September 22, 2023

MEMORANDUM:

TO: Developmental Disabilities Council Members

FROM: Ebony Haven
Interim Executive Director

RE: October Developmental Disabilities Council Meeting

Act 393 of the 2023 Regular Session amended Open Meetings Law to allow for remote operations (i.e. by electronic means or virtually) of public bodies that meet specific requirements detailed in the bill. On September 19th, the Council received notification from the State Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator stating the Act requires each individual agency to promulgate its own rules for remote meetings, and one unified rule issued by the ADA Coordinator's office would not satisfy this requirement.

The Louisiana Department of Health's (LDH) Legal Office was contacted, but they did not have a timeline of when a rule would be promulgated despite the Act going into effect on August 1st. LDH Legal also stated if the Council proceeds to meet remotely without an official, uniform promulgated rule, we risk the chance of all votes and/or business conducted at our October meeting being considered null and void.

There are so many important decisions to be made at the upcoming meetings, including the Executive Director hiring process, the Council's 2024 Legislative Advocacy Agenda and New Council Membership, and we cannot risk being in violation.

Therefore, incoming Chair, Christi Gonzales, has decided the Council will conduct its October meetings in-person at the Council office. All efforts will be made to stream our meetings live on our YouTube channel, but public comment will only be accepted in-person. We apologize for the inconvenience.

The October Council Meeting, will be held October 18th-19th at the Council's office, **5615 Corporate Blvd. Ste. 500A,** in Baton Rouge.

The Council and committees will meet as follows:

**Wednesday, October 18, 2023**

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| 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. | Executive Committee |
| 10:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. | Act 378 Subcommittee |
| 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. | Self-Determination / Community Inclusion |

3:00 pm. – 5:00 p.m. Education / Employment Committee

**Thursday, October 19, 2023**
8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Council Meeting

Meeting documents will be posted on the Council's website upon receipt.

All Council meetings are public meetings and all citizens are welcome to attend in person.

Council meetings are open to the public. Closed captioning will be provided during this meeting. If you require another access service to fully participate or have any questions about accessibility, please contact Bridgette.Talley@la.gov at least 3 business days prior to the meeting or call (225) 342-6804 to ensure you are provided with the best experience possible.

EH:lb