

**Agency**  
**Quarterly Report to the DD Council**  
HDC 10/1/2012-03/2013

**1. Update/progress on LSUHSC-Human Development Center Initiatives**

HDC staff serves as Chair of the National Certified Employment Support Professional (CESP) certification committee and endeavors to promote quality staff training, standards and credentialing for employment personnel. The Employment Supports Professional Certification Council (ESPCC) meets the last Friday of every month and continues to promote national certification and standards. To date, nearly 300 individuals have taken the test nationally. Seventy-five (75) individuals took the test in Louisiana.

HDC has several members that sit on the LA APSE board and in that role are seeking to enhance employment outcomes for individuals with disabilities and to advocate for services and supports. In addition, the board is interested in partnering with HDC and possibly APSE to conduct/host an Employment Symposium in 2014 in New Orleans.

HDC works directly with two large vocational service providers in New Orleans to mentor, train and consult by working directly with the agency job seekers and the employment personnel on best practice techniques and standards.

HDC staff continues to serve on the OCDD Employment First Committee/Task Force and attended a meeting held January 23, 2012. HDC staff also sits on the Rate sub-committee. Meetings are held infrequently and the rate sub-committee has not yet met.

HDC continues to provide Benefits Planning services through an arrangement with LRS which allowed LRS to leverage additional funding from RSA for this important service. This services is only available to Social Security beneficiaries and recipients who are eligible for LRS services. All referrals for Benefits Planning come from LRS counselors. Usually, benefits planning services are offered to persons with disabilities statewide. Thirty-two (32) LRS Clients were referred for Information and Referral (I&R) and/or Benefits Planning & Assistance (BPA) services during this quarter in Regions 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8. Due to no travel allocated funds, there were no trainings or presentations during this quarter.

HDC continues to be a member of the Work Pays committee but has not attended any meetings in the last quarter.

The HDC Employment Program continues to enhance and refine our Job Seeker Web Page which highlights the SUCCESS stories of individuals obtaining and maintaining employment. The website chronicles the individual job seeker's "journey" to employment. Updates are posted to each job seeker's story as they move into employment and to follow-along. HDC staff also maintains an Employment Supports Professional page and a Job Seeker page. The site is designed primarily to provide motivational stories and examples to encourage individuals to seek employment, as well as to illustrate to Employment Support Professionals, successful strategies and approaches in supporting individuals to become employed. We invite you to check out our web pages built with job seekers in mind. If you like what you see, save this

website in your favorites and send to others: <http://www.hdc.lsuhsu.edu/employment/index.php>. Of course, we are always looking for ways to improve, so suggestions and feedback are welcomed!

HDC staff is represented on the LA State-use committee but did not attend the March meeting.

HDC staff is a member of the National APSE Public Policy Committee and attends monthly national employment public policy updates and planning meetings. Current policy and advocacy efforts are focused on Employment First, eliminating sub minimum wage, advocating for more community based funding rather than funding segregated vocational services and expanding and enhancing employment.

HDC networks with OCDD and providers by continuing to attend OCDD Provider meetings in Jefferson, Orleans, Lafayette and Baton Rouge.

In an effort to secure grants, pilots and other potential funding opportunities, HDC staff met with key LRS state office staff.

## **2. Status of agency's activities/participation on DDC plan initiatives and impact (HDC and DDC)**

**Objective 4.1** 75,000 individuals with developmental disabilities, their families, and professionals will obtain information, training, and support.

Activity 4.1.1 Provide funding (from state general funds) and technical assistance to nine Families Helping Families Regional Resource Centers across the state.

- HDC is collaborating with FHF of Jefferson and LaPTIC to expand and improve the annual Inclusion Matters conference.

**Objective 6.1** Access to quality medical services for individuals with developmental disabilities will increase.

Activity 6.1.3 Provide support for the modification of a curriculum for Nurse Practitioner (NP) and Physician Assistant (PA) students, development of a curriculum for online Continuing Medical Education (CME) units for physicians, and the expansion of Operation House Call to Shreveport that provides an understanding of experiences of individuals with significant disabilities and their families.

- HDC has executed an MOU with a subject matter expert, Dr. Sue Berry, to collaborate on development of modules for training health care professionals
- HDC has met with Angela Shockley, Director, Operation House Call, and agreed on a scope of work to expand Operation House Call to Shreveport

- HDC has identified 4 training topics to develop for CME credit (developmental screening, patient and family-centered care, Legislation governing services for children with I/DD, and community resources for referral)
- HDC has accessed needed CME policies/procedures.
- HDC has developed and secured initial feedback from SME for Developmental Screening curriculum; planned completion in April.
- HDC has reviewed how other web-based CMEs have been done. Beta-testing to rollout in May.
- HDC's Web & Graphics Specialist is currently creating web template for web-based CME for Module 1
- Curriculum outline for Module 2 (Family and Patient Centered Care) provided to SME; planned completion in April
- Curriculum outline for Module 3 (Legislation Governing Services for People with I/DD) provided to SME, planned completion in April

**Objective 7.2** Changes in policies and practices that result in students with developmental disabilities attaining competitive employment in integrated settings.

Activity 7.2.1 Advocate with the LSU-HSC Human Development Center and other collaborators for the development and implementation of policies and practices (i.e., college and career pathways) that ensure students with developmental disabilities have access to and opportunities that prepare them for post-secondary education and/or competitive, integrated employment.

- HDC continues to operate the Postsecondary Education for All Collaborative (PEAC) grant which is an innovative collaboration between the LSU HSC HDC and Delgado Community College. It is one of 27 model demonstration Transition Programs for Students with Intellectual Disabilities (TPSID) grants funded by the U.S. Department of Education. The goal of PEAC is to increase the positive outcomes of IWID through the opportunity to participate inclusively in higher education, access gainful employment, increase opportunities for social interactions and community participation, and interact with age-similar peers.
- PEAC provides support to 6 students with I/DD attending Delgado Community College (DCC).
- PEAC will add 1 district (St. Charles Parish) and at least 3 additional students to the program this summer.
- PEAC staff are presenting a 'lunch and learn' workshop on April 9 to faculty at DCC on Universal Design for Learning

- PEAC staff are conducting a workshop on April 30 for FHF SELA on Writing Goals and Objectives on Transition Plans
- PEAC staff is working with 3 other programs at DCC on a content team to redesign the introductory College and Career Success Skills course that all freshman students must take. They intend to offer this course on high school campuses participating in PEAC project next fall LSU HSC HDC staff met with LRS to establish possibility of dually enrolled students receiving funding from the school system through IDEA and LRS through an IPE and staff are currently working with LRS state office staff to write the Technical Guidance materials to be used for the Delgado Post-Secondary pilot.

**Objective 9.1** Louisiana will develop and implement an Employment First plan

Activity 9.1.1 HDC continues to advocate for:

- policies that incentivize services for individualized integrated, competitive employment and dis-incentivize segregated, sheltered day habilitation services,
- sheltered workshops to transition people into individualized, competitive, paid employment and discontinue admissions into segregated day programs,
- collaborative policy making and practices across state agencies that promote students being supported in and transitioning into competitive paid employment,
- for the implementation of ongoing multiagency employment data collection, management and analysis.
- HDC Employment staff attended as Invited Guest-WHITE HOUSE DISABILITY ROUNDTABLE with The Honorable Therese McMillan, Deputy Administrator, Federal Transit Administration, and U.S. Department of Transportation on October 3, 2011 in New Orleans, LA. The White House Office of Public Engagement and Families Helping Families of Jefferson facilitated this “Winning the Future” Roundtable.

**Objective 9.2** The capacity of the employment provider system will improve through evidence-based practice in collaboration with the LSU-HSC Human Development Center

Activity 9.2.2 Advocate for the development of a collaborative cross-agency infrastructure supporting the use of consistent definitions and practice, standardized training curriculum and technical assistance for employment providers.

- HDC continues to provide 40 hour CORE Supported Employment trainings and have posted online materials that include training materials and resources.
- HDC continues to attend Work Pays Coalition meetings to collaborate with key agencies and personnel
- HDC has posted online training materials, presentations and resources for Basic Supported Employment and CORE training.

- HDC continues to attend all scheduled Employment First meetings and relevant sub committees, i.e., rate, policy
- HDC continues to attend State-use committee

**Objective 9.3** The Louisiana Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) program's federal draw down will increase

Activity 9.3.1 Advocate for Louisiana to draw down the entire VR grant award and serve individuals with the most severe disabilities.

- HDC staff continues to meet with LRS Director and Bureau Administrators to discuss pilots, demonstration, grants and alternative funding opportunities. This is in an effort to secure funding for enhancement of supported employment and transition.

**Objective 9.4** Family members and others will be knowledgeable about options for integrated, competitive employment in collaboration with the Advocacy Center and the LSU-HSC Human Development Center.

- HDC staff continues to attend OCDD Provider meetings in Jefferson, New Orleans, Lafayette and Baton Rouge to provide additional input, resources and information and to promote HDC programs and services.
- HDC staff attended OCDD Employment Listening Sessions in Orleans and Jefferson parishes to provide information and resources to families and self-advocates.
- In the continuing effort to enhance and expand employment opportunities, HDC staff continues to work directly with families, agencies and advocates by providing Families Helping Families. Sessions scheduled for April 2012.
- HDC staff provided training sessions at the February LASARD Winter Institute held in Monroe, LA.

**Objective 11.1** The capacity of the Louisiana's child care system to support children with significant disabilities will improve.

Activity 11.1.2 Advocate for

- state subsidized day care centers to be paid according to a formula that provides a higher rate for children with disabilities,
- the day care center star rating system to include inclusive practices and
- DCFS to publish a web-based listing of inclusive day care centers searchable by region.

- HDC staff attend monthly Bright Start Advisory Council (Early Childhood Advisory Council) meetings
- HDC staff participates in Bright Start Inclusion workgroup meetings to develop policy and practice recommendations on how to ensure appropriate inclusion of children with disabilities in early childhood programs.