

Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD)

State Advisory Committee (SAC)

Meeting Minutes

Date: July 9, 2025

Start Time: 12:31 PM

End Time: 1:55 PM

Motion to Adjourn: Made by Christina Martin, seconded by Mylinda Elliot

Roll Call

- Region 1
 - MHSA – Open Position
 - MHSA – Open Position-However, Theresa Dendinger was allowed to report for the region as a RAC Member
- Region 2
 - CASHD – Sandra Trammell – Present
 - CAHSD – Al Thibodeaux (Chair) – Present
- Region 3
 - SCLHSA – Open Position
 - SCLHSA – Myron Wright – Not Present
- Region 4
 - AAHSD – Alaina Chachere – Not Present
 - AAHSD – Kristi Curtis – Present
- Region 5
 - IMCAL – Mylinda Elliott – Present
 - IMCAL – Libby Leone – Not Present
- Region 6
 - CLHSD – Anthony Stafford – Present
 - CLHSD – Kristen Reed (Vice Chair) – Not Present
- Region 7

- NLHSD – Open. Monica Stampley resigned to take a position with OCDD.
 - NLHSD – Marilyn Goodwin – Present
- Region 8
 - NEDHSA – Lavandolyn Smith – Not Present
 - NEDHSA – Shontae Johnson – Not Present
- Region 9
 - FPHSA – Suzanne Bourgeois – Present
 - FPHSA – Open Position
- Region 10
 - JPHSA – Jen Walle – Present
 - JPHSA – Christina Martin – Present
- AFSCME Council #17 Representative – No representative
- Ad Hoc Members
 - Julie Foster Hagan – Present
 - Jacquelyne Cobb – Present
 - Christy Johnson – Present
 - Bernard Brown – Present
 - Erin Downing – Present
 - Tanya Murphy – Present
 - Caroline Nailor-Oglesby – Not Present

Approval of Agenda

No amendments were made.

Motion to approve by: Sandra Trammell

Seconded by: Christina Martin

Motion passed. Agenda approved.

Approval of April 9, 2025, Minutes

No amendments were made.

Motion to approve by: Christina Martin

Seconded by: Kristi Curtis

Motion passed. Minutes approved.

Public Comment – Session I

No public comments were submitted or verbalized.

Review of SAC Roster, Terms, and Contacts

Chairman Thibodeaux announced that Region IV has a new RAC Chair in Kristi Curtis. She is also the new Region IV SAC representative replacing Carmen Cetnar who recently resigned.

OCDD Report – Julie Foster Hagan, Assistant Secretary OCDD

Budget & Legislative Update:

See Julie Foster Hagan's OCDD SAC report which is included as part of the minutes in Appendix A.

American Rescue Plan Act Funds:

- See Julie Foster Hagan's OCDD SAC report which is included as part of the minutes in Appendix A.

Rate Methodology Study:

- See Julie Foster Hagan's OCDD SAC report which is included as part of the minutes in Appendix A.

TEFRA / Act 421 Update:

- See Julie Foster Hagan's OCDD SAC report which is included as part of the minutes in Appendix A.

SUN Screens:

- See Julie Foster Hagan's OCDD SAC report which is included as part of the minutes in Appendix A.

Other Topics Covered:

- See Julie Foster Hagan's OCDD SAC report which is included as part of the minutes in Appendix A.

Old Business

Zoom Accessibility Update:

- Nothing new to report on effort that OCDD is pursuing a new Zoom account with closed captioning features.

RAC/LGE Contact Information Update

The chair reported a change to the Region IV RAC chairperson in Ms. Kristi Curtis. No other changes were noted.

Templates for Individual RAC reports

With the resignation of the former SAC secretary Monica Stampley, the chairman has decided to table this effort pending selection of a new secretary.

Outreach Committee Report

The team was not able to meet timely, but a meeting is planned for next week and a possible special meeting of the SAC may be held for final approval.

Sandra suggested year-end highlights and community outreach speaker features.

Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Reports

Region 1: No official SAC membership yet, but in progress. The chair allowed Ms. Theresa Dendinger to report for the region since it was a long time without SAC representation. No quorum at last mtg., 1079 waiver participants, all metrics met. Next meeting is August 8th.

Region 2: 28 of 29 metrics were met. RAC approved Al Thibodeaux's application for second term as Region II SAC Member. Office relocation completed, now at 12301 Coursey Blvd.

Region 3: No report.

Region 4: New RAC chair and SAC Member Kristi Curtis reports next meeting is Sept 9th.

Region 5: All key metrics were met.

Region 6: Met in April; Significant discussion as to what constitutes "extra ordinary" care for family members as paid care givers. Next meeting on August 13th.

Region 7: Met April 15 but had no quorum. A new support coordination agency is operating in the region. Need new chair with resignation of Monica Stampley. Next meeting is July 15th.

Region 8: No report

Region 9: Met on May 13th with some new membership applications awaiting OCDD approval. 220 individuals received IFS funds in the 3rd quarter. Next meeting is August 12th.

Region 10: Met April 9th. 78% IFS funds allocated; 100% CIR compliance; Had several nursing home admissions; employment goal at 20% with 99 placed out of 162 requests; next meeting in July.

New Business

Chairman Thibodeaux clarified that as per the newly revised OCDD SAC bylaws, the current slate of officers will continue to serve through June 30, 2026, to align with the fiscal year.

Public Comment – Session II

No public comments were submitted or verbalized.

Announcements

The chairman's only announcement was that the next regularly scheduled SAC Meeting will be October 8, 2025, at 12:30 pm.

Public Guests

Andrea Albert, Kasey Hill, Rona Burkett, Susan Riehn, Theresa Dendinger, Eli Melillo, Brandy Hamilton, Chanel Jackson, Crystal Benoit, Doctor Marilyn (Reg 2 FHFGBR), Erica Dupre, Janae Burr, Sarah Mulhearn, Tracy T. Barker, Michelle Wall, Susan Roblow, Janise Monetta

Appendix A

OCDD SAC Report - July 9, 2025

SAC – 7/9/2025

Budget update

- **HB 1 (Representative Jack McFarland)**
 - Included the nursing code and SC payments
 - Nursing code will require a waiver amendment, so we are working on getting the nursing code operationalized for January 1, 2026.
 - SC payments will require some additional planning, because we need to work with OAAS to operationalize – one time payment upon certification
- **Federal budget updates – in process of reviewing to determine impacts in future years, as many actions do not have effective date until 2027 or 2028**

Legislative update

- **HB 559 (Rep Michael Echols)**
 - LGE bill – requires additional metrics, activities and reporting from the board to the department and legislators
 - Will be working with collaboratively on implementation of new requirements
- **HB 595/Act 294 (Rep Tammy Phelps)**
 - Adds a pathway to meet hospital level of care if within the last 12 months, the child has presented to the emergency room more frequently than 1x per month, and use of the hospital is medically necessary to stabilize the sickle cell anemia.
 - Will still have to meet SSI definitions/MEDT to qualify for TEFRA.
- **HR 218 (Rep Michael Echols)**
 - Directs the Louisiana Department of Health to coordinate with stakeholders (including The Arc) to explore the creation of an ISNP (Institutional Special Needs Plan).
 - There is some confusion here, we've been working on a technical assistance on Dual Medicare/Medicaid Eligibility for the disability community, and had conversations about Dual Eligibility Special Needs Plan but the resolution is specific to ISNP.
- **HB 624 (Rep Stephanie Berault)**
 - Moves SNAP and disability determination from the Department of Children and Family Services to LDH
 - Creates "Louisiana Works" formerly the Louisiana Workforce Commission
 - These changes will take effect 10/1/2025, and will include employees moving from DCFS to LDH effective on that date.

American Rescue Plan Act HCBS funds update

- **American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA):** Activities have been approved by CMS for spending through Section 9817 of the American

Rescue Plan Act through December 2025. OCDD has requested an extension for spending through September of 2026; however, no response from CMS has been received yet for this request.

- Highlights for some approved activities:
 - Infrastructure standup for Technology First Initiative
 - Issues with purchasing items has delayed implementation of demonstrations with LGEs, but continuing to pursue.
 - Goal is to have informational materials available to help understand use of technology by December 2025.
 - Implementation of Value Based Payment (VBP) model
 - Rolling out metrics in staggered manner
 - Payment for participation in NCI Staff Stability Survey active now through 7/31/2025
 - By end of July will roll out staff retention and technology grant activities
 - System modernization to support an electronic individual support plan
 - The La Plus assessment is in process of testing.

Rate Methodology Study Update

- Milliman is in process of consolidating all information. Next steps are to present information to LDH Executive Management Team, followed by public presentations with opportunities for feedback.
- Anticipate public presentations to occur in August / September.

Act 421: Children's Medicaid option update: May 2025 Update

Total applications received in May	181
Number of applications denied	59
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to respond • Did not meet Level of Care • Did not pass MEDT 	22 31 6
Number of applications approved	47
Number of applications withdrawn	1
Number currently enrolled in TEFRA	2,473

SUN screening update: Current quarter data (April, 2025 – June 2025)

Total administrations completed

Number of administrations by SUN score	Total
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Score of 4, unmet needs at the Emergent level	180
Score of 3, unmet needs at the Urgent level	185
Score of 2, unmet needs at the Critical level	97
Score of 1, unmet needs at the Planning level	97
Score of 0, no identified unmet needs	398
Total	957

The table below indicates the totals for initial screenings and re-screenings.

Reason for Screening	Total
Initials	724
Re-Screenings	233
Total	957

Waiver offers are made to all individuals with a SUN score of 3 or 4, so no individual with current unmet needs is on the registry. As of June 30, 2025, the current total number of individuals listed in the DD Request for Services Registry (Registry) is 13,841.

Incontinence supplies limitations

- New process / procedure code implemented 7/1/25, with training provided for SCs and providers.
- Allows for maximum flexibilities to order what is needed; if former product / budget already in plan and want new product, will require revision to CPOC – need to know that if choose higher cost product will reach budget cap sooner
- Will have product list from each provider for the SCs to use when talking with families this week.
- If issues / concerns, please escalate to your SC

Families as Paid Caregivers – Numbers Approved, Problems, Observations

- 1,432 waiver participants have family as paid staff, as identified in LaSRS
- No systems-level problems or observations to report

Provider annual audits received/not received - Fines

- Penalty of “5 percent of the total monthly payment for the first month and a progressive penalty of 5 percent of the total monthly payment for each succeeding month may be levied and withheld from the providers payment for each month that the cost report is due, not extended and not received” has been initiated.