

## Education and Employment Committee Agenda

Tuesday, July 20, 2021

[YouTube Broadcast](#)

### SUMMARY

**Members Present:** Dr. Hyacinth McKee, Nicole Banks, Mitch Iddins, Brenda Cosse, Mary Tarver, Dr. Phil Wilson, Bambi Polotzola, Carmen Cetnar, Temisha Victorian

**Members Absent:** Melissa Bayham

**Attendees:** Sue Killam, Stacy Marbs, Lynsey Hebert, Devika Rao, Nicole Flores, Kelly Monroe, Dr. Gerlinde Beckers, Meredith Jordan, Mylinda Elliot, Roslyn Hymel, Katie Kroes, Kathy Dwyer, Ashley McReynolds, Cheri Crain, Kathleen Cannino, Julie Folse, Christina Martin, Kristie Curtis, Karen Artus, Cohonda Corley, Kim Basile, Tory Rocca, Susan Riehn, Stacey Guidry

**Staff:** Shandrell Stewart, Ebony Haven, Halie Belin, Brenton Andrus, Amy Deaville

**Transcriptionist:** Lynsey Hebert

Dr. Hyacinth McKee decides to proceed with meeting as an informational meeting due to a lack of a quorum. No votes can be taken nor permanent decisions made. Ms. Stewart calls roll and a quorum remains un-meet. Ms. Stewart reads the [virtual meeting protocols](#).

Dr. Hyacinth McKee checks for a quorum at 8:46am. There was no quorum at that time.

Meredith Jordan gives an update from Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE). The [letter](#) addressed to superintendent Brumley was discussed. There were two main questions posed in the letter. 1) Around ensuring there were guidelines for safely reopening schools. The [response](#) letter includes a link to the operational guidelines. With informative notation that those guidelines may be revised throughout the school year as needed. Since then, they have been updated and can be found through the link located in the letter of response. Updated are highlighted to be identified from the previous version. 2) Around how are we supporting educators with addressing the learning gaps that potentially have been farther widened due to the pandemic? The response included key resources which are linked in the response letter.

Ms. Jordan provided a [report](#) on:

- Parent/Family Engagement and provided a link to the report from District Management Group
  - Strengths identified by stakeholders
  - Eight key opportunities identified
- Families Helping Families overview
- Ways that parents and families can support students with disabilities during the 2021-2022 school year
- High Cost Services
- Alternate Assessment

A [link](#) was provided to the school planning guidance that include some funding opportunity for school systems.

Dr. Hyacinth McKee confirms there is a quorum at 9:50am. She asks that the previous meeting, [July 2021](#) minutes are reviewed by the committee.

**MOTION CARRIED:** Bambi Polotzola motion to approve the minutes. Mary Tarver second the motion. Nicole Banks objects due to her name not being listed as a present member. Bambi Polotzola motion to amend her motion to include Nicole Banks as an attendee of the July 2021 meeting. Second by Nicole Banks. No objections or abstentions.

Stacy Marbs gives an update from Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS).

- New Employment Transition Program
  - They are in contact with schools to increase the number of applicants.
- Pilot program being held in 3 of 8 regions (Baton Rouge, Lafayette and Houma).
  - Allows vendors to make connections with students while in study skills classes.
- Looking to increase the number of sessions from 64 to 108 per student
- Targeting 800 students within 27 schools between 3 parishes.
- Working on increasing work based learning from 2 experiences to 3
  - From 480 hours to 720 hours over a 2 year period.
- The program is approximately a month old
  - A meeting on Friday October 22 between the vendors and the 3 regional managers to discuss the numbers.

Contractors provided updates on E/E Contractual Activities for FFY2021 Action Plan (October 1, 2020-September 30, 2021)

Seminars on Hiring Individuals with Developmental Disabilities (Activity 5.3.3) - Devika Rao

- Employment Webinars were concluded in September
- Campaign created entitled [Working Together](#)
  - 10 specific webinars
    - Held with employers and organizations
  - Partnered with local chambers
    - SHRM (Society of Human Resource Management)
  - Grass Roots efforts
  - 165 registrations
  - Developed a curriculum as part of a 28 page booklet
    - Available on the [website](#) and downloadable
    - Being submitted for evaluation
    - Approved by HRCI and SHRM for CEU (continuing education units) credit

Louisiana Post-Secondary Inclusive Education Alliance (LaPIE) (Activity 3.4.2) – Dr. Gerlinde Beckers

- Fall 2019 Post Secondary Inclusive Programs
  - 3 Universities
  - 2 Community Colleges
    - BRCC received accreditation from US DOE
  - All 5 programs are certified CTP
    - Can receive Pell Grant funds
- Working with LRS for students who don't qualify for Pell Grant funds to be able to apply for LRS assistance
- LSU-A will begin a post-secondary inclusive program in Fall 2022
- 4 additional universities are having conversations about starting a program
  - Grambling, McNeese, University of Louisiana Monroe, Southern University
    - Schools are concerned with funding
- Policy proposal submitted to request legislative support with 3 main request
  - Funding for start-up programs
  - Enhancement grants to grow existing programs
  - Scholarship similar to TOPS
    - Underlying request to put the programs in writing

- Students currently enrolled
  - Approximately 60 students in 4yr programs
  - Approximately 60 students in 2ys programs

**MOTION CARRIED:** Motion by Bambi Polotzola to support LAPIE legislation aimed at:

1. Funding post-secondary programs that are starting up.
2. Enhancement grants to grow existing programs.
3. Scholarship for students that are eligible

Second by Mitch Iddins. No objections or abstentions

Customized Employment Training (Activity 5.1.3) – Kelly Monroe

- The ARC is contracted with certification class
  - 2 people have completed now
- Discovery class is currently going on
  - 8 participants
    - The participants need learning partners
    - Currently only have 2 learning partners
    - Learning partners must be currently looking for employment
- Job Development Gateway Training
  - Delayed a month due to weather
  - 35 people signed up
  - 21 Completed the full 6 days
    - Of the 21 that completed the full 6 days, approximately 10 will go through the certification process

**No Announcements**

**Meeting Adjourned at 11:14am**