

## Executive Director Report July 2020

### Budget

- The [Budget report](#) with expenditures through June 2020 is on the website.
  - Activities impacted by COVID-19. A few activities were able to shift to online formats; however, the suspension of in-person activities will result in approximately \$180,000 in contracts to go unused through June 30, 2020.
  - Flexibility has been granted by the Council's federal oversight agency, the Administration for Community Living, in the form of a no-cost time extension of one year to spend funds from the FFY19 and FFY20 grant awards.

### Membership Updates

- Travel Reimbursements changed from mailing checks to electronic fund transfers. To receive travel reimbursements Council members must submit information to Casey Hickman at [casey.hickman@la.gov](mailto:casey.hickman@la.gov)
- The Membership Committee made recommendations for the full Council to consider.

### Tributes to April Dunn

- [LaDDC NEWS: A Tribute to Council Chair April Dunn, July 6, 1986 – March 28, 2020](#)
- [Youtube video](#) produced by Governor Edwards Office
- [33-year-old staffer serving in John Bel Edwards' Office of Disability Affairs dies from coronavirus](#), The Advocate, March 28, 2020
- [April Dunn, Louisiana Fighter for Disability Rights Dies at 33](#), New York Times,
- [A 33-year-old member of the Louisiana governor's staff dies of coronavirus complications](#); CNN, March 29, 2020

### Resources Developed and Maintained

- [Council's COVID-19 website](#) with links specific for people with developmental disabilities
- [Families Helping Families Webinars website](#)

### Webinars and Conference Calls

- Emergency Management of Elderly and Disability Coalition
  - March 10, 18, 20, 23, 25, 27, and 30
  - April 1, 3, 6, 8, 10, 13, 15, 17, 20, 23, 27, and 30
  - May 4, 7, 11, 14, 18, and 26
  - June 1, and 15

- National Association of Developmental Disabilities Executive Directors
  - March 25; April 1, 8, 15, 22, and 30; May 6, 13, and 27, June 3, 10, 17, and 24.
- Webinars participated in:
  - ACL/CMS Promising Practices Training Series: Ensuring Continuity of HCBS During the COVID-19 Pandemic, April 23.
  - ACL: Grant Flexibilities Under COVID-19, April 24
  - NACDD: New Executive Director Orientation, April 27, 28 and 29.
  - NACDD: Leading for the Living Room: Tips and Strategies for Hosting Partners in Policymaking Training Online, May 5
- Webinars provided:
  - What's Up with Discipline in Louisiana?; Families Helping Families/Louisiana Parent Training Information Center (LaPTIC), March 13<sup>th</sup>
  - [LaCAN 2020 Legislative Wrap-Up](#), June 29

## LaCAN

- [Recruitment to fill LaCAN Leader vacancies](#) in Regions I and II are ongoing. Interviews of applicants to fill the vacancy in Region I are anticipated in early January 2020.
- LaCAN Leader calls
  - March 19, and 26; April 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30; May 7, 14, 21, and 28; June 4, 11, 18, 25 and 29; and July 2.

## Advocacy Activities and Provision of Information

### Letters:

- [Letter to ACL – Membership for Parents with Deceased Children – February 11, 2020](#)
- [Letter to Gov. Edwards – LDH Secretary Selection – February 11, 2020](#)
- [Letter to BESE – LDOE Selection of Superintendent – February 11, 2020](#)
  
- Requested LDH share data and address impact of COVID-19 on people with developmental disabilities as indicated by data. LDH/OCDD began publishing weekly status reports with data on people with developmental disabilities impacted by COVID-19: <http://ldh.la.gov/index.cfm/page/3959>.
- Requested LDH address guidance related to rationing of medical equipment or services to ensure the decision will not discriminate against people with developmental disabilities. Previously, guidance on the LDH website included a document from Washington state with criteria of base cognitive functioning as a condition to consider for not providing care during a time of resource shortages. LDH removed the guidance from Washington state and issued two clarifying

memos. One [memo](#) reflected the value of people with developmental disabilities and another [memo](#) highlighted the right of people to have accommodations and prohibiting discrimination on the basis of disability.

- [Webinars hosted by FHF Centers posted on LaDDC webpage](#)
- Tracked exceptions to waiver services (Appendix K waivers) by state: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/12o-Gr0lrVT5sVYiq0jIRI8DjHUNxEwKtmwCw3BIGZdE/edit#gid=1486231367>
- Advocated for LDH to review the decision of South Central Human Service Authority to suspend funding to Bayouland Families Helping Families.

The following DDC Newsletters were released via listserv and advertised via Facebook and Twitter:

1. [2020 Legislative Session Summary](#) July 1, 2020
2. [Update: TEFRA Implementation Timeline](#), June 12, 2020
3. [Louisiana Disability Rights Day](#), May 21, 2020
4. [COVID-19 Updates](#), May 13, 2020
5. [Direct Care Shortages and Rationing of Care During COVID-19 Epidemic](#), March 30, 2020
6. [COVID-19 Exemptions for I/DD HCBS Waivers](#), March 19, 2020
7. [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Update](#), March 13, 2020
8. [Concepts Requested for Council Planning](#), January 31, 2020
9. [Executive Director Sandee Winchell Retires After Successful Advocacy Career](#), January 23, 2020
10. [Recruiting Advocates for DD Council – Regions 1 & 9](#), January 21, 2020
11. [2020 Legislative Advocacy Agenda \(Revised\) and LaCAN Member Meetings](#), January 17, 2020
12. [Recruiting Advocates for Advisory Council for Student Behavior and Discipline](#), January 7, 2020
13. [Recruiting Strong Advocates for DD Council](#), December 20, 2019
14. [DD Network Public Forums Announcement](#), December 19, 2019
15. [Relationships & Intimacy: Preventing Exploitation Training Opportunities](#), December 16, 2019

#### **Other Meetings Participated in**

- DD Network Public Forums: Bossier, February 13 and Baton Rouge, February 20
- Arc of Louisiana, People First and Community Providers Association. February 19
- Governor's Advisory Council on Disability Affairs, April 29, June 16 & 17.
- Partners in PolicyMaking, March 6 & 7
- LaDD Council Executive Committee Orientation, April 22