

Youth Leadership Forum Ad-Hoc Committee Meeting Summary

Thursday, February 3, 2022, 3:00PM – 4:30PM

Online Via ZOOM

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

View meeting transcript [here](#).

Committee Members Present: Melissa Bayham, Harlon Cowsar, Lillian DeJean, Nicole Flores, Liz Gary, Chaney Guidry, Jill Hano, Bambi Polotzola, Dylan Sonnier, Madeline Young

Committee Members Absent: Randall Brown, Sharon Delvisco

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

Guests: Brenda Cossé, Mylinda Elliott, Julie Hagan, Meredith Jordan, Katie Kroes, Danielle Ledet, Charles Michel, Temisha Victorian, April Young

A quorum was established and the meeting was called to order at 3:03 PM.

MOTION

A motion by Liz Gary and seconded by Bambi Polotzola to approve the [January Minutes Summary](#) with no objections or abstentions.

Lillian DeJean (Chair) gave an overview of the Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) that occurred in Louisiana along with funding sources from 2000-2005 as background information for special guests which included Julie Hagan, the Assistant Secretary for the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) with the Louisiana Department of Health and Meredith Jordan, the Executive Director for Diverse Learners at the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE). Then the agency representatives including Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS), OCDD and LDOE provided information on how their agencies may be able to help fund the YLF in summer 2023 for fifteen (15) delegates over three days:

- LRS – Melissa Bayham stated that LRS could assist through the Vocational Rehab Pre-employment Transition Services funds. In order to qualify for the funding the individuals would have to be between the ages of 16-21 years old and be enrolled in some type of educational program (i.e. be considered a student with a disability) and they would have to apply for the vocational rehabilitation program. They could also fund maintenance expenses that would cover room and board expenses but this would require a financial test. However, she will need more specifics, but she can determine exactly how LRS could assist with funding. LRS can also look into doing a contract but there would have to be a guarantee on the number of students that would utilize the funding.
- LDOE – Meredith Jordan stated that LDOE could assist with funding through a contract with the lead agency (possibly the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council) and IDEA

funds may be able to be utilized or other grant opportunities but more information is needed about the program to determine which grant opportunity YLF would fall under.

- OCDD – Julie Foster Hagan stated that OCDD could not provide grant funding for the upcoming YLF because contract funds would have to be requested in their budget. The budget then has to go through the legislative process, so OCDD could look at potentially assisting with contract funding maybe down the road. However, OCDD could adjust or tweak wavier services for those delegates that are enrolled in waiver to assist them with attending YLF.

The committee will provide the agencies with a program overview of YLF including the purpose and objectives as well as the budget, so they can provide more detailed information about how they could potentially assist with funding.

The committee also made changes to the YLF timeline:

- Added Development of Program Overview to the April meeting (6-month mark)
- Moved Develop Strategies for Recruitment and Diversity and Outreach/Marketing/Advertising from the April meeting to the July meeting (9-month mark)
- Moved Soliciting Volunteers from the April meeting to the October meeting

The committee also decided to invite the University of Louisiana at Lafayette to the next meeting to discuss potentially hosting YLF on their campus since it is a central location in the state and they have a post-secondary inclusive education program.

Lillian and staff will work together to draft a YLF budget to present to the committee at the next meeting in April.

The meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 4:30PM