Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council
Act 378 Subcommittee Meeting Summary
January 19, 2022 1:00 - 2:45 PM
Online Via Zoom

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

View meeting transcript here.

Members Present: Nicole Banks, Kim Basile, Jill Egle, Julie F. Hagan, Hyacinth McKee, Bambi Polotzola, Crystal White

Members Absent: Mary Tarver

Staff Present: Brenton Andrus, Amy Deaville, Ebony Haven, Hannah Jenkins

Others Present: Troy Abshire, Brenda Bares, Jordan Brisco, Corhonda Corley, Harlon Cowsar III, Kristie Curtis, Nicole Flores, Julie Folse, Dana Foster, Liz Gary, Corlis Gremillion, Lynsey Hebert, Kasey Hill, Katie Kroes, Danielle Ledet, Christina Martin, Ashley McReynolds, Charles Michel, Kelly Monroe, Tanya Murphy, James Powell, Jennifer Purvis, Paxton Oliver, Kristen Reed, Susan Riehn, Tory Rocca, Shenitha Smith, Kimberly Stringer, Nicole Sullivan-Green, Alisha Vallien, Janice Williams

Bambi Polotzola called the meeting to order at 1:01 PM. A quorum was established.

Approval of the October Meeting Summary passed by unanimous consent.

Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) – Tanya Murphy

In State Fiscal Year (SFY) 22 Second Quarter:

- Thirty-nine percent (39%) of funding for the Individual and Family Support (IFS) program and fifty percent (50%) of funding for the Flexible Family Fund (FFF) program was spent assisting 2,429 individuals in the IFS and 1,810 in the FFF programs.
- At this time, all local governing entities (LGEs) have appropriated an amount equal to or greater than 9% of their State General Fund (SGF) to DD services as required in Act 73 of 2017.
- Chairwoman Polotzola noted that regions impacted by Hurricane Ida did not have higher expenditure rates which brought into question which LGE serves evacuated individuals: the region of residence or the region they evacuated to. LGE representatives in the meeting noted they have often assist individuals displaced who do not reside in their regional service area.

Ms. Murphy shared with the subcommittee graphs to help show the impacts the passage of Act 73 of 2017 has had on the delivery of IFS and FFF services. The data begins in

2015, but Ms. Murphy noted Act 73 did not take effect until 2018. Overall, most LGEs saw an increase in the number of individuals served and funds expended. Ms. Murphy stated those LGEs that show decreases may have been impacted by other circumstances, but those circumstances would not be captured in data available to the department. Members noted the y-axis on the graphs showing number of individuals served may not be accurate.

OCDD also provided a quarterly report detailing all IFS requests deemed "Approved Pending Funding". As of December 31, 2021 there were nine requests approved pending funding in whole and two requests approved pending funding in part. There were no priority one requests on the list. Members did express concerns for the number of priority two requests. Ms. Murphy will follow up with those LGEs.

Ms. Murphy also indicated she was able to meet with the developmental disability directors of each LGE to discuss the committee's concerns for discrepancies in spending of IFS funds across regions based on different services. She stated the LGEs look at every request in a person-centered way and make decisions accordingly. Each region has unique needs, requests, and resources available for families, so it is difficult to compare one LGE to another. Specific to incontinent supplies, she noted that one LGE has an advocacy group that helps provide diapers to families in need while other LGEs do not have this same resource. She also noted that some LGEs were not coding specific services accurately which may have skewed the original data the committee looked over. Ms. Murphy stated she does not believe a discrepancy exists but will continue to research committee concerns if specific areas of discrepancy are identified.

Office of Aging and Adult Services (OAAS) / Arc of LA – Kelly Monroe

In SFY22 Second Quarter, thirty-nine percent (39%) of funding for the State Personal Assistance Services (SPAS) program was spent assisting forty-three (43) individuals. There are currently sixty-six (66) people on the waiting list, an increase of 14 from last quarter. Concerns were noted for the lack of applicants in Regions 5. Ms. Monroe stated applicants in Region 5 are now being served, so they were removed from the wait list. Responding to concerns that no one from Region 10 was receiving services, Ms. Monroe stated given the close proximity of Regions 1 and 10 there may actually be individuals from Region 10 served. She will review the information to ensure accuracy.

Office of Behavioral Health (OBH) – Dana Foster

Children/Adolescent Program

In SFY22 Second Quarter:

- Twenty percent (20%) of funding for the Consumer Care Resources (CCR) program and forty-seven percent (47%) of funding for the FFF program was spent assisting 294 individuals in the CCR and 346 in the FFF programs.
- It was noted that mental health block grants and other federal dollars mist be used before state funds.

At the subcommittee's October meeting, members requested the LGEs provide answers to the following questions at the next quarterly meeting:

- How does each LGE determine how much will be budgeted for their CCR and FFF programs?
- Is there a percentage of their funding that goes toward CCR and/or FFF?
- What happens to any of the funds allocated that go unspent?

The letter sent to the LGEs requesting the information above and their responses can be found here.

Adult Program
In SFY22 Second Quarter:

- Thirty-eight percent (38%) of funding for the adult program was spent serving 105 individuals.

Meeting adjourned at 2:32 PM by unanimous consent.