

Governor's Office of Disability Affairs

Report to the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council

September 30, 2019

[Click here for Governor's Office of Disability Affairs Monthly Newsletters](#)
or find newsletters located on the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs webpage.

GODA Conference

The [Governor's Office of Disability Affairs](#) (GODA) hosted its Annual Conference on July 26, 2019 in Baton Rouge, LA. The Conference was held on the 29th Anniversary of the signing of the [Americans with Disabilities Act](#) (ADA) of 1990.

The video recap of the 2019 GODA Conference is scheduled to be televised on the Louisiana Hometown Network (LHN) channel in the month of September. Please click [here](#) to gain access the LHN's viewing schedule.

In addition, the conference video can be seen via YouTube with closed captioning by visiting: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9J3-FHMDb9w>

Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) Gala

The Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) hosted its first Inclusion Gala on August 10, 2019 in Lafayette, Louisiana. Humana and United Healthcare sponsored the event.

The SILC's Inclusion Gala was created to create awareness of the importance of inclusion of individuals with disabilities in all aspects of today's society, and to recognize individuals and organizations whose contributions helped the independent living movement.

The following individuals were recognized:

- SILC Distinguish Servant Award – Gale Dean
- SILC Outstanding Advocate Award- Jamie Duplechine and Sharron Hennessey
- SILC Community Service Award- Antoinette Harrell and Rashad Bristo
- SILC Memorial Recognition Award – Kristopher Herbert and Rev. Mallery Callahan Sr.
- Outstanding SILC Executive Director- Jessica Lewis

SILC Participates in National Council on Independent Living Conference

The [Statewide Independent Living Council \(SILC\)](#) Executive Director Jessica Lewis and SILC members Jamie Duplechine, Rashad Bristo, and Anita Gray participated in the [National Council on Independent Living \(NCIL\)](#) conference in Washington D.C July 21st- July 26th. The members of the SILC also participated in the ADA march to Capitol Hill on July 23, 2019 to spread awareness of the Americans with Disabilities Act. SILC joined hundreds of advocates from all across the country to participate in this important event. After the march, the members of the SILC visited the offices of some of Louisiana Senators and Representatives and spoke with their staff to discuss concerns regarding independent living.

Disability Employment Awareness Month in Louisiana

In recognition of National Disability Employment Awareness Month, Governor John Bel Edwards has declared October as Disability Employment Awareness Month in Louisiana. Disability Employment Awareness Month was created to educate everyone regarding disability employment issues, to celebrate the contributions of individuals with disabilities in the workforce, and to bring awareness to employers of the value of maintaining an inclusive workforce. A variety of programs and events will

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take place throughout the state during the month of October in recognition of National Disability Employment Awareness Month. The Louisiana State Civil Service developed two training modules on Disability Awareness and Disability Etiquette. The training modules are available to all state employees through LEO. For a preview of the modules visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vwgY6irqrhM&t=2s>. Please visit the calendar found on the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs for more information.

The Statewide Independent Living Council Job and Resource Fairs

The Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) will host a series of Inclusion Job and Resource Fairs in October. October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM). The SILC encourages all interested parties to find out more about possible career opportunities and resources available to the community by with interfacing over 40 vendors. The job fairs will take place in various locations throughout the state (see the schedule below) from 10am to 2pm. These job and resource fairs will provide valuable information regarding employment and other important resources for individuals with disabilities.

The Inclusion Job and Resource Fairs Schedule (10am to 2pm):

Oct. 9: Lake Charles Civic Center, 900 Lakeshore Dr, Lake Charles
Oct. 10: BREC Ball Room, 6201 Florida Blvd, Baton Rouge
Oct. 11: Robicheaux Rec Center, 1919 Eraste Landry Rd, Lafayette
Oct. 16: West Ouachita Sr. Center, 1800 N 7th St, West Monroe
Oct. 17: Fletcher Tech. Comm. College, 1407 LA-311, Schriever
Oct. 18: Ree Alario Special Needs Center, 6900 Saints Drive, Metairie
Oct. 23: David Raines Comm. Center, 2920 Round Grove Ln, Shreveport
Oct. 24: New Orleans East Hospital, 5620 Read Blvd, New Orleans
Oct. 30: Pineville Community Center, 2450 Hwy 28 East, Pineville
Oct. 31: Hammond Recreation Center, 601 W. Coleman Ave., Hammond

Individuals with disabilities are strongly encouraged to attend. For more information or to be a vendor for this event, contact Jessica Lewis at 225-219-7552. This event is sponsored by the Statewide Independent Living Council and Healthy Blue.

Governor's Outstanding Leadership in Disabilities (GOLD) Awards

The Governor's Office of Disability Affairs is proud to continue the tradition of hosting both the Governor's Outstanding Leadership in Disabilities (GOLD) Awards and the Inclusive Art Contest. The GOLD Awards will take place on December 10, 2019 at the Old State Capitol at 1:00pm in Baton Rouge. The GOLD Awards recognizes extraordinary individuals and organizations who have contributed their time and talents to benefit the lives of persons with disabilities in Louisiana. The Inclusive Art Contest enables participants to increase awareness of the importance of inclusion in today's society through artistic expression. The deadline for submission for both programs is October 31, 2019. Please visit the links to download the GOLD Awards nomination packet and Inclusive Art Contest flyer and registration form.

[Click here for the 2018 Governor's Office of Disability Affairs Annual Report](#) or find the report located on the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs webpage.