

Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council
Self-Determination and Community Inclusion Committee Meeting Summary
October 20, 2020 9:00 - 11:45 AM
Online Via Zoom

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

Members Present: Patti Barovechio, Kim Basile, Michael Billings, Lillian DeJean, Michelle Guillory, Julie Foster Hagan, Jill Hano, Mitch Iddins, Jen Katzman, Steven Nguyen

Members Absent: Randall Brown, Carmen Cetnar, Roslyn Hymel, Hyacinth McKee, Matthew Rovira, Crystal White

Staff: Marilee Andrews, Brenton Andrus, Halie Belin, Ebony Haven, Courtney Ryland

Others Present: Nicole Banks, Bernard Brown, Kathleen Cannino, Corhonda Corley, Brenda Cosse, Tamara Crane, Kristie Curtis, Jamie Duplechine, Kathy Dwyer, Jill Egle, Mylinda Elliott, Julie Folse, Liz Gary, Lynsey Hebert, Sharon Hennessey, Cindy Heying, Bambi Polotzola, Kristen Reed, Temisha Sonnier,

Mike Billings called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. A quorum was established.

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

Contractual Activities

The committee received multiple updates on contractual activities (refer to [Status Report](#)) including Partners in Policymaking (PiP), LaCAN, and Families Helping Families Resource Centers (FHF). The PiP ad hoc committee voted on by the Council in July will meet on October 29, 2020 to discuss plans for the upcoming class. [Quarterly](#) and [year-end](#) data for the FHF Centers was also shared. Multiple Centers were unable to achieve their advocacy deliverables for this past fiscal year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Regarding LaCAN, members discussed the need to ensure advocates remain engaged should the Council continue with its suspension of in-person activities.

Self-Advocate Representation

Lillian DeJean led the committee in discussion about self-advocate representation in Council activities such as LaCAN and PiP. Miss DeJean provided the committee with [data](#) she obtained from Council staff regarding representation specifically:

- Only one of the eight LaCAN leaders identify as a self-advocate,
- 2.47% of LaCAN members identify as a self-advocate,
- 16.9% of PiP participants the past three years identify as a self-advocate, and
- 8% of PiP presenters the past three years identify as a self-advocate.

Members were advised the LaCAN member data is not necessarily an accurate reflection of self-advocate participation in LaCAN due to members not having to disclose if they are a self-advocate, parent or professional when becoming members. It is believed those numbers would be higher. However, members and staff agreed progress needs to be made to ensure greater self-advocate representation in Council initiatives and legislative/policy advocacy.

MOTION WITHDRAWN. A motion by Steven Nguyen, for the Committee to recommend the discussion of self-advocate representation in LaCAN and Partners in Policymaking be added to the Council's agenda for its Thursday (October 22, 2020) meeting.

After discussion by members, it was determined this issue would be addressed through the committee's report to the Council, and a motion was not needed. Mr. Nguyen withdrew his motion.

Non-Contractual Activities

Jen Katzman shared updates on Act 421 Children's Medicaid Option with the committee. More information about this program can be found on the [program's website](#). The [program application](#) was submitted to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) on September 1, 2020 with a requested implementation date of January 1, 2021. CMS did inform the department the application was complete and met federal guidelines. Members asked Ms. Katzman that data be shared related to the number of slots available and filled as well as funding for the program once the program has been implemented. Ms. Katzman also requested more family involvement in the stakeholder group. Those interested in participating should email 421-CMO@la.gov.

Ms. Katzman and Julie Foster Hagan also provided the committee with an update on impacts of the 2020 Second Extraordinary Session that will end on October 27, 2020. It was discussed that funds were appropriated in the [supplemental budget bill](#) to cover two retainer payments for providers of adult day center services and temporary rate increases. They also discussed other pieces of legislation that address leave of absence ([HCR29](#)) and visitation ([HB95](#)) at Intermediate Care Facilities for People with Developmental Disabilities (ICF/DD) as it relates to COVID-19 and the rehiring process for workers at adult day centers that were laid off due to COVID-19 ([SB53](#)).

Finally, the committee continued discussions about steps the department took to mitigate the risk to individuals and service providers during the pandemic by seeking exceptions to current rules for the four Home and Community-Based Waivers for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (LaDDC News articles [March 19th](#), [March 30th](#) and [October 7th](#)). The Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) held a stakeholders' meeting on October 14, 2020 to discuss the ending of these exceptions originally scheduled for January 1, 2021. CMS granted an extension which would end the exceptions on January 27th. OCDD continues to work with CMS on additional extensions but cannot guarantee approval.

Before adjourning, Chair Michael Billings announced to committee members they should bring recommendations for activities for the Council's FFY2022 action plan to the committee's next meeting in January for discussion.

MOTION PASSED. A motion by Steven Nguyen, seconded by Patti Barovechio to adjourn passed without objection.