

Human Development Center at LSU Health Sciences Center in New Orleans

In August, two young men with intellectual disabilities enrolled at Delgado Community College with support from the Post-secondary Education for All Collaborative (PEAC). This project is designed to establish a fully inclusive higher education experience for high school students with intellectual disabilities who wish to pursue post-secondary education. 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. HDC faculty provide training and support to Delgado faculty on Universal Design for Learning and have recruited, trained and supported Delgado students to function as mentors to PEAC participants. As with any innovative activity, we have encountered some hic cups that we are addressing. However, we also have seen evidence of success. For example, recently when one of the PEAC staff came into class to see if the PEAC student "Charles" (not his real name) needed support- she was told by a Delgado student that she would provide any support that Charles required. Another example came when "Jules" (not his real name) was asked to go to lunch on a Saturday by a Delgado student. A third example is that "Jules" (who is a Vietnamese-American) is sought to provide assistance with interpreting in an English as a second language course that he attends. Stay tuned- we think there will be many more exciting developments in the coming months as the project matures and expands.

HDC developed and provided training to LRS counselors and central office staff on Best Practice for Supported Employment in all 9 LRS regions during the past quarter. We continue to refine and provide an Introductory training on Supported Employment, statewide, with support from the DD Council. We also 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, HDC took the lead on developing and submitting a proposal 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 19th class of the Louisiana School Psychology Internship Consortium (LAS*PIC) began in August. To date, LAS*PIC has prepared nearly 200 American Psychology Association accredited school psychologists. Approximately half of LAS*PIC graduates are still practicing in the state of Louisiana. The HDC Leadership Education in Neurodevelopment and other Disabilities (LEND) interdisciplinary training pilot completed 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). The LEND program began its second year in August with five new trainees, including: Amanda Godbe (PT), Nichole Begg (Psychology), Ashley Miriam (SLP), Shelley Duet (Nurse), and Meghan Richmond (Audiology). We look forward to another good year.

HDC is collaborating with Children's Hospital and the LSU Tiger Care developmental clinic to establish an Interdisciplinary Diagnostic Clinic and Follow-up program. We anticipate that most children who will be seen in this clinic will be referred to seek diagnosis and treatment recommendations relative to autism spectrum disorders (ASD) or attention deficit disorders (ADD)/ attention deficit with hyperactivity disorders (ADHD). We look forward to working with Dr. Sue Berry in this clinic. The clinic will provide a valuable service to children, families, service providers, and educators; and will serve as training site/rotation for allied health, medical, and education professionals. This program is targeted to begin in January.

The Louisiana Autism Spectrum and Related Disabilities (LASARD) project is collecting beginning of the year data in more than twenty schools located in 8 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 was held June 7-9 in New Orleans. More than 350 persons attended this year.

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 ESTP 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 30 families have participated in ETSP and families have reported their overwhelming satisfaction with the model. The project is moving into its third year and the focus of the project will be to train EarlySteps providers to adopt team-based approaches to implementing early intervention services.