

Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities  
State Advisory Committee (SAC) Meeting Minutes  
Bienville Building Baton Rouge  
March 11, 2020  
12:30p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**Call to Order** – Sharon Delvisco called the meeting to order at 12:36 pm.

A. Welcome

B. Introductions

C. Attendance:

SAC Voting Members Present:

MHSD – Penny Curran

CAHSD –

SCLHSA – April Young

AAHSD – Deborah Fontenot

IMCAL – Theresa VanAsselburg

CLHSD – Kristen Reed

NLHSD – Karissa Jackson

NEDHSA – Konstance Causey

FPHSA – Suzanne Bougeious, Sharon Delvisco

JPHSA – Kathy Dwyer, Mary Kay Cowen

AFSME –

Others present: Jacquelyne Cobb, Tanya Murphy, Lacy Polotzola, Steve Kaufmann, Julie Foster-Hagan, Holly Bell

**Chairperson's Report** – Sharon Delvisco, Secretary

A. Quorum – A quorum of voting members are present.

B. Approval/Additional Agenda Items-

Karissa Jackson motions to accept agenda for meeting with a second by Deborah Fontenot. Motion passes without opposition.

Approval of Minutes from November 13, 2019 Mary Kay Cowen motions to accept the minutes with correction that at dental services Medicaid meeting, Dr. Frank Martello spoke to LSU Dental School Dean about starting course. Motion passes without opposition.

Approve minutes from January 8, 2020 Penny Curran motioned to accept the minutes with edit that Dr. Frank Martello spoke to LSU Dental School Dean about starting course. Theresa VanAsselburg seconds the motion and the motion passes without opposition.

**Public Comment**

None at this time.

**DOJ Agreement:**

Christy Johnson is Project Director for agreement with DOJ. In 2014 DOJ investigated state mental health system to assess complaints about not meeting ADA title II, following the investigation it was indicated that State of Louisiana was relying too much on nursing home services. In June 2018 an agreement was signed to ensure compliance with ADA. This agreement indicates that we have to evaluate services for people with Severe mental illness. The My Choice Louisiana addresses this. People have choice. We should divert people with mental illness from inappropriate nursing home placements, identify people with mental illness that are living in nursing homes but want to transition and live in the community. Especially Medicaid eligible people with severe mental illness over 18. There are multiple agencies collaborating, the Office of Aging, OBH, OCCD, Medicaid, etc. There is an established stakeholder group advisory group meeting every other month. A website is set up (<http://ldh.la.gov/index.cfm/page/3264>), for the first 18 months the primary tasks were readiness, developing a housing plan, developing a crisis plan, developing a diversion plan to achieve compliance. We wrote the plan for implementation in 2020. Posted on website (she will send the link so SAC members can review). The State was not required to transition people right away, but we decided to use the money follows the person as a model and 92 people transitioned in 2019 and another 12 people in 2020. We hired additional staff, transition coordinators, to provide assessment and move people into community, community case management is being established for this population, for 2020 tasked with conducting needs assessment finalize structure for long term case management and put tracking system in place.

Steve Kaufmann: How many folks evaluated so far that were identified for assessment to transition?

Christy Johnson: Initial assessment was for over 800 people.

Kathy Dwyer: How many people have co-occurring diagnosis of I/DD and mental health?

Christy Johnson: This group is small the first list was about 20 people and only 4/5 people wanted to transition. For medical and SMI a larger group and age 50 and up.

**OCDD Update – Julie Foster Hagan**

Budget – Legislative session started Monday and process for budget has begun. The Dept was asked to look at \$103 million in reductions (HB 105) with a note to not reduce DD waivers or ICFDD facilities. Central office proposed reductions that will not impact services to people but will impact some operations.

Steve Kaufmann: Is funding for Tefra included?

Julie Foster Hagan: \$3.8 million in budget from governor. That includes funding for ½ year since anticipated start date is 1/21.

Kathy Dwyer: Will proposed reduction affect people with significant BH challenges?

Julie Foster Hagan: We have proposed using START model (in 13 other states) in Louisiana. During the first year they do assessment and through this process then discover budget ask amount. We are hoping to find the funding to continue this initiative, community and family trust fund (sale of OCDD property or Dept of Revenue to possibly deposit tax from use of medical marijuana, should have enough money to start assessment process.

**Legislative Update – Julie Foster Hagan**

No legislation proposed by OCDD this session however, we are following several bills being supported by Arc of La, DD Council and Disability Rights La (formerly Advocacy Center).

Governor's Office of Disability Affairs has posted on website about legislation with impact on people with disabilities. And the DD Council has info about legislation on their website.

Next meeting OCDD will outline all bills being followed to the SAC Members.

Mary Kay Cowen: Is it possible that when the list of bills is prepared will you send it through Jackie in advance?

Julie Foster Hagan: Yes

**CoVID19 – Julie Foster Hagan**

We are involved with OPH in emergency calls and reached out to providers with links for info and updates, she will send links to Jackie to share. OPH has page on website with updates, all relevant info is on this page and if you have specific questions you can call the gen info line 855-523-2652. Asked case managers to reach out and see if folks have plans just in case. The Gov will declare a state of emergency at some point, in order for us to ask CMS for certain exceptions. Examples, requirement to perhaps waive the 16 hour rule for staff hours, if they have to shelter at home, may have to increase hours of support for sheltering in place, perhaps exception for family support as companion care to shelter at home, there are concerns on behalf of families and providers planning for when state of emergency is declared.

Steve Kaufmann: What about OCDD, has there been any plans made for nursing homes?

Julie Foster Hagan: Special guidance for congregate facilities from CDC and CMS and we are sharing this info with providers.

Kathy Dwyer: At last RAC meeting there was discussion about lack of service providers with co-occurring SMI and DD and this is an issue. Perhaps OCDD can prioritize funding for these folks due to a lack of appropriate services. Some people leaving state to access services.

Julie Foster Hagan – It is complicated, the difficulty is people with Medicaid and BH needs receive their services through Medicaid, people should be receiving services from Medicaid providers but we know there are gaps. Have to go through RFP process and ask for additional services recommendations which would require for them to have services with a variety of disabilities, unfortunately the new contracts were contested and the new contract is not in place yet, this is not additional funding but should be happening with Managed Care providers.

Strategies to address the needs of co-occurring DD and SMI as agenda item – the group working with DOJ is HSRI.

**Regional Advisory Committee Reports**

- A. Issues to report from RAC's
- B. Updates from RAC teams

C. Dental Task Force Update - Mary Kay Cowen: Reported SAC Dental Task Force held meeting report was distributed. An additional report is being developed to submit to LDH. Next meeting is second Friday of every month by conference call. To participate in call dial 602 333 0032 with access code 224740#.

**Metropolitan HS District – Region 1** – Penny Curran provided report. Team met in Feb. Next meeting is being planned.

**Capital Area HS District – Region 2** – no report

**South Central Human Services Authority – Region 3**—no report

**Acadian Area Human Services Authority – Region 4** – April Young provided report and next meeting is March 19.

**Imperial Calcasieu Human Services Authority – Region 5** – Theresa VanAsselburg held meeting on Mar 4 but not quorum having issues with that. Little increase in employment indicator but still on low side, still have corrective action plan. Data collection for critical incidents not working with system issue. Next meeting is June 10.

**Central LA HSD- Region 6** – Kristen Reed reported had a quorum at last meeting. Nominations to providers have been sent out, discussed legislative session, corrective action for employment is in place. May 20 next meeting. Issues with finding info about self-direction as an option, want to know eligibility requirements. Self-Direction contact [Janae.Burr@la.gov](mailto:Janae.Burr@la.gov) , [Paul.Rhorer@la.go](mailto:Paul.Rhorer@la.go) or [Teresa.Frank@la.gov](mailto:Teresa.Frank@la.gov).

**Northwest LA Human Services District – Region 7** –no report

**Northeast Delta – Region 8** – Konstance Causey Jan 28 meeting with quorum Early Steps eligibility working together, 4 denied, new staff at waiver office, 130 critical incidents, some not properly reported and data system issues, office of inspector gen has looked at 3,500 incidents of double billing and not properly reported State corrective action will occur, Joanne Powell provided quarterly report not 7.24% is small decrease partnering to turn numbers around. Supporting employment outreach and increase.

Steve Kaufmann: No consistent definition of what critical incident is. Is the definition the same statewide?

**ACTION STEP:** Sharon Delvisco will get the definition of critical incident from OCDD and share with SAC members.

**Florida Parishes- Region 9** – Last meeting was Feb 11 did not have quorum, discussed La Meds, some families not getting the info and find it confusing, RAC outreach to send flyers to school system, SUN screening, requests are increasing, new fiscal vendor – Morning Star, 895 children with IFSP, OT shortage, waiver 1,679 people served in region, IFS budget at 92% obligated, employment fair at end of April.

**Jefferson Parish Human Services Authority- Region 10** – Mary Kay Cowen reported had a quorum at start of meeting. Incident with shooting of person in Jeff Parish, we had Sheriff's office provide presentation about behavioral health 40-hour training includes people with disabilities and family members. All new recruits participate in this training course on de-escalation, talked about how can contact police precinct and schedule a meeting at station or at your home. Next meeting is April 28.

#### **Old Business**

- A. Review of Bylaws – Tabled.
- B. Membership/Attendance Update – no report
- C. Status of meeting about lack of dental services and Medicaid Meeting– Mary Kay Cowen, Dental services- Mary Kay Cowen
- D. Updates about Individual and Family Forums –
- E. Update about Outreach Initiatives

#### **New Business**

- A. Approved Meeting dates for 2020 - May 13, July 8, September 9 and November 11
- B. Election of Officers: Laci- cannot be the chair for the SAC because she will be leaving FHF, do not have a quorum so will need to vote on a new chair at next meeting.

Suzanne Bourgeois recommends that RAC Teams discuss the issue of needing officers for the SAC. If you current SAC members do not want to be nominated then perhaps your team should nominate someone that wants to serve.

#### **Public Comments**

Morning Sun is the new fiscal agent for self-direction services – Lacy Polotzola is new administrator 1-833-239-3768 or [www.morningsunfs.com](http://www.morningsunfs.com)

#### **Announcements**

N/A

#### **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn the meeting Mary Kay Cowen, Theresa VanAsselburg seconds. Meeting is adjourned at 2:07 pm.

Upcoming Meeting dates for 2020 - May 13, July 8, September 9 and November 11