

Council Meeting Summary

May 1, 2025, 10:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

9200 Bluebonnet Blvd., Rm #2 B.R., LA 70810

LIVE Streamed Via YouTube

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

View meeting transcript [here](#).

MEMBERS PRESENT

Cherie Kelly-Aduli
Patti Barovechio,
OPH/CSHS
Melissa Bayham, LRS
Brain Bennett, Medicaid
Ayden Blunschi
Alaina Chachere
Cheri Crain, GOEA
Jamar Ennis, GODA
Julie Foster Hagan, OCDD
Jill Hano
Angela Harmon
Meredith Jordan, LDOE
Frank Macaluso
Dr. Lamar Meda
Pasqueal Nguyen
Tony Piontek
Tory Rocca, DRLA
Robby Smith
Brooke Stewart
Erick Taylor
Vivienne Webb
Gearry Williams, OAAS
Karen Xu

MEMBERS ABSENT

Michael Billings
Jude Boynton
Christi Gonzales
Renoda Washington
Phil Wilson, LSU-HDC

GUESTS PRESENT

Constance Alphonse, LSU-
HDC
Renita Blunschi
Karla Cormier
Brenda Cossé
Kristie Curtis
Lillian DeJean
Erin Downing
Liam Doyle
Mylinda Elliott
Rebecca Frigé
Allison Filce
Nicole Flores
Liz Gary
Marilyn Goodwin
April Hampton

Lynsey Hebert,
Transcriptionist
Ramona Hill
Billy Hungesser
Chanel Jackson
Nicole Learson,
Parliamentarian
Christina Martin
Kelly Monroe
Yolanda Oats
Tamala Prevost
Bambi Polotzola
Susan Roblow
James Sprinkle
Mimi Webb
Kim Willems

STAFF PRESENT

Brenton Andrus
Rekeesha Branch
Lauren Brown
Stephanie Carmona
Ebony Haven
Hannah Jenkins
Bridgette Talley

Jill Hano called the meeting to order at 10:09 a.m. with a quorum present.

The [January 2025 Meeting Summary](#) was approved by unanimous consent. The Council was addressed by Lieutenant Governor Billy Nungesser.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – Jill Hano
Executive Committee

The Executive Committee received updates on issues at the federal level that will have serious effects on the disability community including the Section 504 Lawsuit, the restructuring of the Administration for Community Living (ACL), possible changes to Council funding and Medicaid.

The Committee also conducted the 4th quarterly evaluation for our Executive Director (ED) based on feedback from the full Council. For more information, please see the [summary](#).

Nominating Committee Election

The Nominating Committee is responsible for recommending new Executive Committee members for the next term, starting October 1, 2025. The following Council members were nominated as members of the 2025 Nominating Committee: Brian Bennett, Alaina Chachere, Angela Harmon, Meredith Jordan, Lamartine Meda, and Brooke Stewart. Ms. Chachere volunteered to Chair the committee.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT - Ebony Haven

Ms. Haven highlighted items in the Executive Director's Report including:

- The FY24 Program Performance Report (PPR) was submitted by the March 28th deadline to the Office of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (OIDD).
- The Council has filled all vacant seats for Council membership and is now complete with 28 members.
- An education item was added to the Council and LaCAN's 2025 advocacy agenda in response to the third and last audit from the legislative auditor specifically on seclusion, restraint and abuse/mistreatment of students with disabilities. The Council staff worked with the Arc of La, Disability Rights La and the LDOE on legislation to address the audit which resulted in HB237 by Rep. Shane Mack.
- Federal issues that were discussed during the Executive Committee meeting (see above) and included information about what the Council can and cannot do to address the issues.

BUDGET REPORT - Ebony Haven

Ms. Haven focused on the leaked draft budget proposal for FY26 and possible changes to DD Council funding including:

- For FY25, the Council will be funded at level funding; a Continuing Resolution (CR) was passed March 14th and the Council is expecting to receive our full allotment of \$1.38M.
- For FY26, things are a little more uncertain. Councils were informed April 16th that a draft budget proposal from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for fiscal year 2026 which begins October 1, 2025 was leaked– President's Budget.
- The document proposed reorganizing or ending many disability and aging programs – including State Councils on Developmental Disabilities (i.e. Louisiana DD Council).
- The President's budget does not determine program funding. Congress will decide what federal programs to fund in the final budget for FY26, which begins on October 1, 2025.

The Council recessed for lunch at 12:04 p.m. by unanimous consent.

The Council reconvened the meeting at 1:10 p.m. A quorum was established.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FY2026 PLANNING COMMITTEE – Jill Hano/Stephanie Carmona

The FFY 2026 Action Plan Ad Hoc Committee met on Tuesday, April 1, 2025. The committee recommended several changes for the [FY2026 Action Plan](#) and the [FY2026 Contractual Recommendations](#) including adding funding for an activity aimed at the Council's targeted disparity.

MOTION PASSED: To approve the FFY2026 Draft Action Plan with contractual recommendations from the FY2026 Planning Committee **passed with 19 yeas, 0 nays and 2 abstentions.**

ACT 378 SUB-COMMITTEE – Angela Harmon

The Act 378 Sub-committee did not have any recommendations for the Council to consider. The committee reviewed fiscal year 2025 (FY25) third quarter data for programs within the Offices for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) and Behavioral Health, and Aging and Adult Services/Arc of LA. These reports can be found linked in the committee agenda on the Council's meetings [webpage](#). For more information, please see the [summary](#).

EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT (E/E) COMMITTEE – Vivienne Webb

The Education and Employment Committee did not have any recommendations for the Councils consideration. However, the committee received a lot of great updates from Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS) and the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) and staff. The committee received updates on the non-contractual and contractual activities under Goal 3 which can be found in the Status of Planned Activities. For more information, please see the [summary](#).

SELF DETERMINATION/COMMUNITY INCLUSION COMMITTEE (SD/CI) – Brooke Stewart

The Self Determination and Community Inclusion Committee did not have any recommendations for the Councils consideration. However, the committee received a lot of great updates from the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD), Medicaid, the Office for Adult and Aging Services (OAAS) and staff. The committee also discussed updates on the non-contractual and contractual activities under Goals 1 and 2 which can be found in the [Status of Planned Activities](#). For more information, please see the [summary](#).

STANDING COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS:

[Governor's Office of Disability Affairs](#) – Liam Doyle
[Bureau of Health Services Financing](#) – Brain Bennett
[Department of Education](#) – Meredith Jordan
[Disability Rights of Louisiana](#) – Tory Rocca
[Office of Aging and Adult Services](#) – Gearry Williams

The Council recessed for a 10 minute break at 2:28 p.m. by unanimous consent and returned at 2:40 p.m.

STANDING COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS CONT'D:

[Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs](#) – Cheri Crain
[LSU Human Development Center](#) – Constance Alphonse
[Louisiana Rehabilitation Services](#) – Melissa Bayham
[Office of Public Health: Children's Special Health Services](#) – Patti Barovechio

Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities – Julie Foster Hagan

There were no public comments.

Ms. Haven reminded Council members to fill out their surveys, complete their FY2024 Financial Disclosures and announced the dates for the 5-Year Planning Public Forums. Ms. Haven also asked for volunteers for the 5-Year Planning Committee, and announced the next quarterly meeting on July 30th and 31st.

The DD Council April Quarterly meeting adjourned at 3:51 p.m. by unanimous consent.