

Report to the Developmental Disabilities Council
From
The Advocacy Center
July, 2010

1. The Advocacy Center is in the planning process for its 2011 plan. A draft will be available at the DDC meeting.
2. A hearing on the forensic suit (Advocacy Center et al. v. Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, et al.) brought by the Advocacy Center on behalf of prisoners with disabilities deemed to be incompetent to stand trial, was held on June 24th. It was a hearing for injunctive relief. A decision is expected within the next two weeks.
3. The Advocacy Center has recently filed a series of lawsuits in the area of access. The lawsuits allege that the following facilities are not accessible to people with disabilities: Mahalia Jackson Theater in New Orleans, Acadia Vermillion Hospital, Jefferson Parish polling sites, Southern University athletic facilities in Baton Rouge.
4. The Advocacy Center recently bid adieu to the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program in the Baton Rouge and New Orleans areas. The LTCO Program will now be administered by the Baton Rouge Area Agency on Aging in Baton Rouge and by the LSU Agricultural Extension Service in New Orleans.
5. The Advocacy Center hosted its first annual Harvesting Hope luncheon on May 12. We invite people to attend Pea Pod events, one-hour events designed to impart more information about the services of the Advocacy Center. These events are held twice monthly and lead up to the Harvesting Hope luncheon, which will again be held in the Spring of 2011.
6. The Advocacy Center's Annual Report for 2009 has recently been published and is available. (Copies may be ready for distribution at the July meeting of the DD Council)