

EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
Monday, December 12, 2022  
12:00 PM to 1:30 PM

| Committee Members        | Present                       | Proxy | Proxy Name        | Absent                        | Agency/Affiliate/Representing |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|-------|-------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Andrea Lowe*             | √                             |       |                   |                               |                               |
| Gerlinde Beckers         | √                             |       |                   |                               |                               |
| Jerrie Williams*         | √                             |       |                   |                               |                               |
| Karen Collins*           | √                             |       |                   |                               |                               |
| Kelly Monroe*            |                               |       |                   | X                             |                               |
| Marsha Andrews           |                               |       |                   | X                             |                               |
| Mary Breaud*             | √                             |       |                   | X                             |                               |
| Nicole Flores            | √                             |       |                   |                               |                               |
| Pasqueal Nguyen          |                               |       |                   |                               |                               |
| Robert Garcia*           |                               |       |                   | XXX                           |                               |
| Tim Delaney*             | √                             |       |                   |                               |                               |
| Anne Jayes               |                               |       |                   | XXX                           |                               |
| Brenda Sharp             | √                             |       |                   |                               | LDH-OCDD                      |
| Meredith Jordan          | √                             |       |                   |                               | LDE                           |
| Melissa Bayham           |                               |       |                   | X                             | LWC- LRS                      |
| <i>Lynette Fontenot*</i> | √                             |       |                   |                               | <i>GACDA Chairperson</i>      |
| <i>Kathy Allen*</i>      |                               |       |                   | XXX                           | <i>GACDA Vice-Chair</i>       |
| <i>Bambi Polotzola</i>   | √                             |       |                   |                               | <i>GODA</i>                   |
| Attendees                | Agency/Affiliate/Representing |       | Attendees         | Agency/Affiliate/Representing |                               |
| Jim Mitchell*            |                               |       | Jazmyne Lemar     |                               |                               |
| Amber Harris             | ULM                           |       | Karen Artus       | FHF Northshore                |                               |
| Amy Deaville             | DD Council                    |       | Kiesha            |                               |                               |
| Ashley McReynolds        | Arc of LA                     |       | Kristie Curtis    | FHF Acadiana                  |                               |
| Brenda Bares             | FHF Acadiana                  |       | Michelle Guillory | GOEA                          |                               |
| Chanel Jackson           | FHF Region 7                  |       | Myllinda Elliot   | FHF                           |                               |
| Cheri Crain              | GOEA                          |       | Rikki David       | ADA                           |                               |
| Cynthia Chesterfield     |                               |       | Rosemary Morales  | OCDD                          |                               |
| Ebony Haven              | DD Council                    |       | Susan Rhein       | FHF SWLA                      |                               |
| Fred Pape                |                               |       | Tia Lebrun        |                               |                               |
| Jana Broussard           | LCD                           |       |                   |                               |                               |
| Staff                    | Agency                        |       | Staff             | Agency                        |                               |
| KeAndria Henry           | GODA                          |       | Alishia Vallien   | SICC/GODA                     |                               |
| Lillian Dejean           | GODA                          |       |                   |                               |                               |

1. Call to Order

2. Discuss [OSEP letter](#) stating emergency certification of Special Education teachers is no longer acceptable and the impact on Louisiana SPED Fast Track certification concerns  
*Dr. Gerlinde Beckers*

Dr. Beckers summarized a letter from OSEP which outlined SPED teachers' certification and the fact that they are no longer granting emergency certification to SPED teachers. What is this going to do for the state and the quality of teachers? There is a critical shortage of SPED teachers. Doctor Beckers is concerned with the quality of our teachers. Teachers are getting no lunch or planning periods due to the teacher shortage. There is no time for SPED teachers to collaborate with regular education teachers.

Questions were asked about funding available for SPED teachers. Meredith Jordan suggested looking at a different compensation model for SPED teachers. Individuals need to be incentivized. A meeting was held with SPED leaders to address staffing.

Committee agreed to revisit this issue after more research. There is also a shortage in related service providers.

3. [Cameras in certain classroom](#) *Nicole Flores*

Cameras in the classroom policy should be submitted to the state no later than January 15, 2023. After policies have been turned in, this item should be added back to the agenda. Meredith Jordan will give an update to the DD council in January. The State Department will be reviewing and evaluating policy. Policies will be flagged that do not meet the requirements of the law.

Dr. Beckers was asked (by a parent) if the privacy of other students will be protected if the footage is ever used. There are already policies in place to protect students in videos. There are safeguards in the law stating who is able to view the video.

4. Discuss [Local Special Education Advisory Councils](#) *Nicole Flores*

Each school district should be having meetings. Send out a survey in spring to do a check in with parishes. Dr. Beckers will have her graduate assistant go check to see if school districts need assistance. Families Helping Families have offered to present at the local Special Education Advisory Council meetings.

5. *Postsecondary Inclusive Education Fund*

*Dr. Gerlinde Beckers*

The Postsecondary Inclusive Education Fund was provided one million dollars. Dr. Beckers is the chair. Existing programs were surveyed. Fourteen schools would like to launch programs. Webinar was done in November. Enhancement dollars were capped at \$50,000. New programs were capped at \$80,000.

Meredith Jordan motioned to support expanding sustained funding for the LAPIE initiative. Andrea Lowe seconded motion .No objections or discussions.  
Motion passed.

6. *Related Services Advisory Council*

*Dr. Amber Harris*

The state department gave the Council data on the number of students in each parish receiving related services. There was no breakdown of a number on consult versus the number of students receiving direct services. Surveys will go out for parents to answer anonymously about the impact of related services. Special Education administrators will be surveyed to determine a student to service provider ratio. Related service providers will be surveyed anonymously to determine how many students are receiving direct and how many are indirect services. Dr. Harris asked for suggestions for each survey. Dr. Beckers asked Dr. Harris to give an update at the March meeting.

Occupational therapy can only be done if a student has a doctor's order. Physical therapists can self-prescribe. Bambi asked for the ratio in regards to the speech therapists; Amber stated that although there is a rubric, it is still complicated and individualized.

Meredith Jordan recently discussed virtual services with SPED leaders across the state.

The Related Services Advisory Council's next meeting is February 15, 2023.

7. *Public Comment*

(none)

8. *Adjournment*

Motion to adjourn made by Karen Collins.  
It was seconded by Tim Delaney.  
Motion passed.

ACCESSIBILITY COMMITTEE  
Monday, December 12, 2022  
2:30 PM to 4:15PM

| Committee Members | Present                       | Proxy | Proxy Name        | Absent                        | Agency/Affiliate/Representing |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|-------|-------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Andrea Lowe*      | √                             |       |                   |                               |                               |
| Andrew Kuyoro*    |                               |       |                   | X                             |                               |
| Beau Ellerbee*    | √                             |       |                   |                               |                               |
| Jamar Ennis       | √                             |       |                   |                               |                               |
| Jerrie Williams*  | √                             |       |                   | XX                            |                               |
| Jessica Michot*   | √                             |       |                   |                               |                               |
| Jim Mitchell      | √                             |       |                   |                               |                               |
| Karen Collins*    | √                             |       |                   |                               |                               |
| Karen Scallan*    |                               |       |                   | X                             |                               |
| Marsha Andrews    |                               |       |                   | X                             |                               |
| Nicole Flores     | √                             |       |                   |                               |                               |
| Pasqueal Nguyen   | √                             |       |                   |                               |                               |
| Sharon Hennessey* | √                             |       |                   |                               |                               |
| Tim Delaney*      | √                             |       |                   |                               |                               |
| Amy Dawson        | √                             |       |                   |                               |                               |
| Amy Yarbrough     | √                             |       |                   |                               | LDH-OCDD                      |
| Celia Alexander   | √                             |       |                   |                               | DCFS                          |
| Erin Downing      |                               |       |                   | X                             | LDH-OCDD                      |
| Lynette Fontenot* |                               |       |                   | X                             | <i>Chairperson</i>            |
| Kathy Allen       | √                             |       |                   | XXX                           | <i>Vice-Chair</i>             |
| Bambi Polotzola   | √                             |       |                   |                               | GODA                          |
| Attendees         | Agency/Affiliate/Representing |       | Attendees         | Agency/Affiliate/Representing |                               |
| Charles Tate      |                               |       | Margaret Storms   | Blanco Center                 |                               |
| Cheri Crain       |                               |       | Michelle Guillory | GOEA                          |                               |
| Jana Broussard    | LCD                           |       | Mylynda Elliot    |                               |                               |
| Jazmyne Lemar     | LCD                           |       | Rikki David       | State ADA Coordinator         |                               |
| Keisha Hertzock   |                               |       | Stephen Barnes    | Blanco Center                 |                               |
| Kristie Curtis    |                               |       |                   |                               |                               |
| Staff             | Agency                        |       | Staff             | Agency                        |                               |
| KeAndria Henry    | GODA                          |       | Alishia Vallien   | SICC                          |                               |
| Lillian Dejean    | GODA                          |       |                   |                               |                               |

### 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

### 2. *Granting Unserved Municipalities Broadband Opportunities (GUMBO)*

*Stephen Barnes and Margaret Storms, UL Blanco Center*

Stephen shared the Digital Equity Stakeholder Engagement PowerPoint.

The PowerPoint explained why digital equity, defining digital equity, what is the digital divide, why are we writing a plan, regional partnerships, outreach collaboration with diverse stakeholders, and the digital equity plan timeline.

A draft of the plan will go out in April. Louisiana was the first state to apply and receive funds. There will be an online portal to track the digital equity data. A QR link is provided for those to provide input and engage via an online form.

Stephen provided the following contact information for any input, questions, and/or concerns:

- Website [bit.ly/LaDigitalEquity](https://bit.ly/LaDigitalEquity)
- Margaret Storms( [Margaret.storms@louisiana.edu](mailto:Margaret.storms@louisiana.edu))
- Phone number (337-482-5014)

### 3. *Updates from the Statewide Independent Living Council*

*Jamar Ennis*

Jamar shared that the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) is currently creating a new State Plan for Independent Living for 2023 - 2026. This plan will address improving the need for Independent Living Services in Louisiana.

The Independent Living Centers consists of three organizations, Resources for Independent Living, New Horizons, and Southwest Independent Living Center. These organizations have multiple centers throughout Louisiana, serving all 64 parishes. Their goal is to help them live more independently by providing services to better serve constituents.

In efforts to solicit responses from constituents, SILC has created a State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) Survey and is asking for assistance with sharing the survey found at the following link: (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/S7GYM5Y>)

Jamar provided the following email address for those wanting to subscribe to their newsletter: ([SILC.louisiana@gmail.com](mailto:SILC.louisiana@gmail.com) )

4. Updates from the [State ADA Coordinator Office](#) (HB143) Rikki David

Rikki David will provide an update on the Model Employer Program during our March meeting, due to receiving most, but not all of the annual SAME Plans.

This program was transferred from the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs to the State ADA Coordinator Office as part of [ACT 103](#).

5. Updates from the [LA Commission of Deaf](#) (SB 98 / Act 128) Jana M. Broussard

In January of 2022, The Commission of the Deaf submitted a recommendation, to the state capitol, concerning accessibility technology improvements for those with hearing loss. The state capitol has not responded. Jana reached out to Senator Hewitt last week but has not received a reply.

The statewide Interpreter assessments are still ongoing but will come to a close at the end of December 2022. A full report from their contractor will be available by December 31, 2022. Due to the massive interpreter shortage, the commission is working to recruit, retain and establish quality standards for the workforce.

LCD is in the middle of the rulemaking process for the interpreter assessment, but the interpreter shortage will cause the accessibility minimum standards to not go into effect right away. These standards include those working in education, court systems, and within the communities. This will cause a lot of workplace issues across the state. Jana will provide an update in the spring. Jana asked for assistance with identifying anyone interested in becoming an interpreter. Minimal signing skills are acceptable.

Beau Ellerbee made a motion to write a letter to the technology committee about accessibility issues at the Capitol for the deaf. Karen Collins seconded the motion. Motion passed.

6. Discussion of [GACDA State Agency Web Accessibility Resolution](#) Rikki David

Rikki David researched, prepared, and submitted a response letter to Dr. Mitchell on November 2, 2022, in response to the passing of the Web Accessibility Resolution. In her report, she identified [The Office of Technology Services \(OTS\)](#) as an authoritative source and provided an overview of the various ways in which OTS is working to advance web accessibility in state agencies. Early next year, DOA intends to charge major state agencies' undersecretaries, who supervise IT, to add a web accessibility statement to their websites if they do not have one.

The next step is meeting with State Procurement to discuss the contract renewal language moving forward.

*7. Update on Rural/Urban Transportation Coordination Efforts*

*Dr. Jim Mitchell / Beau Ellerbee*

They met with DOTD in efforts to develop more transportation in rural areas and coordinate transportation in urban areas. After meeting with DOTD Secretary Shawn Wilson and providing the requested polling numbers, they were informed that we do not have the \$5 million in our budget to fix this issue.

Beau motioned for a study resolution to identify all agencies that spend program dollars on transportation that are not transportation agencies. Tim Delaney seconded the motion.

The motion passed.

*8. Public Comments*

Bambi informed the committee and read a statement regarding the death of Katherine Hoover.

*9. Adjournment*

Beau Ellerbee motions to adjourn at 4:16.

Moved by unanimous consent.

Full Council Meeting  
 Thursday, December 15, 2022  
 10:00 AM to 12:15 PM  
 Meeting Recording: <https://bit.ly/GACDA2206>

*\*\*Special Recognition and Celebration\*\**

*Chairperson Lynette Fontenot's Birthday*

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



| Attendees        | Agency/Affiliate/<br>Representing | Attendees           | Agency/Affiliate/<br>Representing |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Amy Dawson       | GHOSEP                            | Kathy Dwyer         | OCDD SAC                          |
| Amy Deaville     | DD Council                        | Kristie Curtis      | FHF Lacan                         |
| Ashley McReynold |                                   | Melissa Bayham      | LRS                               |
| Brenda Cosse     |                                   | Michelle Guillory   | GOEA                              |
| Brenda Sharp     | EarlySteps                        | Harlon Cowsar       | FHF                               |
| Carol Lee        |                                   | Myllinda Elliot     | FHF                               |
| Celia Alexander  | DCFS                              | Julie F. Hagan      | LDH-OCDD                          |
| Chanel Jackson   |                                   | Rosemary<br>Morales | LDH-OCDD                          |
| Cheri Crain      | GOEA                              | Kevin George        | OCDD                              |
| Dominick Abrams  |                                   |                     |                                   |
| Ebony Haven      | DD Council                        | Ashley Jefferson    | LDH-OBH                           |
| Erin Downing     |                                   | Jana Broussard      | LDH-OPH-LCD                       |
| Jakeel Abdulah   |                                   | Rikki David         | State ADA Coordinator             |
| John Schweitzer  | LRS                               |                     |                                   |
| Staff            | Title                             | Staff               | Title                             |
| Bambi Polotzola  | GODA Director                     | Alishia Vallien     | SICC Director                     |

1. *Call to Order and Roll Call*

2. *Committee Reports and Discussions*

➤ *Education*

Dr. Beckers discussed a letter from OSEP regarding them no longer granting emergency certification.

DOE is looking at different compensation models for SPED teachers. DOE is also looking at recruitment. Committee decided to revisit after more research.

An update on cameras in the classroom will be coming from Meredith Jordan. Safeguards are already in the law to protect the privacy of students. Dr. Beckers will check in with local districts on their progress with SEACs.

Post-Secondary inclusive Fund update was given by Dr. Beckers. A webinar and applications were launched in November. Fourteen universities are interested in creating a LAPIE program.

The state department gave data to the Related Services Council. Virtual services were discussed. Dr. Harris will update the education committee at the next meeting.

Committee made a recommendation to support sustaining LAPIE funding. Motion passed by the full council. Advocacy will be crucial.

SSD board was established in 2021. Most of the students at the school have IEPs. The council was asked to support the school's students, families, faculty, and staff.

➤ *Accessibility*

Dr. Jim Mitchell gave the committee report. GUMBO has started its digital equity plan. The plan is due in April. Their next meeting will be in January.

SILC was formed. Jamar Ennis is the director. SILC is pushing a survey that can be accessed via SILC's newsletter. SILC will have a website within the next month. Jamar provided an email address for those wanting to sign up for SILC's newsletter: ([SILC.louisiana@gmail.com](mailto:SILC.louisiana@gmail.com)). Melissa will send updated data to Jamar from LRS before him speaking to the Governor.

Jim Mitchell gave an update from the ADA. OTS has developed services to help organizations meet accessibility issues. The Commission for the deaf has not made any progress regarding accessibility issues at the Capitol. Lack of interpreters was also discussed.

A motion was made, by the Accessibility Committee, to write a letter to the technology committee about accessibility issues at the Capitol for the deaf. No objections or abstentions; Motion passed.

Jim Mitchell gave an update on the rural/urban transportation coordination efforts. The committee is still working on getting the \$5 million to fix this issue.

➤ *Legislative*

The meeting was canceled. The meeting was rescheduled for January 3, 2023, at 1:00 pm.

**3. Update on Employment initiatives**

*(including but not limited to LRS, OBH, OCDD)*

Melissa with LRS gave updates. LRS is recruiting rehabilitation counselors. LRS is working on making its process more effective and getting staffed.

Dr. Jefferson gave an update on behalf of OBH. OBH was awarded the advancing state policy integration for recovery and employment technical assistant. They will begin working in January 2023 and will extend through September 2024. More information will be forthcoming.

Julie Hagan w/ OCDD, updated the homing community-based settings rule. OCDD submitted an advice request to CMS on the state's corrective action plan. This will assist with the March 2023 deadline for compliance. A more formal update will be available towards the end of January.

4. *La Department of Health updates* (including but not limited to OAAS, OBH, OCDD, OPH)  
Presentation on the [LDH Business Plan](#)

Dr. Jefferson with LDH provided the National Suicide Prevention Line number (988) and website (<https://www.ldh.la.gov/page/4490>).

Jana Broussard provided an update from OPH. Title 5 continues to provide care clinics. The Bureau of Family Health offers resources to families statewide. Requests can be made via phone or email.

OCDD will schedule road shows at the end of January. Updates will be done on the road shows, including updates on waivers.

5. *State Agency / Member Updates*  
[Governor's Outstanding Leadership in Disabilities \(GOLD\) Awards and Inclusive Arts Contest](#)

Link to live recording of the 2022 GOLD Awards: <https://youtu.be/mqRYw0eaj04>

Amy Dawson gave an update on the outcome of yesterday's weather. Data is being collected via the link to determine if federal assistance can be requested.

6. *Public Comment*

A motion was made by Karen Collins to permit the Legislative Committee to make any recommendations necessary. Dr. Beckers seconded the motion.  
Motion moved.

7. *Adjournment*

Kelly Motioned to adjourn. Jim Mitchell seconded the motion.  
Motion passed; Adjourned at 12:13 PM.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE  
 Tuesday, January 3, 2023  
 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

| Committee Members | Present                       | Proxy | Proxy Name      | Absent                        | Agency/Affiliate/Representing |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|-------|-----------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Andrea Lowe*      | √                             |       |                 |                               |                               |
| Elaine Harmon*    |                               |       |                 | XX                            |                               |
| Gerlinde Beckers  |                               |       |                 | X                             |                               |
| Jerrie Williams*  |                               |       |                 | XX                            |                               |
| Jessica Michot*   | √                             |       |                 |                               |                               |
| Jim Mitchell      | √                             |       |                 |                               |                               |
| Karen Collins*    |                               |       |                 | X                             |                               |
| Karen Scallan*    | √                             |       |                 |                               |                               |
| Kelly Monroe*     | √                             |       |                 |                               |                               |
| Nicole Flores     | √                             |       |                 |                               |                               |
| Pasquel Nguyen    | √                             |       |                 |                               |                               |
| Sharon Hennessey  | √                             |       |                 |                               |                               |
| Tory Rocca        | √                             |       |                 |                               |                               |
| Allison Vuljoin   |                               |       |                 | X                             | LDH - OAAS                    |
| Anne Jayes        | √                             |       |                 |                               |                               |
| Ebony Haven       | √                             |       |                 |                               | DD Council                    |
| Carol Lee         | √                             |       |                 |                               | LDH-OCDD                      |
| Lynette Fontenot* | √                             |       |                 |                               | Chairperson                   |
| Kathy Allen       |                               |       |                 | XXX                           | Vice-Chair                    |
| Bambi Polotzola   | √                             |       |                 |                               | GODA                          |
| Attendees         | Agency/Affiliate/Representing |       | Attendees       | Agency/Affiliate/Representing |                               |
| *Jamar Ennis      | SILC                          |       | Kristie Curtis  | FHF Acadiana                  |                               |
| Karen Artus       | FHF Northshore                |       | Rikki David     | State ADA Coordinator         |                               |
| Staff             | Agency                        |       | Staff           | Agency                        |                               |
| KeAndria Henry    | GODA                          |       | Alishia Vallien | GODA/SICC                     |                               |
| Lillian Dejean    | GODA                          |       |                 |                               |                               |

1. *Call to Order and Roll Call*

## *2. Legislative Goals as Submitted by Committee Members*

### *Expansion of Disability Rights Louisiana's SILAP.*

Libby Whiteside Kiger presented on Disability Rights Louisiana's legislative goal of acquiring \$262,500 in state general funds for the expansion of their Statewide Independent Advocacy Services Program (SILAP.). This funding would go to hiring a full-time staff person for each region, to aid in the prevention of abuse, neglect, and exploitation for waiver recipients and individuals living in ICF/DDs.

### *Study Resolution for State Agencies' Transportation Budgets*

Dr. Jim Mitchell suggested the creation of a study resolution that would identify the amount of funds each state agency spends on transportation within their programs. Additionally, there was discussion pertaining to the Office of State Purchasing (OSP) continuing to purchase technology inaccessible to people with disabilities. GACDA has reached out to OSP regarding this issue with no response. Rikki David, State ADA Coordinator, stated that she would follow up with OSP.

### *Paid Family Medical Leave*

Anne Jayes from the Louisiana Public Health Institute presented a legislative proposal for a Paid Family Medical Leave system. Paid Family Medical Leave is for individuals that need to leave work to care for themselves, or a family member, due to illness for an extended period of time. The funding for Paid Family Medical Leave would originate from payroll contribution from both the employee and employer.

Co-Chair Tory Rocca motioned to support Dr. Mitchell's study resolution proposal. Andrea Lowe seconded. The motion passed with no objections or abstentions.

Dr. Jim Mitchell motioned to support LPHI's proposal for Paid Family Medical Leave. Karen Scallen seconded. The motion passed with no objections or abstentions.

Dr. Jim Mitchell motioned to support DRLA's legislative goal of acquiring funding for their SILAP program. Lynette Fontenot seconded. Co-Chair Tory Rocca abstained. There were no objections and the motioned passed.

## *3. Discussion Pertaining to Additional Goal Legislation*

### *a. Removal of the prohibition of interpreters for CDL Exams*

Currently, interpreters are prohibited for the oral portion of the CDL Exam, which is a violation of the ADA (since interpreters are a means of access for d/Deaf individuals.) Kelly Monroe, Legislative Committee co-chair, reached out to the ADA Center, who confirmed that it was a violation of the ADA. There was no additional information provided by the individual who submitted this topic for consideration

*b. ABLÉ Account “clawback” funneling into the Disability Service Fund, or complete removal.*

In the event that an ABLÉ Account owner passes away, the state would be able to roll over the remaining funds to another member of their family who also qualifies for an ABLÉ Account. However, when this is not an option (which, is frequent), Medicaid is able to clawback the money for their own purposes. The Arc is working to funnel the funds into the Disability Service Fund instead of the general Medicaid Fund, but first has to get approval from the IRS. Co-Chair Kelly Monroe does not foresee any issues with this.

*4. Updates on Previously Discussed Legislation*

*a. Coverage of Incontinence Supplies (Goal)*

The Arc is currently working with the Louisiana Department of Health and the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council on this issue. The majority of states do not utilize their waiver funds to accomplish this, but the Louisiana Arc has been advised that this is the best avenue for our state.

*b. Generators for ICF/DDs (Goal)*

Currently, nursing homes are required to have generators, but ICF/DDs are not bound to the same rules. Disability Rights Louisiana is interested in passing legislation to require ICF/DDs to have same requirements, but Co-Chair Tory Rocca (Director of Public Policy and Community Engagement at Disability Rights) has not heard back from their potential sponsor. He predicts that this goal will not be accomplished during the 2023 Legislative Session.

*c. [Act 273 of 2017: Captioning in Legislature](#)*

At their last meeting, the GACDA Accessibility Committee resolved to send a letter to Legislative Technology Committee, requesting updates on this issue.

*d. [HCR14 of 2022: Accessible Voting Task Force](#)*

The last HCR14 Task Force meeting was held on October 18th, 2022. The HCR14 Task Force has encountered two main issues: a lack of meaningful discussion about voting accessibility, and physical inaccessibility of the actual meetings themselves. GODA staff and task force member Lillian DeJean met with the Secretary of State to discuss these issues and his office seemed receptive. However, the next meeting’s agenda is primarily composed of non-disability voting topics once again. The GACDA Legislative Committee concurred that the disability community needs to show up for public testimony to speak up about voting accessibility issues and potential solutions.

e. *SR147 of 2022: Task Force on Virtual Participation in Public Meetings*

The last SR147 was held November 27th, 2022. At that meeting, it was agreed that a future agenda item would be virtual participation as an ADA accommodation. The next meeting has not been scheduled yet.

5. *Public Comment*

Kathy Dwyer announced her departure as chair from the Dental Task Force, and stated that Ashley McReynolds will be fulfilling the role now.

Bambi Polotzola stated concerns about State IDs not being accessible with LA Wallet. Ms. Polotzola also reminded the committee that the next legislative session will start on April 10th.

The next round of GACDA meetings will take place in March.

6. *Adjournment*

Tory Rocca motioned to adjourn. Dr. Jim Mitchell seconded. With no objections or abstentions, the motion passed.