

Chair's Report

Greetings Council Members,

Welcome to our July quarterly meeting. I hope everyone is doing well and looking forward to the work ahead. I want to thank each of you for the time and knowledge you bring to this Council and for your continued commitment to serving people with developmental disabilities and their families throughout Louisiana.

Meetings & Professional Development

Since our last quarterly meeting, I have participated in the following meetings, workshops, webinars, and professional development opportunities:

- Kagan Cooperative Learning Day Training - March 2026 (*not included in the previous Chair's Report*)
- Supporting Positive Wellness and Mental Health Outcomes for Children and Adolescents with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Virtual Workshop - June 3, 2026
- All Hazards Emergency Preparedness for People with Disabilities Webinar - June 3, 2026
- Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP) Meeting - June 17, 2026
- Advocacy 101 Webinar - June 22, 2026
- Preparedness for All: Including People with Disabilities in Emergency Planning Webinar - June 24, 2026
- Louisiana Council's Advocacy Network (LaCAN) Statewide Member Meeting - July 1, 2026
- Council Orientation - July 9, 2026
- Accommodations vs. Modifications Webinar - July 21, 2026
- Special Education FAQ 3.0 Workshop - July 22, 2026

These opportunities covered several areas that directly connect to our work, including advocacy, special education, mental health and wellness, and emergency preparedness. As Chair, I believe it is important that I continue learning, remain connected to the issues affecting our communities, and represent the Council in spaces that support our mission.

Moving Our Work Forward

As we continue our work, I encourage us to remain focused not only on the responsibilities before us, but also on the people our decisions affect. The policies we discuss, the plans we approve, and the advocacy efforts we support have real-life implications for people with developmental disabilities and their families throughout Louisiana.

Every member brings a different perspective to the table, and that is one of the Council's greatest strengths. Thoughtful discussion allows us to learn from one another and make stronger, more informed decisions. I encourage everyone to continue sharing your knowledge, asking questions, and remaining actively involved in the work of your committees.

Chair's Reflection

Leadership is not only about holding a position. It is about being willing to listen, learn, collaborate, and remain accountable to the purpose of the work. As Chair, I continue to reflect on how I can serve this Council effectively while ensuring that different voices and perspectives are heard and respected.

How can I use my voice, experience, and position on this Council to help create meaningful change?

Our individual contributions may look different, but each one is important. When we remain connected to our purpose and work together, we strengthen the Council's ability to advocate for people with developmental disabilities and their families across Louisiana. Thank you for your continued service and commitment.