

STATUS OF FFY 2008 PLAN ACTIVITIES
Current through November 30, 2007

QUALITY ASSURANCE ACTIVITIES: People have information, skills, opportunities and supports to live free of abuse, neglect, financial and sexual exploitation, and violations of their human and legal rights.

Objective 1 *1588 persons with developmental disabilities and family members will be trained to become effective advocates.*

Current Status:

Twenty-five applicants have been invited to participate in the 2008 Partners in Policymaking class, scheduled to begin in Jan. 2008. Seventeen members graduated from the 2007 class. Additional funds have been added to the Partners contract to allow for a reunion/training weekend for past graduates.

Between Oct. 1 – Nov. 30, 2007, a total of forty-four individuals with disabilities and family members received stipends through Families Helping Families to attend conferences and workshops.

Objective 2 *The statewide self-advocacy organization will be supported and strengthened through collaboration with the Louisiana Self-Advocacy Project.*

Current Status:

Two new chapters joined People First this quarter, making a total of 26 affiliated local chapters. People First was a collaborating partner in sponsoring the Louisiana Disability Summit and hosted one of the workshops. People First has joined The Arc of Louisiana and The Resource Center on Psychiatric and Behavioral Supports, to advance the “My Choice Project”, which offers people with disabilities training on topics that they want to learn about.

Objective 3 *Members of the Council and its committees will be supported to serve as effective advocates for state and national systems change and receive staff and administrative support to effectively implement the Council’s mission and goals.*

Current Status:

Thirteen family members and individuals with disabilities were supported to attend the Council meeting in October 2007.

Objective 4 *The lives of people with developmental disabilities and their families will be enhanced by continuing a collaborative relationship among the Council, the Advocacy Center, and the Human Development Center.*

Current Status:

Approximately 3,621 people are subscribed to receive the *TriAngle* newsletter.

Objective 5 The parents or family members of 25 individuals residing in developmental centers will be educated on the value and benefits of transition from institutional services to individualized community supports and resources that are available in the community (including housing).

Current Status:

Twenty family members of persons living at Pinecrest Developmental Center are now being mentored through the Evergreen project. One person served by the project moved from Pinecrest this quarter. The project had a poster presentation and information booth at the La. Disability Summit.

OTHER SERVICES AVAILABLE OR OFFERED TO INDIVIDUALS IN A COMMUNITY, INCLUDING FORMAL AND INFORMAL COMMUNITY SUPPORTS THAT AFFECT THEIR QUALITY OF LIFE

Objective 6 2500 individuals with developmental disabilities and their families will receive individual and family supports through support of grassroots systemic advocacy.

Current Status:

LaCAN now has 2,535 members coordinated by 9 LaCAN Regional Leaders. There is one LaCAN Regional Leader vacancy in Region 10. LaCAN developed a legislative agenda and plans for the legislative session at the Nov. 12-13 Kickoff. LaCAN leaders are making visits to legislators now and planning to start regional Round Tables in January. Tentative dates for the annual Rally at the State Capitol are for the week of April 22 - 24.

Objective 7 Reform of the long term care system to align resources to meet demand will be advanced through advocacy, collaboration, coordination, and education of legislators, policy makers and other stakeholders.

Current Status:

The Council continues to participate in work groups responsible for decisions that affect systems change, including the OCDD Rebalancing Initiative Advisory Board, the OCDD Resource Allocation Stakeholders Group and several regional OCDD and Human Services Districts' Advisory Boards.

Objective 8 75,000 persons with developmental disabilities and their families will continue to obtain the information, training, and support they need through support to the Families Helping Families Resource Centers.

Current Status:

So far this year, 3,917 people have received information, referral or other support from their Regional FHF Center.

Objective 9 27,000 people with developmental disabilities and their families will continue to receive information on disability services and resources through the continued operation of the Disability Information Access Line (DIAL) and the Information and Referral services provided by the nine FHF Regional Resource Centers.

Current Status:

Disability Related Calls to DIAL:	742	Follow-up Calls Attempted:	21
Individuals w/ Dis.:	418	Follow-up Calls Completed:	10
Family members:	220	Caller Satisfaction:	100%
Professionals:	104		
<u>Other Calls to DIAL:</u>	<u>277</u>	Katrina related calls to date:	1360
Total Calls:	1019		

Objective 10 300 direct support professionals (DSP) will be recruited and/or supported through collaboration with the Human Development Center in the development and distribution of recruitment materials.

Current Status:

The contract with the Human Development Center to develop and distribute Direct Support Professionals recruitment materials ended June 30, 2007. Recruitment materials were distributed to approximately 300 agencies that assisted in recruitment efforts.

Objective 11 The emergency preparation needs of 5000 people with developmental disabilities will be included in the Red Cross sheltering plans and the state and parish emergency operations' plans.

Current Status:

The Council continues to collaborate with the Advocacy Center, Human Development Center, and other organizations working to ensure that the needs of people with disabilities are included in state and local emergency planning and preparedness.

HOUSING ACTIVITIES: Adults choose where and with whom they live.

Objective 12 Persons with disabilities will have increased access to housing through Council efforts.

Current Status:

In January 2008, the Council will contract with the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) to provide rental subsidies and cover transition expenses for people with disabilities who are transitioning from institutions as part of the Money Follows the Person demonstration grant.

HEALTH ACTIVITIES: People are healthy and benefit from the full range of needed health services.

Objective 13 *Health care for persons with developmental disabilities will become a priority in Louisiana as a result of the DD Council's collaboration with at least 8 advocacy bodies, programs and projects.*

Current Status:

The Council is represented on 6 health related groups: Act 451 (HB 697) Rulemaking and Oversight Committee, PACE-New Orleans, Donaldsonville Health Coalition, DHH Medical Care Advisory Committee, Louisiana Integrated Treatment System Consumer Advisory Board, and Healthy Washington Parish 2010.

Objective 14 *Consumer-directed health care practices will be improved as a result of Council action.*

Current Status:

The Council continues to be represented on the Act 451 (HB 697) Rulemaking and Oversight Committee. The law cannot go into effect until the rule is published. Although a draft rule has been written, multiple delays have prevented public announcement. A core group of Committee members met in August and decided to finalize language for the draft rule so that it can be published. At this time, it is not known when the rule will be published.

EDUCATION AND EARLY INTERVENTION ACTIVITIES: Students reach their educational potential and infants and young children reach their developmental potential.

Objective 15 *500 people will become active in systems advocacy about inclusive education through establishment of a statewide family-driven special education grassroots advocacy organization.*

Current Status:

LaTEACH is 707 members strong and is represented on the Alternate Diploma Taskforce, the Special Education Advisory Council, and the High School Redesign Commission. The Alternate Diploma Taskforce developed recommendations proposing two new diploma tracks. These recommendations will be considered by the High School Redesign Commission in January.

There were 170 entries submitted to the Inclusive Schools Art Contest. Seventeen entries were selected as the best in each category, representing a total of 25 artists (some entries were group projects). All participants received a certificate of participation from the DD Council and winning artists received a certificate from the Governor's Office, a trophy and recognition in front of BESE at the Awards Ceremony on Dec. 5th in Baton Rouge.

Objective 16 The DD Council will be represented on at least 3 educational decision making bodies in order to represent the interests of students with developmental disabilities.

Current Status:

The Council is represented on 7 educational and/or early childhood groups: LA State Positive Behavioral Support Team; LDE Special Education Liaison Group; LDE Special Education Supervisors Quarterly Update; LDE Autism Advisory Committee; LA Indian Education Association; State Interagency Coordinating Council; Children's Cabinet Advisory Board; State Performance Plan (SPP) Part B Committee/ Policy Review Group; and Validated Practices Committee.

Objective 17 The capacity of libraries to increase awareness of disabilities will be enhanced through the development of library resources and corresponding programs.

Current Status:

Accomplished in FFY 2007

EMPLOYMENT ACTIVITIES: People get and keep employment consistent with their interests, abilities and needs.

Objective 18 Young adults with developmental disabilities will gain employment experience through a governmental internship program developed by the Council in collaboration with other state agencies.

Current Status:

Graham Caldarera was hired as the first Count Us In intern. His internship at Sen. Butch Gautreaux's office began Oct. 1st and will be completed Dec. 21st. A subcommittee of the Advisory Council for the program is in the process of drafting a curriculum for the intern orientation class. The next orientation class will begin in Jan. and the second intern will be placed in Feb.

TRANSPORTATION ACTIVITIES: People have transportation services for work, school, medical, and personal needs.

Objective 19 Transportation choices and opportunities for persons with disabilities will be expanded through the Council's assistance in the coordination of at least one transportation program in Louisiana.

Current Status:

The Council is represented on the United We Ride Advisory Council.

RECREATION ACTIVITIES: People benefit from inclusive recreational, leisure and social activities consistent with their interests and abilities.

Objective 20 50 individuals with developmental disabilities will have opportunities to enjoy increased or enhanced recreational activities through Council collaborative efforts.

Current Status:

Training packets have been developed and 11 volunteers and coaches and 1 community psychologist have received training through the Jambalaya Project. Eight children with disabilities are now enrolled in activities offered by the Ascension Parish Recreation Dept.

CHILD CARE ACTIVITIES: Children and families benefit from a range of inclusive, flexible childcare options.

Objective 21 Childcare providers in each region of the state will have access to training on supporting children with disabilities in inclusive day care settings.

Current Status:

The Innovations in Inclusive Child Care project has started meeting with representatives from OCDD, the Department of Social Services (DSS), and the La. Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (LACCRA). DSS and OCDD have requested that a few content additions be made to the training modules developed through Project PACT (a previous inclusive child care project funded by the Council). With these changes, both agencies are expected to endorse the training modules and the first class is scheduled to begin in Alexandria in January.