

Executive Director's Report
October 18-19, 2017 Council Meeting

Budget

- The budget report with expenditures through August 2017 is included in the packet.

Amendments to Five Year Plan

- Amendments to our plan were submitted electronically to the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD) before the deadline of August 15th.

Federal Allotment/Federal Budget

- The Senate Labor, Health and Human Services, Education Appropriations Committee approved its FY 2018 spending bill with level funding (\$73 million) for DD Councils included. The bill also included a statement opposing the President's proposal to create the Partnership for Innovation, Inclusion, and Independence (P3I). Since Congress did pass all the spending bills before September 30th, a Continuing Resolution will keep the government funded until all bills are finalized.
- In August I provided comments in a listening session hosted by the Administration on Community Living (ACL) and submitted more extensive written comments to ACL in opposition to the P3I proposal.

New Officer Orientation

- The new Executive Committee was provided an orientation session to orient them to the Executive Committee and their new leadership roles on the Council.

Staff Professional Development

- Brenton attended the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities' (NACDD) Annual Conference and the AIDD Technical Assistance Institute. Information was provided on federal reporting requirements and strategies for increasing effective communication between self-advocacy organizations and Councils. Tools other Councils have used to engage policymakers and affect policy changes were also shared.
- Derek and I attended the LA Association of Non-Profit Associations' (LANO) Annual Conference which focused on leadership.
- A day-long staff retreat was held where we discussed ways to improve our operations.
- I will attend the DD Councils Executive Directors' Leadership Summit on October 15-16th

Membership Update

- The Membership Committee met on September 18th to consider and select two candidates for the Governor's consideration to replace Paula Moreau and Stuart Simon when they rotate off later this fall. Mike Billings and Lillian DeJean were selected and plan to attend the October Council meeting and orientation.
- Bonnie Buckelew and Delery Rice resigned from the Council on September 19th and 20th. We are currently recruiting applicants to fill their positions.

Ad Hoc Committees/Work Groups

- The Flexible Family Fund (FFF) Work Group met on September 22nd to make recommendations to the Act 378 Sub-Committee on possible changes to the FFF policy and procedures to address issues and concerns identified by families.
- The workgroup plans to meet again in the coming months to continue discussions and formulate additional recommendations.

LaCAN

- The Council's Annual Legislative Kick Off was held for our LaCAN advocacy leaders and the Families Helping Families (FHF) Directors. Information was shared and discussed on the state-of-the-state in home and community-based services, employment, and education. The participants made recommendations for the Council to consider for its legislative advocacy agenda.
- Training for our LaCAN leaders was provided to enhance their skills in developing and supporting grassroots advocacy members as well as developing relationships with policymakers.

Advocacy Activities and Provision of Information

Community Supports/Healthcare

- Provided information and advocacy support on the impact of the Republican plans to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act in Congress.

Education

- As decided at the July Council meeting, a [letter was sent to the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Programs](#) related to violations with membership on Louisiana's Special Education Advisory Panel. [Attachments to letter.](#)
- As decided at the July Council meeting, then modified by the Executive Committee on August 2nd, a [letter was sent to the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education \(BESE\)](#) related to making information on IDEA funding and programs publicly available to enable input from stakeholders and also related to family support provided by the Families Helping Families (FHF) Centers.
- Provided information to legislators regarding issues with implementation of Act 833 of 2014 and Act 303 of 2016 related to alternative pathways to earn a high school diploma.
- Advocated for the Governor's Advisory Council on Disability Affairs to request an audit of LDOE regarding the use of federal (IDEA) and state funds designated for special education programs.
- Advocated for the Advisory Council on Student Behavior and Discipline (ACSBD) to adopt a legislative agenda that includes requiring LDOE to take the actions listed below. The ACSBD agreed in principle that LDOE should be expected to have these elements in place, but a legislative agenda has not yet been adopted.
 - 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.

Employment

- Expressed concern to LA Rehabilitation Services' (LRS) Assistant Director over the LA Rehabilitation Council not being given the opportunity to fulfill its mandated role in LRS' decision-making.

General

- Provided information through LaDDC News on the following:
 - 27th Anniversary of the ADA: A Day of Action – Not Celebration (referring to advocacy needed to save Medicaid and protect the Affordable Care Act)
 - High School Diplomas for Students with Disabilities
 - Council’s 2017 Employment Conference – Raising Expectations
 - National Disability Institute’s Financial Inclusion Summit
 - Governor’s Office of Disability Affairs’ ADA Symposium
 - Recruitment of Applicants for Council Membership Vacancies
 - Council Revisions to FFY2018 Action Plan
 - Recruitment of Applicants for Partners in Policymaking
 - Council Elects New Leadership
- Provided information through Facebook and Twitter on various issues of interest to people with developmental disabilities and their families, most notably, the Republican plans to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act and make massive cuts to Medicaid.

Collaborative Efforts

Employment First Work Group Sub-Committee

- The sub-committee was formed to complete the report on Employment First prior to delivery to the Governor
- The group agreed on the need to develop an executive summary and is ensuring the accuracy of data and information and thoroughness of topics addressed.

OCDD Mortality Review Committee

- Of the 28 cases reviewed this quarter, the Committee requested additional information for six cases and noted a Health Standards citation for neglect on the part of one provider.
- The Council will no longer be serving on the MRC. The experience and knowledge gained through participation on this committee has been extremely beneficial, assisting in our collaboration with:
 - LSU Health Human Development Center in developing the DD Awareness modules for various clinicians in FFY2013 and 2014, and
 - the Complex Needs Training and Technical Assistance Partnership in which OCDD provides its expertise in capacity building activities for direct support providers that began in mid-FFY 2016 and is continuing into FFY 2018.

Governor’s Advisory Council on Disability Affairs (GACDA)

- The Employment First Work Group’s final report is nearing completion. GACDA voted for a sub-committee to make the final edits and write an executive summary. It will then be submitted to the Governor and be available to the public.
- GACDA voted to request the Governor and the legislative members of GACDA to ask the legislative auditor to conduct a comprehensive audit of LDOE’s use of federal (IDEA) and state funds designated for special education programs. A list of areas to focus on will be developed by the Governor’s Office of Disability Affairs’ Executive Director with input by stakeholders.
- A transportation survey is being disseminated to people with disabilities, family members, and seniors on the availability, lack of, and need for transportation in their area. The results of this survey will be used to make recommendations to policymakers.

OCDD System Transformation Core Work Group

- Updates were provided by OCDD on screening of people on the waiting list, the Tiered Waiver System, the ROW Pilot, the Person-Centered Planning initiative, and other OCDD projects.
- Input from stakeholders was provided to OCDD on several initiatives, including the ROW 50 Pilot where it was recommended that ICF/DD residents on the waiver waiting list be re-

approached to ensure they fully understand the ROW opportunity they were previously offered and refused.

Meetings Attended (by Executive Director) Since June 26, 2017

Governor's Advisory Council on Disability Affairs – June 27
Legislative Debriefing – June 29
Partners in Policymaking Debriefing – June 30
Orientation conference calls with new members – July 11 and 12
State Interagency Coordinating Council – July 13
Council meeting – July 19-20
Governor's Office of Disability Affairs' ADA Symposium/Employment session – July 26
Administration on Community Living (ACL) listening session – August 2
Executive Committee – August 2
Meeting w/ Allan Bergman re: Employment Conference - August 8
LA Association of Non-Profit Associations' (LANO) Annual Conference - August 17
Self-Direction Initiative Debriefing - August 28
Meeting w/ LANO re: training for FHF - August 29
Staff Retreat – August 31
OCDD System Transformation Core Stakeholders Group – September 5
New Officer Orientation – September 6
Legislative Kickoff – September 13
DD Council Applicant interviews w/ April Dunn – September 14
Membership Committee – September 18
Governor's Advisory Council on Disability Affairs - September 19
Budget conference call w/ LDH – September 21
Flexible Family Fund Work Group – September 22