

LOUISIANA DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL STATUS OF FFY 2010 PLAN ACTIVITIES

Reflects activities from March 1 through May 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 celebrated the graduation of 24 participants on June 19, 2010.

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

My Choice conducted four trainings this quarter in Regions 4, 5, and 9. The training topics were "Advocacy," and "Communicating My Wants and Needs to My Support Staff" with 88 individuals attending.

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 394 members in 15 chapters across the state and continues planning for increased statewide advocacy and trainings. People First provided testimony at Legislative hearings related to funding for disability services and was an active collaborator in the Disability Rights Rally.

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.

Thirteen self-advocates and family members were supported in attending the Council meeting in April 2010.

No Council member stipends were awarded this quarter. The current 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 3,658 subscribers (883 of these are email-only). In January, the Council will begin producing its own newsletter.

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.

OCDD developed a draft version of the “Outcomes and Indicators Across Individuals with Developmental Disabilities, Adults with Physical Disabilities, and Older Adults.” The final report is pending DHH executive review. Fact sheets and other media will be disseminated when the final document is published.

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 3,560 members throughout the state. Two new leaders are Hillary Toucey in Region 2 and Mauricia Walters in Region 4. Hundreds of LaCAN members participated in the Disability Rights Rally on April 28 at the State Capitol. During the legislative session, LaCAN successfully advocated for 150 New Opportunities Waiver Slots and the closure/consolidation of developmental centers. LaCAN also advocated for a restoration of the Medicaid provider rate cuts. Unfortunately, the Medicaid private provider program was issued a 4.72 percent reduction.

End the Wait! featured three individuals in PSAs that were re-released in March 2010 in a statewide media campaign.

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 5,977 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.

Although DSPs in Louisiana are currently compensated at or above the southern regional average, a severe shortage of DSPs, a high turnover rate, and a poorly trained workforce are problems that continue to hinder the consistent provision of quality supports and services statewide. There were no collaborative efforts to address a career ladder and increased wages for DSPs this quarter.

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 Green Corp Opportunity for 14 to 16-year-olds, the closing of Northeast Supports and Services Center in Ruston, and updates on the legislative session. The Advocacy Center's Facebook page included information on transportation options for people with disabilities, fair housing month (April), and the mental health system treatment of children. The Advocacy Center's Facebook fan total increased to 796.

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**: Affiliated of the Blind of Louisiana, Family and Youth Partnership Workshop of the Coordinated System of Care, Governor's Task Force for Early Hearing Detection and Intervention, Hydrocephalus Association, Louisiana Assistive Technology Initiative, Louisiana Birth Defects Monitoring Network Advisory Board, Louisiana Commission

for the Deaf, Low Incidence Disabilities Consortium, National Federation of the Blind, National Organization of Disorders of the Corpus Collosum, OCDD Mortality Review Committee, Opelousas Cerebral Palsy Clinic Board Member, Significant Disabilities Leadership Committee, and Spina Bifida of Greater New Orleans.

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

Implementation of **ACT 552 of 2008** allowing routine noncomplex nursing tasks to be performed by DSPs with appropriate training was postponed by HCR 94 until next year.

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 1,022 members. Currently, there are six area coordinators with vacancies in BESE Districts 3 and 7. LaTEACH advocacy during the legislative session focused primarily on corporal punishment and restraints/seclusion with limited success. Powerful testimony was presented by parents and advocates on both issues and legislators were provided with information on evidence-based practices. Unfortunately, the best advocacy efforts aren't always successful.

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 meeting, Louisiana State Positive Behavior Support Advisory Committee, State Improvement Grant Management Team, State Autism Team, Low Incidence Disabilities Consortium, and State Interagency Coordinating Council.

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 four families of young children with autism actively participating in research on a training and technical support model in Early Steps.

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's** supported employment curriculum development activities include analysis of feedback results from classroom training and weekly job-site follow-up and training. Participants include four persons with disabilities, and three employment specialists from separate provider agencies. Professional development training topics under development include developing interviewing skills, building a professional network, accessing electronic networks, and assisting with skills for job maintenance. Additionally, the Association for Persons in Supported Employment (APSE) board held three meetings.

The **Employment Outreach Campaign** featuring three individuals in PSAs is scheduled to be re-released in September 2010 in a statewide media campaign.

Buddies At Work sponsored seven work days in Covington, Roseland, Baton Rouge, Amite, New Orleans, and Jonesville. These work day events occurred at a variety of locations including a farmer's market, a motor oil manufacturing company, a grocery store, a physical therapy clinic, a Tulane baseball game and a furniture store.

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.

Following presentation of the **Employment Study** results and the employment ad hoc committee's recommendations, the Council established its employment agenda and incorporated it 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 possible options to meet this objective.

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 LIEA held its 11th Annual Indian Youth Leadership Camp March 19-21, 2010, in LeBlanc, 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.

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