

Agency
Quarterly Report to the DD Council
HDC 10/1/2011-10/1/2012

1. Update/progress on LSUHSC-Human Development Center Initiatives

HDC staff serves as Chair of the National Certified Employment Support Professional (CESP) certification committee and endeavors to promote quality staff training and standards for employment personnel.

HDC has several members that sit on the LA APSE board and in that role are seeking to enhance employment outcomes for individuals with disabilities.

HDC works directly with two large vocational service providers in New Orleans to mentor by working directly with the agency job seekers and employment personnel on best practice techniques and standards.

HDC staff continues to serve on the OCDD Employment First Committee/Task Force although no formal meetings were scheduled for this quarter.

HDC staff appointed to the LRS SE Task Force and had a major role in providing feedback and recommendations to enhance supported employment services and standards.

HDC continues to provide Benefits Planning services through a contract with LRS and is providing benefits planning directly to LRS customer referrals. The contract includes a component to train identified LRS counselors to take on these benefits counseling services.

HDC will play a role in the Work Pays Louisiana Employment Summit and continues to assist in the planning process for a successful and productive summit which will include state agencies, employers and employment providers.

During the quarter, HDC Employment Division launched a Job Seeker Web Site detailing the individual job seeker's "journey" to employment. Staff will continue to update and add to these success stories. A Job Seeker and Job Coach Facebook page was also initiated which primarily intended to provide motivational stories and examples to encourage individuals to seek employment.

HDC staff are members of the LA State-use committee and the LA Medicaid Purchase Plan and, as such attend regularly scheduled meetings.

HDC staff is a member of the National APSE Public Policy Committee and attends monthly national employment public policy updates and planning meetings. Current policy and advocacy efforts are focused on Employment First, eliminating sub minimum wage and expanding and enhancing employment.

HDC networks with OCDD and providers by continuing to attend OCDD Provider meetings in Jefferson, Orleans, Lafayette and Baton Rouge.

HDC staff attended OCDD Employment Listening Sessions in Orleans and Jefferson parish to support the Employment First Initiative and to promote training and mentoring supports.

HDC staff involved with the Autism Spectrum Disorder LIFE Club that meets at East Jefferson Hospital in Metairie, LA. The group includes over 20 individuals with ASD. HDC worked with the parents and self-advocates to submit an Employment Grant Proposal to OARS.

In an effort to secure grants, pilots and any other potential funding opportunities, HDC staff met on several occasions with the LRS Director and administrative staff.

HDC staff assisted in facilitating the national CESP exams in Baton Rouge and Shreveport and also serves on the CESP marketing committee

2. Status of agency's activities/participation on DDC plan initiatives and impact (HDC and DDC)

Activity 6.1.3 Provide support for the modification of a curriculum for Nurse Practitioner (NP) and Physician Assistant (PA) students, development of a curriculum for online Continuing Medical Education (CME) units for physicians, and the expansion of Operation House Call to Shreveport that provides an understanding of experiences of individuals with significant disabilities and their families.

- HDC has executed an MOU with a subject matter expert, Dr. Sue Berry, to collaborate on development of modules for training health care professionals
- HDC has met with Angela Shockley, Director, Operation House Call, and agreed on a scope of work to expand Operation House Call to Shreveport
- HDC has identified 4 training topics to develop for CME credit (developmental screening, patient and family-centered care, Legislation governing services for children with I/DD, and community resources for referral)

Activity 7.2.1 Advocate with the LSU-HSC Human Development Center and other collaborators for the development and implementation of policies and practices (i.e., college and career pathways) that ensure students with developmental disabilities have access to and opportunities that prepare them for post-secondary education and/or competitive, integrated employment.

- HDC continues to operate the Postsecondary Education for All Collaborative (PEAC) grant which is an innovative collaboration between the LSU HSC HDC and Delgado Community College. It is one of 27 model demonstration Transition Programs for Students with Intellectual Disabilities (TPSID) grants funded by the U.S. Department of Education. This grant is currently working with four (4) school districts in Greater New Orleans. The goal of PEAC is to increase the positive outcomes of IWID through the opportunity to participate inclusively in higher education, access gainful employment, increase opportunities for social interactions and community participation, and interact with age-similar peers.

- LSU HSC HDC staff met with LRS to establish possibility of dually enrolled students receiving funding from the school system through IDEA and LRS through an IPE.

Objective 9.1 Louisiana will develop and implement an Employment First plan

Activity 9.1.1 HDC continues to advocate for:

- policies that incentivize services for individualized integrated, competitive employment and dis-incentivize segregated, sheltered day habilitation services,
- sheltered workshops to transition people into individualized, competitive, paid employment and discontinue admissions into segregated day programs,
- collaborative policy making and practices across state agencies that promote students being supported in and transitioning into competitive paid employment,
- for the implementation of ongoing multiagency employment data collection, management and analysis.
- HDC Employment staff attended as Invited Guest-WHITE HOUSE DISABILITY ROUNDTABLE with The Honorable Therese McMillan, Deputy Administrator, Federal Transit Administration, and U.S. Department of Transportation on October 3, 2011 in New Orleans, LA. The White House Office of Public Engagement and Families Helping Families of Jefferson facilitated this “Winning the Future” Roundtable.

Objective 9.2 The capacity of the employment provider system will improve through evidence-based practice in collaboration with the LSU-HSC Human Development Center

Activity 9.2.2 Advocate for the development of a collaborative cross-agency infrastructure supporting the use of consistent definitions and practice, standardized training curriculum and technical assistance for employment providers.

- HDC continues to provide 40 hour CORE Supported Employment trainings and have posted online materials that include training materials and resources.
- HDC continues to attend Work Pays Coalition meetings to collaborate with key agencies and personnel
- HDC has posted online training materials, presentations and resources for Basic Supported Employment and CORE training.
- Employment First
- State use committee

Objective 9.3 The Louisiana Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) program’s federal draw down will increase

Activity 9.3.1 Advocate for Louisiana to draw down the entire VR grant award and serve individuals with the most severe disabilities.

- HDC staff continue to meet with LRS Director and Bureau Administrators to discuss pilots, demonstration, grants and alternative funding opportunities. This is in an effort to secure funding for enhancement of supported employment and transition.

Objective 9.4 Family members and others will be knowledgeable about options for integrated, competitive employment in collaboration with the Advocacy Center and the LSU-HSC Human Development Center.

- HDC staff continue to attend OCDD Provider meetings in Jefferson, New Orleans, Lafayette and Baton Rouge to provide additional input, resources and information and to promote HDC programs and services.
- HDC staff attended OCDD Employment Listening Sessions in Orleans and Jefferson parishes to provide information and resources to families and self-advocates.
- In the continuing effort to enhance and expand employment opportunities, HDC staff continue to work directly with families, agencies and advocates by providing Families Helping Families training, OCDD Provider Meeting trainings and Thibodeaux ARC Autism Training for Families.
- HDC staff provided the final quarter of Basic Supported Employment and Train-the-Trainer trainings.
- HDC will provide a presentation at the Work Pays Louisiana Employment Summit on "Best Practice Supported Employment" and will continue to assist in the planning process for a successful and productive summit which will include state agencies, employers and employment providers.