

# **OCDD STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE TEAM MEETING MINUTES**

## **HELD ONLINE**

**January 11,2023 from 12:30 pm – 3:00 pm**

**Call to Order – 12:33 pm by Konstance Causey, Chair**

### **Attendance:**

**SAC Voting Members Roll Call: 13 out of 17 – 3 vacant slots – Had a Quorum**

**Region I – MHSD – Penny Currand – not present – Holly Bell –present**

**Region II – CAHSD – Michelle Walls – present – Al Thibodeaux - present**

**Region III – SCLHSA – Julie Folse – present – Charlie Michel – present**

**Region IV – AAHSD – Rebecca Fruge’ – not present – Carmen Cetnar - present**

**Region V – IMCAL – Mylinda Elliott – present – Dana Fullington – not present**

**Region VI – CLHSD – Kristen Reed – present**

**Region VII – NLHSD – no representation – 2 vacancies**

**Region VIII – NEDHSA – Nicole Bilberry – present – Konstance Causey – present**

**Region XI – FPHSA – Suzanne Bourgeois – present – Kristen Essaied – present**

**Region X – JPHSA – Kathy Dwyer (Chair) – Jen Walle – present**

### **OCDD AD HOC Members**

Julie Foster Hagan – OCDD – present

Tanya Murphy – OCDD – present

Brenda Sharp – OCDD – not present

Jacquelyne Cobb – OCDD – present

Amy Greer – OCDD – not present

Charles Ayles – OCDD – not present

Bernard Brown – OCDD – not present

### **General Public:**

Stephen Kauffman, Robert Blue, Susan Reihn, Richard Pettit, Sonya Pearce, Stacey Guidry, Nicole Flores, Carmen O'Mara, Kristie Curtis, April Favron, Brenda Cosse', Karissa Jackson, Jennifer Purvis, Amy Veulman, Andrea Albert, Christina Martin, David, Jimmy, Brenda Bores, Kasey Hill, Kristin Fontenot, Omega, Paxton Oliver II, Taylor Umphries, Torrie Keller, Tiffany Brunet, Crystal White

- **Change to Agenda** – Michelle Wall – reported Region II report was not included on the minutes. Konstance Causey stated she would go back through the email and add to the amendments.
- **Konstance** – called for a motion to approve the agenda for January 11, 2023. Kristin Reed – motioned to approve – Julie Folsie – seconded the motion
- **Konstance** – called for motion to approve the minutes from January 11, 2023 – Kathy motioned to approve pending amendments – Al Thibodeaux – seconded.

**Public Comment** – Limited 3 minutes per person.

## **OCDD Report – Julie Foster Hagan**

- **Budget Update**
  - Transportation rate increases will be paid out retroactively and moving forward beginning in January for the NOW and ROW. The Supports Waiver amendment to add transportation as a service is out for public comment.
  - EarlySteps rate increases – provider rate changes and retroactive payments have been completed. Case management rate increases and retroactive payments have been made; the target to change case management to a flat rate billing system is the end of January.
- **Legislative Update**
  - House Concurrent Resolutions 38 (study individuals with co-occurring I/DD and behavioral health needs), 39 (study barriers to hiring DSPs) and 40 (study costs of nursing) – reports have been submitted to the Secretary for review and approval. These are due to the legislature in February. A copy of the reports will be shared with SAC upon final approval.
- **COVID Update**
  - There continues to be concerns with COVID, flu, and RSV in our state.
- **Appendix K Exceptions in Waiver Application Update**
  - The federal public health emergency (PHE) was last extended through October 13, 2022, and we anticipate that the PHE will be extended another 90 days through mid-January 2023. If this extension is given, the Appendix K exceptions will be in place until July of 2023, or longer if another extension is given.
  - OCDD will be hosting in-person and virtual meetings in late January / early February to advise individuals and families on all changes that will take place once the PHE has expired. These meetings will detail the rules / regulations in place before COVID, during COVID, and after COVID to assist with planning.
- **SUN Screening Update**

Total administrations completed 10/1/22 – 12/31/22 761

Number of administrations by SUN score	Total	Total %
Score of 4, unmet needs at the Emergent level	168	22%
Score of 3, unmet needs at the Urgent level	251	33%
Score of 2, unmet needs at the Critical level	108	14%
Score of 1, unmet needs at the Planning level	88	12%
Score of 0, no identified unmet needs	146	19%
Total	761	

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

Reason for Screening	Total
Initials	511
Re-Screenings	250
Total	761

As of December 31, 2022, the current total number of individuals listed in the DD Request for Services Registry (Registry) is 12,698<sup>1</sup>.

- **American Rescue Plan Act HCBS Funds Update**

- o *Systemic therapeutic assessment resources and treatment (START) model assessment and pilot.* This activity will allow Louisiana to bring in a team of experts to do an assessment to identify gaps in services for people with co-occurring behavioral health needs and I/DD. We will set up a pilot program based on the feedback we receive to support individuals in crisis once this assessment is complete. The contract has been approved and we anticipate work will start in February of 2023.
- o *Infrastructure Standup for Technology First Initiative.* The funding in this activity will help us purchase the equipment that is needed to begin using technology supports in our waiver. We will be meeting with stakeholders to help inform what these supports look like before we spend any of the money in this activity.

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<sup>1</sup>

- o *Implementation of Value Based Payment (VBP) Model.* VBP is a way that states can pay providers who are able to provide quality supports to people. We will be developing a set of measures or indicators, and providers who meet specific targets will be eligible to receive a payment that is a reward for the quality services they provide. We will be meeting with stakeholders to get feedback on what measures we should consider for this model and payment to providers.
- o *Community Practitioners Training.* OCDD has partnered with Louisiana Dental Association, and there has been one continuing education unit for dentists, with more to come, to help them provide dental services to people with I/DD.
- o *Temporary rate increase for Support Coordination.* A 30% rate increase to the support coordination rate has been implemented and will continue as long as funding available.
- o *Direct support workforce and support coordination recruitment and retention bonus.* This funding will be used to give bonus payments to direct support workers. The original plan was to provide retrospective bonuses and prospective bonuses moving forward. Due to prospective bonus payments being subject to overtime rules with Department of Labor, only retrospective bonus payments will be made. This requires changes and reporting to CMS, therefore, it is anticipated it will be at least 90 days before the bonuses are paid out.
- **Act 421: Children’s Medicaid Option Update**
  - o As of 1/6/2023:
    - 2,102 applications received
      - 831 pending review
      - 428 denials
        - o 304 did not respond
        - o 124 did not meet LOC / MEDT criteria
      - 813 approved
      - 30 withdrawn
    - 657 phone calls referred to Act 421 staff
- **Acts 450 and 366 Update: Comprehensive Dental Services for Adults with I/DD**
  - o The state plan amendment to add dental coverage for adults in ICF/IIDs is out for public comment.
  - o Comprehensive dental services for adults in waiver began 7/1/2022. OCDD is continuing to work with providers and case managers to ensure understanding of how to access services.
- **Early Steps Update**
  - o Discussion: The data that we have available does not allow us to drill down into specific concerns related to children aging out of EarlySteps.

- Can SAC advise of specific areas they would like to evaluate, and we can consider alternate way of gathering this information? For example, if the specific concern is that families are not aware of OCDD system, we could consider doing random sampling of these families with a survey to gather information that would better inform if this is a concern and appropriate actions, if so.
- o We will be out in all Region beginning January 30, 2023 through Mid-February. In person meetings – giving details of Waiver Flexibility; making sure everyone is aware of what was in place before COVID.

### **Questions/Comments in Chat:**

**Steve Kauffman** – Renewal of Determination that a Public Health exist.

**Kathy Dwyer** – The PHE extension was signed January 11, 2023

To find information regarding The Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response and declarations of public emergency, go to the following website:  
[aspr.hhs.gov/legal/PHE/pages/default.aspx](https://aspr.hhs.gov/legal/PHE/pages/default.aspx).

**Amy Veuleman** – Once approval is gained how long will it take for distribution to workers for bonus payments.

**Carmen O'Mara** – Has PHE been extended?

**Holly Bell** – CNBC says it is until April didn't give a date.

**Steve Kauffman** – Please invite the CLOP (Community Living Ombudsman Program) staff to the ICF/IDD webinars. CLOP is a Louisiana network of trained advocates, known as Ombudsmen, who visit persons with developmental disabilities living in group homes.

### **Reports from Regional Advisory Committee:**

**Region I** – Holly Bell reported:

- Met pm December 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am – virtually
- A new Interim Chair – Brenda Lacking
- Asking everyone to reapply for membership
- Disseminated process of accepting applications done this month
- Received updates from Peoples First, Families Helping Families, EarlySteps and Supports Services.
- Next meeting February 10<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am – noon - virtually

**Region II** – Michelle Wall

- Had a meeting on November 22<sup>nd</sup> – no Quorum
- Capital Area – LGE was available to review their Accountability Report Plan – focused on employment percentage – has risen 9.19 % which is an improvement
- EarlySteps report – performing 100%

- DD/IFS Report – 375 Individuals served
- Second Quarter – Spent \$276,000 on those services
- Crisis Family Support – served 455 families – Total = 312,000
- **Al Thibodeaux** – wanted to know if you can provide information on Critical Incidents at the last SAC meeting and we talked about the need for critical incident report criteria coming in. Start getting staff on the first quarter of the FY and will continue to monitor the program.

**Region III** – Charlie Michel reported:

- Meet every three months and the next RAC meeting is February 9<sup>th</sup> – no report for this SAC meeting.

**Region IV** – Carmen Cetnar reported:

- I'm reporting for Rebecca Fruge' who's now the Partner's in Policy Making Coordinator.
- Last meeting December 13<sup>th</sup> - has a Quorum
- Nichole Chatman from AAHSD reported
  - Currently Serving 2,297 waivers – largest entity that is serving waivers in the state.
  - NOW Waiver – 1,268 – Row Waiver – 233 – Children's Choice – 376 – Supports Waiver – 420
  - 102 applications pending – 45 linkages currently pending
  - Flexible Family Fund – 202 recipients
- Nicole Flores with Families Helping Families Acadiana – gave an update on her center.
- Discussed inviting Support Coordinators for educational purposes.
- Joseph with MRG was surprised with rate increase for SC currently helping with staffing with 1 short of being fully staffed.
- Next meeting March 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Region V** – Mylinda Elliott reported:

- Have meetings every three months – day before the last SAC Meeting was the RAC meeting.
- Next meeting isn't until March
- Had a RAC nomination for discussion, will have a new member.
- No report

**Region VI** – Kristen Reed reported:

- Currently rebuilding; most members went off or has been unable to consistently attend meetings.
- Concerns that was supposed to be discussed (that was sent to the SAC email) for the next meeting on February 15<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm.

- Have some consumers who have been self-advocates and private providers that has been invited to attend.
- Hopefully we will have more to report from the next meeting.

**Region VII** – no Representative to report

**Region VIII** – Nicole Bilberry reported:

- Next meeting January 31<sup>st</sup> where we will report next SAC on everything we report.
- Konstance reported on our RAC minutes from October last meeting.

**Region IX** – Suzanne Bourgeois reported:

- RAC meeting November 15<sup>th</sup> – had a Quorum
- Florida Parishes reported – ACT 421 as of July had 73 referrals – 57 approved
- Region 9 is serving 1,115 individual waivers – 166 linkages
- Setting Rule compliance visits continue will be finishing up by March.
- 64 ICF Homes – 26 PASSAR admits with 10 referrals.
- Flexible Family Fund - 196 slots filled – 194 request for 2023 – 79 reviewed
- EarlySteps reported – the number of children served - 1,028 active ISP
- Families Helping Families - gave a report – had several events throughout that month – had Regional meeting with good attendance.
- People First gave a report – Quality Management report – Employment target for the FY23 increased 9.70%
- Next RAC meeting February 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Region X** – Jen Walle reported:

- Haven't had another RAC meeting, gave report at the last SAC meeting,
- Next RAC meeting January 24<sup>th</sup>
- Will report at the next meeting.

**Dental Task Force Report:**

- Kathy Dwyer reported: Haven't met since the last Sac meeting, will be meeting this Friday.
- Will be focusing on training. Both Pre-service training and Continuing Education training for existing Dentist.
- Will be working with Dental Association and the Dental School to get the Dental School Curriculum enhanced as required by their Certification Agency which is CODA.
- Hopefully, we're trying to get the Continuing Education Units mandatory for Dentist in Special Needs Dentistry.
- Kathy announce that she stepped down a Chair of the Dental Task Force and Ashley McReynolds will be the Chair for the Dental Task Force.

## **OLD BUSINESS: SAC Members**

- Currently we have 17 voting members – 1 new member – Carmen Cetnar
- 3 vacant positions – 1 in Region VI and 2 in Region VII
- If you have an update to add to the roster, please send them to Charlie Michel – [bayoulandfhf@gm.com](mailto:bayoulandfhf@gm.com) or the SAC email – [louisianasacdd@gmail.com](mailto:louisianasacdd@gmail.com)

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- No new business

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- Konstance Causey – As a LACAN Leader and Regional Advocacy Leader we are in the process of finalizing the fact sheet for the Legislative Session and the things we are to be advocating for

## **Motion to adjourn:**

**The next SAC meeting will be held on March 8, 2023 at 12:30 pm – 3:00 pm**

- Al Thibodeaux made the motion to adjourn
- Kathy Dwyer – Seconded the motion to adjourn
- Meeting adjourned at 2:05 PM