

**Executive Director's Report
October 16-17, 2019 Council Meeting**

Budget

- Three budget reports are included in the packet and linked on the Council meeting agenda:
 - The End-of-Year budget report for State Fiscal Year (SFY) 19
 - SFY19 Expenditures by Plan Activities and Administrative Costs
 - The current year budget (SFY20) with expenditures through August

Action Plan for FFY20

- The Council Action Plan for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 20 was submitted electronically to the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities before the deadline of August 15th.

Appropriations

- Congress has not yet passed a budget for FFY20 which began October 1st to provide funding for Councils and the rest of the federal government. The President signed a Continuing Resolution (CR) for 8 weeks of funding with hopes a budget will pass before the CR expires.

Membership Update

- Phil Wilson, Director of the Human Development Center (HDC), will once again represent HDC on the Council. Dr. Wilson previously served on the Council for many years. His name has been submitted to the Governor for appointment to replace Michael Norman whose term will expire on November 9th.
- Melissa Bayham, Jamie Wong, and Mary Tarver's names have all been submitted to the Governor as their terms end on November 9th and are eligible for reappointment.
- Matt Rovira was selected by the Membership Committee to replace Enrice Jones as the local, non-governmental, or non-profit organization representative concerned with services for people with DD. Mr. Rovira applied as a board member of the Community Provider Association. His name was submitted to the Governor on August 26th.
- The Membership Committee will make a recommendation to the full Council for a replacement for Jill Demeritt.

Orientation

- Orientation was held for potential new Council member Matt Rovira on September 5th

Host State for National Association of Councils on DD (NACDD) Conference and Technical Assistance (TA) Institute

- Our state hosted the NACDD Annual Conference and TA Institute in New Orleans July 8-11. This provided an opportunity for several Council members and staff to attend and for Louisiana to showcase the innovative work our state is doing in the field of developmental disabilities. The following sessions were presented by Louisianans:
 - Opening Remarks – April Dunn
 - Personal Advocacy Journey – Lillian DeJean
 - Collaborative Effort to Eliminate the Waiting List – Sandee Winchell, Julie Foster Hagan
 - Statewide Grassroots Advocacy Network – Brenton Andrus, Ashley McReynolds
 - Keynote Address: Collaboration and the Importance of Advocacy – Mark Thomas
 - Families Helping Families Network – Laci Polotzola, Sandee Winchell (sub for Susan Rhien)
 - Employment – Jeff Arseneaux
 - Capacity Building to Serve Individuals with Complex Needs – Brandi Kelly

- Youth Health Transition – Steven Nguyen, Wilbert Johnson
- Importance of Advocacy – Former Senator Mary Landrieu

Staff Professional Development

- Courtney and I attended the AIDD Technical Assistance Institute in New Orleans in July. Sessions included updates from the Administration on Community Living, performance evaluation practices, data collection and tracking methods for state plan activities, and highlighted the impact of incorporating cultural and linguistic competencies in Council work.
- Brenton, Courtney, Ebony and I attended the NACDD Annual Conference immediately following the TA Institute. In addition to the sessions listed above, presentations included information on effective systems change advocacy, self-advocacy, preventing abuse of people with disabilities, emergency preparedness planning, and how legal aid societies can empower individuals with disabilities.
- A day-long staff retreat was held on August 17th where staff discussed ways to improve our operations.

LaCAN

- 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.
- The Council's Annual Legislative Kick Off was held for our LaCAN Leaders, Families Helping Families Directors, and Partners' Coordinator. These advocacy leaders rated over 100 issues/ideas submitted by individuals at LaCAN member meetings or through email. After discussion, the advocacy leaders voted to recommend six issues to the Council to consider for its legislative advocacy agenda.
- The Council asked staff to provide the [agenda](#) and [notes](#) for the Legislative Debriefing so members could better understand the purpose of the meeting. We were also asked to develop possible recommendations that would allow Council members to attend the Legislative Debriefing. Our recommendations are below:
 - Council members could voluntarily attend as observers, covering the cost of their own transportation and meals.
 - No discussion among Council members can take place regarding the matters discussed that could potentially violate the Open Meetings Law. It's not only a quorum of the Council that must be monitored, but a quorum of any Council committee, i.e., three members of the Executive Committee.
 - We could also combine the advocacy outcomes and current issues sections of the agenda, making it easier for Council members to attend and observe that portion of the day, separating discussion of the required contract activities.

Advocacy Activities and Provision of Information

- Sent email to Jen Katzman on July 3, 2019 requesting that the Louisiana Department of Health include stakeholders in the early stages of the development process for the program to serve the TEFRA population. This has not yet occurred.
- Provided information through LaDDC News on the following:
 - [Council Chairperson April Dunn Wins National Self-Advocacy Award](#)
 - [Act 378 Changed the Course of History – A Reason to Celebrate](#)
 - [Partners in Policymaking – Announcing 2019 Graduates and Recruitment for 2020 Class](#)
 - [Recruiting Strong Advocates for DD Council](#)
 - [GODA's 2019 Inclusive Art Contest](#)
 - [Nominations Sought for the Governor's Outstanding Leadership in Disabilities Awards](#)

- [Council Hosting 2019 Conference](#)
- [Inclusion Job and Resource Fairs](#)
- [Governor Signs TEFRA Bill in Ceremony](#)
- [Partners in Policymaking: Council Recruiting 2020 Applicants](#)
- [Relationships and Intimacy: Preventing Exploitation Training Opportunities](#)
- [Registration Live for 2019 DDC Conference](#)
- [New Council Officers Elected](#)
- Facebook and Twitter
 - Provided information through Facebook and Twitter on various issues of interest to people with developmental disabilities and their families.
 - Our following on Facebook continues to increase. On June 27, 2019 the page had 3,425 likes; on October 1, 2019 it has 3,691 likes and 3,822 followers.
 - Twitter has 279 current followers.

Collaborative Efforts

Governor's Advisory Council on Disability Affairs (GACDA)

- Formed a transportation sub-committee to monitor and provide input in the implementation of [Act 286 of 2019](#), the statewide ride share bill, regarding accessibility and affordability.
- GACDA members will be judging GODA's Inclusive Art Contest and the GOLD Awards.

Employment First Core Work Group

- Cross-agency stakeholder groups in Regions 3 and 4 are continuing collaborations and sustainability toward community integration including regional job fairs and employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities.
- Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) is being requested to provide additional technical assistance toward continuing activities conducted through this Employment First State Leadership Mentoring Program (EFSLMP) Grant.

Employment First Vision Quest Grant Work Group

- A Memorandum of Understanding between Louisiana Rehabilitation Services and the Office of Behavioral Health has been submitted for legal approval so that these agencies may seamlessly refer and provide employment services to individuals with mental illnesses and those with dual/multiple diagnoses including mental illness.

Meetings Attended (by Executive Director) Since July 2, 2019

OCDD System Transformation Core Stakeholders Group – July 2

AIDD Technical Assistance Institute in New Orleans – July 8-9

NACDD Conference in New Orleans – July 10-11

Council Meeting – July 17-18

Meeting with April Dunn – August 12

Staff Retreat – August 19

Meeting with Kathryne Hart – August 20

Membership Committee – August 23

Inclusive Child Care meeting with OCDD – August 26

Meeting with Julie Foster Hagan – August 27

TEFRA Bill Signing – September 30, 2019

Orientation with Matt Rovira – September 5

Legislative Kickoff – September 10

Governor's Advisory Council on Disability Affairs – September 17

Conference call with Administration on Community Living re: Emergency Preparedness Listening Session – September 30