



Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council



SELF-DETERMINATION ♦ INDEPENDENCE ♦ PRODUCTIVITY ♦ INTEGRATION ♦ INCLUSION

May 13, 2019

Mark Thomas
Deputy Secretary
LA Department of Health
Via email

Dear Mr. Thomas:

In reviewing [HB105](#), I noticed that \$17,054,570 was being appropriated from the NOW Fund for Medical Vendor Payments and requested how these funds would be used. Thank you for informing me the funding would be used for annualization of the 650 waiver slots funded last year for people with developmental disabilities.

In addition, \$1,987,997 from the NOW Fund was added by amendment for the rate restoration for home and community based services (HCBS) for people with developmental disabilities.

As you know, [Act 665](#) of the 2018 Regular Legislative Session states the "Louisiana Department of Health shall consult with the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council to develop a plan for appropriations out of this fund." The Council did not participate in the development of a plan for the use of these funds.

The Council has also communicated to LDH that \$1 million should remain in the NOW Fund in the event funding made available through attrition of waiver slots is insufficient to meet the needs of new people with developmental disabilities entering the system in the emergent and urgent categories and of those whose needs change, moving them into one of those categories.

On April 17, 2019 the Council's Self-Determination/Community Inclusion Committee made a recommendation to propose using monies in the NOW Fund for the HCBS rate restoration, while maintaining a balance of \$1 million in the Fund. The April 18th Council meeting was cancelled due to weather on April 18th, therefore the full Council will not vote on this recommendation until the rescheduled meeting May 23, 2019. However, I do believe this committee recommendation, and the Council's vote last year to use monies in the Fund for the rate restoration while maintaining a \$1 million balance, are an indication of the Council's intent.

Please let me know if you have any questions. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Sandee Winchell
Executive Director

c: Julie Foster Hagan