

## Public Comment for FFY 2020 Action Plan

At its May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 meeting, the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council (Council) approved its [FFY 2020 Action Plan](#). In accordance with the DD Act requirements, [a request for public comment](#) was issued on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019, with comments accepted for consideration through July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

As of June 27, 2019, comments were received from four individuals. A summary of the comments received related to the FFY2020 plan includes:

- Support for Objective 2.9 targeting information and training on sexuality, sexual abuse and exploitation for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.
- Support for Activity 3.4.2 designed to establish a Post-Secondary Inclusive Education Alliance.
- Request for clarification of who is considered a stakeholder in Objective 4.3. (Staff will send this individual the document the Council approved that describes stakeholders and stakeholder input.)  
**Objective 4.3** Stakeholders will have increased opportunities to provide authentic input that will impact decisions on policies effecting students with disabilities.
- Parents should be involved in making recommendations for the Council's legislative agenda at an open community forum. **Referred to Self-Determination/Community Inclusion Committee**
- Request for consideration of employment initiatives geared towards addressing young adults in rural areas who do not have a high school diploma. **Referred to Education/Employment Committee**
- Request for consideration of providing training on a number of topics, including, but not limited to, seeking appointments and subsequently serving in various roles/positions on state-level boards, commissions, task forces, and committees. **Referred to Self-Determination/Community Inclusion Committee**

Other comments received were not related to the Councils FFY2020 goals or objectives. All comments received to date are included below in their entirety.

Sent: Wednesday, June 5, 2019 6:43 PM

To: Courtney Ryland <Courtney.Ryland2@la.gov>

Subject: Re: Public Comment Sought on Council's FFY 2020 Action Plan

I would like to begin by expressing my appreciation that the DD Council requested public comment and recommendations for issues that will be the focus on the upcoming year. Additionally I would like to commend the council on adding contact information of the council members online so that the people they represent will be able to contact them. My concerns and comments are listed below.

Objective 2.9 - You have my full support on this objective.

Activity 3.4.2 - You have my full support for this activity.

Objective 4.3

Who is considered a stakeholder? If a parent is considered a stakeholder then I believe they should be involved in developing the educational legislative action plan in an open meeting hosted by the council to hear the issues of the public.

#### Additional Concerns

##### Individualized Inclusion:

I propose that the council consider adopting a more open and accepting outlook on inclusion. Based on questions that I have asked the executive staff the DD Council only recognizes inclusion as a person being fully surrounded by typically developing peers. However that is not the best and safest environment for some children. Some medically complex children find inclusion in a PDHC because in a typical classroom they could die because of their severe epilepsy or exposure to unmanageable germs. Those children do feel true inclusion and happiness in those environments and are thriving. It is important to remember that the DD Council represents all families not just those who fit their outdated definition of inclusion.

##### Alerts for DD Issues in the Legislature:

I propose that there are more alerts sent out to the DD community. I understand and that there is a push for agenda items and yellow shirt days but I would like more consistent communication about everything that comes up in the legislature concerning DD issues. Maybe this just looks like a daily Facebook post or email that list the next 3 days of committee meetings or house and senate meetings that concern the DD community.

##### July/August Legislative Agenda Meeting:

Request an open DD community forum where we can come together as a community and systemically narrow down what is important to those in the community. This meeting would be open to the entire state and upon conclusion they could recommend 10 items for consideration by the DD Council for the 2020 Leg Agenda. **<End of email>**

Sent: Saturday, June 8, 2019 1:39 AM

To: Courtney Ryland <Courtney.Ryland2@la.gov>

Subject: Adults over the age of 25

I see a lot of opportunities for educational opportunities for job training and college courses for adults with disabilities that were given achievement awards as diplomas or even diplomas from high school. For my daughter in her age group inclusion was not

practiced in the way it should have been which stunted her opportunities. It further did not help in her first placement by a vocational provider in a position she was not suited for according to the evaluations per her recommendations by the exit team from high school. She refused to remain in the position. It lasted only two weeks. She wants to attend computer training courses. But no high school diploma and I am now disabled on a set income am unable to fund such courses. We tried adult education two teachers two students they refused to be able to spend enough time to assist her in the classroom. Her waiver workers are teaching her money skills. Math reading and computers. She passed the eighth grade leap and has great potential. If only someone would give her an opportunity to believe she can and maybe an entrepreneurial program of some sort. Living in a rural area is difficult for those without disabilities to find decent work. For someone with autism would mean much more work and funding to assist in development of such a working environment. Not impossible though! I would like to see more geared to those who were let fall in the cracks because they were not given full advantage of the least restrictive environment as the younger adults today. We need a program geared for them. Please.

**<End of email>**

Sent: Tuesday, June 11, 2019 4:13 PM

To: Sandee Winchell <Sandee.Winchell@LA.GOV>

Cc: Shawn Fleming <Shawn.Fleming@LA.GOV>

Subject: Fw: LaDDC\_ActionPlan\_FFY2020\_Draft\_Approved\_May23.2019

Today, I spoke with Deputy Director Shawn Fleming about ideas that may be conducted for Parent Leaders based on their interests.

Please consider providing training for Parents with regard to seeking appointments and subsequently serving in various roles/positions on State-level boards, commissions, task forces, committees, and the like.

Additionally, please consider an annual State or district training seminar/ workshop/ symposium:

- Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council
- Advocacy Center Louisiana
- Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD)
- University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD)
- LSU Health Sciences Center Human Development Center
- Partners In Policymaking (Louisiana)
- Louisiana Council's Advocacy Network (LaCAN)
- Families Helping Families
- Organizational Structure
- Advocacy, Capacity Building & Systems Change
- Stepping Up to be a Servant Leader
- Serving in State Leadership Positions
- Orientation, Roles & Responsibilities
- Conflict of Interest

- Conflict Resolution
  - Boardsmanship & Code of Conduct
  - Board of Ethics
  - Louisiana Division of Administration & Overview of State Disability-related Council's, Agencies, Boards, Commissions, Task forces, ...
  - Overview of the State Legislature as a Key Constituent-Advocate Resource for Advocacy, Systems Change, Capacity Building
  - State Attorney General
  - Protocol of Meetings
  - Serving on Selection/ Nominating/ Membership Committee
  - Public Comment
  - Balancing Act: Personal, Professional, Community Service/Volunteerism
  - The webinar presenter: FHFGBR webinar Triggers Controlling the On/Off Switch s Management (5/22/19)
- <End of email>**

Sent: Sunday, June 16, 2019 2:02 PM  
To: Courtney Ryland <Courtney.Ryland2@la.gov>  
Subject: PIP graduate

Hi Courtney-

It was nice meeting and speaking with you during Partners. I am interested in starting to advocate for family restrooms to accommodate families with medical and behavioral needs so their caretakers may be able to appropriately care for them with privacy and safety. Is this something the DD Council would be interested in looking into and supporting? Please let me know what we can do.

**<End of email>**