

STATUS OF FFY 2008 PLAN ACTIVITIES
Current through May 31, 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 graduation is scheduled for June 27-28 with eighteen participants expected to graduate. A Partners Reunion is scheduled for September 19-20. Linda Huggins has decided to resign her position as the Partners statewide coordinator at the end of this contract year. Interviews for a new coordinator are expected to begin in July.

Between March 1st and May 31st, thirty-nine (39) individuals with disabilities and family members received stipends through Families Helping Families to attend conferences and workshops. A total of 193 individuals have benefited from stipends since October 1, 2007.

The Louisiana Youth Leadership Forum (LYLF) originally scheduled for July 27-30 will not be held this year. It will be rescheduled for summer 2009.

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 19 affiliated chapters of People First with 350 members. The annual statewide People First meeting/training was held in Lafayette on May 23-24. Forty-eight self-advocates and 27 supporters attended the event.

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 April 2008.

The Council Travel Stipend Fund of \$3,000 has a balance of negative \$1,395 (-\$1,395). Stipends have supported the participation of Trudye Jones and Willie Martin in the La. Disability Summit; Sharon Dufrene's participation in four conferences through April 2008; Billie Ruth Kvaternik's participation in the National Disability Rights Network Conference, and Simone Honore-Chretien's participation in the National Hydrocephalus Conference.

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 3,750 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 were mentored through the Evergreen project. The project was completed in March.

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 2,596 members coordinated by 9 LaCAN Regional Leaders. There is one LaCAN Regional Leader vacancy in Region 10. As a result of LaCAN's efforts, 2,025 New Opportunities Waiver slots were included in HB1 that will provide individual and family supports to individuals with developmental disabilities. LaCAN efforts also resulted in the defeat of HB914 which would have greatly increased the length of the NOW waiting list. The annual Rally at the State Capitol on April 23rd had 675 confirmed participants. A legislative debriefing meeting with LaCAN Regional Leaders and FHF Directors is scheduled for late July.

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 March and May 2008, 6,004 people received information, referral or other support from their Regional FHF Center.

Families Helping Families of Louisiana is no longer in operation. The directors of the Families Helping Families Regional Centers have begun work to form an association. By-laws and criteria for membership in the association are being developed.

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:	557	Follow-up Calls Attempted:	19
Individuals w/ Dis.:	293	Follow-up Calls Completed:	10
Family members:	168	Caller Satisfaction:	100%
Professionals:	96		
Other Calls to DIAL:	202	Katrina related calls to date:	1369
Total Calls:	759		

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 has plans to conduct a survey of DSP wages and compare them to DSPs working in the public sector. It is hoped that the survey 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. The group is planning a system to recruit and coordinate volunteers who have experience supporting people with disabilities to work in "general needs" shelters during an emergency as part of an overall plan to avoid having people with disabilities segregated into "special needs" shelters.

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). OCDD has experienced delays due to lack of approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The contract has been amended to allow a no-cost extension through June 2009.

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 Medicaid Directors.

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

Current Status:

SB546 was passed during the Legislative Session and effectively replaces Act 451 (HB 697). Act 451 never went into effect because an administrative rule was never published. Like Act 451, the new law is intended to establish a system for training direct support professionals to perform some routine nursing tasks for individuals who live in their own homes and who have stable health.

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 771 members strong and is represented on the Alternate Diploma Taskforce and the Special Education Advisory Council. The Alternate Diploma Taskforce developed recommendations proposing two new diploma tracks. These recommendations are scheduled to be discussed at the BESE meeting in August. Membership for the School and District Accountability Commission was determined at the April meeting and will include a parent of a child who receives special education services and a parent of a child with regular education services.

An announcement flier and registration brochure have been developed to promote the 2008 Inclusive Schools Art Contest. The deadline to submit art entries is October 1st. 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:

The Count Us In program is in its first year of implementation. The first two intern sessions have been completed. Both placements were in the Houma/Thibodaux area. A third intern preparation class will be held in June. Participants in this class will have an opportunity to be chosen for a governmental intern position in the Baton Rouge area.

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 enrolled in activities offered by the Ascension Parish Recreation Dept. Sixteen new, inclusive activities have been developed as a result of the project.

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:

Sessions 1 and 2 of the Innovations in Inclusive Child Care Train-the-Trainers series have been conducted in both Alexandria and Metairie/New Orleans. The third session has been completed in Alexandria. The third session of the training will be held in Metairie/New Orleans in June.