

Executive Director's Report
July 19-20, 2017 Council Meeting

Budget

- The budget report with expenditures through May 2017 is included in the packet.

Action Plan for FFY 18

- Public input was solicited on the FFY18 Action Plan the Council approved at the April meeting and none was received.

Federal Allotment

- Since the President's budget proposes to combine the DD Councils with two other programs – the Independent Living program and the Traumatic Brain Injury program – Councils are funded at \$0 for FFY18 in the President's proposed budget. Advocacy by the National Association of Councils on DD (NACDD) and other national organizations seems to be working as many Senators have said they will not support this merger or funding reduction in the President's budget.

Membership Update

- On June 23rd the Governor appointed parent Jill Demeritt and self-advocates Jill Hano, Roslyn Hymel, and Steven Nguyen. He also appointed Dr. Patti Barovechio to represent the Office of Public Health and Dee Budgewater to represent the Bureau of Health Services Financing. He reappointed Hilary Bordelon and Carmen Cetnar.

Ad Hoc Committees

Two ad hoc committees met this quarter:

- The **Membership Committee** met on May 30th and June 7th to consider and select two candidates for the Governor's consideration.
- The **Nominating Committee** met on May 23rd to nominate a slate of officers for the Council's consideration.

Disability Rights Day

- Disability Rights Day was held April 26th with confirmed attendance of 410 individuals. Teams from each region visited legislators throughout the day sharing fact sheets detailing the importance and necessity of funding for various supports and services for people with disabilities and a dedicated percentage of Human Services District/Authority funds spent on Act 378 services for people with developmental disabilities.
- A rally program was held at noon and included comments from legislators; the governor's office; and event emcees Doris Heckert and Jeff Arceneaux.
- Participants were also in attendance as Senator Sharon Hewitt presented a resolution in the Senate commending the DD Council and LaCAN for its advocacy efforts and officially designating April 26, 2017, Disability Rights Day in Louisiana. A similar resolution was presented in the House by Representative Barbara Carpenter.

Advocacy Activities and Provision of Information

Community Supports

- Successfully planned and implemented LaCAN's advocacy campaign to:
 - Restore funding in the budget to preserve existing services for people with developmental disabilities.
 - Add funding for 627 vacant mixed waiver slots for people with developmental disabilities on the waiting list

- Require an amount equal to 9% of each Human Services District/Authority's state funding be dedicated to Individual and Family Support and Flexible Family Funds (Act 378 services) for people with developmental disabilities and increase the developmental disabilities representation on the boards of the Districts/Authorities.
- Provided information and support to three Council members and sixteen LaCAN members in testifying before the Appropriations and Finance Committees in support of funding for:
 - waiver slots
 - the Human Services Districts/Authorities
 - an enhanced waiver rate for people with complex needs
 - LA Rehabilitation Services
 - EarlySteps
 - the restoration of all cuts to the LA Department of Health (LDH),
 and before the Senate and House Health and Welfare Committee in support of:
 - a dedicated share of Districts/Authorities' funding to Act 378 services for people with DD
 - increased developmental disabilities representation on the boards of the Districts/Authorities.

Provided testimony and information to legislators on all of these issues. Organized seven "yellow shirt days" in these Committees with a total of 188 LaCAN members attending.

- Provided information and advocacy support on the impact of the Republican plans to repeal the Affordable Care Act in Congress.
- Participated in LDH meetings to transition Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) into Managed Care. Succeeded in advocating for a parent knowledgeable about ABA to participate in future meetings.

Education

- Eight LaCAN members attended a yellow shirt day to advocate for the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) to direct the LA Department of Education (LDOE) to:
 - Increase contracts for each Families Helping Families Center from July through September 2017 from \$12,500 to \$20,000. The \$12,500 for the last quarter of the federal fiscal year reflects a 37 percent decrease from the FHF Center contracts for this time period.
 - Withdraw the Request for Applications (RFA) for family supports until stakeholder input can be provided regarding the amount of funding; the deliverables; and the catchment areas of the regions in the RFA.
- Advocated for the prohibition of corporal punishment on students with disabilities before the Senate Education Committee.

Employment

- Advocated for certification of employment support professionals and for a system of quality monitoring and improvement for supported employment provider agencies at the LA Rehabilitation Council meeting.

General

- Hosted a Legislative Debriefing for LaCAN and FHF Leaders where we shared information on the outcomes of the legislative session and the current state of affairs in both home and community-based services, education, and employment. Information was shared and feedback was solicited on LaCAN's activities before and during the session, emphasizing what was most effective and what we can do to improve in the future. A recommendation will be made to the Self-Determination/Community Inclusion Committee to change a major LaCAN event for 2018 based on the advocacy leaders' feedback.
- Provided information through LaDDC News on the following:
 - Recruitment of Applicants for Council Membership Vacancies
 - Council's FFY2018 Action Plan
 - Self-Direction Workshops

- GODA's Inclusive Art Contest
- Republican's Plan to Repeal the Affordable Care Act
- Provided information through Facebook and Twitter on various issues of interest to people with developmental disabilities and their families, including information on the Regular and Special Legislative Sessions, and the Republican's plan to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

Collaborative Efforts

Employment First Work Group

- The group agreed on priorities and methods to improve the system of employment for people with disabilities and a draft outline for the final report/plan that will be written by David Hoff, the consultant who facilitated the work group. The final report/plan will be submitted to the Governor.

OCDD Mortality Review Committee

- Of the 22 cases reviewed this quarter, the Committee requested additional information for six cases and noted no issues related to potential abuse or neglect.

Governor's Advisory Council on Disability Affairs (GACDA)

- Information was shared at the full GACDA meeting but no action was taken.
- Education Committee members shared concerns about a Request for Applications released by the Department of Education for services historically provided by the Families Helping Families Centers, but the committee lacked a quorum so no action was proposed.
- Input was provided on the draft Employment First outline developed by the Employment First Work Group.

Meetings Attended (by Executive Director) Since April 5, 2017

House Appropriations Committee/Yellow Shirt Day re: HB1 – April 5
 Meeting w/ Senate Health & Welfare Staff re: SB58 – April 6
 Executive Committee – April 7
 Meeting w/ April Dunn re: Council meeting – April 10
 Membership Committee – April 10
 Meeting w/ AARP & Advocacy Center staff re: legislative initiatives – April 12
 State Interagency Coordinating Council – April 13
 House Appropriations Committee/Yellow Shirt Day re: HB1 – April 18
 Council meeting – April 19-20
 Meeting w/ Senator Mills & advocates re: SB58 – April 20
 Disability Rights Day – April 26
 Senate Health & Welfare Committee/Yellow Shirt Day re: SB58 – April 26
 Employment First Work Group – April 28
 House Appropriations Committee re: HB1 – May 1
 Meeting w/ Senator Dan Claitor & Ashley McReynolds re: SB58 – May 1
 Senate Floor re: SB58 – May 1
 OCDD System Transformation Core Stakeholders Group – May 2
 Governor's Office Budget Briefing – May 9
 Meeting w/ Rep. Rogers Pope & advocates re: SB58 – May 10
 LaCAN Leader Conference Call – May 11
 Executive Committee – May 18
 House Appropriations Committee re: HB405 – May 22
 House Health & Welfare Committee/Yellow Shirt Day re: SB58 – May 23
 Nominating Committee – May 23
 NACDD Conference Call re: Council funding – May 24

Employment First Workgroup – May 25
Senate Finance Committee re: HB 1 – May 26
Senate Finance Committee/Yellow Shirt Day re: HB 1 – May 27
Membership Committee – May 30
Employment First Workgroup – June 6
SB58 Bill Signing by the Governor – June 7
Governor’s Advisory Council on Disability Affairs – March 21