

Executive Committee Report

May 23, 2019 Council Meeting

Revision to the Council's FFY19 Action Plan

Staff provided information regarding the increased costs per participant and a large number of participants in the FFY19 Partners in Policymaking Class that will cause a shortfall in the Partners' budget. An increase of \$10,000 will ensure adequate funding is available to cover all expected expenses for FFY19. Funding is available from unspent balances in the events and LaCAN contracts which ended in September 2018. It is necessary to budget more than needed for every cost reimbursement contract since they cannot exceed the contractual total.

MOTION The Executive Committee recommends the Council increase the funding available to support the Partners in Policymaking class by amending the approximate cost for Activity 1.2.1 in the FFY19 Plan from \$80,000 to \$90,000 and offers this as a motion for the Council's consideration:

Activity 1.2.1 Provide financial support and technical assistance for Partners in Policymaking and its alumni network.
Approximate FFY 2020 Cost: \$80,000 \$90,000

Position Papers

Review and revision of the Council's position papers are part of the five-year planning process and will be done in January 2020. However, three of the Council's current position papers contain some recommendations that have already been accomplished or are no longer relevant and should be updated to make them current. The committee therefore is recommending updates to recommendations included in the position papers. Nothing is being recommended in the positions themselves to be changed.

MOTION The Executive Committee recommends the following amendments be made to the Council's Education position paper and offers this as a motion for the Council's consideration:

EDUCATION

Recommendations:

Louisiana should immediately take steps to:

1. Ensure all schools receiving state funding accept every student, including students with the most significant disabilities, and provide all appropriate educational services and supports to each child.
2. Ensure an equitable and fair accountability structure that:

a. ~~offers students with disabilities Alternative Assessments Based on Grade-Level Achievement Standards (AA-GLAS);~~

b. ensures accurate and timely reporting of student composition across schools and school systems;

c. utilizes student composition in analysis of school and district performance measures; and,

d. promotes inclusive practices and disallows selective admissions that disproportionately excludes students with disabilities.

3. Ensure schools have adequate support and training in effective, research-based teaching strategies that result in successful inclusion and positive educational outcomes for all students, including those with the most significant disabilities.

4. Ensure each student is provided appropriate supports and services based on their individualized needs.

a. Ensure adequate and intensive early educational intervention is provided

5. Ensure funding for schools:

a. is adequate to meet the needs of every student served by that school;

b. is monitored to ensure all funding mechanisms designated for students with disabilities align with and reflect the individualized needs of students as determined by Individualized Education Plan (IEP) teams;

c. does not incentivize the exclusion and/or segregation of students with disabilities.

[†]National Center on Educational Outcomes (2013). Alternate Assessments Based on Grade-Level Achievement Standards (AA-GLAS) Overview. Institute on Community Integration at the College of Education and Human Development, University of Minnesota.
http://www.cehd.umn.edu/NCEO/TopicAreas/AlternateAssessments/aa_glas.htm

MOTION The Executive Committee recommends the following amendments be made to the Council's Community Support position paper and offers this as a motion for the Council's consideration:

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Recommendations:

1. Provide adequate funding to build a system of high quality, individualized supports and services in the community for people with developmental disabilities that **includes: are available when they are needed**
- 2) **Ensure a)** a qualified and stable workforce of direct support professionals (DSPs) and support coordinators who
 - demonstrate skill sets necessary to meet individual needs, including the most challenging medical and behavioral health needs, and
 - receive appropriate, competitive compensation.
2. Ensure individuals with developmental disabilities and their families will have access to the same level and quality of services across the state.
3. Implement a Money Follows the Person program to allow individuals residing in private ICFs/DD the option to move into the home and community of their choice.
4. Make out of home placement unnecessary by
 - a) increasing the capacity of community providers to serve people with challenging needs through
 - financial incentives, and
 - specialized training, technical assistance and collaboration with other agencies,
 - b) **prioritizing the current home and community-based waiver waiting list to serve those with the most emergent needs first,**
 - c) enhancing the safety net system for individuals in each region of the state by
 - **expanding the number of emergency waiver slots available,**
 - implementing a comprehensive crisis prevention and intervention system for individuals in the community including proactive preventive services and coordinated 24-hour crisis response services.
 - d) developing policies to stop adjudications to ICFs/DD.

Many of the above recommendations could be accomplished through implementation of a Managed Long Term Supports and Services (MLTSS) system that includes all Medicaid services and settings. An adequate investment of resources in a well-designed MLTSS system where the Managed Care Organizations are held accountable for quality of life outcomes would provide for:

- a. **an expansion of the number of people served**

- b. an improvement in the quality and integration of services
- c. an ability to meet needs in a timely fashion
- d. the ability for people (and funding) to move from congregate to individualized, community settings
- e. improved access to providers across the state.

MOTION The Executive Committee recommends the following amendments be made to the Council's Employment position paper and offers this as a motion for the Council's consideration:

EMPLOYMENT

Recommendations:

1. Provide La. Rehabilitation Services a state match that would draw down 100% of its federal allotment.
2. Monitor the transition of Fully comply with the new Home- and Community-Based settings rule, and implementation of services and regulations as stipulated by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), to ensure a systemic shift from congregate vocational/pre-vocational settings to competitive integrated individualized employment consistent with the individual's strengths and interests.
3. Implement adequate Medicaid and Vocational Rehabilitation payment/rate structures for the provision of competitive, integrated, and individualized employment support services that meet the demand in all regions of the state.
4. Ensure a stable workforce of qualified employment professionals who support people, including those with the most significant disabilities, with obtaining and maintaining competitive integrated individualized employment through
 - Certification of Employment Support Professionals (ESPs) and
 - Training and technical assistance for supported employment providers (owners, executive and field staff) in supported and customized employment.

References:

¹ Butterworth, J., Smith, F., Hall, A., Migliore, A. & Winsor, J., Domin, D., Timmons, J. (2013). State Data: The national report on employment services and outcomes, 2011. Institute for Community Inclusion, Boston.

Zalewska, A., and Winsor, J.E. (2018). State Intellectual and Developmental Disability Agencies' Service Trends. DataNote Series, Data Note 60. Boston, MA: University of Massachusetts Boston, Institute for Community Inclusion.

² Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C.A. § 12101 et seq.

Conference Theme

The committee discussed possible themes should the Council approve the draft action plan for the upcoming fiscal year which includes an activity to host a conference. In past years the Council has hosted conferences on advocacy, customized employment, and xxx. While the Council has not hosted one on education issues, committee members felt there were numerous other entities that covered this topic. Members therefore suggested a conference theme centered on “navigating the system” across the lifespan.

MOTION The Executive Committee recommends the general theme of the conference be navigating the system across the lifespan of individuals with disabilities and offers this as a motion for the Council’s consideration.

Timeline for Planning Process

The committee approved a planning process timeline for development of the Council’s next five year plan. This will be referred to the full council for consideration at the July Council meeting.

Voter Voice

The committee received an update on the Council’s transition to Voter Voice. A list of benefits and challenges of the system were reviewed and discussed. The committee agreed to reevaluate the system after the legislative session to determine if continued use is recommended.