



## Lafayette City-Parish President's Awareness Committee for Citizens with Disabilities

Monday, August 11, 2008  
Meeting Minutes

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<b>Board Members Present:</b>	Harold Arceneaux; Jim Richard; Peggy Stelly; Richard Phelps, Deborah Aymond
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>	Joey Cooper; Brandon Burris; Shirley Delahoussaye; Lynn Blanchard, Chyrone Blanchard; Mark Guillory; Amanda Celestine; Dan Arabie; Yenter Tu;
<b>Staff Present:</b>	Dana McPherson; Ben Berthelot; Sandra Moore; Lou Anna Angelle

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1. Jim Richard called the meeting to order.
2. The July meeting minutes were approved
3. Jim Richard introduced the guests: Brandon Burris, Executive Director, Governor's Office of Disability Affairs and Joey Cooper, Assistant Director of Disability Affairs.

The mission of the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs is to facilitate access to the opportunities needed for persons with disabilities (in the State of Louisiana) to live as fully engaged participants in society.

Below you will find the staff information:

Name	Role	Email	Telephone	Telephone 2
H. Brandon Burris	Executive Director	<a href="mailto:brandon.burris@la.gov">brandon.burris@la.gov</a>	225-219-7550	1-877-668-2722
Jennifer King	Administrative Assistant/Disability Coordinator	<a href="mailto:Jennifer.estes@la.gov">Jennifer.estes@la.gov</a>	225-219-7550	Video Relay: 1-888-890-6996
Joey Cooper	Assistant Director	<a href="mailto:Cooperj@gov.state.la.us">Cooperj@gov.state.la.us</a>	225-219-9479	
Leaa Teichman	Assistant to the SILC Program/Program Coordinator	<a href="mailto:Teichmanl@GOV.STATE.LA.US">Teichmanl@GOV.STATE.LA.US</a>	225-219-7553	
Nadine Dunbar	Guardianship Services	<a href="mailto:Nadine.dunbar@la.gov">Nadine.dunbar@la.gov</a>	225-219-9866	1-877-668-2722
Robert J. Wilson	SILC Program Coordinator	<a href="mailto:robert.wilson@la.gov">robert.wilson@la.gov</a>	225-219-7553	1-800-579-5611

Brandon Burris provided the committee with information regarding the different advisory boards:

Governor's Advisory Council on Disability Affairs (GACDA)

This Council monitors state compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and advises the governor on the needs of individuals with disabilities and other relative concerns.

Statewide Independent Living Council

This Council supports the efforts of our citizens with disabilities to live independently in the communities of their choice.

Brandon Burris also mentioned the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOSHEP) and the Community Action and Leadership Award.

The committee requested that someone from the Lafayette Parish Communications District attend the next meeting to discuss the Emergency Preparedness Program in Lafayette Parish.

#### 4. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Ben indicated that an email from Harold Arceneaux was received regarding an Easter Seals project.

#### 5. **OLD BUSINESS:**

- Update on the Voucher System

Attached to the agenda was the copy of the Toolkit for Operating a Rural Transportation Voucher Program. Dana McPherson informed the committee that she has contacted the Cab Companies and is currently working with them for the operation cost.

- Flyer for Para-transit passengers

Dana McPherson has developed a flyer and will send the committee members a copy to make sure the information they want added is on the flyer. Below you will find a copy of the information found on the flyer presented by Dana:

**Tips on How to Have  
a Pleasant Paratransit Experience**

- When scheduling, have the address of your destination
- When boarding, have exact fare
- When paratransit services are no longer needed, **remember to CANCEL YOUR REQUEST**
- Keep Service Animals under control
- Request lap/shoulder belts, if desired

**ENJOY THE RIDE!**

- Formation of a Publicity Committee

Peggy Stelly motioned that a Publicity Committee be formed and it was seconded by Richard Phelps.

Peggy Stelly, Jim Richard and Harold Arceneaux will work on this committee.

**6. NEW BUSINESS:**

- Independent Living

Harold Arceneaux provided his concerns regarding Independent Living.

- Disability Job Fair

Deborah Aymond provided the committee with a flyer regarding the upcoming Job Fair on October 28, 2008 at the Heymann Performing Arts Center.

- Awards for National Disability Employment Awareness Month

Deborah Aymond provided the committee with a copy of the 2007 Governor's Disability Community and Leadership Awards. The committee will be working on providing nominations for the award to the Governor.

7. The meeting was adjourned at 12:32 p.m.

8. The next meeting of the President's Awareness Committee for Citizens with Disabilities is scheduled for **Monday, September 8, 2008** from **11:30-12:30** in the **Council Briefing Room** on the first floor of Lafayette City Hall.

Lou

8/12/08