

**LOUISIANA DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL**  
**January 16, 2020**  
**MEETING SUMMARY**

Embassy Suites  
Baton Rouge, LA

8:30 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Patti Barovechio, OPH/CSHS  
Kim Basile  
Melissa Bayham  
Michael Billings  
Randall Brown Jr.  
Lillian DeJean  
Amy Donarski  
April Dunn  
Michelle Guillory, GOEA  
Julie Foster Hagan, OCDD  
Jill Hano  
Roslyn Hymel  
Mitch Iddins  
Jen Katzman  
Hyacinth McKee  
Steven Nguyen  
Bambi Polotzola, GODA  
Matthew Rovira  
Tara Smith  
Temisha Sonnier  
Mary Tarver  
Crystal White  
Philip Wilson, HDC

MEMBERS ABSENT

Carmen Cetnar  
Robert Paddy

Chris Rodriguez, Advocacy Cent

STAFF PRESENT

Marilee Andrews  
Brenton Andrus Halie  
Belin  
Shawn Fleming  
Ebony Haven  
Courtney Ryland

GUESTS PRESENT

Donna Breaux  
Wesley Cagle, SCHSA  
Katie Corkern  
Liz Gary  
Chaney Guidry, FHF Acadiana  
Lynsey Hebert, Transcriptionist  
Charlie Michel, Bayouland FHF  
Jessica Michot  
Kelly Monroe, Arc of LA  
Tory Rocca, Advocacy Center  
Kristi Jo Preston, LDOE  
James Sprinkle, FHF Crossroads  
Jamie Tindle, FHF GBR  
Adren Wilson  
Kodi Wilson

April Dunn called the meeting to order at 8:37 a.m. and welcomed new member Temisha Sonnier to the Council.

## **SUMMARY OF JANUARY 2020 MEETING – MOTIONS ONLY**

**MOTION PASSED.** Motion to accept the Summary of the [October 2019 Council Meeting](#) made by Jill Hano, seconded by Mary Tarver, passed without objection, no abstentions.

### **[CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – April Dunn](#)**

April Dunn announced appointments of the following members to the Membership Committee to make recommendations to fill the seat from North Louisiana: Mitch Iddins, Hyacinth McKee, Bambi Polotzola, and Temisha Sonnier. Randall Brown will serve as chair.

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – Randall Brown**

As part of the process for developing the next five year plan (FFY2022-2026) the Executive Committee recommended a revised mission statement and position papers.

#### **MOTION PASSED.**

The Executive Committee recommendation for the Council to adopt the following mission statement:

To increase independence, self-determination, productivity, integration, and inclusion for Louisianans with developmental disabilities through advocacy, capacity-building, and systems change.

passed without objection, no abstentions.

#### **MOTION PASSED.**

The Executive Committee recommendation for the Council to adopt the following Position Papers:

- [Self-Determination of People with Developmental Disabilities](#)
- [Inclusion of People with Disabilities](#)
- [Health Care for People with Developmental Disabilities](#)
- [Employment of People with Developmental Disabilities](#)
- [Inclusive Education](#)
- [Community Support for People with Developmental Disabilities](#) passed without objection, no abstentions.

#### **MOTION PASSED.**

The Executive Committee recommendation for the Council to send the investigation letter as amended for full Council approval and the letter be sent to the Louisiana Department of Health – Human Resources, Board of Ethics, and Office of Inspector General and for the letter to be signed by both April Dunn and Randall Brown passed without objection. Julie Hagan and Jen Katzman abstained.

#### **MOTION PASSED.**

The Executive Committee recommendation for the Council to make the following changes to the Council's 2020 Legislative Advocacy Agenda and offers this motion to the Council for consideration:

- A. Add funding of \$9.1 million in SGF to the LDH budget for the implementation of TEFRA.
- B. Clarify the Provider Rate Increase for Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) and skilled nursing provided through EPSDT and waivers include a requirement of minimum pay levels for DSPs and nurses, respectively, and a requirement of a minimum percentage of provider rates be budgeted for DSPs and Nursing wages, respectively.
- C. Eliminate the following four items from the 2020 Advocacy Agenda:
  1. Expanding Medicaid to cover diapers and wipes for all ages
  2. Expanding Medicaid to cover dental care for adults
  3. Training for School Resource Officers as it relates to students with disabilities
  4. Training for teachers and administrators on how to handle students with challenging behaviors

The 2020 Legislative Agenda, as recommended by the Executive Committee, includes:

1. Increase funding for Families Helping Families (FHF) Regional Resource Centers
2. Fully fund the State Personal Assistance Services (SPAS) program
3. Funding for a Home and Community-Based Provider rate increase relative to Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) and Skilled Nursing rate increase through Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) and waivers
  - with a requirement of minimum pay levels for DSPs and nurses, respectively, and a requirement of a minimum percentage of provider rates be budgeted for DSPs and nursing wages, respectively.
4. Require cameras in special education classrooms upon request
5. Funding (\$9.1 million SGF) for the implementation of TEFRA passed without objection, no abstentions.

Discussion continued with multiple members raising concerns over potential issues with linking provider rate increases to pay of DSPs and nurses.

#### **MOTION PASSED.**

A motion by Mitch Iddins, seconded by Roslyn Hymel, for the Council to amend the previous motion to strike through the bullet point with a requirement of minimum pay level for DSPs and nurses respectfully and require a minimum percentage of provider rates be budgeted for DSPs and nurses.

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  - with a requirement of minimum pay levels for DSPs and nurses, respectively, and a requirement of a minimum percentage of provider rates be budgeted for DSPs and nursing wages, respectively.
4. Require cameras in special education classrooms upon request
5. Funding (\$9.1 million SGF) for the implementation of TEFRA passed without objection, no abstentions.

The Council's 2020 Legislative Advocacy Agenda as passed reads:

1. [Increase funding for Families Helping Families \(FHF\) Regional Resource Centers](#)
2. [Fully fund the State Personal Assistance Services \(SPAS\) program](#)
3. [Funding for a Home and Community-Based Provider rate increase relative to Direct Support Professionals \(DSPs\) and Skilled Nursing rate increase through Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment \(EPSDT\) and waivers](#)
4. [Require cameras in special education classrooms upon request](#)
5. [Funding \(\\$9.1 million SGF\) for the implementation of TEFRA](#)

#### **MOTION PASSED.**

The Executive Committee recommendation for the Council to prioritize the following items in the order they are listed under Activity 1.4.2 and request staff initiate work on these items as funding permits:

1. Produce and disseminate videos on employment;
2. Produce and disseminate diagrams, visual flow-charts and other visual aids on accessing home and community-based services, including waivers;
3. Produce and disseminate videos on grade promotion and graduation pathways for students with disabilities and featuring people who graduated with a diploma and featuring people who are successfully employed;
4. Produce and disseminate videos on information on related services; and
5. Produce and disseminate videos on self-advocacy.

passed without objection, no abstentions.

#### **MOTION PASSED.**

The Executive Committee recommendation for the Council to send letters regarding the selection of the Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) and the

Superintendent of the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) passed without objection, no abstentions.

**MOTION PASSED.**

The Executive Committee recommendation for the Council to establish an Ad Hoc Committee to develop a grievance policy and procedure passed without objection, no abstentions.

**MOTION PASSED.**

A motion by Crystal White, seconded by Phil Wilson, for the Council to consider including members to sit on the Ad Hoc Committee to develop a grievance policy passed without objection, no abstentions.

**MOTION PASSED.**

A motion by Michael Billings, seconded by Kim Basile, to open the floor for people to volunteer to serve on the Ad Hoc Committee passed without objection, no abstentions.

Volunteers to serve included the following Council members: Kim Basile, Michael Billings, Randall Brown, April Dunn Mary Tarver, and Crystal White; and the following guests: Liz Gary, Natalie LaRose, and Jamie Tindle.

**[EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT](#) – Shawn Fleming**

**Budget Report – Shawn Fleming**

Shawn Fleming presented the [Council budget report with expenditures through December 2019](#).

**ACT 378 SUBCOMMITTEE – Bambi Polotzola**

**SELF-DETERMINATION AND COMMUNITY INCLUSION COMMITTEE – Randall Brown**

**MOTION PASSED.**

The Self-Determination and Community Inclusion Committee recommendation for the Council to send a letter to Team Dynamics, LLC acknowledging the positive work they are doing facilitating statewide trainings on relationships, intimacy and the prevention of sexual abuse and exploitation and offers this recommendation to the full Council for consideration passed without objection, no abstentions.

**MOTION PASSED.**

The Self-Determination and Community Inclusion Committee recommendation for the FFY21 Planning Ad Hoc Committee consider the following activities for inclusion in the Fiscal Year 21 Action Plan:

- Continue providing relationship, intimacy and abuse/exploitation trainings, and
- Develop a mechanism for people to anonymously share ratings, comments and their experiences with service providers and home modification contractors to assist individuals in determining the best provider for their needs/family.

passed without objection, no abstentions.

**MOTION PASSED.**

The Self-Determination and Community Inclusion Committee recommendation the FFY 2022-2026 Planning Ad Hoc Committee consider the following items for inclusion in the Fiscal Year 2022-2026 Five-Year Plan

Areas of Emphasis & Possible Implementation Strategies

□ Quality Assurance:

- Live broadcasting and participation of Council members and the public via video for all public meetings the Council holds;
- Make available a neutral party (non-staff/non-Council member) to assist Council members with questions and procedural matters during Council meetings; and
- Replicate Oklahoma DD Council’s Youth Leadership Forum program

- Housing:

- Raise awareness and advocate for funding to address the housing crisis in the state.

passed without objection, no abstentions.

**EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE – Mary Tarver**

**MOTION PASSED.**

The Education and Employment Committee recommendation the Council submit the following items for the Planning Committee to consider for inclusion in the FFY 2021 Action Plan:

- Track implementation of local SEAPs. (4.3)
- Contractual Activities:
  - Customized employment training (5.1) ○ Post-Secondary Inclusive Ed. (3.4)
  - Collaborative effort of DD Network to address issues related to schools understanding responsibilities related to serving students with disabilities
  - Training for School Resource Officers and Teachers/Administrators on handling students with disabilities related to behavior

passed without objection, no abstentions.

**MOTION PASSED.**

The Education and Employment Committee recommendation for the Council to submit the following items for the Planning Ad-Hoc Committee to consider for inclusion in the 2022 – 2026 Five-Year Plan

Areas of emphasis to consider including:

- Education/Early Intervention
- Employment
- Child Care
- Transportation
- Recreation

Implementation Strategies to consider:

- Informing policymakers regarding need for EI policies that are inclusive and meet the needs of students with disabilities;
  - Coordination with other entities regarding children issues;
  - Systems design and redesign (transportation, education and recreation);
  - Interagency Collaboration and Coordination (transportation);
  - Barrier elimination (to make programs accessible); and
  - Demonstration of new approaches to services and support (transportation)
- passed without objection, no abstentions.

## **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE – Bambi Polotzola**

### **MOTION PASSED.**

The Membership Committee recommendation for the Council to send a letter requesting the Administration on Community Living reconsider the rule defining a parent of a child with a developmental disability for purposes of Council membership to not exclude parents whose children with developmental disabilities have died and is offering this recommendation to the full Council for consideration passed without objection, no abstentions.

### **MOTION.**

The Membership committee recommended for the Council to approve Liz Gary, a parent from Region nine, for submission to the Governor for consideration of a Council appointment and Sherri Houin as the alternate.

### **SUBSTITUTE MOTION PASSED.**

A motion by Mitch Iddins, seconded by Mary Tarver, to recommend Brenda Cosse for submission to the Governor for his consideration to fill the vacancy in the southeast area of the state passed with a vote of 13 yays to 8 nays. Julie Foster-Hagan abstained.

## **COUNCIL AGENCY REPORTS**

**ADVOCACY CENTER (AC) – Amitai Heller**

**LOUISIANA REHABILITATION SERVICES (LRS) – Melissa Bayham**

**BUREAU OF HEALTH SERVICES FINANCING (BHSE) – Jen Katzman**

**OFFICE OF AGING AND ADULT SERVICES (OAAS) – Robin Wagner**

**LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION – Kristy Jo Preston**

**OFFICE OF PUBLIC HEALTH (OPH) – Patti Baravechio**

**GOVERNOR’S OFFICE OF ELDERLY AFFAIRS (GOEA) – Michelle Guillory**

**HUMAN DEVELOPMENT CENTER (HDC) – Phil Wilson**

**OFFICE FOR CITIZENS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (OCDD) – Julie Foster Hagan**

**GOVERNOR’S OFFICE OF DISABILITY AFFAIRS (GODA) – Bambi Polotzola**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next Council meeting will be April 15-16, 2020 at the Marriott, Baton Rouge.

A motion to adjourn by Mitch Iddins, seconded by Roslyn Hymel, passed without objection, no abstentions.

April Dunn adjourned the meeting at 3:57 PM.