

Governor's Office of Disability Affairs

Report to the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council

July 2023

[Click here for Governor's Office of Disability Affairs Monthly Newsletters](#) or find newsletters located on the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs webpage.

Annual GODA Conference will be Virtual: Register Now!

In celebration of 33rd Anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs (GODA) will host its annual fully virtual, free conference **July 24 - 27, 2023!** Registration to the conference gives access to all sessions with one link. Conference attendees can choose which sessions they want to attend and join in on the zoom link. This year's conference will feature sessions pertaining to accessibility, education, employment, healthcare, voting, emergency preparedness, self-determination, and other issues important to the disability community. For the complete detailed updated schedule of the conference including session descriptions and presenter bios, go to: <https://bit.ly/GODAconf23sched>. Register at: <https://bit.ly/GODAconf23>.

Recap of the 2023 Legislative Session

The 2023 Regular Legislative Session ended June 8, 2023. The Governor's Advisory Council on Disability Affairs made recommendations on over 20 legislative instruments; GODA tracked approximately 100 legislative items. You can find this information on the spreadsheet that is available [here](#).

Disability Voting Task Force: [HB449](#) by [Representative Willard](#): provides relative to the rights of voters with disabilities. Now Act 277. Effective 06/09/23.

Remote Operations of Public Meetings Task Force: [SB201](#) by [Senator Hewitt](#): provides for meetings of boards and commissions via electronic means. Now Act 393. Effective 08/01/23.

Governor's Advisory Council on Disability Affairs (GACDA) 2023

The [Governor's Advisory Council on Disability Affairs](#) held its quarterly meetings from June 19th - 21st. The next round of meetings will take place in September.

Statewide Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC) for EarlySteps

The Statewide Interagency Coordinating Council's ([SICC](#)) last meeting took place on July 13, 2023. They received their quarterly reports and discussed updates. Caroline Nailor-Ogelsby was introduced as the new Program Manager for EarlySteps. The next quarterly Statewide Interagency Coordinating Council will occur on October 12, 2023.

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Louisiana Emergency Management Disability and Aging Coalition (EMDAC)

The [Louisiana Emergency Management Disability and Aging Coalition](#) (EMDAC) hosted three Lunch & Learns. The recordings are listed below.

- Access to Assistive Technology after Disasters presented by LATAN: https://youtu.be/Ek4Mwt_G1sE.
- What CERT Trainings are and why it is important presented by Volunteer Louisiana: <https://youtu.be/ZAmQr1ISUMI>.
- How an HCBS Provider's Plans, Preparation & Evacuation became a "Vacation" by TARC of Hammond: <https://youtu.be/m8jl3wB2EqA>.

On **Tuesday, August 8, from 12pm to 1pm**, Eric Cote will share about the work of Power Outage Partners with the Louisiana Department of Health regarding providing for people who are electricity dependent. Register at <https://www.bit.ly/EMDAC-power>

Amina Mitchell: Governor's Fellow working with GODA

Amina Mitchell is from Dallas, Texas, and is a junior at Southern University and A&M College majoring in Rehabilitation Services. Amina was born hard of hearing and wear bilateral hearing aids to hear. Throughout her time at this university, she has been involved in several organizations, such as First Year Experience/ University College Ambassador, NAACP, Mental Milestone Association, SUSRA (Southern University Student Rehabilitation Association), Top Jags, and ASL on The Bluff. She's the founder and current president of ASL on The Bluff, an American Sign Language organization on Southern's campus, which aims to give students the opportunity to learn American Sign Language. Amina's main focus as a GODA fellow is to help make accommodations more readily available in a school setting, with special attention paid to higher education.

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Governor's Office of Disability Affairs (GODA) Conference
July 24 – 27, 9am – 4pm

For complete schedule, go to <https://bit.ly/GODAconf23sched>.

Register at: <https://bit.ly/GODAconf23>

Monday, July 24

- 9:00-9:50 An Epic Barrier Removal in Access to Quality Care Anywhere
- 10:15-11:30 Foundations of Person Centered Practices
- 12:00-12:50 Supporting Students with Disabilities across Louisiana
- 1:15-2:30 Disability or Disadvantage: How Poverty Impacts the Diagnostic Process in School-Aged Children
- 3:00-3:50 Disability in Education

Tuesday, July 25

- 9:00-9:50 Voting Accessibility
- 10:15-11:30 Assistive Technology (AT) A Toolbox for Student Success
- 12:00-12:50 Post Secondary Inclusive Education: Student/Alumni Panel
- 1:15-2:30 Understanding Trauma: How to Support
- 3:00-3:50 Inclusivity in the Workplace - David's Story

Wednesday, July 26

- 9:00-9:50 Exceptional Lives: Online Parent Engagement Hub for Families of Kids with Disabilities
- 10:10-11:00 Louisiana's Digital Equity Plan
- 11:30-12:20 Supporting Youth with Emotional Disabilities: Strategies for Success
- 1:00-1:50 State Health Improvement Plan
- 2:10-3:00 "Why don't they just leave?" In Their Own Words: A Panel Discussion on Disabilities and Barriers to Evacuating
- 3:20-3:50 What you need to know about Medicaid Unwind in Louisiana

Thursday, July 27

- 9:00-10:15 Improving Service Options and Access for Individuals with IDD and Mental Health Needs
- 10:30-11:20 How Social Security Disability Benefits Planning Can Support a Successful Transition to Work
- 12:00-12:50 Computing for Youth with Autism
- 1:30-2:20 Post Secondary Apprenticeship for Youth (PAY Check): A pathway to employment
- 3:00-3:50 Making Heads & Tails of the Fair Housing Act & Emotional Support Animals