

EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
Monday, September 19, 2022  
12:00PM - 1:30PM

The meeting was called to order and the roll was called.

Committee Members	Present	Proxy	Proxy Name	Absent	Agency/Affiliate/Representing
Andrea Lowe*	√				
Gerlinde Beckers	√				
Jerrie Williams*				X	
Karen Collins*	√				
Kelly Monroe*	√				
Marsha Andrews	√				
Mary Breaud*	√				
Nicole Flores	√				
Pasquel Nguyen	√				
Robert Garcia*				XX	
Tim Delaney*	√				
Anne Jayes				XX	Lighthouse LA
Brenda Sharp	√				LDH-OCDD
Meredith Jordan	√				LDE
Melissa Bayham	√				LWC- LRS
<i>Lynette Fontenot*</i>	√				<i>GACDA Chairperson</i>
<i>Kathy Allen*</i>				XX	<i>GACDA Vice-Chair</i>
<i>Bambi Polotzola</i>	√				<i>GODA</i>
Attendees	Agency/Affiliate/Representing		Attendees	Agency/Affiliate/Representing	
Jim Mitchell*			Susan Rhein	FHF	
Amber Harris	ULM		Brenda Bares	FHF	
Brenton Andrus	DD Council		Karen Artus	FHF	
Chanel Jackson	FHF		Laureen Mayfield		
Christina Kozik			Ebony Haven	DD Council	
Harlon Cowsar	FHF		Rikki David	State ADA Coordinator	
Jodi Rollins			Myllinda Elliot	FHF	
Lynette Bech			Stacey Guidry	FHF	
Marilyn Thorton	FHF		Kristie Curtis	FHF	
Staff	Agency		Staff	Agency	
KeAndria Henry	GODA		Alishia Vallien	SICC/GODA	
Lillian Dejean	GODA				

### Discuss [Local Special Education Advisory Councils](#)

Nicole Flores went over changes to the Council. Membership should include at least eight members. If there are not eight members, the superintendent or head of the local school district should provide a rationale. Nicole opened the floor up to discussion about how to implement/help councils with these changes.

Meredith Jordan discussed what LDOE was going to engage with the Councils. LDOE met with district leaders to update them on compliance issues. Districts were told to look for information on how the state will be collecting data prior to the May deadline.

Districts were asked to send links to the state where their reports are posted on their website. Meredith Jordan posted the link for the Guidance for Leading Inclusive Special Education Programs. ([guidance-for-leading-inclusive-special-education-programs---engaging-key-stakeholders-to-support-success-for-all-students-\(august-2022\).pdf](#) ([louisianabelieves.com](#)))

It was recommended doing another survey to develop a needs assessment for those districts who might need additional assistance. Lynette Fontenot motioned to survey districts to determine their needs. Tim Delaney second motion. No discussions. No objections. Committee will survey the districts again just to see where they are now and try to provide support as needed by the individual districts. The survey will be sent to the directors and supervisors of special education.

Bambi Polotzola stated that letters were sent out after the March meeting and that is where the data of the makeup since the law was passed. In the June meeting, a letter was sent to the special education directors advising how to implement the law.

### [Postsecondary Inclusive Education Fund](#)

Dr. Gerlinde Beckers is the chair of the Postsecondary Inclusive Education committee. The Committee has met twice. The next meeting is October 17.

[Act 682](#) established a fund to support continuing and initiate post-secondary inclusive education programs across Louisiana. The legislature appropriated \$1Million during the 2022 Legislative Session.

They are developing an application process to take applications for how to disperse the funding.

Dr. Beckers advised alums to contact her if they would like to start a program on their campus.

They are very interested in developing programs in the northern part of the state.

Alishia Vallien asked if established programs have priority

Dr. Gerlinde Beckers stated that they do not. There is an application that everyone must fill out.

Alishia Vallien asked if geography would be considered.

Dr. Gerlinde Beckers stated that geography will be considered.

### [Cameras in certain classroom](#)

Meredith Jordan

Meredith Jordan stated there is \$8 million to support this initiative. School systems will be informed that funds will be ready by the end of September. They should begin

planning how parents can request cameras. An electronic grant application will be released requiring school systems to upload their policy.

Nicole Flores is asking when the follow up meeting will be held.

Dr. Gerlinde Beckers asked Meredith Jordan to confirm if December would be okay to have a follow up meeting; Meredith agreed.

Meredith Jordan provided the pdf, which shows the school system's camera allocations starting on page 27.

5. Discuss utilizing IEPs for determining accommodations in Louisiana Universities

Timothy Delaney

Timothy Delaney says they will accept all IEPs as long as they are updated in 12th grade.

Marsha Andrews asked if it is for all universities.

Tim Delaney stated that it currently is not all universities.

Marsha Andrews asked if someone was to receive a letter from their doctor, will it be accepted.

Tim Delaney stated only if it is on an official letterhead.

6. Special School District Superintendent Search Alishia Vallien

Alishia Vallien stated that a search firm to help with the search for a new superintendent and a link will be provided for those that may be interested.

7. Related Services Advisory Council Dr. Amber Harris

Dr. Amber Harris stated that LA is behind in maintaining special services ratios.

Dr. Lauren Mayfield commented that, "GACDA members need to know what Dr. Amber Harris is describing is illegal, in direct opposition to the requirements of IDEA."

Dr. Amber Harris stated that there are not enough training programs to help get people certified.

The Council will provide a report to legislatures once a year with suggestions for changes and best practices.

Dr. Amber Harris stated that their next meeting will be held in December.

Dr. Amber Harris confirmed that this is a statewide issue with related services.

Tim Delaney asked what are the penalties to those districts that do not follow the rules.

Dr. Amber Harris stated that there are not a lot of penalties. It usually comes to light when a parent brings it up.

Nicole Flores stated that it may be helpful to see how we compare to other states.

Dr. Amber Harris stated that Nicole's suggestion is great to take back to the commission.

Medicaid billing impacts special services.

Wayne Stuart is Chair of Council. Dr. Amber Harris is Vice Chair.

Council will look at data from other states. Dr. Amber Harris is concerned about accurate data reporting.

Dr. Amber Harris believes that the focus of the December meeting will be about how to collect and verify the data.

Andrea Lowe asked if there are any benefits tied to reporting.

There is no accountability for who is getting services.

Jodi Rollins expressed the difficulty that parents have when contacting LDOE. She stated parents do not know how to file complaints.

Andrea Lowe suggested holding leaders to the fire.

Dr. Amber Harris is an Autism mom. She is willing to come back to update us on the work of the Council in the December meeting. She put her email in the chat.

[boykin@ulm.edu](mailto:boykin@ulm.edu)

8. Public Comment                      Bambi reminded everyone of upcoming meetings.

9. Adjournment

Lynette motioned to adjourn. Andrea Lowe seconded. There was no opposition.

Meeting adjourned at 1:28.

DRAFT

ACCESSIBILITY COMMITTEE  
 Tuesday, September 20, 2022  
 10:00AM – 12:00PM

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Meeting was called to order at 10:01 Roll call, Bambi Polotzola

Committee Members	Present	Proxy	Proxy Name	Absent	Agency/Affiliate/Representing
Andrea Lowe*	√				
Andrew Kuyoro*	√				
Beau Ellerbee*	√				
Gerlinde Beckers	√				
Jerrie Williams*				XX	
Jessica Michot*	√				
Jim Mitchell	√				
Karen Collins*	√				
Karen Scallan*	√				
Nicole Flores	√				
Pasqueal Nguyen	√				
Sharon Hennessey*	√				
Tim Delaney*				X	
Amy Dawson	√				GOHSEP
Brett Domangue		√	Lyndee		LDH-OCDD
Celia Alexander	√				DCFS
Erin Downing	√				LDH-OCDD
Lynette Fontenot*	√				Chairperson
Kathy Allen				XX	Vice-Chair
Bambi Polotzola	√				GODA
Attendees	Agency/Affiliate/Representing		Attendees	Agency/Affiliate/Representing	
Tory Rocca*			John Schweitzer	LRS	
Amy Deaville	DD Council		Kristie Curtis		
Brenda Cosse			Michelle Guillory	GOEA	
Cliff Melius	CRT		Rikki David	State ADA Coordinator	
Jana Broussard	LCD		Veneeth Iyengar	GUMBO	
Staff	Agency		Staff	Agency	
KeAndria Henry	GODA		Alishia Vallien	SICC	
Lillian Dejean	GODA				

## 2. [Granting Unserved Municipalities Broadband Opportunities \(GUMBO\)](#)

*Veneeth Iyengar, Broadband Director, OTS*

Thanked everyone for attending The Inaugural Broadband Solution Summit that took place August 31, 2022. NTIA

NITA announced that we're the first state in the country to receive funding from the Broad Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill on broadband.

Louisiana is the first in the country to receive approval, to draw down on 2 separate pots of money.

They have partnered with the Board of Regents in a coalition of universities led by Stephen Barnes at the Blanco Center. Stephen is going to lead the construction of the digital inclusion plan.

We have 270 days by law, 9 months from the moment the grant agreement is signed, to come up with the digital inclusion plan.

If approved, we will receive 20 to 25 million dollars over 4 or 5 years.

Starting September 27th from 10-12, the first stakeholder effort plan, focusing on the digital inclusion plan, will take place in Lafayette, LA.

Veneeth also recommends Bambi or Jim to join the meeting on September 27th, if possible; there may be a virtual option available.

Kade Jones will send an invite to Bambi to be disseminated amongst those that are in the meeting.

There will be a total of eight regional meetings. If you cannot attend the regional meetings, there will be a website to solicit feedback and comments.

Dr. Jim Mitchell recommended providing specific details as soon as possible for those who may be commuting from a different city and confirming if meeting locations are accessible.

They are going to take a step back from making gumbo announcements in order to focus building foundational work as they get ready for the infrastructure.

Bambi attended the summit virtually and expressed how informative it was.

Dr. Jim Mitchell stated that has had issues logging into the meetings. Veneeth responded by stating that it will be better this time.

There will be a meeting in Lafayette. Bambi will receive details and distribute that information.

3. Office of Technology Services, Division of Administration 10:25am  
*Erin Hernandez – no show, no representation*

4. [Louisiana State Parks](#), Department of Culture Recreation and Tourism 10:45am  
*Clifford Melius, Deputy Assistant Secretary*

Fontainebleau State Park will be constructing a universal accessible playground.

\$1 million will be spent on two accessible playgrounds at state parks.

Goal is to have accessible playgrounds throughout the state.

Discussed artwork that will be in Bogue Chitto State Park Kid's Trail,

Sam Houston Jones State Park has been reopened. It has been improved. There is a new campground. All 31 campsites are ADA accessible.

Also opened 10 brand new cabins at Sam Houston Jones State Park.

Will be doing a concrete nature trail that will connect throughout the entire park. Poverty Point World Heritage Site has a contract that will produce an app to make the mounds and other sites come to life.

The next phase of this project will be to repeat at other sites.

Cliff Melius included his business card.

Jim Mitchell asked about other organizations to work with; Cliff Melius answered that other organizations host meetings, conferences, etc.,...

Jim Mitchell asked about the accessibility of interpretive materials; Clifford Melius spoke about the many different upgrades that will be happening (listen recording).

Marsha Andrews asked about allowing service animals. 10% of cabins are pet friendly; All pets are welcomed, as long as they are on a leash.

James Mitchell asked if “glamping” is advertised; Clifford Melius stated that is it.

Beau Ellerbee asked if the app has been tested for accessibility; Clifford Melius stated that it has.

Bambi expressed gratitude for Clifford’s excitement to be a part of this meeting.

## 5. Results of the [State As a Model Employer \(SAME\)](#) Survey Results

*Dr. Jim Mitchell and Marsha Andrews*

Marsha Andrews presented data from the SAME Survey Data Analysis by Marsha Andrews, Jim Mitchell, and John Schweitzer.

The purpose is to have an in-depth analysis of the SAME Survey, figure out if the SAME Survey can act as an evaluation instrument and see if there are any suggestions that should be made for the SAME Survey. There were 11,012 people who responded to the survey.

Marsha Andrews included her email in the comments. ([marsha.andrews@la.gov](mailto:marsha.andrews@la.gov)). Bambi asked Marsha to send her the powerpoint, via email, so that she (Bambi) can send it to everyone.

The SAME Survey Data Analysis can be viewed by clicking on the link below:

[SAME Survey Data Analysis Presentation.pptx](#)

## 6. Updates from the [State ADA Coordinator Office](#) (HB143)

*Rikki David*

The act requires one hour of training.

Dr. Kuyoro suggested that there is an annual conference/meeting so that everyone will be on the same page.

Rikki David stated that, although there is not a conference, she does give a quarterly update.

Dr. Kuyoro asked Bambi about hiring staff to assist.

Bamai informed Andrew that she does not have the ability to hire staff but she will advocate for the needs from the ADA’s office.

Rikki David added that it is the DOA’s office that is in charge of hiring additional staff.

Discussion ensued on giving Rikki David additional staff.

## 7. Updates: [LA Commission of Deaf](#) (SB 98 / Act 128) J. Broussard

1.) Interpreter Needs Assessment- LCD is working with consultant group Innivee Strategies on a statewide interpreter assessment. The goal of this assessment is to

- Gather key data from stakeholders on expectations for standards in the states
- Conduct a comparison of similar frameworks in other states
- Develop a comprehensive report with recommendations for a multi-year implementation plan

LCD requests members of the Accessibility committee familiar with ASL interpreters to provide stakeholder input and consider signing up for a focus group with Innivee Strategies.

- Stakeholder groups will consist of:
  - o Deaf, DeafBlind and hard of hearing consumers of ASL interpreting services
  - o Organizations who coordinate interpreting services for the public
  - o Individuals who hire and/or often request interpreting services for their work (such as doctors, educational system administrators, government employees, etc)
  - o ASL Interpreters
- In addition, a survey will be going out over the next few weeks for another opportunity for participation. LCD will send the survey link to the Accessibility Committee members
- If you are interested in joining a focus group, please use the following link. If assistance is needed, please contact [shane@innivees.com](mailto:shane@innivees.com)

2.) DeafBlind Advisory Council

- LCD will be establishing a DeafBlind Advisory Council under the Commission. This council will have up to 11 members, to include LCD board members, and members of the public representing a statewide nature, as much as possible. The task of the advisory council will be to
    - o carry out the objectives of the commission, as needed
    - o Address issues of significance to individuals who are DeafBlind in Louisiana
    - o Identify and/or research needs and make recommendations to the Commission about ways these needs can be met
    - o Provide a report for each meeting of the Commission on the progress of activity
- LCD requests members of the Accessibility committee to determine how/when they would like updates for the DeafBlind committee to be provided to GACDA. \*Ms Polotzola is now a LCD Board member as the Director of GODA.  
Proposed SB 98 is now [Act 128](#).

9. Public Comments

Jamar Ennis will send out a draft of the email to solicit responses for the state plan. Lynette Fontenot motioned to adjourn.

10. Adjournment

*Adjourned at 12:03*

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE



Tuesday, September 20, 2022  
 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM

Call to Order and Roll Call

Committee Members	Present	Proxy	Proxy Name	Absent	Agency/Affiliate/Representing
Andrea Lowe*	√				
Elaine Harmon*				X	
Gerlinde Beckers	√				
Jerrie Williams*				X	
Jessica Michot*	√				
Jim Mitchell	√				
Karen Collins*	√				
Karen Scallan*	√				
Kelly Monroe*	√				
Nicole Flores	√				
Pasquel Nguyen	√				
Sharon Hennessey	√				
Tory Rocca	√				
Allison Vuljoin	√				LDH - OAAS
Anne Jayes	√				Lighthouse LA
Ebony Haven	√				DD Council
Carol Lee				X	LDH-OCDD
Lynette Fontenot*	√				Chairperson
Kathy Allen				XX	Vice-Chair
Bambi Polotzola	√				GODA
Attendees	Agency/Affiliate/Representing		Attendees	Agency/Affiliate/Representing	
*Jamar Ennis			*Tim Delaney		
Shane Bates			Rikki David		
Mylinda Elliott			Marley Clevenger		
Teresa Frank			Susan Rhein		
Lynette Bech			Meredith Jordan		
Amy Dawson			Konstance Causey		
Brenda Bares			Kristie Curtis		
Ashley McReynolds			Karen Artus		
Michelle Guillory			Kathy Dwyer		
Keisha Hertzock			Regina		

Staff	Agency	Staff	Agency
KeAndria Henry	GODA	Alishia Vallien	GODA/SICC
Lillian Dejean	GODA		

## Updates on Passed Legislation and Resolutions

### [Captioning in the legislature \(Act 273 of 2017\)](#)

Through Act 273 of 2017, funds were allotted to implement captioning in the legislature. However, captioning in the legislature is still absent, making our legislature largely inaccessible to d/Deaf individuals.

The allotted funding for captioning is currently going into the Louisiana Department of Health's (LDH) budget, which is being given to the Louisiana Commission for the Deaf (LCD). LCD is currently working with the legislature to implement captioning and they plan to contract with Lighthouse Louisiana for this endeavor. Shane Bates with LDH stated that they will follow up on the status of captioning in the legislature and Co-Chair Kelly Monroe requested that GACDA be provided continuous updates at future meetings.

Bambi Polotzola, Executive Director of GODA, expressed concerns regarding the current updates and renovations at the Capitol, indicating that there has been no explicit mention of increased accessibility features being included in these updates.

### [Inclusion of virtual participation in open meeting laws \(SR147 of 2022\)](#)

Lillian DeJean, GODA staff member, presented on the recent SR147 task force meeting. The SR147 task force will make recommendations pertaining to virtual participation in public meetings. It was suggested at the recent SR147 meeting that, at upcoming meetings, discussion should include best practices for hybrid meetings and virtual participation as a disability accommodation. Bambi Polotzola, Executive Director of GODA, stated that the initial meeting went well. Ms. Polotzola also indicated that SR147 members may sit in on a Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council (LaDDC) meeting to observe how they successfully conduct hybrid meetings.

Shane Bates from LDH asked if there are any specific requirements for virtual participation in public meetings; Kelly Monroe clarified that the SR147 task force is sorting through this issue. Ebony Haven from LaDDC stated that they allow virtual participation as an accommodation for council members only. Lillian DeJean stated that having an "anchor location" where the meeting technology is housed, and people could participate in person, was being considered as a requirement by the SR147 Task Force.

Rikki David, State ADA Coordinator, recommends that individuals reach out to the Attorney General's (AG) office with any questions or concerns pertaining to virtual participation for public meetings. She encourages people to submit requests in writing, in order to receive a response in writing. Sharon Hennessey from People First, stated that the AG's office informed her that people with disabilities may attend meetings virtually.

Andrea Lowe suggested that Lillian DeJean, GODA staff member and SR147 member, review the federal legislature's rules for open meetings. Bambi Polotzola, Executive Director of GODA, recommended that GACDA revisit this issue at the December meeting and encouraged GACDA members to participate in future SR147 meetings.

#### [Accessible Voting Task Force \(HCR14 of 2022\)](#)

Co-Chair Tory Rocca presented on HCR14. He explained that the HCR14 Task Force will be making recommendations on how to make voting more accessible for people with disabilities. Mr. Rocca indicated that the best case scenario would be the identification of a voting machine that would require the least amount of physical paper handling.

Lillian DeJean, GODA staff member, stated that the Voting Systems Commission recommended a type of voting machine to the Secretary of State's Office, which then led to the creation of the HCR14 Task Force.

Sharon Hennessey stated that she had previously suggested to the Secretary of State that there be at least two people trained on accessibility issues at every polling location.  
Next Steps on Goal Legislation

#### *Additional Waiver Slots and Funding (OAAS Waivers)*

Co-Chair Tory Rocca gave an overview pertaining to the recent efforts to secure additional funding and waiver slots for the OAAS Waivers. The goal is to create a CCW fund that mirrors the NOW fund, in order to support the recent pay increase for CCW workers. Additionally, there has been advocacy efforts pertaining to the addition of 250 new waiver slots for the CCW waiver. Mr. Rocca expressed that he would bring these issues to the attention of OAAS staff at the upcoming Live at Home Coalition Louisiana meeting.

#### *Coverage of incontinence supplies under Medicaid Waivers*

Co-Chair Kelly Monroe stated that her organization, the Arc, is working on acquiring coverage for incontinence supplies under the Medicaid waivers. Ms. Monroe has been in communication with Arcs across the nation, as other states do provide coverage for incontinence supplies under their Medicaid waivers.

#### *Generators for ICF/DDs*

Co-Chair Tory Rocca discussed legislation from the 2022 Legislative Session that required nursing homes to have generators. Mr. Rocca stated that his organization, Disability Rights Louisiana, wanted to propose similar legislation for the 2023 Legislative Session that would require ICF/DDs to have generators, and wanted feedback from the committee on this topic.

Karen Scallan expressed her opinion that generators are not the solution. She stated that nursing home emergency plans are not communicated to the parishes, and emphasized the difficulty of accessing fuel for generators post-natural disasters.

Adjournment

Dr. James Mitchell motioned to adjourn; Karen Scallan seconded. There were no abstentions or objections. The meeting adjourned at 2:42pm.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Tuesday, September 20, 2022

3:00PM – 4:00PM

Committee Members	Present	Proxy	Proxy Name	Absent	Agency/Affiliate/Representing
Andrea Lowe*	√			X	
Beau Ellerbee*	√				
Elaine Harmon*				XX	
Jamar Ennis	√				
Jim Mitchell	√				
Karen Collins*	√				
Karen Scallan*	√				
Kristen Gladen*				XX	
Mark Raymond, Jr.*				X	
Pasqueal Nguyen	√				
Sharon Hennessey*				X	
Amy Dawson	√				GOHSEP
Jamie Ainsworth	√				DOTD
Kevin George	√				LDH-OCDD
Teresa Frank		√	Lavasha Gordon		LDH-OCDD
Lynette Fontenot*	√				Chairperson
Kathy Allen				XX	Vice-Chair
Bambi Polotzola	√				GODA
Attendees	Agency/Affiliate/Representing		Attendees	Agency/Affiliate/Representing	
Nicole Flores*					
Harlon Cowsar	FHF Acadiana		Lynette Bech		
John Schweitzer	LWC-LRS		Rikki David		
Staff	Agency		Staff	Agency	
Keandria Henry	GODA		Alishia Vallien	SICC/GODA	
Lillian Dejean	GODA				

1. Call to Order and Roll Call 3:00pm  
 Call to Order at 3:01 Roll Call, Bambi Polotzola

2. Presentation on the [Coordinated Human Services Plan](#) 3:05pm  
 Jamie Ainsworth introduced individuals doing the presentation.  
 Ed Elam (ATG) presented on the Coordination plan.

The purpose of the coordination plan is to improve services for population groups with limited mobility options, including seniors, individuals with disabilities, and the population living below the poverty threshold.

Since the last HSTCP update in 2018, Louisiana has faced several major challenges to the public transportation system.

The Coordination Plan must be locally developed.

Advised what the Agency Acronyms were.

The Coordination Plan Components, per FTA Circular 9070.1G, plan must include assessments of available services, transportation needs, strategies, activities, and/or projects that address identified gaps, opportunities to achieve efficiencies, and priorities for implementation.

Goals of the Plan: safe, easy to use transportation, consistent and efficient service across transportation providers, etc

Elam discussed the benefits of coordination.

Elam also discussed the barriers to coordination, the resources and needs, the existing service metrics, the transit need index (TNI), stakeholder outreach, and implementation.

A map of the existing resources was presented. This map showed the providers by program funding type and the federal funding per resident.

The following maps were provided: 5307 vehicles per 1,000 rural residents, percentage of vehicles at or over useful life benchmark (ULB), average rides per transit vehicle, funding relative to transit need.

Transit Need index data from across the state was presented.

Information regarding stakeholder outreach was provided.

The goals and strategies regarding implementation were listed.

Information on the moving forward progress was shared.

James Mitchell asked if college bus systems are included in the numbers; Jamie Ainsworth stated that they are not.

Jamie Ainsworth stated that coordination planning is part of the requirements for 5310 funding.

James Mitchell asked what the timeline of the funding for the existing resources map is.

Ed Elam suggested between 2018-2019.

Jamie Ainsworth provided her email.

Bambi informed everyone that the link to the report is also included on the agenda.

John Schweitzer suggested plans to connect rural transit systems with urban systems for two-way trips.

Bambi reminded everyone of the full GACDA Council meeting on tomorrow.

3. Public Comment

4. Adjournment

#### FULL COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, September 21, 2022

1:00 PM to 3:15 PM

GACDA MEMBER		PRESENT	PROXY	PROXY NAME	ABSENT
Kathy	Allen				XX

Marsha	Andrews	√			
Gerlinda	Beckers	√			
Mary	Breud	√			
Karen	Collins	√			
Timothy	Delaney				X
Sharon	Delvisco	√			
Beau	Ellerbee				XXX
Jamar	Ennis	√			
Nicole	Flores	√			
Lynette	Fontenot	√			
Robert	Garcia				X
Kirsten	Gladen				X
Elaine	Harmon				XX
Sharon	Hennessey	√			
Andrew	Kuyoro				X
Andrea	Lowe	√			
Jessica	Michot	√			
Jim	Mitchell	√			
Kelly	Monroe	√			
John	Moran	√			
Pasquel	Nguyen	√			
Mark	Raymond, Jr.				X
Tory	Rocca	√			
Karen	Scallan	√			
Tabatha	Taylor				X
Jerrie	Williams				X
Gerald	Boudreaux				XXXX
Malinda	White				XXX

<b>Attendees</b>	<b>Agency/Affiliate</b>	<b>Attendees</b>	<b>Agency/Affiliate</b>
Amy Dawson	GOHSEP	Jana Broussard	LCD
Amy Deaville		John Schweitzer	LWC-LRS
Ashley Jefferson		Julie Foster-Hagan	
Ashley McReynold		Karen Artus	LACAN
Brenda Sharp	LDH- OCDD	Kathleen Cannino	
Brenda Cosse		Kathy Dwyer	OCDD SAC
Carol Lee	LDH- OCDD	Kevin George	
Celia Alexander		Kristie Curtis	LaCAN
Chanel Jackson		Lynette Bech	
Cheri Crain		Melinda Richard	
Dominick Abrams		Melissa Bayham	LWC-LRS
Ebony Haven	LA DDC	Myllinda Elliot	
Erin K. Downing	LDH- OCDD	Patti Barovechio	LDH- OPH

Harlon Cowsar		Rikki David	
Jakeel Abdulah		Rosemary Morales	
		Shane Bates	
<b>Staff</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Staff</b>	<b>Title</b>
Bambi Polotzola	GODA Director	Lillian Dejean	GODA Coordinator
Alishia Vallien	SICC Director		

1) Call to Order and Roll Call

1:00 PM

Lynette Fontenot called the meeting to order at 1:02

Roll call, Bambi

2) Approval of [June 2022 GACDA Minutes](#)

Motion to approve made by Dr. Beckers to accept meeting minutes with amendments. Sharon Hennessey second. Motion carried without opposition.

Dr. Ashley Jefferson pointed out an error on page 3; ITS should be changed to IPS.

3) Committee Reports and Discussions

Ø Education

Nicole updated SEAC council.

PIE fund - Board of Regents over; they meet Monday; BOR will send out an interest survey; 1 million dollars in funding; will give a report on February 1st

They will be meeting next Tuesday to discuss the Post Secondary Inclusion Fund.

CAMERAS IN CLASSROOM- \$8 MILLION in funds; More info to come in December.

Funds will be ready by the end of September.

IEPs :

Universities will allow IEPs as students coming out of high school for those accommodations at the university setting through centers for access accessibility services.

Prior to this, students had to have documentation of their disability and needed an accommodation.

Dr. Beckers stated that this will save time and money to get these accommodations in place at institutions.

Superintendent Search:

Nicole Flores stated that a firm is assisting with searching for a new superintendent.

There will be a link provided for anyone that may be interested.

Related Services Council:

Louisiana is in the negatives in regards to the number of service providers that are available to service our students in IDA and related service personnel.

In comparison to a 1:250 ration, Louisiana is 1:400.

Some school districts count tech as service providers and they should not be.

Amber Harris will update on what was learned by the council in the December meeting.

Ø Transportation

A presentation was given by DOTD. ATG gave a presentation. Public comments are being taken. A report was sent out to GACA members. Public comments are being taken until Sept. 30.

Ø Accessibility

Jim Mitchell gave report. Discussed money coming from the state.  
Next Tuesday, there will be a meeting regarding broadband in Lafayette.  
OTS was a no show. They were invited in June and September. No response to invitation and no show

A review of the state as a model employer:

Marsha Andrews did a presentation; The presentation showed how the state treats a disabled employers differently.

Rikki David reported

Commission from the deaf gave a report.

No questions on report.

State parks did a presentation on accessibility of the state parks.

Ø Legislative

Discussed pass legislation. A lot of work is being done. Shane Bates presented new information and will keep the committee informed.

The commission will be meeting with Senator Hewitt.

There was recently a meeting with legislators to determine best practices in terms of hybrid meetings

Members were encouraged to reach out via postal in order to receive a response in writing.

The first meeting will be held next Tuesday; the meeting is open to the public.

Next steps and goals were discussed. Waiver slots funding should be looked at. **A letter will be sent to ensure that funding will be added to the base budget to maintain current rates and amounts. No objections to sending the letter.**

Adding more waiver slots, as well as funding were discussed.

Incontinence supplies funding was discussed. Looking at what other states are doing.

The national office is collecting information on how other states are navigating.

Generators were discussed. Generators not a solution was discussed. Nursing home evacuation plans were not given to parishes. Karen was concerned that nursing homes did not have to inform the receiving parish of their plans. No questions

Tory Rocca gave an update on what legislation were brought up and/or passed last year.

Jim gave an update on the state parks plans.

4) Update on Employment initiatives (including but not limited to [LRS](#), [OBH](#), [OCDD](#)) 1:50 PM

Julie Foster-Hagan, Getting feedback on hiring family members.

HR138 looking at gaps

HCR39 barriers to hiring direct support professionals

HCR40 - study cost of nursing care

EarlySteps providers and case managers received a 30% pay increase.

Case management increased by 40%.

The services and rates are different which makes it harder for providers and recipients.

March of 2023 will be the end of extensions for services (listen to recording).

Melissa presented for LRS. job Fair upcoming; recruiting counselors

LRS is being sponsored by Healthy Blue in a virtual job fair.

Gave an update on their state plan.



Project STEMup -

Social \_\_\_\_\_ Career Theory -

5) [La Department of Health](#) updates (including but not limited to [OAAS](#), OBH, OCDD, [OPH](#)) 2:05 PM

Ashley Jefferson, OBH, gave an employment update. September is National Recovery Month. September is Suicide Prevention month. National 988 initiative went live July 16. Receiving positive feedback. OBH is assisting with HR173, Mental Health Task Force. Louisiana is at 91% in regards to answering and assisting.

Will update after meeting with national stakeholders.

Partnered with LDH in regards to the opioid crisis.

Melinda Richard gave an update on what the OAAS is currently working on.

Webinar Thursday, September 29 at 1pm; announcement will be out soon.; will take questions prior to meeting.

ARCA is one time money to stabilize the workforce. Educational materials to promote the flu shot and COVID booster will be pushed out.

The Governor's office has stated that there is a disturbance that may be headed our way. If so, they are preparing their participants.

Bambi expressed her gratitude for their efforts in lowering numbers.

Jana Broussard gave an update on behalf of OPH; Sent out powerpoint via email.

Developmental Screening for ages 0 - 5; on DOH website

SB98 is now [ACT 128](#).

LCD requested a 1% increase for their hearing program; they doubled the request.

September is deaf awareness month. LCD partners with an interpreter's organization.

LCD offers training.

6) Presentation on [ALICE Report](#) – Sarah Berthelot, [Louisiana United Ways](#) 2:35 PM

Sarah Berthelot presented a powerpoint regarding ALICE.

ALICE is the acronym for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed.

Presented the household survival budget for Louisiana's average from 2018.

Provided a map of the inflation indices for the United States from 2007 - 2018; the ALICE Essentials Index grew at a much more increasing rate compared to the consumer price index.

24.4% people with disabilities in poverty; 35.1% are people with disabilities who are ALICE.

In Louisiana 60% of people in Louisiana are living below the numbers provided above.

All of this information is being shared with the legislature.

7) State Agency/ Member Updates

3:00 PM

Lynette was asked to serve on SILC.

8) [Governor's Outstanding Leadership in Disabilities \(GOLD\) Awards and Inclusive Arts Contest](#) 3:05 PM

Bambi discussed the GOLD Awards and Arts Contest. She placed a link in chat. Youth of the Year Award was changed to the April Dunn Youth of the Year Award. The body was asked to support and disperse nominations. Lynett came up with the Art Contest theme.

Anyone can enter.

9) Public Comment

3:10 PM

Dr Jim Mitchell discussed a resolution he wrote on state website accessibility. Jim moved that GACDA adopt the resolution. Dr. Andrea Lowe seconded. Some discussion was had. With no opposition, motion passed.

10) Adjournment

3:15 PM

A motion to adjourn was made by Jim Mitchell. It was seconded by everybody. Praise Jesus!

DRAFT