

**LOUISIANA DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL  
STATUS OF FFY 2010 PLAN ACTIVITIES  
Current through February 28, 2010**

**QUALITY ASSURANCE ACTIVITIES**

**GOAL: 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** is a national leadership training program for people with developmental disabilities and parents of young children with developmental disabilities. Three of six sessions have been held with all of the original 25 participants remaining. **Due to increasing hotel, meal and travel costs Partners anticipates the cost for 25 participants FFY 2011 would be \$88,000. To remain at the current budget the program will have to limit to 18 participants.**

<b>Total Budgeted<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>\$78,000</b>
Coordinator	\$18,180
Travel	\$42,569
Supplies	\$2,491
Speakers	\$8,520
Administrative	\$6,240

**Stipends** available through Families Helping Families provide financial support for persons with developmental disabilities and their family members to participate in training events and conferences on community-based individual supports. To date, 43 individuals received stipends.

<b>Total Budgeted<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>\$46,000</b>
Stipends	\$42,320
Administrative	\$3,680

**My Choice** is a training initiative conducted by self-advocates for self-advocates. Five sessions were conducted with a total of 84 individuals in attendance. The topics included "Abuse," "Economic Abuse," and "Communicating My Wants and Needs to My Support Staff." The trainings were in Metairie, Centerville (St. Mary Parish), Lake Charles, and New Orleans. **The Arc of Louisiana indicated that for \$10,000 in FFY2011 the My Choice project could support self-advocate trainers in conducting a minimum of 12 training sessions across the state.**

<b>Total Budgeted<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>\$10,000</b>
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<sup>1</sup> Cost Reimbursement contracts reimburse actual costs.

<sup>2</sup> Fee for Service contracts provide a set rate for deliverables specified within the contract.

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

**People First of Louisiana** is a self advocacy organization with 15 chapters and 394 members. Of the total chapters, six have either completed or have started the affiliation process. **People First can continue operating as the state wide advocacy organization with \$110,000 in FFY2011.**

<b>Total Budgeted<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>\$110,000</b>
Salaries and wages	\$44,654
Related benefits	\$10,908
Travel	\$15,245
Operating services	\$19,581
Supplies	\$686
Professional Services	\$10,900
Administrative	\$8,026

**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.

The **DD Council Member Travel Stipend Fund** supports members to attend training events. One Council member used a stipend in the amount of \$85 to participate in "Achieving the Right of Adult Status" conference in January. The current balance of the Council Member Travel Stipend Fund is \$2,098.51.

<b>Total Budgeted<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>\$3,000</b>
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**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 **TriAngle** currently has 3,651 subscribers. **FFY2011 printing costs are not anticipated to increase at this time.**

<b>Total Budgeted<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>\$13,386</b>
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**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**

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<sup>2</sup> Fee for Service contracts provide a set rate for deliverables specified within the contract.

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

**GOAL:** Individuals have access to other services available or offered in a community, including formal and informal community supports that affect their quality of life.

**Objective 6:** Individuals with developmental disabilities will receive quality community services.

OCDD and OAAS collaborated in the development of the “Outcomes and Indicators Across Individuals with Developmental Disabilities, Adults with Physical Disabilities, and Older Adults.” Fact sheets and related media will be disseminated.

**Objective 7:** 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 8:** 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**, a statewide grassroots network of 3,266 individuals and families, advocates for Community and Family Supports. Currently there are 8 Regional LaCAN leaders with a vacancy in Region 2. The regional legislative round table expenses are included in “Supplies.” **Anticipated cost estimates for FFY2011 to maintain LaCAN is \$130,000 and \$9,000 to support the Rally.**

<b>Total Budgeted<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>\$139,000</b>
Travel	\$11,800
Supplies	\$11,430
LaCAN Leaders	\$95,650
Administrative	\$11,120
Rally	\$9,000

**End the Wait!** is a public awareness campaign to educate policy makers on the waiting list and benefits of community living. Three individuals were featured in dozens of commercials and PSAs. A committee developed drafts for print materials. An End The Wait! webpage was linked to the Council and LaCAN websites. The campaign aired just prior to the 2010 legislative session.

<b>Total Budgeted<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>\$8,000</b>
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<sup>2</sup> Fee for Service contracts provide a set rate for deliverables specified within the contract.

**Objective 9:** 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** make up a statewide network of ten family-directed and family-staffed regional centers that provides information on services and activities that improve quality of life, help individuals understand their rights and advocate for themselves, and lend support from someone “who has been there.” From December 2009 to February 2010 information or referral to services was made to 5,179 people.

**Objective 10:** 300 direct support professionals (DSP) 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 11:** Direct Support Professionals (DSP) will be compensated at or above the southern regional average. **ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2008**

The **OCDD Direct Support Professional Coalition** reconvened for the first time in many months to discuss current state training initiatives and to review a DSP survey DHH plans to disseminate to DSPs through their providers. There was a request made again for OCDD to collect cost reports from a sample number of providers to determine how much the reimbursement rate will support in DSP costs. This data would support a mandated minimum percentage of the rate spent on DSP wages and related expenses.

**Objective 12:** People with disabilities will have expanded social and friendship network opportunities as a result of a Louisiana on-line interactive web-based community.

The **My Voice** project includes a Disaboom website and Facebook page which maintain discussion and information strands on topics relevant to people with disabilities in Louisiana. **The Advocacy Center indicated that with increase of funding to \$7,500 in FFY2011 the My Voice project could: 1) provide one-on-one training on electronic networking to select self-advocates, 2) increase the number of posts and solicit interaction from self-advocates throughout the state, and 3) gather feedback on issues of interest to people with disabilities.**

<b>Total Budgeted<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>\$5,000</b>
Salaries and Wages	\$3,836
Supplies	\$764
Administrative	\$400

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

<sup>2</sup> Fee for Service contracts provide a set rate for deliverables specified within the contract.

## HOUSING ACTIVITIES

**GOAL: Adults choose where and with whom they live.**

**Objective 13:** Persons with disabilities will have increased access to housing through Council efforts. **ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2009**

## HEALTH ACTIVITIES

**GOAL: People are healthy and benefit from the full range of needed health services.**

**Objective 14:** Health care for persons with developmental disabilities will become a priority in Louisiana as a result of the DD Council's collaboration with at least 8 advocacy bodies, programs and projects.

The Council is represented on the following **healthcare-related advocacy groups**: the Office of Aging and Adult Services (OAAS) Redesign Workgroup, Louisiana Birth Defects Monitoring Network Advisory Board, Early Hearing Detection & Intervention Governor's Task Force, Down Syndrome Association of Greater New Orleans, National Down Syndrome Congress, Spina Bifida Association of Greater New Orleans, Autism Society of America (Greater New Orleans), Autism Research Institute, Louisiana Families for Effective Autism Treatment, Hydrocephalous Association, and National Association of Disorders of the Corpus Callosum.

**Objective 15:** Consumer-directed health care practices will be improved as a result of Council action.

The Act 648 Autism Insurance Implementation Task Force was instrumental in ensuring ABA services are appropriately covered by insurance.

Implementation of **ACT 552 of 2008** allowing routine noncomplex nursing tasks to be performed by DSPs with appropriate training was postponed last year. Through collaboration between DHH and the Nursing Board a notice of intent was published in the October 2009 State Register. Rulemaking is on hold at this time due to Provider concerns. The Rule establishes DSP training and competency, the tasks that may be performed by DSPs, liability issues and program oversight and the responsibilities of DSPs, nurses, employers, and recipients.

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

<sup>2</sup> Fee for Service contracts provide a set rate for deliverables specified within the contract.

**EDUCATION AND EARLY INTERVENTION ACTIVITIES**

**Goal: Students reach their educational potential and infants and young children reach their developmental potential.**

**Objective 16:** 500 people will become active in systems advocacy about inclusive education through establishment of a statewide family-driven special education grassroots advocacy organization.

**LaTEACH** is a statewide grassroots network of parents, educators, and other stakeholders that advocates for inclusive education and positive outcomes for all students. LaTEACH membership continues to increase with 995 members. **An increase in funding to \$88,000 for FY2011 would enable LaTEACH to enhance advocacy efforts and activities through two regional training events per year for each of the seven LaTEACH regions and increased time for Area Coordinators. Increased funding would increase their hours from 25 per month to 40 per month.**

<b>Total Budgeted<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>\$60,000</b>
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**Objective 17:** The DD Council will be represented on at least 3 educational decision making bodies in order 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 Review Group, Louisiana State Positive Behavior Support Advisory Committee, State Improvement Grant Management Team, State Autism Team, Low Incidence Disabilities Consortium, State Interagency Coordinating Council, and School to Prison Reform Coalition.

**Objective 18:** Thirty children with autism and their families will receive early intervention services in inclusive community-based programs that result in improved language and social skills.

**Autism Early Intervention Project** provides training and technical support to providers and family members of young children with autism with the goal of developing a model for providing intervention services to young children with autism in inclusive settings and support to family members. Currently five families are participating in the project. **The project will have completed its objectives by the end of the current plan year.**

<b>Total Budgeted<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>\$60,000</b>
Travel	\$11,600
Professional Services	\$43,600
Administrative	\$4,800

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

<sup>2</sup> Fee for Service contracts provide a set rate for deliverables specified within the contract.

**EMPLOYMENT ACTIVITIES**

**Goal: People get and keep employment consistent with their interests, abilities and needs.**

**Objective 19:** 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 20:** The number of people with developmental disabilities obtaining and maintaining integrated, community employment and careers will be increased through Council initiatives.

**Employment Outreach Campaign** educates the public about the benefits of including people with developmental disabilities as part of the community-based workforce. The videos aired in primetime media spots statewide and were provided for use in various job fairs around the state to provide examples of employers demonstrating inclusive hiring practices.

<b>Total Budgeted<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>\$24,000</b>
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The **Employment Consortium** facilitates building the capacity of employment provider agencies in supporting people with significant developmental disabilities in finding and maintaining competitive employment. The Consortium has four job seekers and four participating employment specialists in professional development. Three APSE Board meetings were held and three professional development opportunities were provided. Training topics included “Interviewing Skills,” “Developing contacts: Applying for jobs online and accessing online job data bases,” and “Assisting with job maintenance.” **LSU-HDC proposed funding of \$78,802 to support the Employment Consortium project in FFY 2011 to provide 20 two-day Supported Employment workshops statewide with training modules available online. The revised project objectives also include developing a train-the-trainer curriculum and providing a two-day train-the-trainer workshop to all successful completers of the four Supported Employment modules.**

<b>Total Budgeted<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>\$68,655</b>
Salaries and wages	\$9,975
Related benefits	\$3,367
Travel	\$2,200
Supplies	\$2,155
Professional Services	\$45,650
Administrative	\$5,308

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

<sup>2</sup> Fee for Service contracts provide a set rate for deliverables specified within the contract.

The **Buddies-At-Work** project held one work day at St. Jude School where a person with a developmental disability (Buddy) was partnered as a paraprofessional with two teachers. This was the Buddy's first experience in a professional work setting and she was proud that the students were taking directions from her. In addition, the project has appeared to have changed the mind-set of the faculty and staff as soon as they saw the Buddy's ability to receive instruction and perform the required job duties. **To continue the quality of service at the \$8,000 funding level, Buddies-at-Work would have to decrease the total number of buddy/professional matches from 24 to 8.**

<b>Total Budgeted<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>\$8,000</b>
Professional Services	\$7,360
Administrative	\$640

**Objective 21:** 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.

LSU-HDC completed research for the **Employment Study** and during the January Meeting presented its final report that offers recommendations for five critical issues impacting employment. An ad hoc committee has been established to develop an agenda to improve the state of employment for Louisianans with disabilities.

### **TRANSPORTATION ACTIVITIES**

**Goal: 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 assistance in the coordination of at least one transportation program in Louisiana.

The Council is further researching transportation initiatives in other states for consideration for the FFY 2011 plan.

### **RECREATION ACTIVITIES**

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

**Objective 23:** 50 individuals with developmental disabilities will have opportunities to enjoy increased or enhanced recreational activities through Council collaborative efforts.

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

<sup>2</sup> Fee for Service contracts provide a set rate for deliverables specified within the contract.



The **Louisiana Indian Education Association (LIEA)** and the Council collaborate to promote inclusion of American Indian youth with disabilities in a variety of recreation activities. The LIEA held its 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Indian Youth Leadership Camp March 19-21, 2010, in LaBlanc, Louisiana. There were a total of 49 participants, 31 students and 18 adult staff/ counselors, including at least three students and one adult participant with disabilities. In addition to cultural ceremonies, demonstrations and crafts classes, the camp agenda included Safe and Drug Free presentations, leadership and skills building activities, and educational activities.

### **CHILD CARE ACTIVITIES**

**Goal: Children and families benefit from a range of inclusive, flexible child care options.**

**Objective 21**: 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**

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