

April - June 2016

CONTENTS

- 2 ... Staff and Board
- 4 ... Quarterly Calendar
- 8 ... NFHF News
- 9 ... Upcoming Events
- 15 ... LaDDC News
- 19 ... Community News and Events

DONATE

CLICK HERE TO GIVE >>



Find us on Facebook 



Opinions contained herein do not necessarily represent those of the funding source, and no endorsement should be inferred.



**SPREAD THE WORD
TO END THE WORD**

People First of Louisiana is a self-advocacy group run by people with disabilities, for people with disabilities. People learn to speak up for themselves about decisions they make. Members can connect with others in their community, across the nation and around the world. Members learn about their rights and responsibilities as citizens of the United States of America. The mission of People First of Louisiana is to support people with disabilities to empower themselves in becoming effective decision makers, to gain more independence, and enjoy life as equal citizens of the United States of America. People with disabilities support one another to control their own lives, understand and speak up for their rights, and live up to their responsibilities. "Disability is a natural part of the human experience and in no way diminishes the right of individuals to live independently; enjoy self-determination; make choices, contribute to society, pursue meaningful careers; and enjoy full inclusion and integration in the economic, political, social, cultural, and educational mainstream of American society."

On February 26, 2015, the Northshore Chapter of People First of Louisiana was re-launched with the help of The Arc of GNO Northshore and Northshore Families Helping Families with support from the People First of Louisiana State Chapter. Two of our local self-advocates, Scott Smith and Perry Evans, work together as co-leaders of the chapter. Over 20 members of the group attend monthly meetings and participate in community events. Upcoming meetings are April 13th, May 18th, June 15th, July 20th, August 17th, September 21st, October 19th, November 16th, and December 21st. All meetings are held at 1:00 pm at the Arc of GNO Northshore Community Center at 106 E. 25th Avenue in downtown Covington.

The members of People First of Louisiana Northshore Chapter have been busy promoting the End the R-Word Campaign. The pledge is a commitment to support the elimination of the derogatory use of the R-Word from everyday speech and promote the acceptance and inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities. Over 400 signatures on the pledge to end the R-Word were collected at the Kid and Family Expo, the SOAR walk, and Yes We Can community events, in addition to the pledge collection event at the Covington library. If you have not had the opportunity to take the pledge, you can easily do it now online at <http://www.r-word.org/r-word-pledge.aspx>. Help spread the word!

The work of NFHF, including publication of this newsletter, is funded by Florida Parishes Human Services Authority, Louisiana State Department of Education, Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council, and is supported by corporate and individual contributions. Northshore Families Helping Families is a United Way recipient.

STAFF

SUE ELLEN STEWART
Executive Director
sestewart@fhfnorthshore.org

REBECCA ELLIS
Outreach Director
rebeccaellis@fhfnorthshore.org

SHARON DELVISCO
Adult Program Coordinator
sharondelvisco@fhfnorthshore.org

GAYNELLE FRANKLIN
Education Specialist
gaynellefranklin@fhfnorthshore.org

JUSTINE FUCCI
Administrative Assistant
justinefucci@fhfnorthshore.org

STEPHENIE MILLER
CSHS Parent Liaison
Stephanie.miller@la.gov

LYNNE RENIHAN
Resource Specialist
lynnerenihan@fhfnorthshore.org

HANNAH RUCKER
Education Specialist
hannahrucker@fhfnorthshore.org

BOARD

CHAD DANENHOWER
Chairperson

MATTHEW GARNER
Vice Chairperson

JEANNE BOWER
Secretary

ANGELA TRAILL
Treasurer

JENNIFER BRUNNING
SHELLEY MARENGO
Board Members

MICHELLE ANDERSON
BERNADETTE LALA
Advisory Board Members

You are always welcome at NFHF Board Meetings. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month. The next meeting will be held Thursday, April 14, 2016 at 5:30 pm at the NFHF office. If you would like to address the board, call Sue Ellen Stewart at 985-875-0511.



NFHF Office:

204 W. 21st Avenue
Covington, LA 70433
(985) 875-0511
(800) 383-8700

info@fhfnorthshore.org

Office Hours:
9:00 am—4:00 pm
Monday—Friday

You can help make a difference by directly donating to our organization. Many companies are interested in donating to non-profit organizations and will match an individual's contribution.

Please contact Sue Ellen Stewart with questions.

DONATE

CLICK HERE TO GIVE >>



Mission: To provide the individualized services, information, resources and support needed to positively enhance the independence, productivity and inclusion of persons with disabilities.

Vision: To ensure all individuals with disabilities have the opportunity to attend school, live, work, recreate in their own communities.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING NFHF!



Northshore Families Helping Families extends deepest thanks to the businesses and individuals who supported the Northshore Parent Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 26th at Paul Cordes Park in Mandeville! We are honored to have been the recipient of the proceeds of this event for the last 3 years! Be sure to check out www.northshoreparent.com and follow Northshore Parent on social media.



From Kings Day through Easter, Mugshots Grill & Bar in Covington has donated to NFHF a portion of the proceeds from each Savory Crawfish King Cake, a signature dish by Eileen Bennett, Corporate Chef for Ain't Life Grand Investments, LLC! Thank you, Mugshots and Chef Eileen, for supporting our mission and thank you to everyone who ordered a Crawfish King Cake! They are SO yummy!!



THANK
YOU!

Quarterly Events

APRIL 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Stennis Space Center	2
3	4	5 Disability Rights Day	6 Book and Journal Club	7	8	9
10	11	12 Dinner Club	13 People First Northshore	14	15	16 Creating a Valued Future Workshop
17	18	19 RAC Meeting	20 Book and Journal Club	21	22 Earth Day Craft Making / RICC Meeting	23 Trainers Choice Spring Sprint / Movie Tavern
24	25	26	27 Book and Journal Club	28	29	30

MAY 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 GiveNOLA Day	4 Book and Journal Club	5	6	7
8	9	10 Dinner Club	11 Book and Journal Club	12	13	14
15 Pool Party	16	17	18 People First Northshore	19	20	21 Breakfast and a Flick
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 NFHF Office Closed	31				

JUNE 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Book and Journal Club	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 Book and Journal Club	9	10	11
12	13	14 Dinner Club	15 People First Northshore	16	17	18 Breakfast and a Flick
19	20	21	22 Book and Journal Club	23	24	25
26	27	28	29 Book and Journal Club	30		

Free Education & Resource Webinars



Families Helping Families of Jefferson invites you to free webinars full of rich content. A webinar event is viewed right from your computer where you can watch, listen, and have the option to post questions and get LIVE responses. For a listing of webinars visit www.fhfjefferson.org and then click on “[What’s Going On](#)” and choose a topic and register. Families Helping Families of Jefferson, 201 Evans Road Building, Suite 100, Harahan LA 70123, 800-766-7736.

Louisiana Family to Family Health Information Center [Affordable Care Act \(ACA\):](#) [How Can Families and Professionals Help Children with](#) [Special Needs Keep Insurance Coverage as They Age Out?](#)



Register Today!



Saturday, April 23, 2016
9am - 2pm

2nd ANNUAL **SPRING SPRINT 5K & FUN RUN**

Portion of proceeds Donated to Northshore Families Helping Families

Register at:

Trainer's Choice, 1321 Gause Blvd.
(next to Cross Gates Family Fitness, Italian Pie, & Ohana Pier)

Call us: 985.641.6696

Email us: TrainersChoice@Yahoo.com

Sponsorship Information also available

April is
**#Autism
Awareness
Month**

\$25 entry fee, Kids 10 and Under run for FREE

PRE-REGISTER by April 1st for Only \$20

First 50 to register receive a FREE #BATMAN Autism Awareness t-shirt (additional shirts available for purchase)



FREE FOOD / FREE DRINKS / FREE NUTRITION SAMPLES / RAFFLE PRIZES / MUCH MORE

Save the Date GiveNOLA Day 2016

.....
MAY 3, 2016 • GiveNOLA.org
ONE DAY TO GIVE AS ONE



What is GiveNOLA Day?

Hosted on Tuesday, May 3rd by the Greater New Orleans Foundation, GiveNOLA Day is the community's one-day, online giving event to inspire people to give generously to the nonprofit organizations that are making our region stronger, creating a thriving community for all. Every dollar donated from midnight to midnight on May 3rd will be increased with additional "lagniappe" dollars provided by the Greater New Orleans Foundation and our generous GiveNOLA Day sponsors. GiveNOLA Day is tied to a national event called Give Local America where community foundations across America are asking their communities to give back on May 3, 2016.

How can I participate?

Everybody can participate on GiveNOLA Day! Individuals can make online donations to participating nonprofits. The minimum donation is \$10.

Be at the Covington Trailhead on May 3rd from 10:00 am—8:00 pm. Enjoy Food, Music, Activities and Learn about participating Northshore nonprofits. It's an opportunity to meet us and give back to the community.

Stay tuned for more details!

Northshore Families Helping Families thanks you in advance for supporting us on GiveNOLA Day 2016!

For more information, visit www.GiveNOLA.org.

MORE EASY WAYS TO SUPPORT NFHF!

Shop at AmazonSmile

and Amazon will make
a donation to:
Northshore Families
Helping Families

Get started

amazonsmile

AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of your purchase total to Northshore Families Helping Families when you shop online at AmazonSmile. Be sure to select NFHF as your organization of choice and add the link to your bookmarks!



Visit www.goodsearch.com and select Northshore Families Helping Families as your cause.

Create a user profile that will allow you to keep track of your individual amount raised.

Use the search box on www.goodsearch.com or download a Good To-Go add-on to search the Internet just like you normally would, with the added bonus that you are earning a donation for virtually every search.

NFHF NEWS



Save the Date - Touch a Truck 2016
Saturday, September 24th



TOUCH A TRUCK

Tickets: \$6 / Person
\$25 / Family or Group of 5
Kids under 2 are free

Purchase tickets online at
www.fhfnorthshore.org
or
Call Northshore
Families Helping Families
at 985.875.0511 for more info



**ANNUAL FUNDRAISER BENEFITING
NORTHSHORE FAMILIES HELPING FAMILIES**

Providing programs & support to individuals with disabilities to build an inclusive community

Kids of all ages can climb, discover & explore their favorite things on wheels!
JOIN US FOR A Family Friendly Event with Music, Food & Fun!

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH 10AM - 1PM
CHURCH OF THE KING, MANDEVILLE CAMPUS

CHURCH OF THE KING

BENTLEY
Productions
GRAPHIC | DESIGN | SERVICE

Recruiting Sponsors for Touch a Truck 2016!

We depend on the generosity of our community partners to continue the work we do for families. We would sincerely appreciate your contribution to our fundraiser. Northshore Families Helping Families thanks you in advance for your participation and generosity in making this event successful.

[Sponsorship Letter](#)

[Sponsorship Levels](#)

[Sponsorship Registration Form](#)

Meet and Greet: Try It to See If You Like It Events - Adult Programs

The purpose of these events is to provide folks who are 16 and older with the opportunity to meet new people, have fun and try new things!

For more information call (985) 875-0511

email SharonDelvisco@fhfnorthshore.org or JustineFucci@fhfnorthshore.org



Book & Journal Club meets on Wednesdays at 1 pm at St. John's Coffee Shop, 535 E Boston St in Covington.

Upcoming dates: April 6, April 20, April 27

May 4, May 11

June 1, Jun 8, June 22, June 29



Tuesday, April 12th at 6:00 pm - Dinner Club at Mellow Mushroom, 1645 Highway 190, Covington

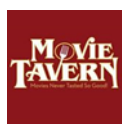


Wednesday, April 13th from 1:00 pm until 2:30 pm - People First Northshore at the Arc of GNO Northshore Community Center, 106 E 25th Avenue, Covington. Come learn about self-advocacy, rights and responsibilities. People First Northshore co-leaders are Perry Evans and Scott Smith. Advisors are Sharon Delvisco and Dawn Culbreath.

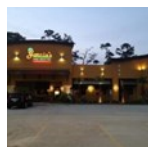
Earth Day



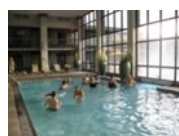
Friday, April 22nd at 10:00 am - Earth Day: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Craft Making at The Arc of Greater New Orleans Community Center, 106 E. 25th Avenue in Covington. Supplies will be provided for creating a bird feeder from recycled materials.



Saturday, April 23rd at 8:30 am - Breakfast and a Flick at Movie Tavern, 201 Highway 190, Covington. Tickets are \$8 per person. Breakfast items range in price from \$5 to \$7 and beverages are \$3 to \$5 with refills. Tickets can be purchased in advance <http://www.movietavern.com/locations/northshore/>.



Tuesday, May 10th at 6:00 pm - Dinner Club at Garcia's in Covington, 200 River Highlands (off Highway 190), Covington



Sunday, May 15th from 1:00 pm until 4:00 pm - Pool Party at Clarion Inn and Suites, 501 N. Highway 190, Covington. Bring your own towel. No glass containers in the pool area. Snacks will be provided to those who register. Register online: www.fhfnorthshore.org.

Meet and Greet: Try It to See If You Like It Events - Adult Programs (continued)



Wednesday, May 18th from 1:00 pm until 2:30 pm - People First Northshore at the Arc of GNO Northshore Community Center, 106 E 25th Avenue, Covington. Come learn about self-advocacy, rights and responsibilities. People First Northshore co-leaders are Perry Evans and Scott Smith. Advisors are Sharon Delvisco and Dawn Culbreath.



Saturday, May 21st at 8:30 am - Breakfast and a Flick at Movie Tavern, 201 Highway 190, Covington. Tickets are \$8 per person. Breakfast items range in price from \$5 to \$7 and beverages are \$3 to \$5 with refills. Tickets can be purchased in advance <http://www.movietavern.com/locations/northshore/>.



Tuesday, June 14th at 6:00 pm - Dinner Club at Lee's Hamburgers, 104 Lake Drive (off Highway 190), Covington



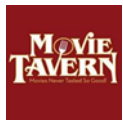
Wednesday, June 15th from 1:00 pm until 2:30 pm - People First Northshore at the Arc of GNO Northshore Community Center, 106 E 25th Avenue, Covington. Come learn about self-advocacy, rights and responsibilities. People First Northshore co-leaders are Perry Evans and Scott Smith. Advisors are Sharon Delvisco and Dawn Culbreath.



Saturday, June 18th at 8:30 am - Breakfast and a Flick at Movie Tavern, 201 Highway 190, Covington. Tickets are \$8 per person. Breakfast items range in price from \$5 to \$7 and beverages are \$3 to \$5 with refills. Tickets can be purchased in advance <http://www.movietavern.com/locations/northshore/>.



Tuesday, July 12th at 6:00 pm - Dinner Club at Glory Company, 500 River Highlands Boulevard (off Highway 190), Covington



Saturday, July 16th at 8:30 am - Breakfast and a Flick at Movie Tavern, 201 Highway 190, Covington. Tickets are \$8 per person. Breakfast items range in price from \$5 to \$7 and beverages are \$3 to \$5 with refills. Tickets can be purchased in advance <http://www.movietavern.com/locations/northshore/>.



Wednesday, July 20th from 1:00 pm until 2:30 pm - People First Northshore at the Arc of GNO Northshore Community Center, 106 E 25th Avenue, Covington. Come learn about self-advocacy, rights and responsibilities. People First Northshore co-leaders are Perry Evans and Scott Smith. Advisors are Sharon Delvisco and Dawn Culbreath.

Creating a Valued Future: Organizing for Change

Don't Miss This Great Opportunity!

Saturday, April 16, 2016
8:30 am - 3:30 pm

Trinity Church
19380 North 10th Street
Covington, LA 70433



Guy Caruso, PhD, a national speaker for Partners in Policymaking, is coming to our region! Dr. Caruso will teach us how to create a vision for a valued future for individuals with disabilities. In this interactive presentation, he will provide the history of the disability movement, as well as the self-advocacy movement, and guide us on how we can be part of continuing to move toward a society where everyone has an opportunity for the "good things in life."

This workshop is designed to benefit anyone who has any connection to someone with a disability. Parents and self-advocates: invite your friends, grandparents, siblings, other family members, neighbors, co-workers, etc. Teachers and professionals: this is for you too. We hope you can join us!

Lunch will be provided. A \$10 stipend is available for individuals with developmental disabilities and family members of people with developmental disabilities who travel 50 miles or more roundtrip to attend this workshop. Contact the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council (Robbie.Gray@la.gov or 225-342-6804) with questions. If you will travel 150 miles or more roundtrip, an additional travel stipend may be available.

Registration Link - <http://bit.ly/1Y43nCh>

Funded By:



**Louisiana Developmental
 Disabilities Council**

Hosted By:

Partners in Policymaking®
 —An Initiative of the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council—





LaTEACH
Louisiana Together Educating ALL Children

LaTEACH is a statewide grassroots advocacy network created for the purpose of effecting systems change. LaTEACH promotes appropriate, inclusive education for all students. LaTEACH works to make parents, educators, the general public, and state leadership informed and supportive of research-based and effective practices used appropriately for each student. If you believe all students, with or without disabilities, should be provided the same opportunities to be educated in neighborhood schools as their sisters, brothers, friends and neighbors, and should be provided the support to learn together effectively, then you should consider becoming a LaTEACH member. For more information, contact Region 9 LaTEACH Leader, Karen Artus at 985-264-1186 or Karen.Artus@lateach.org.



LaCAN is a statewide grassroots network of individuals, families and advocates who have worked together since 1988 advocating for a service system that supports individuals with disabilities to live in their own homes rather than having to be segregated from their communities in a facility to receive support. For more information, contact Region 9 LaCAN Leader, Sharon Delvisco at 985-875-0511 or laican.region9@gmail.com.

Coming October 2016

LaCAN and LaTEACH *unite* into one powerful advocacy network!



LaCAN is an initiative of the [Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council](#).



Information Alert - Update on Funding for DD Services in the Proposed FY17 State Budget

On March 29th, the Department of Health and Hospitals presented a revised budget to the Appropriations Sub-Committee on Health and Human Services that reflected the revenue raised in the Special Session. Listed below are the changes to services for people with disabilities from the original Executive Budget as presented prior to the Special Session.

What's Funded:

- * ALL waivers
- * Long-Term Personal Care Services
- * OCDD Resource Centers
- * EarlySteps - at least enough to avoid cuts to direct services

What's Still Being Cut:

- * Elimination of State Personal Assistance Services (SPAS) in the Office of Aging and Adult Services
- * 10% reduction to Human Services Districts/Authorities - this will impact Individual and Family Support and Flexible Family Fund in some regions
- * 40% cut to Families Helping Families Resource Centers
- * The funding to fill over 440 vacant waiver slots for people with developmental disabilities
- * The funding to pay overtime costs for home and community based services

These are the administration's recommendations. The legislature can accept or change them throughout the legislative process.

Contact Us

If there are any questions about the information in this alert, contact LaCAN by calling the toll free number listed below.

email: info@lacanadvocates.org

phone: 1-800-450-8108

web: www.lacanadvocates.org

LaCAN is an initiative of the [Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council](#).



Save the Families Helping Families Regional Resource Centers

FY15 Impact of FHF

- **FHF Centers are the ONLY "one-stop shops" in Louisiana providing support to ALL individuals with disabilities and their families.**
- **Over 35,900 contacts were made to local FHF Centers from individuals, families, and professionals who sought and received help.**
- **5,982 referrals to services provided**
- **5,322 individuals attended 234 trainings on various disability related topics**
- **24,708 peer-to-peer support connections made**

What Legislators Can Do?

Identify revenue to continue funding Families Helping Families (FHF) Centers throughout the state so they can continue to provide vital services to individuals with disabilities and their families.

Why Do This?

Every DD Council state dollar goes directly to FHF Centers. The Council's state funds are reduced by approximately **\$197,000 (40%)** in the Proposed Executive Budget for FY17. Other contracts with the Centers are in jeopardy of similar cuts or elimination.

With these cuts, FHF Centers will no longer be able to maintain the same level of service and will be in jeopardy of closing.

The information, referral, trainings, and peer support provided by FHF Centers are not replicated by ANY other organization in the state, leaving families nowhere else to turn, particularly while waiting years for other services.

FHF Centers are family-directed with a majority of Center staff being parents or family members of children with disabilities or individuals with disabilities. FHF Centers share experience and information from someone "who has been there."

03.30.2016

Use this [link](#) to identify your Louisiana State Representative and Louisiana State Senator. They are the first two listed in the search results. Then click on their names to obtain their contact information.



Louisiana Developmental
Disabilities Council

LaDDC NEWS

March 24, 2016

Waiver Services Survive This Year Next Year's Fate in the Legislature's Hands

After months of worrying if the waiver services they need to remain in their own home and communities would be eliminated, people with developmental disabilities and their families can take a breath, at least for today. [Governor Edwards announced earlier today that the \\$70 Million in cuts](#) necessary to address the remaining deficit for the current fiscal year (FY16) would all come from the Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH), but the four waivers for people with developmental disabilities will remain intact.

Unfortunately, the fate of services for people with developmental disabilities next fiscal year (FY17) is still uncertain. When the Governor prepared and presented his Executive Budget for FY17 prior to the Special Session it was based on a \$2.1 Billion shortfall. Funding for the New Opportunities Waiver (NOW) was included, but adequate funding for a long list of other DD services was not. The Governor/Division of Administration will recommend a set of amendments to the Executive Budget to add the revenue raised in the Special Session, but the ultimate decision on what gets funded rests with the legislature. And... the FY17 budget is \$750 Million short.

Since the Special Session ended without a plan to fill the remaining \$750 Million gap for FY17, the Legislature must decide whether to fund the other three DD waivers (Children's Choice, Supports Waiver, ROW), Human Services Districts/Authorities, Families Helping Families Centers, OCDD Resource Centers, EarlySteps, LA Rehabilitation Services, and other programs benefiting people with disabilities. To avoid cuts to any DD services, the legislature would have to take money from somewhere else in the state budget (which is difficult), or the Governor would have to call the legislature into another Special Session to raise additional revenue.

The Council encourages individuals who are concerned about the fate of these vital services to [contact their legislators](#), especially those on the [Appropriations Committee](#), and join the Council's grassroots advocacy network, LaCAN at www.lacanadvocates.org. LaCAN members receive action alerts with updates on the budget situation and opportunities to advocate.

Please note, the Council acknowledges all the individuals and families who are still waiting for waiver services. We began last fall advocating for funding for additional waiver slots, but it soon became evident that our focus needed to shift from expanding to saving the home and community based system from sheer elimination. This includes not only waiver services, but Individual and Family Support, Flexible Family Fund, and the other support services that help people endure the eleven year wait for the waiver. Please know that as soon as the system is stabilized, our advocacy efforts will resume to expand waiver services to all those who are waiting.

www.laddc.org



Louisiana Developmental
Disabilities Council

LaDDC NEWS

More Regional Advocacy Workshops

The Council has kicked off our regional advocacy workshops in lieu of the regular Partners in Policymaking program in 2016. Workshops are hosted by Liz Gary, Partners in Policymaking Coordinator to provide a piece of Partners to people around the state who otherwise cannot participate in the regular Partners in Policymaking classes. All participants will receive information on how to become involved in systems change for individuals with developmental disabilities and how to become empowered advocates. Partners alumni are also encouraged to attend as a “refresher.”

Save the dates and stay tuned for additional information, topics, and workshop registrations as they are finalized. A \$10 stipend is available for individuals with developmental disabilities and family members of people with developmental disabilities who travel 50 miles or more roundtrip to a workshop. Contact the Council (robbie.gray@la.gov or 225-342-6804) with questions or if you will travel 150 miles or more roundtrip to ask if an additional travel stipend is available.

Click the region/city below to register for the workshop.

Region 3 - Gray

DATE: Thursday, April 7, 2016 (Rescheduled from 3/11/16)
TIME: 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM
PLACE: Terrebonne Parish Library - North Branch (4130 West Park Avenue)
TOPIC: What you need to know about the Legislative Process
SPEAKER: Liz Gary

Region 4 - Lafayette

DATE: Tuesday, April 12, 2016 (Rescheduled from 3/22/16)
TIME: 9:30 AM to 1:00 PM
PLACE: The Daily Advertiser - Community Room (1100 Bertrand Drive)
TOPIC: What you need to know about the Legislative Process
SPEAKER: Liz Gary

Region 9 - Covington

DATE: Saturday, April 16, 2016
TIME: 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM
PLACE: Trinity Church (19380 North 10th Street)
TOPIC: Creating a Values Future: Organizing for Change
SPEAKER: Guy Caruso

Region 5 - Lake Charles (Registration TBA)

DATE: Friday, June 17, 2016
TIME: 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM
PLACE: Springhill Suites Hotel (1551 W Prien Lake Road)
TOPIC: Community Building
SPEAKER: Al Condeluci

Region 1/10 - Jefferson/New Orleans area (TBA)

DATE: Saturday, June 18, 2016
TIME: 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM
PLACE: TBA
TOPIC: Community Building
SPEAKER: Al Condeluci

Region 7 - Shreveport area (Registration TBA)

DATE: June 2016 (Tentative)
TIME: TBA
PLACE: TBA
TOPIC: Inclusive Education
SPEAKER: TBA



Louisiana Developmental
Disabilities Council

LaDDC NEWS

Governor John Bel Edwards Speaks to Advocates Gathered for Disability Rights Day

Hundreds of LaCAN members from every region of the state gathered at the Capitol on Tuesday, April 5th to participate in the Council's annual Disability Rights Day. Members formed small teams to visit with their regional legislators sharing this year's message, "We're not an OPTION. We're a PRIORITY," along with fact sheets detailing the importance and necessity of funding for various supports and services that people with disabilities need to live in their own homes and be fully participating members of their communities. Many of these services are in jeopardy of cuts and/or elimination in the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2017 (FY17) due to the budget shortfall.

At noon members converged on the Capitol steps for a rally program which was highlighted by the first-ever appearance of a Louisiana Governor. Governor John Bel Edwards spoke to the crowd, committing to work to protect disability services, and encouraging advocates to continue their work in sharing their stories and educating him and members of the legislature.

Advocates held signs, cheered, and also heard from keynote speaker, Bambi Polotzola, parent advocate and Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs, Representative Frank Hoffman of West Monroe (District 15) and Senator Gerald Boudreaux of Lafayette (District 24).

Later in the day both Regina Barrow of Baton Rouge (District 15) and Representative J. Rogers Pope of Denham Springs (District 71) brought resolutions recognizing the advocacy efforts of the Council and LaCAN and declaring April 5, 2016 to be Disability Rights Day in the State of Louisiana.

2015 Annual Report Available

Each year the Council publishes an Annual Report detailing its activities during the previous year. The [2015 Annual Report](#) and [reports from previous years](#) are available to view online. The 2015 Annual Report includes advocacy, capacity building and systems change activities that impacted policy and practice changes in 2015. The report features successful advocacy for additional state general funds to the home and community-based waiver program and appropriate funding structures for school systems. Other highlights include the development of a mentoring program for employment support providers and learning modules for dentists and dental hygienists.

www.laddc.org

Florida Parishes Human Services Authority

Florida Parishes Human Services Authority (FPHSA) is a state funded local governance entity with the vision of enhancing the availability of services and supports leading to a satisfying and productive life for persons with addictions, developmental disabilities, and mental illnesses. FPHSA Developmental Disabilities Services is the single point of entry in the five-parish area (Livingston, St. Helena, Tangipahoa, Washington, St. Tammany) for the following services provided to individuals with developmental disabilities:

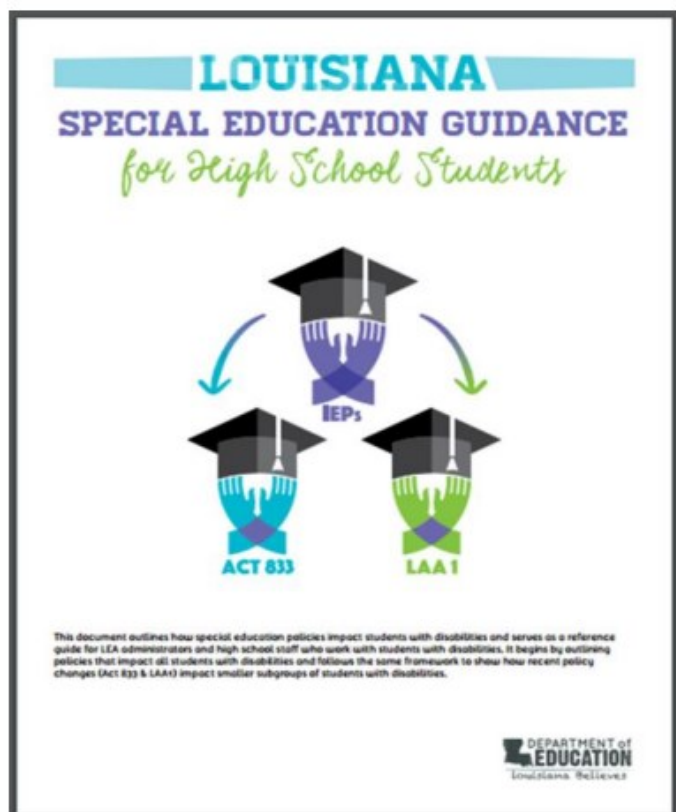
- * Individual and Family support;
- * Flexible Family Fund (formerly known as Cash Subsidy);
- * Personal Support Coordination;
- * Residential Placement (Community Homes and facilities);
- * Crisis Support; and
- * Home and Community Based Waiver Services such as New Opportunities Waiver (NOW); Children's Choice Waiver (CC); Support Waiver (SW); and Residential Options Waiver (ROW).

Need Developmental Disabilities services?

Address: 835 Pride Drive, Suite B, Hammond, LA 70401

Phone: (985) 543-4730 / Toll Free: (800) 866-0806

Louisiana Department of Education



The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) has published the [Louisiana Special Education Guidance for High School Students](#). This document outlines how special education policies impact students with disabilities and serves as a reference guide for administrators and high school staff who work with students with disabilities. It was distributed to parents and professionals who attended our workshops last month on pathways to graduation for students with disabilities, presented by Nanette Olivier from LDOE. It begins by outlining policies that impact all students with disabilities and follows the same framework to show how recent policy changes (Act 833 & LAA1) impact smaller subgroups of students with disabilities. [Download a copy of this publication.](#)

Get Involved

NFHF is currently looking to grow our volunteer base.

If you are interested, [sign up here](#).

Regional Interagency Coordinating Council (RICC)

Each region in the state has a Regional Coordinating Council (RICC). This gives parents an opportunity locally to stay current with the latest information and provide valuable feedback to EarlySteps. Parent participation is needed at our Regional Interagency Coordinating Council Meetings. The next RICC meeting is:

Friday, April 22, 2016
9:00 am - 11:00 am
Louisiana Workforce Commission
1711 Nashville Ave., Hammond, LA 70401

Regional Advisory Committee (RAC)

The Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) for Developmental Disabilities Services for Florida Parishes Human Services Authority, established by legislative act, ensures public input in an advisory capacity in the development and implementation of policies, procedures, and the allocation of resources to the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities. This input shall be derived from communication with, but not limited to, individuals with disabilities and their families and other concerned groups or individuals. Give comments about an interest, need or concern about issues facing families or individuals with disabilities. Get information about resources that may be available for you or others. Region 9 RAC wants to hear from you! For more information on the Regional Advisory Committee, email: SharonDelvisco@fhfnorthshore.org. The next RAC meeting is:

Tuesday, April 19, 2016
10 am - 12 pm
Florida Parishes Human Services Authority , Room 58
835 Pride Drive, Suite B, Hammond, LA

RAC is Seeking New Members!

The Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) for Developmental Disabilities Services for Florida Parishes Human Services Authority, established by legislative act, ensures public input in an advisory capacity in the development and implementation of policies, procedures, and the allocation of resources to the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities. Over the next few months, the terms of several members will expire and the committee wants you to join! Positions needed: 3 adults with disabilities or family members of individuals with disabilities

If you live in the parishes of Washington, Tangipahoa, St. Tammany, St. Helena or Livingston please complete the [nomination form](#) and return it to SharonDelvisco@fhfnorthshore.org.



One in Five Families with Children Has at Least One Child with Special Health Care Needs

Did You Know?

- More than one in five families has at least one child with special health care needs – 23% of families.
- Approximately 14.6 million children ages 0 to 17 in the US have special health care needs (SHCN). That's nearly 20% (19.8%).
- The health care needs of these children may be physical, developmental, behavioral or emotional and represent a wide range of conditions including autism, cerebral palsy, developmental delay, intellectual disabilities, depression, learning disabilities, and epilepsy.
- Children with SHCN often have more than one condition and functional difficulties in more than one area that impacts their daily lives, such as breathing, communicating, chronic pain, learning, moving around, behavior, or challenges in making and keeping friends.
- Their families typically experience greater stress, struggling to meet the needs of their child in a maze of multiple and complex systems of care. Many families find that insurance is not adequate, care coordination is ineffective, and referrals are difficult. Families of children with SHCN are less likely to have family-centered health care.



Louisiana Family to Family Health Information Center Makes a Difference:

Through LaF2FHIC we have a direct impact on the lives of children and youth with special health care needs and their families in Louisiana.

- We provide information, training, and support to thousands of families and professionals about current issues in health care—the Affordable Care Act, Medicaid, Family-Centered Care, Healthy Lifestyles for Children & Youth to Combat Obesity, Transition from Pediatric Care, Genetics, and more.
- We give families tools and information to make informed decisions about their children's health care.
- We provide one-to-one family support, peer mentoring, and leadership development.
- We work with Family Voices at the national level to ensure important programs are funded and that health policy is family-centered; we work with partners at the state and local level to ensure that the voices of families are heard.

March 2016



This project is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). This information or content and conclusions are those of the author and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by HRSA, HHS or the U.S. Government.

*Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative (2013). "Who Are Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN)?" Data Resource Center, supported by Cooperative Agreement 1-U59-MC00080-D1 from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB). Available at www.childhealthdata.org. Revised 4/15/13.

Special Needs & Parent Support Services of LA, LLC

New Resource!

**We can assist
with MCNA
Dental and
Magellan
services too!**

*Providing
Support to
Louisiana
Individuals
and Families
Of Children
and Youth
With Special
Health Care
Needs and
Disabilities*

Phone: 504-430-3604
Helpline: 504-500-3117
E-mail: kcscallan@gmail.com
Facebook: Karen Scallan
Twitter: @KarenScallan

BAYOU HEALTH HELP LINE

**For Individuals and Families of Children and Youth
with Special Health Care Needs and Disabilities**

Call Today for Assistance with:

- Bayou Health enrollment questions
- Bayou Health general information
- Understanding letters from Bayou Health
- Concerns, complaints, or appeals
- Learning your Rights and Responsibilities
- Navigating Bayou Health and the 5 Health plans

Call or Text the HELPLINE today:

1-504-300-5117

Email: kcscallan@gmail.com

Facebook/Fb Messenger: Karen Scallan

**Webinars and workshops on
Bayou Health topics also available**

**Coming soon... online
video mini-trainings to
get all the tips and
facts you need.**



About EarlySteps

EarlySteps provides services to families with infants and toddlers aged birth to three years (36 months) who have a medical condition likely to result in a developmental delay, or who have developmental delays. Children with delays in cognitive, motor, vision, hearing, communication, social-emotional or adaptive development may be eligible for services. EarlySteps services are designed to improve the family's capacity to enhance their child's development. These services are provided in the child's natural environment, such as the child's home, child care or any other community setting typical for children aged birth to 3 years (36 months).

Services

Services the EarlySteps program provides include:

- * Assistive technology
- * Audiology
- * Health Services (family education, assistance with other EarlySteps services only)
- * Medical Services (evaluation only)
- * Nutrition Services
- * Occupational Therapy Services
- * Physical Therapy Services
- * Psychological Services
- * Service Coordination
- * Social Work Services
- * Special Instruction
- * Speech Language Pathology
- * Translation Interpreter Services (foreign language and sign language)
- * Transportation (to and from an EarlySteps service only)
- * Vision Services

Effective October 1, 2013 EarlySteps implemented a cost participation system which allows families to share in the cost for some early intervention services. Financial information is gathered during intake for children who are eligible for EarlySteps. Family size and income are used to determine if a family will be required to pay for some services.

The EarlySteps Process

Anyone can make an EarlySteps referral. Children can be referred to EarlySteps by contacting the [System Point of Entry](#) (SPOE) in their region. Once the [SPOE](#) receives the [referral](#), the family will be contacted to begin the eligibility determination process.

For more information call: 985-429-1252 or 1-866-327-5978



ADVOCACY CENTER

SOUTH LOUISIANA BENEFITS PLANNING PROGRAM

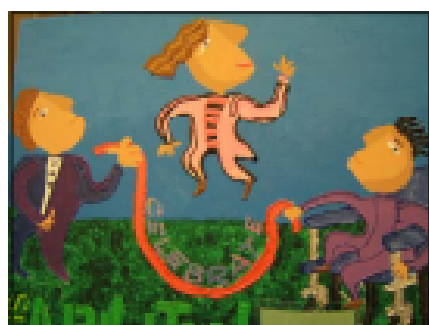
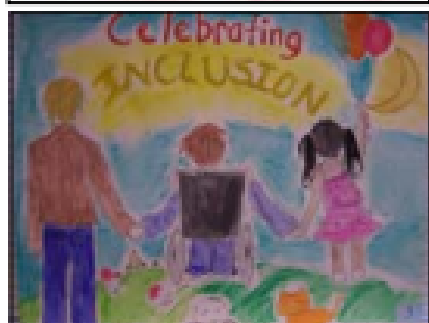
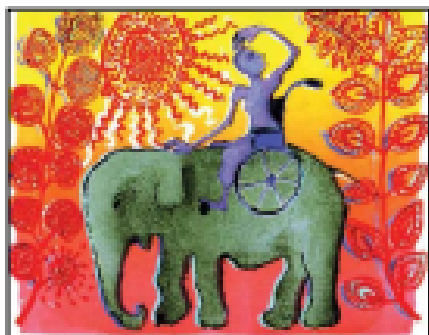
Provides Free Help for People who
Receive Social Security Disability Benefits

CALL 1-855-877-8599
for answers to the following questions:

- How does work affect my Social Security or SSI?
- Can I work and keep my Medicaid or Medicare coverage?
- How will work change my other benefits like Food Stamps, Subsidized Housing, Waiver Services, VA Benefits and Workers Compensation?
- How do I report my income to Social Security?
- What is a PASS plan?

This document is funded through the Social Security cooperative agreement. Although Social Security reviewed this document for accuracy, it does not constitute an official Social Security Communication.

The Governor's Office of Disability Affairs Presents: 2016 Inclusive Schools Art Contest



Contest Theme:

"Inclusion Matters: A Better World For All"

To bring greater awareness of the importance of inclusion in today's society, the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs (GODA) encourages you to participate in the 2016 Inclusive Art Show Contest. GODA will be accepting entries that illustrate or describe ideas related to this year's theme and accompanying definitions of inclusion of persons with disabilities. Medals and special recognition from Governor John Bel Edwards will be presented to the winners. Contestants are encouraged to use art as a means to share their vision, experiences, and talents to demonstrate this year's theme. Winning entries will be publicly displayed.

Artwork Criteria:

- All artwork entries must be framed or ready to hang.
- Submissions may be 16x20 or smaller. Any entries larger than 16x20 will be ineligible.
- Any suitable materials or a computer generated design may be utilized.
- Package artwork entries so that they are easy to carry, transport, and display.
- Place adequate postage on your mailing package. The Governor's Office of Disability Affairs will NOT pay for postage due on parcels.

Contest Rules:

- Open to residents of Louisiana
- No group artwork will be accepted.
- All entries must be received by May 17, 2016
- Winning art work may be used as prize material, distributed, and not returned.
- Artwork not selected as winners may be picked up. Those not picked up by December 1, 2016 will remain the property of the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs.
- By submitting your entry, you give the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs permission to use your art in support of the contest theme.
- Registration form must be typed or printed legibly in ink, signed, and attached to the back of the entry. DO NOT STAPLE to artwork.

Registration form: <http://1.usa.gov/1px5cwS>