

Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council
Act 378 Subcommittee Meeting Summary
April 21, 2021 1:00 - 2:45 PM
Online Via Zoom

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

Members Present: Nicole Banks, Randall Brown, Carmen Cetnar, Jill Egle, Julie F. Hagan, Bambi Polotzola

Members Absent: Kim Basile, Hyacinth McKee, Mary Tarver, Crystal White

Staff Present: Brenton Andrus, Hannah Jenkins, Ebony Haven

Others Present: Andrea Albert, Wesley Cagle, Tommy Comeaux, Brenda Cosse, Kristie Curtis, Erin Downing, Kathy Dwyer, Nicole Flores, Lynsey Hebert, Roslyn Hymel, Carol Lee, Alyssa Matthews, Ashley McReynolds, Kelly Monroe, Tanya Murphy, Susan Riehn, Kristin Savicki, Nicole Williams

Bambi Polotzola called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM. A quorum was established at 1:23 PM.

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

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

In [State Fiscal Year 21 \(SFY21\) Third Quarter](#), sixty-two percent (62%) of funding for the State Personal Assistance Services (SPAS) program was spent assisting forty-eight (48) individuals. There are currently fifty (50) people on the waiting list, down four from last quarter.

Office of Behavioral Health (OBH) – Kristin Savicki

Children/Adolescent Program

In [SFY21 Third Quarter](#):

- Nineteen percent (19%) of funding for the Consumer Care Resources (CCR) program and forty-eight percent (48%) of funding for the Flexible Family Fund (FFF) program was spent assisting 213 individuals in the CCR and 334 in the FFF programs.
- Data on the report does not contain data from Northeast Delta Human Services Authority (NEDHSA). OBH is working with NEDHSA to clarify some of the data reported but stated it appears they are on track to spend their allotted amount for CCR and FFF by the end of the SFY.

Adult Program

In SFY21 Third Quarter:

- Seventy-three percent (73%) of funding for the adult program was spent serving 363 individuals.
- It was noted that some of the lower expenditures were due to mental health block grant funds being utilized prior to Act 378 funds.

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

In SFY21 Third Quarter:

- Fifty-three percent (53%) of funding for the Individual and Family Support (IFS) program and seventy-four percent (74%) of funding for the FFF program was spent assisting 2,922 individuals in the IFS and 1,834 in the FFF programs.
- All local governing entities (LGE) have appropriated an amount equal to or greater than 9% of their State General Fund (SGF) to DD services.
- Low year to date expenditures for Imperial Calcasieu (ICHSA) were mentioned. It was noted ICHSA in previous quarters spent less than usual due to impacts from hurricanes. However, more individuals are moving back into the region and requests are going up. They anticipate spending all funds prior to years end.

Ms. Murphy and Ms. Julie Hagan also provided an update on the use of IFS dollars for vocational supports and incontinent supplies. At the January meeting, the committee expressed concern for the amount of IFS funding used on vocational/employment supports and incontinent supplies. Through the department's analysis, it was determined the fiscal impact of moving individuals to a waiver for these supports would be significant even with federal matching dollars. It was also explained that current rule would not allow recipients to simply be given a waiver to free up IFS dollars. Each individual's situation is different, and it was explained that an individual must be deemed as having urgent or emergent needs in the Screening of Unmet Needs (SUN) assessment. Since IFS dollars can fluctuate, screeners have taken into consideration the person's situation should their IFS funded service be lost or reduced.

Ms. Hagan also expressed concerns should all individuals currently receiving employment supports move to a waiver, they may be taking a waiver from someone with unmet needs. She stated initially, 15% of individuals screened were deemed to have urgent or emergent needs. Now that number is trending near 30%. The department is actively monitoring this situation in hopes of preventing a waiting list in the future.

Members also discussed the discrepancies in spending of IFS funds across regions based on the different service categories. This was a continued discussion from the previous meeting's report, [FY20 IFS Request Data & Expenditures by Service](#). Ms. Hagan stated this report would be analyzed further and shared at a future meeting with LGE directors to determine if a cause for these discrepancies can be found. Members were hopeful this information may prove useful for the LGEs as they discuss what their peers are doing to help meet the needs of families in their respective regions.

Prior to meeting adjournment, Chair Bambi Polotzola shared information about the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs' legislative tracking document. Brenton Andrus, LaDDC staff, also shared the Council's tracking document. Ms. Hagan also shared the Office of Community Partnerships and Health Equity within the Louisiana Department of Health was hosting a webinar on April 23rd to discuss COVID-19 vaccinations and impacts on persons with disabilities and providers. More information can be found [here](#).

Meeting adjourned at 2:10 PM.