



Executive Director's Report January 28-29, 2026 Council Meeting

Budget

- The budget report with expenditures through December 2025 is included in the packet.
 - The Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 Budget Request was submitted to the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) before the October 25th deadline.

Program Performance Report (PPR)

- The PPR for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2025 was electronically submitted to the Office of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (OIDD) before the December 30th deadline. The Council will receive feedback on the PPR in Spring 2026.

Appropriations

- The 2026 fiscal year started October 1st, but Congress did not pass legislation allocating funding for the federal budget. Therefore the U.S. government shutdown until November 12th. Congress passed a Continuing Resolution (CR), but has yet to pass a budget for FFY26 to provide funding for Councils and the rest of the federal government. If Congress fails to pass a budget or a Continuing Resolution (CR) by January 30th a partial government shutdown will occur.
- The Council's 1st installment of FY2026 funding was received December 12th.

Membership Update

- Nominees selected as recommendations for appointment at the October 2025 quarterly Council meeting were submitted to the Governor's Office of Boards and Commissions November 3rd. Nominees include:
 - Individual with Developmental Disability Seat: Landon Hanks
 - Parent/Immediate Relative Seats: Audrey Gilliam and Melinda Perrodin
 - Alternates: Lorenza Lawless, Latoya Carnahan and Tammy DeBiasi
- Frank Macaluso's reappointment by the Governor is still pending.
- Appointments for State agency representatives including Constance Alphonse (LSU HDC), Lauren Wells (LDOE) are pending. Julie Foster Hagan has been reassigned within the Department of Health and Bernard Brown will now represent (OCDD).

Office Update/Staff Changes

- LaDDC office move was completed on December 3rd. The new address is 4354 S. Sherwood Forest Blvd., Suite 200, Baton Rouge, LA 70816. All quarterly Council meetings will now be held at the new office.
- There are two Program Monitor positions open at this time. The Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) has implemented a "Request to Advertise" and "Request to Hire" approval process. In order to fill vacant positions, the LDH Secretary must issue an approval to advertise for vacant positions and hire once a candidate is selected. These additional steps have delayed hiring for the Monitor positions.



Staff Professional Development

- I attended the Executive Director Leadership Summit (EDLS) in Hershey, PA from October 19th – 22nd. State DD Council ED's had the opportunity to share thoughts, concerns, opportunities, and promising practices and ideas on how to efficiently operate DD Councils with level funding and raising costs. National speaker, Nancy Thaler also presented on "Leadership in Challenging Times" and ITACC give information on best practices and compliance for State Plan development.

LaCAN

- The Council voted to include "Require school districts to conduct Functional Behavior Assessments and develop Behavior Intervention Plans before continued removals" on the advocacy agenda at the October 2025 meeting. However, the issue has been removed from the 2026 legislative agenda. Instead, this item will be addressed through the Council's Education Committee in collaboration with the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) so the most appropriate path forward (e.g., Legislature, BESE, SEAP, etc.) can be identified.
- Factsheets are being developed for the remaining agenda items and will be posted to the Council's website and distributed to Council members, LaCAN Leaders and FHF Centers/Directors to be used during legislative visits and member meetings prior to the start of the 2026 legislative session.
- Region 4 currently has a LaCAN leader position available. Self-Advocates and family members living in the Acadiana area are encouraged to apply.
- LaCAN Leaders are planning regional legislative roundtables in collaboration with their Families Helping Families Centers. Roundtables will be completed virtually or hybrid (depending on the region) prior to the start of legislative session. The Roundtable schedule can be found [here](#). Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

Advocacy Activities and Provision of Information

Community Supports

- At this time, there has been no progress on the public release of the rate methodology study. The study was presented to Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) leadership in August or September. During the Council's October meeting, stakeholders were informed that LDH planned to revise the study to make it more accessible to the general public and expected it to be released within a few weeks.
- National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD) continues to host bi-weekly calls where various updates are provided on federal legislation, policies, and conversations on Capitol Hill that will or may impact Councils, the DD Network and/or individuals with I/DD and their families.

Education

- Met with staff from LDOE to discuss FBAs and the need to ensure they are completed timely before excessive removals. Shared information from community input and the possibility of seeking legislation to address issue. LDOE committed to strengthen guidance around current FBA policies which are aligned with federal policies.

General

- The Council's new website launched October 22nd. The contractor, Gatorworks, attended the Self-Determination/Community Inclusion Committee meeting October 29th and gave a short tour of the new site and features.



- Provided information through the Council’s LaDDC Newsletters, Facebook and Twitter on various issues of interest to people with developmental disabilities and their families

Additional Meetings Attended by Council Staff
Time Period: October – December 2025

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NACDD Network Call	Bi-weekly
Monthly Meeting with OCDD	October 1, 2025
LaCAN Leader Call	October 2, 2025
LaDDC Membership Committee	October 7, 2025
OCDD State Advisory Committee	October 8, 2025
Legislative Ad Hoc Committee	October 16, 2025
LaDDC October Quarterly Meeting	October 29 - 30, 2025
COPAA Virtual Town Hall	November 4, 2025
LaCAN Leader Call	November 6, 2025
Louisiana Department of Education	November 10, 2025
Self-Direction Quarterly Meeting	December 10, 2025
Impact Project Webinar	December 11, 2025

Monthly Meeting with Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD)

Participated in monthly meeting with OCDD staff to share and discuss updates from respective agencies. Discussed community input received as the Council prepares its advocacy agenda. Also received an update on the rate study.

LaCAN Monthly Leader Call

This quarter calls focused on leader responsibilities outside of legislative session, preparing for the upcoming session, discussion of community input, the Council’s advocacy agenda and the need to find legislative support for all issues, especially Functional Behavior Assessment changes, which would require a legislator to author legislation.

OCDD State Advisory Committee (SAC)

Multiple updates were shared by the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities and Regional Advisory Committees.

Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates Virtual Town Hall

Participated in town hall to discuss current and proposed changes in the federal Department of Education and how those changes may impact students with disabilities. Ongoing advocacy efforts were discussed.

Self-Direction Quarterly Meeting

Partnered with Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities to host its quarterly self-direction meeting. Meeting focused on progress made within the year and planning for 2026.

Impact Project Webinar

Participated in the Impact Project Webinar hosted by NACDD and ITACC. This project is designed to collect specific information from Council’s to share with federal partners and policymakers to highlight the important roles Councils play in systems change efforts.



Stephanie Carmona:

Partners in Policymaking Selection Committee
New Website Training
Program Performance Report TA Office Hours
Impact Project Webinar

October 14, 2025
October 23, 2025
November 7, 2025
December 11, 2025

Partners in Policymaking Selection Committee

Attended Partners in Policymaking Selection Committee for the 2026 class. The committee worked to choose people from different parts of the state, and making sure to include self-advocates, dads, and people with different kinds of disabilities.

New Website Training

Staff attended a training with Gatorworks to learn how to use the new website, including how to edit pages and add posts. We also talked about fixing user accounts, adding a "Register Today" button, keeping news and alerts separate, and checking the website to make sure it is accessible for people with disabilities.

PPR TA Office Hours

Attended office hours with the Information and Technical Assistance Center for Councils on Developmental Disabilities (ITACC) on Program Performance Report (PPR).

Additional Meetings Attended by Executive Director

- Post-secondary Inclusive Education Advisory Council (PIEAC) October 1, 2024
- DD Council Quarterly Engagement Call December 3, 2025
- New Data & Strategies for Medicaid Advocacy December 17, 2025

