

## **Human Development Center at LSU Health Sciences Center in New Orleans**

As always, there are many things going on at HDC. This report includes a description of a sample of activities and projects of the Center during the past quarter.

**Post-secondary education.** Two young men with intellectual disabilities enrolled at Delgado Community College finished their first semester with support from the Post-secondary Education for All Collaborative (PEAC). The project will be recruiting four new students this spring in St. Tammany, RSD, and possibly St. Charles school districts. During the spring, project staff will conduct a Person Centered Plan with students who will attend Delgado in the fall- and work with the students and their high school faculty to prepare for enrolling at Delgado in the fall. The two students who are attending Delgado this year will continue their course of study in the fall meaning that the project will be supporting 6 students in the fall.

**Employment.** In the area of Employment services, we continue to refine and provide an Introductory training on Supported Employment, statewide, with support from the DD Council. In addition, HDC, in collaboration with Louisiana APSE, will begin providing 40 hour Supported Employment Core Training in January, 2012. The 40 hour training incorporates National APSE's CORE Supported Employment competencies and is designed to prepare participants to sit for the upcoming National Supported Employment credential. Individuals who register for the 40 hour SE Core Training will also receive membership in National and Louisiana APSE chapter as part of their registration fee. For more information on dates, locations and registration, go to <http://www.hdc.lsuhscc.edu/>. HDC faculty and staff also continue to participate in the WorkPays coalition and 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. Along with other Louisiana partners (e.g., DD Council, OCDD, Families Helping Families), HDC faculty attended and presented on a panel at the recent Alliance for Full Participation. Unfortunately, we received word that Louisiana's proposal to the National Institute on Rehabilitation and Research (NIDRR) that sought to enhance the capacity of community service providers

to support the employment aspirations of individuals with developmental and other disabilities living in the community was not one of the 5 applications that was funded.

**Interdisciplinary Training.** As reported last quarter, the 19<sup>th</sup> class of the Louisiana School Psychology Internship Consortium (LAS\*PIC) began in August. Interviews of potential trainees for the 20<sup>th</sup> class will begin in January. The HDC Leadership Education in Neurodevelopment and other Disabilities (LEND) interdisciplinary training pilot completed its first year. Three of our Trainees from last year (Ms. Maria Ruiz, Ms. Eileen Aguilar, and Ms. Liz Gary) had a poster presentation regarding their LEND research project at the national AUCD conference in Washington, D.C. in November. Their poster was selected from among more than 100 posters as an award winner! 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).

**Interdisciplinary ASD clinic.** HDC is collaborating with Children's Hospital and the LSU Tiger Care developmental clinic to establish an Interdisciplinary Diagnostic Clinic and Follow-up program. This clinic is due to begin operating in January. Initially, 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). 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.

**Autism spectrum and related disabilities.** The Louisiana Autism Spectrum and Related Disabilities (LASARD) project has completed collecting mid-year data in more than twenty schools located in 9 school districts around Louisiana. Since last quarter's report, the project conducted four 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. Planning for next year's LASARD summer institute is well underway. This year, the institute will be held on June 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> 2012 in New Orleans. Local, state, and national

speakers, including LASARD partner school teams, will present information and strategies related to behavior supports. For more information, visit the Human Development Center's website at: [www.hdc.lsuhs.edu](http://www.hdc.lsuhs.edu) or email [lasard@lsuhsc.edu](mailto:lasard@lsuhsc.edu).

**Early Intervention.** HDC staff designed a model of service delivery for families and caregivers of toddlers at risk for or diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder with support from EarlySteps (ES), Louisiana's Part C Program. We call this the Connect Model. The Connect Model is based on research and promising practices in early intervention and recommendations from the National Research Council related to the education of young children with ASD. The Connect Model included training teams of currently enrolled early intervention providers to build their capacity to implement the model across the state. The Connect Model uses a coaching and primary service provider approach to service delivery. A primary service provider provides support directly to families and caregivers in their homes and communities on a weekly basis and receives support from a consulting provider on an as needed basis during joint home/community visits. To help families and caregivers engage their child in meaningful activities for the recommended time (i.e., minimum of 25 hours a week), the primary service provider uses coaching to teaches families and caregivers to utilize evidence based intervention strategies and embed learning opportunities in typical routines and activities across their day. Peer to peer coaching is provided during the joint visit and weekly team meetings.

During November and December, trainings were conducted with teams of early intervention providers from different backgrounds, knowledge and experience in Mandeville, Lafayette and Bossier City. The trainings provided an overview of the model and step by step procedures to implement the model during each phase (interview and observation, intervention and transition) of the Connect Model. Additionally, a training manual was developed and given to each participant, that included all forms used in each phase of the model and additional resources related to each phase and general resources related to ASD. All EarlySteps personnel, including central office, intake coordinators, family service providers, evaluators and ongoing service providers were

invited to attend the 2-day trainings. Twenty-nine teams, composed of 64 ongoing early intervention providers participated in the training; 40 EarlySteps personnel from Central Office, System Point of Entry, evaluators, community outreach specialists and family service coordinators also participated in the training. Beginning in January 2012, facilitators from the Connect Model team will participate in weekly team meetings with the intervention teams and will provide ongoing technical assistance from a distance using technology and on site during home/community visits and team meetings, until the end of the contract period, June 30, 2012.