

# LOUISIANA DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL STATUS OF FFY 2011 PLAN ACTIVITIES

Reflects activities from March 1 through May 31, 2011 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** celebrated the graduation of 21 participants on June 18.

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

**My Choice** conducted three training sessions this quarter in Regions 4 and 7. There were 59 people attending the training session of “Economic Abuse” and 71 people attending the “Communicating My Wants and Needs to My Support Staff” training sessions.

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

**People First of Louisiana** supports 394 members throughout 18 local chapters. The executive board received leadership training entitled Leading from the Middle. Project staff and the board of directors provided training to seven local chapters on topics including Collective Action, Leading from the Middle, and the Disability Rights Movement. Project staff participated in advocacy efforts during the legislative session.

**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 April 2011.

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 Council collaborated with Advocacy Center staff to support grassroots advocacy efforts throughout the legislative session on topics related to the budget and the use of restraints and seclusion in schools. The Council, LSU-HDC and the Advocacy Center are collaborating on several employment initiatives, including a new federal grant application to address employment issues.

**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.

There is no activity for this objective this quarter.

**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** has 3,947 members throughout the state. During the legislative session, LaCAN members' advocacy resulted in restoration of cuts proposed to DHH through the Legislative session. The proposed cuts would have resulted in the reduction or elimination of certain Home and Community Based services.

**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 7,441 individuals and families with information, referral or other support since March 1, 2011.

**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.

There was no activity for this objective this quarter.

**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 Elder Abuse, Spread the Word to End the Word, and Nursing Homes vs. Community-Based Care: What's Wrong with this Picture?

**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.

Staff participated in two meetings of the Coordinated System of Care – Family Support Organization subcommittee to advocate for policies that would facilitate appropriate family representation on the State Coordinating Council. Staff and a Council member also participated in a work group revising the criteria and process for individuals to receive an Emergency Waiver slot to better meet the needs to individuals and their families.

#### **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, Opelousas Cerebral Palsy Clinic Board Member, 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** membership has increased to 1,227 members. Currently there is only one area coordinator position vacant in Region 3 that Bayou Land FHF has agreed to help advertise. LaTEACH membership was instrumental in successfully advocating for the passage of regulations governing the use of restraints and seclusion in schools. LaTEACH also prepared advocates to testify to the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to ensure they passed the rule to certify Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBAs) to teach students 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:** Improvement and Assistance State Performance Plan Steering Committee, Validated Practices Committee, State Improvement Grant Management and Advisory 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 six Supported Employment trainings (Houma, Baton Rouge, Lafayette, New Orleans (2), and Lake Charles) with a total of 71 participants.

The **Employment Educational Campaign** completed four trainings (LaPlace (2), Reserve, and Garyville) with a total of 18 participants.

**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.

Together with LSU-HDC and the Advocacy Center, the Council is participating on OCDD's Employment First Work Group. With our partners' support, staff successfully advocated for a strong Employment First position statement that was adopted by the group and subsequently released by OCDD. Also, staff successfully advocated for an implementation plan to be developed by the group.

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

**Objective 24:** 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 **Transportation Louisiana** liaison participated in nine Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan meetings and presented at the Disability Summit. The contractor has developed a website that includes the regional transportation plans, meeting agendas and transportation officials' and providers' contact information as well as updates and news. The initiative has resulted in increased provider participation in the transportation planning meetings.

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

**Objective 25:** Fifty individuals with developmental disabilities will have opportunities to enjoy increased or enhanced recreational activities through Council collaborative efforts.

There is no update for this objective this quarter.

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

**Objective 26:** 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**