Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council
Self-Determination and Community Inclusion Committee Meeting Summary
Wednesday, October 19, 2022
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

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

View meeting transcript.

Members Present:	Kim Basile, Cheri Crain, Jill Egle, Julie F. Hagan, Jill Hano, Angela Harmon, Tory Rocca
Members Absent:	Patti Barovechio, Chaney Guidry, Roslyn Hymel, Matthew Rovira
Staff:	Brenton Andrus, Rekeesha Branch, Lauren Brown, Ebony Haven, Hannah Jenkins
Others Present:	Libby Airhart, Brenda Bares, AnnMarie Bihm, Rashad Bristo, Anastasia Boudreaux, Corhonda Corley, Brenda Cosse, Kristie Curtis, Mylinda Elliott, Liz Gary, Corlis Gremillion, Lynsey Hebert, K.J. Henry, Christina Martin, Yiesha McFarland, Ashley McReynolds, Kelly Monroe, Bambi Polotzola, Susan Riehn, Brooke Stewart, Erick Taylor, Mollie Tinnin, Renoda Washington, Mimi Webb, Vivienne Webb,

Kim Basile called the meeting to order at 1:04 PM. A quorum was established.

Approval of the July Meeting Summary passed by unanimous consent.

Non-Contractual Activities

Julie Hagan shared multiple updates on behalf of the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) and the Bureau of Health Services and Financing (Medicaid). Additional information can be found in Ms. Hagan's SD/CI report.

Ms. Hagan shared a detailed update on the implementation of Act 421 Children's Medicaid Option or TEFRA. As of October 7th, over 1,300 applications had been received. On average, it takes about 104 days for the application process to be completed. Details on timeframes can be found in the report shared by Ms. Hagan. Members shared concerns for the 264 application denials. Ms. Hagan stated she would try to find gather more information about the denials and share feedback with the committee in January. There was also a request to see if more demographic information could be shared about the applicants such as region, parish, age, race and disability.

A few other topics shared include:

- Work continues on implementation of increased transportation rates in waivers. Rate increases should be effective this month. An amendment will be needed for the Supports Waiver.
- There is some delay in adding dental coverage for adults in intermediate care facilities (ICFs) because the Standards for Payment, which outlines what the ICF providers are responsible for covering with the per diem rate they receive, includes that the ICF provider must provide for an annual dental exam. This will have to be considered in the implementation.
- The federal public health emergency was extended on October 13th through mid-January. This would continue the Appendix K exceptions to July.
- Focus groups continue to discuss details on how the process will work for family members to be paid caregivers and virtual visits. More information will be shared at the January meeting, but the department does plan to host webinars and informational sessions to explain what the processes will be for these two issues after the pandemic.
- Specifics about each activity the American Rescue Plan dollars will be used for.

Ms. Hagan also provided the enrollment process and eligibility criteria for self-direction. Members expressed concerns for the amount of time it takes to get started in self-direction. Ms. Hagan stated there were no regulated timelines and the range of time really varies. Members encouraged the department to work on setting timelines and ensuring Support Coordinators are knowledgeable about self-direction.

Contractual Activities

The committee received multiple updates on contractual activities including Partners in Policymaking (PiP), LaCAN, Families Helping Families Resource Centers (FHF) and other initiatives of the Council that began with the Fiscal Year 2022 Action Plan. Additional information about these activities can be found in the Council's quarterly Status of Planned Activities Report under goals one and two in addition to reports linked in the committee's agenda.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:49 PM by unanimous consent.