

**STATUS OF FFY 2008 PLAN ACTIVITIES**  
**Current through February 29, 2008**

**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:**

The 2008 Partners in Policymaking class began in January 2008 and currently has twenty-three participants. A committee is being organized to plan for the Partners Reunion which will be held between July and September 2008.

Between December 1, 2007 and February 29, 2008, ninety-two (92) individuals with disabilities and family members received stipends through Families Helping Families to attend conferences and workshops. A total of 154 individuals have benefited from stipends since October 1, 2007.

Council funding will provide dorm rooms and meals for the Louisiana Youth Leadership Forum (LYLF) participants. The LYLF 2008 for young people with disabilities (ages 16-22) to transition from school to adulthood is planned for July 27-30, 2008 at Louisiana State University's campus. LYLF offers a series of leadership skills workshops, seminars and experiences to help participants plan for their future.

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

**Current Status:**

There are a total of 26 affiliated chapters of People First with over 300 members. People First is involved on the Disability Rights Rally planning committee. People First has secured presenters, worked on message and content for the Rally, developed, produced, and distributed over 1500 save-the-date postcards for people to send to their legislators, secured water and performed numerous other tasks to ensure the Rally will be a success.

**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:**

Seventeen family members and individuals with disabilities were supported to attend the Council meeting in January 2008.

The Council Travel Stipend Fund of \$3,000 has a balance of \$1,483. Stipends have been received by Trudye Jones and Willie Martin to participate in the La. Disability Summit. Funds have been received and/or approved for Sharon Dufrene to participate in four conferences through April 2008.

Lynette Fontenot participated in the NACDD national conference in October of 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 3,642 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-five family members of persons living at Pinecrest Developmental Center are now being mentored through the Evergreen project. The project held a provider fair in Monroe in January

**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 2612 members coordinated by 9 LaCAN Regional Leaders. There is one LaCAN Regional Leader vacancy in Region 10. LaCAN leaders held regional Round Tables in January and February. The annual Rally at the State Capitol is April 23, 2008. As a result of LaCAN's efforts, there are currently 2025 New Opportunities Waiver slots in HB1 that will provide individual and family supports to individuals with developmental disabilities.

**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 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:**

Between December 2007 and February 2008, 5,504 people have received information, referral or other support from their Regional FHF Center.

Jim Sprinkle is volunteering as the Interim Executive Director of FHF of Louisiana. The Board of Directors and Interim Director have agreed to continue fulfilling the requirements of the contract, using the Executive Directors of the regional centers to assist them.

**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:	618	Follow-up Calls Attempted:	17
Individuals w/ Dis.:	339	Follow-up Calls Completed:	10
Family members:	179	Caller Satisfaction:	100%
Professionals:	100		
Other Calls to DIAL:	210	Katrina related calls to date:	1369
Total Calls:	828		

**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.

The OCDD Work Group on DSP Wages has not met in recent months. DHH is going to conduct a survey of DSP wages and compare them to DSPs working in the public sector. It is hoped that that data, combined with data obtained from cost reporting, will result in increased DSP wages through administrative rule.

**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 collaborates with a multi-agency Emergency Preparedness workgroup which includes the Advocacy Center, Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, Human Development Center and other organizations. As a result, the workgroup created the "Louisiana Guide to Supports & Services for Individuals with Disabilities, Elders and Their Families Affected by Disaster." OCDD funded the printing of 500 copies of this two-sided laminated sheet listing 38 statewide agencies/resources with their contact information. This has been disseminated statewide so every Emergency Shelter Manager will have one during a disaster.

**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:

The Council contracted with the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) in January 2008 to provide rental subsidies and cover transition expenses for people with disabilities who are transitioning from community homes and institutions as part of the Money Follows the Person (MFP) demonstration grant and the new Residential Options Waiver (ROW). However, delays with receiving final approval of the MFP grant project and approval of the ROW from CMS may cause challenges with meeting previously established timelines.

The Council is also represented on the Baton Rouge area Community Housing Advocacy Network (CHAN) and the DHH Housing Advisory Group.

**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, Donaldsonville Health Coalition, DHH Medical Care Advisory Committee, Louisiana Integrated Treatment System Consumer Advisory Board, Healthy Washington Parish 2010, and National Association of State Mental Health Directors.

**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 742 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 were to be considered by the High School Redesign Commission in January; however, the recommendations were deferred until the April meeting.

Tentative plans have been made for the 2008 Inclusive Schools Art Contest. Schools will be contacted to save the dates for the next art contest. The deadline to submit art entries will be around October 1<sup>st</sup>. The awards ceremony will be scheduled during the first week of December.

**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 13 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; Validated Practices Committee; New Sarpy Elementary PTO Board; Brightstarts – Parent Education and Family Support; LDOE Dispute Resolution Advisory Committee; and SIG Management Team.

**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 Calderera served as the first Count Us In intern in Senator Butch Gautreaux's office from October 1<sup>st</sup> through December 21<sup>st</sup>. Senator Gautreaux was very pleased with the intern and encouraged continuation of the project. Gautreaux's office will not host the next intern but plans to host other interns in the future. Representative Joe Harrison, a newly elected legislator from Houma, hired an intern from the second Count Us In class.

The Council was represented at the October job fairs hosted by the Louisiana Business Leadership Network and Medicaid Purchase Plan. The job fairs occur annually in conjunction with National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

**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 and Mayor's Councils on Disabilities.

**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. Eighteen children with disabilities are now enrolled in activities offered by the Ascension Parish Recreation Dept. The project has held Fall and Winter Festivals and also has activities planned for Spring.

At least one American Indian student with disabilities is expected to attend the 2008 LIEA Indian Youth Leadership Camp on April 11 – 13, 2008 at the Lumen Christi Retreat Center in Schriever.

**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 Training modules have been updated. Classes began in January and February and continue in April and May. Information was presented on the Train-the-Trainer series to 60 CCR&R providers, mental health consultants, infant-toddler specialists, and Bright Start evaluators.