



Self-Determination and Community Inclusion Committee Meeting Summary

Wednesday, July 29, 2026

12:45 PM – 2:30 PM

4354 S. Sherwood Forest Blvd., Ste. 200, Baton Rouge, LA 70816

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

View meeting [transcript](#).

Members Present: Patti Barovechio, Mike Billings, Ayden Blunsch, Alaina Chachere, Cheri Crain, Brian Bennett, Jill Hano, Angela Harmon, Cherie Kelly-Adulli, Robby Smith, Gearry Williams

Members Absent: Landon Hanks, Frank Macaluso, Pasqueal Nguyen, Karen Xu

Staff: Brenton Andrus, Taylor Barber, Rekeesha Branch, Lauren Brown, Stephanie Carmona, Ebony Haven

Others Present: Bernard Brown, Brandi Croft, Nicole DeJean, Erin Downing, Liam Doyle, Ashley Duresseau, Rowan DeJean, Mylinda Elliott, April Hampton, Lynsey Hebert, Chanel Jackson, Erika Joseph, Ashley McReynolds, Amy Miller, Jacki Pierce, Bambi Polotzola, Susan Riehn, Kimberly Ramos, Kristen Reed, Ashley Volion, Renoda Washington

Call to Order & Quorum

Jill Hano called the meeting to order at 12:56PM. A quorum was established, meaning enough members were present to make decisions.

Meeting Summary Approval

Motion to approve the [April Meeting Summary](#) made by Mike Billings, second by Ayden Blunsch, passed with no objections or abstentions.

Non-Contractual Activities

Brian Bennett (Medicaid), Gearry Williams (Office of Aging and Adult Services) and Bernard Brown (Office of Intellectual and Developmental Disability Supports) shared multiple updates about their departments. Some of these updates can be found in their agency reports which are included in your Council meeting packet and on the Council's [meeting page](#).

Brian Bennett provided a few updates from Medicaid. House Bill 1 from the 2025 session allocated funding for Durable Medical Equipment rates so, they are working on increasing rates to align them with rates provided by the Medicare program. House Bill 222 for

Dental Services passed to allow coverage for dental procedures found medically necessary to be cleared for a Medicaid covered procedure.

Geary Williams reported that OAAS just put out an RFI (Request for Information) for PACE (Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly) to gain information to possibly open PACE (Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly) centers across the state and offer satellite locations in rural areas. During the 2026 Legislative Session there were 750 Community Choices Waiver slots added, and they are currently in the process of filling those slots. They would like to fill those slots based on need and not use the first come first serve process they have in the past. OAAS will be hosting town halls to provide an overview of their plan to revamp and change things moving forward.

Bernard Brown from OIDDs stated they just hosted a mini summit for the rate study. All data from the QR codes provided at the meeting have been collected and are currently being analyzed to help determine what the next steps will be for the rate study. Support Coordination Satisfaction Surveys will be going out to families by email within the next 2 weeks. These surveys will be used to collect data and determine if quality services are being provided. It is very important to make sure support coordination agency has correct email address and contact information to ensure everyone receives the survey.

Contractual Activities

The committee received multiple updates on contractual activities including Partners in Policymaking (PIP), LaCAN, Families Helping Families Resources Centers (FHF) and other initiatives of the Council that began with the Fiscal Year 2026 Action Plan. Additional information about these activities can be found in the Council's quarterly [Status of Planned Activities Report](#) under goals one and two in addition to reports linked in the committee's [agenda](#).

Meeting was adjourned at 02:09 PM.