

**LOUISIANA DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL**  
**April 19, 2018**  
**MEETING SUMMARY**

Embassy Suites  
Baton Rouge, LA

8:30 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Patti Barovechio, OPH/CSHS  
Kim Basile  
Michael Billings  
Hilary Bordelon  
Randall Brown Jr.  
Sharon Buchert, GOEA  
Dee Budgewater, BHSF  
Carmen Cetnar  
Alan Coulter, HDC  
Lillian DeJean  
Jill Demeritt  
April Dunn  
Jill Eglé  
Jill Hano  
Michelle Hurst  
Roslyn Hymel  
Mitch Iddins  
Susan Meyers, Advocacy Center  
Steven Nguyen  
Robert Paddy  
Tara Smith  
Mary Tarver  
Mark Thomas, OCDD  
Jamie Wong, LDOE

STAFF PRESENT

Brenton Andrus  
Rodney Anthony  
Shawn Fleming  
Kourtney Gaines  
De'Van Stephenson  
Sandee Winchell

MEMBERS ABSENT

Donnica Conway  
Tara LeBlanc, OAAS  
Bambi Polotzola, GODA

GUESTS PRESENT

Kristen Clebert, OAAS  
Katie Corkern, Northshore FHF  
Julie Folse  
Liz Gary  
Lynsey Hebert, Transcriptionist  
Jolan Jolivette, GODA  
Ashley McReynolds, LaCAN  
Kelly Monroe, Arc of La.  
Tony Piontek  
Brenda Sharp, EarlySteps  
Jim Sprinkle, FHF Crossroads  
Ken York, LRS

April Dunn called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

## **SUMMARY OF APRIL MEETING**

**MOTION PASSED.** Motion to accept the summary of the October 2017 Council meeting made by Tara Smith, seconded by Randall Brown, passed without objection.

### **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – April Dunn**

Michelle Hurst announced she will not seek reappointment when her term on the Council ends in June. Ms. Dunn announced she will appoint Robert Paddy to serve Ms. Hurst's remaining term as vice chair of the Council and for Hilary Bordelon to serve as Mr. Paddy's remaining term as Employment and Education Committee Chair.

Sharon Buchert, Michelle Hurst, Jill Egle' and Donnica Conway were recognized and thanked for their service to the Council since their terms of service are ending.

Ms. Dunn announced appointments of the following members to Council Committees:

- Self-Determination/Community Inclusion Committee: Steven Nguyen, Mike Billings, Roslyn Hymel and Lillian Dejean
- Education/Employment Committee: Jill Demeritt (Ms. Dunn 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 and April Dunn
- Planning Ad Hoc Committee: Hilary Bordelon, Randall Brown, Michelle Hurst, Robert Paddy, Bambi Polotzola, Mary Tarver and April Dunn
- Membership Ad Hoc Committee: Carmen Cetnar, Bambi Polotzola. (Michelle Hurst as the Council's Vice-Chair is a standing member)

**MOTION PASSED.** The Executive Committee recommendation to revise the Council's policy and procedures by adding the following section:

#### **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.

passed without objection.

**MOTION PASSED.** The Executive Committee recommendation of a pay increase of eight percent for the Council's Executive Director, based on evaluation results and performance, to be effective January 2, 2018 passed without objection with one abstention by Jamie Wong.

### **Executive Director's Report**

Sandee Winchell highlighted strong advocacy of LaCAN members on issues considered by the Legislature including the testimonies provided by ten LaCAN members, three of

whom are Council members. Ms. Winchell explained changes needed to the New Opportunities Waiver fund and the decisions needed to best utilize the influx of nineteen million dollars into that fund as a result of differences between state revenue projections and actual revenue. Ms. Winchell also discussed the services and programs being considered for elimination as a result of the budget shortfall for fiscal year 2019 and Council advocacy agenda items. Additional discussion revolved around issues impacting people with developmental disabilities in other legislative instruments.

Ms. Winchell also reminded Council members of the requirement to submit their financial disclosure statements and offered assistance to anyone in completing this requirement.

### **BUDGET REPORT – Shawn Fleming**

Shawn indicated changes were made to some of the budgeted amounts for certain areas and explained projections for expenditures to a number of contracts.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE – Michelle Hurst**

Michelle Hurst reported the committee consisted of Carmen Cetnar, Bambi Polotzola and herself. The committee considered ten applicants for three available positions.

**MOTION PASSED.** The Membership Committee's recommendation for the following individuals to be submitted to the Governor for consideration for Council member appointments:

- Hyacinth McKee, Family Member (parent & sibling), Region I/New Orleans
- Crystal White, Family Member(parent), Region II/Prairieville
- Angela Lorio, Non-Profit representative – Trach Mommas

and, the following individuals considered as alternates:

- Corhonda Corley, Family Member (parent), Region II/Zachary, alternate for both Hyacinth Mckee and Crystal White,
- Enrice Jones, representing Institute for Networking Community Services, as the alternate for Angela Lorio.

passed without objection and no abstentions.

### **ACT 378 SUB-COMMITTEE – Mary Tarver**

Mary Tarver reported the Sub-Committee discussed that South Central LA Human Services Authority is out of compliance with Act 73 of 2017 by over \$325,000.

**MOTION PASSED.** The Act 378 Subcommittee's recommendation for the Council to send a letter to South Central Human Services Authority regarding their non-compliance with Act 73 of 2017 passed without objection and no abstentions. A copy of this letter will also be sent to Senator Fred Mills who authored the legislation, Mark Thomas,

Assistant Secretary of the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, and Michelle Alletto, LDH Deputy Secretary. The Subcommittee also received an update from OCDD on the Flexible Family Fund Workgroup recommendations. OCDD has accepted the workgroup's recommendations and begun the process of editing the program's rule. The edited rule was sent to LDH's legal department for review.

**SELF DETERMINATION/COMMUNITY INCLUSION COMMITTEE – Randall Brown**

Randall Brown reported the Partners' Ad Hoc Committee's recommendations were presented to and discussed by the committee.

**AMENDED MOTION PASSED.** The Committee recommendation for the Council to accept the following recommendations developed by the Partners' Ad Hoc Committee:

- a. The Selection Committee will meet to review applications regardless of the number of applications received.
- b. The Selection Committee will consider and make decisions regarding the acceptance of individuals who marked "yes" to having a developmental disability according to the federal definition but marked "no" they are not waiting for or receiving services through the Regional Human Services District/Authority.
  - i. Council staff or the Partners Coordinator will contact these individuals to gather more information prior to the Selection Committee's meeting.
- c. Revisions to the Partners' application to clarify and simplify questions and dramatically reduce the overall length of the application.

passed without objection and no abstentions by Hilary Bordelon, second by Jill Demeritt.

**AMENDMENT PASSED:** Motion by Hilary Bordelon, second by Jill Demeritt, motion to insert the words "and make decisions" in (b) passed without objection and no abstentions.

Mr. Brown reported the committee spent considerable time discussing concerns regarding Bayou Land Families Helping Families.

**MOTION PASSED.** The Self-Determination and Community Inclusion Committee recommendation for the Council to grant the Executive Director the authority to negotiate with the board of Bayou Land Families Helping Families with the option to not renew its contract. If the contractual relationship with Bayou Land FHF is terminated, Council staff will develop and release a Solicitation of Proposals for a new Center to serve the individuals and families of Region 3, passed with 18 yeas votes to one nay vote with one abstention.

Mr. Brown stated the committee discussed the composition of the boards of the Human Services Districts/Authorities as it relates to Act 73 of 2017.

**MOTION PASSED.** The Self-Determination and Community Inclusion Committee's recommendation for the Council to write a letter to the Louisiana Department of Health requesting a review of each Human Services District/Authority's board membership and roles according to Act 73 of 2017 be included in the annual accountability plan review process passed without objection with three abstentions.

Mr. Brown Reported the committee received an update on the healthcare provider continuing education modules developed by LSU Human Development Center and discussed ways the Council could assist with promoting these trainings

### **EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE – Robert Paddy**

Robert Paddy reported the committee discussed Customized Employment vendors.

**MOTION PASSED.** The EE Committee recommendation for the Council to endorse rules for approving vendors for Customized Employment (CE) to have at least one Employment Support Professional with applicable competency-based certification(s) based on the essential elements of CE by the Workforce Innovation Technical Assistance Center (WINTAC) and the Vocational Rehabilitation Youth Technical Assistance Center (Y-TAC) by 2020. And, prior to the year 2020 interim requirements for CE vendors should require training or knowledge-based certification accredited by the Institute for Credentialing Excellence (ICE) or consistent with nationally recognized essential elements of CE, passed without objection and no abstentions.

Mr. Paddy also reported the committee made several decisions:

- to include a report on the implementation of Act 833 on the July committee agenda and for staff to check the availability of Rebecca Hanbury to provide a verbal report.
- for LDOE to provide the committee in July with any data related to the findings connected to the use of applied course work as requested by the Governor's Advisory Council on Disability Affairs.
- to request the department provide historical data on behavioral occurrences from 2010 to 2018 school years related to students with disabilities and their plan to address issues on behavioral practices.

### **PLANNING AD HOC COMMITTEE – Hilary Bordelon**

Hilary Bordelon presented the committee's recommendations for action plan activities to achieve its implementation strategies for fiscal year 2019.

**AMENDED MOTION PASSED.** The Planning Ad Hoc Committee's recommendation for the Council to adopt FFY19 Plan as proposed.

- [FFY19 DD Council Plan Contractual Activities Recommended by Planning Ad Hoc Committee.](#)
- [FFY19 DD Council Plan Recommended by Planning Ad Hoc Committee](#)

**AMENDMENT PASSED:** Motion by Robert Paddy, second by Sharon Buchert, to amend the motion to change cost estimates with updated information in the handout (below) passed without objection.

Activity	<b>State</b>		
1.4.1	State Fund Budget (FHF Centers)	\$	507,517
	<b>Federal</b>		
	<b>Ongoing Plan Contractual Objectives</b>		
1.2.1	Partners in Policymaking	\$	80,000
1.2.3	LaCAN	\$	225,000
1.2.4	Events	\$	40,000
	<b>Total Obligations for Ongoing Projects</b>		<b>\$345,000</b>
	<b>Limited Time Contractual Objectives</b>		
1.1.2	People First Conference	\$	7,100
2.1.2	DSP Training	\$	16,500
2.7.1	Sexual Ed/Abuse Awareness/	\$	27,900
4.1.3	Inclusive Child Care T.A.	\$	77,800
5.1.3	Customized Employment Trng w/6 providers	\$	53,000
5.1.4	Customized Employment Trng x 4	\$	11,000
5.1.5	Customized Employment web-based trng (15 ppl)	\$	2,700
5.1.6	Supported Employment (web-based trng, 600 ppl)	\$	39,000
	<b>Total Obligations for Limited Time Projects</b>		<b>\$235,000</b>
	<b>Total FFY19 Plan Funded Initiatives</b>		<b>\$580,000</b>

Values above reflect the following staff recommended changes to Planning Ad Hoc Committee recommendations based on updated cost estimates.

4.1.3	Increase of \$7,800
5.1.3	Increase of \$2,000
5.1.5	Decrease of \$6,300 & reduction of participants (from 100 to 15)
5.1.6	Decrease of \$3,500 (no indirect costs)

Motion to approve FFY19 plan as amended passed without objection and no abstentions.

**COUNCIL AGENCY REPORTS**

**OFFICE FOR CITIZENS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (OCDD) - Mark Thomas**

Mark Thomas highlighted information in the report on the changes to the service delivery system as a result of the new tiered wavier approach. This approach is more

responsive to the needs of people. Combined with the funds deposited into the NOW fund will result in meeting the needs of everyone who had previously been waiting for services. Mr. Thomas thanked Ms. Winchell for clarifying to the House Appropriations Committee the reason for holding waiver slots was a result of agreement with stakeholders to wait until the federal agency (CMS) approved the plan to prioritize waiver slots by urgency of need.

**GOVERNOR’S OFFICE OF ELDERLY AFFAIRS (GOEA) – Sharon Buchert**

Sharon Buchert shared data on the numbers of people served at resource centers, phone calls and through [www.louisiananswers.com](http://www.louisiananswers.com). The senior prescription program has provided people with over six million dollars worth of prescriptions for free or at low cost. Ms. Buchert bid a heartfelt farewell as this was her final report to the Council since she is retiring soon.

**LOUISIANA REHABILITATION SERVICES (LRS) – Ken York**

Ken York expressed a desire to provide the Council with relevant information and offered to include additional information in future reports to meet the Council’s needs. He indicated there was an increase in closing cases related to the Social Security Ticket to Work. Mr. York highlighted LRS’ employment initiatives indicated in the report such as pre-employment transition services and procedures for the customized employment service. LRS has developed the following milestone payment rate structure for customized employment services:

Completion of the Discovery Process and Discovery Profile:	\$1,000
Completion of Customized Employment Plan:	\$500
Customized Employment Placement:	
Seven days of employment:	\$2,000
One Month Job Retention:	\$1,000
Job Stabilization:	\$1,000
Ninety days of competitive integrated employment:	\$2,250
Incentive for high quality employment (i.e., 25+ hours/week earning at least ten dollars an hour with health insurance):	<u>\$1,000</u>
<b>TOTAL AVAILABLE:</b>	<b><u>\$8,750</u></b>

**GOVERNOR’S OFFICE OF DISABILITY AFFAIRS (GODA) – Jolan Jolivette**

Jolan Jolievette shared GODA recently brought on Melanie Washington as the Executive Director for the Statewide Interagency Coordinating Council for EarlySteps. GODA has been working on promoting employment for individuals with disabilities. Two employment strategies include highlighting employment success stories and reviewing state policies and practices for our state government to be a model employer of people with disabilities.

Mr. Jolivette invited everyone to consider participating in the 2018 Art Show by submitting artwork based on the theme “Working Together.” Later this year GODA will

be accepting applications for the GOLD awards. He also requested information related to events or topics to include in GODA's newsletter.

### **ADVOCACY CENTER (AC) – Susan Meyers**

Susan Meyers reported on the accomplishments of the Supported Independent Living Advocacy Program (SILAP). Expanding SILAP is doubtful due to the current State budget situation. Ms. Meyers also shared outcomes of the Community Living Ombudsman Program including a recent development of formalizing a working relationship with the Medicaid Fraud Unit in the Attorney General's office to ensure services are provided as billed.

The Advocacy Center also has a number of employment related initiatives including one to ensure sheltered workshops and other organizations with federal approval to pay subminimum wage rates are complying with the regulations. The AC Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) program provides people with information on how to work and maintain benefits.

The AC has a goal of having a new permanent executive director in place in the next few months. Meanwhile, Bob Whitney is serving as the AC's interim Executive Director.

### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (LDOE) – Jamie Wong**

Jamie Wong shared the LDOE is taking a hard look at the Special School District. LDOE is in the process of redesigning the district with the vision for the state-run residential schools to be hubs of resources for very low-incidence disabilities.

Ms. Wong indicated the annual State application for Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is open for public comment through April 28<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Wong also announced two vacancies on the Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP) and encouraged Council members to consider applying.

### **OFFICE OF AGING AND ADULT SERVICES (OAAS) – Kristen Clebert (for Tara LeBlanc)**

Kristen Clebert highlighted data in the OAAS report related to numbers of participants in waivers and state plan programs. Ms. Clebert also shared that the impact of the current House Bill one (HB1) on OAAS services would result in the loss of services for over 36,000 people: 67 percent of people on the Adult Day Healthcare Waiver, 62 percent of people on the Community Choices Waiver, 80 percent of people receiving Long Term Personal Care Services, and 83 percent of people residing in nursing facilities.

### **OFFICE OF PUBLIC HEALTH (OPH) – Patti Barovechio**

Patti Barovechio provided a brief description of the Children's Special Health Services Program, the Louisiana Birth Defects Monitoring Network (LBDMN), the Louisiana Healthy Homes and Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program and the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Program. Dr. Barovechio reported that CSHS is providing technical assistance to increase developmental screening in the state. She also announced that the Commission for the Deaf is now under the Bureau of Family Health.



### **BUREAU OF HEALTH SERVICES FINANCING (BHSF) – Dee Budgewater**

Dee Budgewater highlighted issues in the BHSF report she felt were causing a lot of concern. In particular, Ms. Budgewater discussed the special income level eligibility for Medicaid at risk due to the budget shortfall, a workgroup to review self-direction and make recommendations for changes to the program, the electronic visit verification system that became effective February 19<sup>th</sup>, the new Medicaid system for incident management reporting, and applied behavior analysis being carved into managed care effective February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018.

### **Input on the Interest and Opportunity Component of Louisiana’s ESSA Plan – Jamie Wong**

Ms. Wong led a discussion on interest and opportunities as accountability factors of schools allowed for by the federal law, the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2016.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

### **NEW BUSINESS**

None.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Tony Piontek provided public comment related to ideas about training for employment skills. Mr. Piontek shared information about [www.lambsfarm.org](http://www.lambsfarm.org) and offered this model for consideration in Louisiana.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next Council meeting will be July 18-19 at the Embassy Suites, Baton Rouge.

### **ADJOURNMENT OF BUSINESS MEETING**

**MOTION PASSED.** A motion to adjourn by Robert Paddy, seconded by Roslyn Hymel, passed without objection.