LOUISIANA DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL
July 18, 2019
MEETING SUMMARY

Embassy Suites
8:30 A.M. Baton Rouge, LA

MEMBERS PRESENT
Kim Basile
Melissa Bayham
Michael Billings
Randall Brown Jr.
Carmen Cetnar
Lillian DeJean
Jill Demeritt
Amy Donarski
April Dunn
Michelle Guillory, GOEA
Julie Foster Hagan, OCDD
Roslyn Hymel
Mitch Iddins
Jen Katzman, BHSF
Tara LeBlanc, OAAS
Hyacinth McKee
Steven Nguyen
Michael Norman, HDC
Robert Paddy
Bambi Polotzola, GODA
Chris Rodriguez, Advocacy Center
Tara Smith
Mary Tarver
Crystal White
Jamie Wong, LDOE

MEMBERS ABSENT
Jill Hano
Patti Barovechio, OPH/CSHS

STAFF PRESENT
Marilee Andrews
Brenton Andrus
Shawn Fleming
Ebony Haven
Hannah Jenkins
Courtney Ryland
Sandee Winchell

GUESTS PRESENT
Jeanne Abadie
Sam Beech
Yvonne Bell
Donna Breaux
Annie Cummer
Katie Corkern
Kellie D'Aunoy-Jones
Anne Delery McWhorter
Joanette Dunn
Erin Federer
Julie Folse, LaCAN Leader Region 3
Deborah Fontenot, FHF Acadiana
Rebecca Fruge
Liz Gary
Rose Gilbert
Corlis Gremillion
Lynsey Hebert, Transcriptionist
Michelle Hurst
Natalie LaRose
Kay Marcel
Ashley McReynolds, LaCAN Region 2
Kelly Monroe, Arc of LA
Sherri Nastasia
Christy Paulsell
Laci Polotzola, FHF Acadiana
Susan Riehn, FHF of SWLA
Tory Rocca, Advocacy Center
Brenda Sharp, OCDD
Kim Lanclos-Smith
B.J. Smith
Shenitha Smith
James Sprinkle, FHF Crossroads
Laura Thornton, OPH/CSHS
Amy Tresch
Kelly Usery

April Dunn called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. and welcomed new members Michael Norman and Chris Rodriquez to the Council.

SUMMARY OF JULY 2019 MEETING

MOTION PASSED. Motion to accept the Summary of the May 2019 Council Meeting made by Jill Hano, seconded by Mary Tarver, passed without objection.

Chairperson's Report **– April Dunn**
April Dunn announced appointments of the following members to Council Committees:

- Education/Employment Committee: Amy Donarski and Michael Norman
- Membership Committee: Mike Billings, Jill Hano, and Hyacinth McKee. As the Council's Vice-Chair, Robert Paddy chairs the Membership Committee.
- Nominating Committee (announced via email on April 23rd): Bambi Polotzola, Mitch Iddins, Julie Foster Hagan, Alan Coulter, and Jill Demeritt. (Alan and Jill were subsequently unable to serve.)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – Robert Paddy
MOTION PASSED. The Executive Committee's recommendation to adopt the draft FFY2022-2026 Five Year Plan Timeline and Development Process passed without objection; no abstentions.

The Committee conducted its midyear evaluation of the Executive Director and noted achievements and where improvements can be made to the process.

The Council's upcoming Conference on navigating the system is scheduled for November 18th, 2019.

Public comment related to the FY20 plan was reviewed and discussed. Specifically, the Committee considered recommendations for enhancing public input into the Council's legislative agenda and increasing the Council's presence on social media. Regional LaCAN membership meetings are being scheduled to solicit recommendations for the Council to consider for its 2020 Legislative Agenda.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Sandee Winchell
Sandee Winchell welcomed Chris Rodriquez and Michael Norman to the Council and extended a warm welcome to former Council chairs Kay Marcel and Sam Beech.

Recognition and congratulations were extended to the current chair, April Dunn, for being awarded the prestigious Champion of Equal Opportunity Award at the National Association of Council's on Developmental Disabilities in New Orleans during the week prior to the Council meeting. Ms. Winchell expressed gratitude for the many presenters at the 2019 NACDD Conference representing Louisiana and the Council, including Lillian DeJean, Brenton Andrus, Ashley McReynolds, Julie Foster-Hagan, Laci Polotzola, Jeff Arsceneaux, Brandi Kelly, Patti Baravechio, Steven Nguyen, and Wilbert Johnson.

Ms. Winchell highlighted the annual report on Families Helping Families Centers. Council members were encouraged to participate in the regional community forums being hosted by each Human Services District and Authority. These forums were recommended three years ago by the Community and Family Support System Task Force and pushed through the state OCDD Advisory Committee by its chairperson, Ashley McReynolds.

Ms. Winchell reported the increase of over 30 percent in the number of likes on social media was largely attributable to Marilee Andrews on the Council's staff.

Ms. Winchell highlighted outcomes from the 2019 Legislative session relevant to people with developmental disabilities included in the LaDDC News article. A discussion ensued regarding the possibility of Council members being able to attend and observe the LaCAN Legislative debriefing.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION PASSED.
Motion. A motion by Crystal White, seconded by Kim Basile, to allow Council members to be invited to the LaCAN Legislative Debriefing.

> **SUBSTITUTE MOTION PASSED.** A substitute motion by Bambi Polotzola, seconded by Crystal White, to table this motion until the October 2019 DD Council meeting to allow staff to make recommendations to the Council based on research of potential avenues for participation by Council members passed with 23 yeas to 1 nay; no abstentions.

Budget Report – Shawn Fleming
Shawn Fleming presented the Council budget report for State Fiscal year 2019 (SFY19) with expenditures through June. Sandee Winchell agreed to provide data related to a request for a breakdown of expenditures by plan activities and administrative tasks.

ACT 378 SUBCOMMITTEE – Bambi Polotzola
While reviewing the Office of Behavioral Health Act 378 expenditures for the adult programs a note indicated Capital Area Human Service District authorized Act 378 funds to pay rent, utilities, internet and phone service for a drop in center. This was concerning to members of the committee who felt these funds should be used for direct service provision.

MOTION PASSED. The Act 378 Subcommittee recommendation for the Council to send a letter to Capital Area Human Services District expressing concern for their use of Act 378 funds for their adult programs to pay administrative costs for their drop-in center passed without objection, no abstentions.

The Committee requested for the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) to provide an annual report broken down by each region

detailing the types of services or goods provided through the Individual and Family Support Program, the number of families receiving each service and the cost.

In January 2019 the Council voted to distribute posters regarding the Flexible Family Fund program. 1,000 posters were printed and distributed to and by the Families Helping Families Centers to help promote the program and new eligibility categories within their region. Families Helping Families Centers will ensure the Flexible Family Fund posters are provided to the human service districts and authorities, children special health clinics, developmental pediatricians, provider and therapy centers, NICU and PICU in major hospitals, and other areas where families have the opportunity to see this information.

The Committee received an update on the new rule changes for the Flexible Family Fund which went into effect on May 1, 2019. OCDD will provide data over the course of the next two meetings to determine what impact the policy changes have had on the program to determine if the workgroup will need to meet again. The Council's recommended changes to the Individual and Family Support and the Consumer Care Resources programs are currently being reviewed a second time by Department of Health legal department.

SELF-DETERMINATION AND COMMUNITY INCLUSION COMMITTEE – Randall Brown

The Committee reviewed the recommendations included in position papers made by the Executive Committee in April. Federal rule changed the term for Intermediate Care Facility for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities (ICF/DD) to Intermediate Care Facility for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/IID). The Committee recommends the Council adopt the other changes recommended by the Executive Committee.

MOTION PASSED. The Self-Determination & Community Inclusion Committee recommendation for the following amendments to be made to the Council's Community Support position paper passed without objection, Michael Norman abstained.

> Replace the term intermediate care facility for individuals with developmental disabilities or ICF/DD with intermediate care facility for individuals with intellectual disabilities or ICF/IID.

1. Provide adequate funding to build a system of high quality, individualized supports and services in the community for people with developmental disabilities that includes: ~~are available *when* they are needed~~.
   a) ~~Ensure~~ a qualified and stable workforce of direct support professionals (DSPs) and support coordinators who

- demonstrate skill sets necessary to meet individual needs, including the most challenging medical and behavioral health needs, and
- receive appropriate, competitive compensation.

2. Ensure individuals with developmental disabilities and their families will have access to the same level and quality of services across the state.
3. Implement a Money Follows the Person program to allow individuals residing in private ~~ICFs/DD~~ ICFs/IID the option to move into the home and community of their choice.
4. Make out of home placement unnecessary by
   a) increasing the capacity of community providers to serve people with challenging needs through
      - ~~financial incentives, and~~
      - specialized training, technical assistance and collaboration with other agencies,
   ~~b) prioritizing the current home and community-based waiver waiting list to serve those with the most emergent needs first,~~
   c) enhancing the safety net system for individuals in each region of the state by
      - ~~expanding the number of emergency waiver slots available,~~
      - implementing a comprehensive crisis prevention and intervention system for individuals in the community including proactive preventive services and coordinated 24-hour crisis response services.
   d) developing policies to stop adjudications to ~~ICFs/DD~~ ICFs/IID.

~~Many of the above recommendations could be accomplished through implementation of a Managed Long Term Supports and Services (MLTSS) system that includes all Medicaid services and settings. An adequate investment of resources in a well-designed MLTSS system where the Managed Care Organizations are held accountable for quality of life outcomes would provide for:~~

~~a. an expansion of the number of people served~~
~~b. an improvement in the quality and integration of services~~
~~c. an ability to meet needs in a timely fashion~~
~~d. the ability for people (and funding) to move from congregate to individualized, community settings~~
~~e. improved access to providers across the state.~~

The Committee considered public comments on the Council's 2020 action plan. In response to a request for parents to be more involved in making recommendations for the Council to consider when developing its 2020 Legislative Advocacy Agenda, the Committee decided LaCAN should send out an action alert requesting feedback along with the LaCAN member meetings. A

suggestion at the Council meeting was for regional LaCAN member meetings to be offered in the morning and evenings to accommodate members' schedules.

The Committee considered a comment to provide training on various topics. Due to potential costs associated with providing training the Committee decided these topics should be revisited when the Council considers its 2021 plan. These topics will be shared with Families Helping Families Centers and considered for the upcoming conference.

Commissioner of Administration, Jay Dardenne, responded to the Council's letter expressing concern that the Council was not consulted when planning for appropriations out of the NOW Fund as stated in law. Commissioner Dardenne stated a million dollar balance remains in the fund, and the Division of Administration and the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) will make a concerted effort to collaborate with the Council in the future.

Julie Foster Hagan provided two updates. First, LDH submitted the companion care service for the ROW & NOW to the federal agency (CMS) for approval. This would allow individuals living in the home of waiver recipients to provide support, but it is not the same as the Individual and Family Support Service. Second, LDH is continuing to work on eligibility criteria for waiver services for the zero to three age group.

EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE – Mary Tarver

The Committee reviewed and rated three proposals received for the Post-Secondary Inclusive Education Alliance initiative contained in Activity 3.4.2 of the 2020 plan. Each member rated and determined whether each proposal should be recommended, recommended with conditions or not recommended.

MOTION PASSED. The Education and Employment (EE) Committee recommendation for the Council to select the institution which submitted the proposal that had the highest score from the EE Committee ratings to contract for the Post-Secondary Inclusive Education Alliance initiative passed without objection; and four abstentions: Amy Donarski, Chris Rodriquez, Michael Norman, and Jamie Wong.

	SLU	**LSU-HDC**	**Team Dynamics**
Total Rating Score (out of 600)	511	510	392
Recommend	6	4	2
Recommend with Conditions	1	2	0
Do not recommend	1	2	6

Next, the Committee considered the position paper on inclusive education as recommended by the Executive Committee.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION PASSED.
MOTION. The Education and Employment Committee recommendation for the Council to consider revising the Position Paper on Education as recommended by the Executive Committee to indicate the individual choice for inclusive education by revising the last sentence of the Position Paper to read:

> The Council supports the choice for full inclusion of all children, regardless of the severity of their disability, as full participating members of each and every school.
>
> **SUBSTITUTE MOTION PASSED:** A substitute motion by Michael Norman, seconded by Bambi Polotzola, to table the discussion regarding changing the position paper related to "choice for" according to the five year planning process and adopt revisions (below) proposed by the Executive Committee passed without objection, no abstentions.

Recommendations:
Louisiana should immediately take steps to:

1. Ensure all schools receiving state funding accept every student, including students with the most significant disabilities, and provide all appropriate educational services and supports to each child.
2. Ensure an equitable and fair accountability structure that:
    a. ~~offers students with disabilities Alternative Assessments Based on Grade-Level Achievement Standards (AA-GLAS)[fi];~~
    b. ensures accurate and timely reporting of student composition across schools and school systems;
    c. utilizes student composition in analysis of school and district performance measures; and,
    d. promotes inclusive practices and disallows selective admissions that disproportionately excludes students with disabilities.
3. Ensure schools have adequate support and training in effective, research-based teaching strategies that result in successful inclusion and positive educational outcomes for all students, including those with the most significant disabilities.
4. Ensure each student is provided appropriate supports and services based on their individualized needs.
    a. Ensure adequate and intensive early educational intervention is provided
5. Ensure funding for schools:
    a. is adequate to meet the needs of every student served by that school;
    b. is monitored to ensure all funding mechanisms designated for students with disabilities align with and reflect the individualized needs of students as determined by Individualized Education Plan (IEP) teams;
    c. does not incentivize the exclusion and/or segregation of students with disabilities.

References

6. [1] National Center on Educational Outcomes (2013). Alternate Assessments Based on Grade-Level Achievement Standards (AA-GLAS) Overview. Institute on Community Integration at the College of Education and Human Development, University of Minnesota. http://www.cehd.umn.edu/NCEO/TopicAreas/AlternateAssessments/aa_glas.htm

MOTION PASSED. A motion by Bambi Polotzola, seconded by Roslyn Hymel, to grant the membership committee authority to forward their recommendation directly to the Governor for appointment passed without objection, no abstentions.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE – Bambi Polotzola

MOTION. The Nominating Committee recommendation for Council Officers beginning October 1, 2019 and ending September 30, 2021 include:

Chairperson – April Dunn
Vice Chairperson – Robert Paddy
Self-Determination & Community Inclusion Committee Chair – Randall Brown
Education/Employment Committee Chair – Mary Tarver
Member-At-Large – Hyacinth McKee

Nominations from the floor were:

- Crystal White nominated Randall Brown as Chairperson; Randall Brown accepted
- Kim Basile nominated Crystal White as Vice Chair; Crystal White accepted.
- Kim Basile nominated April Dunn for Self-Determination & Community Inclusion Committee Chair; April Dunn rejected.
- Tara Smith nominated Kim Basile for Self-Determination & Community Inclusion Committee Chair, Kim Basile accepted.
- Crystal nominated Michael Billings for Self-Determination & Community Inclusion Committee Chair, Mike Billings accepted.

MOTION FAILED. A motion by Kim Basile, seconded by Tara Smith, to abolish the Nominating Committee's recommended slate of officers and take nominations from the floor failed with 8 yeas to 13 nays; Hyacinth Mckee and Jamie Wong abstained.

MOTION PASSED (procedural). A motion by Kim Basile, seconded by Amy Donarski, to end discussion of the motion (i.e., "calling the question") and proceed to a vote passed with 20 yeas to 4 nays.

MOTION WITHDRAWN. A motion by Jamie Wong, seconded by Michael Norman, to have an overview of job responsibilities for each position; have a clear understanding of which members are nominated for each position; have a clear understanding of the process; for each member of the Council to confidentially and unofficially express their preference; and have the Council consider the results of that process for the final

election of officers was withdrawn by Jamie Wong. Staff informed the Council any confidential votes would be in violation of Open Meetings law.

> **SUBSTITUTE MOTION WITHDRAWN.** A substitute motion by Mitch Iddins, seconded by Roslyn Hymel, to adopt the slate as recommended was withdrawn by Mitch Iddins.

CHAIRPERSON ELECTION - April Dunn elected.
The Council voted twice for the position of Chairperson with April Dunn and Randall Brown as candidates. Both votes ended in a split decision with eleven votes for each candidate; two abstentions: Jen Katzman and Hyacinth Mckee.

> **SUBSTITUTE MOTION PASSED.** A substitute motion by Bambi Polotzola, seconded by Roslyn Hymel, to reopen nominations and to nominate Randall Brown as Vice Chair and April Dunn to serve as Chair (Randall Brown accepted the nomination for Vice Chair) passed without objection, no abstentions.

VICE CHAIRPERSON ELECTION – Randall Brown elected.
Crystal White withdrew her acceptance of the nomination to serve as Vice Chair.

A vote for the position of Council Vice Chairperson with Randall Brown and Robert Paddy as candidates resulted in Randall Brown being elected with five votes for Robert Paddy and thirteen votes for Randall Brown; Six abstentions: Lillian DeJean, Jen Katzman, Robert Paddy, Bambi Polotzola, Chris Rodriguez, and Crystal White.

Kim Basile withdrew her acceptance of the nomination to serve as Self-Determination & Community Inclusion Committee Chair.

MOTION PASSED. A motion to adopt the following remaining nominations passed without objection, no abstentions:

- Mike Billings, Self-Determination & Community Inclusion Committee Chair;
- Mary Tarver, Education and Employment Committee Chair; and
- Hyacinth McKee, at-large member

Council Officers elected to serve from October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2021 are:

Chairperson – April Dunn
Vice Chairperson – Randall Brown
Self-Determination/Community Inclusion Committee Chair – Michael Billings
Education/Employment Committee Chair – Mary Tarver
Member-At-Large – Hyacinth McKee

FFY20 PLAN

Prior to the Council voting on the ratification of the FFY20 plan, Council members discussed a recommendation that was received from OCDD related to the inclusive childcare training initiative. Brenda Sharp, Program Manager for EarlySteps, provided details of the initiative to the Council and explained how an increase in the stipend issued to teacher participants would help increase participation in trainings.

MOTION PASSED. A motion by Julie Foster-Hagan, seconded by Jill Demeritt, to accept a change in stipends for teachers participating in coaching sessions of the Early Intervention/Inclusive Child Care project from $25 to $50 per session with no impact on the total budget amount for the initiative in FFY19 and FFY20 passed without objection, no abstentions.

Each committee considered public comments received on the proposed FFY20 plan, but no recommendations were made to amend the proposed plan.

MOTION PASSED. A motion by Mary Tarver, seconded by Mitch Iddins, to ratify the FFY20 plan as proposed passed without objection, no abstentions.

COUNCIL AGENCY REPORTS

LOUISIANA REHABILITATION SERVICES (LRS) – Melissa Bayham
Ms. Bayham reported on the numbers of LRS staff certified in various areas of Customized Employment, thanks to the initiative sponsored by the Council. She also highlighted the open cases involving people with developmental disabilities reporting 8,672 individuals participating in vocational rehabilitation and 2,346 participating in Pre-Employment Transition Services during the past quarter. Ms. Bayham also spoke about the Governor's State As a Model Employer initiative and reported LRS has assisted 28 individuals in becoming state of Louisiana employees.

Ms. Bayham shared LRS' efforts to ensure LRS is compliant with the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). Emphasis has been placed on training counseling staff on all aspects of WIOA including subminimum wage, measurable skill gains, supported employment, extended follow along services, pre-employment transition service and working collaboratively with other agencies.

BUREAU OF HEALTH SERVICES FINANCING (BHSF) – Jen Katzman
Ms. Katzman shared updates on BHSF's new Long-Term Supports and Services Incident Management System which was phased in statewide.

Ms. Katzman provided a handout to share additional information regarding Medicaid eligibility asset verification requirements. The federal government now requires an electronic system verification of resources and/or assets when determining Medicaid eligibility for individuals with disabilities. There is an exemption for those who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI). CMS approved the state's contract to implement this system and Louisiana is ready for it to go live over the July 20-21, 2019 weekend.

As part of the process, individuals may receive letters from Medicaid requesting additional information should their self-reported resources not match information in the verification system. She encouraged everyone to open all letters from Medicaid and be mindful of all deadlines. There is a 90 day revert to open option for individuals who may have missed their renewal deadline but could prove ongoing eligibility. Consent forms from legal spouses will also be needed to verify assets.

Ms. Katzman indicated LDH is prepared to follow up on concerns related to a lack of customer support during the renewal process. Additional workers are being hired to work the long term care waiver hotline effective August 1st.

Ms. Katzman announced Acumen and Morning Sun were awarded the contract to be the fiscal agent for self-direction.

OFFICE OF AGING AND ADULT SERVICES (OAAS) – Tara LeBlanc

Ms. LeBlanc shared OAAS is working to reduce the wait list for the Community Choices Waiver using a similar approach used to reduce the waiting list for DD waivers, through a prioritization process. CMS approved the amendments to the Community Choices Waiver for this prioritization to occur. People who are already receiving any other home and community-based service will not be a priority. People not receiving other home and community-based services or Long Term Personal Care Services (LTPCS) would be eligible for an expedited waiver offer. Over thirty-five percent (35%) of people on the waiting list qualified for LTPCS. OAAS continues to evaluate individuals on its waiting list, but since February approximately 800 individuals have been approved for LTPCS.

OFFICE OF PUBLIC HEALTH (OPH) – Laura Thornton

Ms. Thornton reported some changes to the Child Death Review Panel. First, Julie Johnston, Title V Family Representative, now serves on the Child Death Review Panel. Second, the Child Death Report will include a section that considers children with special health care needs in terms of preventing mortality and morbidity.

Ms. Thornton reported that the Early Hearing and Detection Intervention group has developed a tool kit and conversation guide for physicians of children and youth who have been diagnosed as deaf or hard of hearing.

Ms. Thornton provided information about the Statewide Young Child Wellness Collaborative (YCWC) which includes representation from the Department of Education, EarlySteps, Bureau of Family Health and other organizations. YCWC has been working to map out the system of supports and services for children birth to five in an effort to improve the state's Early Childhood System. This information will be provided for stakeholder feedback in the fall. Multiple workgroups were formed to concentrate on specific areas: Family Engagement & Leadership, Early and Accurate Identification, and Early Childhood Data System Integration.

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ELDERLY AFFAIRS (GOEA) – Michelle Guillory
Ms. Guillory provided an overview of the available services and programs through GOEA such as Elderly Protective Services, Long Term Care Ombudsman, and other services provided to keep seniors active and engaged. She also highlighted the Aging and Disability Resource Centers located throughout the state are designed to help anyone with a disability or those caring for someone with a disability access local resources and supports in their community.

Ms. Guillory reported GOEA is actively involved with the Emergency Management for Disability and Aging Coalition (EMDAC). Ms. Guillory expressed how important it was for all individuals and families, especially the elderly and people with disabilities, have a plan in place should a natural disaster or man-made emergency occur.

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT CENTER (HDC) – Michael Norman
Regarding early childhood initiatives, Dr. Norman shared HDC was able to train approximately 265 early childhood teachers and interventionists on inclusion methodologies and effective early intervention programming.

He reported the Louisiana Autism Spectrum and Related Disabilities project (LASARD) has secured a contract with the Department of Education for the 2019-20 academic year.

Dr. Norman shared challenges with identifying individuals as meeting the criteria to be counted by the Deaf Blind project.

Dr. Norman reported HDC's Paycheck Program had 28 students from the Orleans and Jefferson Parish School Systems participate in the program during the 2018-2019 school year. Jefferson Parish renewed its contract and will have 20 new individuals enrolled in the program for 2019-2020.

OFFICE FOR CITIZENS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (OCDD) – Julie Foster Hagan
Ms. Foster-Hagan provided an update on the implementation of the complex care reimbursement in the New Opportunities Waiver (NOW). OCDD has made multiple requests for CMS to approve waiver amendments to allow for an enhanced rate for services for people with complex needs. CMS has not approved any of the requests. OCDD's most recent request is to allow for a supplemental payment of $38.88 per day for providing waiver services to individuals with complex medical or behavioral needs. OCDD is also researching options on how to offer a higher rate to serve people in self-direction with more complex needs.

Ms. Foster-Hagan shared concerns brought to her attention during the Partners in Policymaking class related to delays in individuals receiving the Screening for Urgency of Need (SUN). Ms. Foster-Hagan discovered a backlog of screening requests was being caused by an increase in the number of individuals becoming eligible for waiver services since the shift to prioritization. The number of people becoming eligible for a

waiver has increased from approximately 100 a month prior to the shift to the prioritized process to 147 a month on average since the shift. OCDD is working to reduce the backlog and wait time by adding staff to process screenings.

Next, Ms. Foster-Hagan provided an update on waiver options for the birth to 3 age group. Until there is a rule change for eligibility, the criteria is for a child to meet the money follows the person criteria, which is 90 or more days in the hospital. LDH is including the 0-3 population issue in discussions of how to implement the TEFRA program.

Ms. Foster-Hagan clarified concerns related to the rate restoration for home and community-based waiver providers. As of July 1st, providers are being reimbursed at the 2008 rates and received a lump sum payment for services rendered January 1 - June 2019. Regarding self-direction, LDH was only able to make retroactive payments for April through June. Since employee's pay is reported to the IRS quarterly it was not possible to go back to the previous quarter and make retroactive payments for January through March.

Ms. Foster-Hagan shared an update on the request to amend the NOW and ROW waivers to allow individuals living in the home of waiver recipients to serve as their Direct Support Professional (DSP) as part of the companion care service. CMS is considering this request.

Finally, Ms. Foster-Hagan responded to concerns shared by Council members about the lack of providers offering music, art, equine, aquatic and other therapies. While the department is still researching this concern, one issue Ms. Foster-Hagan shared was providers must have/obtain certain licensing requirements in order to offer these therapies.

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

Ms. Polotzola highlighted the GODA conference on Friday, July 26th with 350 individuals registered to attend. Sessions include presentations on accessibility, Act 833 diploma pathway and promotion options, and a panel of post-secondary institutions offering programs for students with significant disabilities. Additional sessions will focus on employment, healthcare, emergency preparedness, transportation and housing.

Ms. Polotzola shared that GODA was awarded the Employment First Grant again this year. Through the Employment First Grant, Louisiana was selected as a Vision Quest State and as a Core State for the 2019 year. The focus has been on the Houma-Thibodaux (Region 3) and Acadiana (Region 4) areas. Thirty-five individuals attended stakeholder meetings in May, and there are two providers from each region working with experts on implementing inclusive programing and competitive integrated employment.

GODA is collaborating with Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS) and the Office of Behavioral Health (OBH) on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to help both agencies better serve their individuals and families.

Ms. Polotzola also shared the Statewide Independent Living Council will be hosting their annual gala on August 10th and in October will host ten regional job and resource fairs.

ADVOCACY CENTER (AC) – Chris Rodriguez

Mr. Rodriguez shared information about two class action lawsuits filed by the Advocacy Center. First, in conjunction with the National Health Program, AC has filed suit against Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) on behalf of all children who are medically fragile, waiver recipients and require in-home skilled nursing. The suit is a result of individuals being approved for certain amounts of in-home skilled nursing care but are only receiving a fraction of the number of hours they were approved for and require. Another suit is against the Department of Corrections for the use of solitary confinement for individuals with mental health needs.

Mr. Rodriguez also shared the AC is investigating the Louisiana Special Education Center (LSEC). The investigation will determine the merit to allegations detailed in a report shared with the AC. LSEC recently transferred from the Department of Education to LDH.

Mr. Rodriguez announced the AC has hired a new Director of Public Policy, Tory Rocca. The AC is also moving forward with its rebranding campaign. Beginning January 1, 2020, the Advocacy Center will change its name to Disability Rights Louisiana.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNCILS ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (NACDD) CONFERENCE

Council members Steven Nguyen, Lillian DeJean and Carmen Cetnar thanked the Council for the support to participate at NACDD's annual conference in New Orleans. They provided an overview of the presentations they attended and discussed how they will use the information learned to continue working toward systems change in Louisiana.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following peopled turned in a public comment card to speak:

Jeff Arceneaux
Katie Corkern
Natalie LaRose
Kodi Wilson
Amy Tresh
Jeanne Abadie
Michelle Hurst
Kim Smith
Kay Marcel

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Council meeting will be October 16-17, 2019 at the Embassy Suites, Baton Rouge.

Ms. Dunn adjourned the meeting at 3:45 p.m.