

## **Executive Director's Report**

### **July 2021 Council Meeting**

#### **NACDD**

The National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities hosted a two day orientation for all new state Council Executive Directors. The orientation focused on the DD Act, federal awards and reporting. NACDD announced they will be hosting the 2021 Executive Director's Annual Leadership Summit in Providence, Rhode Island, from October 17<sup>th</sup> – October 21<sup>st</sup>.

#### **Meetings Attended by Council Staff**

##### **Brenton Andrus:**

##### **April 8 - OCDD Listening Session Regarding COVID-19 Waiver Exceptions**

Attended the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) listening session on April 8, 2021 for families and self-advocates to share plans for Home- and Community-Based (HCBS) Waiver Services after the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency ends and to solicit feedback on those plans. Over 400 participated in the call. Many of the participants expressed the need to continue the exception that allows close relatives to continue serving as Direct Support Workers (DSW).

##### **April 15 – Governor's Advisory Council on Disability Affairs Legislative Committee**

Attended the Governor's Advisory Council on Disability Affairs (GACDA) Legislative Committee meeting on April 15, 2021. Multiple groups and organizations shared information about their legislative platforms for the 2021 Legislative Session and the committee took positions on certain issues that were to be debated during session. The committee was in support of the Council's advocacy agenda item to install cameras in special education classrooms upon request.

##### **June 10 – Stakeholder Feedback on HCBS Rule Making & Audit for Rate Increases**

Attended the Louisiana Department of Health's (LDH) stakeholder feedback meeting on home- and community-based rule making and audit processes for increased rates on June 10, 2021. The Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD), Office of Aging and Adult Services (OAAS), the DD Council and multiple representatives from provider agencies were in attendance to discuss the additional funding included in the budget to increase provider DD waiver rates to ensure increased wages for direct support workers and personal care attendants. Data was shared by the department on how reimbursement rates were developed in the past and reviewed all ideas and concerns by the parties involved. The department requested additional data from the providers regarding expenses and planned to meet again to continue discussions. Advocacy continued around the Council's original request to ensure a minimum starting pay of at least \$8.65 per hour for direct support workers.

##### **Ebony Haven:**

##### **May 25 – NACDD Diversity, Inclusion and Cultural and Linguistic Competence (DICLC) Workgroup**

- Reviewed and provided feedback on a DEI statement draft for the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD). The DEI statement will generate a plan for the national association to support DD Councils in an equitable way.
- Discussed strategies that other Councils across the state are using to incorporate DEI statements and DEI strategic plans.
- Discussed ways to write a DEI strategic plan

- Shared contact information and facilitator shared documents that other Councils shared after the meeting to assist with DEI planning

**June 16 – Governor’s Advisory Council on Disability Affairs (GACDA) Legislative Committee**

- Discussed Legislative Outcomes on the bills that GACDA was tracking
- Discussed future advocacy efforts for the 2022 Legislative Session

**Meetings Attended by Interim Executive Director (April 1 – June 30, 2021)**

- April 29 – Louisiana Rehabilitation Council Executive Committee meeting
- May 17 - Meeting with Senator Foil and multiple stakeholders at State Capitol re:SB86
- May 27 – Louisiana Rehabilitation Council Special Session to select new officers
- June 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> – NACDD New Executive Director Orientation

**Meetings Attended by Executive Director (May 17<sup>th</sup> – June 20, 2021)**

- June 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> – NACDD New Executive Director Orientation
- June 4 – Meeting with LDH Legal
- June 21 – Stakeholder Feedback on HCBS Rule Making & Audit for Rate Increases