



## 2020 Legislative Advocacy Agenda (Revised) and LaCAN Member Meetings

January 17, 2020

This week the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council revised its [2020 Legislative Advocacy Agenda](#). See the fact sheets below for more information on each of the five items on the Council's 2020 Legislative Advocacy Agenda:

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

### What Changed in the 2020 Advocacy Agenda?

Funding for the implementation of TEFRA was added.

Last year, LaCAN advocacy was successful with getting Legislators to require the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) to implement TEFRA by the following year. As the timeline for implementation approached, LDH indicated they would need \$9.1 million to offer TEFRA to approximately 800 to 1,000 of the 3,800 children estimated to be eligible. Stakeholders are engaged with LDH to provide feedback on how TEFRA will be implemented. While there is some concern over having a wait list for TEFRA and it being offered through a lottery process, having the system start will offer information useful for future advocating to expand implementation across all eligible children.

The Council strongly considered but, in the end, **did not** add a requirement that increases Home and Community-Based Provider Rates for direct support services and skilled nursing be tied to wages paid to direct support staff and nurses, respectively. There were many reasons for not requiring some direct link to wages of workers, such as, provider rates were only recently brought up to 2008 levels, so the rates just made it to standstill level for 12 years and other employment laws could cause complications with linking wages to the rates.

### 2020 Advocacy Agenda to be Presented at LaCAN Meetings

The Council's [2020 Legislative Advocacy Agenda](#) will be shared across the state at LaCAN Regional Member Meetings. Individuals with disabilities, family members and advocates are encouraged to attend member meeting(s) in their area to learn more about the advocacy agenda and how to get involved in the Council's other advocacy opportunities like legislative visits, yellow shirt days and public testimony..

Take advantage of this incredible FREE opportunity to receive valuable information about advocacy and connect with your regional legislators! If you have any questions or would like to RSVP, contact your regional [LaCAN leader](#) or [FHF Center](#) today!

## LaCAN Regional Member Meetings

Region	Date & Time	Location	Contact Information
<b>1 &amp; 10</b> Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines and St. Bernard Parishes	<b>TBA</b>	<b>TBA</b>	<b>Families Helping Families of New Orleans</b> (504) 943-0343 or (877) 243-7352 <a href="mailto:info@lacanadvocates.org">info@lacanadvocates.org</a>
<b>2</b> Ascension, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberville, Pointe Coupee, West Baton Rouge and West Feliciana Parishes	<b>TBA</b>	<b>TBA</b>	<b>Families Helping Families of Greater Baton Rouge</b> (225) 216-7474 or (866) 216-7474 <a href="mailto:info@lacanadvocates.org">info@lacanadvocates.org</a>
<b>3</b> Assumption, Lafourche, St. James, St. John, Terrebonne, St. Charles and St. Mary Parishes	<b>Saturday, February 8, 2020</b> 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	<b>Bayou Land Families Helping Families</b> 286 Highway 3185, Thibodaux, LA 70301	<b>Julie Folsie</b> (985) 447-4461 or (985) 438-1179 <a href="mailto:jsmith@lacanadvocates.org">jsmith@lacanadvocates.org</a>
<b>4</b> Acadia, Evangeline, Iberia, Lafayette, St. Martin and Vermilion Parishes	<b>Thursday, January 30, 2020</b> 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	<b>Acadiana Area Human Services District</b> 302 Dulles Drive, Lafayette, LA 70506	<b>Deborah Fontenot</b> (337) 984-3458 or (855) 984-3458 <a href="mailto:dfontenot@lacanadvocates.org">dfontenot@lacanadvocates.org</a>
<b>5</b> Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Jefferson Davis and Cameron Parishes	<b>Thursday, January 23, 2020</b> 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.	<b>Huber Park Recreation Center</b> 2124 14 <sup>th</sup> Street, Lake Charles, LA 70601	<b>Mylinda Elliott</b> (337) 436-2570 or (800) 894-6558 <a href="mailto:melliott@lacanadvocates.org">melliott@lacanadvocates.org</a>
<b>6</b> Avoyelles, Concordia, Catahoula, Grant, LaSalle, Rapides Vernon and Winn Parishes	<b>TBA</b>	<b>TBA</b>	<b>Kristen Reed</b> (318) 641-7373 or (800) 259-7200 <a href="mailto:kreed@lacanadvocates.org">kreed@lacanadvocates.org</a>
<b>7</b> Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, DeSoto, Natchitoches, Red River, Claiborne, Sabine and Webster Parishes	<b>Tuesday, January 28, 2020</b> 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	<b>Bossier Instructional Center</b> 2719 Airline Drive, Bossier City, LA 71111	<b>Mimi Webb</b> (318) 226-4541 or (318) 560-3629 <a href="mailto:mwebb@lacanadvocates.org">mwebb@lacanadvocates.org</a>

<p><b>8</b> Caldwell, East Carroll, Franklin, Jackson, Lincoln, Madison, Morehouse, Ouachita, Richland, Tensas, Union and West Carroll Parishes</p>	<p><b>TBA</b></p>	<p><b>TBA</b></p>	<p><b>Konstance Causey</b> (318) 361-0487 or (318) 547-9379 <a href="mailto:kcausey@lacanadvocates.org">kcausey@lacanadvocates.org</a></p>
<p><b>9</b> Livingston, St. Tammany, St. Helena, Tangipahoa, and Washington Parishes</p>	<p><b>Friday, January 24, 2020</b> 10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>Friday, January 31, 2020</b> 10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>TPSS Technology Center</b> 795 South Morrison Blvd., Hammond, LA 70403</p> <p><b>St. Tammany Parish Library</b> 1123 Main Street Madisonville, LA 70447</p>	<p><b>Karen Artus</b> (985) 875-0511 or (985) 264-1186 <a href="mailto:kartus@lacanadvocates.org">kartus@lacanadvocates.org</a></p>

## Other ways to 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. 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

email: [info@laddc.org](mailto:info@laddc.org)

website: [www.laddc.org](http://www.laddc.org)

facebook: [www.facebook.com/LaDDCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/LaDDCouncil)

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

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