

LOUISIANA DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL

October 17, 2019

MEETING SUMMARY (MOTIONS ONLY)

Embassy Suites
Baton Rouge, LA

8:30 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Patti Barovechio, OPH/CSHS
Kim Basile
Melissa Bayham
Michael Billings
Randall Brown Jr.
Carmen Cetnar
Lillian DeJean
Amy Donarski
April Dunn
Michelle Guillory, GOEA
Julie Foster Hagan, OCDD
Jill Hano
Roslyn Hymel
Tara LeBlanc, OAAS
Hyacinth McKee
Steven Nguyen
Bambi Polotzola, GODA
Chris Rodriguez, Advocacy Center
Matthew Rovira
Tara Smith
Mary Tarver
Crystal White
Jamie Wong, LDOE

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mitch Iddins
Jen Katzman
Robert Paddy

STAFF PRESENT

Marilee Andrews
Brenton Andrus
Halie Belin
Shawn Fleming
Ebony Haven
Hannah Jenkins
Courtney Ryland

GUESTS PRESENT

Karen Artus, LaCAN Leader Region 9
Donna Breau
Wesley Cagle, SCHSA
Katie Corkern
Kellie D'Aunoy-Jones
Kathy Dillon
Joanette Dunn
Jamie Duplechine
Julie Folse, LaCAN Leader Region 3
Deborah Fontenot, FHF Acadiana
Rebecca Fruge
Liz Gary
Robbie Gray
Corlis Gremillion
Chaney Guidry, FHF Acadiana
Molly Guinan
Lynsey Hebert, Transcriptionist
Michelle Hurst
Yaka James
Ashley Landry
Mary Malloy
Sheryl Matney
Jacqueline McCarthy
Charlie Michel, Bayouland FHF
Jessica Michot
Kelly Monroe, Arc of LA
Gloria Parker
Laci Polotzola, FHF Acadiana
Tory Rocca, Advocacy Center
Shenitha Smith
James Sprinkle, FHF Crossroads
Jamie Tindle, FHF GBR
Kelly Usery
Matthew Wallace
Adren Wilson
Kodi Wilson

April Dunn called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m. and welcomed new member Matt Rovira to the Council.

SUMMARY OF OCTOBER 2019 MEETING – MOTIONS ONLY

MOTION PASSED. Motion to accept the Summary of the [July 2019 Council Meeting](#) made by Jill Hano, seconded by Michael Billings, passed without objection, no abstentions.

[CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT](#) – April Dunn

April Dunn announced appointments of the following members to Council Committees:

- Self-Determination/Community Inclusion Committee: Crystal White

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – Randall Brown

MOTION PASSED.

The Executive Committee recommendation for the following issues to be included on the Council's legislative advocacy agenda:

- An additional \$500,000 in state funding in the DD Council budget for Families Helping Families Centers (this would double Council funding for the Centers)
- Cameras in Special Education classrooms and parent access to school videos
- School Resource Officer training
- Training for teachers and administrators on handling behavior problems
- An additional \$600,000 in state funding for the State Personal Assistance Services (SPAS) program to serve all those on the waiting list (approximately 90)
- Funding for Skilled Nursing rate increase through Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) and in waivers
- Funding for Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) provider rate increase
- Expand Medicaid to cover diapers and wipes for all ages
- Expand Medicaid to cover dental care for adults

passed by a vote of 10 yeas to 2 nays with 9 abstentions.

Abstentions: Patti Barovechio, Kim Basile, Melissa Bayham, Lillian DeJean, Amy Donarski, Julie Foster-Hagan, Tara Leblanc, Steven Nguyen, and Bambi Polotzola.

MOTION TO AMEND WITHDRAWN. A motion by Hyacinth, seconded by Roslyn, to remove the first, third, fifth and seventh items of:

- An additional \$500,000 in state funding in the DD Council budget for Families Helping Families Centers (this would double Council funding for the Centers)
- School Resource Officer training
- An additional \$600,000 in state funding for the State Personal Assistance Services (SPAS) program to serve all those on the waiting list (approximately 90)
- Funding for Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) provider rate increase.

was withdrawn.

MOTION TO AMEND FAILED.

A motion by Hyacinth McKee, seconded by Jill Hano, to amend the original motion by removing the item of \$500,000 of additional state funds in the DD Council budget for Families Helping Families Centers failed by a vote of 3 yeas to 9 nays, and 8 abstentions (abstentions included: Patti Barovechio, Kim Basile, Melissa Bayham, Amy Donarski, Michelle Guillory, Roslyn Hymel, Steven Nguyen, and Jamie Wong).

MOTION TO AMEND WITHDRAWN.

A motion by Kim Basile, seconded by Hyacinth McKee, to scratch the entire list presented by the Executive Committee, hold an Ad Hoc Committee to meet in the next six weeks and bring a new set of legislative agenda items for Council consideration in January 2020 was withdrawn.

MOTION PASSED.

The Executive Committee recommendation for the Search Committee for a new Executive Director consist of the Executive Committee members and two members each from the Education and Employment Committee and Self-Determination and Community Inclusion Committee (9 members total) passed without objection, no abstentions.

- Kim Basile, Amy Donarski, Michelle Guillory and Chris Rodriguez were selected to serve on the Search Committee.

MOTION PASSED.

The Executive Committee recommendation for the Search Committee to have the following duties:

- Review/revise the Executive Director job description
- Determine minimum qualifications of applicants
- Seek technical assistance from the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD) as needed
- Select a firm to assist with the search for a new Executive Director
- Review resume and interview qualified applicants
- Select the top 2 - 3 applicants for the full Council's consideration
- Seek advice from the Louisiana Department of Health, Human Resources

passed without objection, no abstentions.

MOTION PASSED.

The Executive Committee recommendation for the timeframe of the search for a new Executive Director be as follows:

- **October - December:** Selection Committee appointed and search firm identified
- **January Council Meeting:** Present to Council recommendations for salary; information about the search firm to be utilized; job description of the Executive Director; input received from National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD) and the state Department of Health's Human Resources department. Announce the position vacancy

- **April Council Meeting:** Presentation by the top 2 - 3 applicants to the full Council; Full Council votes on the new Executive Director passed without objection, no abstentions.

MOTION PASSED.

The Executive Committee recommendation for Shawn Fleming to serve as the Interim Executive Director of the Council until such time as the position is filled permanently (anticipated by the April 2020 Council Meeting) passed by a vote of 18 yeas to 2 nays with one abstention: Jamie Wong.

Mr. Brown announced the Executive Committee passed a motion for the Council to consider adopting the following mission statement and position papers at the January 2020 meeting.

- [Proposed Mission Statement](#)

Proposed Position Papers:

- [Self-Determination of People with Developmental Disabilities](#)
- [Inclusion of People with Disabilities](#)
- [Health Care for People with Developmental Disabilities](#)
- [Employment of People with Developmental Disabilities](#)
- [Inclusive Education](#)
- [Community Support for People with Developmental Disabilities](#)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Shawn Fleming

Budget Report – Shawn Fleming

Shawn Fleming presented the Council budget report for the [end of the State Fiscal year 2019 \(SFY19\)](#) and the [first quarterly report for SFY 20](#).

ACT 378 SUBCOMMITTEE – Bambi Polotzola

SELF-DETERMINATION AND COMMUNITY INCLUSION COMMITTEE – Michael Billings

MOTION PASSED.

The Self-Determination and Community Inclusion Committee recommendation for the following activity to be added under Objective 1.2 in the Council's FY20 Action Plan.

- **Activity 1.2.5:** Collaborate with Families Helping Families, LaCAN and others to support the provision of information on advocacy to youth and their families at transition fairs.

passed without objection, no abstentions.

MOTION PASSED AS AMENDED.

The Self-Determination and Community Inclusion Committee and Education and Employment Committee recommendations to amend Activity 1.4.2 in the Council's Federal Fiscal Year 20 Plan by increasing funding by \$38,000

Activity 1.4.2: Produce and provide information important to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families through a variety of electronic and social media (Council website, Facebook, LaDDC News, and produce and disseminate videos on employment, self-advocacy, grade promotion and graduation pathways for students with disabilities and featuring people who graduated with a diploma and are successfully employed and information on related services, and produce diagrams, visual flow-charts and other visual aids on accessing home and community-based services, including waivers, and etc).

Approximate FFY 2020 Cost: \$13,000 \$51,000

AMENDMENT TO MOTION PASSED.

A motion to amend the motion by Crystal White, seconded by Amy Donarski, to amend the original motion to include diagrams, visual flow-charts, etc. on waivers and other home and community-based services passed without objection, no abstentions.

(Editor's note: Amendments are highlighted in dark red within original motion.)

The amended motion passed without objection, no abstentions.

EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE – Mary Tarver

MOTION PASSED.

The Education and Employment Committee recommendation for the Council to request the Louisiana Department of Education provide information and training to Local Education Agencies (LEAs) on the availability of other related services, such as Music Therapy, under IDEA which may be considered by IEP teams and the requirement of providing related therapies determined necessary by the IEP team passed without objection, Jamie Wong abstained.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE - Jill Hano

MOTION PASSED.

The Membership committee recommendation for the Council to approve Temisha Sonnier, a parent from Region five, for submission to the Governor for consideration of a Council appointment and Elaine Harmon as the alternate passed without objection, no abstentions.

COUNCIL AGENCY REPORTS

LOUISIANA REHABILITATION SERVICES (LRS) – Melissa Bayham

BUREAU OF HEALTH SERVICES FINANCING (BHSF) – Julie Foster Hagan

OFFICE OF AGING AND ADULT SERVICES (OAAS) – Tara LeBlanc

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION – Jamie Wong

OFFICE OF PUBLIC HEALTH (OPH) – Patti Barovechio

GOVERNOR’S OFFICE OF ELDERLY AFFAIRS (GOEA) – Michelle Guillory

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT CENTER (HDC) –

OFFICE FOR CITIZENS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (OCDD) – Julie Foster Hagan

GOVERNOR’S OFFICE OF DISABILITY AFFAIRS (GODA) – Bambi Polotzola

ADVOCACY CENTER (AC) – Chris Rodriguez

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following people turned in a public comment card to speak:

Liz Gary

Jamie Duplechine

MOTION.

A motion by Crystal White, seconded by Kim Basile, to create an ad hoc investigation committee to investigate [public comment allegations].

Kim Basile seconds.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION PASSED.

A substitute motion by Tara Smith, seconded by Crystal White, for the Executive Committee contact the Louisiana Department of Health Human Resources Division and the Louisiana Board of Ethics to get guidance on investigating the accusations against staff passed without objection, no abstentions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Council meeting will be January 15-16, 2020 at the Embassy Suites, Baton Rouge.

Shawn Fleming reminded members to bring concept proposals for consideration in the next year (FY21 plan) and for the next five years (FY22-26) plan.

A motion to adjourn by Tara Smith, seconded by Michelle Guillory, passed without objection, no abstentions.

April Dunn adjourned the meeting at 3:59 PM.