

Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council
Self-Determination and Community Inclusion Committee Meeting Summary
Wednesday, April 30, 2025
12:45 PM – 2:30 PM

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

View meeting [transcript](#).

Members Present: Cherie Kelly-Aduli, Brian Bennett, Cheri Crain, Julie Foster Hagan, Angela Harmon, Jill Hano, Brooke Stewart, Patti Barovechio, Pasqueal Nguyen, Tory Rocca, Geary Williams, Karen Xu

Members Absent: Michael Billings

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

Others Present: Ayden Blunski, Jude Boynton, Brenda Cosse, Kristie Curtis, Liam Doyle, Mylinda Elliott, Nicole Flores, April Hampton, Lynsey Hebert (cc), Amy Miller, Jacki Pierce, Tony Piontek, Sherelle Porter, Susan Riehn, Erick Taylor, Mimi Webb, Vivienne Webb

Brooke Stewart called the meeting to order at 12:53 PM. A quorum was established.

MOTION PASSED Approval of the [January 2025 Meeting Summary](#) made by Jill Hano, second by Cheri Crain. Passed by a vote of 8 to 0 with no objections or abstentions.

Non-Contractual Activities

Julie Foster Hagan, Brian Bennett and Geary Williams shared multiple updates about their departments and issues on the state and federal level. Some of these updates can be found in their agency reports which are included in your Council meeting packet. A couple of things I wanted to mention:

- The committee was informed that the state budget is currently going through the process of legislative session and all services are at a standstill with no increases or decreases.
- However, as a result of Governor Landry's request to look into efficiencies or reduction in costs:
 - Community outreach specialist contracts from Early Steps, some held by Families Helping Families, will not be renewed effective July 1st. This job will now be completed by Early Steps staff.
 - The contract with the ARC for People First funding totaling \$110,000 was eliminated.
 - Medicaid allowance of 50% administrative match will now be replaced with 50% CMS administrative match to cover some position's salaries (equaling

about 4.2 million). It was shared that while the state general fund may show a reduction for these positions, there is an increase in inter agency transfers. There is a question of how the state would cover the CMS portion of staff salaries should Medicaid see a cut at the federal level.

- The revenue estimating conference will likely meet in May to discuss the state's revenue forecast, meaning how much money the state will bring in next year. Hopefully after that meeting we will have a better idea of estimated state dollars and any need for cuts or increases.
- Our new LDH Secretary, Bruce Greenstein, started last week and held a press conference to share his areas of focus which include
 - Implementing Project Moms which focuses on maternal overdose mortality
 - Fraud waste and abuse task force
 - Reforming the Medicaid Pharmacy Benefits Management
 - Behavior Health and how it connects with intellectual/developmental disabilities and chronic diseases

House Bill 559 by Representative Echols was also discussed. As written, this bill will bring local governing entities, or LGEs, back under LDH's control rather than local. If you work closely with the LGE in your region and have an opinion (positive or negative), it is strongly recommended that you reach out to your legislators to get your voice heard.

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 2024 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 1:53 PM.