

*Louisiana Developmental  
Disabilities Council*

2019 CONFERENCE

NAVIGATING THE SYSTEM  
ACROSS THE LIFESPAN

**Monday, November 18th  
Baton Rouge Marriott**



**#NavigatingTheSystem**

# THANK YOU TO OUR EXHIBITORS



OFFICE of the GOVERNOR  
JOHN BEL EDWARDS



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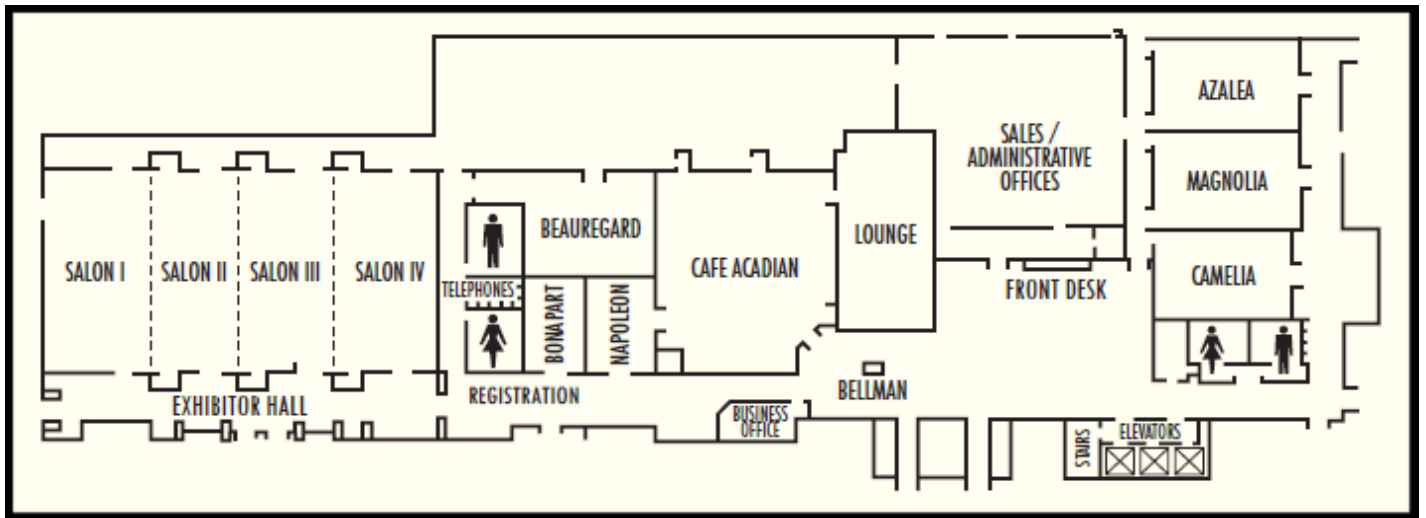


**Louisiana Developmental  
Disabilities Council**

# AGENDA AT-A-GLANCE

8:00 AM – 8:45 AM	Registration and Continental Breakfast		<i>Hall Space; Salon I and II</i>
8:45 AM – 9:00 AM	Welcoming Address		<i>Salon I and II</i>
9:00 AM – 9:45 AM	Keynote Address: Creating a Meaningful Life		<i>Salon I and II</i>
10 MINUTE BREAK			
9:55 AM – 11:15 AM	Childhood Session 1	Individualized Education Programs with a Focus on Complaint and Due Processes	<i>Beauregard</i>
	Adulthood Session 1	Transition from High School to Post-Secondary Education	<i>Salon III</i>
	Supports Session 1	State-Funded Supports, Home and Community-Based Waivers, and Medicaid Services and Renewal	<i>Salon IV</i>
10 MINUTE BREAK			
11:25 AM – 12:55 PM	Lunch and Learn	Advocacy from a Personal Perspective to Move the System Forward, Facilitated by Keynote Speaker Katherine Carol	<i>Salon I and II</i>
10 MINUTE BREAK			
1:05 PM – 2:20 PM	Childhood Session 2	Social Engagement for Your Child	<i>Beauregard</i>
	Adulthood Session 2	Louisiana’s Employment Service System and Transition to Employment	<i>Salon III</i>
	Supports Session 2	Supporting Individuals with Complex Behavioral and Medical Needs	<i>Salon IV</i>
10 MINUTE BREAK			
2:30 PM – 3:40 PM	Childhood Session 3	Early Childhood: EarlySteps and Transition from Hospital to Home	<i>Beauregard</i>
	Adulthood Session 3	Louisiana’s Housing Systems	<i>Salon III</i>
	Supports Session 3	Financial Planning: ABLE Accounts and Medicaid Planning, including Trusts, Wills, and Powers of Attorney	<i>Salon IV</i>

# HOTEL MAP



**First Floor Map of Baton Rouge Marriott**

# CONFERENCE INFORMATION

## **Need information or assistance?**

Council staff will be wearing purple “STAFF” ribbons and red “ASK ME” ribbons on their name badges. Please come to the registration table if you have questions or need assistance.

## **Requests**

For any requests not made in advance, please see Council staff at the registration table to assist you in meeting an on-site request.

## **Navigating the Meeting Space**

Please see the hotel floor plan on page 3 to identify the location of the meeting spaces, elevators, and emergency exits. Please look for signage that indicates the name of each session.

## **Conference Evaluations**

So that we may continually improve, please complete the enclosed evaluation and turn it in to the registration table or any Council staff.

## **Presentations**

Presentations will be available at [laddc.org](http://laddc.org) after the conference.

## **Media Consent Policy**

Speakers, attendees, guests, and all others present may be photographed and/or recorded by Council staff. By registering for and attending this conference, you acknowledge that you have been informed of such and grant the Council permission, without further notification, to publish photographs and/or recordings taken of you and containing your image/likeness for publicity, general information purposes, social media platforms, press releases, etc. If you do not wish to be photographed or recorded at the conference, please notify the photographer if they approach you.

# SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

## 8:00 AM - 8:45 AM

*Hall Space*

**Registration**

## 8:00 AM - 8:45 AM

*Salon I and II*

**Continental Breakfast**

## 8:45 AM - 9:00 AM

*Salon I and II*

**Welcoming Address**

- ♦ **April Dunn**, *LA Developmental Disabilities Council Chairperson*
- ♦ **Shawn Fleming**, *LA Developmental Disabilities Council Deputy Director*

## 9:00 AM - 9:45 AM

*Salon I and II*

**Keynote Address: Creating a Meaningful Life**

We're kicking off our conference with a keynote address on developing a vision for your life so that you can create the most meaningful life! Navigating the system is important not just to gain supports, but also so you can utilize the system to achieve the goals and vision you have defined for your life.

- ♦ **Katherine Carol**, *Parent Advocate, Author, Speaker, and Former CO Developmental Disabilities Council Chairperson*

**10 MINUTE BREAK**



## 9:55 AM - 11:15 AM — Concurrent Sessions

### Childhood Session 1: *Beauregard*

#### **Individualized Education Programs with a Focus on Complaint and Due Processes**

So you think your child has a disability. The good news is agencies and people are available to help. The bad news is it's difficult to know *who* can help and *what* help they can provide. In this session, we will talk about services available from your school district; how they are designed to work; and your rights if you believe services aren't being provided.

- ♦ **Charles Michel, Ed.D.**, Bayouland Families Helping Families  
Executive Director

### Adulthood Session 1: *Salon III*

#### **Transition from High School to Post-Secondary Education**

This session will give attendees a “state of the state” on post-secondary inclusive education opportunities and an update on the Council's new initiative to create an Alliance to establish more inclusive post-secondary education programs in Louisiana. Information will also be shared from Louisiana universities and colleges on their respective post-secondary education opportunities for students with developmental disabilities.

- ♦ **Gerlinde Beckers, Ph.D.**, Southeastern Louisiana University Lions  
Connected Director
- ♦ **Caroline Jurisich, Ed.D.**, University of Louisiana at Lafayette UL-  
LIFE Program Director
- ♦ **Mary Breaud, M.Ed., Ed.D.**, Nicholls State University Bridge to  
Independence Program Advisor
- ♦ **Girard Melancon, Ph.D.**, Baton Rouge Community College Workforce  
Solutions Vice Chancellor
- ♦ **Cindy Heying, M.Ed.**, Bossier Parish Community College Program for  
Successful Employment Director



## **Supports Session 1: Salon IV**

### **State-Funded Supports, Home and Community-Based Waivers, and Medicaid Services and Renewal**

This panel of experts in Louisiana's home and community-based service system will share the various services that are available to people with developmental disabilities in Louisiana and how to access them. Topics and programs that will be covered include eligibility criteria and determination; Local Governing Entities; Flexible Family Fund; Individual and Family Support Services; Medicaid State Plan services (including renewal); and the four home and community-based waivers for people with intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD). The process for individuals to receive waiver services will be described, from the point of requesting services through the receipt of those services, as well as a vision for next steps in the system transformation of waiver services.

- ♦ **Julie Foster Hagan, M.Ed., M.B.A.**, Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities Assistant Secretary
- ♦ **Tanya Murphy**, Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities Regional Services Director
- ♦ **Jen Katzman, J.D.**, Louisiana Department of Health Medicaid Deputy Director of Policy, Waiver, and Public Affairs

**10 MINUTE BREAK**

**11:25 AM – 12:55 PM**

*Salon I and II*

## **Lunch and Learn: Advocacy from a Personal Perspective to Move the System Forward**

Listen to a panel of Louisiana advocates share their personal perspectives on how they began their advocacy journey and why it's important to be involved in systems-change advocacy. Facilitated by Keynote Speaker Katherine Carol.

- ♦ **Lillian Dejean**, Self-Advocate and LA Developmental Disabilities Council Member
- ♦ **Karen Artus**, Parent Advocate and Region 9 LaCAN Leader
- ♦ **Maria Caserta**, Self-Advocate and Co-Leader of People First of Louisiana Northshore Chapter
- ♦ **Bambi Polotzola**, Parent Advocate and Governor's Office of Disability Affairs Executive Director
- ♦ **RaShad Bristo**, Parent Advocate and Self-Advocate

**10 MINUTE BREAK**

**1:05 PM - 2:20 PM — Concurrent Sessions**

### **Childhood Session 2: *Beauregard***

#### **Social Engagement for Your Child**

Let's face it: we all want to be included. For our children who experience various levels of ability, it can be challenging. Katherine will share how connection and communication are the keys to compatible relationships that result in extraordinary outcomes. Schools and communities are rich with resources; you just need to know how to find them and access them in ways that improve everyone's life. She will also look at using Assistive Technology to connect with classmates and teachers to increase classroom performance and develop successful teams of support.

- ♦ **Katherine Carol**, Keynote Speaker

## **Adulthood Session 2: Salon III**

### **Louisiana's Employment Service System and Transitioning to Employment**

This panel will guide self-advocates and families in understanding what employment services are available in Louisiana and what to expect on their path to employment. Included are upcoming changes in employment services at the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, as well as pre-employment transition services at Louisiana Rehabilitation Services for those transitioning from high school to employment.

- ♦ **Rosemary Morales**, Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities Program Manager for Supports Waiver
- ♦ **Angela Montgomery**, Louisiana Rehabilitation Services Program Coordinator for Supported Employment
- ♦ **Sigmund Morel**, Louisiana Rehabilitation Services Program Coordinator for Pre-Employment Transition Services

## **Supports Session 2: Salon IV**

### **Supporting Individuals with Complex Behavioral and Medical Needs**

Even when complex behavioral health and medical needs are present, individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD) can be supported to have full lives in their communities. Planning and providing needed supports for these individuals must begin with person-centered thinking. This presentation will share specific tools to promote improved outcomes and communicate effectively with professionals.

- ♦ **Brandi Kelly, Ph.D.**, Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities Clinical Director
- ♦ **Amy Greer, Ph.D.**, Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities Associate Clinical Director
- ♦ **Angela Shockley, R.N.**, Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities Resource Center RN Manager

**10 MINUTE BREAK**

## 2:30 PM - 3:40 PM — Concurrent Sessions

### Childhood Session 3: *Beauregard*

#### **Early Childhood: EarlySteps and Transitioning from Hospital to Home**

This session will include an overview EarlySteps, the system within the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities that serves as Louisiana's early intervention system, as well as navigation through the EarlySteps and common transition points during the early childhood period that families experience with a child who has a disability. These transition points include transitioning from hospital to home; transitioning to early care and education settings, such as childcare; and transitioning to preschool or other services at age three. EarlySteps provides support to families at each point to address their specific concerns and priorities.

- ♦ **Brenda Sharp**, Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities  
EarlySteps Program Manager

### Adulthood Session 3: *Salon III*

#### **Louisiana's Housing Systems**

Stable, safe, and affordable housing is a key determinant of health and this is no different for people with disabilities. In this session, presenters will share information on Louisiana's Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) program, including plans and opportunities to expand it; other housing programs in Louisiana beneficial to people with disabilities; and areas for policy advocacy.

- ♦ **Robin Wagner**, Office of Adult and Aging Services Deputy  
Assistant Secretary
- ♦ **Bradley Sweazy**, Louisiana Housing Corporation Chief Operating  
Officer

### **Supports Session 3: Salon IV**

#### **Financial Planning: ABLE Accounts and Medicaid Planning, including Trusts, Wills, and Powers of Attorney**

Planning for the care of a loved one with a disability can be extremely challenging. It is often very difficult and frustrating for people to find good, sensible, and valuable information on the choices and options available. For many people, trying to navigate these issues without the best information available is like walking blindfolded through a minefield, and mistakes can be very costly and time-consuming to correct. This presentation will address some of the biggest issues and challenges associated with Medicaid planning for the care of such persons, and will dispel a number of myths and misconceptions regarding Medicaid planning techniques. It will also provide information on basic and sensible techniques that can be employed to handle such problems, including the importance of well-drafted wills, durable powers of attorney, special needs trusts, and ABLE accounts.

- ♦ **Steven Jankower, J.D.**, Jankower Law Firm, Attorney and Counselor at Law

# KEYNOTE SPEAKER BIO

## Katherine Carol

Katherine Carol, of Denver, is the co-chair of the Employment First Advisory Partnership and currently serves on the Colorado State Rehabilitation Council as a representative of parents of individuals with disabilities. Ms. Carol is a recognized subject matter expert by the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Disability Employment Policy. She serves as a Director on the Board of the Washington Initiative for Supported Employment, a co-founder of Families on the Forefront of Technology and former organization consultant at the University of North Colorado. Ms. Carol served as Chair of the Colorado Development Disabilities Council for two years and two terms. Ms. Carol has extensive work history assisting people with developmental/intellectual disabilities to secure supported or customized employment. She consults on organizational transformation, is a speaker, a parent of an adult daughter, Mikelle, with special needs, and a published author. Mikelle and Katherine host The Shining Beautiful Series Podcast and are regular bloggers on Mikelle's website, [www.TheShiningBeautifulSeries.com](http://www.TheShiningBeautifulSeries.com).

# STAFF INFORMATION



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**twitter: [twitter.com/LaDDCouncil](https://twitter.com/LaDDCouncil)**

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## NOTES

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