

**OCDD STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES**

**HELD ONLINE via Zoom
May 12, 2021 from 12:30 pm – 3:00 pm**

Call to Order – Kathy Dwyer, Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:34 pm.

Roll Call/Quorum – Mylinda Elliott, SAC Secretary, conducted Roll Call. A Quorum of Members is present (10/20) (2 vacant positions)

SAC Voting Members Present:

MHSD –
CAHSD – Kay Lewis, Michelle Walls
SCLHSA – April Young
AAHSD –
IMCAL – Mylinda Elliott (Secretary)
CLHSD –
NLHSD – Karissa Jackson
NEDHSA – Konstance Causey
FPHSA – Suzanne Bourgeois, Sharon Delvisco
JPHSA – Kathy Dwyer (Chair), Mary Kay Cowen
AFSME –

SAC Ad Hoc Members: Julie Foster Hagan, Tanya Murphy, Jacquelyne Cobb

Public: Jennifer Blanque, Brenda Sharp, Ebony Haven, Kara Shupe, Bambi Polotzola, Alison Fields, Charlie Michel, Kristi Curtis, Susan Riehn, Domino Candlen, Stacey Guidry, Jennifer Purvis, Kathy Dillon, Torie Keller, Veronica Holden, Rona Burkett, Melanie Falgou, Amy Hunt, Andrea Hebert, Jennifer Johnson, Kacey Hill, Janice Monetta, Taylor Umphries, Nicole Sullivan-Green, Christina Kozik, B. Cosse’

Approval of /Amendments to Agenda – Kathy Dwyer, Chair, asked for a motion to accept the May 12, 2021 agenda. Sharon Delvisco made the motion and Mary Kay Cowen seconded it. Motion passes without opposition.

Approval of /Amendments to the March 10, 2021 Meeting Minutes: Kathy Dwyer, Chair, asked for a motion to accept minutes from March 10th meeting. April Young made the motion and was seconded by Sharon Delvisco. Minutes accepted with no opposition.

Public Comments: Kara commented that a family was told by a SUN Assessment screener that “because they were married and owned a home,” that regardless of what is wrong with a child they would automatically be scored a zero on the SUN Assessment. The issue came up at an IFS meeting in Region II Capital Area Human Services District (CAHSD). Tanya Murphy remarked that is incorrect information and there is no situation where anyone receives an automatic score for any reason and that she would follow-up with CAHSD.

Dental Task Force for Adults with DD report by Mary Kay Cowen: HB 172: Comprehensive Services for Adults with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities, passed in the House Health and Welfare and Appropriations Committees. The bill now goes to the full House for a vote and then on to the Senate. Kathy and Mary Kay have been contacted by a national organizations interested in the bill and emulating in other states the work they’ve accomplished. HCR34 is being heard today in the Senate Health and Welfare Committee. HCR34 is to conduct a study of what the per diem reimbursement rate needs to be for ICF/DD residents to receive the dental services in HB172. Everyone is encouraged to contact your legislators and share action alerts. Contact Kathy at kedwyer@cox.net for any updates and if you wish to be added to the Dental Task Force Action Alert list.

Kathy added that the Dental Task Force was connected with Families USA, a national organization. The organization publishes a lot of articles with helpful data and research. They were also connected with Barbie Vartanian with Project Accessible Oral Health and several other national individuals/organizations, e.g., Dr. Steven Perlman, founder of the Special Olympic International’s Smile Dental Program and founder of the American Academy of Developmental Medicine and Dentistry. Dr. Perlman helped provide dental assistance to Rosemary Kennedy. The national organizations would like to emulate what is being done in Louisiana. Kathy and Mary were also invited to speak at a National Summit in September that will target all state Medicaid directors, federal legislators, and dental professionals to talk about the Dental Task Force and the legislative success we’ve had with HB172 and HCR34.

OCDD Report: Julie Foster Hagan, Assistant Secretary

Budget Update

- No cuts to waiver services or ICFs (possible rate increases for providers, depending on the final outcome of the budget and available funding streams)
- No major change to EarlySteps funding (we have some money left over this

year in EarlySteps because there are less children and less services being used under COVID)

- OCDD Central Office is losing two positions: no other major changes. Two positions that were eliminated were administrative and fiscal.

Kathy asked if the 2 positions would affect work needing to be done by OCDD. Julie said that the two positions were vacant for at least a year and have managed without them.

Legislative Update

- HB 172: Medicaid coverage for comprehensive dental coverage for adults with I/DD in the waiver
- HB 204: Requires OCDD and OAAS to continue some Appendix K Exceptions: e.g., the 16-hour rule, family members as paid caregivers, and virtual visits. The bill did not pass but OCDD is working on continuing these exceptions on a permanent basis with or without legislation.
- HCR 34: Study regarding potential means of financing dental care for adult residents of ICF/DDs
- HB 697, legislation from Senators Cortez and Ward, allocates funding from gambling fees and licenses to the Community and Family Support Trust Fund (50% goes to Early Intervention and 50% goes to other programs)
- HCR 45: Study concerning the feasibility and desirability of implementing a system for tracking the location of children with I/DD who elope.

COVID Update

1. ICFs

a. Positivity:

- Approximately 2773 of 3540 ICF (private) residents tested.
- 995 positive cases. No change (averaging 30 new cases reported weekly).
- 170 cluster facilities (2 or more cases) – no change
- 62 deaths – no change

b. Vaccinations

Total Residents	Vaccine Initiated	Vaccine Completed	% Vaccine Initiated	% Vaccine Completed
3893	3261	2787	83.77	71.59

2. Home and Community Base Waivers

a. Positivity:

# Recipients	# COVID-positive Cases	# Hospitalized	# Deceased
13,591	647	176	34

b. Vaccinations for all waiver programs:

- As of 4/26, the following is true for waiver participants (25,923 people):
 - 45% vaccine initiated.
 - 37% fully vaccinated.
 - 6,462 not willing to be vaccinated.
 - 194 needing in-home vaccination.

Just set up a phone number that goes directly to the sites for those who need in home vaccination to call and someone will come to their home and vaccinate that person and, if they would like, the family member in the home they can be vaccinated also.

- As of 5/6, the following is true for waiver direct care provider staff (32,806 people) and support coordinators (617 people)
 - 35% vaccine initiated.
 - 30% fully vaccinated.

With the Direct Care staff, we continue to focus on helping to make all information available about vaccinations. We are still getting questions about Day Hab programs reopening. We continue to have our numbers increase with vaccination and continue to look at the guidance related to our day program openings. We want to make sure that people have a choice on how they move forward.

Kathy asked if any consideration has been given in making vaccines mandatory in Day Hab facilities, that families have had to isolate long enough to keep their loved ones safe and now that a vaccine is available, if mandatory, it would assure the safety of all attending.

Julie responded saying, yes there's discussion about mandating vaccines and a lot of it is tied up in Legal. o my knowledge there's nothing that mandates the Home and Community providers to require vaccines. A couple of provider agencies has 100% vaccination because the supervisors are encouraging their employees to get the vaccine and ask questions about the vaccine. OCDD is looking to have a focus group for providers for them to share what it is they did to encourage employees to get vaccinated.

OCDD Listening Session

- Sessions held on 4/5/2021 and 4/8/2021.
- Summary of all feedback is on our OCDD website.
- Majority of feedback was around families as paid caregivers and need to utilize technology in the future
- OCDD will be considering all feedback as we look to move forward and trying to learn from other states to see what they have in place to meet the criteria.

Update of Appendix K Exceptions in Waiver Application

- All exceptions are in place until 6 months after the Public Health Emergency (PHE) expires. It is currently set to expire 7/14/2021; it may be extended beyond this, it can only be extended for 90 days at a time)
- As noted, will be considering need for longer term changes and will plan focus groups and webinars to explain this as it progresses.

American RESCUE Plan Act HCBS Funds Update

- Still awaiting guidance from CMS on how these funds may be utilized; they hosted an all-state call and advised it would be coming soon, but we are still waiting on this.
- Will be planning across all waivers for this and setting times for stakeholder feedback.

Act 421: Children's Medicaid Option Update

- All ready on LDH end to begin as soon as CMS approves.
- We have asked but CMS has not advised of a possible date for approval.

RAC / SAC Members

- Ethics decision / follow-up: LDH will be following ethics opinion on the conflict-of-interest concerns.
 - At this time, I am aware of one pending nominee for RAC in Region 2. If there are others pending this decision or any you may have sent that were misplaced as we awaited this decision, please proceed with sending to OCDD for consideration.
- Process for appointing to RAC and SAC
 - Nomination forms (make sure that you use the one titled RAC or SAC depending on which nomination is for) e-mailed to Jacquelyne Cobb and Julie Hagan
 - OCDD AS will review and consider
 - If approved, letter will be drafted and sent to requesting party and SAC Chair and Secretary.

- If questions or follow-up information is needed, this will be requested from the requestor
- If denied, requesting party and Chair and Secretary of SACC will be notified.

EarlySteps Statewide Transition Data Report

When there are questions about the data they receive from EarlySteps and in PSD.

- Meetings with the LGEs occur if there is a poor result on a quarterly AP percentage on PI #22, the EarlySteps Transition Performance Indicator.
- Each LGE is discovering different issues as the year progresses with our new data set we are using for this indicator. As a result there is a natural progression towards more collaboration with the EarlySteps Regional Coordinators and the LGEs. It takes time to make effective changes, but it is working.

New Business

Presentation: Early Steps Transition to DD Services - Jennifer Johnson and Andrea Albert, FPHSA

Kathy introduced the next item on the agenda, i.e., a presentation by representatives from Region IX EarlySteps and the LGE who have a 95-97% transition rate into the program.

Sharon introduced the Region IX guests, i.e., Jennifer Johnson who is an Ad HOC member of the FPHSA Regional Advisory Committee. They are here to share how they achieved the full success of the referral program.

Jennifer Johnson – introduced herself as the Region IX Regional Coordinator for EarlySteps. The system that Jennifer Johnson, Andrea Albert and Taylor Umphries conducts begins as the child is 2.6 years of age. All families are offered the option and given information at intake into EarlySteps and other services. Decisions are reviewed annually by their Support Coordinators at 2.6 years of age (what is referred to as the packet) sent to FPHSA and sent by email to Jennifer, Taylor, Andrea and Janise Monetta. Each month Jennifer looks at a list of active children in Region IX and the packets are sent in to keep track and a reminder is sent to all coordinators at the beginning of the month to check cases. The middle of the month as packets come in another reminder is sent out. At the end of the month another reminder is sent to check with the coordinators individually based on their caseloads – they have the knowledge of whether the families said yes or no. Taylor is invited to the Transition Conference by the FSC. Andrea and Taylor check in with Jennifer after comparing lists and what is reviewed.

Taylor Umphries – views EarlySteps transition and referral packets. Follows policy by contacting families via letters, email, and phone calls. Reaches out to the Support Coordinators when she has difficult time with families. Available for questions from Support Coordinators and families.

Andrea Albert – Performance Indicator for EarlySteps, report orally to OCDD the Statement of Approval, Denials and Closures. Takes data from EarlySteps – Covance Report Referrals. Compares data to the Performance Indicator for discrepancies. LGE reports all discrepancies to OCDD.

Reports from Regional Advisory Committees

Region I – No representative

Region II – Kay Lewis: No report now because meeting will be Monday, May 17, 2021.

Region III – Alison Filce: Had a meeting April 27, 2021. No Quorum. Most of the members are expired, awaiting the Board of Ethics decision. Wes went over all the programs, but the top goal is the membership.

Region IV – no representative

Region V – Mylinda Elliott was the representative but had to leave early for an important meeting.

Region VI – no representative

Region VII – Karissa Jackson: Met on April 4, 2021. No Quorum. Another meeting is scheduled for May 18, 2021. A report is to follow.

Region VIII – Konstance Causey: Meeting was held on April 27, 2021. Had a Quorum. Reported on Waivers also on IFS spending for the Quarter, HSIC Quarterly Report.

Four Indicators were not met:

1. Percentage of IFS Fund extended
2. Community Base Employment
3. Percentage of Waiver Participant Plan of Care
4. Percentage of EarlySteps Services

Indicator #15 was not reported on, still working on recruitment to get more parents involved. Next meeting July 27,2021.

Region IX – Suzanne Bourgeois: Meeting was held on April 13, 2021: Had a Quorum. Florida Parish gave an update on vaccines, waiver update, 202 referrals to EarlySteps Region IX, average link is 5-6, update on the Appendix K, 421, 12 voting members, ICF 95% utilization, IFS Funds, Quality Report with Stats, People First gave a training, sent an email in support of the Dental Services, Next meeting is June 8, 2021.

Region X – Kathy Dwyer – Last meeting held on April 27, 2021. We had a Quorum, next meeting on July 27, 2021. IFS short on target because of vaccinations. Discussed the need for an Outreach Plan and suggested what activities should be conducted for the Outreach Plan. Reviewed current membership composition. Received 5 new membership applications: 4 parent applications and 1 self-advocate application. Reviewed the draft of the Board of Ethics opinion.

Old Business

SAC Membership Update – members lacking from Region IV and Region VI. Kathy reached out to the Human Services Districts but has not received a response. Kathy requests if SAC members receive(d) an approval letter for the SAC, to please send copies to her, Mylinda, and Konstance or send to the SAC email at louisianasacdd@gmail.com so they can update the roster and keep track of the membership terms.

SAC Membership Conflict of Interest Update – Received an email from Mr. Bordelon with the Board of Ethics containing the final decision on conflict-of-interest with members. Mr. Bordelon said there are no issues. FHF members are welcomed as members.

Public Comments: There were none.

Announcements: There were none.

Sharon Delvisco is piloting a webinar series that includes topics such as Online Safety, Texting and Phone Technology, Friendships. It will be held the last 2 weeks in June on a Friday.

Tanya Murphy said as a follow-up on the issue of the parent that was told no matter what is wrong with the child, they would be scored a zero. The individual has not had a SUN assessment since 2018 and one has a SUN assessment from 2016. Tanya has reached out to the Capital Area Human Services District to see if they need a re-assessment.

Kathy requested a motion to adjourn. The motion to adjourn was made by Sharon Delvisco and seconded by Kay Lewis. There was no opposition. The meeting adjourned at 2:31 p.m.

Reminder: The next SAC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 14, 2021, 12:30p.m. – 3:30p.m. The Zoom meeting link is <https://ldhocddadmin.zoom.us/j/89497482547>