

Executive Director's Report

April 2023 Council Meeting

Regional Legislative Roundtables

Roundtables in 9 regions were held in March. Information was presented about the Council's legislative advocacy agenda to legislators and LaCAN members.

Yellow Shirt Days

The first 2 yellow shirt days were held before the Legislative Session started! Held on March 16th and March 24th, both yellow shirt days were held at SR147 Remote Operations Taskforce Meetings to advocate for amending open meetings law to allow for virtual participation options at meetings of public bodies.

Meetings Attended by Council Staff

Ebony Haven:

Governor's Advisory Council on Disability January 3, 2023
Affairs Legislative Committee (GACDA): Shared the Council's 2023 Legislative Advocacy Agenda and the collaboration with the Arc of LA for \$9.4M for Incontinence Supplies for Adults on Medicaid Waivers

GACDA Legislative Committee: March 8, 2023
Shared an update on SR 147 that created the Task Force on Remote Operations of Public Entities and the recommendations the Task Force is considering. Also encouraged stakeholders to come out to advocate on March 16th and 24th 2023.

Regional Legislative Roundtables: Presented information about LaCAN and the Council's 2023 Legislative Advocacy Agenda to LaCAN members and legislators.

Regions 1 & 10	March 1, 2023
Region 7	March 2, 2023
Region 9	March 9, 2023
Region 5	March 14, 2023
Region 2	March 17, 2023
Region 6	March 20, 2023
Region 8	March 21, 2023

Other Meetings Attended:

OCDD, OAAS, Arc of LA and LaDDC Incontinence Supplies Meeting	January 4, 2023
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Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP)	January 25, 2023
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Technology Supports with Remote Features Focus Group	January 31, 2023
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HCR 14 Disability Voting Task Force	February 10, 2023
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Partners in Policymaking Presentation	March 3, 2023
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Louisiana Department of Health (LDH)	March 13, 2023
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2023 Legislative Package Meeting

GACDA Education Committee

March 13, 2023

SEAP Meeting

March 22, 2023

Brenton Andrus:

LAPIE February Meeting – February 14, 2023

Attended the Louisiana Alliance on Postsecondary Inclusive Education's February meeting. Discussed the Council's legislative agenda specifically as it relates to advocating for \$3 million to be added to the Postsecondary Inclusive Education Fund. Provided the alliance with information about advocacy opportunities such as action alerts, legislative visits, Roundtables, yellow shirt days and public testimony.

Incontinence Supplies Meeting with Medicaid - February 27, 2023

Attended a meeting with Medicaid and other Department of Health staff to discuss opportunities to fund incontinence supplies coverage for waiver recipients and ensure those individuals who truly need incontinence supplies are the one receiving it. Those attending included representatives from Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, The Arc of La and the Council. It was determined that incontinence coverage could be handled administratively rather than legislatively. Medicaid will include the \$9.4 million needed in their current budget.

LAMHA Public Policy Summit – March 2, 2023

Attended the Louisiana Mental Health Association's Public Policy Summit. During the summit, the Louisiana Department of Health and Office of Behavioral Health shared their priorities and budget as it relates to mental health in our state. Sessions also included topics such as Advocacy 101, how to build relationships at the Capitol, how ideas become laws and how to advocate for mental health needs on a federal level. The summit concluded with legislative priorities for mental health moving forward.

GACDA Legislative Committee – March 8, 2023

Attended the Governor's Advisory Council on Disability Affairs Legislative Committee meeting on March 8, 2023. Multiple groups and organizations shared information about their legislative platforms for the 2023 Legislative Session and reviewed legislation that has been filed which may impact the disability community. Committee took positions on some issues they will monitor this session.

LDH Legislative Review Meeting – March 13, 2023

Attended a meeting with representatives from various departments within the Department of Health and Council staff to review the department's 2023 legislative package and proposed budget. Also shared the Council's 2023 legislative advocacy agenda.

OCDD Post Public Health Emergency Stakeholder Meeting – March 20, 2023

Attended the Office for Citizens With Developmental Disabilities Post Covid-19 Public Health Emergency Stakeholder Meeting on March 20th. The department share information regarding waiver requirements before, during and after the public health emergency which is scheduled to end in May. They also discussed the upcoming Medicaid Unwind, updates to the Home and Community Based Settings Rule, and provided an introduction to Technology Supports with Remote Features.

Meetings Attended by Executive Director (January 1 – March 31, 2023)

- January 3 – Meeting with Julie Foster Hagan (OCDD)
- January 3 – NACDD Training
- January 4 – Discussion with OCDD, OASS, Medicaid and The Arc of Louisiana re: incontinent supplies
- January 5 – Follow-up meeting re: incontinent supplies with The Arc of Louisiana
- January 5 – LaCAN Call
- January 9 – OIDD (Office of Intellectual and Developmental Disability) DD Council Engagement Call
- January 11– NACDD (National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities) Executive Director Update Call
- January 12 – Partners in Policymaking Welcome Address
- January 17 – Office of Risk Management Training
- January 18 & 19 – DD Council Committee and Full Council Meetings
- January 24 – Meeting with Libbie Sonnier from Policy Institute for Children re: SR 147 Task Force/Open Meetings Law
- January 25 – Meeting with ITACC
- January 25 – CMS Medicaid and CHIP Unwind Webinar
- January 25– NACDD ED Update Call
- January 26 – LRS Quarterly Meeting
- January 26 – Meeting with Meredith Jordan (LDOE)
- January 30 – Meeting with LDH Human Resources
- February 2 – Meeting with Contractor
- February 7 – Meeting with Allied Fold re: DEI Training Proposal
- February 7 – Meeting with Julie Foster Hagan (OCDD)
- February 8 – NACDD Executive Director Update Call
- February 9 – Call with Andrew Muhl from AARP re: legislative advocacy
- February 9 – DD Councils' Policy Task Force
- February 13 – End of the Covid-19 PHE Webinar
- February 14 – Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility Strategic Plan Webinar
- February 16 – Immigration Webinar by the Women's Foundation
- February 22 – NACDD Executive Director Update Call
- February 23 – Meeting with Meredith Jordan (LDOE)
- February 23 – ITACC Webinar on Equitable Language
- February 24 – Meeting with ED of Alabama DD Council
- February 27 – Meeting with Libbie Sonnier, Policy Institute for Children
- February 27 – Housing and Services Resource Center Webinar
- February 27 – Meeting with Medicaid and OCDD re: Incontinence Supplies
- March 1 – Louisiana Post-Secondary Inclusive Education Advisory Council Meeting
- March 1 – Regions 1/10 Legislative Roundtable
- March 2 – Region 7 Legislative Roundtable
- March 3 – Present to Partners in Policymaking Class on Act 378 and Legislative Advocacy Agenda
- March 7 – Phone Call with Senator Hewitt Re: SR 147 Task Force Recommendations
- March 9 – Region 9 Legislative Roundtable
- March 10 – Meeting with Julie Foster Hagan (OCDD)
- March 13 – LDH Legislative Agenda Review
- March 14 – Region 5 Legislative Roundtable
- March 15 – Region 4 Legislative Roundtable
- March 15 – NACDD Strategic Plan Presentation

- March 16 – Region 3 Legislative Roundtable
- March 16 – ITACC BUDDIES Project ECHO Training
- March 17 – Region 2 Roundtable
- March 20 – Region 6 Legislative Roundtable
- March 20 – OCDD Covid-19 Post PHE Wrap-up
- March 22 – DEI Ad Hoc Committee Meeting
- March 23 - National Center on Advancing Person-Centered Practices and Systems (NCAPPS) Training on Supporting Dignity of Risk
- March 24 – SR147 Task Force Meeting – Yellow Shirt Day
- March 17 – LDH Training – Timekeeping
- March 28 – Senate Finance Hearing for LDH budget review
- March 29 – ACL Webinar on Community Housing Options