

## Education and Employment Committee

Tuesday, January 19, 2021

[YouTube Broadcast](#)

### Summary

**Members Present:** Bambi Polotzola, Melissa Bayham, Christopher Rodriguez, Mary Tarver

**Members Absent:** Nicole Banks, Dr. Phil Wilson (LSU-HDC), Carmen Cetnar, Brenda Cosse, Mitch Iddins, Temisha Sonnier

**Attendees:** Dr. Sarah Fletcher (LDOE), Charlie Michel, Susan Killam (LSU-HDC), Mylinda Elliott, Verla Farlough, David James, Harlon Cowsar, Kristie Curtis, Julie Folse, Nicole Flores, Angela Montgomery (LRS), Jill Egle, Liz Gary, Anastasia Boudreaux, Corhonda Corley, Kathy Dwyer, Roslyn Hymel, Hyacinth McKee, Kathleen Cannino

**Staff:** Marilee Andrews, Ebony Haven, Hannah Jenkins, Courtney Ryland, Brenton Andrus

**Transcriptionist:** Lynsey Hebert

Ms. Marilee Andrews calls roll. No quorum established as only four committee members were present.

The meeting was not called to order. Ms. Bambi Polotzola expressed disappointment in lack of attendance and suggested those present have an open discussion in lieu of a formal meeting and any motions can be made from the floor at the main Council meeting.

Chairperson Mary Tarver agrees to an open discussion without voting.

### Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS)

- Ms. Melissa Bayham shares that LRS is seeing people by appointment due to COVID-19 and that Marc Gold and Associates (MG&A) trainings are not being held further due to cost.
- Discussion on subminimum wage and community rehab programs that still have subminimum wage certificates.

### Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE)

- Dr. Sarah Fletcher introduces herself and shares that LDOE received funding to purchase Chromebooks; LDOE State Superintendent Dr. Cade Brumley requested all education staff receive the COVID-19 vaccine; LEAP testing windows expanded and more virtual practice tests; and LDOE has released new guidance *The Developmental Screening Guidebook Webinar* to accompany the updated *Developmental Screening Guidebook*.
- LDOE has new partnership with District Management Group to guide work of LDOE to better serve students with special needs. Mr. James shares he can host two or

three focus groups to seek input from the Council and will reach out to Ms. Andrews to coordinate. Discussion re: Families Helping Families (FHF) be one of the focus groups and that FHF staff are family members of individuals with developmental disabilities and parents of children in the school system.

- Discussion re: compensatory services within LDOE and Chromebook accessibility.
- Ms. Fletcher shares LDOE is reorganizing and Ms. Fletcher is now under Diverse Learners division of the Equity, Inclusion, and Opportunity Office within LDOE.

## **FFY2022 Action Plan (October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2022)**

- Ms. Andrews shares that this Committee was asked at its last meeting to bring ideas and activities for the full Council to consider including in its FFY2022 Action Plan to this meeting. The Committee should review the [State Five Year Plan for FFY 2022 2026 \(Adopted October 2020\)](#) in coming up with ideas and activities.
- Discussion on required funding and advocating for match money. Discussion of LRS' mandated spending of 15% of budget; age at which the state/ LRS begins transition; efficacy of transition services and LRS representatives attending IEP meetings; low number of LRS counselors; and importance of LDOE and LRS working together to transition students out. Ms. Tarver encourages the Committee consider something along these lines be recommended for FFY2022 Action Plan.
- Ms. Andrews shares with the Committee that the [Council's 2021 Legislative Agenda](#) includes [Cameras in Special Education Classrooms Upon Request](#), as this was discussed at the last committee meeting, and also shares that LaCAN has begun its work on the 2021 Legislative Agenda.

## **Announcements**

- Discussion re: how education and employment recommendations could be made for the FFY2022 Action Plan when this Committee did not have enough attendance for a quorum and there is no time to reschedule this meeting prior to the Council meeting.
- Ms. Courtney Ryland suggests Ms. Tarver ask the full Council to consider allowing the Education/Employment Committee make recommendations directly to the planning committee.