

Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council
Act 378 Subcommittee Meeting Summary
October 21, 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, Carmen Cetnar, Jill Egle, Julie Foster Hagan, Hyacinth McKee, Bambi Polotzola, Mary Tarver

Members Absent: Randall Brown, Crystal White

Staff Present: Marilee Andrews, Brenton Andrus, Ebony Haven, Hannah Jenkins, Courtney Ryland

Others Present: Karen Artus, Michael Billings, Tommy Comeaux, Corhonda Corley, Kristie Curtis, Mylinda Elliott, Katy Fauchaux, Julie Folse, Liz Gary, Nicole Green, Leona Harris, Lynsey Hebert, Kasey Hill, Anthony Luczak, Charlie Michel, Kelly Monroe, Tanya Murphy, Jennifer Purvis, Susan Riehn, Kristin Savicki, Shenitha Smith

Bambi Polotzola called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. A quorum was established.

MOTION PASSED. A motion by Mary Tarver, second by Kim Basile to approve the [July Meeting Summary](#) passed without objection, no abstentions.

Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) – Tanya Murphy

In [State Fiscal Year 20 \(SFY20\)](#):

- Local Governing Entities (LGEs) collectively spent eighty-eight percent (88%) of funding for the Individual and Family Support (IFS) program assisting 4,120 individuals. One hundred percent (100%) of funding for the Flexible Family Fund (FFF) program assisting 1,900 individuals was spent.
- Metropolitan (MHSD), Acadiana (AAHSD), Northeast Delta (NEDHSA) and Jefferson Parish (JPHSA) did not expend at least 95% of its IFS funds citing impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- It was noted that some LGEs use IFS funds for day habilitation and supported employment services. These programs were shuttered due to COVID leaving funds unspent. Ms. Murphy stated many of the individuals receiving these services do not receive additional services, such as a waiver, which is why their needs are being met through IFS.
- All LGEs, except for MHSD, spent at least one hundred percent (100%) of their Act 73 funds.

In [SFY21 First Quarter](#):

- Eight percent (8%) of funding for the IFS program and twenty-five percent (25%) of funding for the FFF program was spent assisting 1,712 individuals in the IFS and 1,748 in the FFF programs.
- LGEs again cited the COVID-19 pandemic as a reason for lower than normal expenditures. Members asked OCDD to follow up with LGEs to determine how they anticipate expending all funds if day habilitation and supported employment services were still going unutilized.
- All LGEs except for Florida Parishes (FPHSA) have appropriated an amount equal to 9% of their State General Fund (SGF) to DD services. FPHSA utilized an incorrect SGF amount and will ensure the correct minimum funding is reflected in the second quarter report.

Members also discussed the [FY20 IFS Priority Request report](#) which provides a regional breakdown of requests by priority in addition to the types of services and goods provided and the cost. Members asked that this report be added back to the January agenda to give more time for review and analysis.

OCDD also provided a [quarterly report](#) detailing all IFS requests deemed “Approved Pending Funding”. As of June 10, 2020 there were thirty-seven (37) requests with twenty-one (21) approved pending funding in whole and sixteen (16) approved pending funding in part. All requests were from Capital Area (CAHSD). Members expressed concern that only CAHSD remained on the list and questioned if other LGEs denied services based on funding. Ms. Murphy explained this should not be occurring and LGE staff were recently trained on new IFS program rules which were implemented on October 1st. Members will continue to monitor this report to see if additional action is warranted.

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

In [SFY21 First Quarter](#), sixteen percent (16%) of funding for the State Personal Assistance Services (SPAS) program was spent assisting forty-two (42) individuals. Forty-five (45) individuals are on the waiting list, down from sixty-five mentioned last quarter. Members also discussed what was perceived to be racial and gender disparities of SPAS recipients. Ms. Monroe was asked to provide the racial and gender make-up of those on the program’s wait list.

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

In [SFY20](#):

- Ninety-three percent (93%) of funding for the Consumer Care Resources (CCR) program and ninety-eight percent (98%) of funding for the FFF program was spent assisting 1,873 individuals in the CCR and 340 in the FFF programs.
- AAHSD, NEDHSA, FPHSA and JPHSA did not expend at least ninety-five percent (95%) of their CCR funds. It was noted that many LGEs save CCR funding to assist families with summer camp expenses. Due to many summer camps remaining closed, these funds were not expended.
- Northwest (NLHSD) only expended seventy-nine percent (79%) of its FFF funds.

- Dr. Savicki stated part of the LGEs corrective action plan response will include ways of ensuring all funding is expended despite impacts of COVID-19.

In [SFY21 First Quarter](#):

- Seven percent (7%) of funding for the CCR program and twenty-two percent (22%) of funding for the FFF program was spent assisting 116 individuals in the CCR and 317 in the FFF programs.

Adult Program

In [SFY20](#):

- Ninety-nine percent (99%) of the funding for the adult program was spent serving 370 individuals.

In [SFY21 First Quarter](#):

- Thirty-seven percent (37%) of funding for the adult program was spent serving 100 individuals.

Lastly, members reviewed a [letter submitted to the Council](#) from Mr. Anthony Luczak which discusses determination, eligibility and implementation requirements for services. A letter from the Council was sent to OCDD, OBH, Medicaid and the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) asking they respond. We also discussed a letter that was submitted to the Council from Mr. Anthony Luczak. Specifically, Mr. Luczak cites concerns for access to psychological testing in Medicaid, OCDD's eligibility process for services, and testing through the public schools. Julie Foster Hagan, OCDD Assistant Secretary, stated the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) researched the concerns listed by Mr. Luczak and has not found any additional action was needed at his time. She offered to meet with Mr. Luczak individually to continue discussion of his concerns which he agreed to. LDOE did not have a representative available for the meeting, but their formal response to the Council can be found [here](#).

MOTION PASSED. A motion by Mary Tarver, seconded by Hyacinth McKee to adjourn passed without objection.