



June 17, 2014

Partners in Policymaking: 2014 Graduates & 2015 Recruitment

Congratulations to the 2014 Partners in Policymaking class. On June 7th fifteen individuals completed the coursework and requirements to become the 24th 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.



2014 Partners in Policymaking Class: Pictured from left to right – **Front Row:** Christy Paulsell (Mandeville); Pam Brailey (Abbeville); Brittany Quebedeaux (Krotz Springs); Leah Fuselier (Sulphur); Michelle Going (Slidell); **Middle Row:** Liz Gary, Partners in Policymaking Coordinator & 2008 Graduate (Mandeville); Shanee Holmes (Metairie); Amy Donarski (Walker); Ashley McReynolds (Baton Rouge); Deborah Hampton (Hammond); Jill Hano (River Ridge); Robbie Gray, Program Monitor, LA DD Council (Baton Rouge); **Top Row:** Ashley Bourg (Marrero); Christy Paddy (Greenwood); LaToya Hawkins (Baton Rouge); Darla Louviere (New Iberia); Bambi Guilbeau (Denham Springs).

Apply for the 2015 Partners in Policymaking Class

Individuals with developmental disabilities and parents of young children with developmental disabilities who have the enthusiasm and potential to become effective advocates are encouraged to apply for the 2015 Class of Partners in Policymaking.

Participants attend six weekend training sessions; each session is two-days per month from January through June in Baton Rouge. 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 before graduation in June. Lodging and meals are provided and mileage is reimbursed. Respite care and attendant services are reimbursed for participants who qualify.

To apply for the 2015 Partners in Policymaking class [click here](#) or contact the Council at 1-800-450-8108. Completed applications must be received via e-mail or fax or postmarked no later than September 30, 2014 to be considered. Final selection of participants will be made by November 15, 2014. The next session begins January 2015. Specific dates and topics can be found at www.laddc.org. Contact Robbie Gray at 225-342-6804 or robbie.gray@la.gov for more information.