

Executive Director's Report April 17-18, 2013 Council Meeting

Budget

- The budget report with expenditures through February 2013 is included in the packet.

Membership Update

- Since my last written report, Deshae Lott Sadow, Erin Smith, Stephen Osborn and Laura Brackin were appointed to the Council and Chasedee Noto was reappointed.
- We are still awaiting the reappointment of Hugh Eley and the appointments of Patsy White, Kris Hebert, Lilian Wise, Rickii Ainey, Tracy Brown, Jason Durham, Melinda Ganes, Krista Scurria, and Monica Simmons.
- Mary Elizabeth Christian submitted her resignation from the Council.

New Council Website

- The Council's new website went live on Friday, March 15th but we waited until Monday, March 25th to announce it in an edition of LaDDC News. The new site is organized around the Council's areas of emphasis and includes news, resources, and the Council's positions and initiatives in each area.
- It is also arranged in the areas of public policy and advocacy, capacity building and systems change. The site now includes full information on LaCAN and LaTEACH, rather than maintaining separate sites for these groups.

Program Performance Review (PPR)

- Our Federal Fiscal Year 2012 PPR was submitted to the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD) before the deadline of March 15th.

DD Council Federal Appropriations

- We received notification on March 21st that due to Sequestration, our FFY 2013 grant funding will be reduced by approximately \$58,000. This is an estimate by the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and is subject to change.

Advocacy Activities

- Numerous legislators have been visited to provide information and support to some of our Council members and LaCAN/LaTEACH members. Council staff also participated in ten roundtables to support our LaCAN Leaders and LaTEACH Coordinators and assist in educating legislators and Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) members on the Council's agenda throughout the state.

- A letter was sent to BESE members urging them not to move forward with the Department of Education's proposed changes to the Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) but convene a task force of stakeholders to study funding issues.
- LaTEACH members were supported in expressing concerns at two BESE meetings regarding changes to the MFP. Shawn also provided public comments at these meetings. BESE passed the MFP with the proposed changes to funding for special education in spite of opposition from every group discussing the proposed changes. The only support expressed for the MFP formula was from individuals not impacted by the proposed changes.
- LaCAN organized a "yellow shirt day" in the Appropriations Committee in support of funding for an additional 200 NOW slots when the Department of Health and Hospitals' (DHH) budget was being heard. Rep. Rogers Pope publicly committed to work with other committee members to find funding for the 200 slots.
- A meeting was held with DHH Deputy Secretary Kathy Kliebert, Office of Public Health (OPH) Assistant Secretary J. T. Lane, and OPH Medical Director Dr. Takeisha Davis to discuss budget cuts and clinic closures at Children's Special Health Services.
- A letter was written to Appropriations Committee Chairman Jim Fannin in response to his request for the Council's position on capping the NOW.
- As directed by the Council at the January meeting, a letter of complaint and request for technical assistance was sent to the U. S. Office of Special Education Programs regarding the Special Education Advisory Panel.
- A letter was sent to the Governor requesting his reconsideration of Medicaid expansion, citing the benefits to people in Louisiana with developmental disabilities.
- A letter of support for DHH's Balancing Incentive Payment Program application was written to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Collaborative Efforts

Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP)

- SEAP recommended that the Department of Education (DOE) and BESE not move forward with the proposed changes to the Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) but instead convene a task force to further study the issue and recommend changes to take effect for the FY2014-15 school year.
- Shawn provided public comment regarding changes to the MFP at the January and February SEAP meetings.
- The function of SEAP improved at the February meeting with members being allowed to propose and consider agenda items and votes were made on positions regarding policies that would impact students with disabilities.
- Complete information on SEAP meetings is now available on the DOE website.

La. Rehabilitation Services (LRS) Employment Model Steering Committee

- The following recommendations will be presented to the LRS Director:
 - Streamline the referral process
 - Improve client orientation
 - Change the Order of Selection
 - Pilot an initiative in 2 regions of the state to increase the effectiveness of job placement. A contract would be written with an employment provider to include hiring an employment consultant and training specialist and include quotas and performance incentives.
- Recommendations already approved by the Director include:
 - Changes to production data
 - Reducing required milestones while adding incentivizations for job placements with above “substantial gainful activity (SGA) level”
 - Extending the minimum time to 90 days to be considered employment

Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) Mortality Review Committee

- Of the 25 cases reviewed this quarter, the Committee noted no issues of abuse/neglect and requested no corrective action plans.

OCDD Employment First Workgroup

- Two committees (Data and Rate) were formed to develop specific recommendations, but the Rate Committee has not yet met. No decisions have been made by the Data Committee.

La. Rehabilitation Council (LRC)

- The LRC took action on several items including approving a variety of administrative issues concerning Bylaws, legislative interaction, meeting locations, and a new logo. The new committees continued work on identifying data to request from La. Rehabilitation Services.
- The advertised public hearing had no participants.

Louisiana Association of People Supporting EmploymentFirst (APSE)

- APSE advocates for integrated employment and career advancement opportunities for individuals with disabilities
- Vision and Mission statements and an Action Plan are in the process of being developed

Louisiana Oral Health Coalition

- The Coalition’s five Committees (Access, Education (of consumers), Prevention, Surveillance and Evaluation, and Workforce) each developed one priority goal and an action plan through March 2014.
- The Access Committee chose as its goal to “support the development and stability of dental programs in Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), School-Based Health Centers and other safety net dental clinics/programs.”

- Most of the other committees also addressed persons with disabilities, i.e. the education committee talked about outreach to people with developmental disabilities, and the workforce committee included increasing dentists' knowledge of treating people with disabilities.
- One proposal included mandating as a condition of licensure, dentists serving a certain percentage of uninsured and poor patients.

OCDD Provider Online Data Work Group

The group identified the following changes/provider characteristics that possibly could be listed online without much effort, rule change, etc.:

- List providers by number of years providing home and community based services rather than alphabetically
- Provider turnover statistics from the Dept. of Labor
- Turnover of recipients and SIS levels of recipients served
- Whether or not a provider is/has/does:
 - Accredited
 - Electronic timekeeping
 - External audit
 - Good standing with the state
 - Completed a quality improvement plan and process
 - Formal process for consumer/family involvement and/or governance
- Other recommendations to include:
 - Staff turnover rate
 - Percentage of shifts that staff do not show up
 - Percentage of shifts that staff show up late and leave early
 - Satisfaction of recipients with execution of plan of care

Other Collaborative Efforts

- State Interagency Coordinating Council
- Money Follows the Person Grant Coordinating Committee

Meetings Attended Since January 1, 2013

Meeting w/ Jefferson Parish Human Services Authority (JPHSA) Executive Director Lisa Rhoden – January 3

State Interagency Coordinating Council – January 9

Meeting w/ Magellan/La. Behavioral Health Partnership, Stephanie Patrick, parents – January 11

Meeting with B. Greenstein, K. Kliebert, L. Brackin, S. Beech, K. Marcel – January 15

Council Meeting and Orientation – January 15 – 17

Legislative Roundtable in Lake Charles – January 22

OCDD Employment First Work Group – January 23

Legislative Roundtable in Mandeville – January 24

Partners in Policymaking presentation – January 25

Legislative Roundtable in Lafayette - January 28
OCDD Provider Data Work Group – January 29
Money Follows the Person Coordinating Committee – January 29
Meeting w/ Sen. Chabert in Houma – February 21
Meeting w/ Sen. Donahue in Mandeville – February 26
Planning Ad Hoc Committee – February 28
Meeting w/ Sen. Broome – March 6
Meeting w/ K. Kliebert, L. Brackin, B. Burris, S. Beech re: DD Council appointments –
March 13
Meeting w/ J. T. Lane, T. Davis, K. Kliebert re: Children’s Special Health Services –
March 20
DHH Conference Call re: Preparation for Appropriations Committee – March 20
DHH Budget in Appropriations Committee – March 26