

Governor's Advisory Council on Disability Affairs
September 17, 2019
Minutes

AGENCY	GACDA MEMBER	PRESENT	PROXY	PROXY NAME	ABSENT
GOHSEP	Amy Dawson	√			
OBH (LDH)	Ashley Jefferson	√			
LaCAN/Parent	Ashley McReynolds	√			
DCFS	Christopher Kirby				X
Fire Marshall	Cynthia Obier	√			
Provider/Parent	Donna Breaux				X
Senator	Gerald Boudreaux				X
Advocate	Jamie Karam	√			
LDE	Jamie Wong				X
DOTD	Joshua Hollins				X
OCDD (LDH)	Julie F. Hagan	√			
FHF/Parent	Katie Corkern	√			
Arc of LA	Kelly Monroe	√			
Providers	Laura Brackin				X
LASEA	Laureen Mayfield		√	Charles Michel	
LRC	Libby Murphy				X
Parent	Linda Kocher	√			
LDVA	Linda Theriot				X
Chair / Advocate	Lynette Fontenot	√			
Representative	Malinda White				X
Higher Education	Mary Breaud				X
LWC - LRS	Melissa Bayham		√	Kandy Baker	
GOEA	Michelle Guillory	√			X
Advocate	Pam Darby				X
Deaf/DB/HoH	Paula Rodriguez	√			
SILC	Roszella Viltz				X
DD Council	Sandee Winchell	√			
People First	Sharon Hennessey	√			
Advocacy Center	Stephen Kauffman	√			
OAAS (LDH)	Tara Leblanc	√			
LATAN	Yakima Black	√			
ROLE	STAFF				
Exec Director	Bambi Polotzola	√			
Asst. Director	Jamar Ennis	√			
Coordinator	April Dunn	√			
SICC Director	Melanie Washington	√			
SILC Director	Jessica Lewis	√			
AGENCY	GUESTS				
	Linda Wilson	√			
Lighthouse Louisiana	Anne Jayes	√			
	Dayna Ryan	√			
LWC	John Schweitzer	√			
	R. Glen Frazier	√			

1. Call to Order and Approval of Minutes

The GACDA meeting was called to order at 12:25pm. Committee members and guest briefly introduced themselves in their official capacities. Quorum was established.

A motion was made by Amy Dawson approve the June 19, 2019 meeting meetings with amendments; the motion was seconded by Steve Kauffman The meeting minutes with amendments were approved without opposition.

2. Windmills Training Update by Milt Wright

Milt Wright provided a brief overview of the Windmills train the trainer program. The two-day training program consist of an interactive 12 model regiment that is designed to equip Human Resource personnel to build and maintain a diverse workforce and provide employment training for employers offering opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

3. Committee Reports and Discussions

Transportation: Jamie Karam provided an update on behalf of the Transportation Committee. The Committee received an update from Skip Breeden of DOTD relative to HCR 68 and HB 575. Mr. Breeden disseminated a one-page sheet of DOTD activities regarding the implementation of HCR 68, and mentioned that DOTD is working with the rideshare companies to create rules regarding HB 575. GACDA thanked DOTD for pulling the contract for emergency buses in the wake of Hurricane Barry. DOTD mentioned that the department has revamped the bus contract so that it is friendlier to initiate during an emergency.

Accessibility: Cindy Obier provided an update on behalf of the Accessibility Committee. A representative from the Division of Administration provided an update regarding the improvements of the infrastructure of the Louisiana State Capitol in the wake of the June meeting with Mark Moses and the Lighthouse Louisiana Audit. The DOA representative mentioned that he will meet with his architectural design team to discuss what needs to be done to make the improvements. The DOA representative will meet with Anne Jayes of the Lighthouse Louisiana, Cindy Obier of the Louisiana State Fire Marshall's Office, and Jamar Ennis with the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs. Jamar Ennis of GODA mentioned that GODA has scheduled meetings with senior staff to discuss the concerns with ACT 273 of the legislative, and determine solutions to enforce the intent of the bill.

Housing: Sharon Hennessey provided an update on behalf of the Housing Committee. The Two guest speakers from LHC, Joel Harrell, and Brad Sweazy, shared information regarding the department's activities. The LHC representatives expressed interest in the wants, needs, and public comments of the community The Committee will be meeting in October 22, 2019 from 9:00am-11:00am to discuss Housing in greater detail at the Arc of Louisiana in Baton Rouge. A notice will be sent to everyone who has asked to participate.

4. Update on Employment Initiatives (LRS, GODA)

Kandy Baker provided an update on behalf of LRS. It was mentioned that the order of selection groups 1-4 remain open, while group 5 remains closed. There are only two individuals currently on the waiting list.

LRS completed a series of training for staff and manger supervisors to focus on policy, procedure, and customer service.

LRS is finalizing a MOU with the Louisiana Department of Education in an effort to collaborate more effectively to provide a streamline of services for students with disabilities. The department also has several job postings on the civil service website.

Executive Director Bambi Polotzola provided an update on behalf of GODA. GODA completed a grant which ended on August 31, 2019- the Employment First State Leadership Mentoring Project. There were three components to the grant-Provider transformation, capacity building, and mental health and employment. Provider transformation and capacity building took place in regions 3 and 4. Providers that received intensive direct technical assistance are moving towards competitive integrated employment.

It was discussed in the trainings and various committees how to focus on ensuring LRS, Department of Education, and Department of Health, and other interested agencies to work together and collaborate around individuals. Provider school systems also participated in these meetings to discuss employment and the sharing of information regarding parish activities.

GODA hosted two Windmills Trainings this year, and has completed the second year of the survey for state employees. Data regarding the survey will be provided to the members of GACDA.

GODA will re-apply for the EMSLP grant at the appropriate time.

5. La Department of Health Updates (OAAS, OBH, OCDD)

Julie Foster-Hagan provided an update on the Office of Citizens with Developmental Disabilities. OCDD has worked with the various groups participating on the Vision Quest project to further employment initiatives. OCDD has also joined a national group called the Supported Employment Learning Network through the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities.

OCDD mentioned that joining the national networks enables OCDD to gain access to tools, data and resources. The department hopes to learn from other states, and create partnerships within the state to expand services.

Julie mention that due to Governor Edwards's leadership, OCDD as well as other agencies are able to gain traction in regards to employment initiatives. OCDD will collaborate with stakeholders and the supported employment learning network.

A report will be released with recommendations of how things can be done differently in our state and how to effectively educate providers and managers. OCDD's objective is to remain in compliance with CMS and the community based settings rule so that no federal dollars are lost.

There are three adult waiver programs with different definitions and services. OCDD hopes to consolidate them. The department is moving towards a single waiver. OCDD is currently reviewing and collecting data regarding the value based model.

OCDD participated in a conference in Seattle, Washington, and are interested in what is called being a technology first state.

Tara Leblanc provided an update on behalf of the Office of Aging and Adult Services. OAAS has implemented a strategy to reduce the number of individuals on the waiting list. In 2017 there were over 30,000 individuals on the waiting list, as of today there are only 12,830. It was mentioned that only 7,100 individuals of the 12,830 are waiting on services. OAAS is also working towards offering 500 waiver slots and have them certified by February of 2020. OAAS would like to emulate the efforts of OCDD to eliminate the waiting list.

OAAS has filed an amendment to the community choice waiver. About 35 percent of individuals on the waiting list qualified for the step down service called long term personal care service (LTPCS). Nearly 900 individuals are registered for LTPCS. OAAS has created outreach programs with the general public to better educate them on waiver services.

Ashley Jefferson provided an update on behalf of the Office of Behavioral Health. OBH completed its Vision Quest Grant, and has worked with LRS through the grant. OBH submitted a general plan and is in the process of making sure everything is in place.

The Vision Grant also allows OBH to use some of the items regarding the DOJ agreement.

The listening tour 2.0 will begin September 23, 2019.

6. GODA Conference

Jamar Ennis provided a recap of the GODA conference. The GODA conference was held on July 26, 2019 in Baton Rouge. Over 275 individuals from across the state were in attendance, and over 400 individuals registered. The conference featured paneled discussions in the areas of Transportation, Housing, Accessibility, and Education. The GODA Conference was televised via Hometown Productions; the recap can be seen on YouTube. Participants of the conference were sent invitations to participate in a survey to provide feedback. The average approval rate was 8.7 out of 10.0. GODA will continue to collect data and provide the results to the members of GACDA. The comments from the survey will be used to improve the conference in the years to come.

7. GOLD Awards, Inclusive Art Contest, and Other Programs

Jamar Ennis provided information regarding the GOLD Awards and Inclusive Art Contest on behalf of GODA. The flyers for both programs were presented to the GACDA members in attendance. The ceremony for both events will take place December 10, 2019 at the Old State Capitol, and the due date for submissions for both events is October 31, 2019. More information regarding both programs can be found on the Governor's website.

It was mentioned that GODA seeks the participation of GACDA members to participate in the judging and selection of recipients for both events. Formal invitations will be sent to the members of GACDA to participate. The GOLD Awards Selection Committee will meet on November 1, 2019.

8. Future Plans for GACDA

Bambi Polotzola asked GACDA members to think about ways to make the Committees and GACDA meetings more productive. It was suggested that the committees are afforded more time to meet. It was also suggested that GACDA appoints a diverse group of members and more self-advocates to the council.

If afforded a new term, GODA will offer suggestions and recommendations to revise the executive order

9. Other Business

The members of GACDA will participate in GODA's strategic efforts to ensure that the Disability Trust fund is properly funded.

10. Adjournment

A motion was made by Steve Kaufman to adjourn the GACDA council meeting. The motion to adjourn was seconded by Jamie Karam. The motion to adjourn was approved by the members of GACDA without any objections, abstentions, or discussion. The GACDA meeting adjourned at 3:01pm.