

Human Development Center at LSU Health Sciences Center in New Orleans

During the past quarter we have begun putting the infrastructure in place to launch the Post-secondary Education for All Collaborative (PEAC). PEAC is funded by the US Department of Education and the focus is to establish a model demonstration for high school students with intellectual disabilities who wish to pursue post-secondary education. HDC is collaborating with a number of local school districts and Delgado Community College (City Park campus) to establish this program. Our first class of students is being recruited now and will enroll in August. We are very excited about this project and the manner in which this project will compliment some of our other efforts in the area of employment and life after high school.

We prepared and submitted three different proposals to conduct training to professionals responsible for supporting individuals with disabilities to seek, obtain and maintain employment. These proposals target community rehabilitation providers/job coaches, LRS counselors, and support coordinators, respectively. We continue to participate on the Medicaid Infrastructure Grant and hope that MIG will consider working with HDC to further the Employment First agenda that the Council, OCDD, and other organizations have championed. In addition, we are preparing a proposal to submit to the National Institute on Rehabilitation and Research (NIDRR) that seeks to enhance the capacity of community service providers to support the employment aspirations of individuals with developmental and other disabilities living in the community.

The Louisiana School Psychology Internship Consortium (LAS*PIC) just completed the match process and we will have 6 new interns beginning in August. The HDC Leadership Education in Neurodevelopment and other Disabilities (LEND) interdisciplinary training pilot is about to complete its first year. This program was launched in collaboration with University of Arkansas for Medical Science at Little Rock, Central Arkansas University, Southern Mississippi, and University of New Orleans. Four individuals participated in the program locally (i.e., Liz Gary, Maria Ruiz, Erin Graunard, and Eileen Aguilar). From all indications, the program has been a success. We have begun recruiting for trainees for next year's class and hope to increase the number of trainees and disciplines involved in the next class.

HDC faculty and staff have taken lead roles in enforcing court ordered LRE settlements in two mid-western states and continue to provide technical assistance on Special Education monitoring and evaluation throughout the US. In addition, HDC faculty and staff conducted training and technical assistance to school districts on Response to Intervention in states as far flung as Alaska, Illinois, California, and Louisiana during the past quarter.

The Louisiana Autism Spectrum and Related Disabilities (LASARD) project is collecting end of the year data in more than twenty schools located in 7 school districts around Louisiana. The project conducted several regional trainings and facilitated on-line workgroups, with more than 100 participants around the state. HDC/LASARD continues to host on-line training modules related to a variety of topics. Several hundred individuals have completed these training modules. Evaluation feedback continues to be very positive. The LASARD summer institute will be held June 7-9 in New Orleans. Information about the institute and registration can be found at <http://www.hdc.lsuhsu.edu/ASI2011/index.html>. Persons interested in attending should check this out soon as registration is limited.

Finally, the EarlySteps Transdisciplinary Services Project (ETSP) is an extension of a project funded by the Council. The Council, OCDD and LSUHSC-HDC, provided funding to investigate a protocol for coaching families to provide evidence-based interventions to their young child identified with, or at risk of being diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). The current ETSP project applies the evidence based principles that were established by the previous research-based project along with the best practice features of team-based interventions. This systematic approach to establishing the efficacy of a procedure and then bringing it to scale is a fine example of system change. To date, approximately 25 families have participated in ETSP and families have reported their overwhelming satisfaction with the model.