

Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council
Act 378 Subcommittee Meeting Summary
July 14, 2020 1:00 - 2:45 PM
Online Via Zoom

You can watch the meeting here: <https://www.youtube.com/user/LADDCouncil/videos>

Members Present: Kim Basile, Randall Brown, Julie Foster Hagan, Hyacinth McKee, Robert Paddy, Bambi Polotzola

Members Absent: Carmen Cetnar, Mary Tarver, Crystal White

Staff Present: Marilee Andrews, Brenton Andrus, Shawn Fleming, Ebony Haven, Hannah Jenkins

Others Present: Wesley Cagle, Katie Corkern, Erin Downing, Mylinda Elliott, Liz Gary, Demetria Harris, Lynsey Hebert, James Lewis, Jessica Michot, Kelly Monroe, Tanya Murphy, Doanie Perry, Jennifer Purvis, Susan Riehn, Tory Rocca, Kristin Savicki, Shenitha Smith, Nicole Sullivan-Green, Janice Williams

The meeting was called to order at 1:10 p.m. A quorum was established.

MOTION PASSED. A motion by Randall Brown, second by Julie F. Hagan to approve the [January Meeting Summary](#) passed without objection, no abstentions.

Office of Aging and Adult Services (OAAS) / Arc of LA – Kelly Monroe

In State Fiscal Year 2020 (SFY20), ninety-eight percent (98%) of funding for the State Personal Assistance Services (SPAS) program was spent assisting fifty individuals. Ms. Monroe shared some services were disrupted due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but the remaining balance will be used in SFY21. Sixty-five individuals are on the waiting list, down from sixty-seven the previous quarter. Approximately \$600,000 in state general funds (SGF) would be needed to meet the needs of all individuals on the waiting list.

Office of Behavioral Health (OBH) – Kristin Savicki
Children/Adolescent Program

In SFY20 Fourth Quarter:

- Eighty-seven percent (87%) of funding for the Consumer Care Resources (CCR) program and ninety-eight percent (98%) of funding for the Flexible Family Fund (FFF) program was spent assisting 695 individuals in the CCR and 352 in the FFF programs.
- Members shared concerns for Northwest Louisiana's (NLHSD) remaining budget for FFF. Dr. Savicki shared some Local Governing Entities (LGEs) were having difficulty connecting with families due to COVID-19 pandemic, but they are partnering to think of alternative ways to ensure services are provided.

Adult Program

In SFY20 Fourth Quarter:

- Ninety-eight percent (98%) of funding for the adult program was spent serving 361 individuals.
- Central Louisiana (CLHSD) has not processed June invoices at the time the report was created which they state contributed to their low expenditure amount.

Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) – Tanya Murphy & Julie Foster Hagan

In SFY20 Fourth Quarter:

- Seventy-nine percent (79%) of funding for the Individual and Family Support (IFS) program and ninety-nine percent (99%) of funding for the FFF program was spent assisting 3,850 individuals in the IFS and 1,899 in the FFF programs.
- All LGEs have dedicated an amount equal to at least nine percent (9%) of their SGF with all but three dedicating more than the minimum requirement.
- Ms. Hagan confirmed LGEs will use their SGF and Cares Act funds to determine their 9% minimum for SFY21.
- Due to COVID-19, many LGEs have seen lower expenditures, but Ms. Murphy stated they were actively trying to fund other services to ensure funds were spent:
 - Metropolitan (MHSD) has only expended 64% of their IFS funds. This is due to day habilitation programs closing.
- It was noted that some LGEs were also having difficulty expending FFF funds due to families not coming into the Centers for initial eligibility assessments. LGEs were finding creative ways to continue assessments but also moved money from FFF to IFS.

OCDD also provided a [report](#) detailing all IFS requests designated as “Approved Pending Funding”. As of June 10th, there were 81 requests approved pending funding totaling over \$255,500. All but one of the requests are from Capital Area Human Services District (CAHSD). Metropolitan had one request for \$960. Members were concerned no other regions were listed in the report despite being told by some LGEs there was not enough funds to approve all requests. Ms. Murphy stated she would follow up with the LGEs to find out their different practices and determine what may have caused the discrepancy in the report.

Members also discussed some of the eligibility requirements for FFF. There were some concerns in the past that to be eligible for this program you had to be enrolled in an approved school setting and have documentation from the school that your child met one of the exceptionalities in Bulletin 1508. It was discussed that this policy was changed to remove the school requirement and allow a licensed professional to submit an evaluation saying the child’s exceptionality conforms to Bulletin 1508.

Finally, Ms. Murphy provided an update on the Council’s recommended changes to the IFS/CCR program rule. The final rule was published in the [March 2020 edition of the LA](#)

[Register](#) and revisions to the program manual have been made and shared with stakeholders. She will review the feedback and submit the manual to leadership for final signatures. Ms. Murphy hopes to train the LGE staff in October. The committee also asked updates in the manual include notifying families deemed to have a Priority 3 or Priority 4 request that their case will not go before the IFS committee in that region.