Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council
Act 378 Subcommittee Meeting Summary
October 19, 2022 10:15 AM - 12:00 PM

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

View meeting transcript.

Members Present: Nicole Banks, Kim Basile, Jill Egle, Julie Hagan, Bambi Polotzola

Members Absent: Hyacinth McKee, Mary Tarver

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

Others Present: Libby Airhart, Brenda Bares, Rashad Bristo, Corhonda Corley, Brenda Cosse, Kristie Curtis, Kathy Dwyer, Mylinda Elliott, Corlis Gremillion, Leona Harris, Lynsey Hebert, K.J. Henry, Kasey Hill, Christina Martin, Yiesha McFarland, Ashley McReynolds, Kelly Monroe, Tanya Murphy, Susan Riehn, Kristin Savicki, Brooke Stewart, Erick Taylor, Renoda Washington, Mimi Webb, Vivienne Webb

Bambi Polotzola called the meeting to order at 10:20 AM. A quorum was established.

Approval of the July Meeting Summary passed by unanimous consent.

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

In State Fiscal Year 2022 (SFY22):

- 99% of funding for the Individual and Family Support (IFS) program and 100% of funding for the Flexible Family Fund (FFF) program was spent assisting 3,499 individuals in the IFS and 1,892 in the FFF programs.
- All local governing entities (LGEs) expended at least 95% of their funding and will not need to submit corrective action plans to OCDD to ensure performance indicators are met for FY23.
- Most LGEs spent at least 100% of their Act 73 funds. South Central (SCLHSA) and Florida Parishes (FPHSA) spent 98% and 99% respectively. All LGEs are required to spend at least 98%, but the goal is to expend 100%.

In SFY23 First Quarter:

- 14% of funding for the Individual and Family Support (IFS) program and 25% of funding for the Flexible Family Fund (FFF) program was spent assisting 1,805 individuals in the IFS and 1,777 in the FFF programs.
- Ms. Murphy reminded committee members this report does not include all invoices for the first quarter.

- Concern noted for the large FFF waitlist. It was reported the average wait is between one and three years. Additional funding would need to be added to each LGEs' state general fund to have the opportunity to serve more individuals. A specific line item in the budget directing the additional funding to be used for FFF would be needed. Otherwise, the LGE could use the additional funding as they deem necessary.
- At this time, most 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.
- SCLHSA, Acadiana (AAHSD) and FPHSA are below. This was of concern to the subcommittee considering SCLHSA and FPHSA did not expend the 9% in SFY2022. Ms. Murphy will reach out to these three LGEs to discuss and report back at the January meeting.

Members also discussed the FY22 IFS Priority Requests and Expenditures report which provides a regional breakdown of requests by priority in addition to the types of services and goods provided and the cost. Over 5,000 IFS contracts were completed totaling over $8.5 million. It was noted that SCLHSA had 75 open requests that did not get reviewed. This was of concern to subcommittee members. Ms. Murphy will follow up with SCLHSA and report back to the subcommittee in January.

Ms. Murphy also plans on following up with the LGEs to ensure the use of "other" for coding IFS services is not overly utilized. This was an issue the subcommittee worked with Ms. Murphy to address a couple of years ago, and progress was made last fiscal year to correct this issue.

Office of Aging and Adult Services (OAAS) / Arc of LA – Kelly Monroe

In SFY23 First Quarter:

- 17% of funding for the State Personal Assistance Services (SPAS) program was spent assisting 41 individuals.
- There are currently 65 people on the waiting list, an increase of 5 from last quarter.

Office of Behavioral Health (OBH) – Kristen Savicki

Children/Adolescent Program

In SFY22:

- 93% of funding for the Consumer Care Resources (CCR) program and 99% of funding for the FFF program was spent assisting 1,109 individuals in the CCR and 369 in the FFF programs.
- Those LGEs that did not expend at least 95% of funds for CCR and/or did not have at least 90% of FFF slots each quarter will have to submit a corrective action plan to OBH.
- Those LGEs required to submit a corrective action plan include: Metropolitan (MHSD) and NLHSD.

In SFY23 First Quarter:

- 19% of funding for the Consumer Care Resources (CCR) program and 23% of funding for the FFF program was spent assisting 291 individuals in the CCR and 331 in the FFF programs.
- MHSD current expenditures indicate they are on track with their CCR program.

During the July meeting, members expressed concerns for Northwest Louisiana's (NLHSD) FFF program specifically noting they had enough available slots to move individuals off the program's wait list. The committee questioned what timely efforts were made by the LGE to fill FFF slots and what outreaches were being conducted to ensure all slots were filled. Efforts to recruit and fill slots were noted in the final FY22 report, and it was noted that all slots have been filled for FY23 first quarter.

Adult Program

In SFY22:

- 99% of funding for the adult program was spent serving 479 individuals.
- Those LGEs that did not expend at least 95% of funding will have to submit a corrective action plan to OBH.
- Those LGEs required to submit a corrective action plan include: MHSD.

In SFY23 First Quarter:

- 36% of funding for the adult program was spent serving 49 individuals.

Meeting adjourned at 12:02 PM by unanimous consent.