



*Improving the Lives of Older Adults and People with Disabilities
Through Services, Research, and Education*

January 15, 2020

Shawn Fleming, Interim Executive Director
Louisiana Council on Developmental Disabilities
PO Box 3455
626 Main Street, Suite A
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-3455

Dear Mr. Fleming,

The purpose of this letter is to inform the Louisiana Council on Developmental Disabilities of continued concerns from the Office on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (OIDD) within the Administration for Community Living (ACL) regarding the membership compliance of the Council. In a letter to former Executive Director, Sandee Winchell, dated May 20, 2019, Teresa Nguyen from ACL cited the need for future appointments of Council members to align with the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (DD Act) requirements.

Section 125 (b)(1)(C) of the DD Act, (42 USC 15025) states, in part, that "...the membership of the Council shall be geographically representative of the State and reflect the diversity of the State with respect to race and ethnicity." It is our understanding there are currently vacancies on the Council. It is the role of the Council to educate the Governor's appointment office on the DD Act requirements for Council composition to ensure gender, racial, and ethnic diversity reflective of the State demographics.

As the Council continues to navigate through this process and through the FY 2020 State plan year, we will be closely monitoring efforts for compliance and will be reaching out soon to learn of steps the Council intends to take. Failure to work towards compliance may result in suspension of ACL funding. Please know we extend our support to you in addressing these issues in a timely manner. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out for assistance. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Sara Newell-Perez

Sara Newell-Perez
Lead Program Specialist
Office on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities