

BY-LAWS

Of

Beyond the Barriers

ARTICLE I

NAME OF ORGANIZATION AND PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS

SECTION 1. NAME:

The name of this program shall be Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office "Beyond the Barriers."

SECTION 2. PRINCIPAL OFFICE:

The principal office for the transaction of business of the program is hereby fixed and located in Lafourche Parish.

ARTICLE II

MISSION, PURPOSE, AND OBJECTIVES

SECTION 1. MISSION OF LAFOURCHE PARISH SHERIFF'S OFFICE:

The Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office serves as the chief law enforcement agency for the entirety of Lafourche Parish. Louisiana Sheriffs are unique among their nationwide counterparts. The Sheriff of Lafourche Parish is elected and serves as the chief law enforcement officer of the parish. The Sheriff is responsible for enforcing state laws and parish ordinances and serves as the chief executive officer of the Court for Lafourche Parish. The Sheriff maintains the parish jail, executes court orders, and performs certain non-medical duties of the coroner, when a vacancy occurs. The Sheriff is the ex-officio collector of state and parish advalorem taxes, other taxes, and license fees as provided by law. As the tax collector, the Sheriff conducts sales of property for nonpayment of taxes (LA Constitution, Art. V, Section 27).

MISSION OF BEYOND THE BARRIERS:

To be a powerful catalyst in the development of parish wide services to crime victims with disabilities, by providing leadership and direction in changing attitudinal biases, ineffective criminal justice protocols, and organizational policies so as to promote justice and healing and reduce the

incidence of under reporting, inaccessibility, and vulnerability crime of citizens with disabilities in Lafourche Parish.

SECTION 2. Goals:

1. To create a seamless, comprehensive, coordinated, interdisciplinary system for the delivery of services to crime victims with cognitive, mental, medical, sensory, physical, and/or multiple disabilities;
2. To create a comprehensive training program that will integrate service methodologies and provide for cross-training among victim service providers and criminal justice system personnel;
3. To establish a system by which relevant service methodologies and protocols to meet the diverse and unique needs of the “disability community” are applied in the delivery of services to crime victims with disabilities;
4. To ensure that crime victims with disabilities are afforded access to facilities and services so that they may effectively participate in the criminal justice process;
5. To continue to consistently meet the challenge of implementing new and expanded services designed to meet the needs of crime victims with disabilities so that all may become full participants in the criminal justice system;
6. To implement public outreach activities designed to reduce the “fear factor” experienced by crime victims with disabilities so as to reduce the isolation and under reporting of criminal incidents;
7. To develop the needed alliances in the formulation of needed changes to legislation as related to criminal and prosecutorial procedures for crime victims with developmental and emotional disabilities and mental illness;
8. To continually look to the future to enhance the system of services for crime victims with disabilities; and
9. To continually re-access the program to ensure ADA compliance.

SECTION 3. PURPOSE:

This project has been established to create a seamless, comprehensive, coordinated, interdisciplinary system of delivery of services for crime victims with cognitive, mental, sensory, physical, medical, psychiatric, and/or multiple disabilities.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1. GENERAL MEMBERSHIP:

Membership shall be open to all persons without regard to race, creed, religion, age, sex, disability, and/or any agency that desires to send a representative.

SECTION 2. RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF THE MEMBERSHIP:

Members shall have the right to:

1. Accept committee assignments;
2. Receive newsletters; and
3. Lend their expertise to the improvement and/or growth of the organization.

SECTION 3. VOTING:

Each member of the General Membership shall be entitled to one vote on special issues that are put before the General Membership.

SECTION 4. POWERS /RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. It shall be the responsibility of the Disabilities Coordinator to set the agenda, record the meeting minutes, and present pertinent information for the committee to discuss and vote on.
2. It shall be the responsibility of the chairman to facilitate each meeting.
3. It shall be the responsibility of the vice chairman to facilitate the meeting in the absence of the chairman.

ARTICLE IV

QUORUM

SECTION 1. QUORUM:

Official business may not be transacted without a quorum. A quorum will be constituted when no less than three members and the Disabilities Coordinator or the representative is present.

SECTION 2. PROCEDURE:

The rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order, Revised, shall govern the meetings in all cases in which they are applicable.

ARTICLE V

AMENDMENTS

These By-Laws may be amended or repealed and new By-Laws adopted at any regular or special meeting of the Committee by a majority vote of the members as long as a thirty (30) day notice is given to each member and a statement of the intended changes in the By-Laws.

We attest that the above is a true and accurate account of the By-Laws for Beyond the Barriers as adopted by the Steering Committee.

Sheriff's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Chairperson's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Coordinator's Signature: _____

Date: _____