

Education and Employment Committee Agenda

Wednesday, February 10, 2021

9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

[YouTube Broadcast](#)**SUMMARY**

Members Present: Mary Tarver, Bambi Polotzola (GODA), Melissa Bayham (LRS), Carmen Cetnar, Dr. Sarah Fletcher (LDOE), Chris Rodriguez (AC)

Members Absent: Nicole Banks, Brenda Cosse, Temisha Sonnier, Dr. Phil Wilson (LSU-HDC), Mitch Iddins

Attendees: Mylinda Elliot, Susan Riehn, Kristie Curtis, Jessica Lewis, Tommy Comeaux, Harlon Cowsar, Nicole Flores, Michael Billings, Laura Stazio (LSU-HDC)

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

Transcriptionist: Lynsey Hebert

Ms. Andrews confirms a quorum is established.

Chairperson Tarver calls the meeting to order at 9:52 AM and reviews [virtual meeting protocols](#).

Ms. Bayham shares that she chairs a Governor's Advisory Council on Disability Affairs (GACDA) committee that has covered education and employment issues as well. Mr. Rodriguez shares that there are two options: collaborate with initiatives of GACDA committee or choose not to duplicate initiatives.

Objective 3.2 Individuals with developmental disabilities will have increased employment outcomes upon transitioning from secondary educational settings, access to employment opportunities inclusive of services from highly qualified employment support providers and increased competitive and integrated opportunities from employers who are educated on how to support people with developmental disabilities.

MOTION: To present the following ideas for employment activities to the planning committee, made by Ms. Polotzola, seconded by Mr. Rodriguez. No objections. Ms. Bayham abstains. Motion carries.

Ideas for Employment Activities:

- 1) *Advocate for access to LRS preemployment transition services within school districts for all students with disabilities.*

Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council

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- 2) *Provide education to families about what LRS transition services are available and how to access them. (i.e., assist in distributing LRS brochure that is being developed)*
- 3) *Advocate for increased LRS counselor positions, including administrative, legislative, and funding efforts.*
- 4) *Share Developmental Disabilities Council employment videos featuring individuals with developmental disabilities on their jobs. (Under Objective 5.3 in FFY2021 Action Plan)*
- 5) *Advocate for systems change based on emergent employment issues. (Under Objective 5.4 in FFY2021 Action Plan)*
- 6) *Support efforts to examine the effectiveness of the Louisiana Medicaid “buy-in” program.*

Objective 3.1 Parents of students with developmental disabilities will have increased access to early diagnosis, identification of needs, early intervention services, childcare and information and opportunities to collaborate with educators regarding individualized educational planning or programming to meet the needs of their students.

MOTION: To present the following ideas for education activities to the planning committee, made by Ms. Poletzola, seconded by Dr. Fletcher. No objections. No abstentions. Motion carries.

Ideas for Education Activities:

- 1) *Building capacity in higher education institutions for those individuals providing services to special education students (i.e., traditional and special education teachers and service providers), including ongoing support (i.e., high quality ongoing teacher education)*
- 2) *Advocating for and providing input on high impact systems that can be used to leverage best practice around IEPs and enable each member to fully participate as members of the IEP team.*
- 3) *Advocate for educational systems change based on emergent education issues that present themselves during FFY2022 (i.e., children getting services during a global pandemic)*
- 4) *Advocate for Type 2 and Type 5 charter schools to be required to meet 85% rule of enrolling students with disabilities at rates similar to those found in traditional public schools and advocate for and monitor equitable funding based on Minimum Foundation Program (MFP), specifically regarding the charter compacts. (Under Objective 4.2 in FFY2021 Action Plan)*
- 5) *Advocate for increased meaningful opportunities for stakeholder input; improved practices to facilitate stakeholder input and consideration of stakeholder recommendations. (Under Objective 4.3 in FFY2021 Action Plan)*

Chairperson Tarver shares that these recommendations will be shared with the Planning Committee.

Chairperson Tarver adjourns the meeting at 11:36 AM.