LOUISIANA DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL

CHAIR'S REPORT

Greetings Council Members,

Welcome to our October quarterly meeting. I hope everyone is doing well. As we come together for our final quarterly meeting of 2026, I want to thank each of you for your continued commitment to serving individuals with developmental disabilities and their families throughout Louisiana. Our work as a Council requires dedication, collaboration, and a willingness to continue learning. I encourage each of us to remain focused on the work ahead and the difference we can make through our collective efforts.

Meetings and Professional Development

Since our July quarterly meeting, I have continued participating in professional development opportunities and meetings focused on special education and supporting individuals with disabilities.

September 2, 2026 Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP) Meeting

September 15, 2026 IEP Basics for Middle/High School

September 29, 2026 Drafting the General Student Population

October 20, 2026 Functional Sign Language to Use With Your Students

October 27, 2026 (Scheduled) Early Childhood SPED Charting and ESYS

These professional development opportunities have provided additional insight into the importance of communication, appropriate educational supports, individualized planning, and accurate documentation. They also reinforce the importance of collaboration among educators, families, and service providers in supporting individuals with developmental disabilities.

Looking Ahead: January Council Retreat

As we look forward to our Council Retreat in January, I am excited about the opportunity for us to come together, strengthen relationships, and grow as a team. This retreat will provide an opportunity to build trust, improve communication, and gain a better understanding of one another and our roles as Council members. I encourage everyone to approach this time with an open mind and a willingness to engage, learn, and connect. I look forward to the fellowship and the opportunity to strengthen the relationships that support our work as a Council.

Chair's Reflection

As I reflect on the work of this Council, I want to remind each of you that your service matters. We may not always see the immediate results of our efforts, but every step we take toward improving the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families is important. I encourage you to continue using your voice, sharing your ideas, and remembering why you chose to serve. I also encourage you to be intentional about making time for yourself and those closest to you. Take time to rest, relax, and enjoy your families. The work we do is important, but so is our personal well-being and being present for the people who depend on us.

Thank you for your continued commitment to this Council. My prayer is that each of you continues to grow, find balance, and be your best self, both personally and in your service to others. I look forward to seeing everyone in January.

Renoda Washington
Council Chair