

**LOUISIANA DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL  
STATUS OF FFY 2009 PLAN ACTIVITIES**

*Current through March 27, 2009*

**QUALITY ASSURANCE ACTIVITIES**

**GOAL: 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.*

**Partners in Policymaking** is a national leadership training program for people with developmental disabilities and parents of young children with developmental disabilities. Forty graduates attended the Reunion. Three (3) of 6 sessions have been held with 22 of the original 25 participants remaining. Hotel and meal costs are expected to increase next year.  
*On Track.*

<b>Total Budgeted<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>\$98,000</b>
Coordinator	\$17,405
Travel	\$40,735
Supplies	\$4,000
Speakers	\$8,020
Administrative	\$7,840
Reunion	\$20,000

**Stipends** available through Families Helping Families and People First of Louisiana provide financial support for persons with developmental disabilities and their family members to participate in training events and conferences on community-based individual supports. To date, thirteen individuals received stipends from FHF; none from People First.  
*On Track.*

<b>Total Budgeted<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>\$46,000</b>
Stipends	\$36,320
Administrative	\$3,680

**My Choice** is a training initiative conducted by self-advocates for self-advocates. The project has developed, advertised, and initiated training activities on multiple topics across the state.  
*On Track.*

<b>Total Budgeted<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>\$10,000</b>
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The **Louisiana Youth Leadership Forum** provides leadership training for high school students with disabilities to transition from school to adulthood. There has been no activity on this project this year and the previous contract was canceled.  
*Not On Track.*

<b>Total Budgeted<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>\$10,000</b>
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*\*Funds not planned to be utilized this planning cycle.*

<sup>1</sup> Cost Reimbursement contracts reimburse actual costs.

<sup>2</sup> Fee for Service contracts provide a set rate for deliverables specified within the contract.

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

**People First of Louisiana** is a self advocacy organization with 19 affiliated chapters and 350 members. People First selected Sharon Hennessey as the new director and developed a legislative agenda for the upcoming 2009 session.

<b>Total Budgeted<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>\$110,000</b>
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**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.*

The **DD Council Member Travel Stipend Fund** supports members to attend training events. No funds have been expended to date.

<b>Total Budgeted<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>\$3,000</b>
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**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.*

The **TRIANGLE** currently has 3,589 subscribers.  
*On Track.*

<b>Total Budgeted<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>\$13,386</b>
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**Objective 5** **ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2007**  
*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).*

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

**GOAL:** Individuals have access to other services available or offered in a community, including formal and informal community supports that affect their quality of life.

**Objective 6** **ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2008**  
*2500 individuals with developmental disabilities and their families will receive individual and family supports through support of grassroots systemic advocacy.*

<sup>1</sup> Cost Reimbursement contracts reimburse actual costs.

<sup>2</sup> Fee for Service contracts provide a set rate for deliverables specified within the contract.

**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.*

**LaCAN** is a statewide grassroots network of 2,761 individuals and families who advocate for Community and Family Supports. Currently there are 8 Regional LaCAN leaders with a vacancy in Region 3 and Region 1. The regional legislative round table expenses are included in “Supplies.”  
*On Track.*

<b>Total Budgeted<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>\$135,000</b>
Travel	\$11,800
Supplies	\$9,400
LaCAN Leaders	\$98,000
Administrative	\$10,800
Rally	\$5,000

**End the Wait!** is a public awareness campaign to educate policy makers on the waiting list and benefits of community living. Three individuals were featured in dozens of commercials and PSAs. A committee developed drafts for print materials. An End The Wait! webpage was linked to the Council and LaCAN websites.  
*On Track.*

<b>Total Budgeted<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>\$15,000</b>
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**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.*

**Families Helping Families Regional Resource Centers** make up a statewide network of ten family-directed and family-staffed regional centers that provides information on services and activities that improve quality of life, help individuals understand their rights and advocate for themselves, and lend support from someone “who has been there.” From December 2008 to February 2009 information or referral to services was made to 4,761 people.  
*On Track.*

**Objective 9** **COMPLETED IN 2008**  
*27,000 people with developmental disabilities and their families will receive information on disability services and resources through the continued operation, update and promotion of the Disability Information Access Line (DIAL) and the Information and Referral services.*

**Objective 10** **ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2008**  
*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.*

<sup>1</sup> Cost Reimbursement contracts reimburse actual costs.

<sup>2</sup> Fee for Service contracts provide a set rate for deliverables specified within the contract.

**Objective 11** ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2008

Direct Support Professionals (DSP) will be compensated at or above the southern regional average.

The **OCDD Direct Support Professional Coalition** – has been hindered in its progress by a lack of OCDD staff, a lack of Licensing staff to adequately monitor providers and a lack of leaders in the administration and legislature who recognize this as a serious issue that will take a real commitment of dollars and effort to address.

**Objective 12** 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.

The **Emergency Management Disability and Aging Coalition** is a multi-agency collaborative that is planning a system to recruit and coordinate volunteers who have experience in supporting people with disabilities to work in inclusive emergency shelters.  
*On Track.*

**Objective 13** People with disabilities will have expanded social and friendship network opportunities as a result of a Louisiana on-line interactive web-based community

The **Disaboom** website has discussion and information strands on topics relevant to people with disabilities in Louisiana.

<b>Total Budgeted<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>\$5,000</b>
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**HOUSING ACTIVITIES**

**GOAL: Adults choose where and with whom they live.**

**Objective 14** Persons with disabilities will have increased access to housing through Council efforts.

**A Home of Your Own** provides people with developmental disabilities the information and tools necessary to pursue home ownership. The program also builds the capacity of service providers and advocacy organizations through professional development opportunities on “How to Develop A Home of Your Own Program.” The Arc of Louisiana recruited two individuals to participate in the program. Enrollment will be completed by June and the training sessions will take place July through September.

<b>Total Budgeted<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>\$20,000</b>
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*On Track.*

<sup>1</sup> Cost Reimbursement contracts reimburse actual costs.

<sup>2</sup> Fee for Service contracts provide a set rate for deliverables specified within the contract.

**LA Housing Connection** (lahousingconnection.com) is a website for people with developmental disabilities with information regarding housing advocacy issues, housing terminology, training opportunities, and resources for developing and maintaining local CHANs.

*On Track.*

<b>Total Budgeted<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>\$1,050</b>
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**Money Follows the Person** (MFP) is a program designed to assist people with disabilities transition to communities from institutions by providing rental subsidies or assistance with transition expenses. Due to delays with receiving approval from CMS, OCDD is not expected to begin transitioning people through MFP until June 2009.

*Not On Track*

<b>Total Budgeted<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>\$20,000</b>
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*\*Funds not planned to be utilized this planning cycle.*

## **HEALTH ACTIVITIES**

**GOAL: People are healthy and benefit from the full range of needed health services.**

**Objective 15** *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.*

The Council is represented on 6 health related groups: the Emergency Management Disability Coalition, Office of Aging and Adult Services (OAAS) Redesign Workgroup, Louisiana Birth Defects Monitoring Network Advisory Board, Early Hearing Detection & Intervention Governor's Task Force, Act 648 Autism Insurance Implementation, Department of Health and Hospitals Medical Care Advisory Committee.

**Objective 16** *Consumer-directed health care practices will be improved as a result of Council action.*

**ACT 552 of 2008** (SB546) permits routine nursing tasks to be performed by DSPs who have appropriate training.

<sup>1</sup> Cost Reimbursement contracts reimburse actual costs.

<sup>2</sup> Fee for Service contracts provide a set rate for deliverables specified within the contract.

## EDUCATION AND EARLY INTERVENTION ACTIVITIES

**Goal: Students reach their educational potential and infants and young children reach their developmental potential.**

**Objective 17** *500 people will become active in systems advocacy about inclusive education through establishment of a statewide family-driven special education grassroots advocacy organization.*

**LaTEACH** is a statewide grassroots network of parents, educators, and other stakeholders that advocates for inclusive education and positive outcomes for all students. LaTEACH membership continues to increase with 894 active members.

*On Track*

<b>Total Budgeted<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>\$63,500</b>
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**Objective 18** *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.*

The Council is represented on 10 educational and/or early childhood groups: State Performance Plan (SPP) Part B Committee/ Policy Review Group, New Sarpy Elementary PTO Board , Lafayette Parish School Board Parent Advisory Consortium on Low Incidence Disabilities, Louisiana State Positive Behavioral Support Advisory Committee, State Improvement Grant (SIG) Management Team, State Autism Team, Low Incidence Disabilities Consortium: Literacy Access Committee, State Interagency Coordinating Council, and School to Prison Reform.

**Objective 19** *30 children with autism and their families will receive early intervention services in inclusive community-based programs that result in improved language and social skills.*

**Autism Early Intervention Project** provides training and technical support to providers and family members of young children with autism with the goal to develop a model for providing intervention services to young children with autism in inclusive settings and support to family members. LSU-HDC reported problems with the project including obtaining Institutional Review Board approval, conflict between intensive behavioral interventions vs. inclusive education on the model, selecting Centers to receive training and technical assistance, and identifying an adequate pool of young children with autism.

*Not on track.*

<b>Total Budgeted<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>\$60,000</b>
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<sup>1</sup> Cost Reimbursement contracts reimburse actual costs.

<sup>2</sup> Fee for Service contracts provide a set rate for deliverables specified within the contract.

**EMPLOYMENT ACTIVITIES**

**Goal: People get and keep employment consistent with their interests, abilities and needs.**

**Objective 20 ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2008**

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

**Objective 21** The number of people with developmental disabilities obtaining and maintaining integrated, community employment and careers will be increased through Council initiatives.

**Employment Outreach Campaign** educates the public about the benefits of including people with developmental disabilities as part of the community-based workforce. Participants have been recruited to feature in the PSAs.

<b>Total Budgeted<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>\$42,863</b>
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**Employment Provider Training** establishes an Employment Consortium that facilitates building the capacity of employment provider agencies in supporting people with significant developmental disabilities in finding and maintaining competitive employment. Job seekers and job coaches have been recruited and professional development meetings and technical assistance occurs on a regular basis. A Louisiana Chapter of the Association for Persons in Supported Employment (APSE) has also been established.  
*On Track.*

<b>Total Budgeted<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>\$75,000</b>
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**Objective 22** The Council will learn the status of employment for people with developmental disabilities in Louisiana and have the data to effectively plan and advocate for meaningful employment options for people with developmental disabilities

**The Employment Study** will research the availability of services and supports for people with disabilities who seek integrated, competitive, community-based employment, research the extent these supports are accessed, and determine the relation between employment services and achieved outcomes. An Employer Provider survey has been developed to identify barriers to helping people access & maintain employment.  
*On Track.*

<b>Total Budgeted<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>\$35,000</b>
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<sup>1</sup> Cost Reimbursement contracts reimburse actual costs.

<sup>2</sup> Fee for Service contracts provide a set rate for deliverables specified within the contract.

## TRANSPORTATION ACTIVITIES

**Goal: People have transportation services for work, school, medical, and personal needs.**

**Objective 23** *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.*

The Council researched transportation initiatives in other states for consideration for the FFY 2010 plan.

*Not on Track.*

## RECREATION ACTIVITIES

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

**Objective 24** *50 individuals with developmental disabilities will have opportunities to enjoy increased or enhanced recreational activities through Council collaborative efforts.*

**Inclusive Recreation/PBS Project** provides positive behavior supports training and technical assistance to recreation department professionals and volunteers in an inclusive atmosphere in 3 separate recreation leagues. The city of Hammond provided \$5,000 for the City of Hammond Inclusive League (C.H.I.L.) and will fully fund it next year. Currently C.H.I.L. has 40 participants, 14 with developmental disabilities. The Pelican Park Inclusive Recreation League (P.P.I.R.L) in Mandeville has 129 enrolled participants, 20 with developmental disabilities.

*On Track.*

<b>Total Budgeted<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>\$36,000</b>
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The **Louisiana Indian Education Association (LIEA)** and the Council collaborate to promote inclusion of people with disabilities in a variety of recreation activities. The LIEA held its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Indian Youth Leadership Camp March 13-15, 2009, in Bunkie, Louisiana. A total of 31 students participated, with at least two with disabilities. There was also an adult staff person with disabilities who participated.

*On Track.*

## CHILD CARE ACTIVITIES

**Goal: Children and families benefit from a range of inclusive, flexible child care options.**

**Objective 21** **ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2008**  
*Childcare providers in each region of the state will have access to training on supporting children with disabilities in inclusive day care settings.*

<sup>1</sup> Cost Reimbursement contracts reimburse actual costs.

<sup>2</sup> Fee for Service contracts provide a set rate for deliverables specified within the contract.