

GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON DISABILITY AFFAIRS MINUTES July 12th, 2011

The Governor's Advisory Council held a meeting on July 12th, 2010 at 660 North 4th Street in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Attendees:

Wayne Blackwell
Benjamin Cornwell
Rep. Scott Simon
Kevin Hill
Brandon Jones
Stephen Kauffman
Julie Nesbit
Martha Manuel
Laura Brackin
Michelle Beck
Laura Brackin
Margaret Hill

Absent:

Carol Lirette
Donna Breaux
Mike Watts
Kay Rone Wilson
David Gill
Willard Hamilton
Jan Chiles
Yvonne Bell
Keisha Thomas

Guests

H. Brandon Burriss
Joey Cooper
Jamar Ennis

Quorum was present.

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Executive Director Brandon Burriss asked everyone to introduce themselves. All present, including GODA Staff, identified themselves and their relative agencies.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The April 12th minutes were presented by Burriss. Wayne Blackwell motioned for approval, Martha Manuel second the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON DISABILITY AFFAIRS CHAIRPERSON REPORT

Due to a family emergency, GACDA Chairperson, Donna Breaux, was unable to attend.

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE ON DISABILITY AFFAIRS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Executive Director Brandon Burris briefly discussed GODA's post-session initiatives. These initiatives include rapping up reports, reviewing LGSI contracts, and coordinating SILC activities.

Next, Brandon Burris discussed the GODA budget. Due to Leah Teichman resigning her position, GODA is under budget. Burris mentioned that due to the increased revenues from ticket violations, GODA has received an additional 8k in revenue.

Lastly, Brandon Burris presented the 2011 Legislative Session Report. Burris mentioned that LATAN did not receive state funding this year. Julie Nesbit mentioned that the center in Shreveport had to close, employee's hours have been cut, and that individuals will not receive the same level of service due to these budget cuts. Representative Simon says that no amendments were allowed in the House of Representatives; he says that he would like to work LATAN into the executive budget.

Steve Kaufman mentions that LRS received a five million dollar cut, and that the PCA program was cut by \$125k.

Burris mentioned the passage of SB59, HB319, HB536, and HB86. He thanked the advocacy center and other individuals involved in this year's legislative session.

Dr. Brackin discussed HB642 relative to service workers in community based settings. Dr. Brackin says that initiatives need to be changed to recognize the actual needs, conserve money, and limit fraud and abuse. DHH needs to create a plan to purchase quality service and develop better logic by January so that it could be presented to the legislature.

ADA Symposium:

Joey Cooper mentioned that he would like to see the ADA Symposium happen this year. Cooper says that he will work with Margret Hill to nail down a speaker.

Burris mentioned that it may be better to host the ADA Symposium in October, because it will be the month of disability awareness, and the new ADA will go into effect. ACTION: Cooper says that he will set up a conference call next week to discuss the ADA Symposium in greater detail.

New Business:

Jamar Ennis gave a PowerPoint presentation relative to GO Direct, an initiative that will electronically transfer all federal benefits to constituents. Packets of information were distributed to all members that were present.

Next, the parish breakdown of the constituent survey was passed out to committee members. Due to the lack of participation from certain parishes, Dr. Brackin says the survey should be taken down until an adequate plan of distribution can be created. Members recommended enlisting the help of groups and individuals who have conducted surveys on a larger scale.

Next, the 2011-2012 Inclusive Schools Art Show Competition was discussed. The theme for the competition is "Building a Brighter Future Together." Council members would like to see the contest take place regionally; a plan to accomplish this will be discussed in the near future.

Finally, the 2011 GOLD Awards was discussed. Nomination Packets relative to this year's ceremony were distributed to the council members that were in attendance.

ANNOUNCEMENT/ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING:

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm.