

August 3, 2012

## Partners in Policymaking: 2012 Graduates & 2013 Recruitment

Congratulations to the 2012 Partners in Policymaking class. On June 16<sup>th</sup> in Baton Rouge, twenty-one individuals completed the coursework and requirements to become the 22<sup>nd</sup> graduating class of the Louisiana Partners in Policymaking Program. This national leadership training program for people with developmental disabilities and parents of young children with developmental disabilities educates participants on current disability issues, best practices, policymaking and legislative processes. Participants develop the competencies necessary for effective advocacy to influence public policy at all levels of government.



**2012 Partners in Policymaking Class:** Pictured from left to right – **front row:** Vera Dyess (Marthville), Lori Dahl (Mandeville), Jerry Turgeau (Ponchatoula), Robbie Gray, Program Monitor, LA DD Council (Baton Rouge); **2<sup>nd</sup> row:** Liz Gary, Coordinator Partners in Policymaking, 2008 Graduate (Mandeville), Jill Egle (New Orleans), Erin Smith (Springhill), Lillian Wise (Mandeville); **3<sup>rd</sup> row:** Sandra Blanks (Baton Rouge) Michael Weir (Denham Springs), Michael Green (Gretna); **4<sup>th</sup> row:** Jason Durham (Clinton), Melanie Sarro (Lake Charles), Heather Parfait (Schriever), Allison LeBlanc (Youngsville), Dana Altamirano (Washington); **5<sup>th</sup> row:** Laci Polotzola (Port Barre), Charlene O'Neill (Ragley), Shelley Marengo (Covington), Kem Dwyer (Opelousas), Amy Brumfield (Hammond), Amy Holmes (Hammond), Marvin Brown (New Orleans).

The Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council is now recruiting motivated individuals with developmental disabilities and parents of young children with developmental disabilities to apply for the 2013 Class of Partners in Policymaking. The Council is especially interested in individuals who have the enthusiasm and potential to become effective advocates. Applications must be received by **September 30, 2012** to be considered.

Participants attend one weekend training session each month from January through June. Individual sessions are devoted to specific topics presented by nationally-known experts. Sessions begin Friday at 12:00 PM and conclude on Saturday at 3:00 PM. Attendance at all sessions is mandatory. Participants are expected to complete assignments between sessions and commit to one major assignment to be completed by February of the next calendar year. Lodging and meals are provided. Respite care and attendant services are reimbursed for participants who qualify.

To apply for the 2013 Partners in Policymaking class [click here](#) or contact the Council at 1-800-450-8108. To be considered for the next Partners class, completed applications must be received via e-mail or fax or postmarked no later than September 30, 2012. Final selection of participants will be made by November 15, 2012. The next session begins January 2013. Specific dates and topics can be found at [www.laddc.org](http://www.laddc.org). Contact Robbie Gray at 225-342-6804 or [robbie.gray@la.gov](mailto:robbie.gray@la.gov) for more information.



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