

# Governor's Office of Disability Affairs

## Report to the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council

### July 2022

[Click here for Governor's Office of Disability Affairs Monthly Newsletters](#)  
or find newsletters located on the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs webpage.

#### 2022 GODA Conference

In celebration of 32nd Anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs (GODA) will host its annual conference on the week of July 25-28, 2022!

[Click here to register for the conference](#) and [click here to access the official schedule](#).

#### End of Legislative Session

The 2022 Regular Legislative Session ended Monday, June 6. The Governor's Advisory Council on Disability Affairs made recommendations on over 40 legislative instruments, which can be found on the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs' [tracking document for disability related legislation](#). Over 100 legislative instruments were tracked throughout the legislative session, and the spreadsheet lists the final outcomes of each bill.

YOU'RE INVITED TO THE 2022  
**GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF  
DISABILITY AFFAIRS CONFERENCE**

**JULY 25-28**  
VIA ZOOM  
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

*SESSIONS ON: Accessibility, Alzheimer's, Employment and  
Economic Empowerment, Education, Home and Community  
Based Supports, Inclusive Disaster Preparation,  
Intersectionality, Mental Health and Voting.*

**REGISTER:**  
<https://bit.ly/GODAconf22>

**FIND THE SCHEDULE:**  
<https://bit.ly/GODAconf22sched>

For questions, concerns, or requests for  
accommodations, please email  
[Disability.Affairs@la.gov](mailto:Disability.Affairs@la.gov) or call (225) 219-7553

#### Governor's Advisory Council on Disability Affairs (GACDA)

The [Governor's Advisory Council on Disability Affairs](#) met from June 10-15th, 2022. The GACDA Education Subcommittee decided to draft a document outlining the Best Practices in Special Education, and a FAQ sheet for those interested in learning more about cameras in the classroom. Additionally, the GACDA Transportation Subcommittee decided to send a letter to the Department of Transportation regarding access gaps to transportation in rural areas.

#### Statewide Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC) for EarlySteps

The [SICC](#) met on April 14, 2022 and reviewed next steps for the Family Assessment Workgroup, and the scale-up plan for the Service Delivery Supports Family Priorities. The council also received presentations on [Act 421 \(TEFRA\)](#) and Early Learning Standards. The SICC meet again on July 14 at 1pm.

## **Louisiana Emergency Management Disability and Aging Coalition (EMDAC)**

GODA has developed and is updating regularly a dynamic Information and Resource document for EMDAC. The document is publicly available at [www.bit.ly/EMDACinfo](http://www.bit.ly/EMDACinfo). If you are interested in actively working on activities and collaboration of EMDAC, especially if you are a person with a disability, please email [bambi.polotzola@la.gov](mailto:bambi.polotzola@la.gov). The GODA staff attended the [Inclusive Disaster Training by Niagara University](#) in New Orleans in June. The Training is funded by the DD Council and will be delivered in other locations in the state. The GODA staff also attended [Psychological First Aid Training](#) and will be hosting trainings throughout the upcoming year.

## **Updates on Accessible Voting in Louisiana**

The [Voting Systems Commission](#) held its final meeting on June 29th, 2022. The final recommendations were:

- Both hand-marked ballots and ballots marked with a Ballot Marking Device (BMD)
- No pre-printed ballots
- Either or both full and summary ballots.
- All ballots will be scanned for Election Day voting, and counted for official vote.

It is important to keep in mind that these are only recommendations to the Secretary of State; they are not the final decisions. The Secretary of State will now start the RFP process for Louisiana's new voting machines, which will approximately take another year.

With the passage of [HCR14 of the 2022 Regular Legislative Session](#), a new task force pertaining to voting rights for people with disabilities will be formed. The task force shall be comprised of 13 people, of which at least 7 will be people with disabilities to be appointed by the [Governor's Office of Disability Affairs](#), [Disability Rights Louisiana](#), [Split Second Foundation](#), the [Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council](#) and the [Arc of Louisiana](#).

## **William Romero: GODA Fellow**

The [Governor's Fellows Program in Louisiana Government](#) is an opportunity for college and university student leaders to experience public policy in action, learn the rich history and current affairs of Louisiana government, and earn three hours of academic credit through LSU's Department of Public Administration.

The Governor's Office of Disability Affairs is proud to have William Romero as its fellow for the summer. William is a double major in Political Science and Religious Studies at Vanderbilt University, and was honored as the Youth of the Year in the 2019 Governor's Outstanding Leadership in Disabilities Awards.