

Chairperson's Report July 2017 Council Meeting

Appointments

I made several committee appointments this past quarter:

- Jill Egle' to the Act 378 Sub-committee and the Self-Determination/Community Inclusion Committee
- Dee Budgewater to the Self-Determination/Community Inclusion Committee

I also appointed Randall Brown to represent me at the Annual Conference of the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities.

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee met on May 18th to consider adding an activity (and associated funding) to the Council's current plan that ends September 30, 2017. This meeting was necessary because the OCDD/Council training and technical assistance contract for direct support providers continues to underspend all projections. In addition, the employment support parent initiative to provide support to parents of individuals in sheltered workshops has been slow to get off the ground and has spent no funding to date. The Trump administration's recent extension for states to come into compliance with the Home and Community Based Settings Rule has Council staff concerned that referrals are going to be even slower in coming than they have been. As a result, approximately \$45,000 in extra funding is expected to be available in this "capacity building" contract that cannot be rolled over into the next federal fiscal year. Staff reached out to the Human Development Center to see if they could quickly develop any capacity building project before the end of September 2017 that would help the Council achieve an objective in our current plan. They submitted a proposal that would help the Council achieve Goal 3, Objective 3.1 in our plan which the Executive Committee approved. The full Council was informed of this decision the next day.

The new Activity 3.1.2 is listed below in underlined. The existing plan Goal, Objective, and other Activity are included for reference.

Goal 3 Students with disabilities will have access to quality, individualized educational programs that address their unique skills, interests, and goals in inclusive environments.

Obj. 3.1 Individualized Education Plan (IEP) team members will have increased levels of information and support to demonstrate effective individualized programming consistent with best practice and to enable each member to participate fully as members of the IEP team.

Activity 3.1.1 Advocate for increased focus and capacity within LDOE to address Special Education, including specific areas/issues (i.e., disability/topical/etc.).

Activity 3.1.2 Provide financial support for the development and initial training of modules to increase the capacity of family support organizations and local school systems in facilitating family and

student involvement in Individual Education Plan (IEP) meetings.
(Approx. \$45,000)

The Executive Committee met again yesterday and discussed updates on Council funding. In the President's budget, the Administration on Community Living proposed to combine three programs, one of which is the State Councils on Developmental Disabilities, into a single cross-disability program. Cuts to all of these programs totaled \$57 million. Fortunately, earlier this week, the House Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Committee released a report recommending these programs not be consolidated and Councils remain level funding at \$73 million. The Senate will soon begin its work on their appropriations bill and NACDD and others will be working towards the same outcome.

The committee also discussed the Council's position on national healthcare. As you know, the U.S. House and Senate leadership have been committed to repealing and replacing the Affordable Care Act. The most recent bill proposed by the U.S. Senate would have restructured Medicaid by applying per capita caps and cutting funding by nearly \$800 billion. Not having enough votes for the bill, the Senate will move forward with a repeal-only approach. This is expected to fail but it's important for the Council to have a formal position on healthcare for any actions that come up in the future.

The Executive Committee recommends the Council's position on national healthcare policy be aligned with the following principles:

- No cuts or caps to Medicaid
- No block grants for Medicaid
- Continued coverage of pre-existing conditions
- No annual or lifetime caps
- No separate risk pools that segregate people with high health care needs from those with lower cost needs
- Maintain coverage for essential health benefits such as mental health services and pharmacy
- Maintain Medicaid Expansion and increased FMAP for Medicaid Expansion population.

New Council member orientation will be held October 17-18, 2017. There are two Council members whose terms will expire in October and November. The committee discussed recruiting two new replacements prior to the October meeting so they may participate in orientation. The Executive Committee recommends the Membership Committee be granted authority to select two applicants for the upcoming Council vacancies prior to the October meeting.

Lastly, the committee received an update on Council Staff and the Executive Director's salary increases. Classified employees will be receiving a salary increase in January per new Civil Service requirements. However, increases for unclassified employees have not been addressed. Staff has sought clarity from Louisiana Department of Health

(LDH) Human resources and is currently awaiting a response. Thus, the committee decided to table a recommendation to the Council to approve Sandee's salary increase until the October meeting when information from LDH Human Resources has been received.