

**Governor's Advisory Council on Disability Affairs (GACDA)
Meeting Minutes, September 20, 2016**

GACDA held a meeting on September 20, 2016 in the Press Room at the Capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Chairperson Lynette Fontenot presided.

Members Present:

Lynette Fontenot	Sharon Hennessey
Gale Dean	Linda Kocher
Lauren Mayfield	Mark Thomas
Laura Brackin	Stephen Kauffman
Kelly Monroe	Jamie Karam
Libby Murphy	Sandra Winchell
Amy Dawson	Sharon Buchert
Nancy Hicks	Tara Delee
Tara Leblanc	Christopher Kirby
Representative John Schroeder	

Members Absent:

Pam Darby, Harry Brady, Donna Breaux, Cynthia Obier, and Senator Gerald Boudreaux, Joshua Hollins, Katie Corkern, Linda Theriot, Paula Rodriguez

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

GACDA Chairperson, Lynette Fontenot, called the meeting to order, and asked everyone to briefly introduce themselves. Each member provided an agency update. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

GACDA Members reviewed the minutes from the July 21st meeting. Libby Murphy made a motion to accept the July 21st meeting minutes.

APPROVAL OF BYLAWS

Representative John Schroder made a motion to table the approval of the GACDA bylaws until next meeting. Libby Murphy seconded the motion. The motion was approved without any opposition or discussion.

Louisiana Department of Health Update

Tara Leblanc provided an update relative to LDH's efforts to ensure that persons with disabilities are receiving services in the midst of the flood recovery efforts. Leblanc will email the members of GACDA various links containing resources and information for upcoming programs and initiatives.

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SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

Transportation: The subcommittee reported that they discussed the current transportation programs within the Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) with Joshua Hollins. The subcommittee discussed conducting more research relative to the effectiveness of the current DOTD programs. The subcommittee would like to create and disseminate a survey to identify the needs of persons with disabilities within each parish. The subcommittee also discussed the need for transportation for persons with disabilities in times of disaster. Sandee Winchell made the motion giving the Transportation Committee the authority to develop and disseminate a transportation survey without the full council's approval. Lauren Mayfield seconded the motion.

Education: The subcommittee reported that they discussed the IDEA budget, Operation of the Special Education Advisory Panel. The subcommittee passed a motion to recommend that GACDA submit a letter to SEAP, BESE, and Superintendent White relative to amending the bylaws, increasing SEAP membership, ensuring that no members serve in dual roles, increase the meeting time to an all-day meeting, allow more time for discussion of topics, encourage public comment, recommend that SEAP establish task forces as needed to address substantive issues. A motion to write aforementioned letter was made by Lauren Mayfield. Sandee Winchell seconded the motion. The motion was approved by the committee without any opposition or discussion.

Employment: The subcommittee discussed the national disability employment awareness month and spreading awareness to employers to hire persons with disabilities. The subcommittee also discussed the employment first policy and task force and executive order from the Governor.

Accessibility: The subcommittee was presented an update from GOHSEP relative to the needs of accessibility during the flood recovery. The subcommittee discussed working with other agencies such as Red Cross and FEMA to develop and maintain relationships to further plan for all persons with disabilities during an impending disaster. Steve Kaufman made a motion that GACDA will create and send a letter to FEMA to discuss concerns of accessibility and planning for persons with disabilities in disaster planning efforts. The motion was seconded by Sharon Buchert. The motion was passed without any opposition or discussion.

FLOOD RESCUE AND RECOVERY

Amy Dawson provided an update from GOHSEP and gave a PowerPoint presentation.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

GOLD Awards Nominations are due October 3, 2016. Gold Awards will be on November 16, 2016. The next GACDA Meeting will be December 6, 2016.

MEETING ADJOURNED made by Gale Dean, seconded by Kelly Monroe. No opposition.