



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

**Full Council Meeting
Tuesday, September 24, 2024
10:00 AM to 2:00 PM**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Tuesday, September 24, 2024, GACDA's Full Council meeting was called to order at 10:03 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 not reached until one more council member joined via Zoom a few minutes later. In the meantime, the agenda was shared with everyone and the floor was opened for questions and introductions.

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
Caden Zane		ASL Interpreter			X
Cherie Aduli					X
Patti Barovechio		LLDH - Office of Public Health			X
Brian Bennett		LDH- Medicaid			X
D. Boyd					X
Bernard Brown		LDH - OCDD			X
Dee Budgewater		Lighthouse LA			X
Nathaniel Calhoun		Legislative Page			X
Walter Clanton					X
Lyn Comeaux					X
Brenda Cosse'		LSU - Dept. of Health			X
Harlon Cowsar II		FHF Lafayette Consolidated Gov't			X
Kristie Curtis		LaCann- parent- Region 4			X
Nicole DeJean		Families Helping Families Acadiana			X
Jessi Dominique					X
Erin Downing		LDH - OCDD			X
Kathy Dwyer		LA Emergency Resources -Disabilities			X

Myllinda Elliott	FHF Southwest LA- Parent	X
Catherine Fairchild		X
Nicole Flores	Families Helping Families Acadiana	X
Terresa Frank	LDH - OCDD	X
Lavasha Gordon	LDH - OCDD	X
Rachael Harris		X
Tracy Joshua-Guy	LDH- Bureau of Health Service- Medicaid	X
Kelli Kent		X
Danielle Ledet		X
Eli Melillo		X
Christina Martin	LaCANN - Parent - Region 1	X
James Mitchell		X
Sarah Mulhearn	OCDD	X
Caroline Nailor-Oglesby	LDH - OCDD Director EarlySteps	X
Dr. Lenora Robinson	BFH- Family Resource Center	X
Tory Rocca	Disability Rights of LA	X
Tami Schilling		X
Angel Serigne		X
Amy Shamburger		X
Rebecca White		X
Staff	Title	
Jamar Ennis	GODA Executive Director	X
Liam Ennis	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.

- Caroline Nailor-Oglesby introduced herself as the Director of the OCDD EarlySteps program.
- Nathaniel Calhoun introduced himself as a Page for the Legislator and person with a disability.

3. **Approval of September 24, 2024 GACDA Meeting Agenda**

Jamar Ennis made a motion to approve the September 24, 2024 [meeting agenda](#) once quorum was met. Ashley Allen seconded the motion. The motion to approve the September 24, 2024 meeting agenda passed without any objections, abstentions, or discussion.

4. **Approval of June 2024 GACDA Meeting Minutes**

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

5. **ACT 393**

Liam Doyle presented a [power point presentation](#) on ACT 393 for general knowledge purposes. The following are the highlights from that presentation.

- Began as Senate Bill 201, presented by 16 Senators and 1 Representative

- Passed on 6/14/2023 and became effective 8/1/2023
- Authorized certain public bodies to conduct meetings via electronic means to provide accommodation opportunities for those individuals who cannot attend meetings in person.
- State agencies, boards, and organizations are required to offer virtual accommodations to any public meeting. This excludes portions of a meeting that fall under executive session, which are not open to the public.
- ACT 393 is in-line with GODA's & GACDA's mission and in compliance with ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act).
- 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 are drafting a set of rules for implementation.
- GACDA will vote at the December meeting for approval and adoption of implementation rules.

6. Bylaws and Amendments Discussion/Questions opened

- Barry Mele posed a question concerning the articles memo that was sent out ahead of the meeting for review. Are they all new or from the previous administration? Liam Doyle responded that the previous bylaws were utilized as a blueprint to construct the new ones that will be in effect for the current administration. Some things remain the same, but several changes were made to reflect the changing needs of Louisiana.
- Barry Mele highlighted Article 2; points 2 & 3. He states that the definition of disabilities is very subjective. Doyle responded that the definition comes directly from ADA. Jamar Ennis included that the document is a working draft with language that needs to be addressed. Adjustments need to be made - One example - need to mention intellectual disabilities instead of cognitive impairment.
- Barry Mele continued with Page 2- Identifying needs issues - possible solutions- GACDA wants to be proactive but is it also a task of the council to identify things to address? Doyle responded yes, that the council can always make suggestions for issues to be addressed. Please bring it to the chairperson's and Liam Doyle's attention to be added to the next meeting's agenda for discussion.
- Liam Doyle gave a description of the 4 proposed committees:
 - **Emergency Preparedness** - responsible for dissemination of information and assisting in the coordination of aid efforts as it relates to emergencies. Duties include: covering all emergencies that affect citizens with disabilities, making recommendations to the Office of Disability Affairs on appropriate actions that should be taken, and keeping the council informed of the same.
 - **Accessibility** - responsible for ensuring the researching and tracking of current and pending Federal and State regulations relating to disabilities, making recommendations and appropriate actions that should be taken, and keeping the council informed of the same.
 - **Transportation** - responsible for ensuring, researching, and tracking current and Federal and State regulations and transportation relating to legislation affecting citizens with disabilities, making recommendations and appropriate actions that should be taken, and keeping the council informed of the same.
 - **Programming** - responsible for the creation and execution of council programming that serve to benefit the disabilities community independent or in partnership with GODA.

- Barry Mele questioned: How does the council fit with the ADA laws and regulations? Jamar Ennis responded that GACDA tells GODA what to do, gives advice, recommendations, and suggestions on what needs to move GODA's mission forward. The committees look for areas of concern and vote for actionable things for GODA to address. (Ennis and Doyle offered several issues that have been addressed and a couple of possible areas that might need attention).
- Madame Chairperson proposed a motion for the Bylaws adoption. A discussion pursued to make adjustments in the Bylaws first and to vote in the December meeting once corrections are made. Madame Chairperson agreed and Ashley Allen seconded the motion to postpone a vote until amendments/adjustments are completed.
- Jamar Ennis proposed a motion to allow the Accessibility committee to take on any evaluation of ACT 393 on behalf of GACDA. Ashley Allen seconded the motion. ACT 393 will now be under the Accessibility committee.
- Jamar Ennis made a motion for GACDA to have a timeline for the subcommittees, for the creation, solicitation of memberships, and interested parties by the next meeting in December. Barry Mele seconded the motion.

7. Updates from the Office of Public Health

Jazmyne Lemar provided the Office of Public Health and Louisiana Commission for the Deaf's 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). Service requests 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 (ACT 188).
 - 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 click this link: [Screening Provider Survey](#).
- Screening Tool Kits-
 - [Developmental Screening Toolkit](#) - To help providers integrate developmental screening services into their day-to-day practice
 - [Care Coordination Toolkit](#) - To support health providers with improving or expanding clinic care coordination services.
- Monthly Office Hours are available for health providers to get their questions answered and engage in topics related to Developmental Screening in pediatric healthcare settings. Office Hours details can be found here: [DS Office Hours Registration 2024](#)

8. Updates from Louisiana Commission for the Deaf

Jazmyne Lemar provided the Office of Public Health and Louisiana Commission for the Deaf's quarterly update. The [power point presentation](#) included:

- 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- 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 - The focus is on rules related to interpreters working in K-12 education settings which include minimum qualifications standards, registration and renewal processes, and ongoing professional development requirements - Currently with the La Dept. of Health with a notice of intent expected by Fall 2024.
- Support Service Provider (SSP) Program contract for Deaf/Blind services expires June 30, 2025. A new RFP is expected to go out for bid later this year - stay tuned.
- 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 (10 months) July 2024 –May 2025
 - Designed for current working K-12 Educational ASL Interpreters
 - Focuses on skills development
 - Specifically tailored to individuals needs and goals
 - Coaching style of mentoring
 - **Idaho State University Promoting Equity in Healthcare Interpreting Project (PEHI) Partnership** - Partnership Goals:
 - Train interpreters to become specialist in healthcare interpreting through skill enhancement
 - Increase interpreters' healthcare-specific knowledge
 - Promote best practices for over-video interpreting in healthcare settings

- For someone interested in a career as an interpreter LCD is here to assist. For more information: LCD@la.gov
- LCD launched a brand-new website that is designed with accessibility in mind to meet WCAG standards. The new website aims to be visually appealing and user-friendly. Explore a more inclusive online experience with improved navigation, high-contrast visuals, descriptive alt texts, and responsive design for all devices. Visit the new domain link, lcd.la.gov.
- Commission Board's next meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 18, 2024 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.
- Resources- Please visit <https://ldh.la.gov/page/LCD>
 - Training Opportunities- If your organization is interested in trainings, professional development, or resources related to Deaf sensitivity, culture, or services including ASL Interpreting for Deaf, Deaf/Blind or hard of hearing people, please [contact LCD](#).
 - List of Statewide Interpreting Agencies -to locate an Interpreting Agency [Statewide Interpreting Agencies](#))
 - LCD Interpreter Registry list of interpreters is continuously growing. This is an easily accessible, centralized platform to identify and locate interpreters in your area. Please visit the LCD website [Interpreter Registry](#)
 - LCD has developed guidance manuals for the community on best practices relevant to interpreting services. Please visit the website to download a copy of the guidance manual [Interpreting Service - Guidance Manual](#)
 - To submit a request for a resource please visit our resource webpage to place a request: [Resources request](#).
- Questions:
 - Barry Mele questioned if interpreters are paid and what is the amount of need for interpreters. Response from Lemar: Some are paid by school systems and some are contractors. The need is great. There are 72 certified ASL interpreters in Louisiana. Several other individuals are working toward certification.
 - Jamar Ennis asked for the name of the company that created the new LCD accessible compliant website. Response from Lemar: I can get that information to you. Ennis would like this information so that the state agencies can get their websites in compliance with the accessibility laws.
 - Barry Mele questioned as to where does the Dept. of Education stand on funding or grant money for programs to maintain compliance, etc. Response from Lemar: LCD currently works closely with Meredith Jordan within the Dept. of Education as far as LCD's initiatives and mission. She is very supportive of their work and sits on the commission's board.

9. Updates from the Office of Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD)

Bernard Brown, OCDD Executive Management Officer, presented updates:

- **ARPA Initiatives:** America Rescue Plan Act - The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has approved the activities for spending through Section 9817 of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). CMS has approved the following initiatives:
 - Systemic Therapeutic Assessment Resources and Treatment (START) model assessment and pilot is completed and set to distribute report.
 - Infrastructure Standup for Technology First Initiative - continuing to work with local government entities to put technology in every LGE- to highlight technology based assistive devices that may be available through the waiver for individuals who have community -based waiver services.

- Implementation of Value Based Payment (VBP) Model- working with individuals to help develop and identify what value is relative to the provision of waiver services. Have a draft for Medicare and Medicaid approval. Will hold informational webinar Monday, Sept, 30th for the individuals who are part of the focus groups that worked directly with them. Hoping to get approval so that they may begin in 2025.
- Community Practitioners Training- continue to partner with various entities to provide training to community providers. Working with the Louisiana Dental Association to provide dental training on how to provide services to individuals with developmental disabilities. These trainings went so well, they increased money to allow more trainings to occur. Have done many various trainings that will continue.
- Roadshows- OCDD will roll out initiatives at the roadshows which begin Oct. 1st. They go to every region annually and discuss major initiatives, service changes, major Federal policy changes, as well as what's new, and budget related issues. Click the link for the Roadshow flyer: [Fall Roadshows](#)
- Access Rule- Federal ruling that was finalized in May 2024 and is bringing sweeping changes to the IDD delivery system. One major change is that the Federal Gov't now requires 80% of the rate for services now goes to the Direct Support Workers. Still developing sub regulatory guidance to come down. OCDD is participating in a self - assessment to see where they are relative to the Access Rule in offering services and reporting. Have until 2030 to fully implement the Access Rule.
- Questions/ Discussions:
 - Kathy Dwyer questioned as to whether the Value Based Assessment system now receives individual or parental input on the kinds of services they receive. Is that now included? Brown responded that they definitely took those recommendations into consideration and you may see some initiatives that reflect some of the suggestions received.
 - Kathy Dwyer stated there are still families that are going without services, since the pandemic, because of the shortage of direct support professionals, and one of the things in the access rule is the reimbursement rate goes directly to the workers, so that would be beneficial to alleviating the shortage.
 - Melinda Elliot stated that the House Appropriations Committee discussed not implementing the nightly rate. Do you know if that increase night rate will happen soon? Brown responded that OCDD is implementing the increased night rate effect Oct 1st.
 - Melinda Elliot requested getting on an email list to receive current information from OCDD. Brown responded that agencies should be sharing this info but that they are currently rebuilding a contact list to include as many interested parties. However, information can always be found on the website: [OCDD](#)

10. Updates from the LA Developmental Disabilities Council

Liam Doyle gave an agency update on behalf of Ebony Haven.

- **Upcoming Meetings**
 - The Council's Legislative Advocacy Ad Hoc committee will meet on September 27, 2024 from 1PM – 4PM. Please join if you are interested in providing stakeholder feedback to the Council on their 2025 legislative advocacy agenda. ([Public Meeting Notice](#))
 - The Council's quarterly committee and business meetings will be held October 16 – 17, 2024. ([Public Meeting Notice](#))

- 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, all registration links can be found on the Council's meetings page ([meetings page](#)).
- **Upcoming Training Opportunities**
 - [Interaction Advisory Group Caregiver Masterclass](#): There are two (2) virtual training opportunities available where safety issues impacting the disability community will be discussed:
 - Monday, September 23rd at 7 PM or
 - Wednesday, September 26th at 7 PM
 - [Employing People with Disabilities: Incentives & Benefits for Businesses](#). There are two (2) opportunities to attend these free virtual trainings hosted by the ARC of Louisiana:
 - Thursday, September 26th at 9 AM or
 - Thursday, September 26th at 1 PM
 - [Behavioral Health Resource Information Workshop](#): Responding to behavioral health challenges for children and youth with health care needs hosted by Bayou Land Families Helping Families. Social workers, nurses and other professionals in the field will earn two free continuing education units (CEUs):
 - Tuesday, October 1st at 10 AM
- **General Information**
 - Families Helping Families (FHF) Regional Resource Centers. Our Council has contracted with Families Helping Families of New Orleans (FHF NOLA) for many years. Last year (FY24), FHF NOLA was placed on probationary status due to ongoing concerns noted in multiple audits. Prior to processing FHF NOLA's FY25 contract, the Council was informed of possible misappropriation and/or misuse of funds by leadership. We were also notified Center staff had not been paid and were laid off for an undetermined amount of time with no plan in place to resume operations. As a result, the Council did not feel confident FHF NOLA would have the capacity to fulfill contractual requirements.

11. Updates from the Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs

Liam Doyle 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 SenioRx 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.
 - October is Residents Rights Month.
 - October 2024 marks the 50th anniversary of the Capital Area Agency on Aging which they will celebrate during their CAAA Senior Fair on October 17th.
 - Visit [Consumer Voice -residents-rights-month](#) for more information or 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 = 1,259
 - Emotional Abuse = 459
 - Extortion = 108
 - Financial Exploitation = 1,468
 - Physical Abuse = 475
 - Self- Neglect = 1, 723
 - Sexual Abuse = 28
 - Other = 53
 - 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.
 - Open Enrollment starts October 15th and ends on December 7th of each year.
- It’s hurricane season, and it is important for all citizens to have a plan in case of a disaster. This plan should be specific to the needs of each individual, particularly those with specific medical needs or disabilities. You can read more about this on the Governor’s Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (“GOHSEP”) planning website: <https://getagameplan.org/>
- GOEA continues to work with the Emergency Management for Disabled and Aged Coalition (“EMDAC”), Feeding Task Force and other Response/Recovery Support Function groups. These activities are structured to plan and implement activities prior to an emergency, during the emergency, and post emergency for expedient recovery for the constituents and the state.
- Ruby Douglas with GOSEPH sent a powerpoint that outlines what was discussed at the EDMAC meeting. Email disability.affairs@la.gov

12. Updates from the Department of Health/Medicaid

Brian Bennett with Medicaid gave an [update/report](#).

- Healthy Louisiana Open Enrollment - Open Enrollment for Louisiana Medicaid members begins October 15, 2024. Members can change their health or dental plan without a qualifying reason until 6 p.m. on December 2, 2024. Changes will go into effect next year on January 1, 2025. If members make no changes, they will keep their current health or dental plan.
 - In August, Medicaid mailed packets that included enrollment forms, comparison charts and instructions for changing plans to all members included in this Open Enrollment period. Members can change their health or dental plan by completing and returning the enrollment form included with their letter by mail or fax. They may also make plan changes on the Healthy Louisiana mobile app, available for download on Apple and Android device; online at myplan.healthy.la.gov; or by calling toll-free 1-855-229-6848.
 - There are six health plans to choose from:
 - Aetna Better Health of Louisiana
 - AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana
 - Healthy Blue
 - Humana Healthy Horizons in Louisiana
 - Louisiana Healthcare Connections
 - UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of Louisiana
 - There are two dental plans to choose from:
 - DentaQuest

- MCNA
 - Members are encouraged to visit myplan.healthy.la.gov when deciding whether to keep their current plan or change to another plan for 2025. The website offers a few resources.
 - Enrollees who want to keep their current health and dental plans do not need to do anything. If they are still eligible for Medicaid, they will stay with their health and dental plan for another year. Members with questions can call 1-855-229-6848 (TTY: 1-855-526-3346), Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The call is free.
- Medicaid Website Revisions-
 - The Louisiana Department of Health website, including all Medicaid web pages, is currently undergoing a comprehensive redesign. The new version is scheduled to launch in November.
 - The new structure will prioritize visitor's needs, organizing information based on the programs and topics someone is looking for, rather than by specific office or agency responsible for those areas.
- 2 Big Initiatives
 - **Transforming Maternal Health Model (TMaH)**- In the process of apply for a funding opportunity through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) that focuses on improving maternal health through a 10-year service delivery and payment model.
 - **1115 Reentry Demonstration Waiver**- LDH is planning to submit an application to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to improve care transitions for Medicaid-eligible individuals who are incarcerated and to provide certain services during the 90-day pre-release period. LDH is partnering with the Department of Public Safety and Corrections on this demonstration. Those participating in the demonstration will have access to services including but not limited to case management, medication-assisted treatment and counseling for substance use disorders, and a 30-day supply of all prescription medications. Eligible carceral settings will include all state prison facilities and up to 13 parish jails. For more information on this project, please visit the following web site: www.ldh.la.gov/1115Reentry
- More services information may be found in the report [here](#).
- Questions/Discussions:
 - Kathy Dwyer asked the question- Does the website update include updating the medicaid provider list and will the freedom of choice list of medicaid providers for waivers be updated? Response- The update will not touch updating the provider lists just yet. It is mostly reformatting website with exiting content. Check with OCDD for the freedom of choice provider list.

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

Jamar Ennis- Executive Director, gave an update for GODA.

- In response to Hurricane Francine, the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs participated in the coordination of three **Emergency Management Disability and Aging Coalition (EMDAC)** virtual conference calls to connect state agencies, governmental entities, non-profit organizations serving individuals with disabilities, and disability advocates to provide important updates
- Hurricane Francine Resource Guides
 - September 13, 2024 - <https://conta.cc/3ToQ0SE>
 - September 11, 2024 - <https://conta.cc/3AXinAR>
 - September 10, 2024 - <https://conta.cc/3MEJPpD>

- **2025 GODA Local Advisory Council Initiative** - 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. 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.
- **Recap of 2024 GODA Programs:**
 - Governor's Office of Disability Affairs Conference (August 2024) - GODA hosted its 2024 GODA Conference August 25, 2024 via Zoom. Over 500 individuals registered for this year's conference and over 300 individuals participated.
 - Governor's Outstanding Leadership in Disabilities Awards - GODA is excited to host the 2024 Governor's Outstanding Leadership in Disabilities (GOLD) Awards. The GOLD Awards is an opportunity for Louisiana to pay tribute to the achievements and dedication of individuals to the disability community.
 - Inclusive Art Show Competition- To bring greater awareness of the importance of inclusion in today's society, GODA invited all Louisianians to participate in the 2024 Inclusive Art Contest. GODA will accept entries that illustrate or describe ideas related to this year's theme and accompanying definitions of inclusion of persons with disabilities.
 - GODA Newsletter- Governor's Office of Disability Affairs published and transmitted the following editions of the newsletters hyperlinked below in Quarter III:
 - [June](#), 2024 Newsletter
 - [July](#), 2024 Newsletter
 - [August](#), 2024 Newsletter
 - [September](#), 2024 Newsletter
 - Outreach Programs - The Governor's Office Participated in the following events during Quarter III:
 - Youth Leadership Forum - June 2024 (13 Certificates of Recognition)
 - Mayor's Commission on Disability - July 2024 Lake Charles

- Proclamation - Governor Landry signed the following proclamations:
 - Direct Support Professional Recognition Week (September 2024)
 - Deaf Culture Awareness Month (September 2024)
 - Disability Pride Month (July 2024)
- The Governor's Office of Disability Affairs is in the midst of working on the 2024 GACDA/Agency Report
- 2024 Governor's Fellowship Program - Jaden York, Southern University, had the opportunity to experience public policy in action, to learn the rich history and current affairs of Louisiana government while earning 3 hours of academic credit through LSU's Department of Public Administration by working with GODA.

14. **Lunch Break** - Ashley Allen made a motion for an hour break for lunch. Barry Mele seconded the motion.

15. **Reconvene** - Jamar Ennis made a motion to reconvene the meeting and Barry Mele seconded the motion.

16. **GACDA Officer Elections** -

- There was a vote for the vice chairperson; Jamar Ennis made the motion to nominate Ashley Allen to the position and Barry Mele seconded. There were no objections, abstentions, or discussion and Ashley was appointed as vice chairperson.
- The position of secretary was opened for nominations. Ashley Allen offered to fill both positions as vice chairperson and secretary. Jamar Ennis made the motion to nominate Ashley Allen for secretary - Julia Tanner seconded the motion. There were no objections, abstentions, or discussion and Ashley Allen was appointed as vice chairperson.

17. **Public Comments:** The floor was opened to public comments.

- Kathy Dwyer asked the question if there were any plans to have another Families Helping Families to cover the New Orleans FHF center that is not operating at this time. Liam Doyle responded that there is no one attending the meeting from OCDD to answer the question, please contact them for an answer.

18. **Adjournment:** Barry Mele made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jamar Ennis seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn the meeting passed without any objections, abstentions, or discussion. The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 pm.