

Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council
Self-Determination and Community Inclusion Committee Meeting Summary
July 16, 2020 1:00 - 2:45 PM
Online Via Zoom

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

Members Present: Patti Barovechio, Kim Basile, Michael Billings, Carmen Cetnar, Lillian DeJean, Michelle Guillory, Julie Foster Hagan, Jill Hano, Roslyn Hymel, Jennifer Katzman, Steven Nguyen, Matthew Rovira, Crystal White

Members Absent: Randall Brown, Mitch Iddins

Staff: Marilee Andrews, Brenton Andrus, Shawn Fleming, Ebony Haven, Hannah Jenkins, Courtney Ryland

Others Present: Konstance Causey, Corhonda Corley, Brenda Cosse, Mylinda Elliott, Liz Gary, Stacey Guidry, Lynsey Hebert, Robin Hjalte, Kay Lewis, Shea Marshall, Bambi Polotzola, Susan Riehn

Mike Billings called the meeting to order at 11:03 a.m. A quorum was established.

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

Contractual Activities

The committee received multiple updates on contractual activities (refer to [Status Report](#)) including Partners in Policymaking (PiP), LaCAN, and Families Helping Families Resource Centers (FHF). PiP classes from April to June were canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Members were provided with the [summary of participants' evaluations](#) for review. Members also discussed options for allowing the 2020 class to complete the program and if the Council should move forward with a 2021 class.

MOTION PASSED. A motion by Kim Basile, seconded by Roslyn Hymel for the Committee to recommend a Partners in Policymaking Ad Hoc committee be formed to discuss finalizing the class of 2020 and how the class should look for 2021 and possibly 2022 and will offer this recommendation to the full Council for consideration. Passed no objections, abstentions.

Ebony Haven shared with the committee ongoing LaCAN Leader vacancies in Regions 1/10 (Metro New Orleans area) and Region 4 (Acadiana area) and efforts made to recruit new leaders.

MOTION PASSED. A motion by Crystal White, seconded by Michelle Guillory for the Committee to recommend including Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP) and

Special Education Advisory Committees (SEAC) in the recruitment of LaCAN leaders, Council membership, and Partners in Policymaking will offer this recommendation to the full Council for consideration. Passed no objections, abstentions.

Members also discussed the importance of informing more people about LaCAN as well as the Council and its other initiatives.

MOTION PASSED. A motion by Crystal White, seconded by Roslyn Hymel for the Committee to recommend all contracts include language and objectives that education and outreach must be provided on LaCAN, the Council and Partners in Policymaking membership and will offer this recommendation to the full Council for consideration. Passed no objections, abstentions.

Members also reviewed the [evaluation summary](#) for the 2019 conference. [Quarterly data](#) for the FHF Centers was also discussed. Members were also provided a [copy of the letter](#) sent to Team Dynamics showing appreciation for the abuse/exploitation trainings they have been hosting for the Council in addition to a [summary](#) of the classes that concluded in June. Due to the pandemic, the in-person classes were converted to webinars.

Chris Rodriguez with Disability Rights Louisiana (DRLA) provided an overview of DRLA's research on existing policies and rules in Louisiana regarding abuse of people with developmental disabilities. The Council contracted with DRLA to develop a report with legislative, regulatory and other recommendations designed to help prevent the sexual and other abuse of people with developmental disabilities. Mr. Rodriguez stated DRLA was in the final stages of finalizing the report to submit to the Council. Members recommended the initial page of the report provide a summary of recommendations and statistics to draw the reader's attention.

Non-Contractual Activities

It was shared that the Council's [recommendations](#) for changes to the Individual and Family Support (IFS) and Consumer Care Resources (CCR) programs was included in the program's final rule published in the [March 2020 edition of the LA Register](#). Revisions to the program manual have been made and shared with stakeholders.

Jen Katzman and Julie F. Hagan shared information about the state's Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) budget as it relates to disability services. Ms. Katzman shared while Medicaid did sustain cuts in the budget, these cuts should not impact home and community-based services at this time. She did inform members that all state agencies have been asked to come up with a deficit avoidance plan should midyear cuts occur. Ms. Hagan also shared that the human services districts/authorities sustained some cuts which may impact their budgeted amounts for disability services. She also shared information about what Jefferson Parish Human Services Authority was doing to address concerns that families who received Flexible Family Funds last year may not get a renewed contract this year. Members asked that the department keep them updated on potential cuts so the Council and other stakeholders can be proactive with their advocacy efforts.

Ms. Hagan briefly shared steps the department took to mitigate the risk to individuals and service providers during the pandemic by seeking exemptions to current rules for the four Home and Community-Based Waivers for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (LaDDC News articles [March 19th](#) & [March 30th](#)). There has been growing discussion around making some of the exemptions permanent. Unfortunately, due to time, the committee was unable to delve into discussion. However, Ms. Hagan shared the department plans to start a workgroup to look at how the department should proceed. Matthew Rovira and Liz Gary offered to participate in the workgroup. Ms. Hagan asked those that are interested in participating in the workgroup reach out to her.

Lastly, it was mentioned there would be a presentation at the full Council meeting on the [Act 421 Children's Medicaid Option](#) program. This program is similar to TEFRA coverage under Louisiana Medicaid and would allow children with disabilities who meet institutional level-of-care requirements receive Medicaid regardless of parental income. There will also be two public hearings held later in the month.

MOTION PASSED. A motion by Crystal White, seconded by Kim Basile for the Committee to recommend sending the Act 421 Children's Medicaid Option (TEFRA) public meeting information as an action alert to the Council's listserv and will offer this recommendation to the full Council for consideration. Passed no objections, abstentions.

MOTION PASSED. A motion by Steven Nguyen, seconded by Michelle Guillory to adjourn passed without objection.