in the DD program. The Notice of Intent is open for public comment.
- OCDD has just completed doing round tables across the state to talk about the changes to employment in the DD system and to solicit feedback.
- The Council made five specific recommendations on the Flexible Family Fund program. The Local Governing Entities agreed to implement four of the five recommendations.

## **OFFICE OF AGING AND ADULT SERVICES (OAAS) – Tara LeBlanc**

Ms. LeBlanc reported that:

- The OAAS waivers are frozen at this time with the exception of Emergency Waiver priority slots.
- Managed Long Term Supports and Services will be delayed until the next administration.

## **BUREAU OF HEALTH SERVICES FINANCING (BHSF) – Jeanie Leville**

Ms. Leville had nothing to add to the report, but answered questions from the Council.

## **HUMAN DEVELOPMENT CENTER (HDC) – Phil Wilson**

Dr. Wilson shared that:

- HDC is cosponsoring a conference called REACH on secondary transition, employment, and careers on December 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> at the Human Development Center in New Orleans. There is a limited number of stipends available to self - advocates and families. The cosponsors include the DD Council, the Advocacy Center, and Louisiana APSE.
- HDC will be reopening its inclusive preschool that had to be taken offline after Katrina. The primary purpose of the early learning center, isn't just providing good quality services to families, but also to serve as a venue for training and professional development and demonstration of recommended practices.
- HDC is working closely with Dr. Berry to try to secure some of her time and effort to help launch and continue some clinics that are in place and some others that

HDC is planning in the areas of autism spectrum disorders diagnosis; assistive technology; augmentative and alternative communication; and feeding and swallowing. The primary focus is on interdisciplinary training.

### **ADVOCACY CENTER (AC) - STEPHANIE PATRICK**

The Advocacy Center (AC) has a voting hotline for anybody who has problems with voting. The AC website has the results of candidate surveys for governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, attorney general, BESE board members, state senator, and state representative. If people have problems with inaccessible polling places let the AC know.

The AC is concerned about the impact of the Department of Labor's overtime rules. People with disabilities need to know about these rules especially if they're in self-direction and that they're not losing services because of the impact of these rules. The AC plans to encourage the state to put out some specific information for people in self-direction.

### **OFFICE OF PUBLIC HEALTH (OPH) – Sue Berry**

There are four programs in the Office of Public Health that serve children with special healthcare needs including children with disabilities. They are Children's Special Health Services; Genetics; Birth Defects Surveillance System; and Hearing, Speech, and Vision. The big highlight this past quarter was the Title Five Block Grant review from the Maternal and Child Health Bureau. It is the backbone of funding for all four of those programs. This review, which went incredibly well, marks the beginning of the next five year cycle. A needs assessment was required this year. (Dr. Berry presented some highlights from their needs assessment. This is posed on the Council's website.)

Other updates:

- A resource information workshop was held in Baton Rouge with 90 people in attendance.
- The Birth Defect Surveillance System just finished its five year Center of Disease Control (CDC) grant.
- The end of October is lead poisoning prevention week. All the details are on the DHH website.

### **MS. RICE RECOGNIZED MS. WINCHELL FOR HER THIRTY YEAR ANNIVERSARY WORKING FOR THE COUNCIL.**

### **DISCUSSION OF COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE DESIRED OUTCOMES IN HEALTH**

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None to be discussed.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

None to be discussed.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None to be discussed

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Next Council meeting will be January 20<sup>th</sup> through 21<sup>st</sup>. Council retreat will be January 19<sup>th</sup>. State agency representatives are encouraged to submit any policy issues that are being considered and need stakeholder input for discussion at the January Council meeting.
- There are some vacancies on the State Independent Living Council under the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs:
  - A parent/guardian of an individual with a disability; an advocate for individuals with disabilities; a representative for a Center for Independent Living and a representative of a private business.
- The Special Education Advocacy Panel has one role available presently for a representative of a vocational, community or business organization concerned with the provision of transition services to children with disabilities.
- The Council Advocacy Leadership Conference will be held the Thursday before Thanksgiving. All self-advocate and parent Council members are encouraged to attend.

## **ADJOURNMENT OF BUSINESS MEETING**

**MOTION PASSED.** Motion to adjourn made by Brenda Cosse', second by Donna Spears, passed without objection.