



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

**Full Council Meeting
Wednesday, March 20, 2024
1:00 PM to 3:30 PM**

1) Call to Order and Roll Call

On March 20, 2024, GACDA Full Council meeting was called to order at 1:08 p.m. 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 GODA Assistant Director Liam Doyle. A quorum was reached.

| GACDA MEMBER | | PRESENT | PROXY | PROXY NAME | ABSENT |
|--------------|--------------|---------|-------|------------|--------|
| Kathy | Allen | | | | X |
| Marsha | Andrews | X | | | |
| Gerlinde | Beckers | | | | X |
| Mary | Breaud | X | | | |
| Karen | Collins | | | | X |
| Timothy | Delaney | X | | | |
| Sharon | Delvisco | | | | XXXXX |
| Beau | Ellerbee | X | | | |
| Jamar | Ennis | | | | X |
| Nicole | Flores | X | | | |
| Robert | Garcia | | | | XXXXX |
| Kirsten | Gladen | | | | X |
| Sharon | Hennessey | X | | | |
| Andrew | Kuyoro | | | | XXXXX |
| Andrea | Lowe | X | | | |
| Jessica | Michot | | | | X |
| Jim | Mitchell | X | | | |
| Kelly | Monroe | | | | X |
| John | Moran | | | | X |
| Pasquel | Nguyen | X | | | |
| Mark | Raymond, Jr. | | | | X |

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|------------------|-----------|----------------------------|------------------|--|-------------------------|
| | | | | | |
| Tory | Rocca | X | | | |
| Karen | Scallan | X | | | |
| Tabatha | Taylor | | | | X |
| Kelly | Kent | X | | | |
| Gerald | Boudreaux | | | | X |
| Malinda | White | | | | XXXXX |
| Attendees | | Agency/Affiliate | Attendees | | Agency/Affiliate |
| Melissa Bayham | | LRS | | | |
| Jana Broussard | | LDH-LCD | | | |
| Ashley Jefferson | | LDH-OBH | | | |
| Rikki David | | State ADA Coordinator | | | |
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| Staff | | Title | Staff | | Title |
| Liam Doyle | | GODA Assistant Director | | | |
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2) Approval of September 2023 GACDA Minutes

Beau Ellerbee made a motion to approve the September 2023 meeting minutes. Dr. Andrea Lowe seconded the motion. The motion to approve the September 2023 meeting minutes passed without any objections, abstentions, or discussion

3) Committee Reports and Discussions

- Tory Rocca co-chair of the legislative committee, gave a recap of the meeting that took place on March 15. He reviewed and gave stance updates on the following legislation:
 - SB348-Support
 - SB11-Support
 - SB187-Support
 - SB190-Support
 - HB407-Oppose
 - SB61-Oppose

- Nicole Flores co-chair of the education committee, gave a recap of the meeting that took place on March 15. She reviewed and gave stance updates on the following legislation:

- HB8 - Opposes
- HB79 - Favors
- HB 107 - Supports
- HB 153 - Supports
- HB 191 - Opposes
- HB 291- Supports
- HB 322 -Opposes
- HB 340 - Supports
- HB 362 - Supports
- HB 452 - Opposes
- HB 601 -Supports
- HB 708 - Opposes
- HCR 8 - Supports
- SB 26 – Supports
- SB 61 - Opposes

- Dr. Jim Mitchell, chair of the accessibility committee gave a recap of the meeting that was held on March 18.

1. Thomas Tyler and Dr. Stephen Barnes joined last meeting to further discuss plan that includes dollars available for implementing broadband. However there are currently no plans on how they will disperse the money.

2. Dr. Mitchell shared the following voting rights bills he would like GACDA to be aware of. These two bills address issues of having to have a witness present while voting in the cases of voters needing assistance.

- SB 155
- HB 476

Rikki David, State ADA Coordinator shared that there were 9,000 employee accommodation requests in 2023 costing \$76,000. This shows the requests are being fulfilled, and it also indicates the requests being granted are not prohibitively expensive.

4) Update on Employment initiatives (including but not limited to LRS, OBH, OCDD)

LRS: Melissa Bayham with Louisiana Rehab Services provided an agency update.

She informed GACDA that LRS is providing vendor a training program on March 21. Additionally, new technical assistance forms are now available to those who need them via laworks.net.

LRS has been increasing its partnerships with school districts across the state and as a result is adding Caldwell and Webster parishes to third-party transition specialists. This program allows Lastly, LRS is working to increase number of Randolph Shepard vendors for visually impaired persons

OBH: Ashley Jefferson from the Office of Behavioral Health gave an agency update.

OBH is expanding its 988 services state-wide. Services are currently open to LA citizens. These services is not fully statewide yet, but mental health resources are available to all in Louisiana

OPH/LCD: Jana Broussard with the Office of Public Health and the Louisiana Commission of the Deaf provided an agency update. Her update included a PowerPoint presentation, which was sent out to the committee members.

LCD has recently created a first-of-its kind deafblind advisory council.

Jana shared the LCD Public Meeting Dates for the remainder of the year. All meetings are scheduled from 9 AM-1 PM. LCD meetings are in-person with virtual offerings as needed. ASL interpreters are present at all LCD meetings.

2024 LCD Meeting Schedule:

Friday April 12

Friday July 19

Friday October 18

5) La Department of Health updates (including but not limited to OAAS, OBH, OCDD, OPH)

OAAS: Mendy Richard with the Office of Aging and Adult Services provided an agency update.

OAAAs will soon open a PACE (Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly) center in Alexandria. Additionally, OAAS is receiving waiver funds from state excess and is requesting an additional 750 waivers be created and funded.

Direct Support Workers are currently poised to receive a pay increase. An exact date and percentage are being discussed. The funds for this increase are being allocated as part of the state's American Rescue Plan Act dollars.

6) Member Updates: No GACDA members had additional comments, questions, or updates.

7) Public Comment: Nicole Flores asked about GACDA reappointment process. Liam Doyle advised those interested in serving on GACDA should fill out the form on the [la.gov](https://www.la.gov) website.

8) Adjournment: Tory Rocca made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Andrea Lowe seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn the meeting passed without any objections, abstentions, or discussion. The meeting was adjourned at 1:41 PM.