

## **Chairperson's Report October 2017 Council Meeting**

### **Appointments**

Susan Meyers was appointed to the Act 378 Sub-committee. Susan Meyers, Jill Hano and Patti Barovechio were appointed to the Self-Determination/Community Inclusion Committee.

### **Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee met on August 2<sup>nd</sup> and decided to

- Delay sending a letter to BESE regarding the LA Department of Education's family support contracts and stakeholder input until after the August BESE meeting;
- Solicit feedback from the Families Helping Families Directors regarding the specific content of the letter.

The full Council was informed of this decision the same day.

The Executive Committee met yesterday and made several recommendations. These will each be offered to the Council as a motion for consideration.

### **Council's 2018 Legislative Advocacy Agenda**

The Committee considered the LaCAN Leaders' and FHF Directors' recommendations for the Council's agenda and other issues that had been discussed by the leaders.

The Committee is recommending the Council's 2018 Legislative Advocacy Agenda to include the following:

- Funding for mixed waiver slots for all people on the waiting list in the emergent and urgent categories of need
- Funding for an enhanced rate to serve people with complex behavioral and/or medical needs
- Funding to implement TEFRA - a state plan option that would provide Medicaid to children with developmental disabilities who are not eligible due to their parents' income
- Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP) appointed by Governor and moved to Governor's Office
- LDOE behavioral support requirements
  - have school climate and student social-emotional-behavioral health as one of its top five goals,
  - establish and maintain a leadership team focused on effective, research-based behavioral practices,
  - have a plan with clear, measureable, specific, actionable outcomes and data to measure progress toward those outcomes,
  - provide a description of how decisions regarding resources and activities related to behavior are data-driven,
  - provide a budget plan to support needed activities,

- conduct recruitment and training of personnel within LDOE to ensure adequate knowledge and skills to support statewide initiatives across the range of behavioral interventions and supports, and
- identify sites to serve as demonstration sites of best practices.

### **FFY18 Plan Amendments**

At the July 2017 meeting the Council freed up \$45,000 not expected to be needed in the Direct Support Professional/Provider Training Partnership Project. In addition, after a full year of expenditures following the merger of LaCAN and LaTEACH, the staff has a more accurate estimation of funding needs for LaCAN, recommending a reduction of \$20,000. This will give us approximately \$65,000 to spend in contractual activities before September 30, 2018.

The committee is recommending for the Council to consider the following amendments to the FFY18 Plan:

Reduce the amount of funding in LaCAN from \$245,000 to \$225,000, and add the three activities.

#### **RECOMMENDATION #1, Amend Activity 1.2.3:**

**Activity 1.2.3** Provide financial support and information, training, technical assistance, and leadership to a grassroots network of individuals with developmental disabilities and family members of individuals with developmental disabilities to effectively educate policy makers on the development/improvement of programs and services for people with developmental disabilities. **Approx. FFY 2018 Cost: ~~\$245,000~~ \$225,000**

### **Training for Families Helping Families and People First of LA**

Last year the Council funded training for the staff and each Board of Directors for the nine FHF Centers with whom the Council contracts to increase the consistency and improve the quality of their service provision. LANO provided the training to the boards and the evaluation results were outstanding. Through the administration of pre- and post-tests we were able to see an impressive increase in knowledge and understanding of their roles and responsibilities as board members. Several of the boards requested additional training and technical assistance on the evaluation forms. A survey of the Executive Directors indicated a need and desire for additional training as well.

Rather than making the training mandatory as we did this past year, we suggest the Council make funding available for a certain number of training opportunities and have the FHF Centers apply for this opportunity. LANO provided the following menu of topics they are willing to provide:

- Calendaring the Board and Committee Year
- Board Recruitment and Succession Planning
- Board Chair Onboarding and Ways to a More Engaged Meeting
- Fundraising and Your Organization

We also propose making board training available to People First of LA (PFL). Councils are required to support self-advocacy and self-advocacy networks and this would be

one way for the Council to meet this requirement. PFL will have a new board in January and they said they would be very interested in receiving training from LANO.

Each training would cost approximately \$1,600 with an additional \$200 for technical assistance if needed. The Council could support four FHF Centers and PFL for approximately \$8,000.

#### **RECOMMENDATION #2 Add:**

**Activity 1.4.3** Provide financial support for training to build the capacity of people with disabilities and family members of people with disabilities to serve on Families Helping Families Resource Center Boards and the Board of People First of Louisiana. **Approximate FFY 2018 Cost: \$8,000**

#### **Training and Demonstration Project in Customized Employment**

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) changed the definition of supported employment to include customized employment. Customized employment is defined by WIOA as “Competitive integrated employment, for an individual with a significant disability, that is based on an individualized determination of the strengths, needs, and interests of the individual with a significant disability, designed to meet the specific abilities of the individual with a significant disability and the business needs of the employer, and carried out through flexible strategies.” Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS) is in the process of developing rules and payment structures related to customized employment.

This proposed demonstration project would seek to collaborate with LRS and two Employment Service Providers to build capacity in providing customized employment for individuals with significant disabilities and provide information to be used in establishing state-wide rules, payment structures and supports which promote customized employment practices. Training for the selected providers would be provided through a national training agency and would be offered to other interested providers as well. The cost of certification in the three components of customized employment would be covered for the project providers (max of 6 job coaches) and for as many additional job coaches the budget can support from other provider agencies who attended the classroom training. This number will be dependent upon how much Council funding is needed to pay for actual services prior to LRS being set up to pay for this new service. The Council will pay for services for up to six individuals with disabilities in the two demonstration projects until such time that LRS can take over this cost.

#### **RECOMMENDATION #3 Add:**

**Activity 5.1.4** Provide funding to build the capacity of employment providers through training and a demonstration project in customized employment for individuals with significant disabilities. **Approximate FFY 2018 Cost: \$38,000**

### **Hurricane Disaster Relief**

After Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, other DD Councils contributed funds to assist our Council in meeting the immense recovery needs of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. We are proposing that our Council now pay it forward and assist those who have been devastated by the 2017 hurricanes. Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands seem to be in the greatest need but with their limited power and communication capabilities we don't yet have a full assessment.

### **RECOMMENDATION #4 Add:**

**Activity 2.2.4** Provide funding to states and/or U.S. territories to assist individuals with developmental disabilities and their families to remain in their own homes and communities in the aftermath of the 2017 hurricanes.

**Approximate FFY 2018 Cost: \$19,000.**

### **Membership Committee Authority**

For the Membership Committee to be granted authority to select candidates to be submitted directly to the Governor for appointment to the Council to replace Delery and Bonnie.

### **Recognizing Council Members' Service**

Depending on when the Governor appoints their replacements, this may be the last meeting for two of our members so we want to recognize their service to the Council today with a certificate of our appreciation.

- Paula Moreau served four years on the Council.
- Stuart Simon served three years on the Council.