

Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council
Self-Determination and Community Inclusion Committee Meeting Summary
January 20, 2021 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Online Via Zoom

You can watch the meeting here: <https://www.youtube.com/user/LADDCouncil/videos>

Members Present: Patti Barovechio, Kim Basile, Mike Billings, Lillian DeJean, Jill Egle, Michelle Guillory, Julie F. Hagan, Jill Hano, Roslyn Hymel, Jen Katzman, Hyacinth McKee, Matthew Rovira

Members Absent: Randall Brown, Steven Nguyen, Crystal White

Staff: Marilee Andrews, Brenton Andrus, Halie Belin, Ebony Haven, Courtney Ryland

Others Present: Anastasia Boudreaux, Corhonda Corley, Harlon Cowsar II, Kristie Curtis, Kathy Dwyer, Mylinda Elliott, Julie Folse, Liz Gary, Corlis Gremillion, Lynsey Hebert, Kelly Monroe, Bambi Polotzola, Devika Rao, Susan Riehn, Christopher Rodriguez,

Mike Billings called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. A quorum was established.

MOTION PASSED. A motion by Matthew Rovira, second by Roslyn Hymel to approve the [October Meeting Summary](#) passed without objection, no abstentions.

Contractual Activities

The committee received multiple updates on contractual activities including Partners in Policymaking (PiP), LaCAN, Families Helping Families Resource Centers (FHF) and new initiatives of the Council that began with the Fiscal Year 2021 Action Plan.

Additional information about these activities can be found linked in the [meeting agenda](#) and the Council's quarterly [Status Report](#) under goals one and two.

Presentation by O'Neill Communications

Devika Rao with O'Neill Communications provided an update to the committee regarding their work with the Council. This group was selected to produce and disseminate videos and other visual materials featuring information important to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. Ms. Rao solicited feedback from the committee which included a request to highlight disability history and ensuring all materials and videos created are accessible to all persons with disabilities.

Non-Contractual Activities

Jen Katzman shared updates on Act 421 Children's Medicaid Option with the committee. More information about this program can be found on the [program's website](#). The [program application](#) was submitted to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) on September 1, 2020 with a requested implementation date

of January 1, 2021. The department has participated in multiple calls with CMS, but it was noted that CMS approval would not be granted in time for the program to begin this month. The department, however, is cautiously optimistic for an April 2021 start date. Ms. Katzman also shared the department has requested a total of \$27 million (federal and state dollars) for the program in Fiscal Year 2022. She did share with the committee concerns regarding the state's budget in the upcoming year due to COVID-19 and how this may impact the number of individuals served in the program. Ms. Katzman stated the stakeholder group is also looking for more representation from families so those interested in participating should send an email to 421-CMO@la.gov.

Julie Foster Hagan provided the committee with an update on the Appendix K exceptions. Ms. Hagan shared the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) announced CMS extended Louisiana's home and community-based waiver COVID-19 Appendix K exceptions until at least October 2021. More information can be found in the Council's [December 23, 2020 LaDDC News](#). OCDD is currently working on documentation and outreach to ensure stakeholders receive necessary information related to these extensions.

She also provided an update on the COVID-19 vaccine. At this time, individuals residing in an intermediate care facility or a group home setting and their staff are eligible for the vaccine. Most of the facilities have been making arrangements for vaccinations. Individuals receiving home and community based waiver services through OCDD and Office of Aging and Adult Services and those participating in long term personal care services, in addition to their support staff, are also eligible to receive the vaccine. Documentation must be provided to indicate you are receiving services or are support staff (i.e. plan of care, 90L, pay stub, employee I.D.). More information about the vaccine can be found at <https://ldh.la.gov/covidvaccine/>.

Recommendation for FFY22 Action Plan

The committee discussed activities to recommend to the Planning Ad-Hoc Committee for inclusion in the Council's FY2022 Action Plan under goals one and two which will begin October 1, 2021. To help craft recommendations, members were provided with the goals and objectives developed in the Council's upcoming [Five Year Plan](#) approved in October 2020. Members did discuss the following possible activities:

- Under Objective 2.1, create a list of providers by region to be posted on the Council and Louisiana Department of Health's websites. This list should include home and community based providers, primary care and specialist care providers, preventive health services, prevention of chronic disease services, dental, behavioral health and sexual/reproductive health services. This list would also be made available to case managers for distribution.
- Under Objective 2.2, establish an initiative to educate first responders and direct support professionals on how to treat individuals with disabilities in an unbiased manner.
- Under Objective 2.3, establish an initiative to address discrimination in housing for people with disabilities.

Unfortunately, the committee was unable to maintain a quorum, so a recommendation for the Council's consideration was not made. It was shared that the committee chair would inform the Council of the items discussed during his committee report and allow for recommendations from the floor.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:14pm.