

Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council
Act 378 Subcommittee Meeting Summary
October 16, 2024 10:15 AM - 12:00 PM

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

View meeting [transcript](#).

Members Present: Christi Gonzales, Julie Foster Hagan, Pasqueal Nguyen, Tony Piontek, Bambi Polotzola, Erick Taylor, Lauren Womack

Members Absent: Brooke Stewart

Staff Present: Brenton Andrus, Rekeesha Branch, Stephanie Carmona, Ebony Haven, Hannah Jenkins, Bridgette Talley

Others Present: Carlos Amos, Mike Billings, Carol Calix, Brandi Croft, Kristie Curtis, Carmen Donmingue, Erin Downing, Mylinda Elliott, Nicole Flores, Dana Foster, Marilyn Goodwin, April Hampton, Jill Hano, Lynsey Hebert, Kasey Hill, Chanel Jackson, Mary Jacob, Lacey James, Christina Martin, Ashley McReynolds, Amy Miller, Kelly Monroe, Tanya Murphy, Logan Perkes, Tonisha Peterson, Jacki Pierce, Susan Riehn, Tory Rocca, Kristin Savicki, Nicole Sullivan-Green, Mimi Webb, Vivienne Webb

Bambi Polotzola called the meeting to order at 10:19 AM. A quorum was established.

Motion to approve the [July Meeting Summary](#) made by Christie Gonzales, seconded by Erick Taylor, passed by a vote of 5 to 0 without objections or abstentions.

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

In [State Fiscal Year 202 \(SFY24\)](#):

- 98% of funding for the Individual and Family Support (IFS) program and 100% of funding for the Flexible Family Fund (FFF) program was spent assisting 3,458 individuals in the IFS and 1,947 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 FY25.
- Most LGEs spent at least 100% of their Act 73 funds. South Central (SCLHSA) spent 97%.

Members discussed the [FY24 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. Nearly 4,000 IFS contracts were completed with over \$7.5 million spent. The number of contracts and funds expended decreased by 5% from FY23.

Members discussed updates on the provision of incontinent supplies in the adult OCDD waivers. The department is aware of concerns regarding quality of products and is working on this issue to determine what can be done to ensure individuals receive the supplies that works for their needs.

Members did ask if the LGEs who are utilizing IFS funding for vocational supports emphasized integrated employment opportunities or had plans to try and move an individual to a more integrated employment opportunity. Ms. Murphy stated that would be something each LGE would have to address

individually. Ms. Hagan also discussed new services in the waiver to help address employment supports and transportation.

Members also asked about IFS startup funding. There was a 218% increase in this service since 2023. Ms. Murphy stated startup funding was utilized to help individuals who are moving out of residential placement and into their own homes. This service allows for the purchase of household items they may need to help furnish their home. The increase may have been due to increased use in Northeast LA. Amy Miller from Northeast Delta (NEDHSA) was not aware of the specifics as to why they had a large increase in their region, but she did mention they have seen an increase in waiver offers and linkages in their area. It's possible some of those individuals resided in intermediate care facilities (ICF/DD) or group homes and were trying to move back into the community.

Members asked Ms. Hagan if she knew how many individuals in ICF/DDs received a waiver, moved back into the community, and eventually returned to a residential setting. Ms. Hagan stated she will look into this and report back to the committee.

In [SFY25 First Quarter](#):

- 14% of funding for the IFS program and 25% of funding for the FFF program was spent assisting 1,526 individuals in the IFS and 1,814 in the FFF programs.
- At this time, all LGEs, with the exception of Central Louisiana (CLHSD) 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. Ms. Murphy is addressing this with CLHSD to ensure compliance.

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

In [SFY25 First Quarter](#):

- 18% of funding for the State Personal Assistance Services (SPAS) program was spent assisting 41 individuals.
- There are currently 104 people on the waiting list.
- Nearly \$2.7 million is needed to provide services to all on the wait list.

Office of Behavioral Health (OBH) – Dana Foster

Consumer Care Resources and Flexible Family Fund Programs

In [SFY24](#):

- 100% of funding for the Consumer Care Resources (CCR) program and 100% of funding for the FFF program was spent assisting 780 individuals in the CCR and 370 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 filled each quarter will have to submit a corrective action plan to OBH. No LGEs will be required to submit corrective action plans.

Member noted school credit recovery is free and questioned why CLHSD used CCR funds for this. This member also asked if there was any information regarding how many individuals who received funding for driver's education courses received a license. Dr. Foster stated she would need to follow up.

Members also discussed having representatives from LGEs attend a future meeting to share information about how families could apply for CCR.

In [SFY25 First Quarter](#):

- 21% of funding for the Consumer Care Resources (CCR) program and 25% of funding for the FFF program was spent assisting 289 individuals in the CCR and 314 in the FFF programs.
- It was noted Northwest Louisiana (NLHSD) was unable to provide data for the first quarter report due to a software virus.

Supported Living Program

In [SFY24](#):

- 100% of funding for the supported living program was spent serving 332 individuals.

In [SFY25 First Quarter](#):

- 43% of funding for the supported living program was spent serving 80 individuals.
- Metropolitan (MHSD) did show low expenditures but noted they are using federal dollars to support individuals and will utilize state dollars in future quarters. Also noted Capital Area (CAHSD) generally uses its funding in the third and fourth quarters.
- It was noted Northwest Louisiana (NLHSD) was unable to provide data for the first quarter report due to a software virus.

Members did question why South Central (SCLHSA) and CLHSD expended all or most of their funding in the first quarter. Dr. Foster stated she would follow up on this issue to determine the cause and seek an explanation.

Meeting adjourned at 11:47 AM.