

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

### **HELD ONLINE**

**November 9, 2022 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:**

**SAC Voting Members:** 13 out of 16 present – 4 vacant positions – There was a quorum

#### Present:

Region 2: Michelle Wall and Al Thibodeaux

Regions 3: Julie Folse and Charlie Mitchell

Region 4: Rebecca Fruge

Region 5: Dana Fullington and Mylinda Elliott (late)

Region 6: Kristen Reed

Region 8: Konstance Causey and Nicole Bilberry

Region 9: Kristen Essiaed (late)

Region 10: Kathy Dwyer and Jen Walle

#### Absent:

Region 1: Penny Curran and Holly Bell

Region 9: Suzanne Bourgeois

#### Vacant SAC Positions:

Region 4: 1 position

Region 6: 1 position

Region 7: 2 positions

#### **OCDD AD HOC Members**

Julie Foster Hagan – OCDD – present

Tanya Murphy – OCDD – present

Brenda Sharp – OCDD – present

Jacquelyne Cobb – OCDD – present

Amy Greer – OCDD – not present

Charles Ayles – OCDD – not present

Bernard Brown – OCDD – not present

#### **General Public:**

Stephen Kauffman, Carmen O'Mara, Kristie Curtis, April Favron, Brenda Cosse', Robert Doucet, Amy Veuleman, Susan Rheins, Andrea Albert, Anthony Stafford, Doanie Perry, Jakeel Abdullah, Karissa Jackson, Rona Burkett, Sharon Delvisco, T. Crane, Julie Folse, Jeanene Broussard, Michelle Wall

#### **APPROVAL OF/AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

Kathy noted that Child Protective Services had an emergency and will not be presenting at today's SAC Meeting but will try to be at the next meeting in January. Kathy called for a motion to approve the agenda. Al Thibodeaux made a motion to approve the agenda and Konstance Causey seconded the motion.

### **APPROVAL OF/AMENDMENTS TO THE MINUTES**

Kathy called for a motion to approve the minutes from September 14, 2022 meeting. Jen Walle made a motion to approve the minutes and Al Thibodeaux seconded the motion. There were no objections. The motion passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – No comments were made.

### **REPORT FROM REGIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES:**

**Region I** – Holly Bell reported:

- The last meeting was held virtually on October 14, 2022 from 10 am to Noon.
- We did not have a quorum. No voting occurred.
- The interim chairperson, Brenda Lackings announced that all members need to re-apply to the RAC to continue to participate. They are reorganizing in an effort to revitalize the RAC and hope to have the process completed in December so that we can resume in January 2023.
- Navette St. Romain Dilbert spoke about getting information to families concerning the expanded assessment for adult waiver participants to participate in a survey. She also talked about expanded training for support coordinators coming.
- Kristen Martin from LaCAN asked for members to become advocates and gave out her email so that she could be contacted.
- Jackeel Abdullah and Leona Harris from People First relayed the group took a tour of the state capital and how impactful the event was for the group.
- Holly Bell gave a summary of the September SAC meeting.
- Brenda Lackings announced that all needed to apply to participate before December 9th as voting would take place that day.
- The group was adjourned.

### **Region II – Region 2 reported.**

Region 2 held their last meeting on 20 Sept 2022. A quorum was met. 3 new members were voted in who are all self-advocates, making a total of 4 self-advocates on the committee.

Mr. Al Thibodeaux has been approved as our 2<sup>nd</sup> SAC committee member and attends today.

Capital Area presented their DD, IFS and AP Reports. The total budget for FY 2023 is \$776,624. Total spent for the 1<sup>st</sup> qtr. was \$140,684.50 with a total of 195 individuals served.

EarlySteps report/transition was discussed. There were concerns about families not recognizing calls coming from the LGE etc. and alternative methodologies for contacts were discuss prior to any case closures.

There were discussions regarding the Critical Incident reporting and issues related to the computer system issues associated with the system.

Our next meeting is scheduled for November 22, 2022.

**Region III** – Charlie Michel reported:

- Early Steps reported 180 new referrals in September and 166 in October. The current active child count for the region is 786.
- Currently there are 1295 individuals with certified waivers in the region. Of those numbers, 1106 are adults and 189 are children. There are also 71 linkages that are in the process of becoming certified. 48 of those are adults and 23 are children.
- SCLHSA is still under a corrective action plan for the Employment target goal. The first quarter, they were at 10.71% and the target is 20%. There will be an Employment Conference on November 14<sup>th</sup> which is part of the corrective action plan. There is talk of revising the Path to employment questions that support coordinators are asking people at the quarterly meetings.
- SCLHSA completed 7 funding meetings with 323 requests made and of that 323, 256 were presented and approved. There were 45 priority 1 requests, 189 priority 2 requests, 65 priority 3 requests, 10 priority 4 requests and 8 that were not prioritized with 1 not prioritized crisis request. Ten percent of the cases were monitored and of that 10% 100% of the cases had priority levels assigned, met the goals of the program and all guidelines were followed.
- The Arc of St. Mary has received 24 participants now, their highest enrollment ever. There have been an influx of requests to them for services.
- Arc of Terrebonne is trying to restart their respite program with hopes of starting it by the first of next year. The agency just received CARF accreditation and out of 1200 Standards, Terrebonne ARC did not meet only 9 of the standards.
- Easter Seals is using the funding increase in pay rate to lower some of the caseloads of their current staff and to hire new staff members. They have interviews coming up next week. Easter Seals is also CARF certified. They are certified across all regions.
- Next meeting date: 2-9-2023

**Region IV** – Rebecca Fruge’ reported that we had not held a meeting since our last SAC and that our next meeting was going to be held on December 13th.

**Region V** – Dana Fullington reported.

**Region VI** – no Representative to report

**Region VII** – no Representative to report

**Region VIII** – Konstance Causey reported:

- A quorum was established.
- Jennifer Purvis presented NEDHSA reports. NEDHSA Entry staff have returned to the office and are now conducting interviews either in-person or by phone with all paperwork/signatures are gathered by mail. During this quarter there were 11 scheduled

interviews in the office, 75 interviews scheduled by phone. 68 were completed with 3 no-shows. 107 SOA (approval) determinations were made. There were 7 cases reviewed by the Eligibility Review Team. 6 received a SOD (denial) and 1 received a SOA. There was one appeal this quarter of a SOD issued last year. The decision was reviewed by a Division of Administrative Law judge. Our decision for denial of eligibility was upheld. Ms. Purvis noted her concerns regarding the ability of the support coordination system to support the case load of individuals being determined eligible for services. The current agencies in the system are understaffed and with the case load requirements, it is impossible to see how they will be able to keep up with the demand. The provider workforce crisis is now drastically impacting the support coordination system as well. Konstance Causey mentioned that the DD community network of agencies could potentially do like the DCFS agency in fill vacant positions.

- Ms. Purvis also provided updates for the 4th Quarter, 2021/2022 on Family Support information per the new policy. Konstance Causey asked a question additional demographics data on the usage and distribution of IFS funding for the region. What methods of outreach are used to make people aware of IFS availability? Ms. Purvis commented the agency continues to work with support coordination. They have monthly zooms to educate the case managers about services. They currently publish 2 newsletter articles about scenarios where IFS has benefitted a family. Prior to COVID they were also meeting with school districts and hope to resume that. The majority of people utilizing IFS are waiver recipients with active case management. They work hard to ensure others are aware and to guarantee equity. They ask open-ended questions about all needs during intake. They do not collect racial demographic info. Another question asked by a member was regarding the responsibility of notifying waiver clients of determinations from requests. Ms. Purvis commented that NEDHSA mails a letter regarding every ask and the outcome.

Flexible Family Fund (FFF)

Flexible Family Fund (FFF) participants who remain in community (versus institution)	150 of 150
Flexible Family Fund (FFF) opportunities expended on qualifying individuals	151 of 150
Flexible Family Fund (FFF) eligibility determinations (in accordance with FFF promulgation)	16 of 16

- Ms. Purvis also reported for the waiver team on their quarterly report, which is 1328, an overall of +18 waiver slots. In NE Delta HSA: (reflects changes from April/2022 to July/2022).
  - 715 people have the New Opportunities Waiver (NOW); a decrease of 4 slots
  - 235 children have the Children’s Choice Waiver (CC); an increase of 17 slots
  - 198 people have the Supports Waiver (SW); no change
  - 199 people have the Residential Options Waiver (ROW); an increase of 6 slots
- NEDHSA continues to have 9.1% of waivers out of 10 regions. There were 186 pending Critical Incident Reports that were processed last quarter include 70 closed reports and 12

pending closures. SUN Assessment Tool – Our Region has **109** Linkages Pending Certification.

- Lastly, Ms. Purvis reported information for the HSAIP Quarterly Report. An addendum is attached with all indicators.
- **Issues for Region from RAC Members:** Konstance Causey reported on the issues being addressed at the state level with concerns regarding equity and inclusion, and ensuring access all individuals regardless of the severity and type of disability to all information and resources that our agencies provide. She also noted concerns from several individuals regarding communication.
- **Old Business:** We are still looking for new self-advocate and family member representation on the committee. One additional application went out to a potential new member and will be sent out through email for vote before the next quarterly meeting. Konstance Causey shared updates from the LaDDC Council meeting and the vote on the legislative agenda. Stacey Guidry shared reports from the FHF annual Touch A Truck event.
- **New Business:**
  - Funding is available to be used by the committee. Konstance Causey motioned that a portion be utilized for developing, printing, and distributing RAC packets (including a calendar of upcoming meeting and an application form) to be distributed at community outreach events. Stacey Guidry seconded the motion.
  - Ms. Purvis commented that NEDHSA would work in partnership with the RAC in developing these marketing tools. Konstance Causey also motioned for members to vote on the usage of funds to pay for meal to host the January meeting as a member recruitment/welcome event. Nicole Bilberry seconded the motion.
- **Next Meeting Date:** January 31, 2022 at 1:30 pm at TBD.

#### **Region IX – Region 9 from Kristen Eassaied:**

- FPHSA RAC meeting was held on August 9, 2022. A quorum was present.
- FPHSA reported:
  - ACT 421- Children’s Medicaid: 107 referrals from OCDD received/ 82 approved as of 7-31-2022
  - Number of waiver individuals served: 1,904/103 linked/79 discharged due to death, admission to community homes, moving out of state, etc.
  - HCBS Settings; validation visits ongoing
  - Entry: continuing via zoom or in person
  - Community Homes: FPHSA Region- 64 homes (ICF) Res Care trying to re-open 1 home in this region
  - FFF- 196 slots filled-waiting list ongoing
  - Family Support- \$726,390 obligated/\$723,591 expended/99% of budget expended

#### **Quality Management:**

- Employment at 8.81% representing an increase over last report
- 101 individuals employed

- o Age cut off for measurement is 59

Early Steps:

- o RICC meeting held June 3, 2022, with 40 participants attending
- o Region 9 active child count- 902
- o Providers received rate increase.
- o Presentation on Early Hearing and Detection Intervention program was provided by Terri Ibeits program manager.
- o Region 9 needs a community outreach specialist. Interested applicants should call the SPOE at 985-429-1252 and ask for Melissa Waddell.
- o NFHF: 401 total contact/46 of those new
- o IEP bootcamp- 7-26-2022
- o LACAN meetings continue
- o ABLE Club: 8-10-22 book club at local coffee house/ Dinner at seafood restaurant 8-18-2022
- o People 1<sup>st</sup> meeting 8-18-2022 (virtual)

**Region X** – Jen Walle reported that their meeting was held on 10/25/2022 and there was a quorum. Minutes from the 7/26/2022 meeting were approved. There was a discussion about holding future meetings in person and it was suggested that a hybrid format may be offered so that in-person and virtual attendance would be allowed.

SAC report from the 9/14/2022 SAC meeting was given by Jen Walle.

JPHSA report was given by Nicole Green:

The Early Steps performance indicator was met with 31/31 families referred to OCDD completing eligibility determination. 3 families received an SOA or SOD; 28 families did not respond.

296/297 individuals receiving IFS funding remain living in the community. 94.99% of allocated funds were expended in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter.

276/276 children receiving FFF remain living in the community. 506 children currently on the FFF waitlist; currently serving 2019 applicants.

4 nursing home admissions were monitored during the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter. Performance indicator was met at 100% on the 4 admissions monitored. 8 applications were received during the quarter; the increase in nursing home applications is due to individuals transferring back into the region following displacement from Hurricane Ida.

10.7% of individuals with waiver services participate in community-based employment.

Dental Task Force report was given by Kathy Dwyer.

Discussed 3 termed positions that will be expiring; will vote at next meeting. Discussed opening membership to new individuals.

Zoom is being eliminated by JPHSA; a different virtual platform will be utilized for the next meeting.

Next meeting will be on 1/24/2023.

**Dental Task Force Report:** Kathy reported that the Dental Task Force last met in October and that the Louisiana Dental Association would be hosting a full day Last Chance Seminar focusing on working with patients with developmental disabilities for dental practitioners. She also said the Task Force submitted a Continuing Education proposal to the Louisiana Dental Association Executive Board to require Continuing Education in Special Needs Dentistry. The LDA Board was in favor of the proposal and suggested more specifics be determined about training topics necessary. She also reported that the regional FHF Centers hosted a training for families and caregivers with Dr. Jacob Dent as the presenter. And that OCDD will be conducting more training of dental practitioners in 2023.

### **OCDD REPORT – Julie Foster Hagan**

- **Budget Update**
  - Transportation rate increases will begin in January for services in the NOW and ROW and after approval of waiver change for supports waiver. Retroactive payments back to July will be made separately for the NOW and ROW transportation services.
  - EarlySteps rate increases – providers received the back pay and new rate for Medicaid billable services 8/31 and they will receive back pay and new rate for non-Medicaid billable services by 9/30. It will take about 3 months to change case management services to a flat rate, but they will receive a higher unit-based rate now.
- **Legislative Update**
  - Reports for HCR 38, 39, and 40 are in process of review and approval. OCDD will share these reports with SAC upon finalization.
- **COVID Update**
  - LDH is continuing to monitor increases in COVID, RSV, and the flu. Dr. Kanter continues to encourage everyone to get all applicable vaccinations to help keep our communities safe.
- **Appendix K Exceptions in Waiver Application Update**
  - We remain under a federal public health emergency. It is currently in effect until mid-January..
  - OCDD met with focus groups for family as paid caregivers and virtual visits. OCDD will hold road shows in late January and early February to provide the detailed actions that will occur post-PHE.
- **American Rescue Plan Act HCBS Funds Update**
  - Bonus payments were delayed due to concerns expressed by the Department of Labor. OCDD and OAAS will provide an updated plan for bonus payments once finalized.
  - START contract is near completion and we hope to begin the assessment process with START team early next calendar year.
- **Act 421: Children’s Medicaid Option Update**
  - This information is not available. It will be provided at the next SAC meeting.

- **Acts 450 and 366 Update: Comprehensive Dental Services for Adults with I/DD**
  - The state plan amendment for dental services for adults residing in ICF/IID facilities has been submitted to CMS.
  - Comprehensive dental services for adults in waiver began 7/1/2022. Information has been shared with providers and support coordinators to help ensure that families are aware of the new program.
  
- **Early Steps Update** – Tanya Murphy reported the child count was back to 2019 levels and that there were some staff shortages. As requested at previous meetings, Kathy asked if they had the statewide report yet on how many children transition from Early Steps to DD Services. When reviewing Region 10 data, there is a concern that the numbers of no response from families are too high. Unfortunately, a report has yet to be received.

**OLD BUSINESS:** There are 4 vacant SAC positions. See below. We ask that anyone residing in these regions to please reach out to their regional Human Services Authority/District to apply to become a RAC member.

Region 4: 1 position  
Region 6: 1 position  
Region 7: 2 positions

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Election of Officers – The following individuals were nominated and elected as the new SAC Officers beginning January 1, 2023.

Chair: Charlie Michel nominated Konstance Causey for Chair. Kristen Reed seconded the nomination. There were no objections. Motion passed.

Vice Chair: Charlie nominated Kristen Reed for Vice Chair, Al seconded the motion. There were no objections. Motion passed.

Secretary: Mylinda nominated Charlie as Secretary. Al seconded the motion. There were no objections. Motion passed.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** - No public comments

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Future SAC meeting will be held every other month beginning in January 2023, on the second Wednesday of the month beginning at 12:30 p.m to 3:00 p.m.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Kathy called for a motion to adjourn. Suzanne offered the motion and Mylinda seconded it. The meeting adjourned at 3:16 PM