

**OCDD STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES**

**HELD ONLINE via Zoom
November 10, 2021 from 12:30 pm – 3:00 pm**

Call to Order – Kathy Dwyer, Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:35 pm.

Roll Call/Quorum – Mylinda Elliott, SAC Secretary, conducted Roll Call. A Quorum of Members is present (10/17) (3 vacant positions)

SAC Voting Members Present:

MHSD – No Representative present
CAHSD – Michelle Wall
SCLHSA – April Young
AAHSD – No Representative present
IMCAL – Mylinda Elliott, Dana Fullington
CLHSD – No Representative present
NLHSD – Karissa Jackson
NEDHSA – Konstance Causey, Nicole Bilberry
FPHSA – Suzanne Bourgeois
JPHSA – Kathy Dwyer, Jen Walle

SAC Ad Hoc Members: Julie Foster Hagan, Brenda Sharp, Jacquelyn Cobb

Public: Sharon Delvisco, Karen Scallan, Susan Riehn, Doanie Perry, Kristen Essaied, Chanel Jackson, Rona Burkett, Andrea Albert, Nicole Sullivan Green, Corahanda Corley, Denise Clinkscales, Angela M. Durand, Billie Jo, Kristen Essaied, Kristy Curtis, Tara Rosenkranz, Jennifer Blaque

Quorum: A quorum of members is present. (9/17)

Approval of Agenda/Changes to Agenda – Motion to accept the November 10, 2021 agenda made by Konstance Causey and seconded by Dana Fullington. Motion passes without opposition.

Approval of Minutes from July 14th, Meeting – Motion to approve minutes from July 14 2021 made by Konstance Causey with second by Nicole Bilberry. Motion passes without opposition.

Public Comments: None

OCDD Report:

Early Steps Transition Report - Brenda Sharp – Brenda reported they changed the process for determining children eligible for DD services by their 3rd birthday. New measurements were developed with last year being a test year for a new measurement process. So, they weren't reporting any results as the details for the process were being worked out.

1. They decided to keep the new procedure for one more year to make sure the process is working the way it was intended, i.e., children successfully have eligibility determined by third birthday.
2. At the November meeting with the quality section, they reviewed the data from last year, the LGEs started out with 60-70% success in the measurement in the first quarter (some higher) and most improved to 90-100% by the 4th quarter. The statewide average was 92%. They are pleased with the progress over the year. Tanya Murphy still receives a monthly "concerns" list to use to follow-up in the event there's a glitch in the data report or something else affecting performance which will be used to make decisions going forward.
3. In response to discussion about families not following through after the referral to the LGE, it helps to remember that about 55% of children exit EarlySteps at a developmental level of typical peers. Families may choose not to follow up with the referrals if their child no longer has developmental support needs. Kathy Dwyer explained that the original request for the report was to track the number/percentage of families that are not responding to LGE outreach efforts. This number appears high in Jefferson Parish, and she is interested in knowing if it is a statewide issue as well. A comment was made that the discussion with the parents about LGE services is not as detailed as the conversation about school system services.

Budget and Legislative Update Combined – Julie Foster Hagan, Assistant Secretary

- OCDD is putting together a budget for the next fiscal year. They will present it to the Division of Administration, then the Governor, and then it will work its way through the legislative process.
- LDH is preparing budget highlights including funding to implement Comprehensive Dental for Adults with I/DD who are on a waiver and a rate increase of up to \$2.50 for DSWs effective October 1, 2021 to bring minimum wage up to \$9/hr. which is budgeted to continue next fiscal year.
- Possible funding through the American Rescue Plan ACT – America CARES dollars, Money Follow the Person Dollars, and the New Opportunity Waiver
- Another possible place of funding is the fund to enhance Home- and Community-Base Services
- A timeframe to spend over the year

- A lot of people are trying to find a way to understand or accept the three-year plan; the work being done for families and the Legislative process
- Some adjustments in EarlySteps related to utilization. They're experiencing a steady incline in referrals during COVID.
- There are a lot of concerns with virtual visits.
- Budget adjustment for funds needed for the number of services used in EarlySteps
- Not a substantial change in the American Rescue Plan ACT

COVID19 Update

- COVID Vaccine
 - There's a mandate that states if you work in facilities that is overseen by Health Standards vaccinations are required.
 - Mandate effective December 5, 2021
 - OSHA – this mandate is on hold due to litigation. It requires vaccinations for employees of agencies with over 100 employees.
 - Health Standard and the state are looking for additional guidance for the vaccine mandate.
 - There is the ability to request religious or cultural exemption.
 - Regional vaccination event for individuals and staff that reside in ICF facilities will be held.
 - Target message to individual event in all regions – before December 5th through January 21st – fully vaccinated.
 - Will send the event information to Kathy Dwyer for SAC members.
 - \$100 gift cards will be issued to individuals for 1st vaccination.
- Update on Appendix K will be on the LDH website.
 - Public Health Emergency (PHE) has been extended through January 2021. The Appendix K Exceptions continue 6 months after the end of the PHE.
 - The Biden Administration will give 60-day notices on pandemic extensions.
 - Public Health notice can only be extended for 90 days; somethings will end in January, e.g., background checks for families who are caregivers.

Kathy asked how much will be included in the budget for Comprehensive Dental Services? Julie said if you are an adult in Home- and Community-Base Waiver Services, you are automatically enrolled in the Dental Care Program.

- Funding for Comprehensive Dental Care would not be service based
- MCO's will receive a contract for a certain amount, i.e., an amount per month per member. This will allow the fiscal cost for the budget to be more predictable.

American Rescue Plan Act HCBS Funds Update

- Provides additional Federal dollars to States to enhance Home- and Community-Base Services.
- Can draw down additional dollars matched - April 1, 2021 – March 30, 2022.
- Have until March 2022 to spend allotted funds.
- Have to show dollar amounts enhanced.
- Some of the items that will be funded by American Rescue Plan funds include:
 - TEFRA which has full CMS approval. Other activities waiting on approval from CMS.
 - START Team which helps states set up crisis response for individuals with co-occurring developmental disabilities and behavioral health needs. Funding will be used to pay for the START Team to come in and conduct and assessment with stakeholders and help develop a plan for how to move forward in establishing services.
 - Infrastructure Stand-up for Technology 1st which is to assist individuals to have better knowledge of technology equipment (access to iPad, computers or laptops) and access to information and services as well as establish remote support.
 - Value-Base Payment Module is designed to be an incentive for providers to help people meet their outcome and provide quality services. The incentive measures still need to be developed.
 - Training Dental Practitioners – OCDD is working with the Dental Task Force for Adults with I/DD and LSUHSC School of Dentistry to help with development.
 - Bonus payments to Direct Support Workers – beginning March 2022 through 2024 to help with those who have worked through the pandemic. It will be a payment of \$125 to providers with \$100 of the \$125 going to the worker.
 - One time rate increase for Support Coordinators of 30%
 - Rate increase to for OAAS DSWs – as much as \$2.50 per hour for those at minimum wage.

A question was raised about other family being able to work as a DSW? Julies said yes. But they will need to get CMS approval. LDH/OCDD will need to give quarterly updates. The state needs approval before new items are implemented.

April Young asked if Self-Direction employers can be paid caregivers after the expiration of the Appendix K Exceptions. Julie Foster Hagan responded that no, self-direction employers present a conflict of interest, the same parent can no longer be an employer of record and be an employee 6 months after the end of the Appendix K Exceptions which expire 6 months after the end of the Public Health Emergency.

Michelle Wall asked if the 30% increase for Support Coordinators applies to EarlySteps. Julie Foster Hagan stated that funding from the American Rescue Plan can only be used for Home- and Community-Base Services so the increase would not apply to EarlySteps. However, there's a portion of funding that will be implemented. Will follow-up with Brenda Sharp.

ACT 421

- Now called TEFRA
- Before TEFRA-like
- Included in the American Rescue plan budget
- That part was approved in the budget
- Now waiting for CMS approval. Hopefully by January 2022
- Eligible participants with disabilities will receive Medicaid regardless of the family's income
- There will be an assessment to determine eligibility

Kathy Dillion asked if funding will be available to parents who have private insurance? Julie said yes, that's what Act 421 is intended for, i.e., for those that don't otherwise qualify for Medicaid.

Status of Critical Incident Report

Two OCDD policies and procedures to be updated

1. Reporting
2. Levels of Review
 - What incident qualifies as critical incident – how we help teams have the right conversation, maybe a form to guide the conversation
 - Threshold for the incidents for LGE and state office
 - Process of what the indicators are
 - Actual reporting system is down

Nicole Green said they are not able to get the full data on the Critical Incident performance indicator. One issue is getting the full report with SIMS. Julie will check with Dolores Sarna – incident designee.

Kristen Essaied asked for an update on the issue with new participant's initials that are transferred, people that are bumped, their names do not translate. Were told there are backlogs.

Kathy Dwyer asked about a PowerPoint presentation about the process for reporting abuse/neglect that was discussed in a previous meeting. Julie said she has the information, and it was still being developed.

Report from the Regions

Region I – No representative present.

Region II – Michelle Wall reported that they met on September 20, 2021 and had a quorum. They elected a new member who is a Self-Advocate. They had a discussion with an Allied Health Professional. Families are interested in Summer Camps being funded by Waiver funds.

Region III – Kathy Dwyer asked April Young if her second term on the SAC was approved. April reported that the Region III RAC has not had a meeting in quite some time. Karen Scallan reported that she spoke to Wes Cagle and their RAC is reorganizing. Kathy asked that they keep the SAC posted about their progress.

Region IV – No representative present.

Region V – Mylinda Elliott reported that they discussed several topics.

- AIP Quarterly Report – that give different percentage measures
- Met most of the performance measures
- Received information – Summary Report
- Level of Care Review – Referrals, Family Support, Entry Unit, EarlySteps, Flexible Spending Fund, Critical Incident Reports

Region VI – No representative present.

Region VII – No representative present.

Region VIII – Konstance Causey reported that their last meeting was October 26, 2021 but they did not have a quorum. They reviewed all reports.

- Flexible Family Fund: had an overall increase of waiver slots
 - 170 requests – 2 slots were vacant and then refilled
 - 142 critical incidents – 104 closed – 38 pending
- Employment indicator: did not meet the goal. Only 6.2% out of 20%
- Legislative Advocacy Agenda: Post-Secondary Opportunities
- Next meeting is scheduled for January 25, 2022

Region IX – Suzanne Bourgeois reported their last meeting was held October 12, 2021. They had a Quorum

- Reports from EarlySteps – slight drop from previous year in children-some parishes show increase.

- Report from North Shore Families Helping Families.
- Training Continues.
- Touch a Truck event was cancelled.
- Breakfast with Santa – partnering with the Coroner’s Office. Will do a drive through event.
- Yes, We Can Event - April 9, 2022 – First Baptist Church.
- People First Conference was cancelled but planning a meeting soon.
- RAC Committee considering moving to quarterly meetings.
- Kristen will serve on the SAC Committee in Sharon’s place.
- Next meeting will be held on February 8, 2022.

Region X – Kathy Dwyer reported they appointed a new SAC Member, i.e., Jen Walle. They met all indicators except IFS funds spent. The IFS Review Committee requested JPHSA to reconsider some IFS requests that were not funded to bring the indicator goal up to par. Their Employment indicator increased slightly to 10.10%. They also elected new RAC Officers:

- Tara Rosenkranz – Chair
- Cecille Burr – Vice Chair
- Jen Walle – Secretary

They reminded everyone to share and complete the HCR 45 Survey which is about interest in tracking technology for individuals who are at risk of wandering and elopement. Mylinda Elliott noted the deadline for completing the survey was extended to November 18th. Kathy mentioned the survey needs to be in other languages as well as the outreach materials. Families Helping Families of Greater New Orleans reported about a partnership with all the Families Helping Families Centers and Healthy Blue to conduct a job fair for individuals with developmental disabilities.

Dental Task Force for Adults with DD – Kathy Dwyer reported that:

- Funds will be included in LDH’s budget beginning July 1, 2022.
- Act 450 – Comprehensive Dental Services for Adults 21 years and older will provide the same services children under the age of 21 through EPSDT.
- Act 450 was the result of a motion from the SAC Committee.
- The Dental Task Force is still working with OCDD, the LSUHSC School of Dentistry, and the Arc of Louisiana to enhance training for the dental workforce, i.e., both pre- and post-graduate training. Two topics that they are working on are a Behavioral Supports component and an Individual/Parent/Caregiver Component.
- Next meeting will be this Friday, November 12, 2021.

Old Business:

SAC membership update

- As soon as Julie approves Kristen Essaied's application she will take Sharon's place as a voting committee member on the SAC
- April Young confirmed her term limit will be extended past April 2022

Addressing Vacant Positions: 3 open positions – Region IV, Region VI, Region VII

Nomination and Voting new SAC Officers for 2022:

- Chair: Konstance Causey motioned that Kathy Dwyer continue as Chair for 2022. Michelle Wall seconded the motion. Kathy abstained. Motion passed without objection.
- Vice Chair: Michelle Wall nominated Konstance Causey to continue as Vice Chair for 2022. Mylinda Elliott seconded the motion. No abstentions. Motion passed without objection.
- Secretary: Dana Fullington motioned that Mylinda Elliott continue as Secretary for 2022. Michelle Wall seconded the motion. Mylinda Elliott abstained. Motion passed without objection.

The SAC Officers for 2022 are:

- Chair – Kathy Dwyer
- Vice Chair – Konstance Causey
- Secretary – Mylinda Elliott

Public Comments:

- Kristie Curtis inquired about the RAC meeting dates for Region IV stating that Region IV hasn't had a representative on the SAC for almost a year. Kathy Dwyer suggested she contact her Local Governing Entity (LGE)

Announcements:

- Sharon Delvisco comments in the Chat that People First Louisiana North Shore Chapter will be meeting on November 23, 2021, at North Families Helping Families Covington.
- Jackie commented that she had just received an email from Julie Foster Hagan with the approval of Kristen Essaied's application for the SAC. Kristen will officially become a voting member at the next SAC meeting in January 2022.
- The next SAC meetings for next year are listed below:
 - January 12, 2022
 - March 9, 2022

- May 11, 2022
 - July 13, 2022
 - September 14, 2022
 - November 9, 2022
- Meetings will continue to be virtual until further notice
- 2:19 pm – Kathy requested a motion to adjourn the SAC meeting. Konstance Causey made the motion. Dana Fullington seconded. Motion passed with no objections. The meeting was adjourned.