

**OCDD STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES**

**HELD ONLINE via Zoom  
July 14, 2021 from 12:30 pm – 3:00 pm**

**Call to Order** – Kathy Dwyer, Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:33 pm.

**Roll Call/Quorum** – Mylinda Elliott, SAC Secretary, conducted Roll Call. A Quorum of Members is present (10/18)

SAC Voting Members Present:

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

SAC Ad Hoc Members: Julie Foster Hagan, Tanya Murphy, Jacquelyne Cobb, Brenda Sharp, Brandi Croft

Public: Janise Monetta, Charlie Michel, Susan Riehn, Stacey Guidry, Jennifer Purvis, Kathy Dillon, Rona Burkett, Melanie Falgou, Amy Hunt, Andrea Hebert, Jennifer Johnson, Kasey Hill, Nicole Sullivan-Green, Christina Kozik, Brenda Cosse', Tory Rocca, Denise Payne, Pamela Muhammad, Kathleen Cannino, Joann Powell, Tami Schilling, Rosie Lewis, Carmen Omara, Comeka King, Karen Artus, Mary Jacob, Genese Monetta, Susan Rein, Jennifer Blaque

**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 10, 2021 meeting.

Sharon Delvisco made the motion and was seconded by Mary Kay. Minutes accepted with no opposition.

**Public Comments:** None

## **Report from the Regions**

**Region I** – No representative present

**Region II** – Michelle Wall – Meeting May 18, 2021; Currently have 7 members. Discussed using IFS funds for Summer Camp. Discussed EarlySteps transition and that it's back on track. Corrective Action Plan worked.

Kay Lewis – Discussion of how to get more self-advocates, some RAC members are interested. Looking at getting more providers for Children's Choice for not so traditional therapy. Meeting again next week.

**Region III** – April Young – Reported their meeting is still pending as are new members.

**Region IV** – No representative present.

**Region V** – Mylinda Elliott – Had a meeting earlier this month. Discussion of members, members not attending, and getting new members. Discussed the budget, came in under budget and money that was spent because of the two storms. Worked on the budget for this year.

**Region VI** – No representative present

**Region VII** – Karissa Jackson – Had a meeting May 18, 2021 but no quorum. Will meet again July 20, 2021. Did give reports for Flexible Family Fund. Discussed the budget. Two hundred fifty nine (259) individuals receiving IFS, 176 slots allocated, 6 slot openings, stipend is \$258.00 per month, allotment 30,956, total budgeted is \$835,506, total obligated is \$851,908.51. Two hundred seventy three (273) IFS requests presented to the committee, 270 requests received, 13 IFS Community Health committee members, \$0 emergency funding requested, \$0 inappropriate use of IFS funding, 24 active IFS monitored, in compliance and in order. Current number of individuals receiving waiver services: Children's Choice – 234, Supports Waiver – 238, NOW waiver – 651, ROW waiver – 89 for a total of 1,212. Critical incident report was discussed. And discussed the Appendix K exceptions being extended to January 2022.

**Region VIII** – Nicole Bilberry – Next meeting is July 27, 2021. Will have a report at the next SAC meeting.

**Region IX** – Suzanne Bourgeois – Meeting held on June 8, 2021. A quorum was present. Currently 1 opening on the committee. Florida Parish did provide an update about vaccine availability. One thousand six hundred and fifty-three (1,653) waiver participants, 144 linked. Children’s Choice – 57, Supports Waiver – 601, ROW – 18, NOW – 88, average linkages – 5-6 per week, 401 ICFDD, with 95% utilization. 169 – Crisis funding request, 156 - approved, 165 Emergency request. All but \$9 was expected to be expended. EarlySteps Report received. Regional Meetings continue: April 23, 2021 - 59 present; North Shore Families Helping Families gave a report on the event Touch A Truck. LACAN did a report on Legislative issues. Quality Management report for employment for Quarter 3 was 5.6%. The next meeting will be held August 10, 2021.

**Region X** – Mary Kay Cowen – Have not had a meeting since the last SAC meeting, Next meeting scheduled on July 27, 2021. Six potential new members for RAC that will be voted on for approval assuming we have a quorum. Need to elect a new Chair because Mary Kay’s term ends at the end of July.

**Dental Task Force for Adults with DD report by Mary Kay Cowen:** Still moving strong, Mary Kay stepped down and Kathy is now the Chair of the Dental Task Force. With the passing of ACT 450 the Department of Health and OCDD are finding ways to make sure services are provided under Medicaid. House Resolution requires OCDD to find a way to provide financial funding for dental care for adults in ICFs. LSU Dental School received \$100,000.00 donation from the United Cerebral Palsy Foundation to pay stipends to dental students and dental care for adults with I/DD. Setting up 2 of the Operating Rooms to provide for dental care. If anyone would like to donate to the LSU School of Dentistry, they can to the LSUHSC Foundation account. Looking for education program for post- and pre-graduates. Looking to add a behavioral health and family components to the dental curriculum. LSU Dental School has reached out to Ochsner to expand their General Practice Residency (GPR) program. This will expand the GPR program in Monroe, Shreveport, Alexandria, Lake Charles and New Orleans to provide some place where people won’t have to travel halfway across the state for services. Kathy Dwyer: HB172 did pass, and the Governor signed it. It is now ACT 450. Had a meeting with the Deans of the LSU School of Dentistry (LSUSD), i.e., Dr. Laughlin and Dr. Andrieu. Dr. Andrieu is the Dean of Academic Affairs and oversees the curriculum. She will be connecting us with two instructors – Dr.

Johnson and Dr. Degate. Dr. Brandi Kelly – OCDD Resource Center Clinical Director has joined the Dental Task Force and will meet with us to help review the curriculum regarding what may or may not be needed for the behavioral health component. Had a zoom meeting with Dr. Jacob Dent who practices in both Louisiana and Texas and has developed a desensitization kit that is now currently in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of research and has been 80-85% successful for those with sensory issues and aversions to dental procedures. LSUSD Instructors will review online course shared with us from the University of Pennsylvania which includes a presentation from Dr. Dent. They are hoping the online course can be used for post and pre-doctoral training. Would like to have an Individual, Parent, and Caregiver component. We're partnering with the Arc of Louisiana who have 3 modules for us to review as well as meeting with Dr. Kelly and Angela Shockley with OCDD Resource Center to review Operation House Call. Operation House Call pairs physicians with family members on a regular basis to learn what is involved with caring for their loved ones. Excited about helping the Dental School to enhance their courses that is required by CODA, their accrediting agency. Excited about the national attention HB172 and the Dental Task Force are receiving. Louisiana is the first (#1) to pass a bill that offers Comprehensive Dental Services for adults with Developmental Disabilities. Several National Partners would like to replicate or emulate what we're doing here in Louisiana. Kathy and Mary Kay will be presenting at a National Conference in September that will have in attendance Medicaid Directors, Federal Legislators, and others in the dentistry field.

### **Old Business:**

Myllinda sent out a Roster to all voting members to make sure membership appointments dates are correct. Both the RAC and SAC have term limits. SAC has 3-year terms with a max of two 3-year terms for a total of 6 years. RACs have the same. All SAC voting members should review the roster and let Kathy and Myllinda know they were appointed to the SAC. All RACs were also asked to send their roster to Jacquelyn Cobb to help monitor who's a member and who's not. Vacant Positions: 4 open positions – Region IV, Region V – Kathy asked Myllinda if she received any appointment letters. Myllinda said she hasn't.

**OCDD Report:** Julie Foster Hagan, Assistant Secretary

### **Budget Update**

- No change from last report for this fiscal year. No major reductions other than eliminating 2 positions. No cuts to services.
- LDH is preparing FY23 Budget Requests now. The process requires the program office to develop requests for review and approval by LDH, then review and approval by the Division of Administration (DOA), then presented to the

legislature. Frequent changes are made each time the budgets are reviewed.

### **Legislative Update**

- HB 172: Workgroup developed and is gathering information about most appropriate mechanism for implementation. Studying 2 or 3 ways to implement. Presented to CMS. The easiest way would be to add adults with I/DD to the Dental Structure/Plan. Will be engaging stakeholders once we have some answers from CMS about what we can and can't do.
- HCR 34: Study regarding potential means of financing dental care for adult residents of ICFs. Workgroup developed and in process. Working collaboratively with HB 172 group.
- HCR 45: Study concerning the feasibility and desirability of implementing a system for tracking the location of children with I/DD. Have identified stakeholders to engage in discussion. Dr. Amy Greer will be heading the workgroup. Will come up with some strategies/considerations, then meet with Medicaid to identify suggestions for funding, which will be included in a report due February 1, 2022.

### **COVID Update**

# Waiver Recipients	# COVID-positive Cases	# Deceased
13,843	672	38

Vaccinations for all waiver programs:

- As of 7/6/2021, the following is true for waiver participants (25,884 people):
  - 52% vaccine initiated
  - 48% fully vaccinated
  - 6,494 not willing to be vaccinated
- As of 7/6/2021, the following is true for waiver direct care provider staff (32,806 people)
  - 40.71% vaccine initiated
  - 37.28% fully vaccinated

There was a discussion about whether people who were vaccinated can ask for only vaccinated staff. There are legal questions to this. The answer was that people can ask but cannot require an answer.

Kathy brought up a concern about people with disabilities being hospitalized with COVID and a family not initially allowed to provide support. The suggestion was to remind hospitals that this was supposed to be allowed.

Kathy asked if there were any anticipated changes to safety requirements for Day Hab programs given the recent email from the Louisiana Department of Health recommending extra precautions because of the Delta variant, e.g., wearing masks and getting vaccinated. Julie said it was a good question and will follow up with the Office of Public Health (OPH) on updated guidance.

### **Update of Appendix K Exceptions in Waiver Application**

- All exceptions in place until 6 months after conclusion of PHE (currently set to expire 7/14/2021. It may be extended beyond this. PHEs can only extend for 90 days at a time. Waiting on word now if it will be extended for another 90 day period.
- NOW Renewal application is due now (we did not have time for feedback as we intended due to timelines). Worked to get changes in the NOW renewal application that will be posted July 21<sup>st</sup>. The application will be open for public comment on all areas. Julie will provide Kathy with the link to share with SAC members. The public comment period is July 21 – August 21, 2012. Once we get public comment on this, we will incorporate changes into amendments for other waivers.
- This could all take time because each time things are changed it goes out for public comment again. LDH started early to allow for public comment and changes.

### **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) HCBS Funds Update**

- Allows states to draw down an additional 10% in federal funds to enhance HCBS.
- Initial spending plan was due to CMS on Monday, 7/12. We have to await CMS approval and we anticipate some additional updates. We will be developing a mechanism for formal communication and feedback in upcoming weeks.
- In the past enhanced HCBS funds could be used different ways. Now it must be used for HCBS.
- There was a tight turn around for this that did not allow for stakeholder input.
- Funds will probably not be used for rate increases as the money is not recurring money.

### **ACT 421: Children's Medicaid Option Update**

- Still awaiting CMS approval.
- Considering using ARPA funds to implement as State Plan which means there would not be a waiting list for participation, rather than a 1115 waiver which has a cap. The level of care assessments would still be required.
- This would need to be an area of education with legislators to make sure in the distant future funds would continue to be available for the children served by Children's Medicaid Option.
- Will make a final decision by the end of July.

### **Funding for HCBS Rates**

- Legislature appropriated \$16 million in State General Funds.
- Estimating a \$2.50 an hour rate increase is possible.
- Meetings held to clarify legislators' intent. Legislators want to make sure DSWs receive an increase.
- At Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget Meeting discussed half for provider expenses and half as base pay for DSWs.
- JLCB members expressed concerns about that split and left the final decision up to LDH.
- Another internal meeting will be held around provider/base rate split.
- OCDD is setting up procedures to be able to monitor base rates and sanctions for providers who do not comply.
- Comments from the public that DSW pay rate increase is needed.
- More discussion from OCDD about providers who have already increased their base rate not being penalized.
- OCDD was going to experience a 'heavy lift' in their auditing department.
- Self-Direction would also get the increase.

### **Early Steps Statewide Transition Data Report**

Kathy asked if the data reporting systems has been finalized yet. Julie said they are still working on it.

### **RAC / SAC Members**

- We have updated the RAC/SAC nomination forms and letters announcing approval.
- We are working through a process to make this more efficient, and we will be sharing with SAC Executive Committee and LGEs.

### **Other Topics**

Kathy asked if a review of the complaint processes around abuse and neglect could be included on the agenda for the next SAC Meeting. Julie said sure. She has a slide presentation prepared for legislators that she can use.

### **Public Comment**

- Sharon Delvisco discussed Healthy Relationships Training. She showed a short video directly after the SAC Meeting.
- Kathy shared information about the GODA Conference.
- Kathy Dillon mentioned having the Healthy Relationships Training and how well it was received.
- Kayla from Region 2 asked where can concerns be addressed to pay for sick time. LaCAN was recommended.
- Kathy asked if \$5 million for Adults with I/DD Dental Services could be included

in the recommendations for the next LaCAN Legislative Agenda. Mylinda, a LaCAN leader said she will recommend it.

**Adjournment:** Kathy requested a motion to adjourn. Mary Kay Cowen motioned to adjourn. Sharon Delvsico 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Adjourn at 2:23pm.

**Reminder of Next Meeting Date:**

Wednesday, September 8, 2021

12:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Join via Zoom at: <https://ldhocddadmin.zoom.us/j/89043172942>

Join via Telephone at (602) 333-0032; Conference code: 224740