



**Governor's Advisory Council on Disability Affairs  
(GACDA)**

**Annual Report 2016**

# Governor's Advisory Council on Disability Affairs

The Governor's Advisory Council on Disability Affairs (GACDA) was established by Governor John Bel Edwards through Executive Order NO. JBE 2016-10 on April 7, 2016 to monitor state compliance with the Americans with Disability Act and to advise the governor on the needs of individuals with disabilities in Louisiana. GACDA is also charged with assisting the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs with the resolution of state disabilities issues and provide education, communication, and networking services concerning disability issues and needs for all Louisiana citizens. GACDA is composed of 31 members appointed by governor Edwards. Support staff, facilities and resources for GACDA are provided by the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs within the Governor's Office of Programs and Planning.



GACDA is required to submit an annual report to the governor pursuant to Executive Order NO. JBE-2016-10. This report highlights the significant activities undertaken by GACDA in addressing the needs of individuals with disabilities in the state of Louisiana.

This annual report provides an overview of the important achievements of GACDA. The council carries out its responsibilities through its various standing committees. These committees are comprised of individuals representing the public, not-for-profit, and self advocate sectors who provide invaluable contributions of time, expertise and unwavering commitment to articulate the needs of individuals with disabilities.

# Governor's Advisory Council on Disability Affairs Members



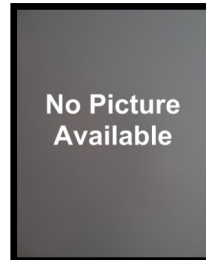
**Lynette Fontenot**  
GACDA Chairperson



**Laura Brackin, Ph.D.**  
Representative of  
Community  
Providers  
Association



**Donna Breaux**  
Member at Large



**Harry Brady**  
Member at Large



**Sharon Buchert**  
Representative of  
Governor's Office of  
Elderly Affairs



**Gerald Boudreaux**  
Representative  
Member of the  
Louisiana State  
Senate



**Katie Corkern**  
Representative of  
LaCAN



**Pam Darby**  
Member at Large



**Amy Dawson**  
Representative  
Member of the  
Governor's Office of  
Emergency  
Preparedness



**Tara Delee**  
Representative  
Member of the  
Office of Behavioral  
Health



**Gale Dean**  
Representative  
Member of the  
Statewide  
Independent Living  
Council



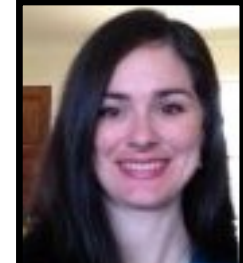
**Sharon Hennessey**  
Representative  
Member of People  
First Louisiana



**Joshua Hollins**  
Representative of the  
Department of  
Transportation and  
Development



**Nancy Hicks**  
Representative of the  
Louisiana Department  
of Education



**Jamie Karam**  
Representative  
Member of LATAN



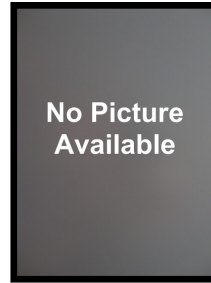
**Steve Kaufman**  
Representative  
Member of the  
Advocacy Center



**Christopher Kirby**  
Representative of the  
Department of  
Children and Family  
Services



**Linda Kocher**  
Member at Large



**Tara Leblanc**  
Representative of  
Office of Aging and  
Adult Services



**Cynthia Obier**  
Representative of the  
State Fire Marshal  
Public Safety



**Lauren Mayfield**  
Representative of  
the Louisiana  
Association of Special  
Education  
Administrators



**Kelly Monroe**  
Representative of the  
Arc of Louisiana



**Libby Murphy**  
Representative of the  
Louisiana  
Rehabilitation Council



**Paula Rodriguez**  
Representative of the  
Deaf Grassroots  
Movement



**John Schroeder**  
Representative of the  
Louisiana House of  
Representatives



**Linda Theriot**  
Representative of the  
Department of Veteran  
Affairs



**Mark Thomas**  
Representative of the  
Office of Citizens with  
Developmental  
Disabilities



**Sandee Winchell**  
Representative of the  
Louisiana  
Developmental  
Disabilities Council

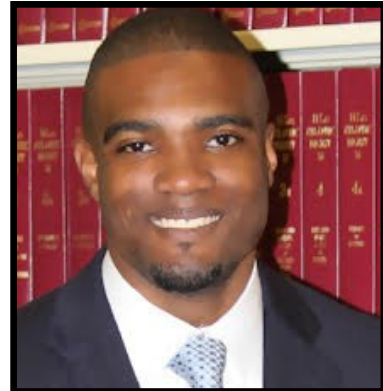


GOVERNOR'S OFFICE *of* PROGRAMS *and* PLANNING



Bambi Polotzola

Governor's Office of Disability Affairs, Executive Director



Jamar Ennis

Governor's Office of Disability Affairs, Assistant Director



Jessica Lewis

Statewide Independent Living Council, Director



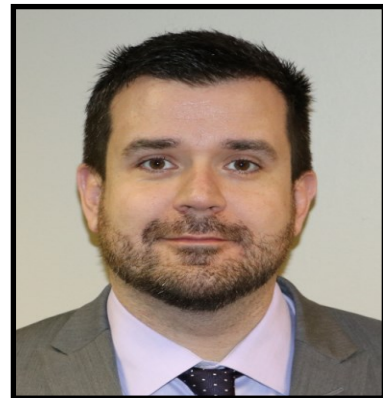
Janan Jolivette

Governor's Office of Disability Affairs, Coordinator



Johnny Anderson

Office of Governor John Bel Edwards, Deputy Chief of Staff  
Governor's Office of Programs and Planning



Bruce Parker

Governor's Office of Programs and Planning, Director

## Employment Subcommittee

Members: Libby Murphy (Chairperson)      Nancy Hicks  
Dr. Laura Brackin      Gale Dean  
Dr. Laureen Mayfield      Sen. Gerald Boudreaux  
Linda Kocher      Sandee Winchell  
Donna Breaux      Chris Kirby  
Pam Darby      Rep. John Schroder  
Mark Thomas      Kelly Monroe  
Ava Dejoie\*

### **Mission And Areas of Responsibility**

This committee provides recommendations to identify problems and concerns with issues of employment, while promoting and understanding of the employment needs and potential of individuals with disabilities. The Employment Committee monitors legislation relative to equal opportunity and access for employment.

### **Committee Accomplishments**

In 2016 the Employment Committee accomplished the following:

- Recommended the establishment of a workgroup that will encompass the goals of Employment First and monitor its progress.
- Led in collaborative efforts with multiple agencies and organizations to promote National Disability Employment Awareness Month during October.



## Accessibility Subcommittee

<u>Members:</u>	Steve Kaufman (Chairperson)	Amy Dawson
	Jamie Karam	Lynette Fontenot
	Joshua Hollins	Sharon Buchert
	Katie Corkern	Linda Theriot
	Sharon Hennessey	Tara Delee
	Tara Leblanc	Paula Rodriguez
	Cynthia Obier	Harry Brady

### **Mission And Areas of Responsibility**

This committee meets quarterly and provides recommendations to identify the problems and concerns with issues of accessibility for Louisiana citizens with disabilities . The Accessibility Committee provides assistance to ensure that communications, emergency services, public services, and public entities are accessible for people with disabilities.

### **Committee Accomplishments**

In 2016 the Accessibility Committee accomplished the following:

- Recommended training for the state facility planning staff regarding accessibility issues by the State Fire Marshall's Office.
- Worked with other agencies, such as Red Cross and FEMA, to develop and maintain relationships to further plan for all persons with disabilities during an impending disaster.
- Prepared letter from GACDA to FEMA to discuss concerns of accessibility and planning for persons with disabilities in disaster planning efforts.



## Education Subcommittee

<u>Members:</u>	Laureen Mayfield (Chairperson)	Libby Murphy
	Mark Thomas	Nancy Hicks
	Paula Rodriguez	Sandee Winchell
	Katie Corkern	Tara Delee
	Harry Brady	Sen. Gerald Boudreaux
	Rep. John Schroeder	
	Ava Dejoie*	Ashley McReynolds*
	James Gilmore*	Juanita Washington*

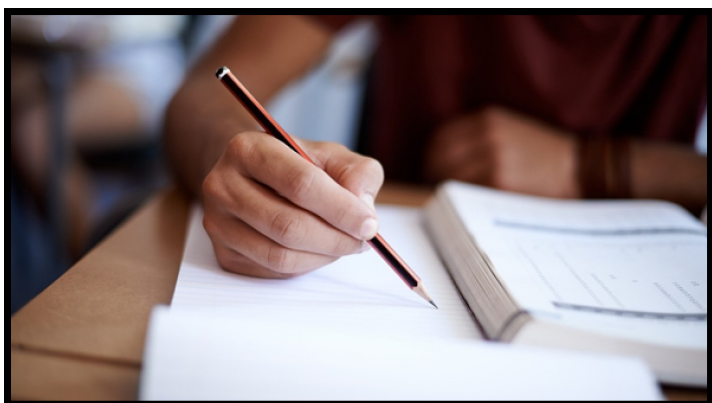
### **Mission And Areas of Responsibility**

This committee provides recommendations and to identify needs and concerns in the area of education for individuals with disabilities.

### **Committee Accomplishments**

In 2016 the Education Committee accomplished the following:

- Sent letter from GACDA to the Special Education Advisory Panel relative to their initiative to improve its operations, which included amending their bylaws, increasing SEAP membership, ensuring that no members serve in dual roles, increase the meeting time to an all-day meeting, allow more time for discussion of topics, encourage public comment, recommend that SEAP establish task forces as needed to address substantive issues.
- Prepared letter from GACDA to the congressional delegation asking them to be aware of language in the regulations of ESSA that may affect diploma/graduation options for students with disabilities as well as potential disincentives to educate students with disabilities.
- Recommended elimination of corporal punishment in schools for students with disabilities





# Transportation Subcommittee

Members: Dr. Laura Brackin (Chairperson) Linda Kocher  
Amy Dawson Chris Kirby  
Donna Breaux Kelly Monroe  
Jamie Karam Sharon Buchert  
Steve Kaufman Lynette Fontenot  
Gale Dean Sharon Hennessey  
Tara Leblanc Linda Theriot  
Cynthia Obier Pam Darby  
Joshua Hollins John Schweitzer\*  
James Sprinkle\* Tina Anthlone\*

## **Mission And Areas of Responsibility**

This committee shall identify the needs, concerns, and availability of accessible transportation for individuals with disabilities in Louisiana. This committee is charged with making recommendations to the Governor and appropriate agencies relative to accessible transportation.

## **Committee Accomplishments**

In 2016 the Transportation Committee accomplished the following:

- Developed plan to implement statewide transportation survey to determine the transportation needs of people with disabilities in Louisiana. Participants of the survey shall include consumers, provider agencies, and other interested parties.

The goals of the transportation survey are to:

- To address the lack of information relative to transportation used by persons with physical, mental, or emotional disabilities.
- Provide data and information to transportation planners, governmental agencies, and other researchers to analyze and use the data when creating national, state, and local policies and programs for persons with disabilities in Louisiana.

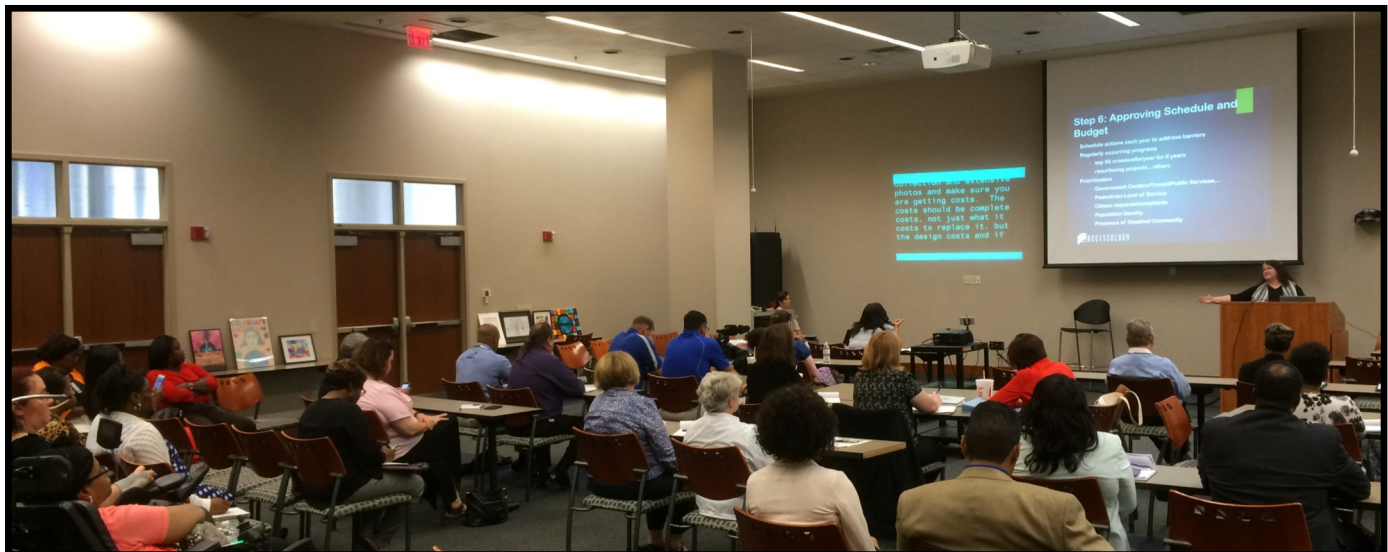


# GACDA Activities in 2016

GACDA has collaborated with the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs to adequately educate, address, and resolve issue and concerns relative to the disability community. Members of GACDA have consistently participated in various initiatives that promote, encourage and support citizens with disabilities so that they may have an equal opportunity to actively participate in all aspects of

## Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Round Table Discussion

The Governor's Office of Disability Affairs hosted the ADA Roundtable Discussion on May 23, 2016 at the Claiborne Building. This roundtable discussion was free to attend and featured national accessibility expert Kristi J. Avalos, the president and CEO of Accessology. Over 70 individuals participated in the roundtable discussion. The participants included ADA coordinators, human resource directors, governmental agencies, advocates, university administrators, engineers, public, self-advocates, and members of GACDA. Those in attendance participated in a question and answer session with Avalos and discussed various topics relative to accessibility in Louisiana. Deputy Chief of Staff Julie Baxter Payer spoke at this event on behalf of Governor Edwards to express that accessibility is an important concern for his administration. The Governor's Office of Disability Affairs presented Avalos with a certificate of appreciation for her participation in this event.



# Louisiana Floods of 2016



In March and August of 2016, torrential rainfall caused catastrophic flooding that submerged thousands of houses, buildings, schools, and churches in Louisiana. In March, nearly 5,000 homes were damaged as a result of flooding. In August, an estimated 146,000 homes were damaged. The flood of August 2016 is characterized as the worst natural disaster in the United States since Hurricane Sandy in 2012. Thousands of Louisiana residents were forced into shelters. The members of GACDA and their representative agencies were direct participants in the flood relief efforts. Despite some members losing their homes and property as a result of the flood, they volunteered their time and even their personal resources to assist the disability community in the midst of this natural disaster. Through their collaborative efforts, GACDA members saved many lives and provided individuals with the necessary resources for the road to recovery. Members assisted by:

- Volunteering their efforts and expertise at shelters and recovery centers around the state.
- Initiated many programs that enabled flood victims to receive resources and assistance.
- Utilized their relationships with public and private entities to increase opportunities for aid.
- Coordinated with the disability integration and emergency management departments of FEMA, Red Cross, and other relevant agencies.
- Organized various meetings and created forums to discuss the importance of the needs of individuals with disabilities in emergency management and preparedness.
- Participating in various recovery support function groups of the Restore Louisiana Task Force.



# GACDA Legislative Report

- During 2016, Louisiana faced the largest budget deficit in the history of the state. Much of the advocacy efforts of GACDA members was spent protecting funding for existing services. Many GACDA members and their affiliated organizations advocated for the responsible revenue raising measures proposed by Governor Edwards. They were instrumental in influencing the legislature to protect services for people with disabilities. Unfortunately, the waiting list for home and community based waiver services as well as the waiting list for employment support through Louisiana Rehabilitation Services grew longer. GACDA will continue to make these issues a priority in 2017.

There were several legislative victories which were led by GACDA members and their affiliated organizations:

- SB 271 by Senator Fred Mills which provides for medical marijuana to be recommended for treatment of certain debilitating conditions was passed by the legislature and signed into law by Governor Edwards as Act 96 of 2016.
- HB 614 by Rep. Helena Moreno was signed into law as Act 508 of 2016 by Governor Edwards. Act 508 will allow voters who have submitted proof of their disability the ability to request their absentee ballot be sent via a secure email instead of by mail. These voters will complete their ballots using specialized software on their computer, which will allow them to vote without the assistance of another person. Then, they will print their ballot and return it via mail, fax or in person. This program will be especially beneficial to voters who are blind and those with significant physical disabilities.
- SB 317 by Senator Jack Donahue created the Advisory Council on Student Behavior and Discipline to provide advice and guidance regarding best practices in providing support to public school governing authorities in the adoption and implementation of school student behavior and discipline plans. Students with disabilities are disproportionately suspended, expelled and punished using corporal methods. Governor Edwards signed this bill into law as Act 522 of 2016.



GACDA made several legislative recommendations for 2017. A few of the recommendations are:

- Appropriate state general funds to allow Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS) to draw down 100% of the state's federal vocational rehabilitation (VR) allotment.
- Elimination of corporal punishment in schools for students with disabilities.
- Rebalancing the revenue source of the telecommunication fund from land lines to cellphones. The telecommunication fund is the funding source of the Louisiana Commission for the Deaf.

# Governor's Office of Disability Affairs Monthly Disability Newsletter

Governor's Office of Disability Affairs distributes a monthly newsletter to highlight the relevant issues and concerns of disability in Louisiana. The newsletter is designed to deliver important news and announcements that impact the disability community. Most of the content in this newsletter is created by the members of GACDA. This newsletter also provides information about disability affairs and other programs and events sponsored by agencies and organizations that serve individuals with disabilities. The newsletter is distributed statewide to increase awareness of the available statewide disability programs and services. The Governor's Office of Disability Affairs has archived all of its 2016 newsletters. These archived newsletters can be found at: <http://gov.louisiana.gov/index.cfm/newsroom/category/13>

## Governor's Office of Disability Affairs Newsletter December 2016

December 29, 2016

### Governor's Advisory Council on Disability Affairs (GACDA) Member Saves Life of Child with a Disability during August Floods

GACDA member Amy Dawson, of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP), was among the team of emergency officials who helped to save a child's life during the August floods.

[Click here to read about the extraordinary efforts of Amy Dawson, Trach Moms of Louisiana and other individuals.](#)



### Dining in the Dark Event

Louisiana Lighthouse hosted their third annual "Dining in the Dark" event on November 15, 2016, which was attended by Jamar Ennis and Jessica Lewis of the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs. Participants wore blindfolds to raise awareness of the daily experiences of people who are blind. The proceeds raised will go towards the Lighthouse Louisiana post-flood recovery efforts. The Louisiana Lighthouse facility took on three feet of water during the August floods and will use the proceeds to rebuild their facility and programs. To learn more about this event or to get information about programs sponsored by Lighthouse Louisiana please visit [lighthouselouisiana.org](http://lighthouselouisiana.org).

### Outreach to Municipal and Parish Disability Committees

Disability Affairs Coordinator Jolan Jolivet attended the Lafayette Awareness Committee for Citizens with Disabilities meeting at the Lafayette Consolidated Government office on December 12, 2016. Jolan informed committee members about the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs' efforts to serve and advocate for individuals with disabilities and learned about the work Chair Liam Doyle and the committee are doing to advocate and improve accessibility in Lafayette.

The Governor's Office of Disability Affairs is reaching out to municipal and parish disability committees throughout the state to strengthen relationships and better coordinate state and local efforts. For more

### CONNECT *with* the GOVERNOR

EMAIL *the* GOVERNOR

REQUEST *of* the GOVERNOR

APPLY *to* SERVE



### Happening NOW

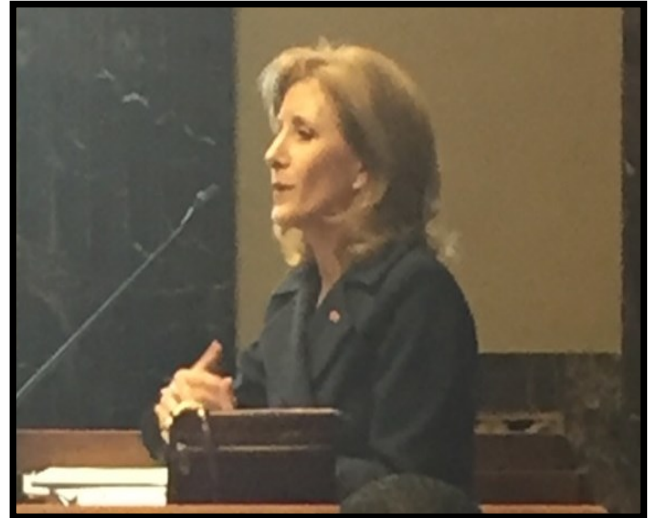


LouisianaGov 10 minutes ago  
Since 2014, approximately 100 human trafficking cases have been investigated by @LAStatePolice. #lagov  
<https://t.co/dkM1WX3Xaa>

LouisianaGov 19 hours ago  
RT @RestoreLA\_gov: Plans to spend \$1.2 billion of federal #laflood assistance money to be

# Community Briefings

The Governor's Office of Disability Affairs hosted various community briefings in 2016. The briefings featured topics relative to child welfare, home and community based services, and other issues important to the disability community. These community briefings were held in the governor's press conference room in State Capitol. The guests who attended the briefings participated by interacting with individuals from the Louisiana Workforce Commission, Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, Department of Children and Family Services, and members representing the Governor's Office of Community Programs. First Lady Donna Edwards, Chief of Staff Ben Nevers, and Deputy Chief of Staff of Programs and Planning Johnny Anderson were among members of the Governors Office who regularly participated. GACDA members participated in the coordination and planning of these briefings.



## Rallies and Awareness Days

GACDA has collaborated with the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs to participate in many disability rallies and disability awareness days. The Governor's Office of Disability Affairs has issued and presented various proclamations and certificates of recognition to support the various programs and events that encourages disability awareness. Many of these events were sponsored by members of GACDA and their respective agencies. These are a few events that involved members of GACDA:

### 2016 Disability Rights Day at the Capitol



### 2016 Mental Health Awareness Day at the Capitol



### 2016 Families Helping Families of Greater Baton Rouge Active for Autism 5k Run/Walk



## 2016 Deaf Rights Day at the Capitol



## Cajun Classic Wheelchair Tennis Tournament



## 2016 Disability Employment Awareness Month/Diversity Job Fairs





# Governor's Office of Disability Affairs Programs and Events

GACDA participated in the coordination of the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs major events.

## The 2016 GOLD Awards

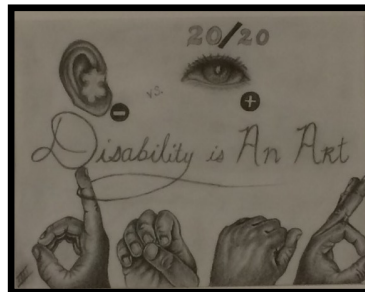
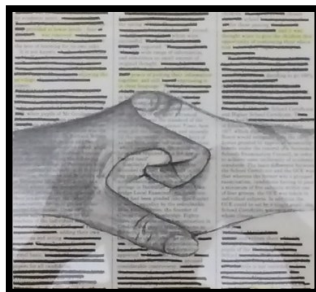
The Governor's Office hosted the Governor's Outstanding Leadership in Disabilities (GOLD) Awards on November 16, 2016 at the Old State Capitol. The GOLD Awards ceremony was created to serve as an opportunity for Louisiana to pay tribute to the achievements, dedication, and extraordinary efforts of individuals who benefit the disability community. Several GACDA members participated in the coordination of this event. The GOLD Awards ceremony was televised statewide. The following awards were presented:

- Educator of the Year: Melissa Huval
- Direct Support Professional of the Year: Bobbie Gillard
- Service Provider of the Year: Paula Rodriguez
- Employer of the Year: Louisiana Praline Factory
- Volunteer of the Year: Deborah Banks
- Family of the Year: The Sprinkle Family
- Service Animal of the Year: Frankie
- Youth of the Year: Lucas Doiron
- Veteran Services of the Year: Operation Hero
- Patsy Barrett Memorial Award: Jamie Duplechine
- Ken Vince Memorial Award: RaShad Bristo
- Distinguished Merit Award: Deborah Aymond.



# The Inclusive Art Show Contest

Over 70 individuals participated in the 2016 Inclusive Art Contest. To bring greater awareness of the importance of inclusion in today's society, the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs accepted entries that illustrated or describe ideas related to this year's theme: "Inclusion Matters: A Better World For All." A ceremony took place on November 16, 2016 in recognition of the Inclusive Art Contest participants. Carter Byrd of LaPlace was selected at the "Lynette Fontenot Excellence in Inclusion Award" (named after the GACDA chairperson) for the best overall entry. Participants were encouraged to use art as a means to share their vision, experiences and talents to demonstrate this year's theme of inclusion. Medals and special recognition from Gov. Edwards were presented to those who earned first place, second place, third place, and honorable mention. Over 25 individuals received recognition at the ceremony. GACDA Chairperson Lynette Fontenot was the keynote speaker. This event was also televised statewide.



## GACDA Community Partners

Governor's Office of Disability Affairs and GACDA collaborates with various community partners in the effort to connect individuals with disabilities with the appropriate and necessary information and resources. Establishing relationships with other groups enables GACDA to build a diverse network of individuals to better serve the disability community.



The **Advocacy Center of Louisiana** (AC) protects, empowers, and advocates for the human and legal rights of people with disabilities and seniors living in Louisiana, in order that they may live an integrated life in the community, free from abuse, neglect and exploitation. The AC is the protection and advocacy (P&A) system for Louisiana. There is no charge for AC services. AC provides 6 types of assistance: Information & Referral, Legal Assistance, Investigations of Abuse and Neglect Outreach & Training, Systems Advocacy, Legislative Information and Education.

<http://advocacyla.org/>



The **Arc of Louisiana** advocates with and for all people with intellectual and related developmental disabilities and their families so that they shall live to their fullest potential.

<http://www.thearca.org/>



**People First of Louisiana** is a self-advocacy group run by people with disabilities, for people with disabilities, where 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 and learn about their rights and responsibilities as citizens. <http://www.peoplefirstla.org>



COMMUNITY PROVIDER ASSOCIATION

The **Community Provider Association** is a member-driven association dedicated to providing leadership and support to agencies serving individuals with disabilities through community-based programs. <http://www.communityprovider.org/>



Louisiana Developmental  
Disabilities Council

The **Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council** advocates for a system of services and supports in Louisiana which enable individuals with developmental disabilities to exercise self-determination, be independent, productive and integrated and included in all facets of community life. The Council's mission is to lead and promote advocacy, capacity building, and systemic change to improve the quality of life for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. [www.laddc.org](http://www.laddc.org)



**Families Helping Families** is a statewide network of ten family-directed and family-staffed regional resource centers which provide information on all types of services, goods, technologies, and activities that improve the quality of life in the community; help individuals understand their rights and how to advocate for themselves; and lend support from someone "who has been there." <http://www.laddc.org//Initiatives.cfm?aid=6&id=9>



**LaCAN** advocates for policies and systems that support inclusion everywhere people learn, work, live, and play. LaCAN advocates for service systems that support children and adults with disabilities to live in their own homes and be fully-included and participating members of their local schools and communities. [www.lacanadvocates.org](http://www.lacanadvocates.org)

# Louisiana Association of Special Education Administrators



**LATAN** assists individuals with disabilities to achieve enhanced quality of life and greater independence through access to Assistive Technology (AT). LATAN serves Louisiana citizens of all ages with all types of disabilities and those with limitations due to aging who need AT. AT includes items that individuals use to assist them in daily activities, such as canes, wheelchairs, communication devices, hearing aids, keyboard alternatives, learning software, and vision aids. LATAN envisions a future in Louisiana in which individuals who use AT can achieve greater independence, are more satisfied with their lives, and have greater access to their communities.



The **Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs** serves as a focal point for Louisiana's senior citizens and administers a broad range of home and community based services through a network of Area Agencies on Aging. GOEA has developed an extensive network agencies recognized as the Aging Service Network. This network consists of the 64 Parish Councils on Aging (COA), 36 Area Agencies on Aging (AAA), 139 Senior Centers, University Centers, Advocacy and Service Organizations, the Senior Corps (Foster Grandparents, Senior Companion, Retired Senior Volunteer Program), the state Senior Employment Program (Title V).

The **Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness** is responsible for coordinating the State's efforts throughout the emergency management cycle to prepare for, prevent where possible, respond to, recover from and mitigate against to lessen the effects of man-made or natural disasters that threaten our State. The State, through GOHSEP, has a significant responsibility to protect communities, citizens, property and assets in the event of an emergency or disaster. GOHSEP does that by working with partners from State and Federal agencies; Parish, Tribal and local governments; nongovernmental organizations (NGOs); private nonprofits (PNPs) and other private-sector businesses to achieve its Mission and Vision.

<http://goea.louisiana.gov/>

## Children's Cabinet

The **Children's Cabinet** serves as the governing body for the State of Louisiana responsible for coordinating funding and programmatic services at the state and local level, related to children and their families. It consists of the cabinet secretary of each state department and is chaired by the executive director of the Children's Cabinet, who is appointed by the governor. The mission is to achieve the most effective and efficient use of monetary, human and organizational resources to lift children and their families out of poverty. The Children's Cabinet Advisory Board provides information and recommendations from the perspective of advocacy groups, service providers and parents on policies and programs relating to Louisiana children.

Children's Cabinet Advisory Board Strategic Goals:

- Advise and assist the Children's Cabinet
- Coordinate agency resources and provide linkages among agencies that serve children and families
- Develop policy, program and budget recommendations to address child and family issues

<http://www.gov.la.gov/page/childrens-cabinet>



Louisiana's early intervention system

The **Louisiana Statewide Interagency Coordinating Council (LA-SICC)** works in collaboration with the Louisiana Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, in an advisory capacity, to design and oversee the implementation of a family-centered, community-based, comprehensive, inter-agency system for infants and toddlers (birth through two years of age) who are eligible for Early Steps and their families. Our goal is to advise and assist the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH), as the Lead Agency, in the monitoring and evaluation of this system to ensure that families are supported and the potential of each child is maximized.

<http://www.gov.la.gov/page/childrens-cabinet>

# Women's Policy and Research Commission

The **Louisiana Women's Policy and Research Commission** exists to:

- Research and collect facts and statistics about the wellbeing of women.
- Make special studies of conditions pertaining to the employment, health, safety and financial status of women in the state of Louisiana.
- Submit an annual report to Governor with their findings.

<http://gov.louisiana.gov/page/womens-policy>

Louisiana.gov > LDH > Office of the Secretary

## Louisiana Commission for the Deaf

The **Louisiana Commission for the Deaf** provides accessibility services for persons whom are Deaf, deaf-blind, or have hearing loss or speech impairment to gain equal access to any public or private service. Accessibility services include, but are not limited to: Interpreting, Document Interpretation, Telecommunication Interpretation, Telecommunications and general accessibility equipment, Hearing Aids, Information and referral, Advocacy, Consumer Training, and Public Service Announcements. Each year over 20,000 residents benefit directly from services contracted for by the Louisiana Commission for the Deaf (LCD). LCD has eight (8) community-based Regional Service Centers who ensure accessibility is provided to all consumers.

<http://new.dhh.louisiana.gov/index.cfm/page/318>

[Workforce Development > Louisiana Rehabilitation Services](#)

## Louisiana Rehabilitation Council (LRC)

The **Louisiana Rehabilitation Council** listens to the concerns of those with disability issues, reviews, analyzes and evaluates the state rehabilitation program, collaborates with other state agencies, organizations and consumer groups. The LRC consults with and advises LRS on the performance of its responsibilities under Title I of the Rehabilitation Act, particularly in the areas related to eligibility, extent, and scope of services provided.

[http://www.laworks.net/workforcedev/lrs/lrs\\_lrc.asp](http://www.laworks.net/workforcedev/lrs/lrs_lrc.asp)



Statewide Independent Living Council

The mission of Louisiana's Independent Living program(s) is to maximize the leadership, empowerment, independence, and productivity of individuals with disabilities, facilitating integration and full inclusion of individuals with disabilities into the mainstream of American society. Louisiana's Independent Living Partners promote a philosophy of Independent Living, including: consumer control, peer support, self help, self-determination, equal access, and individual and system advocacy.

# GACDA State Agency Partners



[www.ldh.la.gov/](http://www.ldh.la.gov/)

AGING & ADULT SERVICES    BEHAVIORAL HEALTH    DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES



<http://www.louisianabelieves.com/>



<http://www.laworks.net/>



## Our Vision

- Working to keep children safe
- Helping individuals and families become self-sufficient
- Providing safe refuges during disasters

<http://www.dcf.s.la.gov/>



DOTD serves the transportation and water resource needs of Louisiana residents, businesses and government partners. We are committed to teamwork, quality, integrity, professionalism, innovation and excellence in serving our customers.

<http://www.dotd.la.gov>



<http://www.vetaffairs.la.gov/>

LOUISIANA office of state  
**FIRE MARSHAL**  
PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES

protecting life and property from  
the hazards of **fire** or **explosion**



<http://sfm.dps.louisiana.gov/>