

Agency
Quarterly Report to the DD Council
HDC 04/01/2013-06/2013

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 500 individuals have taken the test nationally. Seventy-five (75) individuals took the test in Louisiana. Two national exams will take place at the national APSE conference in June in Indianapolis.

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, LA APSE and possibly MS APSE to conduct/host an Employment Symposium in 2014 in New Orleans that might also alternate between MS and LA each year.

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 Employment Division has also conducted self-advocate and parent/family training on Supported Employment for Families Helping Families (Northshore) and provides "as needed" technical guidance and assistance on Supported Employment services when requested.

HDC staff continues to serve on the OCDD Employment First Committee/Task Force. The next meeting has been tentatively scheduled for July 2, 2013. HDC staff also sits on the Rate sub-committee.

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 service will end in August 2013 and is only available to Social Security beneficiaries and recipients who are eligible for LRS services. All referrals for Benefits Planning come from LRS counselors. Benefits planning services are offered to persons with disabilities who are eligible to receive LRS services, 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.

Benefits Planning Services (BPS) through Social Security will resume September 1, 2013 and HDC will provide benefits planning and assistance throughout the state with the exception of New Orleans and Baton Rouge (this area is covered by the Advocacy Center).

HDC continues to be a member of the Work Pays committee.

HDC Employment Initiatives continue to enhance and refine our Job Seeker Web Page which highlights the SUCCESS stories of individuals obtaining and maintaining employment. The website chronicles job seekers' "journey" (success stories) 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 (ESP) page. The site is designed 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.lsuhscc.edu/employment/index.php>. Please provide your feedback, input and/or suggestions by clicking on the "feedback" button on our website. Your thoughtful comments will assist us to continue to enhance our webpages based on your input.

HDC staff is represented on the LA State-use committee.

HDC staff is a member of the National APSE Public Policy Committee and staff attend 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 continues to communicate with LRS state office staff to advocate for potential grants, pilots and other potential funding opportunities related to enhancing and expanding Supported Employment services and access.

HDC has submitted a proposal to the DDC for consideration in response to a Request for Proposals. The proposal intends to provide supported employment mentoring, guidance and assistance to approved LRS vendors that provide employment services to individuals with IDD.

The HDC Employment Initiatives recently released our annual employment training calendar which will offer four 40-hour CORE Supported Employment (SE) trainings throughout the state and nine 7.5-hour trainings on Job Development, Managing and Expanding SE Agency Resources, and SSA Benefits and Work Incentives. The training calendar is being widely distributed to self-advocates, families, vendors/providers and state and local agencies. The calendar can be viewed on the HDC website at: <http://www.hdc.lsuhscc.edu/>.

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 executed an MOU with a subject matter expert, Dr. Sue Berry, to collaborate on development of modules for training health care professionals.
- HDC executed a contract with Operation House Call, OCDD and agreed on a scope of work to expand Operation House Call to Shreveport.
- HDC has developed 2 webinars for CME credit (Developmental Screening and Navigating the School System for Children with Disabilities).
- HDC has executed a contract with LSU School of Medicine to offer CME for webinars.
- HDC has developed four curriculum modules for use in PA and NP programs: Developmental Surveillance and Screening, Patient- and Family-Centered Care, Early Intervention: What Health Care Providers Need to Know, and Navigating the School System for Children with Disabilities).

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 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 is adding 1 district and at least 3 additional students to the program this summer.
- 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. HDC staff met with the New Orleans regional LRS office and C. Anthony to continue to work on the Manual Materials and Guidance policy for local LRS counselors to write IPEs for eligible LRS clients to receive funding from the school system through IDEA and LRS. LRS approved the proposal and "DRAFT" guidance policies in June, 2013 and HDC has been asked to work with New Orleans regional office to finalize the policies and guidance 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 Advocate for policies that:

- incentivize services for individualized integrated, competitive employment and disincentivize segregated, sheltered day habilitation services,
- encourage sheltered workshops to transition people into individualized, competitive, paid employment and discontinue admissions into segregated day programs,
- result in collaborative policy making and practices across state agencies that promote students being supported in and transitioning into competitive paid employment,
- result in implementation of ongoing multiagency employment data collection, management and analysis.
- establish Employment First funding and practices in local and state agencies through collaboration and networking as well as by promoting best practice and innovative strategies in Louisiana and chronicling other state's progress on the HDC website.

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 and is developing online content for the SSA Benefits, Managing SE Programs and Job Developer Clinic.
- HDC continues to attend all scheduled Employment First meetings and relevant sub committees, i.e., rate, policy

- HDC continues to attend State-use committee and advocates for this group to align their goals, practices and procedures with Employment First policies

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 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 conducted May, 2013.

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.
- In June, HDC staff provided comment on DCFS Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) federal application for 2013 through participation with Bright Start Inclusion Workgroup.