

Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council
Self-Determination and Community Inclusion Committee Meeting Summary
Wednesday, October 18, 2023
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

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

View meeting [transcript](#).

Members Present: Cheri Crane, Julie Hagan, Jill Hano, Angela Harmon, Tory Rocca, Brooke Stewart

Members Absent: Patti Barovechio, Kim Basile, Roslyn Hymel

Staff: Brenton Andrus, Rekeesha Branch, Ebony Haven, Hannah Jenkins

Others Present: Nicole Flores, Christi Gonzales, Bambi Polotzola, Mary Tarver, Sandra Trammell, Renoda Washington, Mimi Webb, Vivienne Webb, Lauren Womack

Brooke Stewart called the meeting to order at 1:04 PM. A quorum was established.

Approval of the [July Meeting Summary](#) passed by unanimous consent.

Non-Contractual Activities

Julie Hagan shared multiple updates on behalf of the [Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities \(OCDD\)](#) and the [Bureau of Health Services and Financing \(Medicaid\)](#). Additional information can be found in Ms. Hagan's [SD/CI report](#).

Ms. Hagan shared a detailed update on the implementation of [Act 421 Children's Medicaid Option or TEFRA](#). As of 9/21/2023, 3,368 applications received with 43% approved. Over 1,000 applications have been denied, a majority of which were due to applicants failing to respond to requests from the department.

A few other topics shared include:

- Multiple pieces of legislation that impact the department including a workgroup to study the uncompensated work of support coordination agencies and another to study alternative tools to inform reimbursement rates for intermediate care facilities.
- Training is occurring for Support Coordinators, Direct Service Providers and Self-Direction Employers to ensure knowledge of post public health emergency exceptions and flexibilities.
- OCDD will be doing another round of Roadshows in October and November to discuss OCDD initiatives. These will be in-person, but a virtual option will be provided. The Council did share a [LaDDC News](#) regarding these upcoming Roadshows.

- Committee members did provide suggestions for topics to be covered at the Roadshows and asked that some of the Roadshows be scheduled in the evening or on weekends to accommodate working families.
- Updates on how the department is using American Rescue Plan Act funds which need to be spent by March 2025.
 - Bonus payments for Direct Support workforce and Support Coordination have started.
 - Looking at options to partner with Department of Children and Family Services to help support families fostering children with disabilities.

Families Helping Families New Orleans

The committee received an update on Families Helping Families of New Orleans (FHF NOLA). FHF NOLA Executive Director, Aisha Johnson, was unable to attend the meeting, so Brenton Andrus summarized the information shared with the committee. Per the Council's request, FHF NOLA leadership is to provide the committee with an update quarterly on the Center's progress to address and mitigate concerns from their Fiscal Year 2022 legislative audit. A [quarterly report](#) and [supporting documentation](#) were provided to the committee and shares progresses made to addressing concerns.

Contractual Activities

The committee received multiple updates on contractual activities including Partners in Policymaking (PIP), LaCAN, Families Helping Families Resource Centers (FHF) and other initiatives of the Council that began with the Fiscal Year 2023 Action Plan. Additional information about these activities can be found in the Council's quarterly [Status of Planned Activities Report](#) under goals one and two in addition to reports linked in the committee's agenda.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:28 PM by unanimous consent.