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# The Deep South

Volume 4, Issue 3

Winter 2011

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# Upcoming Education Workshops

# SDE Workshops



If you have any questions or comments, as always, please feel free to contact me at [deleryrice@cox.net](mailto:deleryrice@cox.net) or (504)722-8600.



### **Your Opinion Counts, Your Concerns Can Be Heard!**

The Metropolitan Human Services District (MHSD) Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) meets in New Orleans every other month to discuss concerns of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. This is a public meeting.

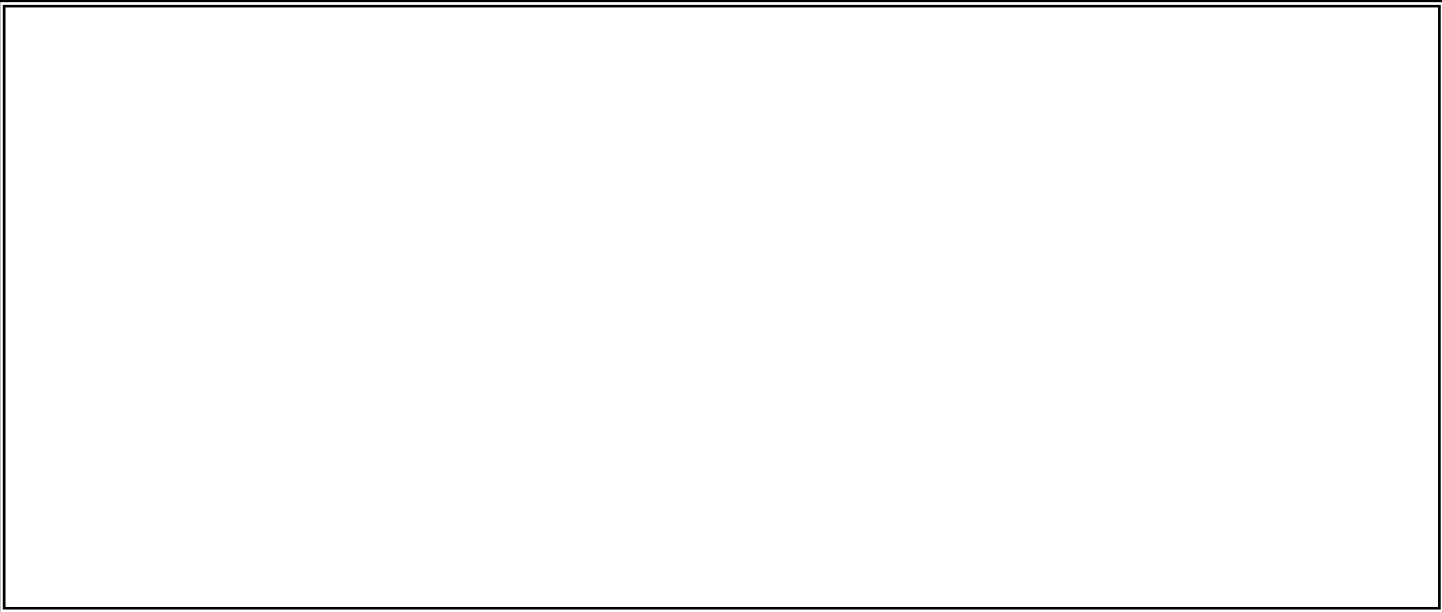
The MHSD RAC meetings are held on the second Friday of every month.  
Volunteers of America  
4152 Canal Street  
New Orleans, LA 70119

- February 11, 2011
- April 8, 2011
- June 10, 2011
- August 12, 2011
- October 14, 2011
- December 9, 2011

From 10 am to noon

Feel free to call Carol Calix at 943-0343 or 1-877-243-7352 if you have any questions about these upcoming meetings.

The State Advisory Committee also meets every other month. The next meeting is scheduled for November 10, 2010. It will be held at the Resource Center, 2006 Gus Kaplan, Alexandria, LA from noon—3 pm. The two RAC members that are representatives on the SAC are Dorothy Sturkey and Carol Calix. If anyone has concerns on a state level, please attend the RAC meeting in order to share your issues and express your concerns.





People with Disabilities Working Together To Change Louisiana

## People First of NOLA

- 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.
- Members learn about their rights and responsibilities as citizens of the United States of America.

**People First of NOLA** meets every third Tuesday of the month at 4:30 pm.

**Mission:** People First of Louisiana supports people with disabilities to empower themselves in becoming effective decision makers, to gain more independence, and enjoy life as equal citizens of the United States of America.

**Vision:** People with disabilities build personal visions that are reached through respect, equality and many different experiences that lead to choices and life decisions.

People with disabilities support one another to control their own lives, understand and speak up for their rights and live up to their responsibilities.

Meetings will be held at:

Goodwill

3400 Tulane Avenue

New Orleans, LA 70119

January 18

February 15

March 15

April 19

May 17

June 21

July 19

August 16

September 20

October 18

November 15

December 20

**Want to attend but can't afford the transportation?**  
**Call us at 504-943-0343 for information about**  
**transportation stipends.**





**Don't have time to attend workshops? You can take advantage of online trainings offered by our sister agency, Families Helping Families of Jefferson. Because we are all working toward the same goal, we welcome families to attend events in either region. Find a list of their upcoming trainings [at www.http://fhfjefferson.org/calendar.php](http://fhfjefferson.org/calendar.php). If you have any questions about these trainings, call 504-888-9111.**









**LaTEACH Coordinator Positions Available**

LaTEACH is looking to fill vacant Coordinator Positions across the state. Area Coordinators will receive a monthly stipend of \$400 and supply and/or travel reimbursement.

Those areas include:

Area	Parishes Covered
Greater New Orleans	Orleans, St. Bernard, Jefferson, and Plaquemines

**Coordinator Position Requires:**

- Effective verbal and written communication skills
- Willingness to do public speaking
- Enthusiastic attitude and ability to work well as a team member
- Local and minimal statewide travel
- Minimum GED or high school diploma

**Area Coordinator Criteria includes ability to:**

- Disseminate documentation and information to various volunteer team members
- Actively recruit volunteer team members to disseminate information
- Assist in managing phone trees of volunteer team
- Disseminate information to local media
- Attend six local education related trainings and one education conference per year
- Organize advocacy events
- Fill out and submit appropriate monthly reports

Those interested in one of these Coordinator positions are encouraged to send a resume' and a letter of interest. Please fax or mail information to:

Susan Benoit, Executive Director  
 Families Helping Families of SWLA  
 2927 Hodges St  
 Lake Charles, LA 70601  
 337-436-2578 FAX  
 1-800-894-6558



\*\* Resume' and Letter of Interest must be postmarked by October 15, 2010.



**Adult Education Classes!**

If you have been out of school for a while and your skills are a little rusty, come join us for a free intensive six-week self-improvement course.

This course can help you:

- ✓ Prepare to take tests to get a job or enroll in training.
- ✓ Improve your math skills.
- ✓ Read faster.
- ✓ Help your kids and grandkids with their homework.

Please call (504) 894-6626 to arrange for enrollment.



Harmony Oaks  
 Community Learning Center  
 3301 Freret Street

**Do you or someone you know need help paying for prescription medicines?**



**FREE/DISCOUNT MEDICATION ASSISTANCE  
 (504) 827-7843 or (888) 922-8522**

**QUALIFICATIONS**

- 21 years or older
- Louisiana resident
- Income at:  
 \$28,710 annually (\$2397 monthly) SINGLE  
 \$38,490 annually (\$3207 monthly) MARRIED
- Live in Orleans, St. Bernard or Plaquemines Parishes

**THE FOLLOWING IS NEEDED TO COMPLETE YOUR APPLICATION:**

- List of all medications, the dosage and how often you take them each day
- Medicare card (if you have one) or other insurance cards
- Proof of income
- Bring your doctors' information

**WE PROVIDE FREE ASSISTANCE WITH MEDICARE PART D  
 IT IS AS EASY AS A-B-C!**

Call for more information or to complete your application

**New Orleans Council on Aging**

2475 Canal Street, Suite 211, New Orleans Louisiana  
 (504) 827-7843 or (888) 922-8522



Help us go green by signing up to receive our newsletter through email.



Go to

<http://www.fhfsela.org/newsletters.php#signup>

**GoodSearch**  
YOU SEARCH WE GIVE™

**NEW!**  
**GoodShop** Shop at your favorite stores and we'll donate up to 37% of every purchase to your favorite charity!

**SHOP NOW!**

amazon.com eBay Target Nike Staples PetSmart hp WAL-MART Apple Expedia venstock.com

Help Families Helping Families of Southeast Louisiana by adding the Goodsearch toolbar to your web browser. We earn money every time you search the web using GoodSearch. If you purchase items online and do it through Goodsearch we receive a much larger sum of money. You don't have anything to lose and you will support our work and it will not cost you a single penny.

As a non-profit doing business in Louisiana, board meetings are open to the public. Our meetings are scheduled quarterly, on the second Thursday of the month at 6 pm. Board meetings are scheduled for **March 10, and June 9, 2011**. As FHF of SELA seeks LANO certification, work groups will be formed, which are also public meetings. Meetings will be posted on the FHF website. If you are interested in serving in any capacity, please contact Carol at 943-0343.



You can also help FHF of SELA earn money by using the Facebook Causes toolbar that is available. Visit Facebook, go to causes, and add the toolbar to your browser. Be sure to list Families Helping Families of Southeast Louisiana as your cause.

*The Mission of Families Helping Families of Southeast Louisiana is to enable and empower families of individuals with disabilities through an effective coordinated network of resources, support, and services.*

*The Vision of Families Helping Families of Southeast Louisiana is to ensure all individuals with disabilities have the opportunity to attend school, live, work and recreate in their community with typical peers.*



NONPROFIT ORG.  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
NEW ORLEANS LA  
PERMIT NO. 267

4118 Franklin Avenue  
New Orleans, LA 70122

504-943-0343  
1-877-243-7352 (Toll-Free)  
504-940-3242 (Fax)

[www.fhfsela.org](http://www.fhfsela.org)

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 • *FHF of SELA receives partial funding from the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council, Metropolitan Human Services District, Louisiana State Department of Education, Family to Family Health Information Center, Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals and Urban Strategies.*  
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**LaCAN**  
LOUISIANA CITIZENS FOR ACTION NOW

**Still Waiting for Waiver Services?  
Join LaCAN NOW!**

LaCAN (Louisiana Citizens for Action Now) is a statewide grassroots network of individuals and families who have worked together since 1988 advocating for a system that supports individuals to live in their own homes rather than having to move to a facility to receive needed services.

See page six of this newsletter for more information about LaCAN and how YOU can become a member of this group.

**MAKE A DIFFERENCE!  
JOIN LACAN!**

**LaTEACH**  
Louisiana Together Educating ALL Children

Louisiana Together Educating All Children (LaTEACH) is a grass root network of individuals that believe all children should have the opportunity to be educated with their typical peers in a typical classroom.

LaTEACH has made great strides this year but they still need **YOU** to help make a difference in improving education for our children with disabilities.

If you are interested in learning more about LaTEACH or joining LaTEACH, see page 3 of this newsletter and call Christy Cormier, Statewide Coordinator Louisiana Together Educating ALL Children  
2927 Hodges St  
Lake Charles, LA 70601  
337-436-2578 FAX  
1-800-894-6558

**LaDisability Talk**

**What is LaDisability Talk?** An e-mail talk list from Louisiana Parent Training and Information Center/ Families Helping Families of Jefferson to help families of people with disabilities and their advocates in Louisiana share information, resources, and support.

**What's a talk list?** It is a way for e-mail users to be in a group with others who have similar interests.

**Who should join?** Parents of children with disabilities, self-advocates, and advocates for people with disabilities in Louisiana.

**How do I join?** Just send an e-mail to: [fhfprompter@yahoo.com](mailto:fhfprompter@yahoo.com) or [LaDisabilityTalk-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:LaDisabilityTalk-subscribe@yahoogroups.com).

**FREE—FREE—FREE**