Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council
Act 378 Subcommittee Meeting Summary
October 20, 2021 1:00 - 2:45 PM
Online Via Zoom

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

View meeting transcript here.

Members Present: Nicole Banks, Kim Basile, Carmen Cetnar, Jill Egle, Julie F. Hagan, Hyacinth McKee, Bambi Polotzola, Mary Tarver, Crystal White

Members Absent:

Staff Present: Brenton Andrus, Amy Deaville, Ebony Haven, Hannah Jenkins

Others Present: Troy Abshire, Andrea Albert, Carlos Amos, Karen Artus, Rashad Bristo, Wesley Cagle, Brenda Cosse, Kristie Curtis, Kathy Dwyer, Nicole Flores, Liz Gary, Corlis Gremillion, Stacey Guidry, Demetria Harris, Lynsey Hebert, Kasey Hill, Roslyn Hymel, Katie Kroes, Danielle Ledet, Christina Martin, Ashley McReynolds, Charles Michel, Kelly Monroe, Tanya Murphy, Carol Nacoste, James Powell, Susan Riehn, Tory Roca, Kristin Savicki, Shenitha Smith, Nicole Sullivan-Green, Karen Thomas

Bambi Polotzola called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM. A quorum was established.

Approval of the July Meeting Summary passed by unanimous consent.

Office of Behavioral Health (OBH) – Kristin Savicki

Children/Adolescent Program

In State Fiscal year 21 (SFY21):

- Ninety percent (90%) 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 1,704 individuals in the CCR and 364 in the FFF programs.
- Those local governing entities (LGE) not expending at least 95% of their funding will submit a corrective action plan to OBH to ensure performance indicator is met in FY22. Jefferson Parish (JPHSA) will not have to submit a plan as they spent the entirety of their original budgeted funds. They increased their budget throughout the year.

Members requested the LGEs provide answers to the following questions at the next quarterly meeting:

- How does each LGE determine how much will be budgeted for their CCR and FFF programs?

- Is there a percentage of their funding that goes toward CCR and/or FFF?
- What happens to any of the funds allocated that go unspent?

In SFY22 First Quarter:

- Seven percent (7%) of funding for the CCR program and twenty-four percent (24%) of funding for the FFF program was spent assisting 82 individuals in the CCR and 309 in the FFF programs.
- South Central's (SCLHSA) data was not available at the time of the meeting due to ongoing impacts from Hurricane Ida.

Adult Program

In SFY21:

- Ninety-one percent (91%) of funding for the adult program was spent serving 462 individuals.
- Those LGEs not expending at least 95% of their funding will submit a corrective action plan to OBH to ensure performance indicator is met in FY22.
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In SFY22:

- Nineteen percent (19%) of funding for the adult program was spent serving 61 individuals.
- South Central's (SCLHSA) data was not available at the time of the meeting due to ongoing impacts from Hurricane Ida.
- Dr. Savicki stated Imperial Calcasieu (IMCAL) will start funding supported living in their region and will be added to subsequent reports.

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

In SFY21:

- Ninety-eight percent (98%) of funding for the Individual and Family Support (IFS) program and ninety-nine percent (99%) of funding for the FFF program was spent assisting 3,510 individuals in the IFS and 1,875 in the FFF programs.
- All local governing entities (LGE) spent at least one hundred percent (100%) of their Act 73 funds with the exception of Metropolitan (MHSD), SCLHSA and Jefferson Parish (JPHSA).
- Northeast Delta (NEDHSA) only spent 89% of their IFS funding but implemented a corrective action plan to address the use of all expenditures in FY22.
- SCLHSA indicated a staff shortage caused their lower than usual FFF expenditures but are working to fill all staff vacancies and FFF slots.

As a follow up to the previous meeting, Ms. Murphy has requested the department's business analytics unit to study IFS data from 2015 until 2021 to determine what impacts Act 73 of 2017 has had on the delivery of developmental disability services. A preliminary look indicates more individuals served, but she plans to have this information available at the next quarterly meeting.

Members shared ongoing concerns about inequitable funding of LGEs. Ms. Julie Hagan with OCDD indicated the department has included looking at this in its ongoing business plan. They are looking into an updated funding formula to address this.

Members also discussed the FY21 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. At the July meeting, members discussed discrepancies in spending of IFS funds across regions based on different services and asked Ms. Murphy to address this with the LGEs. She did provide this information to all the developmental disability directors but was unable to meet this past quarter. She plans to meet with the directors prior to the January meeting. Ms. Murphy also shared with the committee LGEs are continuously looking at individuals utilizing IFS dollars to determine if their needs would be better met via a waiver.

In SFY22 First Quarter:

- Fifteen percent (15%) of funding for the Individual and Family Support (IFS) program and twenty-four percent (24%) of funding for the FFF program was spent assisting 1,827 individuals in the IFS and 1,761 in the FFF programs.
- Based on the report, Capital Area (CAHSD) did not appropriate an amount equal to or greater than 9% of their State General Fund (SGF) to DD services as required in Act 73 of 2017. Ms. Murphy did follow up on this oversight and CAHSD has updated their budget to remain in compliance.
- Concerns noted for MHSD low expenditures. Ms. Murphy will follow up and have the information corrected on next quarter's report.

OCDD also provided a quarterly report detailing all IFS requests deemed "Approved Pending Funding". As of September 30, 2021 there were only two requests both approved pending funding in whole.

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

In SFY22 First Quarter, sixteen percent (16%) of funding for the State Personal Assistance Services (SPAS) program was spent assisting forty-four (44) individuals. There are currently fifty-two (52) people on the waiting list, a decrease by three from last quarter.

Meeting adjourned at 2:19 PM by unanimous consent.