

## **Chairperson's Report April 2018 Council Meeting**

(Includes information that would have been reported at the cancelled January Council meeting)

### **Committee Appointments Made**

- Self-Determination/Community Inclusion Committee: Steven Nguyen, Mike Billings, Roslyn Hymel and Lillian Dejean
- Education/Employment Committee: Jill Demeritt (I will also be moving to this committee)
- Act 378 Sub-Committee: Mitch Iddins
- Partners Ad Hoc Committee: Hilary Bordelon, Carmen Cetnar, Bambi Polotzola, Stuart Simon, Mary Tarver. I also served.
- Planning Ad Hoc Committee: Hilary Bordelon, Randall Brown, Michelle Hurst, Robert Paddy, Bambi Polotzola, and Mary Tarver. I also served.
- Membership Ad Hoc Committee: Carmen Cetnar, Bambi Polotzola. (Michelle Hurst as the Council's Vice-Chair is a standing member)

### **Officer Appointments**

- Michelle Hurst is unable to commit to another four-year term on the Council and will rotate off when her replacement is appointed in June or thereafter. According to the bylaws, the Chairperson appoints a replacement to fulfill the remainder of her term as Vice-Chair.
- I have selected Robert Paddy for the position of Vice-Chair
- I have selected Hilary Bordelon to fill the position that will be vacated by Robert as Chairperson of the Education/Employment Committee.
- Both of them have agreed to accept these positions when Michelle rotates off of the Council.

### **Legislative Advocacy Activity**

- Made four official legislative visits to the following legislators: Representatives Ted James, Steve Carter, and Major Thibaut and Senator Dan Claitor. Communicated with numerous other legislators in informal meetings at the Capitol during the Special and Regular Legislative Sessions.
- Attended 14 yellow shirt days at the Legislature and the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE)
- Testified before the Appropriations Committee on April 10<sup>th</sup> in support of the restoration of cuts to the LA Department of Health (LDH) and in support of funding for 800 waiver slots for people in urgent need, an enhanced waiver rate for people with complex needs, and TEFRA.
- Took action on all of the action alerts over the past two quarters.
- Attended the Region 2 Legislative Roundtable on March 8<sup>th</sup>.

### **Meetings Attended**

- Council's Employment Conference on November 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Partners Ad Hoc Committee on December 6<sup>th</sup>.

- Meeting with LDH Secretary Dr. Rebekah Gee on January 8<sup>th</sup>, along with Deputy Secretary Michelle Alletto, Assistant Secretary Mark Thomas, and Sandee. We discussed the Council's legislative agenda items related to LDH. Dr. Gee was very supportive of the additional waiver slots and the enhanced waiver rate for people with complex needs.
- Welcomed the 2018 Partners in Policymaking Class on January 19<sup>th</sup>
- Planning Ad Hoc Committee on February 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Executive Committee on March 7<sup>th</sup>
- Region 2 Legislative Roundtable on March 8<sup>th</sup>
- Commissioner Dardenne's briefing on the budget/fiscal cliff on March 16<sup>th</sup>

### **Letters from the Council**

- Department of Justice

The Council joined other national and state organizations in signing a letter to the Acting Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights expressing concern about the U. S. Justice Department's December 21<sup>st</sup> withdrawal of ten guidance and technical assistance documents concerning the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Of most concern was the Department's rescinding of its "Statement on Application of the Integration Mandate of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act and *Olmstead v. L.C.* to State and local Governments' Employment Service Systems for Individuals with Disabilities" which described the obligations of states to administer their employment services for people with disabilities in the most integrated setting appropriate. The position stated in this letter is aligned with the Council's position paper on employment and the goals on employment in the Council's plan.

- Director of the Office of Workforce Development

The Council sent a letter to the Director of the Office of Workforce Development asking her to consider candidates for the new director of LA Rehabilitation Services (LRS) who are committed to offering employment opportunities to people with the most significant disabilities. We also offered to work collaboratively with her and the new Director to make LRS as effective as possible in providing employment services to people with developmental disabilities.

### **Recognition of Council Members**

We recognize and thank the following members for their service to the Council:

- Donnica Conway – 4 years
- Sharon Buchert – 1 year
- Jill Egle' – 2 years
- Michelle Hurst – 4 years

### **Executive Committee Meeting March 7<sup>th</sup>**

Executive Committee made the decisions below and the Council was immediately informed of these decisions via email.

- Adopted the Council's Position/Priority on Issues Addressed in pre-filed legislation for the 2018 Legislative Session (these are included on the Council's legislative tracking list)

- Granted the Executive Director, and Deputy Director in her absence, the authority to take or change a position when there is not time or it's not feasible to convene the Executive Committee as long as that position is in line with the Council's mission and values.
- Added the following activities to the Council's FFY18 Action Plan (using funds that are not needed by the Direct Support Professional Training and Technical Assistance Project):
  - Single day, in-person trainings in Customized Employment in two different cities in Louisiana. (Approximate 2018 Cost: \$5,500)
  - Up to 10 employment support professionals to sit for the Certified Employment Support Professional (CESP) exam through La APSE. (Approximate 2018 Cost: \$2,200)

### **Executive Committee Recommendations from April 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

#### **Positions/Priority Levels of Issues Addressed in Legislation**

The committee reviewed the position and priority level assigned by the Executive Director on issues addressed in legislation that had been filed since the committee met on March 7<sup>th</sup> and did not make any changes.

#### **Staff Authority to Change Council Position on Policy Issues**

Every year the Council votes to grant authority to the Executive Director, and Deputy Director in her absence, to take or change a position on policy issues requiring action when there is not time and/or it's not feasible to convene the Executive Committee as long as those positions are in line with the Council's mission and values. This authority does not have an expiration date, but it has become customary to bring it before the Council each year. This authority is vital for Council operations as it is not always possible to convene the Executive Committee on short notice and during session, new bills are often filed on a daily basis. Staff is recommending this authority be included in the Council's Policy and Procedures so a Council vote each year would not be necessary.

The Executive Committee is recommending the following statement be included in the Council's policy and procedures and is offering this motion for the Council's consideration.

#### **Proposed New Section XIV: Authority of Executive Director**

The Executive Director, and Deputy Director in his/her absence, shall have the authority to take or change a position on policy issues requiring action when there is insufficient time and/or it is not feasible to convene the Executive Committee as long as those positions are in line with the Council's mission and values.

### **Legislative Activity by Council Members**

The committee discussed the varying levels of participation in the Council's advocacy activities among our Council members. Some members have a very high level of participation while many of our members do not participate at all. Various ways to support increased participation were discussed including:

- A summary email be sent to Council members periodically listing the alerts that have been sent and request they confirm taking action.
- Staff research votervoice.net or similar programs which would automatically track member actions and allow members to contact their senator/representative directly through the alert.
- Send an update at least quarterly detailing the number of actions taken by members.

### **Evaluation and Consideration of Merit Increase for Executive Director**

The Executive Committee conducted Sandee's 2017 evaluation and recommended in April 2017 that she receive a 4% raise based on her performance and evaluation results, however per Sandee's request this raise would be contingent upon the staff receiving a raise in fiscal year 2018. This motion was tabled at the April 2017 Council meeting until such time that clarification was received that unclassified employees were allowed to receive a pay increase. Clarification was received in December 2017 from the LA Department of Health's Human Resources that unclassified employees are eligible for an increase with the amount left up to the appointing authority. This would have been considered at the cancelled January 2018 Council meeting.

Other Council employees all received pay raises effective January 2, 2018 of varying amounts (25%, 14.7%, 11.1%, 9%, 9%, 6%, and 2%). All staff will receive an additional pay raise effective July 1<sup>st</sup> ranging from 2-4%.

After receiving feedback from the full Council, Sandee's annual evaluation was again conducted in April 2018 by the Executive Committee. Based on the evaluation results and her performance, the Committee is recommending a pay increase of 8% for the Council's Executive Director to be effective January 2, 2018 and will offer this motion for the Council's consideration.