Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council
Act 378 Subcommittee Meeting Summary
July 20, 2022 10:15 AM - 12:00 PM

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, Hyacinth McKee, Bambi Polotzola, Mary Tarver

Members Absent: Julie F. Hagan, Crystal White

Staff Present: Marilee Andrews, Brenton Andrus, Rekeesha Branch, Lauren Brown, Amy Deaville, Ebony Haven, Hannah Jenkins

Others Present: Troy Abshire, Andrea Albert, Carlos Amos, Brenda Bares, Corhonda Corley, Harlon Cowsar, Tamara Crane, Mylinda Elliott, Nicole Flores, Liz Gary, Aungelle Griffin, Lynsey Hebert, Whitney Ledet, Charles Michelle, Janise Monetta, Tanya Murphy, Davelyn Patrick, Susan Riehn, William Romero, Kristin Savicki,

Bambi Polotzola called the meeting to order at 10:19 AM. A quorum was established.

Approval of the April Meeting Summary passed by unanimous consent.

Office of Aging and Adult Services (OAAS) / Arc of LA – Whitney Ledet

In State Fiscal Year 2022 (SFY22) Fourth Quarter:

- 97% of funding for the State Personal Assistance Services (SPAS) program was spent assisting 49 individuals.
- There are currently 60 people on the waiting list, an increase of 6 from last quarter.
- It was noted that individuals on waiting list are directed to other services they may qualify for as they wait for SPAS.

Office of Behavioral Health (OBH) – Kristen Savicki

Children/Adolescent Program

In SFY 22 Fourth Quarter:

- 78% of funding for the Consumer Care Resources (CCR) program and 98% of funding for the FFF program was spent assisting 1,073 individuals in the CCR and 370 in the FFF programs.
- It was noted that many of the June invoices had not been processed at the time this report was created, and Dr. Savicki did anticipate increased expenditures will be reflected in the year-end report.
- Concerns were noted for Metropolitan's (MHSD) low expenditure rate. MHSD attributed this low rate to a decrease in requests for CCR as a result of COVID-19

related restrictions and federal assistance for families. They did develop plans to increase engagement but still saw limited requests.

- General concerns for the high wait list for FFF was discussed especially for those LGEs that did not expend all of their funds. It was also noted that the number served was stagnant. It was reported that while the number served may remain consistent there is movement in the program as individuals age out and someone from the wait list fills that vacancy.
- Specific concerns noted for North LA (NLHSD). They have a wait list for FFF even though there were enough slots available for those on the wait list. The committee questioned what efforts were made to ensure the timely filling of slots and what outreaches are being conducted to ensure enough eligible applicants are located to fill all budgeted slots. OBH to follow up.
- It was noted that LGEs that did not expend at least 95% of funds for CCR or have at least 90% of FFF slots filled each quarter will have to submit corrective action plans to OBH.

Adult Program

In SFY 22 Fourth Quarter:

- 96% of funding for the adult program was spent serving 481 individuals.

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

In SFY 22 Fourth Quarter:

- 92% of funding for the Individual and Family Support (IFS) program and 100% of funding for the Flexible Family Fund (FFF) program was spent assisting 3,451 individuals in the IFS and 1,890 in the FFF programs.
- It was noted that many of the June invoices had not been processed at the time this report was created, so Ms. Murphy believes most, if not all, LGEs will be at or above 95% expended on their year-end report.
- 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.
- Some members expressed concerns that some LGEs had available slots that are not filled. This resulted in discussions about the timeliness of offering available slots to individuals on the wait list. It was noted that individuals receive an abbreviated screening while on the waiting list, but a more exhaustive severity screening must be conducted once a slot becomes available which takes time.

The issue of inconsistencies in determining FFF program eligibility across regions was not discussed. Per Ms. Murphy, the individual that brought this concern preferred to address the concern individually with the department and not in this meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 11:48 AM by unanimous consent.