

Education and Employment Committee Agenda

Tuesday, July 20, 2021

[YouTube Broadcast](#)

SUMMARY

Members Present: Mary Tarver, Nicole Banks, Carmen Cetnar, Mitch Iddins, Bambi Polotzola (GODA), Dr. Phil Wilson (LSU HDC), Temisha Victorian, Brenda Cosse, Dr. Hyacinth McKee

Members Absent: Melissa Bayham (LRS)

Attendees: Devika Rao, Gordon O'Neill, Dr. Gerlinde Beckers, Rosemary Morales (OCDD), Angela Montgomery (LRS), Dr. Kelli Peterson (LDOE), Jamar Ennis (GODA), Kathleen Cannino, Mike Billings, Melissa Johnson, Jennifer Purvis, Corhonda Corley, Meredith Jordan, Mylinda Elliot, Charles Michel, Nicole Flores, Brenda Bares, Kristie Curtis, Corlis Gremillion, Cynthia Bell, Paul Rhorer (OCDD), Julie Folse, Nicole Miller, Susan Riehn

Staff: Marilee Andrews, Ebony Haven, Halie Belin, Brenton Andrus, Amy Deaville

Transcriptionist: Lynsey Hebert

Ms. Andrews calls roll and a quorum is established. Chairperson Tarver calls meeting to order at 9:04 AM. Ms. Andrews read the [Virtual Meeting Protocols](#).

MOTION PASSED. Motion to approve the [April 15, 2021 E/E Committee Summary](#) made by Ms. Banks, seconded by Ms. Victorian, passed without objection or abstention.

Angela Montgomery gives an [update from Louisiana Rehabilitation Services \(LRS\)](#) on behalf of Ms. Bayham. Discussion included hiring of Rehabilitation Employment Development Specialist (REDS) and that two regions (Houma and Alexandria) are still seeking applications. Positions will be posted on state civil service website.

Rosemary Morales gives an update from the Office of Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) on behalf of Julie Foster Hagan.

- The MOU re: OCDD and OBH and LRS is being finalized.
- Discussion re: challenges of vocational providers opening back up after the shutdown: (1) staffing issues, as its difficult to get workers during COVID; (2) Medically compromised / older individuals aren't ready to leave environment; and (3) because Appendix K allows family to be workers, individuals are staying home with their family as worker.

Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council

SELF-DETERMINATION ◆ INDEPENDENCE ◆ PRODUCTIVITY ◆ INTEGRATION ◆ INCLUSION

- By March 17, 2022, there should be no sheltered employment. Majority of individuals served during day programs have not returned to day programs.
- Appendix K services allow for virtual services to be delivered, however there is not a large of participation. These will move into waivers as permanent services.
- Information always available via your [Local Governing Entity \(LGE\) Regional Office](#). OCDD set up an email for questions: Ocdd-hcbs@la.gov.

Dr. Peterson gives an update from the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE).

- Meredith Jordan will be LDOE representative moving forward.
- IDEA Part B 611 budget was up for stakeholder input, public comment was posted by LDOE as well as presented at this committee, changes were made after stakeholder input was received, and the budget was approved. IDEA total award amount was \$248M.
- Received additional \$41M through American Recovery Plan, which goes directly to systems (LEAs) to ensure they can support students and families.
- There are specific required activities and allowable activities/expenses, which can be obtained on [LDOE's website under the special education funding page](#).
- SEAP vacancies are still available. Email Ashley.augustine@la.gov if interested.
- LDOE will follow up on financial transactions on LouisianaCheckbook.com and focus group data on strategic planning of SPED programming.

Council staff and contractors give updates on E/E Contractual Activities for [FFY2021 Action Plan](#) (October 1, 2020 – September 30, 2021):

Seminars on Hiring Individuals with Developmental Disabilities (Activity 5.3.3)

- Ms. Andrews shares that inclusive employment webinars have been secured in all 10 regions.
- Mr. O'Neill and Ms. Rao [present specific updates on curriculum, partnerships, seminars, and recommendations for the Council to strengthen these efforts](#).
- Discussion re: continuing to fund this initiative and building more outreach.

Louisiana Post-Secondary Inclusive Education Alliance (LAPIE) (Activity 3.4.2)

- Dr. Beckers shares [video on success of the LAPIE](#) and future plans to develop advisory board of parents and students to inform local districts of post-secondary education programs.
- Discussion re: push for permanent legislation of LAPIE; continuing to fund this initiative; and adding LAPIE to the Council's legislative agenda.

Customized Employment Training (Activity 5.1.3)

- Ms. Andrews shares an update on behalf of Ms. Kelly Monroe and will forward questions to Ms. Monroe so that she may update at the next meeting.

Ms. Andrews announces upcoming council meeting dates and [how to find all upcoming meetings, see agenda, and register on the Council's website](#).

Chairperson Tarver adjourns the meeting at 11:11 AM.