

LOUISIANA DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL STATUS OF FFY 2010 PLAN ACTIVITIES

Reflects activities from June 1 through August 31, 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 is using Facebook and other networking tools to reconnect with graduates and help to increase their advocacy efforts. In addition, current and previous Council members as well as other disability advocates who are Partners graduates are being recruited to help locate graduates in their regions. Currently this process has identified nineteen previous graduates.

Partners 2011 begins January 14. Please refer to the Council website for a full listing of dates.

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

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

People First of Louisiana, with 394 members in 15 chapters, has an increased focus on advocacy activities. Planning includes restructuring of the board of directors by realigning the membership and board selection processes to increase influence, presence, and leadership of People First of Louisiana in the state. The training facilitator/director position has been filled and work with local chapters will continue.

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.

Fourteen 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 \$2,184.

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 3,643 subscribers (885 of these are email-only). After the October issue, the Council will begin disseminating its own articles, "LaDDC NEWS," on current events and issues to email subscribers.

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: Individuals with developmental disabilities will receive quality community services.

Ensuring the quality of community services was the main topic of discussion at the July Self-Determination Committee meeting. OCDD and Medicaid Health Standards will provide information to the committee at the October meeting. An article on the need to invest in quality will be included in the October issue of the *TriAngle*.

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 has 3,690 members throughout the state and is now on Facebook. Rebecca Ellis and Rodney Hastings have been hired as the new as the Region 9 and Region 2 leaders, respectively. At the October 7th Kickoff leaders will plan for legislative roundtables and legislative visits.

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 assisted 9,416 individuals and families with information, referral or other support since March 1, 2010.

Objective 10: 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 11: 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* will bring attention to this serious issue.

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.

Through **Find Your Voice**, the Disaboom website has discussion and information strands on topics relevant to people with disabilities. Recent postings discussed accessible housing, retrofitting, and financing, dating and relationships and emergency preparedness. The Advocacy Center's Facebook page included information on an inclusive tennis tournament, a public meeting between families of Pinecrest residents and the OCDD Assistant Secretary, Julia Kenny, successes of the Buddies at Work project, and voting initiatives in Louisiana. The Advocacy Center's Facebook fan total increased to 955.

HOUSING ACTIVITIES: 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: 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 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 and the OCDD Mortality Review Committee.

Objective 15: 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 16: 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 membership has increased to 1,047 members. Currently, there are area coordinator vacancies in Greater New Orleans, Acadiana, Northeast, Central, and Southeast Louisiana. The regions covered by area coordinators have been reorganized, effective October 1st, and recruitment procedures are being restructured to fill vacancies. Advocacy efforts included recommendations on discipline regulations and guidelines for seclusion and restraints in schools.

Objective 17: 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, and State Interagency Coordinating Council, Louisiana Council for Exceptional Children, and School to Prison Reform.

Objective 18: Thirty children with autism and their families will receive early intervention services that will result in improved communication and social skills.

Autism Early Intervention Project has five families of young children with autism actively participating in research on a training and technical support model in Early Steps. Final assessments are being conducted on each of the children and families and data analysis is being conducted to determine the effectiveness, efficiency, replicability and implications from the outcomes.

EMPLOYMENT ACTIVITIES: 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.

The **Employment Consortium** continues to support four job seekers and three employment specialists in professional development. Since June, three Employment Consortium trainings were provided. Training topics included work ethics, skill development in employment, and future steps in seeking and securing employment. The APSE board held three meetings. In addition, On-site Job Training was conducted with four job seeker/employment specialist pairs.

The **Employment Outreach Campaign** featuring three individuals in PSAs has been re-released in September 2010 in a statewide media campaign.

Buddies At Work has completed twenty-one work days across the state. This quarter eight Buddies worked at job sites such as an office, science center exhibits, café kitchen, animal shelter, fast food restaurant, car dealership, and a laundry service. Buddies at Work received media coverage in newspapers and a televised news cast in Lake Charles at Raisin' Canes.

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. **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.

The Council has explored a variety of options to meet this objective. Based on this research it has been found that a transportation project will require a minimum of two years to become sustainable and cost between \$50,000 to \$75,000 for the two years. A successful transportation project will require buy-in from community organizations, coordination of a variety of services, close collaboration with the Louisiana

Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD), and should include using all available resources (e.g., Missouri DD Council's Transportation Manual, DOTD grants, etc.). Research further indicates that the initial planning takes a considerable amount of time (e.g., deciding best transportation routes and times of stops) but planning cost is minimal (less than \$5,000) compared to implementation.

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.

Louisiana Indian Education Association (LIEA) met to determine future goals to enhance educational opportunities for Louisiana's Indian students and how to better include those with disabilities. Staff visits to the Coshatta Indian Education Department and the Coshatta 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