

Governor’s Advisory Council on Disability Affairs (GACDA)

Meeting Minutes

June 19, 2018

GACDA held a meeting on June 19, 2018, in the Press Room at the State Capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

<u>Present:</u>	Lynette Fontenot	Sharon Buchert	Katie Corkern
	Paula Rodriguez	Donna Breaux	Yakima Black
	Ashley Jefferson	Jamie Karam	Linda Kocher
	Laureen Mayfield	Cynthia Obier	Roszella Viltz
	Christopher Kirby(Proxy)	Sandee Winchell	Jamie Wong

<u>Absent:</u>	Sen. Gerald Boudreaux	Harry Brady	Joshua Hollins
	Linda Theriot	Rep. Malinda White	Mark Thomas
	Sharon Hennessey	Steve Kauffman	Kelly Monroe
	Amy Dawson	Tara LeBlanc	Laura Brackin
	Libby Murphy	Mary Breaud	Pam Darby

<u>Staff:</u>	Bambi Polotzola	Jolan Jolivette	Jessica Lewis
	Melanie Washington	April Dunn	

Call to Order and Introductions

Lynette Fontenot called the GACDA meeting to order and asked everyone to briefly introduce themselves. A quorum was not present.

LA Department of Health Updates

Dr. Ashley Jefferson with OBH informed members of their annual behavioral health symposium. The members of GACDA volunteered to disseminate the flyer announcing the symposium. The symposium will take place on September 10th and 11th at the Crowne Plaza in Baton Rouge. Theme is “changing practices changing lives”. Dr. Jefferson mentioned that the next quarterly meeting for OBH is August 6th from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the main library on Goodwood which is open to the public.

Subcommittee Reports and Discussion

Transportation: Jamie Karam informed the council they did not have an update from DOTD. The committee received an update from Jolan Jolivette regarding meetings with DOTD and GOHSEP about emergency evacuation for individuals with disabilities who want to evacuate early. Jim Sprinkle indicated that he would determine what transportation and resources are available in his area to assist with evacuation needs and try to work with even Families Helping Families and/or the arcs in all the different regions and ask them to investigate these resources with churches and schools.

Education: Laureen Mayfield informed the Council that the education committee amended the agenda to include a discussion of the immigrant children who are being separated from their parents at the border in terms of the percentage that you would statistically expect out of that group to be children with disabilities, which perhaps is in the area of 12 percent. The committee passed a motion that to ask the governor and its advisers to keep in mind those with disabilities who are special needs and require attendance to those special needs.

Executive Director Bambi Polotzola gave provided a recap of legislative topics and spoke about the lead K initiative, which this group has supported and was passed into law.

The council held a brief discussion of possible topics for education with the GODA conference and the members discussed the possibilities of tying all the sessions to accessibility, such as accessibility to communication for children in schools and accessibility to the regular curriculum.

Jamie Wong was asked to present data to the council on regular assessment high school students with disabilities who are enrolled in non-Carnegie unit applied courses. The committee discussed that the initial data set provided by the department did not capture an accurate number of the regular students in all the applied four courses, ELA, math, science and social studies.

Motion was made to request that LDOE, prior to our next meeting, provide accurate data on the number of students with disabilities in the core four academic subjects who are non-alternate assessment students but are enrolled in all applied courses in the core four subjects disaggregated by grades K through 8th and grades 9 through 12. This data would be provided at both the state and LEA level from 2011 to most recent available. In addition, the LDOE will provide the DCAI data already captured disaggregated by students with disabilities enrolled in high school to give the committee a picture of the number and/or percentage of students with disabilities enrolled in high school who are on track to graduate with 23 Carnegie units.

Accessibility: Cynthia Obier reported that Lynn Nolan, the ADA coordinator at the capitol for the legislature, met with her on June 8th and discussed survey results that outlined issues at the capitol which are problematic for people with disabilities. It was determined that Cynthia is already investigating several of the problems and has found solutions regarding accessibility issues in the Capitol. One of the accessibility concerns is with the state capitol website; information was not accurate about places for people with disabilities to go to get help or locations of rooms. Lynn Nolan indicated she is working on updating the website and is going to work on a brochure people can have regarding Capitol accessibility, which will locate accessible routes, parking spots, and bathrooms. Another issue was the van accessible parking was mislabeled and it's not van accessible.

Captioning is still a matter being resolved, and the matter of expense is still being looked at. The slope of the sidewalk to the front of the capitol was a concern that was raised in this discussion.

Employment: Executive Director Polotzola provided the report for the employment committee. Employment initiatives was the main topic of discussion. Polotzola informed members about the EFSLMP through the US Department of Labor Office of Disability Employment Policy, and the grant received for technical assistance from a national subject matter expert. Polotzola mentioned that deliverables will be employment pathways that will enable interested parties to obtain the information from a one page handout which will explain the different pathways to seek employment.

It was mentioned that the Vision Quest team has agreed to meet monthly. The Vision Quest was a smaller grant and we are already preparing to apply for another grant, which would make us a core state. The people from Office of Disability Employment Policy are very impressed so far by the work that is being done. Libby Murphy made a motion to ask Secretary Deja of the Workforce Commission to get an update on the appointment of LRS director since the director retired in January.

Governor's Office of Disability Affairs Conference

Members discussed possible themes for the GODA Conference. Members also discussed the morning time slots on the agenda and indicated two concurring morning sessions would be acceptable. Members suggested having ASL Interpreters for each session to make sure the conference would be inclusive for the deaf and hard of hearing community. Executive Director Polotzola mentioned that part of the conference will focus on families and K-12 education.

Special Session Overview

Nick Albarez, who is a policy advisor in the areas of health and human service issues for the Governor, provided a update. Albarez spoke about Medicaid services within schools and how schools can get reimbursed so school districts can get additional funds. Albarez provided updates from the legislative sessions and discussed how the tax deal came to be.

NEXT GACDA MEETING will be September 18, 2018 on the 4th Floor of the State Capitol.

MEETING ADJOURNED the meeting was adjourned at 3:00pm.