

LOUISIANA DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL STATUS OF FFY 2011 PLAN ACTIVITIES

Reflects activities from October 1 through November 30, 2010 unless otherwise noted

QUALITY ASSURANCE ACTIVITIES: People have information, skills, opportunities and supports to live free of abuse, neglect, financial and sexual exploitation, and violations of their human and legal rights.

Objective 1: 1588 persons with developmental disabilities and family members will be trained to become effective advocates.

Partners in Policymaking received 33 applications and selected 23 participants for the 2011 class. The program will begin January 14, 2011 and graduation will be June 18, 2011. A full listing of dates can be found on the Council website.

Seventeen individuals with disabilities and family members received **Stipends through Families Helping Families** to attend conferences and workshops this quarter.

My Choice conducted two trainings to 66 participants in Region 10. The training topics were "Economic Abuse" and "Abuse and Neglect."

Objective 2: The statewide self-advocacy organization will be supported and strengthened through collaboration with the Louisiana Self-Advocacy Project.

People First of Louisiana has 380 members. The reduced number of members is due in part to the challenge of maintaining contact with individuals transitioning from developmental centers. The board of directors received seven trainings by project staff and members of the board of directors will present trainings to local chapters in the future. The deadline for applications to the board of directors was December 15, 2010.

Objective 3: Members of the Council and its committees will be supported to serve as effective advocates for state and national systems change and receive staff and administrative support to effectively implement the Council's mission and goals.

Sixteen self-advocates and family members were supported in attending the Council meeting in July 2010.

No Council member stipends were awarded this quarter. The balance of the Council Member Travel Stipend Fund is \$3,000.

Objective 4: The lives of people with developmental disabilities and their families will be enhanced by continuing a collaborative relationship among the Council, the Advocacy Center, and the Human Development Center.

The final edition of the TriAngle was published in October and sent to 3,643 subscribers. The Network collaborated on hosting and facilitating two public forums and a Blue Ribbon Panel during November to identify issues and strategies for developing each agency's five-year plans.

The Council issued the first edition of *LaDDC News* on November 5, 2010 with a second edition released on December 3. *LaDDC News* is the vehicle the Council is using to disseminate news and information to its constituency.

Objective 5: The parents or family members of 25 individuals residing in developmental centers will be educated on the value and benefits of transition from institutional services to individualized community supports and resources that are available in the community (including housing). **ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2007**

OTHER SERVICES AVAILABLE OR OFFERED TO INDIVIDUALS IN A COMMUNITY, INCLUDING FORMAL AND INFORMAL COMMUNITY SUPPORTS THAT AFFECT THEIR QUALITY OF LIFE

Objective 6: Waiver recipients and residents of private ICFs/DD will benefit from increased monitoring by independent monitors.

There is no update for this objective this quarter.

Objective 7: Individuals with developmental disabilities will receive quality community services.

An article addressing the need to invest in quality services was included in the October issue of the *TriAngle*. Staff members have been involved in numerous OCDD meetings and developing informational FAQ sheets to educate the public on changes in the process and implementation schedule for resource allocation.

Objective 8: 2,500 individuals with developmental disabilities and their families will receive individual and family supports through support of grassroots systemic advocacy. **ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2008**

Objective 9: An additional 2,000 waiver slots will be available to individuals with developmental disabilities through reform of the long term care system that better aligns resources to meet demand as a result of grassroots systemic advocacy, collaboration, coordination, and education of legislators, policy makers and other stakeholders.

LaCAN leaders are currently conducting regional roundtables and legislative visits to educate legislators and members on the Council's advocacy agenda. Roundtables have been held in Regions 3, 7, and 8. Roundtables are scheduled in January in the following cities (dates): Mandeville (11th), Baton Rouge (12th), Denham Springs (25th),

and Lake Charles (27th). Council staff revised and distributed fact sheets on “Fill the Slots” and “Stop the Rate Cuts” in October. Regional Rallies are being planned for the second week in March 2011. These rallies will be collaborative efforts with other stakeholder organizations and agencies.

Objective 10: 75,000 persons with developmental disabilities and their families will continue to obtain the information, training, and support they need through support to the Families Helping Families Resource Centers.

Families Helping Families Regional Resource Centers assisted 4,603 individuals and families with information, referral or other support.

Objective 11: 300 direct support professionals (DSPs) will be recruited and/or supported through collaboration with the Human Development Center in the development and distribution of recruitment materials. **ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2008**

Objective 12: Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) will continue be compensated at or above the southern regional average.

Repeated rate cuts to home and community based services providers have forced many agencies to reduce the wages and/or benefits of their employees, impacting the consistent provision of quality supports and services statewide. The cover article of the October issue of the *TriAngle* brought attention to this serious issue.

Objective 13: People with disabilities will have expanded social and friendship network opportunities as a result of a Louisiana on-line interactive web-based community.

Through **Find Your Voice**, the Disaboom website has discussion and information strands on topics relevant to people with disabilities. Recent postings discussed families’ appeal for empathy in the face of state closures of services and educational services for homeless children with disabilities.

Objective 14: People with disabilities and their families will benefit from more flexible and individualized community supports and services through the Council’s participation on various committees and work groups.

Through participation in five meetings of the Coordinated System of Care – Family Support Organization subcommittee, short-term deliverables were developed to address family support needs of children with significant behavioral health needs at the regional level as well as to ensure appropriate family representation on the State Coordinating Council.

Participation in six meetings led to stakeholder agreement for a plan for OCDD to fully implement resource allocation to realize necessary cost savings in the New Opportunities Waiver rather than cut waiver rates 5.8% December 1st.

HOUSING ACTIVITIES: Adults choose where and with whom they live.

Objective 15: Persons with disabilities will have increased access to housing through Council efforts. **ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2009**

HEALTH ACTIVITIES: People are healthy and benefit from the full range of needed health services.

Objective 16: Health care for persons with developmental disabilities will become a priority in Louisiana as a result of the Council's collaboration with at least eight advocacy bodies, programs and projects.

The Council is represented on the following **healthcare-related advocacy groups:** Louisiana Birth Defects Monitoring Network Advisory Board, Children's Special Health Services Stakeholder Group, Early Hearing Detection & Intervention Governor's Task Force, Louisiana Commission for the Deaf, Opelousas Cerebral Palsy Clinic Board Member, Affiliated Blind of Louisiana, National Federation of the Blind, the Coordinated System of Care Family Support Organization Workgroup, and the OCDD Mortality Review Committee.

Objective 17: Consumer-directed health care practices will be improved as a result of Council action.

There is no update for this objective this quarter.

EDUCATION AND EARLY INTERVENTION ACTIVITIES: Students reach their educational potential and infants and young children reach their developmental potential.

Objective 18: Seven hundred people will become active in systems advocacy about inclusive education through support of a statewide family-driven special education grassroots advocacy organization and other education initiatives.

LaTEACH is recruiting to fill vacant coordinator positions in Regions 1, 3, and 6. LaTEACH has co-hosted Legislative Roundtables with LaCAN in Regions 3, 7, and 8 with more scheduled for January. LaTEACH members have begun visiting legislators and educating them on the issue of restraints and seclusion in schools.

Objective 19: The Council will be represented on at least seven educational decision making bodies to represent the interests of students with developmental disabilities.

The Council is represented on **educational and/or early childhood groups:** State Performance Plan Part B Committee/Policy Stakeholders, State Improvement Grant Management Team, State Autism Team, Significant Disabilities Leadership

Committee, Low Incidence Disabilities Consortium, State Interagency Coordinating Council, Louisiana Council for Exceptional Children, and School to Prison Reform.

Objective 20: Thirty children with autism and their families will receive early intervention services that will result in improved communication and social skills. **ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2010**

EMPLOYMENT ACTIVITIES: People get and keep employment consistent with their interests, abilities and needs.

Objective 21: Young adults with developmental disabilities will gain employment experience through a governmental internship program developed by the Council in collaboration with other state agencies. **ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2008**

Objective 22: The number of people with developmental disabilities obtaining and maintaining integrated, community employment and careers will be increased through Council initiatives.

The **Employment Consortium** completed three Supported Employment trainings (Shreveport, Monroe, Alexandria) with a total of 31 participants.

The **Employment Outreach Campaign** featuring three individuals in Public Service Announcements were re-released in September 2010 in a statewide media campaign.

The **Employment Educational Campaign** is completing planning and materials development and has scheduled the first session for December 28th, 2010, in Destrehan.

Objective 23: The Council will learn the status of employment for people with developmental disabilities in Louisiana and have the data to effectively plan and advocate for meaningful employment options for people with developmental disabilities. **ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2010**

Following presentation of the **Employment Study** results and the employment ad hoc committee's recommendations, the Council established its employment agenda and incorporated this agenda into the Plan.

TRANSPORTATION ACTIVITIES: People have transportation services for work, school, medical, and personal needs.

Objective 22: Transportation choices and opportunities for persons with disabilities will be expanded through the Council's collaboration with other agencies on at least one transportation program in Louisiana.

Transportation Louisiana, a new initiative with the Arc of Louisiana is scheduled to begin January 1, 2011. The project will improve transportation options for people with developmental disabilities through coordination of transportation services and promotion of transportation funding available to DD service providers through a transportation liaison.

RECREATION ACTIVITIES: People benefit from inclusive recreational, leisure and social activities consistent with their interests and abilities.

Objective 23: Fifty individuals with developmental disabilities will have opportunities to enjoy increased or enhanced recreational activities through Council collaborative efforts.

The Louisiana Indian Education Association (LIEA) met to determine future goals to enhance educational opportunities for Louisiana's Indian students and develop strategies to better include those with disabilities. Staff visits to the Coushatta Indian Education Department and the Coushatta Little Indian School (Pre-K program) afforded the opportunity to promote Council initiatives and provide information to staff and parents who have concerns with IEP and other educational issues. The Indian Youth Leadership Camp will be scheduled for early April 2011.

CHILD CARE ACTIVITIES: Children and families benefit from a range of inclusive, flexible child care options.

Objective 24: Childcare providers in each region of the state will have access to training on supporting children with disabilities in inclusive day care settings.

ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2008