

Executive Director's Report
October 18-19, 2023 Council Meeting

Budget

- The budget report with expenditures through August 2023 is included in the packet.

Action Plan for FFY24

- The Council Action Plan for Federal Fiscal Year 2024 (FFY24) was submitted electronically to the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD) before August 15th deadline. The Council received approval of the FFY24 Action Plan on September 28, 2023. The Program Performance Report for FY23 will be due in December 2023.

Federal Fiscal Year 2022 No Cost Extension

- A No Cost Extension (NCE) was requested on August 22, 2023 for the expiring FFY2022 grant. This NCE extends the project period for FY2022 for 12 months through 9/30/2024 and allows additional time to ensure that activities listed in the FFY23 Action Plan are completed. The Council received approval of the NCE for the FFY2022 grant on September 20, 2023.

Appropriations

- Congress has not yet passed a budget for FFY24 which began October 1st to provide funding for Councils and the rest of the federal government. The President signed a Continuing Resolution (CR) on September 30th which will keep agencies' budgets at the level they were initially funded in 2023 for 45 days until November 17, 2023.

Membership Update

- Mary Frances Avera and Lauren Womack were appointed by the Governor on August 11th. Tony Piontek was appointed by the Governor on August 15th. An orientation for these three members was held virtually on October 10th.
- Libby Airhart resigned from her board position at Families Helping Families of Acadiana, and subsequently, the Council. We recruited applicants for her position and the membership committee will make recommendations.
- Bambi Polotzola resigned from the Council. The Governor's Office on Disability Affairs will decide on a replacement and that individual will be appointed to the Council.
- Tangela Womack has been submitted for Governor Appointment on behalf of the Bureau of Health Service Financing (Medicaid). Her appointment to the Council by the Governor is pending.
- The Membership Committee will also make recommendations to the full Council for replacements for Roslyn Hymel, Rashad Bristo, Hyacinth McKee, Kim Basile, Mary Tarver and Brenda Cosse.

Staff Changes

- Bridgette Talley joined our staff on September 5th as our new Executive Secretary/Administrative Assistant. She is a great addition to our team and I look forward to you all meeting her at the October meeting.

Staff Professional Development

- Council staff participated in Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility (DEIA) training on July 7th with selected trainer Kahlida Lloyd with *Kahlida Nicole Speaks!*

- Previous Executive Director, Amy Deaville, attended the NACDD Annual Conference and TA Institute. Sessions included information on Partnering with NACDD to Take Actions to Support People on Waiting Lists, Creating Strategies and Solutions to End the Direct Care Workforce/Direct Support Professional Crisis, Being a Sexual Self-Advocate and Teaching Others, Storytelling Workshop: Two Ways of Writing your Story and Advocacy in Action for Young Children with Disabilities and Delays.

LaCAN

- The Council's Annual Legislative Kick Off was held for our LaCAN advocacy leaders and the Families Helping Families (FHF) Directors. Information was shared and discussed on the state-of-the-state in home and community-based services, employment, and education. The participants made recommendations for the Council to consider for its legislative advocacy agenda.
- Training for our LaCAN leaders was provided in August to enhance their skills in fostering effective collaboration with members and policymakers, retaining, recruiting and engaging members while developing and maintaining relationships. They also received creative training on how to create accessible flyers and "How To" for social media.

Advocacy Activities and Provision of Information

Education

- Advocated with the Executive Director of Diverse Learners, Meredith Jordan, that the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) reconsider the language that is included in [Act 392 of the 2023 Legislative Session](#) and that the Louisiana Department of Education seriously look into the implications of allowing convicted felons inside of classrooms with students especially students with disabilities. The law states that after a successful appeal, BESE may issue an educator credential or other teaching authorization to a person who has been convicted of or has pled nolo contendere to a felony offense or an offense list in R.S. 15:587 (C).

General

- Provided information through LaDDC News on the following:
 - [Recruiting Strong Advocates for Council Membership](#)
 - [Free, Virtual GODA Conference Next Week](#)
 - [Core Advisory Groups – Promoting Inclusive Emergency Management Webinar](#)
 - [Navigators for a Health Louisiana Webinar: Medicaid Unwind & Returning to Regular Operations](#)
 - [Opportunities to Share Feedback on Louisiana's Supports and Services System](#)
 - [Partner in Policymaking – Announcing 2023 Graduates and Recruitment for 2024 Class](#)
 - [Council Continues Video Series: Fully Included "How-To Guides"](#)
 - [Autism & Developmental Disability Caregiver Masterclass](#)
- Provided information through Facebook and Twitter on various issues of interest to people with developmental disabilities and their families.

Meetings Attended by Council Staff

Brenton Andrus:

- LaCAN Leader Call July 6, 2023
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Training July 7, 2023
- OCDD State Advisory Committee Meeting July 12, 2023

- LaCAN Leader Orientation August 2, 2023
- LaCAN Leader Call August 3, 2023
- LDH Open Meetings Law Webinar August 4, 2023
- LDH Open Meetings Law Webinar August 10, 2023
- FHF Region 7 Monitoring Visit August 15, 2023
- FHF of Northeast LA Monitoring Visit August 16, 2023
- FHF at the Crossroads Monitoring Visit August 17, 2023
- LaCAN Leader Summer Training August 24, 2023
- Bayou Land FHF Monitoring Visit August 28, 2023
- FHF of Southwest LA Monitoring Visit August 29, 2023
- FHF of Acadiana Monitoring Visit August 30, 2023
- FHF of New Orleans Monitoring Visit August 31, 2023
- Northshore FHF Monitoring Visit September 1, 2023
- FHF of Greater Baton Rouge Monitoring Visit September 6, 2023
- OCDD State Advisory Committee Meeting September 13, 2023
- GACDA Education Committee September 15, 2023
- The Arc's Gubernatorial Panel Discussion September 18, 2023
- GACDA Legislative Committee September 19, 2023
- GACDA Full Meeting September 20, 2023
- LaCAN Legislative Kickoff September 21, 2023

Stephanie Carmona:

- Youth Leadership Forum-YLiFe July 17, 2023
- Information and Technical Assistance Center August 17, 2023
- (ITACC) Buddies Project: Session 4- Evaluation
- Information and Technical Assistance Center September 21, 2023
- ITACC's Program Performance Review Training

Meetings Attended by Interim Executive Director (July 1 – September 30, 2023)

- Youth Leadership Forum (Welcome Day) July 14, 2023
- Youth Leadership Forum (Capitol Day) July 15, 2023
- Council Committee and Full Council Meetings July 19 - 20, 2023
- LDH Open Meetings Law Webinar August 4, 2023
- LDH Open Meetings Law Webinar August 10, 2023
- Meeting with Melissa Bayham (LRS) August 17, 2023
- Youth Leadership Forum Debriefing August 22, 2023
- Meeting with Meredith Jordan (LDOE) August 22, 2023
- Meeting with Hustle & Grow Contractor August 31, 2023
- LDH FY25 Budget Request Review September 6, 2023
- Department of Justice, CRS Outreach Meeting September 7, 2023
- Meeting with Julie F. Hagan (OCDD) September 8, 2023
- Arc of La Gubernatorial Panel Discussion September 18, 2023
- GACDA Legislative Committee September 19, 2023
- 2024 LaCAN Legislative Kickoff September 21, 2023
- SEAP Meeting (Attended Virtually) September 27, 2023
- Meeting with Hustle & Grow Contractor September 29, 2023