

## **LSU Human Development Center Report October, 2008**

Third Annual HDC Institute will be held April 22-23, 2009 at the Hampton Inn-Convention Center Hotel in New Orleans. This year's theme will be Response to Intervention/Early Intervening Services. We have secured a number of key speakers and will be adding more as we move forward with our planning. We will be asking if family members/parents will be able to apply to Families Helping Families for stipend support to participate in this event.

We are in the process of preparing a proposal to establish a Master's in Health Science program that will lead to eligibility for graduates to sit for the BCBA exam. This program is being developed in response to the Insurance bill that makes Behavioral Interventions eligible for reimbursement. There are currently fewer than 15 BCBA in Louisiana, most of whom are University professors.

We just submitted a grant application to support a 3 year study on Response to Intervention. If funded, this grant will result in a set of measurement tools and protocols which can be used to investigate the implementation and efficacy of Response to Intervention.

We just completed an application to the Board of Regents to continue funding for the Early Intervention Institute.

HDC is providing two classes on Autism Spectrum Disorders via an internet-based format. Enrollment is less than desired this fall, but we plan to offer the course again in the spring. Perhaps the DDC can help promote this opportunity. Tuition support/stipends are available.

HDC is planning a summer Institute on Autism Spectrum Disorders. Date and location have not been determined. More to follow.

HDC has been working with OCDD and EarlySteps personnel to develop a model for Early Intensive Treatment for young children with, or at risk of, Autism Spectrum Disorder. There will be two components to this model: family-based interventions and center-based interventions. This project is an excellent example of what can happen when several agencies/organizations collaborate to address an important issue in our state. This project will begin receiving partial funding support from the DDC in October.

HDC received funding from DDC to plan and implement a study on Employment of individuals with significant support needs in Louisiana. Dr. Alisa Lowrey will lead this effort. Members of the Council may be asked to provide information, participate in focus groups, and/or complete surveys in the future. We hope that this study will inform the development of future employment related initiatives.

HDC received funding from DDC to conduct a small pilot project with a number of Supported Employment providers and employment seekers with significant support needs in greater New Orleans. The goals of this project are several fold, including but not limited to: increasing capacity of Supported Employment providers to serve job seekers with significant support needs, documenting strategies and real-life examples used to secure employment for here-to-fore underserved job seekers with significant support needs, and create infra structure and culture within the provider network to support professional development in the area of Supported Employment by establishing an APSE (Association for Persons in Supported Employment) chapter in Louisiana.

HDC received funding from United Way- via the Hilton foundation- to work with community childcare centers to ensure they are welcoming and supportive of ALL children/families (i.e., including those with disabilities) by training and supporting their personnel to implement developmentally appropriate practices and create environments that support the development and learning of all young children.