



Council's 2020 Legislative Agenda

December 4, 2019

The Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council adopted its 2020 Legislative Advocacy Agenda with input from its grassroots advocacy network (LaCAN) and Families Helping Families (FHF) Centers. Thank you to all the LaCAN members who attended the community input meetings and reached out to their LaCAN Leaders and FHF Centers to share their agenda recommendations. Nine items are included on the agenda to enhance access to home and community-based services and address how students with disabilities are treated and served in schools.

Home and Community-Based Services

As it has done for decades, the Council will advocate for increased availability of home and community-based supports and services so people with developmental disabilities can remain in their own homes and be fully participating members of their communities. Advocacy efforts will focus on increased funding for Families Helping Families Centers and the State Personal Assistance Services (SPAS) program in addition to an increased rate for home and community-based providers. Also included on the agenda was the need to increase the skilled nursing rate in the waivers and through Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) and expanding Medicaid to cover diapers and wipes for all ages and dental care for adults. Since a settlement agreement between the Louisiana Department of Health and the Advocacy Center addresses the issue related to access to skilled nursing this item is no longer included in the Council's Advocacy Agenda for 2020.

Education

The Council will also continue to advocate for special education policies and practices to ensure student safety such as requiring cameras to be installed in special education classrooms upon request. The need for school resource officer training as it relates to students with disabilities and training for teachers on how to handle students with challenging behaviors was also included on the agenda.

Fact Sheets

The fact sheets below were developed based on information available at this time.

- [Increase Funding for the Families Helping Families Regional Resource Centers](#)
- [Fully Fund State Personal Assistance Services \(SPAS\)](#)
- [Increase Home and Community-Based Provider Rates](#)
- [Require Cameras in Special Education Classrooms Upon Request](#)

LaCAN members are also encouraged to share the [Developmental Disability Services in Louisiana](#) fact sheet with newly elected state Representatives and Senators to educate them on what a developmental disability is and services available to individuals and families throughout the state.

Get Involved

Individuals with disabilities, family members and advocates are encouraged to participate in advocacy efforts including legislative visits, yellow shirt days and action alerts. In lieu of roundtables this year, members are encouraged to attend member meetings in their area to learn more about the advocacy agenda and the many advocacy opportunities throughout session.

If you are interested in visiting legislators, attending member meetings, and sharing your personal story as it relates to these issues at other advocacy events, contact your [LaCAN Leader](#) or [FHF Center](#) today!

Contact Us

LaDDC News is the electronic newsletter for the LA Developmental Disabilities Council. If there are any questions about the information above, contact the Council by replying to this email, or calling the toll free number listed below:

phone: 1-800-450-8108

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