

Executive Director's Report

January 2022 Council Meeting

AoD

The Administration on Disabilities offered an opportunity for Grantee Networks (these include DD Councils) to participate in *Walking the Walk: Prioritizing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Organizational Culture and Programming to Support People of Color with Disabilities*. This peer e-learning opportunity is 10 sessions long from September through December.

OCDD Covid-19 Waiver Exceptions Focus Groups

DD Council staff participated in Focus Groups facilitated by OCDD to discuss the need for continuing some of the Covid-19 waiver exceptions currently in place. The focus groups centered around three topics: Legally Responsible Adult as Paid Caregiver, 16 Hour Rule and Virtual Services. These meetings gave stakeholders the opportunity to express what works with the current exceptions, what doesn't and how OCDD can continue the service availability post the public health emergency. OCDD is including these services in waiver amendment which should be submitted to CMS in early 2022.

HCR 45 Workgroup

House Concurrent Resolution 45 was passed in the 2021 Regular Legislative Session. In summary, the resolution asked the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) to conduct a study concerning the feasibility and desirability of implementing a system for tracking the location of children with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The work has been completed and a report compiled. The report will be submitted in January 2022.

Meetings Attended by Council Staff

Ebony Haven:

October 26 & November 2 – OCDD 16 Hour Rule Focus Group

- What is needed to make changes to the 16 hour rule (Rule Changes vs. Manual/Policy/Procedure Changes)
- What was in place regarding the 16 hour rule prior to COVID
- Suggestions/Feedback about how to continue the 16-hour rule (included in the Appendix K exceptions) after COVID once it is no longer considered a Public Health Emergency
- OCDD recommendations for changes to the 16 Hour Rule and New Opportunities Manual based off feedback from 1st session

Brenton Andrus:

November 4 - Meeting with Parent Advocate Regarding Cameras in Classrooms

Attended a meeting on November 4, 2021 with Lorie Scott and ED Amy Deaville. Ms. Scott requested a meeting with Council staff to discuss recent legislation related to cameras in classrooms. Discussed LA legislation and the legislation advocates are attempting to pass in Maryland. Conversation centered around barriers and approaches in LA used to pass the legislation and lessons learned.

November 10 – Post COVID-19 Waiver Exceptions General Stakeholder Forum

Attended the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) stakeholder forum to learn more about the department's plans to continue certain Appendix K Exceptions: family as paid caregivers, DSP 16 hour rule, and virtual visits/services options. The department hosted a

series of individual forums with stakeholders including parents, individuals with disabilities, provider agencies, advocacy group members and other stakeholder groups to develop new waiver amendments and rules for the four OCDD Medicaid waivers. A video of the presentation provided at this forum which details the changes being made and follow-ups to occur can be found on the department's [YouTube Channel](#). You can also access the presentation slides [here](#).

November 10 – OCDD State Advisory Committee (SAC)

Attended the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) State Advisory Committee meeting on November 10, 2021. Multiple updates were shared from the Regional Advisory Committees and the department. Updates included, but were not limited to,

- Early Steps Transition Statewide Data Reporting
- TEFRA implementation
- Appendix K Waiver Exceptions and COVID updates
- American Rescue Plan Act funds for home- and community-based services
- Budget and legislative updates - funding to implement comprehensive dental in I/DD waivers for adults was included in FY23 budget request.
- Critical incidence reporting policy updates

Note: most department updates provided at this meeting were shared with the Self-Determination committee and the full Council during updates at their October quarterly meetings.

November 15 – Louisiana Postsecondary Inclusive Education Alliance Meeting

Attended a meeting of the Louisiana Postsecondary Inclusive Education Alliance (LAPIE) to discuss the Council's legislative advocacy agenda as it relates to their programs. We discussed the proposal that was submitted to the Governor's office with a request to include this initiative in his 2022 legislative package. Also discussed the Council's and LaCAN's advocacy related to this issue and how the Alliance could support those efforts.

November 19 – Meeting with JPHSA Executive Director

Attended a meeting with the Executive Director of the Jefferson Parish Human Services Authority, Rosanna DiChiro, and Act 378 Subcommittee Chair Bambi Polotzola. The Act 378 subcommittee sent a letter to each district/authority requesting information about the budgeting process for Act 378 behavioral health services. Purpose of the meeting was to discuss in more detail JPHSA processes and explain the Council's role in monitoring the Consumer Care Resources and Flexible Family Fund programs.

December 13 – GACDA Legislative Committee

Attended the Governor's Advisory Council on Disability Affairs Legislative Committee meeting on December 13, 2021. Committee discussed the advocacy issues individuals and organizations will be advocating for in the upcoming 2022 legislative session. Shared with committee the Council's legislative advocacy plans for comprehensive dental funding, funding for the Louisiana Alliance for Postsecondary Inclusive Education (LAPIE) programs, and funding as well as data and accountability for cameras in special education classrooms legislation.

Marilee Andrews:

Social Media Related Meetings:

December 9, 2021 – Sprout Social

December 10, 2021 – Sendible

December 13, 2021 – Sendible
December 16, 2021 – Sprout Social

Partners in Policymaking Meetings:
December 21
December 28

Meetings Attended by Executive Director (October 1 – December 31, 2021)

- October 4 – Meeting with Mary Alexander from Lighthouse Louisiana re: listening sessions
- October 5 – Walking the Walk – peer e-learning session #3 (with staff)
- October 5 – Meeting with Julie Foster Hagan
- October 6 – Community Forum: Mission in Action regarding affordable housing in Louisiana
- October 6 – NACDD Update Call
- October 7 – New Executive Committee Members training (full day)
- October 13 – DEI Ad Hoc Committee – ended due to lack of quorum
- October 14 – YLF Ad Hoc Committee
- October 14 – Zoom Meeting with LaCAN Leaders
- October 14 – HCR 45 Workgroup
- October 18 – NACDD ED Leaders' Summit
- October 19 – Phone Call with Senator Foil re: Cameras in Classrooms
- October 19 – NACDD ED Leaders' Summit Day 2
- October 20 & 21 – LaDDC Committee and Council Meetings
- October 22 – Meeting with Judy Fletcher re: SFY23 Budget
- October 25 – Post-Covid 19 Waiver Exceptions Forum (OCDD) – Legally Responsible Adult as Paid Caregiver, Part 1
- October 26 – Meeting with Staff regarding Legislative Advocacy Agenda
- October 26 – Walking the Walk – peer e-learning session #4 (with staff)
- October 27 – Post-Covid 19 Waiver Exceptions Forum (OCDD) – Virtual Services, Part 1 (was ultimately rescheduled during the meeting due to weather)
- October 28 – HR 118 Task Force Meeting
- October 29 – Post-Covid 19 Waiver Exceptions Forum (OCDD) – Virtual Services, Part 1
- November 1 – Executive Committee Special Session
- November 1 – Post-Covid 19 Waiver Exceptions Forum (OCDD) – Legally Responsible Adult as Paid Caregiver, Part 2
- November 2 – Zoom Meeting with LDH Grants Management
- November 2 – Walking the Walk – peer e-learning session #5 (with staff)
- November 2 – Phone Call with Judy Fletcher re: budget
- November 2 – Meeting with FHF Directors regarding additional funding and potential uses
- November 3 – Meeting with Julie Foster Hagan
- November 3 – Meeting with Judy Fletcher and staff regarding additional budget questions
- November 3 – Post-Covid 19 Waiver Exceptions Forum (OCDD) – Virtual Services, Part 2
- November 4 – Meeting with advocate from Maryland regarding Louisiana's experience with the Cameras in Classrooms bill (with staff)

- November 4 – Meeting with current contractor regarding Scope of Work and plans for current contract year
- November 5 – Advisory Council on Student Behavior and Discipline Meeting
- November 5 – Meeting with State Plan Review Team
- November 10 – Post-Covid 19 Waiver Exceptions General Stakeholder Forum
- November 12 – Meeting with FHF Directors
- November 15 – Executive Committee Special Session Meeting
- November 15 – Meeting with Alliance Members (LAPIE) regarding proposed legislation (with staff)
- November 16 – Walking the Walk – peer e-learning session #6 (with staff)
- November 17 – Meeting with PiP Coordinator and staff re: applicants
- November 17 – Community Providers Association – presented our legislative advocacy agenda at their meeting
- November 18 – ITACC Peer-to-Peer Knowledge Exchange
- November 19 – HCR 45 Workgroup Meeting
- November 30 – Walking the Walk – peer e-learning session #7 (with staff)
- December 3 – Meeting with LDH HR
- December 7 – Meeting with Preston Robinson of Voting Commission (with staff)
- December 7 – Walking the Walk – peer e-learning session #8 (with staff)
- December 7 – Meeting with Julie Foster Hagan
- December 9 – HR 118 Task Force Meeting
- December 10 – HCR 45 Workgroup Meeting
- December 13 – GACDA Education Committee Meeting
- December 13 – GACDA Legislative Committee Meeting
- December 14 – Meeting with Chair and Act 378 Sub-Committee Chair regarding request for feedback on funding formula for HSD/A
- December 14 – Walking the Walk peer e-learning session #8 (with staff)
- December 14 – GACDA Transportation Committee Meeting
- December 14 – GACDA Accessibility Committee Meeting
- December 15 – GACDA Council Meeting
- December 15 – Meeting with Mark Thomas, LDH and Julie Foster Hagan, OCDD and council members regarding funding formula for HSD/A
- December 16 – HCR 45 Workgroup Meeting
- December 20 – Meeting with Eric Cote of Neighbors Helping Neighbors Project
- December 21 – Meeting with ED of Arkansas DD Council re: Employment 1st Initiatives
- December 22 – NACDD Update Call