



• It's who we are. It's what we do. •

CAPITAL AREA QUARTERLY

WINTER NEWSLETTER FOR JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH



2023

2356 DRUSILLA LANE, BATON ROUGE, LA 70809

PHONE: (225) 216-7474 | FAX: (225) 216-7977

WWW.FHFGBR.ORG

HOURS: MONDAY TO FRIDAY 8 AM TO 4 PM



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Office Closures

New Year: January 2, 2023

Martin Luther King Jr Day: January 16, 2023

Mardi Gras: February 20 & 21, 2023

From the Desk of the Executive Director



A warm 2023 New Year's greeting to everyone! 2023 is a very special year for Families Helping Families of Greater Baton Rouge (FHFGBR) because we celebrate the milestone of our 25th year anniversary of serving families of Children and Adults with Developmental Disabilities.

FHFGBR was incorporated January 14, 1998 and received its Tax Exempt Status as a Non-profit Organization in March of 1998. FHFGBR's service to the families of those with Disabilities and special needs within Region 2 has been extremely beneficial to thousands of families over these past 25 years. Although I was not with the Center when it was founded, I am currently in the position to express great gratitude for all those—past and present—who are part of this great legacy to our community. FHFGBR has recently overcome many challenges and difficulties due to COVID-19 shut down and limitations. I am certainly thankful to God to be a current contributor towards fulfilling this great mission.

I start this year by thanking the founders, board of directors, funders, donors, contributors, staff, and volunteers over the past 25 years for their work, dedication, compassion, loyalty, and even their sacrificial support so that a multitude of individuals with special needs and their families could benefit from FHFGBR services. Everyone's contribution matters and make a difference. We shall continue with passion on this mission to provide the individualized services, information, resources and support to positively enhance the independence, productivity and integration of persons with disabilities into the community.

So I ask everyone to please continue with us on this mission. We expect to involve and recognize our supporters, families, partners, volunteers, and stakeholders in special ways as we celebrate throughout the year. Be on alert for our notices of events and activities.

Let us make our New Year resolution to be there for each other and help fellow human beings in need, even if we do not know them personally. I ask you, on behalf of FHFGBR Board of Directors and staff, to DONATE, VOLUNTEER, and/or CONTRIBUTE in any way you can to FHFGBR. Please join with us to make this next 25 years even greater!

Kindest Regards,

Dr. Marilyn Thornton

DONATE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Keith Keller

Vice—Chairperson

Kate Balfour McLean

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Todd Hymel

Treasurer

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Director

Joshua Roy

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Kim Henley

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Vacant

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Vacant

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Custodian

John Williams



2356 Drusilla Lane Baton Rouge, LA 70809

225-216-7474

2022-2023 BOARD MEETING CALENDAR DATES

Listed below are the scheduled meeting dates for 2022-2023. The Full Board meets every other month on odd months from 11:30 am – 1:00 pm. Meetings are the **3rd Wednesday** of each month.

2022-2023 FULL BOARD MEMBER MEETING DATES

11:30 am – 1:00 pm

MONTH	DATE
August 2022	17
October 2022	19
December 2022	8
February 2023	15
April 2023	19
June 2023	21

Meeting Location:

**Families Helping Families of
Greater Baton Rouge**

2356 Drusilla Lane Baton
Rouge, La 70809

Families Helping Families of Greater Baton Rouge is funded by many individuals, foundations, small businesses, local governmental entities, state government departments, and corporations.

Major Funders Include:



Louisiana Developmental
Disabilities Council





OUR MISSION

Our mission is to provide the individualized services, information, resources, and support to positively enhance the independence, productivity, and integration of persons with disabilities into the community.

PARISHES WE SERVE

- East Baton Rouge
- West Baton Rouge
- East Feliciana
- West Feliciana
- Ascension
- Pointe Coupee
- Iberville



INCORPORATED IN 1998, FHFGBR is a family driven resource center for individuals with disabilities and their families. Because we have or had a family member with a disability, we understand the importance of supporting others facing similar experiences. The three core services of FHFGBR are parent-to-parent support, education/training, and referrals to services both in-house and in the community. These services are accomplished through support calls, networking and workshops. Disability-related supports and referrals are available to anyone at any time. Understanding the importance of awareness and acceptance of individuals with disabilities in the community helps us achieve our ultimate goal of inclusion.



• It's who we are. It's what we do. •



**Of Children and Adults With
Developmental Disabilities**

Serving 7 Parishes

East & West Baton Rouge, East & West
Feliciana, Iberville, Ascension, and
Point Coupee

**Check out our
Website: fhfgbr.org**

and follow us on



FHFBatonRouge



familieshelpingfamilies_gbr



familieshelpingfamiliesofgreaterbatonrouge

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION WORKSHOPS



Teachers
+
Parents
+
Students
+
Community Partners
=
SUCCESS



Parent's Rights in Special Education

The Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) includes procedural safeguards. These special education safeguards are referred to as parental rights. This training will provide a broad overview of the parent rights in the special education process under IDEA.



Presenter:

CYNTHIA CHESTERFIELD
*Program Director of Inclusive Education
Families Helping Families of GBR*

Webinar Date:

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2023
10:00 am - 11:15 AM

This training is made possible through a contract with the Louisiana Department of Education and LaPTIC



Teachers
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Parents
+
Students
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Frequently Asked Questions About Special Education and High School Transition (FAQ 3.0)

Special Education Frequently Asked Questions 3.0 will cover some of the most commonly asked questions parents ask about the high schools years and transition. It will provide with resources to help with the transition process



Presenter:

CYNTHIA CHESTERFIELD
*Program Director of Inclusive Education
Families Helping Families of GBR*

Webinar Date:

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2023
10:00 am - 11:15 am

This training is made possible through a contract with the Louisiana Department of Education and LaPTIC

Section 504? Special Education? What's the Difference?



Use this link to register for this webinar:
<https://tinyurl.com/2p8vhnyj>

- Discover the similarities and differences between Section 504 and Special Education and how those differences may affect your child in school.

January 20th, 2023

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

CO-SPONSORED BY :



Teachers
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Parents
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Students
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Community Partners
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SUCCESS



Top Tips for Effective IEP Meetings

Presenter:

CYNTHIA CHESTERFIELD
*Program Director of Inclusive Education
Families Helping Families of GBR*

Webinar Date:

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2023
10:00 am - 11:15 AM

Top Tips for Effective IEP Meetings provides tried and true tips for before, during, and after the IEP meeting.

- The content includes:
- FAQ Acronyms & Bulletins
 - Organizing Yourself for the meeting
 - Top 5 IEP Tips for before meeting
 - Top 5 IEP Tips for during meeting
 - Top 5 IEP Tips for after meeting



This training is made possible through a contract with the Louisiana Department of Education and LaPTIC

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION WORKSHOPS



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SUCCESS

Navigating the IEP Part 1

This training covers the requirements of notification to the parent for an IEP meeting, IEP team members, IEP exceptionalities, General Student Information and Special Factors to be considered for a child with a disability.



Presenter:

CYNTHIA CHESTERFIELD
*Program Director of Inclusive Education
Families Helping Families of GBR*

Webinar Date:

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2023
10:00 am - 11:15 am

This training is made possible through a contract with the Louisiana Department of Education and LaPTIC

Free Webinar

IEPs and Behavior and Discipline - Oh My!

THE TITLE COVERS IT ALL!

Register:
<https://tinyurl.com/OhMyMarch9>

THURSDAY, 9TH MAR 2023
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM



Teachers
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Louisiana Bullying Prevention Law

The Louisiana Bullying Prevention Law provides history of bullying prevention guidance and legislation for students with disabilities

The content includes:

- FAQ Acronyms & Bulletins
- Background on the law
- Bullying Statistics
- Louisiana's Policy
- Bullying Prevention Tips



Presenter:

Cynthia Chesterfield
*Program Director of Inclusive Education
Families Helping Families of GBR*

Webinar Date:

Wednesday, March 15, 2023
10:00 am - 11:15 am

Please follow this link to register:
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/4665525134169915485>

This training is made possible through a contract with the Louisiana Department of Education and LaPTIC



Teachers
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Parents
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Students
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Community Partners
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SUCCESS

Parent's Rights in Special Education

The Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) includes procedural safeguards. These special education safeguards are referred to as parental rights. This training will provide a broad overview of the parent rights in the special education process under IDEA.



Presenter:

Cynthia Chesterfield
*Program Director of Inclusive Education
Families Helping Families of GBR*

Webinar Date:

Wednesday, March 29, 2023
10:00 am - 11:15 am

Please follow this link to register:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/7425438957865297495>

This training is made possible through a contract with the Louisiana Department of Education and LaPTIC

EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM WORKSHOPS

**FREE
IN-PERSON TRAINING**

Understanding & Managing Psych Medication

Monday, March 20, 2023

11:00 AM-12:30 PM



IN-PERSON trainings are provided with funding support from the Louisiana Department of Health, Office of Behavioral Health.



LOCATION:

**Charles R. Kelly Community Center
3525 Riley Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70805**

This **in-person training** will provide information on medication, including description, use, effects and side effects, and identify the reason for the medication.

Audience: Parents/caregivers, families and professionals

Presenter:

Linda Terrance, RN

Free Webinar

ABCs of ABA

Tuesday, March 28, 2023

11:00 AM - 12:30 PM



Webinars are provided with funding support from the Louisiana Department of Health, Office of Behavioral Health.



Register Here:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7956741667466984026>

This webinar explores the four functions of behavior and strategies to address behavior. It will also provide strategies that can be used to address challenging behavior based on its (hypothesized) function.

Audience: parents/caregivers, families and professionals

Presenters:

Alicia Tran, M.S., BCBA, LBA & M.A,
Marion Davis, M.A., BCBA, & LBA



EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM WORKSHOPS

CALMING WORKSHOP: HOW TO CALM YOUR CHILD NATURALLY

This presentation provides attendees with strategies and hands-on techniques to help with keeping children calm, preventing tantrums, and reducing stress in both you and your child.

Friday, January 27, 2023
11:30 AM to 1:00 PM

Presenter's Organization:
Pediatric Therapy Solutions




IN PERSON REGISTRATION

Location: 37278 Market Place Drive, Prairieville, LA 70769
Presenter's Name: Danielle Mixon
Email: danielle.mixon@ptsprairieville.com
Contact: 225-744-1717
To Register: Call, Email, or Visit the Clinic




Funding for webinars provided from SAMHSA through a contract with the Louisiana Department of Health, Office of Behavioral Health.



Free Webinar

Advocacy for Mental Health

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10
10 to 11:30 A.M.

 **LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**



REGISTER HERE:

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/7591122165482268503>

This webinar offers information and tips on how everyone can be an advocate for mental health. The webinar includes strategies on how to navigate the legislature and other mental health support systems.

*Audience: Parents/caregivers,
families and professionals*

Presenter:
Anthony Germade,
Karman Line Learning

Webinar provided with funding support from the Louisiana Department of Health, Office of Behavioral Health

Free Webinar

Stress Management

Monday, March 6, 2023
11:00 AM-12:30 PM



Webinars are provided with funding support from the Louisiana Department of Health, Office of Behavioral Health



Register Here:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8740604398093549143>

This webinar provides information on stress, how it is manifested, and what triggers stress. Participants will also learn about anxiety and coping strategies to decrease stress.

*Audience: Parents/caregivers,
families and professionals*

Presenter:
Dr. Maxine Flint, Medical Psychologist





FREE CALL-IN SUPPORT NETWORK *Parents / Caregivers* *Networking Meetings*

Are you a parent/caregiver with behavioral health concerns for your child or youth? These networking meetings will provide parents/caregivers across the state an opportunity to gather and share information and resources related to behavioral health services, and to increase their support networks. In addition to seeking solutions for concerns, participants will be able to share any successful experiences or barriers they may be experiencing.

Tuesday
January 10th
10:00 AM

Tuesday
February 7th
10:00 AM

Tuesday
March 7th
10:00 AM

Tuesday
April 11th
10:00 AM

Tuesday
May 9th
10:00 AM

Tuesday
June 13th
10:00 AM

CONFERENCE CALL INFO: Phone Number: (605) 313-4819 / Access Number: 546755#

PARTICIPATING FHF CENTERS:

- Families Helping Families of New Orleans: fhfnola.org
- Families Helping Families of Greater Baton Rouge: fhfgbr.org
- Bayou Land Families Helping Families: blfhf.org
- Families Helping Families of Acadiana: fhfacadiana.org
- Families Helping Families at the Crossroads of LA: familieshelpingfamilies.net
- Families Helping Families of Southwest Louisiana: fhfswla.org
- Families Helping Families of Region VII: fhfregion7.com
- Families Helping Families of Northeast Louisiana: fhfnela.org
- Northshore Families Helping Families: fhfnorthshore.org

Contact Us:

 (225) 216-7474

 FHFGBR.ORG

 INFO@FHFGBR.ORG



Networking Meetings are provided with funding support from the Louisiana Department of Health, Office of Behavioral Health.

FHF WEBINARS

WAIVERS MADE SIMPLE

Would you like to learn more about the Louisiana OCDD Screening for Urgency of Need (SUN) and Tiered Waiver Process? Join us!

- The type of service(s) someone with a developmental disability may be able to access.
- How other service systems can be accessed when someone with a developmental disability also needs services that are outside of the OCDD service system.
- Why OCDD shifted to a Tiered Waiver.
- The process to get a waiver.



Presented by
Amy E. Greer, Ph.D.
OCDD Deputy Assistant Secretary - Services

Date: March 28, 2023

Time: 12:00 PM

Link to Register

<https://tinyurl.com/WMS-Mar28>

CONTACT YOUR REGIONAL FAMILIES HELPING FAMILIES CENTER FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

FHF NOLA

504-943-0343 or 1-877-243-7352
www.fhfnola.org

FHF Greater Baton Rouge

225-216-7474 or 1-866-216-7474
www.fhfgbr.org

Bayouland FHF

985-447-6461 or 1-800-331-5570
www.blfhf.org

FHF of Acadiana

337-984-3458 or 1-855-984-3458
www.fhfacadiana.org

FHF of SW Louisiana

337-436-2570 or 1-800-894-6558
www.fhfsvla.org

FHF at the Crossroads of LA

318-641-7373 or 1-800-259-7200
www.fhfxroads.org

FHF of Region 7

318-226-4541 or 1-877-226-4541
www.fhfregion7.com

FHF NE Louisiana

318-361-0487 or 1-888-300-1320
www.fhfnela.org

Northshore FHF

985-875-0511 or 1-800-383-8700
www.fhfnorthshore.org

FHF of Greater New Orleans

504-888-9111 or 1-800-766-7736
www.fhfognno.org



Get Started with



To start: Call the regional system point of entry (SPOE) in your area: a 45-day timeline begins



- Developmental screening
- Identify your team
- Determine your family strengths and priorities for your child

We value your time and input



- If eligible, develop a service plan (IFSP) and determine supports to meet needs
- If not eligible, we provide other resources

Together we create a picture of the next steps

A phone call starts the wheels turning



Your family is the "star" of this process

- We collect information about your child and family
- We discuss your concerns and priorities
- We review your options in EarlySteps



Determine Eligibility

- Conduct evaluation
- Review all information collected
- Your and your team determine eligibility



Burnout

It is safe to say that most individuals strive to be high achievers and fall prey to perfectionism. They often don't leave enough time for rest and recuperation which causes **burnout**. **Burnout** is, "a state of chronic stress that leads to physical and emotional exhaustion, cynicism, detachment, and feelings of ineffectiveness and lack of

Signs of Burnout

- Fatigue and sleep issues
- Repeated periods of forgetfulness and intense trouble concentrating
- Appetite and weight change issues
- Feeling irritable and easily angered
- Depression and anxiety

Possible Causes of Burnout

- Extreme amounts of things to do
- Lack of respect for what you do
- Not feeling supported
- Challenging interactions with clients
- Adapting to the changing environment and circumstances
- No quick fixes

Questions To Assess If You're Burnt-out

1. Am I preoccupied with tasks instead of enjoyment?
2. Am I invigorated after working at home, school or work?
3. Is it difficult for me to separate my personal life from what I do everyday?
4. Do I feel trapped in my current circumstances?
5. Am I pleased with how I'm able to keep up with an ever-changing landscape?
6. Does my work, home, or school environment make me feel satisfied or accomplished?
7. Do I feel overwhelmed because my work load seems endless?
8. Do I believe I am a "success" at what I do?

Depending on your answers to these questions, you may be experiencing **burnout**. Please note, this is not an exhaustive list of questions and there may be more you need to ask yourself to assess your feelings.

Avoiding Burnout



Learn to Relax



Celebrate Your Accomplishments



Accept There are Things You Can't Change



Set Clear Work Boundaries



Take Time Off/ Call in Sick



Make Time for Fun and Relationships

Compassion Fatigue

Compassion fatigue is emotional and physical exhaustion causing a decreased ability to empathize or feel compassion for others. There are two components to **compassion fatigue**: **burnout** and **secondary traumatic stress**.

When You Experience **Burnout**, You Feel:



When You Experience **Secondary Traumatic Stress**, You Feel:

Wary of Every Situation, Expecting a Traumatic Outcome

Other People's Trauma is Yours

Easily Startled or On Guard All the Time

Fear in Situations That aren't Fearful

Excessive Worry that Something Bad Will Happen to You, Loved Ones, or Colleagues

Physical Changes Such as Racing Heart, Shortness of Breath, & Tension Headaches

Haunted by the Troubles You See & Hear

How to Avoid **Compassion Fatigue**:

Self Care

- Talk to Those You Trust
- Listen to Music
- Spoil Yourself
- Use Positive Affirmations
- Practice Physical Activity
- Take a Break from Your Computer

Unplug and Unwind

- Turn Off the Media
- Turn Off Your Phone
- Don't Check Social Media
- Make Time for You

Activities

- Read a Book
- Learn Something New
- Organize Something in Your Home
- Practice Deep Breathing



COMMUNITY EVENTS

EBR EARLY CHILDHOOD *Extravaganza*

Application Period:

JANUARY 28 - FEBRUARY 28

ENROLLMENT EVENTS:

JANUARY 28

10 AM - 12 PM

JEFFERSON TERRACE ACADEMY
5601 Upton Dr. Baton Rouge, LA 70809

FEBRUARY 25

10 AM - 12 PM

PROGRESS ELEMENTARY
855 Progress Rd. Baton Rouge, LA 70807

EXTRAVAGANZA ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

Early Childhood Program Information
Online application support
Giveaways and much more!

REQUIRED APPLICATION DOCUMENTS:

- Child's Birth Certificate (Age 4 by September 30th)
- Parent/Guardian Government Issued Photo I.D.
- Up-to-date Shot Record
- Proof of Residence (2 different documents required) (utility, water, gas, cable, lease, cell or landline homeowner's insurance, mortgage, and rental insurance bills acceptable)
- Proof of Income (2 most recent check stubs/SNAP benefits)



Scan the QR code to apply

SPANISH INTERPRETERS AVAILABLE

For more information, please visit
ebrearychildhood.com or call 225-960-1671

Free Event Sponsored by
Greater Baton Rouge Disabilities Coalition

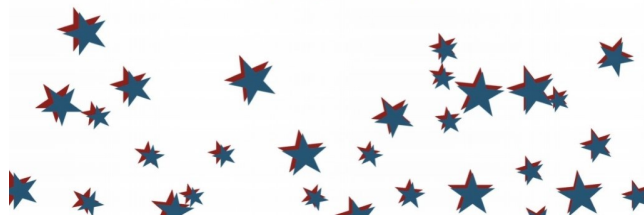
C W Austin Virtual Learning Disabilities Conference

Resource for parents and professionals
working to help students with learning disabilities.
Topics include: ADHD, Dyslexia, Autism, Mental
Health Issues resulting from learning disabilities,
and more.

Available to registered attendees.
Saturday, February 11 - Saturday, February 25, 2023
Register: www.idhelp.org

CEU Fee of \$25 (paid as an add-on at registration) for LPC, SLP, and LCSW.
Free for Educators, Advocates, Parents, and Foster Parents

Supported by ExxonMobil
Welcome by Congressman Troy Carter



VITA United Way
A UNITED WAY COLLABORATIVE

SUPER TAX DAY

FREE Income Tax Preparation
by Certified Tax Professionals

SATURDAY
FEB 25, 2023
8 A.M. - 3 P.M.
EBR MAIN LIBRARY

7711 Goodwood Blvd.
Baton Rouge, La. 70806

Resource Fair, Workshops, &
Incentives for Participants!



BUDDY WALK 2023

03/25

Register now!

DSAG
BATON
ROUGE

2023
SPRING

sunshine SOCIAL



Dance the night away with BREC Adaptive and Families Helping Families as we host our monthly Sunshine Socials. Be creative and dress to match each month's theme. Enjoy dinner, dancing, and door prizes.

jan. 20		PAJAMA-RAMA
feb. 17		CAJUN CARNIVAL
march 17		GREEN-OUT PARTY
april 21		DANCING IN THE RAIN
may 19		ROLLING OUT THE RED CARPET

Disc jockey DINNER PRIZES *SOCIALIZATION and FUN!*

*To register and for
more information:*



BREC.ORG/ADAPTIVEREGISTRATION
Registration limit of 100 individuals
(participants/family members/PCAs/etc.)



CASEY.CANTRELLE@BREC.ORG

**MILTON J. WOMACK
PARK BALLROOM**

6-9 p.m.

Ages: 16+

[with intellectual disabilities +
their families]

\$5/person



APRIL HAMPTON

LaCAN Region 2 Leader

Serving Ascension, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberville, Point Coupee, West Baton Rouge, and West Feliciana Parishes

Phone: (337) 522-6363 or (866) 216-7474

Email: ahampton@lacanadvocates.org

LOUISIANA COUNCIL'S ADVOCACY NETWORK

WWW.LACANADVOCATES.ORG

- Links lawmakers, individuals with disabilities and family members to make positive change in systems serving people with disabilities.
- Advocate for policies and systems that support inclusion everywhere people work, live, play, learn and grow!
- Support systems that help children and adults with disabilities to live in their own homes and be fully-included and participating members of their communities.
- LaCAN Leaders provide connection with a regional team of advocates, provide information on proposed policy changes and how those changes may affect you and others, provide training in skills to effectively advocate for systems change, and support you in linking with your policymakers!
- Complete our online membership form at www.lacanadvocates.org

MEMBERSHIP IS FREE! NO DUES. NO FEES.



Council's 2023 Legislative Agenda

January 27, 2023

The Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council adopted its 2023 Legislative Advocacy Agenda with input from both its grassroots advocacy network LaCAN (Louisiana Council's Advocacy Network) and Families Helping Families (FHF) Centers. Thank you to all the LaCAN members, LaCAN Leaders, FHF Centers and those in the general public who shared their agenda recommendations.

2023 Legislative Agenda

1. The Council will advocate for additional funding for the nine FHF Regional Resource Centers it contracts with. During the last two legislative sessions, an additional \$500,000 was added to the Council's budget specifically for FHF Centers. The Council's request to include this additional funding in its Fiscal Year 2024 budget was denied leaving these Center's in an unfortunate situation.
2. The Council will also partner with the Arc of Louisiana to advocate for the funding needed to provide all adults on Medicaid waivers for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) with incontinence supplies. Currently, incontinence supplies is covered for children and youth, but this coverage stops at age 21.
3. The Council will continue its efforts to increase and expand postsecondary inclusive education opportunities in Louisiana for individuals with I/DD. During the last legislative session, the Inclusive Postsecondary Inclusive Education Fund was established. This year, the Council is advocating for an additional \$3 million be added to this fund.
4. Finally, the Council will advocate to amend Louisiana's Open Meetings Law to allow virtual participation of public body members and the general public when no state of emergency or disaster exists, and require official meeting notices include information regarding all available options for the public to participate.

Get Involved

The 2023 Legislative Session begins April 10th and will conclude on June 8th. Individuals with disabilities, family members, and advocates are encouraged to take part in the Council's advocacy efforts by participating in upcoming *virtual* roundtables and legislative visits.

- Virtual roundtables will be held by each region of the state. These virtual events are an opportunity to gain more information about the 2023 Legislative Advocacy Agenda and connect with legislators. See the 2023 Legislative Roundtable schedule and register for yours today!
- Interested in advocating for these agenda items with your legislator and regional delegation? Reach out to your LaCAN Leader to participate in legislative visits.

For questions about virtual roundtables, legislative visits, or participating in other advocacy events, contact your LaCAN Leader or FHF Center.

Contact Us

LaDDC News is the electronic newsletter for the LA Developmental Disabilities Council. If there are any questions about the information above, contact the Council.

phone: 1-800-450-8108

email: info@laddc.org

website: www.laddc.org

facebook: www.facebook.com/LaDDCouncil

twitter: www.twitter.com/LaDDCouncil

**Yellow Shirt
DAYS ARE BACK!**



**PLEASE RESPOND
ASAP !!!!!!!!!**

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO
ATTEND WITH YOUR SHIRT
SIZE**

**LOUISIANA STATE CAPITOL-ROOM F
TASK FORCE ON REMOTE OPERATIONS OF PUBLIC
ENTITIES**

MARCH 16, 2023 @9:30 AM



**FOR MORE INFORMATION
PLEASE CONTACT ME :**

**337-522-6363
ahampton@lacanadvocates.org**



YOU'RE INVITED

TO ATTEND REGION 2 ROUNDTABLE

Friday, March 17, 2023

11:00Am-1:00Pm

Can't wait to see you there!!



<https://tinyurl.com/R2Roundtable>

Please RSVP by 03/14/2023

For more info contact April Hampton @ 337-522-6363
ahampton@lacanadvocates.org



The Louisiana Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) is an initiative of the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council. YLF is an exciting three-day residential leadership program for youths with disabilities focused on empowering youths with disabilities while promoting an environment of disability history, culture and pride. This program gives young delegates the skills needed to become future leaders!

We are inviting all future community leaders who are in **10th, 11th or 12th grade and have a disability** to apply to participate in the Louisiana Youth Leadership Forum (YLF)!

Lodging, meals and trainings will be provided at **NO COST**. The program will be held at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette's campus.

Louisiana Youth Leadership Forum 2023 Dates: July 14th – 16th, 2023

Applicants must submit no later than **March 31st** to be considered for this year's program.

For any questions (or to request a paper copy of the application), please contact: Idejean@fhfacadiana.org or 337-205-2504.

Employment Of People With Disabilities Hits Record High

by Shaun Heasley

March 3, 2023

The employment rate for Americans with disabilities has reached an all-time high, federal officials say.

Among people with disabilities nationally, 21.3% had a job in 2022. That's up from 19.1% the previous year and represents the highest rate on record since the government began tracking such data in 2008.

The snapshot of disability employment last year comes in a new report issued by the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. The agency collects data on people with disabilities in the job market as part of its Current Population Survey, which polls 60,000 households each month about employment and unemployment.

Workers with disabilities were more frequently self-employed and about twice as likely to work part time as compared to others, according to the Labor Department data.

Nearly 80% of those with disabilities were considered to be "not in the labor force" meaning that they were not employed or seeking work. The report indicates that the "vast majority" of these people — all but 3% — did not want to have a job.

Even with the increase in disability employment, the Labor Department found that the unemployment rate for individuals with disabilities remained about twice as high as for typically-developing individuals. And, people with disabilities across all age groups were "much less likely to be employed."

The Month of March is



Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month 2023

Beyond the Conversation

#DDAM2023

March has been recognized as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month since 1987 when President Ronald Reagan issued a public proclamation urging Americans to provide individuals with developmental disabilities “the encouragement and opportunities they need to lead productive lives and to achieve their full potential.”



World Down Syndrome Day (WDSD) is a global awareness day which has been officially observed by the United Nations since 2012.

On March 21 each year, the Down syndrome community creates a single global voice advocating for the rights, inclusion and well being of people with Down syndrome.

I have the right...



...to be treated fairly.



...to dignity, freedom to
make my own choices,
and independence.



...to full participation
and inclusion in
society.



...to equal opportunities.



...to access information and
communication.



...to access the places
I want to go and
transport to get there.



...to equality whether I
am a man or a woman.



...to be respected for my abilities
and to be proud of who I am.

Louisiana Selected for SNAP Mobile Payment Pilot

DCFS Seeks Retail Partners to Help Implement Contactless EBT Option

March 20, 2023

BATON ROUGE, LA - The USDA Food and Nutrition Service has selected Louisiana as one of five states to test mobile payment technology for EBT cardholders in the next few years, and the Department of Children and Family Services is now seeking retail partners to help implement the new option for recipients of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits.

The SNAP Mobile Payment Pilot will allow recipients of SNAP and other EBT benefits to use mobile payment methods - like tapping or scanning their personal mobile device - as an alternative to their physical EBT card. The new option also will allow SNAP and Disaster SNAP (D-SNAP) recipients to have immediate access to their benefits when approved and issued, eliminating any delay resulting from waiting for a mailed card.

DCFS will work with the Louisiana Retailers Association to identify potential retail partners for the project. While most of the design and system work will be done by the State and EBT vendor Inmar, it is important that retailers participate throughout the entire process. Joining the pilot early will allow retailers to acquire insight into the pilot process and timeline updates. Also, retail system changes could potentially be minimized for retailers who participate from design to implementation.

"We are thrilled to be chosen to participate in the SNAP Mobile Payment Pilot," said DCFS Secretary Terri Ricks. "Over the past few years, we've focused on ways of using technology to make SNAP applications and purchases easier for the families we serve, including through text messaging reminders, a mobile app for managing benefits, online SNAP purchasing and even a virtual D-SNAP process following disasters. The goal of the Mobile Payment Pilot is to build on these efforts by making purchases more convenient and reducing the time involved in receiving access to benefits."

Read the full announcement from USDA FNS at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/news-item/fns-006.23>.



Medical Transportation



Non-Emergency Medical Transportation

HOW TO ACCESS:

All Medicaid beneficiaries, who are eligible for transportation services and DO NOT receive transportation services through a managed care plan, should contact Verida to schedule a ride.

Beneficiaries may reach the Fee-For-Service broker, Verida, at 1(855)325-7626.

Medicaid beneficiaries who DO receive transportation services from a managed care plan should contact the call centers as follows:

Health Plan	Phone Number	Fax Number	Email Address
Aetna Better Health of Louisiana	877-917-4150	337-366-6760	Facility@Meditrans.com
AmeriHealth Caritas of Louisiana	225-726-2800	225-448-2017	LACompliance@southeastrans.com
Healthy Blue	844-349-4324	337-366-6760	Facility@Meditrans.com
Humana Healthy Horizons	844-613-1638	337-366-6760	Facility@Meditrans.com
Louisiana Healthcare Connections	866-595-8133	480-757-6082	ClaimsLA@Veyo.com
United Healthcare Community Plan	866-886-4081	877-457-3349	TXLAEExceptions@modivcare.com

ELIGIBILITY:

Medicaid covered transportation is available to Medicaid beneficiaries when:

- The beneficiary is enrolled in a Medicaid benefit program that explicitly includes transportation services; and
- The beneficiary or their representative has stated that they have no other means of transportation.

COVERED SERVICES:

Transportation to and/or from Medicaid covered services, including carved-out services, or value added benefits (VAB) when no other means of transportation is available.

Beginning January 1, 2023, Medicaid will only reimburse for a beneficiary's transportation services to a Fee-For-Service (FFS) provider or a managed care provider if that provider has enrolled through the Medicaid Provider Enrollment.

LDH granted all NEMT providers an extension for enrollment in the Medicaid Provider Portal. LDH requires all NEMT providers to enroll in the Medicaid Provider Portal no later than June 30, 2023.

Attendants

An attendant shall be required when the beneficiary is under the age of 17.

The attendant must:

- Be a parent, legal guardian, or responsible person designated by the parent/legal guardian; and
- Be able to authorize medical treatment and care for the beneficiary.

Attendants may not:

- Be under the age of 17; or
- Be a Medicaid provider or employee of a Medicaid provider that is providing services to the beneficiary being transported, except for employees of a mental health facility in the event an beneficiary has been identified as being a danger to themselves or others or at risk for elopement.
- Be a transportation provider or an employee of a transportation provider.

If a child is to be transported, either as the beneficiary or an additional passenger, the parent or guardian of the child is responsible for providing an appropriate child passenger restraint system as outlined by La. R.S. 32:295.

Meals and Lodging

Eligible expenses include the following when necessary to ensure the delivery of medically necessary services:

- Transportation for the beneficiary and one attendant; and
 - Meals, lodging, and other related travel expenses for the beneficiary and one attendant when long distance travel is required. Long distance is defined as when the total travel time, including the duration of the appointment plus the travel to and from the appointment, exceeds 12 hours
- Medicaid covers meals and lodging for trips that are not otherwise covered in the inpatient per diem, primary insurance, or other payer source.

COMMENTS:

Medicaid beneficiaries should contact transportation broker call centers at least 48 hours prior to the requested transportation services.

With the exception of urgent transportation requests and discharges from inpatient facilities, when requesting transportation services, the beneficiary's and healthcare providers should schedule all services a minimum of 48 hours prior to the requested appointment. The 48-hour minimum does not include non-business days. However, the MCO and/or transportation broker must make a reasonable attempt to schedule the trip with less than 48 hours' notice.

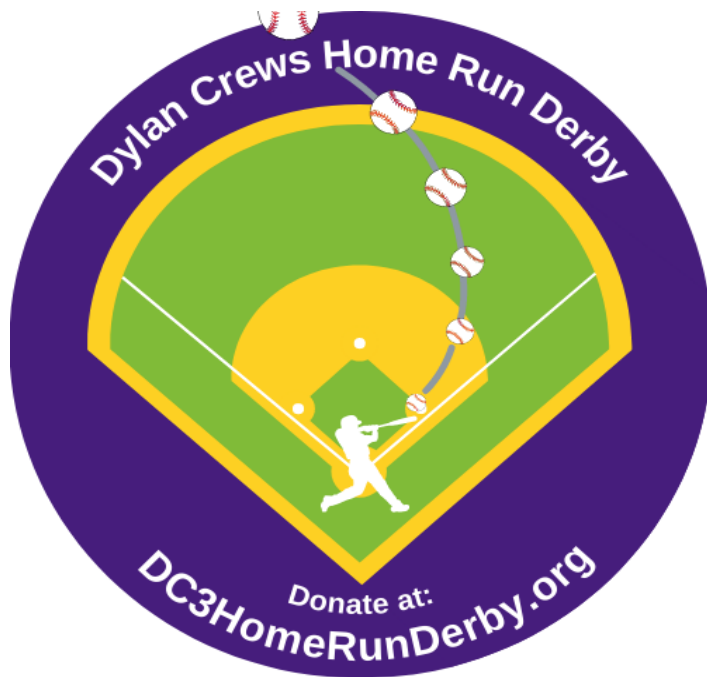
MCOs shall make every effort to schedule urgent transportation requests and may not deny a request based solely on the appointment being scheduled less than 48 hours in advance.

Urgent transportation refers to a request for transportation made by a healthcare provider for a medical service, which does not warrant emergency transport but cannot be postponed.

Urgent transportation shall include chemotherapy, radiation, dialysis, OTP, or other necessary medical care that cannot be rescheduled to a later time.

All non-emergency out-of-state transportation must be prior approved by the MCO or transportation broker. The MCO may approve transportation to out-of-state medical care only if the beneficiary has been granted approval to receive medical treatment out of state when it is the nearest option available. Coordination of approvals may take longer than 48 hours.

#3 Dylan Crews Challenges You to Donate to Families Helping Families



Dylan Crews, Outfielder for LSU Baseball, joined forces with the Network of Families Helping Families Centers to Support Kids with Disabilities and Special Health Care Needs. For every home run he hits during the 2023 season, he will personally donate \$100 to Families Helping Families. For every home run his teammates hit during the 2023 season, his family will personally donate \$100 to Families Helping Families.

Number 3 led the LSU Tigers with 22 of the 114 Home runs in the 2022 season and hopes to continue his hitting streak into the 2023 season. This junior from Longwood, Florida, has stolen the hearts of many families of children with disabilities or special health care needs by inviting and giving them tickets to LSU baseball games. For some families, it's the first time they have ever attended a game in Alex Box Stadium.

Dylan and his family hope **YOU** will join in on the Home Run Derby fun by donating any amount every time Dylan or one of the LSU Tigers hits a home run.

You can choose to Pledge and Pay Later or Donate Now.

For more information or to donate: <https://fhfogn.org/baseball-donation>



• It's who we are. It's what we do. •

Does Your Child Have
Special Health Care Needs?

Do you care for
someone with a disability?

Need help with the
school system?

We're here to help!

- Early Intervention
- Education Issues
- Health Concerns
- Home & Community-Based Supports and Services
- Resources
- And Much More!

*Talk with someone
who gets it...*

Families Helping Families of
Greater Baton Rouge
2356 Drusilla Lane, Baton
Rouge, LA 70809

Toll Free: 1-866-216-7474

Fax: 225-216-7977

info@fhfgbr.org

www.fhfgbr.org

225-216-7474

Louisiana Families Helping Families Network

Region	FHF Center	Mailing Address	Phone Numbers	Executive Director
1	Families Helping Families of Southeast Louisiana	2401 Westbend Pkwy, #3090 New Orleans, LA 70114	504-943-0343 877-243-7352	Aisha Johnson info@fhfsela.org
2	Families Helping Families of Greater Baton Rouge	2356 Drusilla Lane Baton Rouge, LA 70809	225-216-7474 866-216-7474	Dr. Marilyn Thornton info@fhfgbr.org
3	Bayouland Families Helping Families	286 Highway 3185 Thibodaux, LA 70301	985-447-4461 800-331-5570	Dr. Charles Michel bayoulandfhf@gmail.com
4	Families Helping Families of Acadiana	100 Benman Road Lafayette, LA 70506	337-984-3458 855-984-3458	Nicole Flores info@fhfacadiana.org
5	Families Helping Families of Southwest Louisiana	324 West Hale Street Lake Charles, LA 70601	337-436-2570 800-894-6558	Susan Riehn info@fhfswla.org
6	Families Helping Families at the Crossroads	2840 Military Hwy, Suite A Pineville, LA 71360	318-641-7373 800-259-7200	Jim Sprinkle fhfxroads@aol.com
7	Families Helping Families of Region VII	215 Bobbie Street, Suite 100 Bossier City, Louisiana 71112	318-226-4541 877-226-4541	Chanel Jackson info@fhfregion7.com
8	Families Helping Families of Northeast Louisiana	5200 Northeast Road Monroe, Louisiana 71203	318-361-0487 888-300-1320	Stacy Guidry-Little info@fhfnela.org
9	Northshore Families Helping Families	108 Highland Park Plaza, Suite 108 Covington, Louisiana 70433	985-875-0511 800-383-8700	Karen Artus kartus@fhfnorthshore.org
10	Families Helping Families of Greater New Orleans	700 Hickory Avenue Harahan, Louisiana 70123	504-888-9111 800-766-7736	Mary Jacob info@fhfognor.org