

Education and Employment Committee

Wednesday, October 16, 2019, 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Embassy Suites– Baton Rouge
4914 Constitution Ave.

WORKING AGENDA

Members: Melissa Bayham, Amy Donarski, April Dunn, Hyacinth McKee, Robert Paddy, Bambi Polotzola, Chris Rodriquez, Tara Smith, Mary Tarver, Crystal White, and Jamie Wong

Staff: Marilee Andrews, Shawn Fleming, and Courtney Ryland

Guests:

3:00 PM Welcome and Introductions

3:10 PM Approval of the [July 2019 EE Committee Summary](#) [Vote]

3:15 PM **EDUCATION**

- Advocate for LDOE focus and capacity to address Special Ed. (3.1.1)

Previously, the Committee expressed a need to better define what is expected as an outcome related to this activity and to clarify how the Council should request LDOE address this concern.

- Emergent education issues (3.3.1)
 - Lack of therapies (e.g., Music Therapy)

Music therapy has been specifically indicated as one therapy which is not available in schools. The issue of lack of therapies as it relates to waiver services will also be addressed by the Self-Determination and Inclusion Committee between 4:30 and 5:20 p.m. to allow people interested in this topic to participate in both discussions. Members interested in crossing over to the other committee are asked to be mindful of the need for each committee to have a quorum to consider items.

- [Proposed Revisions to Bulletin 1706: Regulations for Implementation of the Children with Exceptionalities Act](#)

The Board of Elementary and Secondary education (BESE) is considering revising Bulletin 1706: Regulations for Implementation of the Children with Exceptionalities Act. Due to the timing of when the BESE October 2019 materials were made available and when the agenda for this meeting was being produced, this item was added. Staff reviewed the proposed language changes to the bulletin and believe these are mostly technical in nature and do not appear to make any significant changes to special education services and programs nor change the oversight responsibilities of LDOE. Staff recommendation is to receive these changes without action.

- Provide financial support for professional development opportunities for child care providers and EarlySteps interventionists to build capacity with including children with disabilities in Early Learning Centers within Local Communities. (4.2.3)

Status update:

The Council voted to continue efforts with the EarlySteps/Child Care Inclusion project through the FFY20 Plan. Progress from the beginning of this activity is as follows:

- Participants received an on-line training module from the Division for Early Childhood titled: "Supporting Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities in Child Care Settings: How Collaboration Supports Inclusion", along with a pre-training assignment prior to the in-person training sessions.
- Three in-person training sessions have been conducted in different regions with a total of 116 participants.

Location	Early Interventionists	Child Care Teachers	Other Related Professions (Directors, Coordinators)
Baton Rouge	9	9	12
New Orleans	11	43	6
Covington	11	13	2

- Pending contract approval with LSU-HDC, coaching sessions will begin for the Covington attendees, and additional training sessions will be offered in 2 more regions of the state in FFY20.
 - LDOE updates – Jamie Wong or LDOE representative

This item is being added as a standing item under each of the Committee’s areas of focus, education and employment, to provide an opportunity for our agency partners to present recent developments, particularly those in which they would like the Council to consider making recommendations or providing feedback. Jamie Wong indicated she did not have anything to share.

4:15 PM BREAK

4:25 PM **EMPLOYMENT**

- Produce and provide information important to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families through a variety of electronic and social media (Council website, Facebook, LaDDC News, *employment* and self-advocacy videos, etc). (1.4.2)

Feedback is sought on staff plans to create videos highlighting customized employment with the targeted audience of employers, supported employment vendors, LRS and OCDD staff, individuals with DD and their family members. Videos will demonstrate successful employment outcomes and effective practices with acquiring and maintaining employment for people with developmental disabilities.

- Advocate for certified Employment Support Professionals (ESPs) (5.1.1)

This discussion overlaps with the issue LRS indicated it will share.

Future meetings are expected to provide opportunities to weigh in on LRS directions and plans related to making customized employment available statewide. Below is a brief update.

LRS is required by the VR federal regulations (34 CFR 361) to make Customized Employment available statewide. Customized Employment is a new service required by VR as added by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act; however, the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) does not regulate how this is accomplished.

LRS has been working closely with WINTAC (Workforce Innovation Technical Assistance Center funded by RSA) through an intensive technical assistance agreement on this topic. WINTAC has plans to assist in the development of a certification curriculum for Customized Employment, and LRS has a teleconference with WINTAC to discuss further.

LRS does not currently have the qualifications for CE vendors published in our vendor manual since we are still working with WINTAC to develop our system. LRS has been working exclusively with the pilot up until this point in order to establish CE vendors, but we are now working with WINTAC to develop a sustainable model. I do not have a specific timeline at this point.

There are currently three CE LRS approved vendors: Sides Employment (Baton Rouge), TARC (Houma), and Goodwill (Baton Rouge).

LRS has prioritized implementing CE in Louisiana statewide. Since we are implementing a brand new service, it is taking time to develop because we want to make sure we are responsible and ensure that quality services are provided to our consumers.

- Provide funding to build the capacity of employment providers through training and a demonstration project in customized employment for individuals with significant disabilities. (5.1.3)

Since March 1, 2018 the Council has funded 5 gateway trainings in Customized Employment with 101 total participants. Each gateway consists of three full days of training.

Number of Gateway Sessions / Participants:

- 3 / 61 Discovery
- 1 / 21 Job Development
- 1 / 19 Systematic Instruction

Mentoring certification (5 months per gateway; 18 months total process).

Certified / Pursued:

- 7 / 12 Discovery
- 6 / 7 Job Development
- 3* / 3 Systematic Instruction

* Anticipated completion in mentoring in all 3 areas by November 2019.

	Budget (FFY)	Actual Cost	Cumulative Cost
SFY18	\$ 38,000	\$ 23,877	
SFY19	\$ 59,700	\$ 47,118	\$ 70,995
SFY20	\$ 50,000		

- Provide funding for web-based training sessions in supported employment to build the capacity of up to 600 individuals at every level of the service delivery system, including but not limited to state and regional staff of State agencies, supported employment provider administrators, employment support professionals, and support coordinators. (5.1.5)

Due to delays in implementation, learners participating in the Supported Employment web-based training through El Sevier will have through December 2019 to complete their assigned lessons. There are currently 562 registered learners comprised of LDH/OCDD Administrative and Waiver staff, Support Coordinators, Employment Support Professionals, and Case Managers of various service provider agencies. Of those registered, 80 learners have completed all of their assigned training lessons.

- LRS Updates – Melissa Bayham or LRS Representative

Similar to education, this shall be a standing item under employment to provide an opportunity for our agency partners to present recent developments, particularly those in which they would like the Council to consider making recommendations or providing feedback. Melissa Bayham, LRS Director, indicated she was willing to share an update on where Louisiana is in setting requirements for vendors to provide customized employment services.

5:25 Activities to Consider for FFY20 Action Plan [VOTE]

- Informational video(s) re: Promotion/Graduation Pathways (Act 833 of 2014)

In September the Council was notified it received an additional \$38,000 of federal funding. This funding is Louisiana's share of funds which the DD Council of Puerto Rico did not spend. We have until September 30, 2020 to utilize these funds, so we have the opportunity to amend our plan and add an activity. Council staff reviewed the ideas which flowed in from comments about the plan and from the recent requests from our LaCAN members on issues people with developmental disabilities are dealing with. Staff are recommending the Council consider making information videos covering two topics: promotion and graduation pathways for students with disabilities and the tiered waiver and SUN screening process. We will consider whether to recommend making information videos related to promotion and graduation pathways. The Self-Determination and Community Inclusion Committee will consider whether to recommend making informational videos on the tiered waivers and SUN screening process. If both Committees agree the recommendations will be merged a single motion to amend Activity 1.4.2 by specifying these topics and increasing the funding level by \$38,000.

5:55 Announcements/Evaluations

6:00 Adjourn

All Council meetings are open to the public. If you require accommodation in order to fully participate in any Council meeting, please inform us of your specific request 72 hours or 3 business days prior to the meeting via email to hannah.jenkins@la.gov or call 800-450-8108.