

<p><b>QUALITY ASSURANCE</b></p>	
<p><b>GOAL 1</b> 1,000 self-advocates and family members of persons with developmental disabilities will advocate for policies and practices that promote the self-determination, independence, productivity, integration and inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in all facets of community life.</p>	
<p><b>Objective 1.1</b> Louisiana’s self-advocacy organization consisting of people with developmental disabilities will promote advocacy by guiding local chapters and provide leadership training to individuals with developmental disabilities.</p>	
<p><b>People First of Louisiana (PFL)</b> continues to support 220 self-advocates. The advocacy facilitator began work this quarter attending FHF staff meetings, contacting LaCAN and LaTEACH about collaborating efforts, and contacting schools to promote LaCAN, LaTEACH and PFL.</p> <p>The PFL Board of Directors received one training this quarter. The topic was <i>Advocacy Actions</i> with eleven participants. Year to date there have been eight trainings provided to PFL Board with a total of 43 participants.</p> <p>PFL provided four trainings to Chapters in Regions 4 and 9 with a total of 66 participants attending. Topics included <i>Collective Action</i>, <i>The History of Self-Advocacy</i>, and <i>Self-Advocacy/Self-Determination</i>. Year to date PFL has provided nine trainings to Chapters with 150 participants.</p> <p>PFL Board developed advocacy activities specific to the Achieve a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act. The ABLE Act is an effort to encourage and assist individuals with disabilities and their families to set funds aside in a tax exempt savings account. Funds in ABLE accounts would supplement but not replace benefits to cover costs of health care, employment support, housing, transportation, technology and education. Contributions to ABLE Accounts would not be counted as part of any asset limits for eligibility to federal programs.</p> <p><i>PFL status continued on next page</i></p>	<p><b>On target:</b>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Initiative</b>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Expenditures</b></p>

<sup>1</sup> Cost Reimbursement contracts reimburse actual costs.

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# La DD Council – Status Report

**Review Period:** March 1, 2011 – May 31, 2012  
(unless otherwise noted)

<p><i>PFL continued</i></p> <p>Plans are in progress to apply for grants to secure funding independent from the Council.</p> <p>Challenges faced this quarter include increasing membership and engaging youth. PFL is addressing these issues by involving additional partners and implementing assistance from National Youth Leadership Network and The Life Club. Project activities are on target. PFL does not anticipate spending the full amount of available Council funding due to having only one advocacy facilitator instead of two. The advocacy facilitator serves the Lafayette/Lake Charles area. An offer was made to a candidate for a second advocacy facilitator position to serve the Northshore (Region 9) area. However, when this individual did not accept the position a decision was made to move forward with an advocacy facilitator in only one area of the state.</p>	
<p><b>Objective 1.2</b> Individuals with developmental disabilities will participate on cross-disability and culturally diverse leadership coalitions.</p>	
<p>Council staff shares information with PFL members on joining and participating in various boards of interest to them statewide.</p>	<p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Initiative</b></p>
<p><b>Objective 1.3</b> 75 to 100 individuals with developmental disabilities and parents of young children with developmental disabilities will develop skills in leadership development and systems change activities.</p>	
<p><b>Partners in Policymaking</b> graduated 21 of the original 24 participants in June. Particular emphasis was made on finding and reengaging graduates as well as challenging 2012 participants to continue advocacy activities. Partners has graduated 386 participants since 1990. Planning for 2013 Partners is on schedule.</p>	<p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Initiative</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Expenditures</b></p>
<p><i>Partners status continued on next page</i></p>	

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<p><i>Partners continued</i></p> <p><u>Partners in advocacy</u> There were four Partners graduates who testified during the 2012 Legislative Session. A total of 19 graduates and four of the 2012 Partners participants attended Yellow Shirt Days and public testimony days. Of the 39 who attended public testimony in April, twelve were graduates of Partners (31% of attendance).</p> <p>LaCAN received confirmation from 101 Partners graduates and at least eleven Partners participants who responded to action alerts about NOW, EarlySteps, and restoring DHH funding. Ninety Partners graduates and thirteen 2012 Partners participants responded to LaTEACH action alerts. Of the nine family members attending the LSU HDC Consumer Advisory Committee meeting this quarter, six are Partners graduates.</p>	
<p><b>Objective 1.4</b> 375 people with developmental disabilities and their family members will advance their knowledge of home- and community-based supports and services and promote advocacy leadership through participation in conferences and other training events.</p>	
<p>Twenty-five individuals with disabilities and family members received <b>stipends through Families Helping Families</b> to attend conferences and workshops this quarter. Year to date 75 stipends have been awarded. While three of the centers are on target with expenditures, across all FHF Centers the activity is not on target.</p>	<p><b>On target:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>
<p><b>My Choice</b> conducted six trainings with 197 participants. The trainings were in Regions 1, 3, and 6 and topics included “Abuse,” “Communicating Wants and Needs to DSP” and “Economic Abuse.”</p> <p><u>Year-to-date</u> Trainings have been revised for a broader audience and presenters were trained on the revised topics.</p>	<p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>

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<p><b>Objective 1.5</b> Members of the Council and its committees will serve as effective advocates for state and national systems change.</p>	
<p>Nine self-advocates and family members were supported to participate in the April Council meeting. One Council member stipend was awarded this period in the amount of \$35 for a webinar on Mastering the Art of Communication and Collaboration.</p> <p>Year to date three Council member stipends have been awarded. The balance of the Council member Stipend Fund is \$2,765.</p>	
<p><b>GOAL 2</b> Improve the quality of community-based supports and services for Louisianans with developmental disabilities.</p>	
<p><b>Objective 2.1</b> The quality of waiver services in Louisiana will improve through the development and implementation of a comprehensive home- and community-based services plan.</p>	
<p>Work on the plan by DHH is ongoing. Two resolutions (HR164 and SR156) were passed by the 2012 Legislature that relate to Act 299. These direct DHH to submit a report on the status of implementation of the plan mandated by Act 299 of 2011 to the Senate and House Health and Welfare Committees on or before February 1, 2013.</p>	<p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Initiative</b></p>
<p><b>Objective 2.2</b> Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) serving Louisianans with developmental disabilities will receive competitive compensation.</p>	
<p>An emergency rule requiring Home and Community Based Services providers to submit cost reports will be published in July. The Rate Reimbursement and Cost Report Committee did not meet this quarter.</p>	<p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Initiative</b></p>
<p><b>Objective 2.3</b> DSPs serving Louisianans with developmental disabilities will display a minimum skills set and have access to a graduated certification process with corresponding compensation increases.</p>	

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<p>There was no action on this initiative this reporting period. DSP curriculum and training are also being addressed in the Act 299 Plan but they are not linked to corresponding compensation increases.</p>	<p><b>On target:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
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**COMMUNITY SUPPORTS**

**GOAL 3**

Changes to policies and practices in Louisiana’s developmental disability system will result in adequate funding and availability of quality supports and services in the community and reduce reliance on public and private intermediate care facilities for people with developmental disabilities (ICFs/DD).

**Objective 3.1** 4,000 people on the waiting list will begin receiving home- and community-based services by educating stakeholders, policy makers and the public about the waiting list and needed systems reforms.

**LaCAN** currently has 2,600 members on its listserv and 953 members who have taken action (e.g., visits/letters to legislators, roundtable/yellow shirt attendance) since October 1, 2011.

LaCAN members advocated throughout the legislative session for increased funding for NOW slots. Forty LaCAN members attended the Appropriations Committee meetings on April 16-17, 2012 and forty members attended the Finance Committee meeting on May 19, 2012. Eight LaCAN Action Alerts were sent out so far this year with a total of 1,887 confirmed actions.

Although legislators acknowledged the need for more NOW slots throughout discussions of the budget and an amendment to provide funding was passed by the House, the 2013 budget passed with a reduction of funding for the NOW program that will result in the loss of 168 NOW slots through attrition.

Legislators did pass bills that will allow donations to the NOW Fund.

**On target:**  
 Initiative  
 Expenditures

**Objective 3.2** Admissions to developmental centers will cease by increasing access to behavioral and medical intervention in the community and the discontinuation of people adjudicated into developmental centers.

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# La DD Council – Status Report

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<p>There were not any activities this period related to advocacy for additional short-term emergency placement for behavioral and medical stabilization. DHH launched the partnership with Magellan to coordinate behavioral health service that is anticipated to increase the number of qualified providers and services.</p>	<p><b>On target:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p><b>Objective 3.3</b> The number of people in private ICFs/DD per capita in Louisiana will decrease to reach the national average through the transition of people to home- and community-based services.</p>	
<p>It is our understanding DHH is moving forward with implementation of the Money Follows the Person initiative. We expect to get details of their plans at our quarterly meeting with DHH Secretary Greenstein on July 10<sup>th</sup>.</p>	<p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p><b>GOAL 4</b> Individuals with developmental disabilities and their families will obtain the information, training, and support they need.</p>	
<p><b>Objective 4.1</b> 75,000 individuals with developmental disabilities and their families will obtain information, training, and support.</p>	
<p><b>Families Helping Families Resource Centers</b> assisted 6,600 individuals and families with information, referral, or other support this quarter, for a total of 12,346 individuals and families since October 1, 2011. Council staff provided technical assistance over the last six months to the FHF of Acadiana board while the center was without an Executive Director.</p>	<p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>
<p><b>GOAL 5</b> The Community and Family Support System will continue to deliver flexible, individualized and person-centered supports.</p>	
<p><b>Objective 5.1</b> 3,500 individuals with developmental disabilities will receive (Act 378 of 1989) state-funded supports.</p>	

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<p>Council staff and members met with leadership from OCDD Central Office, Regional Offices/ Districts/ Authorities on June 6<sup>th</sup> to discuss issues and consider options related to implementation of Act 378 funding and services. The discussion revealed a desire to have equitable access to resources for families regardless of geographic location or whether the region has a Regional Office or a Human Services District or Authority. At its July meeting the Human Services Interagency Council (HSIC) will review the distribution of funding across regions and develop recommendations for revising the formula taking into account 2010 Census data. It is possible for funds to be transferred between regional offices but it is more difficult to move money between regions/districts/authorities. OCDD will determine the most consistent data source for the Act 378 report to the Council.</p>	<p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Initiative</b></p>
<p><b>HEALTH</b></p>	
<p><b>GOAL 6</b> Policies and practices will result in adequate access to health care among Louisiana citizens with developmental disabilities.</p>	
<p><b>Objective 6.1</b> Access to quality medical services for individuals with developmental disabilities will increase.</p>	
<p>Medicaid planned to enroll some waiver recipients into Bayou Health effective July 1<sup>st</sup> but has postponed this enrollment until further notice. Staff participated in meetings with DHH to assist in messaging and advocated for DHH to take into account waiver recipients who have complex medical challenges and may chose to not switch to Bayou Health from “legacy Medicaid.”</p>	<p><b>On target:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Initiative</b></p>
<p><b>Objective 6.2</b> Families will have access to information regarding Medicaid providers.</p>	
<p>All Medicaid providers are listed on the DHH website at the following link: <a href="http://www.lamedicaid.com/provweb1/provider_demographics/provider_map.aspx">http://www.lamedicaid.com/provweb1/provider_demographics/provider_map.aspx</a>. This information is linked to the DD Council website and will be disseminated in future LaDDC News releases related to health. FHF Centers have publicized this site in their newsletters and website.</p>	<p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Initiative</b></p>
<p><b>Objective 6.3</b> Louisiana recipients of waiver services aged 22 and older will have access to dental services.</p>	

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<p>No progress has been made at this time.</p>	<p><b>On target:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p><b>EDUCATION</b></p>	
<p><b>GOAL 7</b> Changes in policies and practices will result in inclusive, evidence-based, and safe educational settings for students with developmental disabilities.</p>	
<p><b>Objective 7.1</b> 1,000 people will become active in systems advocacy for increased access to inclusive education opportunities among students with developmental disabilities in all publicly funded schools through the support of a statewide family-driven special education grassroots advocacy organization.</p>	
<p><b>LaTEACH</b> currently has 1,440 total members signed up and 1,180 members on its electronic listserv. At least 133 members confirmed action this period to alerts about education reform with 362 total instances of action taken by members. Year to date, at least 440 members confirmed action with at least 633 instances where members took action.</p> <p>A new LaTEACH area coordinator in Region 9 was just hired this week, leaving the only remaining vacancy in Region 6.</p> <p>LaTEACH Coordinators and members met with at least 17 legislators, 5 BESE members, and the Superintendent of Education during the 2012 Legislative Session. LaTEACH provided information to policymakers on how proposed policies would affect students with disabilities. LaTEACH members received assistance to write and deliver their testimony, information necessary to be active in their advocacy efforts and support during committee days.</p> <p><i>LaTEACH status continued on next page</i></p>	<p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>

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<p><i>LaTEACH continued</i></p> <p>LaTEACH advocacy efforts resulted in some positive outcomes. Although SB728 did not pass, the Department of Education will ask BESE to consider revising the funding formula (MFP). LaTEACH will continue to support members in advocating for the MFP formula to reflect both equity of resources based on the level of service need of students and that schools receiving public funds provide students with the least restrictive (i.e., fully inclusive) educational environments. Additionally, LaTEACH supported LaCAN’s advocacy that contributed to the continued funding for the EarlySteps program.</p>	
<p><b>Objective 7.2</b> Changes in policies and practices will result in competitive employment in integrated settings as the first and desired outcome for youth and young adults with developmental disabilities.</p>	
<p>Employment Systems Change grant was not awarded.</p>	<p><b>On target:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p><b>Objective 7.3</b> There will be an increase in the number of charter schools, early education programs, and other publicly funded education facilities that approximate the percentage of students statewide served with developmental disabilities across all LEAs.</p>	
<p>Regional advocacy leaders with LaCAN/LaTEACH provided information regarding how Charter schools tend to not serve students with more significant disabilities to Legislators, BESE members and LaTEACH members. LaTEACH was active with sharing information regarding the education reform proposals. While changes to these plans have removed language that would have allowed participating schools to deny admissions to students based on their disability type as the proposed scholarship program is written (on 3/27/12) participating schools would not have to provide students with disabilities with the services they need to succeed.</p>	<p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p><b>Objective 7.4</b> Students will be protected from discipline practices that cause harm and/or violate their rights.</p>	
<p>Rules on the use of restraint and seclusion were adopted by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) in March and they were published in the LA Register.</p>	<p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>

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<p><b>GOAL 8</b> EarlySteps will return to a transdisciplinary service delivery system.</p>	
<p><b>Objective 8.1</b> Children participating in EarlySteps will demonstrate improved developmental outcomes.</p>	
<p>An ad hoc committee on EarlySteps met to discuss the transdisciplinary vs. interdisciplinary model of service delivery and make recommendations to improve the early intervention system for the Council’s consideration. The transdisciplinary model was affirmed as the preferred model by the committee. Additional recommendations will be presented to the H/E/E Committee at the July meeting.</p>	<p><b>On target:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p><b>EMPLOYMENT</b></p>	
<p><b>GOAL 9</b> Changes in public policy and practice will result in an increase of 1,000 people with developmental disabilities in integrated individualized employment.</p>	
<p><b>Objective 9.1</b> Louisiana will develop and implement an Employment First plan.</p>	
<p>The Council staff participates in OCDD’s Employment First Workgroup (and committees) with several other parent, advocate, and agency members, developing the Employment First state plan. During this reporting period, the Workgroup developed 5-Year Outcomes for the Plan and immediate action steps needed to move us forward. Additionally, OCDD has continued development of an employment manual for support coordinators, employment data collection and sharing (with LRS), the designation of an employment contact person in each OCDD region, and the collaboration on two proposals, one for the alignment of LRS and OCDD Supported Employment Services and one to provide cross training with LRS, DOE and other agencies and support coordinators.</p>	<p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p><b>Objective 9.2</b> The capacity of the employment provider system will improve through evidence-based practice in collaboration with the LSU-HSC Human Development Center.</p>	

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<p>The <b>Employment Consortium</b> completed five Basic Supported Employment trainings this reporting period with 44 participants.</p> <p><u>Year-to-date</u> The Employment Consortium has had 84 participants in nine Basic classes and four train-the-trainer participants.</p>	<p><b>On target:</b>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Initiative</b>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Expenditures</b></p>
<p><b>Objective 9.3</b> The Louisiana Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) program’s federal draw down will increase.</p>	
<p>As a result of the La. Rehabilitation Services (LRS) drawdown Ad Hoc committee LRS and DOE are collaborating on the Exit to Success program for increased transitional staff in one Local Education Agency (Bossier Parish school system). Announcements resulted in seven LEAs expressing interest in this third party agreement.</p> <p>While the La. Rehabilitation Council’s advocacy to the La. Legislature regarding LRS’ allocation did not result in an increase it was apparent that more legislators are becoming aware of the issues surrounding LRS’ budget and drawdown.</p>	<p><b>On target:</b>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Initiative</b></p>
<p><b>Objective 9.4</b> Family members and others will be knowledgeable about options for integrated, competitive employment in collaboration with the Advocacy Center and the LSU-HSC Human Development Center.</p>	
<p><b>Show Me The Money</b> held eleven trainings on the benefits of community employment with a total of 59 participants.</p> <p><u>Year-to-date</u> Show Me The Money has had 161 participants in 21 classes.</p> <p><b>Employment Media Campaign</b>, funded at \$24,000, has begun running TV spots that were produced two years ago and will begin airing radio spots.</p>	<p><b>On target:</b>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Initiative</b>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Expenditures</b></p>
<p><b>RECREATION</b></p>	

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<p><b>GOAL 10</b> More people with developmental disabilities will participate in inclusive community recreation activities.</p>	
<p><b>Objective 10.1</b> Inclusive recreation programs will be developed in at least two areas of the state.</p>	
<p>The <b>Inclusive Recreation/ PBIS Training</b> or PIRL (Pineville Inclusive Recreational League) is a collaboration of OCDD Central Louisiana Resource Center with Ward 9 Recreation Complex in Pineville, Rapides Parish School Board and Louisiana College Athletic Department. The Resource Center will also provide support to make Ward 9’s existing activities more inclusive of children with disabilities in addition to creating PIRL.</p> <p>The project trained 17 people in inclusive recreation practices and positive behavioral supports. PIRL began this period with implementation of the initial Spring Soccer League and continues efforts with a broader range of activities that include bowling and T-ball. Of the 44 participants during soccer league this period, 12 had developmental disabilities.</p> <p>A group of adaptive PE majors at Louisiana College (LC) were recruited to volunteer as ‘coaches’ for the initial soccer league. Also, the LC Athletic Development Director (who also coaches LC women’s soccer team) provided male and female NCAA collegiate soccer players with experience in conducting soccer camps for the duration of the spring soccer league. Participants and volunteers were assigned into teams with each team assigned an OCDD staff member with competency in positive behavioral supports.</p> <p>Opening day of Spring Soccer was a success with rave reviews. The benefit of expertise from the Louisiana College soccer teams made it fun and meaningful for both parents and the children while they learned about soccer through drills and scrimmaging. The collective vigilance of the Resource Center staff succeeded in detecting and quickly containing/de-escalating potential behavioral incidents. The coaches were particularly impressive in how they carefully and sensitively engaged each child.</p> <p><i>Recreation status continued on next page</i></p>	

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<p><i>Recreation continued</i></p> <p>Challenges at the beginning of the initiative are being addressed by the project so activities should be completed on schedule. However, the late start of project activities and state spending regulations hindered the project budget being on target through June 30, 2012. Therefore, funds may be remaining at the end of state fiscal year 2012.</p>	<p><b>On target:</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Initiative</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Expenditures</b></p>
<p><b>CHILD CARE</b></p>	
<p><b>GOAL 11</b>          The number of quality, affordable, inclusive child care services accessible to parents of children with significant disabilities will increase.</p>	
<p><b>Objective 11.1</b> The capacity of Louisiana’s child care system to support children with significant disabilities will improve.</p>	
<p><b>Inclusive Child Care Training</b> staff participated in collaborative meetings including the BrightStart Professional Development Committee and Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) Child Development &amp; Early Learning Section.</p> <p>The Professional Development Committee will make systems change decisions related to training and technical assistance and build capacity of the child care system to include children with developmental disabilities. The project’s participation on this committee focuses on how children with disabilities can be supported within Louisiana’s new Professional Development System and includes working on the other charges of the Professional Development Committee (e.g., Standards for Early Childhood Professionals, Standards for Professional Development Providers, Redesigning Pathways, Louisiana's Career Ladder for Child Care Providers and training requirements).</p> <p><i>Child Care status continued on next page</i></p>	<p><b>On target:</b>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Initiative</b>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Expenditures</b></p>

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*Child Care continued*

The initiative collaborates with DCFS to develop four face-to-face training modules to include a standardized technical assistance (TA) protocol Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) agencies will use to provide TA. Collaboration with DCFS also continues to develop four webinars and determine webinar dates. The Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) stakeholders met to develop recommendations to DCFS for revision of the CCAP special needs rate to better accommodate eligible children and families. Recommendations will be synthesized into a report to present to the Council upon completion.

Discussions held with DCFS Child Development & Early Learning Section in reference to current changes to the child care system determined additional consideration and time is needed for the development of the on-site training modules. A collaborative meeting will occur in early July to further decide the direction to pursue for training.

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