

Executive Director Report

Report to DD Council of Louisiana

October, 2024

[Governor's Office of Disability Affairs Webpage](#)

[Governor's Office of Community Programs Facebook Page](#)

Hurricane Francine

In response to Hurricane Francine, the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs participated in the coordination of three Emergency Management Disability and Aging Coalition (EMDAC) virtual conference calls to connect state agencies, governmental entities, non-profit organizations serving individuals with disabilities, and disability advocates to provide important updates

Before and after landfall, The Governor's Office of Disability Affairs released multiple Hurricane Francine centric updates via constant contact to constituents, legislators, community based organizations, and other interested parties. These updates included: how to access hurricane state/federal resources, state and local advisories, shelter information, mandatory evacuations, latest federal and state declarations, and information to access press conferences and other important announcements real time.

Hurricane Francine Resource Guides

September 13, 2024

<https://conta.cc/3ToQ0SE>

September 11, 2024

<https://conta.cc/3AXinAR>

September 10, 2024

<https://conta.cc/3MEJPpD>

2025 GODA Local Advisory Council Initiative

GODA will invite statewide elected officials to connect, network, empower, and share best practices how they resolve disability related matters within their local communities. This conference will feature breakout sessions, and presentations from subject matter experts from multiple topics including but not limited to: emergency preparedness, transportation, accessibility, disability inclusion, disability awareness and much more.

Local leaders who desire to establish a disability focused body within their own jurisdiction will have an opportunity to connect with Mayors and local entities with established disability councils, coalitions, or committees.

This conference is scheduled to take place in the spring of 2025.

2025 Parking Taskforce Council Initiative

RS 2584 - Accessible parking privileges investigation committee

The office of disability affairs is hereby authorized to establish a committee comprised of membership as it deems appropriate for the purpose of consideration of matters relative to accessible parking privileges. Such committee may:

- (1) Monitor issuance and usage of license plates and parking cards intended for use by persons with disabilities.
- (2) Review complaints regarding unauthorized use of license plates and parking cards.
- (3) Consider and evaluate evidence of abuse or unauthorized use of such plates or cards, as such evidence may be submitted to the committee by individuals, and submit such evidence or materials to the appropriate authorities and advocate for investigation of abuse.
- (4) Submit evidence or materials to the Louisiana Medical Advisory Board within the Department of Public Safety and Corrections if such evidence or materials indicate possible inappropriate or illegal certification of a person as having a mobility impairment. If, in the board's discretion, the review of such material does indicate possible inappropriate or illegal certification by a physician, the board shall submit such material along with a recommendation for appropriate disciplinary action to the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners.
- (5) Monitor, evaluate, and propose and advocate changes to laws, rules, and regulations relative to accessible parking privileges to the extent allowable by law.
- (6) Perform any service pursuant to its purpose authorized by the office of disability affairs.

Applications for membership will be transmitted this fall with the first meeting to take place in the spring of 2025.

2024 GODA Programs

Governor's Office of Disability Affairs Conference (August 2024)

GODA hosted its 2024 GODA Conference on August 25, 2024 via Zoom. Over 500 individuals registered for this year's conference and over 300 individuals participated.



2024 GODA Presenters & Topics

- Lettie Goings - McNeese Autism Program - Fostering independence and social skills for individuals with special needs in adulthood
- Rubby Douglas - Director of Strategic Engagement for the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness - Risks assessment to discuss planning priorities to address all citizens' needs during emergencies, especially the disabilities community
- Ashley McReynolds - Program Director for the Arc of Louisiana - 2024 Legislative Recap - Victories for students with disabilities
- Daryn Broussard - Disability Rights Louisiana- Introduction to the CAP Program and the positive effects that advocacy can have on various aspects of the Louisiana Vocational Rehabilitation service
- Keira Beverly Fort - Managing Attorney at Tamar Legal Consulting, LLC - An overview of laws affecting estate planning for individuals with disabilities - an in-depth examination of laws impacting the creation of special needs trusts

- Lillian DeJean - Louisiana Youth Leadership Forum Coordinator (LAYLF)- LAYLF summer camp for 10th - 12th graders with disabilities, focused on leadership, empowerment, and independence.

Next year GODA will offer CLE, CLU, and other credits that will be of benefit to conference participants.

Governor's Outstanding Leadership in Disabilities Awards (November or December 2024)

The Governor's Office of Disability Affairs is excited to host the 2024 Governor's Outstanding Leadership in Disabilities (GOLD) Awards. The GOLD Awards is an opportunity for Louisiana to pay tribute to the achievements and dedication of individuals in the disability community.

Award categories:

Distinguished Merit Award

Ken Vince Memorial Award

Patsy Barrett Memorial Award

April Dunn Youth of the Year

Educator of the Year

Volunteer of the Year

Family of the Year

Service Provider of the Year

Veteran of the Year

Direct Support Professional of the Year

Service Animal of the Year

Employer of the Year

Public Servant of the Year

Inclusive Art Show Competition (November or December 2024)



To bring greater awareness of the importance of inclusion in today's society, the [Governor's Office of Disability Affairs](#) (GODA) invites you to participate in the 2024 Inclusive Art Contest. GODA will accept entries that illustrate or describe ideas related to this year's theme and accompanying definitions of inclusion of persons with disabilities. A medal and special recognition from Governor Jeff Landry will be presented to the winners. Contestants are encouraged to use original art to share their vision, experiences and talents to demonstrate this year's theme. Winning entries will be publicly displayed.

GODA Newsletters



October 2024 Newsletter

Governor's Office of Disability Affairs Newsletters Published and Transmitted following editions of the newsletters hyperlinked below in Quarter III:

[June](#), 2024 Newsletter

[July](#), 2024 Newsletter

[August](#), 2024 Newsletter

[September](#), 2024 Newsletter

Outreach Activities

The Governor's Office Participated in the following events during Quarter II:

- Youth Leadership Forum- June 2024 (13 Certificates of Recognition)
- Mayor's Commission on Disability- July 2024 Lake Charles



Governor Landry signed the following proclamations:

- Direct Support Professional Recognition Week (September 2024)
- Deaf Culture Awareness Month (September 2024)
- Disability Pride Month (July 2024)
- Deaf Culture Awareness Month (September 2024)
- Direct Support Professional Week (September 2024)
- Disability Employment Awareness Month (October 2024)
- White Cane Day (October 2024)

Annual Report

The Governor's Office of Disability Affairs is in the midst of working on the 2024 GACDA/Agency Report

2024 Governor's Fellow Program

Jaden York: GODA Fellow The Governor's Fellows Program in Louisiana Government is an opportunity for college and university student leaders to experience public policy in action, learn the rich history and current affairs of Louisiana government, and earn three hours of academic credit through LSU's Department of Public Administration.