



Action Alert #5: No Cuts to DD Services! Contact House Appropriations Committee

May 9, 2020



Let the House Appropriations Committee know why protecting home and community-based services for individuals with developmental disabilities from cuts is important to you!

Due to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic many businesses temporarily closed. With the closure of these businesses comes less taxes for Louisiana. Less taxes reduces how much money the state of Louisiana has to pay for services, even critical services. Legislators will be learning about how much state revenue will be available, or not, to cover all the expenses of government, including services you may rely on.

Monday, May 11th is public testimony day for the House Appropriations to hear from the public on the state budget for Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) which begins July 1st. **The Council and LaCAN will not hold Yellow Shirt Days and encourages everyone to advocate safely.**

While the extent of cuts to services has not yet been announced, it is widely accepted that cuts will be made to the proposed budget ([HB105](#)). And, funding for the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) in the current version of HB105 is \$103 million less than LDH indicates is needed to fund all programs and services.

The good news is HB105 states LDH “shall not reduce payments for disability waiver services.”

Here is an excerpt from p. 65 of HB105!:

23 Provided, however, that the department shall not reduce payments for disability waiver
24 services.

Let Legislators know if you are grateful funding for waiver services should not be cut!

The bad news is many services people with developmental disabilities rely on are not paid through waivers, such as Pediatric Day Health Care Centers, Long Term Personal Care Services, Supported Independent Living and State Personal Assistance Services. And, these funding cuts jeopardize

implementing TEFRA. A full list of services called “Optional” according to Medicaid can be found at the end of this alert.

So, services you currently have or expect to receive in the future **may** be impacted!

If these issues are important to you or someone you know, **NOW** is the time to take action!

How to Take Action

1. **Email or call** members of the House Appropriations Committee and the committee Chair by Sunday, May 10th!
2. **Email** andressk@legis.la.gov your public comments about the budget by Sunday, May 10th, by 11:59 AM!

Share your personal story and explain how cuts to services for people with developmental disabilities would impact you, your family or someone you know.

Find Your Member of the House Appropriations Committee!

All Regions	Committee Chairman	
Jerome Zeringue	zeringuej@legis.la.gov	(985) 876-8823
Region 1	New Orleans Area	
Gary Carter (Vice Chair)	carterg@legis.la.gov	(504) 361-6600
Aimee Adatto Freeman	hse098@legis.la.gov	(504) 861-1614
Region 2	Baton Rouge Area	
Roy Daryl Adams	hse062@legis.la.gov	(225) 634-7470
Tony Bacala	bacalat@legis.la.gov	(225) 677-8020
Barbara Carpenter	carpenterb@legis.la.gov	(225) 771-5674
Rick Edmonds	edmondsr@legis.la.gov	(225) 295-9240
Denise Marcelle	marcelled@legis.la.gov	(225) 359 -9362
Region 3	Houma/Thibodaux Area	
Jerome Zeringue	zeringuej@legis.la.gov	(985) 876-8823
Tanner Magee	mageet@legis.la.gov	(985) 858-2970
Region 4	Lafayette Area	
Blake Miguez	miguez@legis.la.gov	(337) 937-8827
Dustin Miller	millerd@legis.la.gov	(337) 943-2900
Region 5	Lake Charles Area	
Dewith Carrier	hse032@legis.la.gov	(318) 355-0206
Troy D. Romero	hse037@legis.la.gov	(337) 824-0376
Region 6	Alexandria Area	
Daryl Deshotel	hse028@legis.la.gov	(318) 253-8891
Lance Harris	harrisl@legis.la.gov	(318) 767-6095

Jack McFarland	mcfarlandj@legis.la.gov	(318) 259-4275
Region 7	Shreveport Area	
Raymond Crews	crewsr@legis.la.gov	(318) 716-7532
Jack McFarland	mcfarlandj@legis.la.gov	(318) 259-4275
Region 8	Monroe Area	
Jack McFarland	mcfarlandj@legis.la.gov	(318) 259-4275
Frederick Jones	hse016@legis.la.gov	(318) 556-7001
Francis Thompson	thompsf@legis.la.gov	(318) 878-9408
Christopher Turner	hse012@legis.la.gov	(318) 251-5038
Region 9	Hammond/Northshore Area	
Mary DuBuisson	hse090@legis.la.gov	(985) 645-3592
William "Bill" Wheat Jr.	hse073@legis.la.gov	(985) 386-7844
Region 10	Jefferson/New Orleans Area	
John Illg Jr.	hse078@legis.la.gov	(504) 736-7030
Timothy Kerner	hse084@legis.la.gov	(504) 689-7725
Rodney Lyons	lyonsr@legis.la.gov	(504) 510-5417

Find Your Region!

Louisiana Regions



LDH presented this array of services which are considered “Optional” under Medicaid. Optional does not mean these services are not critical, they are. Option means the federal government does not require the state to cover them in the state Medicaid plan.

Reductions - \$103M

➤ Optional Programs: Funded with SGF in the FY21 Budget

Public/Private Partner Hospitals	Clinic Services	OBH Public/Private Partnership	DSH Payments to State Psych Hospitals
Inpatient Graduate Medical Education	Physical and Occupational Therapies - Adults	Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE)	Long-Term Personal Care Services
Rural Hospitals	Coordinated System of Care (CSoC)	Hospice	Community Choices Waiver
TEFRA/Act 421	Pediatric Day Health	Adult Pharmacy	Most Appropriate Waiver
Ambulatory Surgical Centers	Adult Day Health	Inpatient Behavioral Health	LaHIPP Premium
Personal Assistant Services	Community Behavioral Health Services	ICF/DD	

You Can Watch Committee Meetings Online

The House Appropriations Committee is scheduled to meet [Monday, May 11th](#) at 9 AM to hear public testimony and comment on the FY21 budget.

You can watch the committee meetings live from the [legislature's website](#). When the meeting is in progress, click the camera icon to access the broadcast.

[Click here](#) to listen to the presentation by the Louisiana Department of Health to the House Appropriations Committee yesterday, May 8, 2020, on the impact of \$103 million of cuts currently in HB105.

Confirm Your Action

- Notify your [LaCAN Leader](#) to confirm your action.
- Why confirm your action? This helps the Council know how effective we are reaching you with important information and engaging members across our state in advocacy for systems change.

Contact Us

LaCAN is an initiative of the LA Developmental Disabilities Council. If there are any questions about the information in this email, 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

website: www.lacanadvocates.org

facebook: www.facebook.com/LaDDCouncil

twitter: www.twitter.com/LaDDCouncil

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Louisiana Developmental
Disabilities Council