

Council Meeting Summary

July 18, 2024, 8:30 A.M. – 3:30 P.M.

5615 Corporate Blvd. Ste. 300A B.R., LA 70808

LIVE Streamed Via YouTube

You can watch the meeting here: <https://www.youtube.com/@LADDCouncil/streams>

View meeting transcript [here](#).

MEMBERS PRESENT

Cherie Kelly-Aduli
Nicole Banks
Patti Barovechio,
OPH/CSHS
Melissa Bayham, LRS
Charles “Mike” Billings
Cheri Crain, GOEA
Jamar Ennis, GODA
Christi Gonzales
Julie Foster Hagan, OCDD
Jill Hano
Angela Harmon
Meredith Jordan, LDOE
Pasqueal Nguyen
Tory Rocca, DRLA
Brooke Stewart
Erick Taylor
Renoda Washington
Vivienne Webb
Phil Wilson, LSU-HDC
Lauren Womack

MEMBERS ABSENT

Roslyn Hymel
Tony Piontek

GUESTS PRESENT

Brain Bennett, Medicaid
Ann Marie Bihm
Crystal Benoit
Brenda Cosse
Kristie Curtis
Lillian DeJean
Nicole DeJean
Liam Doyle
Mylinda Elliott
Nicole Flores
Julie Folse
April Hampton
Lynsey Hebert,
Transcriptionist
Natalie Istre, OAAS
Nicole Learson,
Parliamentarian
Danielle Ledet

Christina Martin
Ashley McReynolds
Eli Melillo
Kelly Monroe
Michelle Ned
Jacki Pierce
Bambi Polotzola
Kristen Reed
Susan Riehn
Samantha Singletary
Ranie Thompson
Mimi Webb
Kim Willems

STAFF PRESENT

Brenton Andrus
Rekeesha Branch
Lauren Brown
Ebony Haven
Hannah Jenkins
Bridgette Talley

Christi Gonzales called the meeting to order at 8:37 a.m. with a quorum present.

The [April 2024 Meeting Summary](#) was approved as distributed, by unanimous consent.

CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT – Christi Gonzales

Executive Committee

The Committee discussed the Five-Year State Plan Development Process for our next Five Year Plan (2027-2031) which will include an 18 month research and planning process. Based on guidance

from the Information and Technical Assistance Centers for Councils on Developmental Disabilities (ITACC), staff created a very detailed schedule which includes:

- Drafting and approving an updated Mission Statement and Position Papers. As well as creating new Position Papers if the Council feels the need.
- The Standing Committees offering concepts to be considered for inclusion in the new five year plan.
- Establishing and appointing a Five Year Planning Committee
- Hosting a least two Public Forums and collecting data from a public survey
- Collaborating with the DD Network and Developing the Goals, Objectives, Implementation Strategies and Draft of the Five-Year Plan
- Public Comment period and lastly final approval by the Council

MOTION PASSED: The Executive Committee recommends approval of the drafted Five-Year State Plan Development Process. **Motion passed with 18 yeas, 0 nays and no abstentions.**

The Committee also discussed the submitted proposals for Activity 2.1.3 and 3.1.5 for the new FY2025 Action Plan. The Council only received one proposal for *Activity 2.1.3* – Training for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities on how to navigate the Developmental Disability, Behavioral Health and Medicaid/Managed Care Organization Systems.

MOTION PASSED: The Executive Committee recommends approval of the Arc of Louisiana's proposal for Activity 2.1.3. **Motion passed with 18 yeas, 0 nays and no abstentions.**

The Council received two proposals to consider for *Activity 3.1.5* - Training of students with intellectual and developmental disabilities on transitioning to adulthood to include but not limited to financial literacy, health, waivers, employment and voting.

MOTION PASSED: The Executive Committee recommends approval of Team Dynamic's proposal for Activity 3.1.5. **Motion passed with 18 yeas, 0 nays and no abstentions.**

Lastly, the committee conducted the 1st quarterly evaluation for our new Executive Director. The survey results had very positive, but there was one area of improvement. The committee would really like to have a Council retreat to get to know other Council members better in order to work better together as a team and unit.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT - Ebony Haven

Ms. Haven highlighted items in the Executive Director's Report including:

- Four Council's members were not confirmed by the Senate, and the Council has sent out advertisements for Council membership to fill these vacancies.
- The Council was successful with two advocacy agenda items including the additional \$500K for our Families Helping Families Centers and \$10.1M needed to increase the night rate to match the day rate in the intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) waivers.
- Mr. Brenton Andrus was promoted to the Deputy Director position.
- On July 1st Council staff released Phase 1 of the Council's rebranding.

BUDGET REPORT - Ebony Haven

Ms. Haven shared details from the [SFY24 Budget Report through June](#), and highlighted the following:

- Under Operating Expenses approximately \$600 was moved from the postage/mailbox and miscellaneous categories to equipment rental due to unpaid invoices for our previous copy machine.
- All June invoices had not yet been processed. In October the Council will receive a final FY24 budget report in addition to the FY25 1st quarter expenditures.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ACT 378 SUB-COMMITTEE – Bambi Polotzola

The Act 378 Sub-committee met Wednesday, July 17th for their committee meeting and did not have any recommendations for the Council to consider. The committee reviewed fiscal year 24 fourth quarter data for programs within the Offices for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) and Behavioral Health, and Aging and Adult Services/Arc of LA. These reports can be found linked in the committee agenda on the Council's meetings [webpage](#). For more information, please see the [summary](#).

SELF DETERMINATION/COMMUNITY INCLUSION COMMITTEE (SD/CI) – Mike Billings

The Self Determination and Community Inclusion Committee met Wednesday, October 17th and did not have any recommendations to present to the Council. Julie Foster Hagan with the OCDD shared a great update on the new Access Rule that went into effect this month. States were given a timeframe of 6 – 8 years, depending on the area, to come into compliance with the rule. The committee also received an update on Families Helping Families of New Orleans from the Executive Director, Aisha Johnson. For more information, please see the [summary](#).

EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT (E/E) COMMITTEE – Renoda Washington

The Education and Employment Committee met Wednesday, October 17th for their committee meeting and did not have any recommendations for the Council to consider. Melissa Bayham shared that the LRS state plan was provisionally approved because there are not enough people on the council, due to administration changes. Meredith Jordan also gave an update on the Special Education Monitoring Audit and new education legislation. For more information, please see the [summary](#).

BYLAWS COMMITTEE – Jill Hano

The Bylaws committee met on June 7th and July 1st to make recommendations for the Council to consider for changes to the current bylaws. During the June 7th the committee was unable to complete the review of the bylaws and had to schedule a second meeting. Staff sent out changes made to each Article and the final draft of the recommendations.

The Council discussed possibly changing the months of the Council meeting so, the Council agreed that the months of the meetings should not be included in the Bylaws.

MOTION PASSED: To amend the proposed bylaws to delete the months of October, January, April and July in Article VI, Section 1 of the proposed bylaws made by Julie Foster Hagan, seconded by Lauren Womack. **Motion passed with 15 yeas, 1 nay and 2 abstentions.**

MOTION PASSED: The Bylaws Committee recommends approval of the proposed bylaws as amended. **Motion passed with 15 yeas, 1 nay and 2 abstentions.**

MOTION PASSED: To give the Executive Director authorization to correct article and section designations, punctuations, and cross-references and make such other technical and conforming changes as may be necessary to reflect the intent of the Council in connection with approved bylaw changes made by Jill Hano, seconded by Michael Billings. **Motion passed with 18 yeas and no nays or abstentions.**

RATIFICATION OF DRAFT FFY2025 ACTION PLAN – Ebony Haven

The Council discussed the public comment received during the public comment period. Staff also updated the Council on changes made to Activity 1.1.1 for the Partners in Policymaking and adding an Objective for emergent needs that will allow the Council to respond during natural disasters based on recommendations from the Information and Technical Assistance Center for Council on Developmental Disabilities (ITACC).

MOTION PASSED: To ratify the changes made to the approved plan for Activity 1.1.1 and Objective 2.4 made by Nicole Banks and seconded by Erick Taylor. **Motion passed with 18 yeas, 0 nays and no abstentions.**

STANDING COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS:

Bureau of Health Services Financing – Brain Bennett

The Council recessed for lunch at 12:03 a.m. by unanimous consent.

The Council reconvened the meeting at 1:08 p.m.

STANDING COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS CONT'D:

Office of Public Health: Children's Special Health Services – Patti Barovechio

Office of Aging and Adult Services – Natalie Istre

Department of Education – Meredith Jordan

Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs – Cheri Crain

Governor's Office of Disability Affairs – Jamar Ennis

Disability Rights of Louisiana – Tory Rocca

Families Helping Families Centers – Kristen Reed

Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities – Julie Foster Hagan

LSU Human Development Center – Phil Wilson

Louisiana Rehabilitation Services – Melissa Bayham

There was no public comment.

Ms. Haven informed Council Members to be on the lookout for signup information for two upcoming ad hoc committees including a Legislative Advocacy Agenda Ad Hoc and the Membership Ad Hoc.

The DD Council July Quarterly meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m by unanimous consent.