



**GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL
ON DISABILITY AFFAIRS**
OFFICE OF GOV. JEFF LANDRY

**Full Council Meeting
Wednesday, December 11, 2024
10:00 AM to 2:00 PM**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Wednesday, December 11, 2024, GACDA's Full Council meeting was called to order at 10:05 AM. The meeting took place in the press room on the fourth floor of the state capitol and via the virtual platform Zoom.

Role was called by GACDA Chairperson - Julia Tanner. A quorum was reached.

GACDA Member		Present	Proxy	Proxy Name	Absent
Ashley	Allen	X			
Rhonda	Butler				X
Rikki	David	X			
Jamar	Ennis	X			
Franklin	Foil				X
Rocky	Fuselier	X			
Barry	Mele	X			
Julia	Tanner	X			
Attendees		Agency/Affiliate			Present
Sylvie Sullivan		ASL Interpreter			X
Gayle Coronado		ASL Interpreter			X
Brenton Andrus		LaDDC			X
Melissa Bayham		LWC/LRS			X
Troy Barnes		DCFS			X
Jancie Corie		GOSEPH			X
Brenda Cosse'		Parent			X
Harlon Cowsar II		FHF Lafayette Consolidated Gov't			X
Tamara Crane					X
Kristie Curtis		LaCAN- Leader- Region 4			X
Heather Daily					X
Theresa Dendinger					X
Regina Lockett-Dominique		Program Manager- LDH/Louisiana Spirit			X
Nicole Flores		Families Helping Families Acadiana			X
Ben Grauer					X
Robbie Gray					X
Lavasha Gordon		LDH - OCDD			X
Dana Hubbard		Office of Public Health and Early Hearing Detection & Intervention			X
Gail Hollins					X

K. Jackson	The ARC Caddo-Bossier	X
Trina Johnson	LDH- Louisiana Spirit	X
S. Johnson		X
Kelli Kent		X
Christina Kozik	Exceptional Lives	X
Jazmyne Lemar	Louisiana Commission of the Deaf	X
Regina Lockett	LDH	X
Danielle Ledet		X
Christina Martin	LaCANN - Parent - Region 1	X
Sarah Mulhearn	OCDD	X
Joann Powell		X
Susan Riehn		X
Ann Roeling		X
Amy Shamburger		X
Matthew Silverstein	America Works	X
Jessica Walker		X
Rebecca White		X
Staff	Title	
Jamar Ennis	GODA Executive Director	X
Liam Doyle	GODA Assistant Director	X
Tillie Carrier	GODA Senior Coordinator	X

2. Introductions

Madame Chairperson opened the floor to anyone who would like to introduce themselves.

- Dana Hubbard introduced herself from the Office of Public Health & Early Hearing Detection & Intervention.
- Jancie Corie introduced herself from GOSEPH.
- Regina Lockett-Dominique introduced herself from Louisiana Spirit.
- Trina Johnson introduced herself also from Louisiana Spirit.

3. Approval of December 11, 2024 GACDA Meeting Agenda

Jamar Ennis made a motion to approve the December 11, 2024 [meeting agenda](#). Rocky Fuselier seconded the motion. The motion to approve the December 11, 2024, meeting agenda passed without any objections, abstentions, or discussion.

4. Approval of September 2024 GACDA Meeting Minutes

Ashley Allen made a motion to approve the September 2024 [meeting minutes](#). Jamar Ennis seconded the motion. The motion to approve the September 2024 meeting minutes passed without any objections, abstentions, or discussion.

5. ACT 393

Liam Doyle presented a recap of ACT 393 and the draft that addresses a plan to follow the mandate.

- GACDA is responsible for creating and maintaining its own set of rules and an implementation plan to handle virtual access and accommodation requests.
- GODA's staff presented a drafted set of rules for adoption by the committee
- The floor was open for discussion:
 - Jamar Ennis asked Rikki David, ADA Coordinator, what were the next steps to

pass the draft that was presented. David stated that the committee must satisfy rulemaking with the Office of State Register separate and apart from this committee's bylaws before the rules can be formally adopted.

- Jamar Ennis asked another question about if public bodies are not operating in accordance with ACT 393 if there are any repercussions. Rikki David responded: If someone feels like a public body is not in compliance, they can file a complaint with the Attorney General or any local district attorney and it will be addressed. But as far as she is aware, there have been no repercussions so far.
- David continued explaining the process with the Register's Office for adopting the rules for ACT 393 and that the timeline is lengthy.
- David referenced her website [Office of State ADA Coordinator](#) and all of the information provided in reference to ACT 393.
- The next step for GACDA is to submit a notice of intent with the Office of State Register. This step should occur before the adoption of the bylaws.
- Another question was posed in the chat room: Who to report to if virtual is provided but not fully accessible with accommodations such as chat, Q & A, etc. David responded to first address the issue with the host. If that is not resolved, then notify the district attorney in the area of the meeting or through the state attorney general's office.
- Ashley Allen made a motion to have ACT 393 as part of the Accessibility Subcommittee. Rikki David seconded the motion. The motion to include ACT 393 in the Accessibility Subcommittee was passed without any objections, abstentions, or discussion.
- It was agreed upon to table the vote on passing the ACT 393 rules till it can be addressed by the Office of State Register.

6. Proposed GACDA Bylaws and Amendments Discussion/Questions

A decision was made to table the adoption of the proposed bylaws and amendments until ACT 393 rules and implementation plan is completed and adopted.

7. Updates from the Office of Public Health

Dana Hubbard provided the Office of Public Health- Bureau of Family Health quarterly update. The [power point presentation](#) included:

- OPH includes the following services:
 - Children's Special Healthcare Services (CSHS)
 - Family Resource Center (FRC)
 - La Birth Defects Monitoring Network (LBDMN)
 - Title V Developmental Screening Initiative (DS)
 - Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI)
 - La Commission for the Deaf (LCD)
- **Family Resource Center (FRC)**
 - The Bureau of Family Health (BFH) offers resource and referral services to families and health providers statewide through the Family Resource Center (FRC). Requests for support and services can be submitted via phone 504-896-1340 [M-F 8-4pm] or via email at BFH-FamilyResourceCenter@la.gov
- **FRC & Louisiana Birth Defects Monitoring Network** partners to support and engage families of children identified through surveillance to offer resource and referral services.
- **Developmental Screening Initiative**
 - The Title V Developmental Screening Initiative aims to improve early detection of developmental delays and disabilities in children by promoting comprehensive developmental screening standards in pediatric primary care. When concerns are identified through early childhood screenings, children and families can receive critical referrals and follow-up care needed to thrive.

- BFH- hosts a health provider perinatal depression screening resource webpage on the PartnersForFamilyHealth.org website to support implementation of the Perinatal Mental Health Policy (Louisiana ACT 188 of 2022).
- BFH is currently promoting a provider survey to obtain input from pediatric providers and clinic administrators around early childhood screenings during well-care visits. They hope to gain valuable insights from LA providers around resource needs, challenges, collaborative opportunities, and their ideas on how to improve the childhood developmental health system.
- Early Childhood Developmental Screening Provider Survey can be found by clicking this link: [Screening Provider Survey](#).
- Screening Tool Kits- [Developmental Screening Toolkit](#) & [Care Coordination Toolkit](#) are available to help pediatric health providers integrate developmental screening and follow-up services into their day-to-day practice. Both Toolkits employ quality improvement methods and includes instructional videos, referral resources and downloadable worksheets.
- **Early Hearing Detection and Intervention-**
 - The Louisiana Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (LA EHDI) program supports coordinated systems of care that ensure families of babies and children who are deaf or hard-of-hearing (DHH) receive appropriate and timely services. These services include hearing screening, diagnosis, early intervention (EI) and family to family support (1-3-6 Goals).
 - LA EHDI and Heel stick newborn screening (NBS) programs benefit babies by detecting life threatening or life altering conditions.
 - Screening allows for early treatment to improve outcomes and reduce the cost of treating conditions over a lifetime.
 - Parent focus groups, of families who had birthed in Louisiana within the last three year, were held to collect lived experience and identify gaps/needs in the newborn screening process.
 - The collaboration resulted in the creation of a free, [new family-facing flyer](#) that has been shared with:
 - Obstetricians
 - Midwives and Doulas
 - Birthing hospitals and freestanding birth centers
 - Pediatricians
- **Health Resources Services Administration Language Supplement and Innovation Project**
 - Language assessments on children 0-3 in LA who are identified as deaf or hard of hearing (DHH)
 - Completed initial 147 initial assessments
 - Beginning stages of analyzing baseline data for these language outcomes
 - In process of completing second round of assessments
 - Will allow for examination of growth over time with collection of additional data points for children assessed a second time
 - Results shared with families to assist with planning and goal setting
 - Parent Focus Groups
 - Facilitated by parent leaders
 - 3 held in English, 1 in Spanish
 - Identified areas of priority of LA families in the EHDI system
 - Parent survey to follow up on a wider scale regarding family priorities (ongoing)
 - Identification of topics that early intervention providers may need support to provide for families of children identified as D/HH
 - D/HH Adult Virtual Round
 - Table Facilitated by DHH Guides
 - 1 meeting complete, additional to follow
 - Opportunities for DHH adults to connect and:
 - share their varied lived experiences
 - learn about the EHDI system
 - provide input - input has focused on ensuring provision of opportunity to learn about Deaf Culture and American sign language

- **Louisiana Hands & Voices** (H&V) is a statewide parent-driven organization that supports families of children who are deaf or hard of hearing.
 - H&V advocates for families, share information, and create space and time for people to come together and help one another.
 - Recent happenings:
 - Family Leaders attended and presented Weaving the Threads of Leadership in Spokane, WA
 - Family share at EHDI Regional Collaborative meetings
 - Collaborated with LA EHDI to facilitate family focus groups in English and Spanish to determine needs of families in LA in the EHDI system
 - Guide By Your Side (GBYS) is a program from Hands & Voices that provides emotional support and unbiased information to families.
 - Parent Guides are available to support families by listening and sharing stories about their own experiences raising a child who D/HH; share compassion and practical knowledge as parents who have a D/HH child; and are trained to support families without bias towards any particular communication approach (e.g. spoken, sign, cued speech, combined methods, etc)
 - Deaf Guides: are specifically trained to provide support to families with invaluable perspectives that come from personal, lived experience; are uniquely qualified and provide parents with a positive, hopeful perspective from their day-to-day, real life experiences; and give parents the opportunity to ask questions.
 - Actively recruiting new DHH Guides. If you know someone that might be interested, please share DHH Adult Support Training Resources.pdf and/or email jill.guidry@la.gov
- **Advisory Council for the Early Identification of Deaf and Hard of Hearing** Infants next meeting is scheduled for January 24, 2025 from 10:00-12:30 located in the Bienville Building, Room 173; 627 N. 4th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802 ; contact laehdi@la.gov for more information.

8. **Updates from Louisiana Commission for the Deaf**

Jazmyne Lemar provided the Louisiana Commission for the Deaf's quarterly update.

- LCD's mission is to Engage, Empower, and Enrich the lives and opportunities of the Louisiana's Deaf, Deaf/Blind, and Hard of Hearing population. LCD provides people who are Deaf, Deaf/Blind, and Hard of Hearing with programs, services, and resources to ensure full communication access to the world around them.
- Programs include:
 - Hearing aid program- qualifying based on age and income
 - Assistive Technology- free for qualifying individuals
 - Support Service Providers (SSP)- to assist individuals to live within communities with independence for deaf- deaf/blind
 - Interpreting Program- support for those who use ASL & ASL interpreters
- ACT 128 of 2022 Regular Legislation session –
 - LSC had rulemaking requirements for ASL Interpreters.
 - The focus is on rules related to interpreters working in K-12 education settings, in community settings, and working in court settings which include minimum qualifications standards, registration and renewal processes, and ongoing professional development requirements
 - Additional rules applicable to all settings include grievance processes and procedures
 - A Notice of Intent is expected by Spring 2025.
 - Note: the rule is still in review and deliberation with the Louisiana Department of Health and LCD Board of Commissioners.
- Statewide Mentorship Program - Goal: Increase the quality and quantity of American Sign Language (ASL) Interpreters working in Louisiana. 2 opportunities available:

- **K-12 Project: A Road to Excellence (Created by LCD)**
 - Pilot Project- The Road of Excellence (10 months) July 2024 –May 2025 – 8 current participants
 - Designed for current working K-12 Educational ASL Interpreters
- **Idaho State University Promoting Equity in Healthcare Interpreting Project (PEHI) Partnership** - Partnership Goals:
 - Partnership goals: Train interpreters to become specialist in healthcare interpreting through skill enhancement while increasing interpreters' healthcare-specific knowledge
- Additional Opportunities
 - Job Shadowing
 - 1:1 Coaching
 - Student Intern
- Commission Board's next meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 17, 2025 from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm. Check the website for locations. <https://ldh.la.gov/page/LCD> All meetings are also livestreamed. ASL interpreters and live captioning are provided.
- Louisiana Commission for the Deaf contact information:
 - 800-256-1523
 - LCD@la.gov
 - <https://lcd.la.gov/>

9. **Updates from the Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs**

Julia Tanner gave an [update/report](#) for the agency.

- GOEA serves as an effective and visible advocate for the elderly population of Louisiana, ensuring seniors in need receive appropriate services from providers in the Aging Network.
- GOEA is the designated State Unit on Aging and is the administrator of the Federal Older Americans Act ("OAA") program services through the network of Louisiana's Area Agencies on Aging ("AAAs") and Councils on Aging ("COAs"):
- Many of the services provided:
 - Home Delivered Meals Congregate Meals
 - Nutrition Counseling Nutrition Education
 - Assisted Transportation Information & Assistance
 - Outreach Medical Transportation
 - Adult Day Health Care Group Respite
 - In-Home Respite Wellness
 - Individual Counseling Material Aid
 - Personal Care Caregiver Public Education
 - Caregiver Sitter Service Support Group
 - Counseling Crime Prevention
 - Homemaker Legal Assistance
 - Medical Alert Medication Management
 - Recreation Telephoning
 - Utility Assistance Visiting
- Other services provided through GOEA, or provided by partnerships, are SeniorRx Prescription Assistance, National Family Caregiver Support, Louisiana Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act ("MIPPA") Program and the Senior Employment Program.
- **Programs of GOEA:**
 - **Long Term Care Ombudsman -**
 - Long Term Care Ombudsman program is a federal and state funded program mandated to advocate on behalf of residents of long-term care facilities and to ensure that the rights of the residents of the long-term care facilities are being maintained. Ombudsman and

- Ombudsman volunteers make monthly visits to long- term care facilities across the state.
 - Louisiana has 269 nursing homes and 152 assisted living facilities accommodating approximately 44,000 residents.
 - There are 26 staff and volunteer ombudsmen in the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program.
 - For information, contact the State LTC Ombudsman, at 225-342-7100
- **Elderly Protective Services (“EPS”)**
 - EPS is mandated by Louisiana Revised Statutes 15:1501 *et seq.* to prevent, remedy, halt, or hinder acts of abuse and neglect against an older person in the community while promoting the maximum degree of personal freedom, dignity, and self-determination for that individual. EPS has six regional offices to respond to reports of abuse, neglect, and exploitation.
 - The purpose of EPS is to protect adults who cannot physically or mentally protect themselves and who are harmed or threatened with harm through action or inaction by themselves or by the individuals responsible for their care or by other persons.
 - The types of reports of abuse are as follows, as of the end of June:
 - Caregiver Neglect = 298
 - Emotional Abuse = 119
 - Extortion = 2
 - Financial Exploitation = 388
 - Physical Abuse = 132
 - Self- Neglect = 529
 - Sexual Abuse = 5
 - Other = 12
 - GOEA is currently in the process of adding new positions to staff. We will be adding several new supervisory positions and investigators for the Elderly Protective Services Unit.
 - For more information about EPS, contact 1-800-259-4990.
- **Aging and Disability Resource Centers (“ADRC”)**
 - Each ADRC serves as a clearinghouse for an array of long-term care options, prescription assistance, and other resources available in Louisiana to elderly and disabled adults aged 21 and over.
 - The nine ADRCs in the state are housed within either a AAA or a COA.
 - For more information about ADRC, contact the toll- free Louisiana information, referral, and assistance line at 877-340-9100
- **Louisiana Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act Program (MIPPA)**
 - MIPPA is a federal grant to provide education, outreach and enrollment assistance to Medicare-eligible individuals relevant to Medicare
 - Medicare services, the Low-Income Subsidy Program (“LIS”) and the Medicare Savings Plan (“MSP”). This project continues to offer enrollment assistance for the LIS, MSP, conduct Medicare Part D Counseling, Medicare Part D enrollment assistance, and conduct follow-ups to ensure the needs of the client beyond Medicare have been met.
 - For Medicare Information and Counseling, call 1-877-340-9100 toll free.
- Recent News:
 - At the closing of the 2024 Regular Legislative Session, House Bill 1 was signed by the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate and sent to Governor Landry for executive approval.
 - GOEA has added several new positions in the Elderly Protective Services division.

10. Break- At 11:05 a motion was made to take a 10-minute break by Jamar Ennis and seconded by Ashley Allen. The meeting was called back to order at 11:15.

11. Updates from the Louisiana Rehabilitation Services

Melissa Bayham from Louisiana Rehabilitation Services gave updates.

- **Participants:** As of December 9, 2024, LRS has 9,549 open cases in Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) and 4,006 open cases in potentially eligible for students with disabilities only receiving Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS).
- **Order of Selection:** LRS currently has all three Order of Selection (OOS) categories open. All participants who apply and are determined eligible for VR services are being served at this time.
- **Vacancies/Job Appointments:** LRS is currently in the process of filling several vacancies for rehabilitation counselor positions in both probational/permanent classified positions and job appointments.
- **Pre-ETS Vendor Applications:** All vendors requesting to provide Pre-ETS must apply or re-apply for vendorship. This information is being re-sent to all LRS CRP's, and the new application deadline will be mid-January.
- **Louisiana Rehabilitation Council:** The next Louisiana Rehabilitation Council (LRC) quarterly meeting is scheduled for January 23, 2025. The meeting will be held in Baton Rouge, details forthcoming.
- **Questions:** Jamar Ennis asked questions concerning vendors. Answer: LRS is trying to make sure all vendors are qualified, and they are paying attention to curriculum to make sure that no matter what schools the students are attending, that they have a quality curriculum that the vendors are following for those services. They are promoting a third-party cooperative arrangement where school districts actually put up the state match and they are able to fund a transition specialist for their school district. The Dept of Education has a disability innovation fund grant where they are promoting those as well.

12. Updates from the LA Developmental Disabilities Council

Brenton Andrus gave an agency update.

- **Upcoming Meetings** -The Council's quarterly committee and business meetings will be held January 28 – 29, 2025.
 - At the Council's October meeting, it was decided to move quarterly meetings to the last Wednesday and following Thursday of each quarter. (October, January, April, and July). New schedule can be found [here](#).
 - All meetings will be held at the Council's office: 5615 Corporate Blvd., Suite 300A, Baton Rouge, LA. If you would like to participate virtually or provide public comment in advance, all links and information can be found on the Council's [meetings page](#).
- **Advocacy Agenda**
 - In October, the Council approved its 2025 Legislative Advocacy agenda with two main issues it will be advocating for.
 - Protecting Services from Any Cuts – For months, it has been reported that Louisiana is facing another budget shortfall, anywhere between \$400 -\$700 million, in the upcoming fiscal year. The legislature met in November to address tax reform in hopes of also positively impacting next fiscal year's budget. Legislators voted to reduce personal and corporate income taxes, repeal some tax exemptions, and increase the state's sales tax by .55%. At this time, opinions are still mixed on whether the decisions made at the Capitol will completely address the estimated budget shortfall next year or in future years. What we do know is any reduction to the state's revenue and/or operating budget could mean cuts to disability services.
 - Restore Funding for Families Helping Families Centers – During the last four legislative sessions, \$500,000 was added to the Council's budget specifically for FHF Centers. Unfortunately, the Council's request to include this finding in its Fiscal Year 2026 budget was denied resulting in a possible 50% cut to centers if the legislature does not appropriate the funding during the upcoming session.
- All factsheets are posted on the Council's [website](#) and will be updated as needed throughout the legislative session.
- The Council will also be monitoring legislation filed during and throughout the upcoming legislative

session and may engage its advocacy network, LaCAN, on other issues of concern as needed.

- Legislative Roundtables will be held in February and March prior to the state session. Roundtables will be virtual this year to ensure individuals have greater access to the information. The schedule will be published once all regions have set a date/time and will be sent out via LaDDC News.
- If you are not signed up to receive communication from the Council and LaCAN, Please sign up [here](#).
- LaCAN Leaders will also be conducting visits with regional delegations now and throughout session to educate them on the agenda.
- If you would like to participate in legislative visits or provide testimony on the advocacy agenda, please reach out to your [LaCAN Leader](#) today.
- **Families Helping Families (FHF) Regional Resource Centers**
 - After ending our contract with FHF NOLA, the Council has contracted with FHF of Greater New Orleans to ensure families in the Greater New Orleans area continue to have a reliable source of support and information. For decades, FHF GNO has been a go to resource in the area, especially for educational needs. We are happy to forge this new relationship with FHF GNO.
 - If you live in the Greater New Orleans area and need assistance, please call FHF GNO at 504-888-9111 or 1-800-766-7736 or email at info@fhfgno.org.
- **General Information**
 - In October, the Council voted to send multiple names to the Governor as recommendations for Council membership. The Council has six vacancies to fill, and they are hopeful that the Governor will make these appointments quickly.
 - The Council is in the early stages of its Five-Year Planning. In the spring, the Council will be hosting public forums to solicit ideas and feedback from the public to determine areas of emphasis and possible strategies to address needs over the next five years. Once scheduled, a LaDDC News will be sent to announce the forums.
 - If you are not registered to receive Council communications, please sign up [here](#).
 - Over the past few months, the Council has been rebranding. A new logo was released over the summer. We are currently in the process of redesigning our website to ensure it is user friendly and content is easy to understand. They are also working on a rebrand for LaCAN which they hope to finalize prior to the start of session.
 - Questions: Ashley Allen asked the question if FHF needs most of the funding for facilities, facility contracts, or employees? And do you guys have volunteers? Answers: There are no volunteers, and the funding is not necessarily tied to facilities. LADDC does not dictate how they use those dollars as long as those deliverables are being met.

13. Updates from the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs

Jamar Ennis- Executive Director, gave an [update](#) for GODA.

- **GOLD Awards** - The Governor's Office of Disability Affairs hosted the 2024 Governor's Outstanding Leadership in Disabilities (GOLD) Awards on December 3, 2024, in Baton Rouge at the Old State Capitol. Nearly 300 individuals participated in this year's ceremony. The GOLD Awards is an opportunity for Louisiana to pay tribute to the achievements and dedication of individuals in the disability community.

AWARD	RECIPIENT
Distinguished Merit Award	Lighthouse Louisiana
Elected Official of the Year	Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser
Educator of the Year	Sonia Scott
Employer of the Year	Affiliated Blind of Louisiana
Family of the Year	Chappius Family
Volunteer of the Year	A.J. "Jack" Sumner
Veteran of the Year	Andrew Ward
Service Animal of the Year	Blaze the horse
Service Provider of the Year	Loraine Fontana - Acadiana Therapeutic Riding Org
Direct Support Professional of the Year	Deirdre Hart
Public Servant of the Year	Shellie Talbot
Patsy Barrett Memorial Award	Lauren Womack

Ken Vince Memorial Award	Gianni Toce
April Dunn Youth of the Year	John Martinez III
April Dunn Youth of the Year	Sa' Lynn Woodside

- **Inclusive Art Competition** (December 2024)- To bring greater awareness of the importance of inclusion in today's society, the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs (GODA) hosted the 2024 Inclusive Art Contest. GODA accepted entries that illustrated or described ideas related to this year's theme **"Radiate Your Color"** and accompanying definitions of inclusion of persons with disabilities.

CATEGORY	RECIPIENT
Kindergarten-1st grade	
1 st Place	Harper Usey
2 nd Place	Theodore Gouger
3 rd Place	Kyros Bell
Honorable Mention	Novah Jenkins
2nd Grade	
1 st Place	Lauren Cole
2 nd Place	Amelia Eldridge
3 rd Place	Braylin Ardoin
3rd Grade	
1 st Place	Brylee Speyrer
2 nd Place	Jayden Cambre
3 rd Place	Aubrey Kate Gaspard
Honorable Mention	Stephanie Trejo Rangel
4th Grade	
1 st Place	Daylun Poche
2 nd Place	Dylan Speyrer
3 rd Place	Luke Bourgois
Honorable Mention	Amonni Stein
5th Grade	
1 st Place	Maddax Moya
2 nd Place	Mia Hunter
3 rd Place	Raquel McCarthy
Honorable Mention	Gavin Rodgers
6th-8th Grade	
1 st Place	Tyreionna Papillion
2 nd Place	Jordan McGee
3 rd Place	Isabel Gambordella
Honorable Mention	Gari Joseph
High School	
1 st Place	Hailey Pourciau
2 nd Place	Evelyn Lane
3 rd Place	Paisley Dempster
Honorable Mention	Claire Campagna
Adult	
1 st Place	Kat Guidroz
2 nd Place	Bonnie Dempster
3 rd Place	Jonah Stampley
Honorable Mention	Lewald Jacob
Lynette Fontenot – Overall	Hailey Pourciau

- **Outreach Activities:**
 - Lighthouse Louisiana Press Conference- October 1, 2024
 - Louisiana Lighthouse Tour- October 8, 2024
 - Louisiana School for the Deaf White Cane Day- October 16, 2024
 - Disability Employment Awareness Month (Proclamation Presentation)- October 2024
 - Deaf Culture Awareness Month- October 2024
 - Direct Support Professional Awareness Month- October 2024
- **2025 GODA Local Advisory Council Initiative (Programs Committee)**
 - GODA will invite statewide elected officials to connect, network, empower, and share best practices how they resolve disability related matters within their local communities. This conference will feature breakout sessions, and presentations from subject matter experts from multiple topics including but not limited to: emergency preparedness, transportation, accessibility, disability inclusion, disability awareness and much more.
 - Local leaders who desire to establish a disability focused body within their own jurisdiction will have an opportunity to connect with Mayors and local entities with established disability councils, coalitions, or committees.
 - This conference is scheduled to take place in the spring of 2025.
- **2025 Parking Taskforce Council Initiative - RS 2584 - Accessible parking privileges investigation committee.**

The office of disability affairs is hereby authorized to establish a committee comprised of membership as it deems appropriate for the purpose of consideration of matters relative to accessible parking privileges. Such committee may:

- Monitor issuance and usage of license plates and parking cards intended for use by persons with disabilities.
 - Review complaints regarding unauthorized use of license plates and parking cards.
 - Consider and evaluate evidence of abuse or unauthorized use of such plates or cards, as such evidence may be submitted to the committee by individuals and submit such evidence or materials to the appropriate authorities and advocate for investigation of abuse.
 - Submit evidence or materials to the Louisiana Medical Advisory Board within the Department of Public Safety and Corrections if such evidence or materials indicate possible inappropriate or illegal certification of a person as having a mobility impairment. If, in the board's discretion, the review of such material does indicate possible inappropriate or illegal certification by a physician, the board shall submit such material along with a recommendation for appropriate disciplinary action to the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners.
 - Monitor, evaluate, and propose and advocate changes to laws, rules, and regulations relative to accessible parking privileges to the extent allowable by law.
 - Perform any service pursuant to its purpose authorized by the office of disability affairs.
- **GODA Monthly Newsletters** - Governor's Office of Disability Affairs Newsletters Published and Transmitted following editions of the newsletters hyperlinked below in Quarter VI:
 - [September](#), 2024 Newsletter
 - [October](#), 2024 Newsletter
 - [November](#), 2024 Newsletter

Reach out to disability.affairs@la.gov if you have any information you would like to share something with our monthly newsletter.

- **Annual Report** – The Governor's Office of Disability Affairs is in the midst of working on the 2024 GACDA/Agency Report.
- **Questions:** Ashley Allen posed the question- If anybody in the public can apply for the committees like the task force for parking? Ennis responded that the applications are open, and anyone can contact GODA's office to find out information on how to apply.

14. GACDA Meeting Dates for 2025:

- Wednesday, March 19, 2025
- Wednesday, June 25, 2025
- Wednesday, September 17, 2025
- Wednesday, December 10, 2025

A formal vote to approve the scheduled meeting dates for 2025 were put to a vote. The motion to approve the 2025 scheduled meeting dates passed without any objections, abstentions, or discussion.

15. Public Questions/Comments:

- Rikki David asked if the GACDA's committees can be chaired by the members of the public. Liam Doyle answered that the GACDA members will be serving as chair for the committees, but they can be chaired by members of the public. David commented that she feels like as committees of or subcommittees of the council, that it is important that a council member serve as the chair so that it's truly an extension of the Council. Jamar Ennis added that it could be added to the bylaws so that it would be more ideal for a member of GACDA to be chairpersons for the subcommittees.
- Liam Doyle addressed a question in the chat if OCDD or OBH has reports to provide. He stated that he had not heard from them so there will be no report.

16. Adjournment: Jamar Ennis made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ashley Allen seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn the meeting passed without any objections, abstentions, or discussion. The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 pm.