

LOUISIANA CITIZENS FOR ACTION NOW

Advocating for Louisiana Citizens with Developmental Disabilities

Contact Members of the Commission on Streamlining Government August 19, 2009

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This Action Alert is being re-sent because some have reported the email address for Treasury Secretary, John Kennedy, provided in the earlier Action Alert is not correct. The CORRECT EMAIL ADDRESS for Secretary Kennedy is provided below.

If there are any questions about the information in this email contact LaCAN's Coordinator by replying to this email, or calling the toll free number listed below.

URGENT ACTION ALERT

1. **Contact the members of the Streamlining Commission to ask them to support two recommendations that were submitted to the commission by DHH. These recommendations are to consolidate the developmental centers and to allocate resources based on assessed needs. See Sample Message below for exact wording of DHH recommendations. You should personalize the letter.**
2. **REPLY TO THIS EMAIL** to confirm your action. This action is very important. DHH is recommending reforms that LaCAN has long been advocating for. We must let the Commission know that DHH has support for these recommendations. The Commission will develop a report for the Governor and legislature by December 15th. **To read all of DHH's recommendations to the Commission click on the link below.** Click on Part I- DHH recommendations begin on page 125 of this section.

[DHH Recommendations to Streamlining Commission](#)

Sample Message

Dear Commission Members: There are two recommendations included in DHH's report to the Streamlining Commission that I ask you to fully support. These are:

1. **Establish a framework for the full "continuum of care" for individuals with developmental disabilities.** Every person with developmental disabilities would be assessed using a needs based assessment and services would be allocated based on that assessment. **Desired Outcome:** To use available resources cost- effectively, while keeping with national best practices to individually allocate services according to need. Another beneficial outcome should be the ability to serve more people within the current allocation of resources. (*Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities*)
2. **Continue efforts that began several years ago to consolidate state-operated residential and vocational services for individuals with developmental disabilities.** The cost of services at the state- operated campuses is significantly higher than the cost of community-based services. It is estimated that 20 percent of the people in state-operated facilities could have their needs met in the community at

considerable cost savings. The state has continued to make significant investments in services for people with developmental disabilities and still has significant waiting lists for home- and community- based services. With limited resources anticipated in the next several years, it is not unreasonable to consider whether opportunities exist to optimize the existing dollars in the program. **Desired Outcome:** These changes would facilitate cost- effective use of available resources. Taking these actions would be in keeping with national best practices to reduce reliance on institutions and serve people in their communities. Any action taken should provide allocation of services for people with developmental disabilities according to need, while gaining the ability to serve more people within current allocation of resources. Finally, a significant reduction in salaries could result from state jobs moving to the private sector. (*Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities*)

(Personalize your letter here. I am a parent of an individual with developmental disabilities/individual with DD/on the waiting list, etc.) These reforms in the developmental disabilities system are very much needed so scarce resources can serve more people who are currently waiting for services. Your leadership in bringing these recommendations to fruition will be very much appreciated.

Members of the Streamlining Commission

Email your message directly to the Commission through an online form at the link below. In addition, LaCAN is also targeting several members of the Commission. LaCAN members are encouraged to send the same message by email or letters to the following Commission members:

1. Senator Jack Donahue, 3840 Hwy. 22, Suite 200, Mandeville, LA 70471.
donahuej@legis.state.la.us
2. Senator Mike Michot, P.O. Box 80372, Lafayette, LA 70598-0372.
lasen23@legis.state.la.us
3. Mr. John Kennedy, State Treasurer, P.O. Box 44154, Baton Rouge, LA 70804
<http://www.treasury.louisiana.gov/Home%20Pages/ContactForm.aspx>
4. Rep. Brett Geymann, P.O. Box 12703, Lake Charles, LA 70612.
Larep035@legis.state.la.us
5. Rep. Jim Morris, P. O. Box 217, Oil City, LA 71061. Larep001@legis.state.la.us
6. Mr. Barry Erwin, Council for A Better Louisiana, P.O. Box 4308, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4308. Erwin@cabl.org

[Email Message to Commission](#)

Any Questions?

If there are any questions about the information in this email contact LaCAN's Coordinator by replying to this email, or calling the toll free number listed below.

Contact Information

Email: list@lacanadvocates.org
Phone: 1-800-450-8108
Web: <http://www.lacanadvocates.org>
