

GACDA FULL COUNCIL MEETING
Wednesday, March 16, 2022
1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

GACDA MEMBER		PRESENT	PROXY	PROXY NAME	ABSENT
Kathy	Allen	√			
Marsha	Andrews	√			
Gerlinde	Beckers	√			
Mary	Breud				X
Karen	Collins	√			
Timothy	Delaney	√			
Sharon	Delvisco	√			
Beau	Ellerbee	√			
Keisha	Fleming	√			
Nicole	Flores	√			
Lynette	Fontenot	√			
Robert	Garcia				XX
Kirsten	Gladen	√			
Tarj	Hamilton				XX
Elaine	Harmon	√			
Sharon	Hennessey	√			
Andrew	Kuyoro	√			
Andrea	Lowe	√			
Jessica	Michot	√			
Jim	Mitchell	√			
Kelly	Monroe	√			
John	Moran	√			
Pasquel	Nguyen	√			
Mark	Raymond, Jr.				X
Tory	Rocca	√			
Paula	Rodriguez	√			
Karen	Scallan	√			
Tabatha	Taylor	√			
Jerrie	Williams	√			
Gerald	Boudreaux				XX
Malinda	White	√			
Staff	Title	Staff	Title		
Bambi Polotzola	GODA Director				
Lillian Dejean	GODA Coordinator	Alishia Vallien	SICC Director		

Call to Order and Roll Call

The March 16, 2022, meeting was called to order by GACDA chairperson Lynette Fontenot at 1:01 p.m. The meeting was in person on the 4th Floor of the Louisiana State Capitol and virtually via the Zoom Platform. Roll was called and quorum established. A brief introduction was given by Lynette Fontenot to Jordan Brisco, Assistant Director of Disability Affairs.

Approval of December 2021 Minutes

Kathy Allen made a motion to approve the December 2021 meeting minutes. Elaine Harmon seconded the motion. Motion to accept the minutes by Elanie Harmon and seconded by Tabitha Taylor. The motion to approve the December 2021 meeting minutes passed without any objections, abstentions, or discussion.

Committee Reports and Discussions

Education

GODA Executive Director, Dr. Beckers and Nicole Flores provided a report of the March 7, 2022, Education Committee meeting. The full council discussed SB 192 and SB 45. The council supports both bills. The council also supports recommendations made by the education committee for HB30. Bambi Polotzola informed the council that GODA is working with a group to support mental health to increase suicide awareness in schools and youth.

Transportation

Mark Raymond provided a report of the March 8, 2022 Transportation Committee meeting. DOTD is meeting with LDH- OBH, OCDD, OPH to discuss potential opportunities for collaboration on transportation. Public Meeting on Air Travel will occur on the 24th at 10:15 EST.

Accessibility

Andrew Kuyoro provided a report of the March 9, 2022 Accessibility Committee meeting. The dates they are now looking at for the final Voting Systems Commission meeting is in June, after the legislative session is completed. Exact dates have not been determined yet.

Legislative

Kelly Monroe provided a report of the March 10, 2022 Transportation Committee meeting. The following link is [GODA's Legislative Tracking Sheet](#) for updates during the 2022 Legislative Session. [HB 143](#) was also discussed by the council. Jim Mitchell moved to amend the bill to include all state employees', current and new, disability status. The council voted and there were 13 people who voted to second the motion, 11 who opposed, and 3 abstained. No response from two people. Jim Mitchell motioned that HB143 contain an interim report. The decision was made to take it back to the committee. Jim Mitchell withdrew the motion. Unanimous support of the recommendations on 15 bills from the Legislative Committee. Kathy Allen motioned to allow the Legislative committee to make recommendations on behalf of GACDA at the March 24 meeting. Elanie Harmon seconded the motion. Jim Mitchell and Marsha Andrews abstained. The next Legislative Committee meeting will be on the 24th of March at 1PM.

Rosemary Morales, Employment Initiative at GDP

Due to the pandemic, it has delayed many processes due to the setting rule. The office is still engaging to redesign and get assistance with services to move forward with daily employment efforts. The office has recently updated its MOU with LRS and ABH. The office is currently working to get compliance achieved within the state regarding the HCBS settings rule. The office is still working with providers by assisting them to come into compliance after being shut down.

Courtney Rowland, Louisiana Rehabilitation Service Update

Courtney Rowland gave an update on the number of individuals that have been served since July 2021 which is 14,768 individuals. The LSU Development Center is progressing with their customized employment training. They are working to become certified in order to train LRS mentors. Promulgation was finalized in 2022 to increase the percentage of the current Federal Poverty Guidelines used to determine an individual's financial need for certain services. This allowed people to gain more access to services. LRS operates under 5 categories of eligibility and will change to operate under 3 categories. March 4th began a virtual training series that will be held every other Friday throughout the month of July. LRS has assisted the Statewide Living Council with completing the fiscal year independent living report and was approved on March 14, 2022.

Dr. Ashley Jefferson, Louisiana Department of Health- Behavioral Health Update

Dr. Ashley Jefferson gave an update on the office of behavioral health. She informed the council of upcoming initiatives. The office is currently working to improve the Medicaid service system in relation to the crisis system of care by ensuring there is a modern and innovative approach. The Louisiana Crisis Response System has recently gathered information from stakeholders and individuals to modify the system. On March 1, the Mobile Crisis Response was implemented. On April 1, a 988 code for callers in distress was also created. This is a free and confidential phone number. 988 will ensure statewide coverage by offering high instate answers and prompt response to calls and texts, also more accessible. The system will also ensure diversity within different ethnic groups and the LGBT community. The National Suicide Prevention Hotline has now changed to 988 instead of a 9 digit number. The contact information is listed below for the LDH office of Behavioral Health:

- [Ldh.La.gov/crisis](https://ldh.la.gov/crisis) (LDH/OBH Crisis response system)
- [Ldh.La.gov](https://ldh.la.gov) (for all things LDH including the LDH Business Plan)
- Ashley.Jefferson@la.gov

Sheryln Sullivan, Louisiana Department of Health

The COVID response has decreased within home and community based services. The vaccinations records are as follows: 75% CCW, 81% ADHC, and 89% for PACE. The wait list reduction has decreased to 8,703 and there are 4,114 not receiving any form of service right now. Pace centers are being expanded and this is a new development. Civil monetary

Penalties will be working with 125 nursing homes for training. They have already trained 18 nursing homes and have seen a decrease in falls within various facilities.

Paul Rhorer, OCDD

The executive budget is currently being discussed at the legislative session for waivers. There has been funding for dental services for all adult OCDD waivers. There is a continuation for an increase of OCDD waivers that are provided to the direct support staff. There was a \$2.50 rate increase to support the work staff shortage. Exceptions after the public health emergency ends have been discussed by focus groups during three sessions. Information can be found on the OCDD website once the Public Health Emergency Ends. OCDD is currently awaiting CMS approval on amendments. The American Rescue Plan Act includes an enhancement of HCBS services by increasing federal funds.

Office of Public Health Update

Jana Broussard gave an update on the Office of Public Health. Following the directive of Act 210 of the 2021 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, a comprehensive assessment of the Louisiana Department of Health's efforts related to the health and well-being of the women of Louisiana. The process was led by the Office of Public Health, Bureau of Family Health and included: a review of data to identify the most significant women's health issues and feedback from all 83 departments within LDH, about what is being done around these issues. The assessment was conducted with a Health Equity lens, focused on the factors that impact a person's ability to live a healthy life. One finding of interest re: women with disabilities was: While there are efforts to improve outcomes for people with disabilities, few programs or services address the potentially distinct needs of women with disabilities.

Generational Voices LA

Kathy Allen, PH.D. with The African- American Alliance for Life discussed Generational Voices LA summer camps in Lafayette, LA. It is an inclusive summer camp for ages 5-14. There will be a total of 140 campers. The early bird deadline is April 11, 2022; but, registration can take place during camp duration. The current needs are transportation, food, cleaning supplies, and registration sponsorship

Governor's Office of Disability Affairs

Bambi Polotzola gave updates on the GODA Conference taking place in July 2022. She discussed having virtual or face to face options. Speaker proposals are being sent through monthly newsletters through the online form, Survey Monkey. Call for proposals may be viewed at the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GODA22>. Suggestions for sessions are being taken by any GODA staff.

Public Comment No Public Comment was provided.

Adjournment

Elaine Harmon made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Karen Collins at 3:10 p.m.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE
Monday, March 7, 2022
3:00 PM to 4:30 PM

Committee Members	Present	Proxy	Proxy Name	Absent	Agency/Affiliate/ Representing
Andrea Lowe*	√				
Gerlinda Beckers	√				
Jerrie Williams*	√				
Karen Collins*				X	
Kelly Monroe*				XX	
Marsha Andrews	√				
Mary Breaud*				XX	
Nicole Flores	√				
Pasquel Nguyen	√				
Robert Garcia*	√				
Tim Delaney*	√				
Anne Jayes		√	Sarah Barnes		Lighthouse LA
Brenda Sharp				X	LDH-OCDD
Peter Hunt				X	Special Olympics LA
Faith Boudreaux	√				LDH-OPH
Meredith Jordan	√				LDE
Melissa Bayham	√				LWC- LRS
<i>Lynette Fontenot*</i>	√				<i>GACDA Chairperson</i>
<i>Kathy Allen*</i>	√				<i>GACDA Vice-Chair</i>
<i>Bambi Polotzola</i>	√				<i>GODA</i>
Attendees	Agency/Affiliate/ Representing		Attendees	Agency/Affiliate/ Representing	
Jim Mitchell			Libby Airhart		
Sharon Hennessey			Katie Kroes		
Laureen Mayfield			Mattilyn Karst		
Nanette Olivier			Kristie Curtis		
Sarah Barnes			Amy Deaville		
Christinia Martin			Myllinda Elliot		
Susan Rhein					
Staff	Agency		Staff	Agency	
Jamar Ennis	GODA/SICC		Alishia Vallien	SICC/GODA	

EDUCATION COMMITTEE NOTES

Monday, March 7, 2022

3:00 PM to 4:30 PM

Call to Order

Discuss [Local Special Education Advisory Councils](#): A survey will be developed to check status on Advisory Councils in districts. Meredith Jordan will assist as needed. Dr. Beckers has a list of supervisors across the district to be contacted to complete the survey. The makeup of the council is seen as problematic. Lynette Fontenot motioned to survey the local LEA about their Special Education Advisory Councils. It was seconded by Kathy Allen with no opposition. Motion passed.

Discuss Teacher Shortage: There is a critical shortage of teachers in Louisiana and nationwide. [HB30](#) (Retired Teachers Return to Work Bill) is an attempt to resolve the critical teacher shortage. HB30 would allow teachers to return to teaching and continue to receive retirement benefits. The committee supports HB30 with an amendment to include bus drivers, janitors, attendants, etc. Marsha Andrews made a motion to support HB30 with an amendment to include support staff. Tim Delaney seconded the motion. Motion carried

[Teacher Recruitment Recovery and Retention Task Force Data](#): The final report from this Task Force will be released in December. A motion was made by Kathy Allen and seconded by Lynette Fontenot that the committee receives quarterly updates from SEAP regarding the Teacher Recruitment Recovery and Retention Task Force Data. Motion carried. Meredith Jordan will report back to the committee after the Task Force has presented at the SEAP meeting.

According to Meredith Jordan, removing the requirement to pass the PRAXIS exam before beginning teacher preparation will be presented to BESE. They will also consider removing ACT requirements.

Discuss DOE Positions: Meredith Jordan now has 11 on her team. The program consultant positions have closed. They are in the process of reviewing applicants. The positions will be filled by next week.

There has been a lot of interest being expressed for the current and future position being opened. More support is needed on how to improve outcomes on students with disabilities. School districts need more support on inclusivity. More work needs to be done with schools and universities who have stronger programs.

Discuss [Dyslexia Law](#): Changes have been made to Bulletin 1903. Act 206 revised the definition of dyslexia.

Current Legislation: [Postsecondary Inclusive Education Fund](#): Senator Boudreaux and Bouie co-authored this bill. It is intended to support post-secondary programs throughout the state. Funding is needed to start programs across the state. 57 applicants have applied for 27 slots across current programs. Southern University and Grambling State University are two HBCUs that are on board to start a program. A motion was made to support this proposed legislation. Lynette Fontenot motioned to support legislation with amendments to have policy by the start of the school year and to add funding. Seconded by Nicole Flores. Motion passed with no opposition.

[Cameras in certain classroom](#): SB45 seeks to add cameras in a self-contained classroom upon the parent's written request. This proposed law requires adoption by December 31, 2022. Lynette Fontenot motioned to support legislation with amendments to have policy by the start of the school year and to add funding. Seconded by Nicole Flores. Motion passed with no opposition.

Mental Health [Act 93 of 2019- suicide prevention in schools](#): A discussion was led by Sherrod Crespo. Schools are not ensuring best practices by ensuring full training be provided to all faculty. School ID badges are not providing suicide prevention hotlines locally and nationally. All services are there, but are not being implemented. Schools should be providing consistent training. Students in the LGBTQ+ community are four times more likely to commit suicide.

Specific action items: Schools that are ACT 93 compliant need to be updated on the LA State Education Website. Schools need to be held accountable. There should be a representative in each district to print ID numbers and inform DOE of progress in terms of faculty training and IDs. A partnership will be formed with LDOE. Marsha Andrews made a motion to pursue legislation that would implement evidence based practice trainings consistently in regards to suicide prevention. Jerrie Williams seconded. Motion passed with no opposition.

8. Public Comment No public comment

Adjourn

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Tuesday, March 8, 2022

3:00 PM to 4:30 PM

Committee Members	Present	Proxy	Proxy Name	Absent	Agency/Affiliate/ Representing
Andrea Lowe*	√				
Beau Ellerbee*	√				
Elaine Harmon*	√				
Jim Mitchell	√				
Karen Collins*				X	
Karen Scallan*	√			X	
Kristen Gladen*				X	
Mark Raymond, Jr.*	√				
Pasqueal Nguyen	√				
Sharon Hennessey*	√				
Amy Dawson	√				GOHSEP
Jamie Ainsworth	√				DOTD
Kevin George	√				LDH-OCDD
Melanie Doucet	√				LDH- Medicaid
Teresa Frank	√				LDH-OCDD
Lynette Fontenot*	√				Chairperson
Kathy Allen	√				Vice-Chair
Bambi Polotzola	√				GODA
Attendees	Agency/Affiliate/ Representing		Attendees		Agency/Affiliate/ Representing
Amy Deaville	LaDDC		Myllinda Elliott		FHF SWLA
John Schweitzer	LWC-LRS				
			Rikki David		State ADA Coor
			Tony Rocca		DRLA
Staff	Agency		Staff		Agency
Jordan Brisco	GODA		Alisha Vallien		SICC
Lillian Dejean	GODA				

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Tuesday, March 8, 2022

3:00 PM to 4:30 PM

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

2. Capital Regional Planning Commission

Kim Marousek kmarousek@crpcla.org; Mia Ruffin mruffin@crpcla.org

- Planning Commission Boundary includes 11 parishes within region
- Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Boundary- federally mandated planning within the urbanized area
- “Move 2046” is the new transportation plan to be adopted for the next 25 years.
- Urban Planning organizations were put into law in the early 60s by local governments to create strategies for transportation and development
- Data analysis is used for planning and implementation. This contributes to a better perspective.
- Elderly and Disabled people face unique mobility challenges, especially in rural areas. Transit Dependent Populations (Chart provided to show data broken down by parishes of elderly and disabled within rural areas)
- DOTD is responsible for statewide coordination with operators.
- Regional Coordinators help to coordinate communication with DOTD and local operators. They work to align with state and regional goals. They bring research to the table and discuss topical issues. They have to be creative in ensuring riders get to where they need to go.
- Committee Members shared that websites and apps for Capital Area transit aren't accessible for people who are blind.

3. LRS – Transportation gaps for people seeking employment

Dr. John Schweitzer

- How do we get those people within rural areas the correct transportation to work?
- Individuals will contact the regional LRS office, be assigned a counselor, have an intake interview, and assess how to get a counselor to the individual's home. There is a 30 day time period to determine what

resources can be provided. Transportation component will be added to the Individual Plan for Employment (IPE) by LRS.

- Invoice voucher or quarterly payment
- Dr. Schweitzer offered to provide information regarding blending and coordinating funding for transportation which is provided through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
- Infrastructure Investment and Job Act should've had more emphasis on funding rural transportation programs. The allocation was inequitable which further creates serious ongoing barriers for people in rural communities. In future meetings, we need to learn more about how the planning and funding process works. It seems lots of funding goes to capitol expenses but not enough to operating expenses and this is left to local governments.
- Jamie Ainsworth, DOTD Public Transit 225-379-3055
Jamie.ainsworth@la.gov
5310 and 5311 - general public rural transit- 38 systems; 50% match requirements are solely on local governments,
There is a new application starting July 1, 2022, which will include two parishes and can expand to include up to 8 parishes. We will have a presentation on this at the June meeting.
There is difficulty with transportation for Pre-ETS students in Northeast Louisiana. Encouraged to attend MPO meetings in region, Shelby Rybicki, Transit Coordinator Monroe region, 318-387-2574

5. Ride Share Companies legislation

Representative Royce Duplessis

- Creating a bill to draft what it would look like to require ride share companies to become more accessible
- Creating an awareness to get a policy created in Louisiana
- Rep. Royce is willing to offer support and legislation
- Are Uber and Lyft under the ADA? Legal Case: US v. Uber
<https://www.adapacific.org/us-v-uber-update>
- Some of the rural parishes don't have ridesharing and don't have broadband so the issue has to be tackled from the ground level in many areas of the state.
- Mark Raymond "Better transit for people with disabilities is a civil right"
https://www.theadvocate.com/baton_rouge/opinion/article_ea4f1114-9e5f-11ec-87a8-73b26a0d46e9.html

6. Rental Car companies lack of accessible vehicles

- Likely needs federal legislation requiring rental car companies to have accessible vehicles. Rental cars/Rideshare companies weren't around when the ADA was authorized. The ADA needs to be updated to align with today's environment. Are these rental car companies subject to ADA since many are federal contractors?
- <https://accessology.com/design-guidelines/uniform-federal-accessibility-standards-ufas/>

7. Public Comment

- Concern about people with disabilities in Ukraine who are unable to travel to evacuate from the Russian invasion.

8. Adjournment

Motion was made to adjourn by Kevin George

Motion was seconded by Elaine Harman

ACCESSIBILITY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, March 9, 2022

3:00 PM to 4:30 PM

Committee Members	Present	Proxy	Proxy Name	Absent	Agency/Affiliate/ Representing
Andrea Lowe*	√				
Andrew Kuyoro*				X	
Beau Ellerbee*	√				
Gerlinde Beckers				X	
Jerrie Williams*	√				
Jessica Michot*				X	
Jim Mitchell	√				
Karen Collins*				X	
Karen Scallan*				X	
Nicole Flores		√	Harlon Cowsar		
Pasqueal Nguyen	√				
Sharon Hennessey*	√				
Tim Delaney*				XX	
Amy Dawson	√				GOHSEP
Brett Domangue				X	LDH-OCDD
Celia Alexander	√				DCFS
Cindy Obier				XX	State Fire Marshall
Erin Downing				X	LDH-OCDD
Lynette Fontenot*	√				Chairperson
Kathy Allen	√				Vice-Chair
Bambi Polotzola	√				GODA
Attendees	Agency/Affiliate/ Representing		Attendees	Agency/Affiliate/ Representing	
Mark Raymond			Kristie Curtis	FHF Acadiana	
Amy Deaville	LA DD Council		Harlon Cowsar	FHF Acadiana	
Jana Broussard	LA Comm for Deaf		Woodrow Parker		
John Schweitzer	LWC- LRS		Rikki David	State ADA Coor	
			Tony Rocca	DRLA	
Staff	Agency		Staff	Agency	
Jamar Ennis	SILC		Alishia Vallien	SICC	

ACCESSIBILITY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, March 9, 2022

3:00 PM to 4:30 PM

Call to Order and Roll Call

On March 9, 2022, GACDA Accessibility Committee was called to order at 3:01 p.m. via the virtual platform Zoom. Roll was called.

[Granting Unserved Municipalities Broadband Opportunities \(GUMBO\)](#) was presented by Veneeth Lyengar. The GUMBO grant program aims to help applicants facilitate the deployment of broadband service to unserved areas of the state. 47% of African Americans and Latinos lack internet within Louisiana. The current vision is to solve the digital divide by 2029. There are three pools of money for Broadband (Infrastructure Funding, Digital Literacy). A Digital Equity Plan will be created. Please visit [fcc.gov/acp](https://www.fcc.gov/acp) for more information regarding this plan. The criteria for the Affordable Connectivity Program was discussed, listed below, and is also shown upon the website.

A household is eligible for the Affordable Connectivity Program if the household income is at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, or if a member of the household meets at least *one* of the criteria below:

- Participates in certain assistance programs, such as SNAP, Medicaid, Federal Public Housing Assistance, SSI, WIC, or Lifeline;
- Participates in Tribal specific programs, such as Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance, Tribal TANF, or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations;
- Participates in the National School Lunch Program or the School Breakfast Program, including through the USDA Community Eligibility Provision;
- Received a Federal Pell Grant during the current award year; or
- Meets the eligibility criteria for a participating provider's existing low-income internet program.

Kathy Allen created a motion to create a follow up meeting with Veneeth and the motion was seconded by Dr. Andrea Lowe. Bambi Polotazola will follow up with Veneeth as he stated that he would prefer to set up a time within the week of March 21st.

[The National Weather Service Alert](#) was presented by Bill Wallace, Disability Rights Office, Federal Communications Commission. He stated that there are two types of National Weather Service Alert messages: audio and text. The National Weather Service Alert agency is accepting comments that are due by March 11, 2022 to improve the accessibility of the text emergency alert, comments will be replied to by March 20, 2022. You are able to file a complaint with the disability office if text on emergency alert is inaccessible (FCC).

[LA Commission of Deaf update](#), Shane Bates Program Manager. Bates gave an update on the upcoming legislative session. He discussed SB98. SB98 provides relative to the Louisiana Commission for the Deaf)

Present law provides for the La. Commission on the Deaf, within the La. Dept. of Health (LDH). Proposed law retains present law and further provides that the commission shall function as a program of the state and serve as the principal agency of the state providing leadership to promote the general welfare of d/Deaf, DeafBlind, and hard of hearing individuals.

- Dr. Mitchell asked about progress on State Capitol accessibility: Lighthouse Louisiana has a contract to identify accessibility issues at the State Capitol and will provide recommendations

Dr. Leah Raby gave an overview on the [Louisiana Commission on Human Rights](#). This office handles all employment-related decimation within the state of Louisiana. Individuals may report accessibility issues. However, these complaints are not handled by LCHR. LCHR refers them to other organizations to handle. LCHR handles employment issues and works in conjunction with the US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Office to handle investigations and issues findings. It does not prosecute or enforce the laws.

Overview of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Rikki David, State ADA Coordinator, gave an overview of the ADA. David stated that current ADA Trends of 2022 are currently being analyzed to present data. One of the main concerns is website accessibility. She is also focusing on the transit accessibility within the city of Baton Rouge, LA.

The overview contained the topics listed below:

- ADA Title I: Employment
- ADA Title II: Governmental Services
- ADA Title II and III: Transportation
- ADA Title III: Places of Public Accommodation
- ADA Title IV: Telecommunications

- ADA Title V: Miscellaneous
- Conclusion

<https://legis.la.gov/legis/BillInfo.aspx?s=22RS&b=HB143&sbi=y>

Bambi Polotazola asked if the committee would like to make a recommendation on HB143 (Provides for development and implementation by state agencies of policies, training, and reporting relative to compliance with requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act). Dr. Mitchell stated that he had not seen a final draft of the bill and was reluctant to support a bill that he had not read. He asked for a motion of support. No one on the committee made a motion. Dr. Mitchell suggested that the bill would be discussed in the Legislative Committee, the next day, and that people address their concerns, at that time.

An update on the [Voting Systems Commission](#) was given by Lillian Dejean. The VSC has discussed implementing a split system for voting at polls. This will pose accessibility issues and would compromise the privacy of the vote, for persons with disabilities. Issues have arisen, over concerns about how voters and poll workers will be trained in this dual system. The next VSC meeting is supposed to include demonstrations of potential voting machines/technology. As of this time, a date has not been scheduled. It will be posted on the Secretary of State website (<https://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/VotingSystemCommission/Pages/UpcomingMeetings.aspx>). This meeting will provide the opportunity for the public and Commission members to test various voting methods and devices under consideration by the Commission.

The committee urged persons with disabilities to take this opportunity to view the demonstrations and participate in the hands-on opportunity.

Public Comments

Dr. Mitchell suggested that since Independent Living has been separated from the Governor's office would it be possible to add Independent Living onto the accessibility agenda. Bambi Polotazola stated that the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs would follow up with Jamar Ennis to work alongside this office.

Adjournment

Lynette Fontenot made a motion to adjourn the March 9, 2022 meeting. The Motion to adjourn the March 9, 2022, meeting was seconded by Kathy Allen. The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Thursday, March 10, 2022

3:00 PM to 4:30 PM

Committee Members	Present	Proxy	Proxy Name	Absent	Agency/Affiliate/ Representing
Andrea Lowe*	√				
Elaine Harmon*	√				
Gerlinde Beckers	√				
Jerrie Williams*	√				
Jessica Michot*	√				
Karen Collins*	√				
Karen Scallan*	√				
Kelly Monroe*	√				
Nicole Flores	√				
Pasquel Nguyen	√				
Sharon Hennessey	√				
Tabatha Taylor*				XX	
Tory Rocca	√				
Allison Vuljoin	√				LDH - OAAS
Anne Jayes	√				Lighthouse LA
Ebonee Haven	√				DD Council
Carol Lee		√	Erin Downing		LDH-OCDD
Lacey Gero	√				LDH-OPH
Lynette Fontenot*				XX	Chairperson
Kathy Allen	√				Vice-Chair
Bambi Polotzola	√				GODA
Attendees	Agency/Affiliate/ Representing		Attendees	Agency/Affiliate/ Representing	
Meredith Jordan	LDE		Melissa Ledoux		
Bobbye Abney			Christinia Martin	LACAN 1 & 9	
David K			Kristie Curtis	FHF Acadiana	
Ashley McReynolds	Arc LA		Karen Arus	LaCan 9	
Ebony Haven	DD Council		Katie Kroes	LACAN 2	
Myllinda Elliot	LaCan 5		Susan Riehn	FHF Swla	
Staff	Agency		Staff	Agency	
Jamar Ennis	SILC/ GODA		Alishia Vallien	GODA/SICC	

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Thursday, March 10, 2022

3:00 PM to 4:30 PM

1. *Call to Order and Roll Call* The meeting was called to order at 3:01. Roll call was conducted.
2. *Discuss [Legislative Items](#), consider taking positions (support/oppose)*

HB55, Butler: Provides for Medicaid coverage of dental care for certain residents of intermediate care facilities.

- Karen Scallen motioned to support, Nicole Flores seconded. Motion passed.

HB143, Butler: Provides for development and implementation by state agencies of policies, training, and reporting relative to compliance with requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act

- Rikki David, State ADA Coordinator, clarified questions about the bill.
- Lynette Fontenot motioned to support, Karen Collins seconded. Motion passed.

HB146, Owen: Provides relative to consent with regard to certain medical procedures.

- Tory Rocca, Co-Chair of Legislative Committee, provided an overview. He explained that, currently, the decision for abortions or sterilization of individuals under interdiction is under the purview of the legal guardian. This legislation would implement a legal/court process into this decision, with the intention of providing more self-determination for the interdicted individual.
- Jim Mitchell moved to oppose the bill, reasoning that unless the individual is given 100% autonomy, "the cure is worse than the disease." Dr. Andrea Lowe seconded.
- Dr. Andrea Lowe moved to continue to work with the author on this bill. Jim Mitchell seconded. Lynette Fontenot abstained.

HB178, Villio: Provides relative to the right to vote "right (to vote) may be suspended while for a person who is interdicted and judicially declared mentally incompetent."

- The committee opted to not take position on this legislative instrument, because the issue is not with this specific bill, but rather in the overarching interdiction laws that prevent interdicted individuals from voting.

HB194, Butler: Creates and provides for a program to provide state funding for the education of students with exceptionalities not enrolled in public school.

- Lynette Fontenot motioned to support HB194, Tory Rocca seconded. Nicole Flores and Dr. Andrea Lowe abstained. Ebony Haven and Karen Scallen objected.
- A roll call vote was performed. With only three yes votes, the motion failed to pass.

- No position was taken on this bill.

HB227, Wright: Creates and provides for a program to provide state funding for the education of students with exceptionalities not enrolled in public school.

- Moved on to next bill due to similarities to HB194. No position was taken.

HB291, Edmonds: Requires all nursing homes to maintain in effect emergency preparedness plans approved by the La. Department of Health.

- Karen Scallen made a motion to support, Elaine Harmon seconded. Motion passed.

HB524, Lyons: Establishes a program for needs assessment and coordination of services for people with disabilities affected by disasters.

- Kelly Monroe made a motion to support, Elaine Harmon seconded. Motion passed.

HB645, Magee: Establishes the Community Options Waiver Fund and provides for dedication of revenues and use of monies in the fund Modeled after the NOW Fund but for aging population.

- Andrew Muhl from AARP answered questions and discussed the language of the bill.
- Karen Scallen motioned to support, Kathy Allen seconded. Motion passed.

HB649, Hilferty: Prohibits corporal punishment in public schools.

- Karen Collins motioned to support, Nicole Flores seconded. Motion passed.

SB45, Foil: Requires all public school governing authorities to adopt certain policies relative to cameras in certain classrooms by December 31, 2022.

- Lynette Fontenot motioned to support SB 45 with the amendment that the policy is implemented at the beginning of the school year. Dr. Beckers seconded. Motion passed with no opposition.

SB74, Hewitt: Provides relative to the qualification of poll watchers.

- Currently, people with disabilities who require assistance voting are prohibited from serving as poll workers. This legislative instrument would eliminate that prohibition.
- Karen Collins motioned to support, Lynette Fontenot seconded. Motion passed.

SB104, Mizell: Prohibits certain licensed healthcare facilities from requiring patients and residents to forgo possession of certain communication devices as a condition of receiving services.

- Lynette Fontenot motioned to support, Tory Rocca seconded. Motion passed.

SB192, Boudreaux: Provides for the Postsecondary Inclusive Education Fund for funding programs for students with intellectual disabilities.

- This bill was discussed in the GACDA Education Subcommittee on 3/7/2022. The Education Committee motioned to support this bill.

SB249, Barrow: Requires local governing authority to implement a permitting process for individuals and businesses who open a home which serves six or more individuals.

- It was recommended by Tory Rocca to not support due to the language. Bambi suggested talking to Barrow to make it better. It was decided that GACDA/GODA will communicate with Barrow regarding this before the full council meeting.

It was recommended by Bambi Polotzola of GODA that the GACDA Legislative Committee meet again. Co-Chairs Kelly Monroe and Tory Rocca concurred. It was decided that the committee would meet on March 24, 2022 at 1:00 PM.

3. *Public Comment*

There was no public comment. The meeting was adjourned at 4:54 PM.

