

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

The Governor's Advisory Council held a meeting on April 12th, 2011 at 660 North 4th Street in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. GACDA Chairperson, Donna S. Breaux, presided.

Attendees:

Laura Brackin
Donna Breaux
Jan Chiles
Benjamin Cornwell
David Gill
Margaret Hill
Brandon Jones
Stephen Kauffman
Carol Lirette
Kay Rone Wilson
Kevin Hill
Julie Nesbit
Kisha Thomas
Missy Graves
Martha Manuel
Yvonne Bell
Michele Beck

Absent:

Wayne Blackwell
Scott Simon
Yvonne Dorsey
Veronica Mosgrove
Willard Hamilton
Mike Watts
Pam Allen

Guests in attendance:

Brandon Burris
GODA Executive Director
Joey Cooper
GODA Assistant Director
Jamar Ennis
GODA Program Coordinator

Quorum was present

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

GACDA Chairperson, Donna Breaux, called the meeting to order at 10:10AM, and asked everyone to briefly introduce themselves. All present, including GODA staff, identified themselves and their represented agencies.

Public Comments

No public comments were made.

APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 29TH MINUTES

Bell made a motion to approve the September 29th meeting minutes. Jan Chiles seconded the motion. September 29th meeting minutes were approved without any opposition or abstentions.

APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 18TH MINUTES

Laura Bracken made a motion to approve the January 18th meeting minutes. Michelle Hill seconded the motion. The January 18th meeting minutes were approved without any opposition or abstentions.

APPROVAL OF THE BY LAWS

Carol Lirette made a motion to approve the GACDA By-Laws. Missy Graves seconded the motion. The GACDA By-Laws were approved without any opposition or abstentions.

Recap and information on the 2011 Inclusive Schools Art Show Competition - Jamar Ennis

Jamar Ennis presented the introduction video of the Inclusive Schools Art Contest to the members of the council. The event took place at the Louisiana State Archives Museum on February 23rd. Over 130 guest and participants filled the LSAM to capacity. Over 55 students participated in this year's contest representing 22 schools from across the state. The winning artwork will be displayed around the state and is currently featured at the Bluebonnet Library in Baton Rouge. The council members in attendance were excited to know that the artwork in next year's contest may be judged regionally and that the competition will then be expanded. A contest theme for next year's contest will be decided by next council meeting. Those interested in assisting in the Inclusive Schools Art Show should notify Jamar directly.

GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON DISABILITY AFFAIRS CHAIRPERSON REPORT

Chairperson Donna Breaux mentioned that GODA will be busy with session, and to stay tuned by checking emails.

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE ON DISABILITY AFFAIRS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Executive Director Brandon Burris mentioned that this is the first full meeting since the Executive Order and that this is the most efficient group of council members. He will be at the Capitol involved in session and will be very busy during the next few months. The Disability Affairs Trust Fund received its first increase since 1998 of 5%. No rate cuts have been made to any providers in the state budget so far. The GODA office structure is fine. Session updates will take place every Friday from 11:00-12:00 to discuss the important disability related legislation. The quarterly SILC meeting will take place in Lake Charles on Thursday, April 14th.

Director Burris mentioned that it is important that all members participate in the session update. The office has received 154 phone calls and 33 letters relative to constituent concerns/issues. The GODA Constituent Survey has recorded over 278 responses; the results will be emailed to GACDA members. GODA will feature a new program entitled "The Governor's Office of Disability Affairs Lectureship Series." This program will feature distinguished persons in the field of disability/accessibility to present public informative public lectures/ and or presentations to his or her field of expertise. The first speaker to participate in this program is Secretary Greenstein of DHH. More information will be provided in the future. The new ADA laws will take effect in March 2012.

Council Initiatives- ADA Symposium Update:

Joey Cooper announced that the ADA Symposium will take place at the Louisiana State Archives. Due to scheduling conflicts, the symposium will take place in late August. The actual date of symposium will soon be determined. The ADA Symposium will be an all-day event that will feature design professionals, care givers, and persons working in the field of disability. The next meeting will take place on May 25th at 10:00AM.

Future Meeting Information:

The next scheduled GACDA meetings will take place on July 12th and October 11th of this year.

Adjournment:

The GACDA meeting was adjourned at 11:51AM.