

**Governor's Advisory Council on Disability Affairs (GACDA)  
Meeting Minutes, June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016**

GACDA held a meeting on June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016 in the Press Room at the Capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Chairperson Lynette Fontenot presided.

**Present:**

|                                   |                                      |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Lynette Fontenot                  | Sharon Hennesy                       |
| Pam Darby                         | Paula Rodriguez                      |
| Harry Brady                       | Katie Corkern                        |
| Donna Breaux                      | Lauren Mayfield                      |
| Laura Brackin                     | Stephen Kauffman                     |
| Kelly Monroe                      | Peter Lambousy (Jessica Lewis-proxy) |
| Libby Murphy                      | Sandra Winchell                      |
| Amy Dawson                        | Sharon Buchert                       |
| Cynthia Obier                     | Nancy Hicks                          |
| Mark Thomas                       | Joshua Hollins                       |
| Tara Delee                        | Tara Leblanc                         |
| Christopher Kirby                 | Linda Theriot                        |
| Ava Dejoie (Justin Hollins-proxy) | Representative John Schroeder        |

**Absent:** Linda Kocher, Julie Nesbit, and Senator Gerald Boudreaux

**CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS**

GACDA Chairperson, Lynette Fontenot, called the meeting to order, and asked everyone to briefly introduce themselves. A quorum was present.

**ORIENTATION**

Bambi Polotzola briefly went over a power point explaining how GACDA was originally established, its purpose, expectations, and the composition of the council.

**OBJECTIVES AND PROCESS FOR THE MEETING**

Bambi Polotzola reviewed the agenda for the meeting, including the following: who was leading each subcommittee; reminding members to discuss which state agencies, organizations, and other established disability-related committees; identifying long-term committees; and establishing By-Laws ad hoc committee.

**GOVERNOR'S VISIT**

Gov. Edwards thanked everyone for their service on the Council, and told members he appreciated the advocacy that the members were doing on the behalf of individuals with disabilities.

## **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS AND DISCUSSION**

**Education:** The subcommittee reported that they discussed the role of the subcommittee, and discussed the barriers to students with disabilities. Fiscal concerns regarding use of federal money were discussed. The subcommittee did not make any recommendations

**Employment:** The subcommittee discussed the pending Employment First executive order, which will establish the Employment First Task Force to expand community employment opportunities for working age Louisianans with disabilities. They discussed that what is needed in Louisiana with respect to promoting employment for people with disabilities is included in the draft of the executive order. The subcommittee's recommendation is that the employment committee would be guided by this executive order and as well as some other aspects that may not be covered by this task force. They want to identify gaps not covered by the executive order, have a look at those to be able to ensure that they are covering all the various aspects of employing people with disabilities in this state. Once the Employment First Task Force has completed their work and has submitted their recommendations to the governor, it's recommended for this subcommittee to monitor the ongoing implementation of the actions recommended by the task force.

Sandee Winchell moved to recommend to the governor to issue the Employment First executive order, and Sharon Buchert seconded. There was no opposition.

**Accessibility:** The subcommittee requested that GODA staff research disability-related legislative resolutions that were passed during the 2016 legislative sessions and report to GACDA. The committee also wants to see mandatory training of the architects and facility planning managers.

Stephen Kauffman motioned to recommend training for the facility planning staff by Cindy Obier with the Fire Marshall's Office, and it was seconded by Katie Corken. There was no opposition.

## **LONG-TERM SUBCOMMITTEES**

The members unanimously agreed for the following: long-term subcommittees will be Accessibility, Education, Employment, and Transportation; Libby Murphy as Employment Chair, Laureen Mayfield as Education Chair, Stephen Kauffman as Accessibility Chair, and Laura Brackin as Transportation Chair.

## **ESTABLISHING BY-LAWS AD HOC COMMITTEE**

Chairperson Lynette Fontenot appointed herself, Laura Brackin, Kelly Monroe, and Donna Breaux to the By-Laws ad hoc committee. They will communicate with each other via email and make recommendation at the next GACDA meeting.

**NEXT GACDA MEETING** will be September 20, 2016 as confirmed by Council.

**MEETING ADJOURNED**