



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

Monday, January 14, 2012

Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present:	Donna Andrus, Deborah Aymond, Kenneth Carmouche, Lynette Fontenot, Mark Guillory, Donielle Watkins
Guests in Attendance:	Dr. Tina Stefanski, Carol Broussard, Barbara Hebert, Zelie Guidry, Michelle Dewey, W M "Buddy" Bullen
Staff in Attendance:	Carlee Alm-LaBar, Lou Anna Angelle

1. Deborah Aymond called the meeting to order.

2. Donielle Watkins introduced the guest speakers, Dr. Tina Stefanski, Health Unit Director, Carol Broussard and Barbara Hebert – Health Unit Nurses.

Dr. Stefanski provided the committee with information about the services provided by the Health Unit during emergency and non-emergency situations:

- She informed the committee that the Department of Health & Hospitals (DHH) is the lead agency for special needs shelters during hurricanes.
- The shelters are medically managed by DHH for citizens with several conditions including physically or mentally disabled persons and persons that require assistance and/or special equipment or medication in order to sustain life.
- DHH manages transportation for special needs citizens during hurricanes. The nearest shelter is in Alexandria. Lafayette Parish does not have a special needs shelter due to its proximity to the coast.
- Individuals needing oxygen should make accommodations by having extra portable tanks, a converter for their car, and/or a generator. Home Health Agencies and Durable Medical Equipment (DME) companies will usually work with patients prior to a hurricane, but in cases where an emergency occurs, a family should have a plan for those situations. There was a brief discussion about the City/Parish Government providing a location that has a generator to accommodate citizens that may require immediate assistance.
- The Health Unit handles several services to improve health, including screenings, health assessments, and laboratory testing.

Carlee Alm-LaBar indicated that she was working with LUS to provide ideas on how a section of Hurricane Handbook could address the concerns of special needs of the citizens of Lafayette Parish.

3. Minutes

- The November minutes were reviewed and accepted. Deborah Aymond made the motion and Donna Andrus seconded, all in favor.

4. Correspondence

- **Email from Donielle Watkins** regarding a satellite lab for assistive technology in the Lafayette area. Emails have been sent to UL inquiring on their interest in this endeavor.
- Deaf Action Center Newsletter
- Special Olympics Fourth Annual Shrimp Boil to be held on March 17, 2013 at Girard Park.

5. Old Business/New Business

- The City-Parish Council appointed Chad Romero to the Lafayette City-Parish President's Awareness Committee for Citizens with Disabilities. Lou Anna Angelle will contact him and provide him with information regarding the committee.
 - The committee briefly discussed the LATAN Annual Awards that was held on December 10, 2012. The committee members that attended the event indicated that it was a great event.
 - The State Gold Awards Ceremony was held on December 5, 2012 and several of the committee members attended the ceremony.
- 8.** The next meeting of the President's Awareness Committee for Citizens with Disabilities is scheduled for Monday February 4, 2013 at 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. in the Council Briefing Room on the first floor of City Hall.