

Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council Status of FFY 2013 Activities

QUALITY ASSURANCE

Goal 1 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.

Objective 1.1 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.

Activity 1.1.1 Provide financial support and technical assistance for the operation of People First of Louisiana. People First will develop a plan to become self-sustaining by 2016.

Approximate Cost: \$94,000 in FFY 2013

Progress	Budget		
<p>People First of Louisiana (PFL) supports 270 members in self-advocacy, leadership, in ten chapters statewide.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One new chapter developed; two others in the works. • Trainings (session; participants) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “Legislative Advocacy” - two Board members received training and then provided to 59 self-advocates. ○ SSA “Go Direct!” campaign- (3; 66). ○ Advocacy on Transportation and Housing – (2; 118). ○ Self-advocacy and self-determination (1; 5) ○ ABLE act (1; 25) • Advocacy agenda: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ABLE Act (re-introduced into the 113th Congress), ○ State level legislation to address “ABLE” issues, ○ LRS policies on obtain/maintaining employment. • Advocacy Facilitator activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Participated in Legislative Kickoff and FHF meetings. ○ Presented LaCAN’s history/purpose in Annual Meeting. ○ Recruited 5 PFL members. Participated in recruitment of 36 self-advocates to LaCAN and 7 to LaTEACH. • PFL Members on boards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mayor’s Advisory Council on Disabilities ○ Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council ○ Families Helping Families of SE LA Board ○ Chamber of Commerce ○ Regional Advisory Committee of OCDD ○ Down Syndrome Association of Greater New Orleans • Implementing a plan for financial sustainability <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Arrange for direct receipt of funding ○ Development of a 7 member foundation board. ○ Met with LANO to discuss methods of best structuring PFL foundation. 	Total Budgeted	\$94,000	
		Salaries and wages	\$39,555
		Related benefits	\$9,415
		Travel	\$6,048
		Operating services	\$17,033
		Supplies	\$3,705
		Professional Services	\$11,281
		Administrative	\$6,963
	<p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>		

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Objective 1.2 Individuals with developmental disabilities will participate on cross-disability and culturally diverse leadership coalitions.

Activity 1.2.1 Provide information to People First of Louisiana board members and other leaders to participate on the Governor's Advisory Council on Disability Affairs (GACDA), Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) Regional Advisory Councils (RACs), and other identified coalitions.

Progress: Council staff shares information with People First of LA members on joining and participating in various boards of interest to them statewide.

- Self-advocates attending the People First Annual Meeting received support to sign up for LaCAN and LaTEACH and to receive LaDDC News, the Council's electronic newsletter.

On target: Initiative

Objective 1.3 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.

Activity 1.3.1 Provide financial support and technical assistance for Partners in Policymaking.

Approximate Cost: \$80,000 in FFY 2013

Progress	Budget	
<p>Partners in Policymaking accepted 24 participants for the 2013 class with five self-advocates and 19 parents including five dads. The class has completed its third session of the year.</p> <p><u>Partners in advocacy</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partners Coordinator continues to network through the Partners Alumni page and e-mails graduates as things come up that are relevant and important to them. • There were 77 Partners graduates who confirmed participation in the Council's advocacy activities during the past year. • As of February 20, 2013 there were 121 members on the La Partners in Policymaking Alumni Facebook page. • Seven current Council members are graduates. Six graduates are awaiting appointment to the Council as is one current Partners participant. • 39 graduates participated in Legislative Roundtables in January 2013. <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>	Total Budgeted	\$80,000
	Salaries and wages	\$18,000
	Travel	\$41,175
	Operating services	\$780
	Supplies	\$3,638
	Professional Services	\$10,500
	Administrative	\$5,907

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Activity 1.3.2 Support up to two Council members' participation in Partners in Policymaking.
Approximate Cost: \$3,000 in FFY 2013

Progress: There are no Council members participating in this year's class, but one participant is awaiting appointment by the Governor.

Objective 1.4 375 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.

Activity 1.4.1 Contract with Families Helping Families Regional Resource Centers (FHF) to financially support stipends for persons with developmental disabilities and their family members to participate in training, conferences, meetings, and events.
Approximate Cost: \$25,000 in FFY 2013

Progress: Thirty-seven individuals with disabilities and family members received **stipends through Families Helping Families** to attend conferences and workshops since October 1, 2012. Each stipend contract is on target.

On target: Initiative

Activity 1.4.2 Provide financial support for the continuation and expansion of a training program for people with developmental disabilities by individuals with developmental disabilities on advocacy, independence, self-determination, productivity, integration, and inclusion leadership topics.
Approximate Cost: \$10,000 in FFY 2013

Progress: My Choice provides trainings on "Communicating My Wants and Needs," "Economic Abuse," and "Identifying Abuse."

- Two new trainings developed this project year
 - "Emergency Preparedness: How to Prepare for a Natural Disaster"
 - "Staying Safe in Your Community."
- Trainings conducted on Economic Abuse – 2 sessions, 74 participants.
- An additional eight trainings are being scheduled.
- Three train-the-trainer sessions were conducted for trainers. Technical Assistance is also provided to trainers during training sessions.

On target: Initiative Expenditures

Objective 1.5 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.

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Activity 1.5.1 Support individuals with developmental disabilities and family members of individuals with developmental disabilities in participation in Council meetings and other functions.

Progress: Council members are supported in participation in Council meetings and other functions.

Activity 1.5.2 Support Council members' participation in training and educational opportunities.
Approximate Cost: \$3,000 in FFY 2012

Progress: Year to date no Council member stipends have been awarded. The balance of the Council member Stipend Fund is \$3,000.

Activity 1.5.3 Support the Council leadership's participation in national training, networking events and advocacy opportunities.
Approximate Cost: \$7,000 in FFY 2013

Progress: It is anticipated that Council leaders will participate in the 2013 AIDD Technical Assistance Institute in July 2013.

Goal 2 Improve the quality of community-based supports and services for Louisianans with developmental disabilities.

Objective 2.1 The quality of waiver services in Louisiana will improve through the development and implementation of a comprehensive home- and community-based services plan.

Activity 2.1.1 Participate in the further development, implementation, and monitoring of the plan mandated by Act 299 of 2011.

Progress: A report on the status of the implementation of the Act 299 plan was sent to the Joint Health and Welfare Committee on March 4, 2013. It is posted on the Council's website. The Council is represented on the Act 299 Steering Committee but the committee did not meet this fiscal year.

On target: **Effort** **Satisfactory Progress**

Activity 2.1.2 Advocate for sharing provider data online to assist individuals and families in making informed choices regarding waiver providers.

Progress: This activity was added January 2013. One OCDD workgroup meeting was held to make initial plans for implementation. The second meeting was cancelled and has not yet been re-scheduled.

On target: **Effort** **Satisfactory Progress**

Objective 2.2 Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) serving Louisianans with developmental disabilities will receive competitive compensation.

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Activity 2.2.1 Participate in and monitor activities of the Act 299 workgroup for

- the starting DSP compensation level to be at or above the national average and
- the dedication of a certain percentage of the HCBS rate to DSP costs (based on provider cost reports).

Timeline: FFY 2015 (second bullet only)

Progress: DHH will begin collecting cost reports from providers in the Fall of 2013. There has been no Council activity this fiscal year.

On target: **Effort** **Satisfactory Progress**

Objective 2.3 DSPs serving Louisianans with developmental disabilities will display a minimum skills set and have access to a graduated certification process with corresponding compensation increases.

Activity 2.3.1 Advocate for

- the development of a (or use of existing) comprehensive and evidence-based training curriculum and certification for DSPs statewide and
- the implementation of graduated pay increases for DSPs to correspond with performance on a graduated certification process.

Timeline: FFY 2015 (second bullet only)

Progress: There was no Council activity this fiscal year.

On target: **Effort** **Satisfactory Progress**

Objective 2.4 500 additional individuals with developmental disabilities will self-direct their waiver services.

Activity 2.4.1 Promote self-direction through community education through the creation and dissemination of key selling points and benefits and resources to assist in the process (i.e., LaDDC News, Fact sheets, etc.)

Progress: Staff developed a fact sheet with key points and benefits that will promote self-direction. This fact sheet will be disseminated and a LaDDC News article will be written once we can find out how many self-direction "slots" have been approved.

On target: **Effort** **Satisfactory Progress**

Objective 2.5 People with developmental disabilities receiving Supported Independent Living (SIL) services are kept safe and their rights are protected.

Activity 2.5.1 Provide financial support for a SIL ombudsman pilot program in Jefferson Parish.

Approximate Cost: \$90,000 in FFY 2013

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Progress	Budget	
<p>The Supported Independent Living Ombudsman Program is serving 11 individuals living in Jefferson Parish by protecting their rights to live in safe housing, to make their own financial and lifestyle choices, and to access appropriate health care resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Began receiving referrals from JPHSA in January. • Referrals: JPHSA (5) and the community (6). • Working with JPHSA to establish a schedule of referrals. <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>	Total Budgeted	\$90,000
	Salaries and wages	\$70,555
	Related benefits	\$10,000
	Travel	\$1,400
	Operating services	\$5,400
	Supplies	\$1,200
	Administrative	\$2,000

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 residential facilities for people with developmental disabilities.

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.

Activity 3.1.1 Provide financial and other support for the grassroots advocacy organization Louisiana Citizens for Action Now (LaCAN).
Approximate Cost: \$125,000 in FFY 2013

Progress	Budget	
<p>LaCAN currently has over 2,817 members on its listserv, an increase of 185 since October 1st.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roundtables attendance: Over 250 self-advocates, family members, and professionals and 40 policymakers. • 475 individuals participated in the action alert writing letters to Gov. Jindal in support of funding NOW slots. • 312 individuals have participated in the action alert writing letters to the Appropriations Committee in support of funding NOW slots (as of 3/25/13). • LaCAN Leaders have accompanied LaCAN members on 74 individual visits with legislators this legislative season <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>	Total Budgeted	\$125,000
	Travel	\$13,500
	Supplies	\$10,600
	Professional Services	\$90,500
	Administrative	\$10,400

Activity 3.1.2 Collaborate with other advocacy groups to plan and support Disability Rights Rallies.
Approximate Cost: \$5,000 in FFY 2013

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Progress: The Disability Rights Rally will be held on Wednesday, May 1, 2013 at the Louisiana State Capitol. The rally message is “Restore and Protect Individualized Support Services for people with Developmental Disabilities and their families.” The event will feature keynote and legislative speakers as well as provide individuals the opportunity to meet with their legislators.

Activity 3.1.3 Advocate for systems change initiatives, revenue generating strategies, policies and practices needed to expand supports and services.

Progress: The Council leadership meets quarterly with DHH Secretary Bruce Greenstein, Deputy Secretary Kathy Kliebert and OCDD Assistant Secretary Laura Brackin to advocate for systems change initiatives. The Council is also represented on various DHH workgroups. DHH did include 200 additional NOW slots in its FY14 budget request but these were not included in the Executive Budget.

On target: **Effort** **Satisfactory Progress**

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.

Activity 3.2.1 Advocate in collaboration with the Advocacy Center for

- additional short-term emergency placement for behavioral and medical stabilization; and
- improving the home and community based system by soliciting feedback from individual families using or trying to access behavioral health services and sharing that information with the DHH leadership.

Progress: The Council and Advocacy Center met with the Magellan CEO in January to discuss behavioral health services for people with developmental disabilities. We were accompanied by three parents of children with a dual diagnosis to share their experiences/difficulties accessing services. Continued and increased advocacy to build the capacity of the system is needed.

On target: **Effort** **Satisfactory Progress**

Objective 3.3 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.

Activity 3.3.1 Advocate for

- changes to the rate structure of the Residential Options Waiver to encourage private ICF/DD providers to convert their beds so individuals can transition to waiver services, and
- the MFP grant program to target residents of private ICFs/DD.
Accomplished FFY2012 (second bullet only)

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Progress: Despite Council advocacy, there has been no progress on this objective this fiscal year. And although residents of private ICFs/DD are included in the target population of the Money Follows the Person grant, without funded waiver slots, there is no funding mechanism for them to move into their own home.

On target: **Effort** **Satisfactory Progress**

Activity 3.3.2 Monitor and participate in the implementation of the Money Follows the Person (MFP) initiative to allow residents of private ICFs/DD to obtain waiver services.

Progress: Despite Council advocacy there is no Money Follows the Person initiative at DHH. A new strategy is needed to advocate for policy change.

On target: **Effort** **Satisfactory Progress**

Activity 3.3.3 Collaborate with the Community Living Ombudsman Program (CLOP) on the implementation of the MFP initiative.

Progress: There has been no progress on this objective this fiscal year.

On target: **Effort** **Satisfactory Progress**

Objective 3.4 The number of people at large public residential facilities will decrease thirty percent through transition to home and community-based services.

Activity 3.4.1 Advocate for residents of the Special Education Center to be added to the Developmental Center pool of waiver slots.
Accomplished FFY 2012

Activity 3.4.2 Monitor OCDD activities in reference to informing families of Special Education Center residents about home and community-based options and advocate with DHH leadership regarding this objective.

Progress: After the Legislative Auditor's Report was released, residents of the Special Education Center who were beyond the age of twenty-one were transitioned to other settings. It is unknown how many of these individuals transitioned, but it is our understanding they all selected other ICFs/DD. The Council leadership continues to advocate with DHH leadership on this objective, but we have made very little progress.

On target: **Effort** **Satisfactory Progress**

Activity 3.4.3 Provide information to the Department of Education and BESE on home and community-based services.

Progress: Information was provided to Supt. White on home and community based services at the Council's request by DHH Leadership. No other Council action has been taken pending a decision by Sec. Greenstein.

On target: **Effort** **Satisfactory Progress**

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Goal 4 Individuals with developmental disabilities, their families, and professionals will obtain the information, training, and support they need.

Objective 4.1 75,000 individuals with developmental disabilities, their families, and professionals will obtain information, training, and support.

Activity 4.1.1 Provide funding (from state general funds) and technical assistance to nine Families Helping Families Regional Resource Centers across the state.

Progress: Families Helping Families Resource Centers assisted 9,830 individuals and families with information, referral, or other support since October 1, 2012.

On target: Initiative

Activity 4.1.2 Provide information to hospitals and health care professionals on resources available to individuals with developmental disabilities.

Progress: Centers perform outreach to twelve hospitals and health care providers to inform them of resources available.

On target: Initiative

Goal 5 The Community and Family Support System will continue to deliver flexible, individualized, and person-centered supports.

Objective 5.1 3,500 individuals with developmental disabilities will receive (Act 378 of 1989) state-funded supports.

Activity 5.1.1 Oversee implementation of, and advocate for, the continuation of the Community and Family Support System Plan.

Progress: Staff presented on Act 378 history and services to the Human Services Interagency Council and published the LaDDC News article detailing differences in budgets for Individual and Family Support across the regions/districts/authorities. Fact sheets and a power point presentation were created with information about Individual and Family Support (IFS) and the Flexible Family Fund program to guide advocacy efforts.

The Council also requested and received data from OCDD regarding the numbers of people seeking IFS services by region and the number of those funded.

On target: Effort Satisfactory Progress

HEALTH

Goal 6 Policies and practices will result in improved health outcomes for Louisiana citizens with developmental disabilities.

Objective 6.1 Access to quality medical services for individuals with developmental disabilities will increase.

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Activity 6.1.1 Advocate for BAYOU HEALTH policies to ensure people with developmental disabilities have access to adequate health care services.

Progress: Medicaid planned to enroll some waiver recipients into Bayou Health effective July 1st but has postponed this enrollment until further notice. Council leadership advocated with DHH leadership that no waiver recipients be forced to enroll in Bayou Health, instead allowing waiver recipients to be optional participants.

On target: **Effort** **Satisfactory Progress**

Activity 6.1.2 Advocate for the implementation of ongoing multiagency health data collection, management, sharing and analysis to reduce redundancies for individual eligibility determinations and to increase early detection and intervention of health care issues.

Progress: There has been no progress on this objective this fiscal year.

On target: **Effort** **Satisfactory Progress**

Activity 6.1.3 Provide support for the modification of a curriculum for Nurse Practitioner (NP) and Physician Assistant (PA) students, development of a curriculum for online Continuing Medical Education (CME) units for physicians, and the expansion of Operation House Call to Shreveport that provides an understanding of experiences of individuals with significant disabilities and their families.

Approximate Cost: \$ 91,100 for FFY 2013

Progress	Budget	
<p>The DD Health Care Training Project has completed preliminary steps and begun development of training.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed required Memorandums of Understanding and accessed needed CME policies/procedures. • Planned completion of Modules in May. • Initial beta-testing of CMEs to rollout in May. 	Total Budgeted	\$91,100
	Preparatory Activities	\$6,100
	Developing Trainings (4)	\$40,000
	Development and Beta Test of Training (4)	\$40,000
	Technical Assistance	\$5,000
<p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>		

Objective 6.2 Families will have access to information regarding Medicaid providers.

Activity 6.2.1 Disseminate Medicaid's web-based listing of providers searchable by region through a variety of methods (i.e. Council's website and Facebook page, FHF, etc.).

Completed in FFY 2012

Objective 6.3 Louisiana recipients of waiver services aged 22 and older will have access to dental services.

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Activity 6.3.1 Advocate for the New Opportunities Waiver and Supports Waiver to be amended to include dental services.

Progress: Staff has gained membership on the La. Oral Health Coalition and has advocated to include stronger language in the Coalition’s plan to enhance oral health services to people with developmental disabilities.

- The Coalition is developing a priority action plan through March 2014.
- Council staff participated with the Access Committee which chose as its goal to “support the development and stability of dental programs in Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), School-Based Health Centers and other safety net dental clinics/programs.” Action steps were developed and assigned to members.
- One proposal included mandating as a condition of licensure, dentists serving a certain percentage of uninsured and poor patients.

On target: **Effort** **Satisfactory Progress**

EDUCATION

Goal 7 Changes in policies and practices will result in inclusive, evidence-based, and safe educational settings for students with developmental disabilities.

Objective 7.1 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.

Activity 7.1.1 Provide financial and other support to Louisiana Together Educating All Children (LaTEACH) for the promotion of appropriate, inclusive education for all students.

Approximate Cost: \$110,000 in FFY 2013

Progress	Budget																		
<p>LaTEACH membership increased by 77 since October 1st bringing the total to 1,584.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LaTEACH advocated at 19 meetings with Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) members and 62 with legislators and/or La. Dept. of Education administration officials. • LaTEACH advocacy agenda and information was included in the 11 Legislative Roundtables with 236 participants. Of the attendees, 15 were self-advocates and 101 were family members. • Thirty-five LaTEACH members confirmed action to the Action Alert regarding the survey on the Louisiana Early Childhood Education Act (Act 3) plan. • Twenty-three LaTEACH members participated in the purple shirt day at the BESE committee meeting on the MFP on March 7th. • LaTEACH leadership participated in the La Special 	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td>Total Budgeted</td> <td>\$110,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Salaries and wages</td> <td>\$26,520</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Related benefits</td> <td>\$3,979</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Travel</td> <td>\$14,900</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Operating services</td> <td>\$1,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Supplies</td> <td>\$10,901</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Professional Services</td> <td>\$38,400</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Administrative</td> <td>\$8,800</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Statewide Training</td> <td>\$5,000</td> </tr> </table>	Total Budgeted	\$110,000	Salaries and wages	\$26,520	Related benefits	\$3,979	Travel	\$14,900	Operating services	\$1,500	Supplies	\$10,901	Professional Services	\$38,400	Administrative	\$8,800	Statewide Training	\$5,000
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<p>Education Advisory Panel, Legislative Kickoff, BESE, and the Committee of Practitioners meetings. LaTEACH Statewide Coordinator sits on the La Believes Committee and leads its Funding Workgroup. She met with Superintendent John White from November 2012 to February 2013 to talk about the Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) and funding issues. She also presented at the Advocacy Reunion during the opening session of Partners in Policymaking.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are vacant area LaTEACH Coordinator positions in Regions 4, 6, 8, and 9. The Statewide Coordinator has spent time providing technical assistance to regions in order to better recruit and maintain leadership in these areas. <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>	
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Activity 7.1.2 The Council will be represented on a variety of education policy-making/advisory bodies.

<p>Progress: The Council is represented on the</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caddo Parish Special Education Parent Advisory Committee • Louisiana Council for Exceptional Children • DOE Bias Review Committee. <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Effort <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Satisfactory Progress</p>
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Objective 7.2 Changes in policies and practices that result in students with developmental disabilities attaining competitive employment in integrated settings.

Activity 7.2.1 Advocate with the LSU-HSC Human Development Center and other collaborators for the development and implementation of policies and practices (i.e., college and career pathways) that ensure students with developmental disabilities have access to and opportunities that prepare them for post-secondary education and/or competitive, integrated employment.

<p>Progress: Staff met with La. Dept. of Education and La. Rehabilitation Services staff to discuss the Louisiana Customized Employment Project in November. Strategies to enhance coordination between agencies and better align resources for improved transition and post-secondary employment outcomes were developed.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Effort <input type="checkbox"/> Satisfactory Progress</p>
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Objective 7.3 There will be an increase in the number of charter schools, early education programs, and other publically funded education facilities that approximate the percentage of students statewide served with developmental disabilities across all LEAs.

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Activity 7.3.1 Advocate for improved oversight and monitoring of admissions and service delivery to students with disabilities in Charter Schools, early education programs, and other publicly funded education facilities in collaboration with the Advocacy Center.

Progress: Council members and staff have taken action to advocate for improved admission oversight and monitoring.

- Patsy White and staff supported efforts to increase stakeholder input into policies and practices that impact students with disabilities at the Special Education Advisory Panel and other committees reviewing state policies.
- Staff advocated for BESE to ensure Charter Schools are open to all students and not create schools for students with specific disabilities.
- Staff developed roundtable presentations and fact sheets on this issue.

On target: **Effort** **Satisfactory Progress**

Objective 7.4 Students will be protected from discipline practices that cause harm and/or violate their rights.

Activity 7.4.1 Educate legislators, policy makers and the general public about harmful practices (e.g., restraint and seclusion, corporal punishment, unnecessary use of law enforcement, etc.) and alternative positive evidence based options (e.g., positive behavior practices, etc.) and advocate for policies and practices that promote the safe and effective practices in collaboration with the Advocacy Center.

Progress: Information as included in Roundtables.

On target: **Effort** **Satisfactory Progress**

Goal 8 Children participating in EarlySteps will demonstrate improved developmental outcomes through increased access to quality services.

Objective 8.1 EarlySteps will return to a transdisciplinary service delivery system.

Activity 8.1.1 Advocate for an accountability structure that ensures

- service delivery levels greater than 24 hours in a 6-month period have data-driven team justifications,
- family participation in quarterly team meetings, and
- outcomes in Individual Family Support Plans will be measurable.

Progress: No activity for this objective occurred during this fiscal year.

On target: **Effort** **Satisfactory Progress**

Activity 8.1.2 Advocate for adequate support and training of Community Outreach Specialists.

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Progress: No activity for this objective occurred during this fiscal year.

On target: Effort Satisfactory Progress

Activity 8.1.3 Support the preliminary activities of the development of EarlySteps transdisciplinary training and mentoring materials.

Approximate Cost: \$19,000 in FFY 2013

Progress: The Council awarded support to The Arc Baton Rouge for the **EarlySteps Transdisciplinary Teaming/Primary Provider** model.

- Contract was effective March 1, 2013.
- The project will develop training and mentoring materials to be used in a curriculum to train 15 Arc BR staff.
- Trainers will begin to develop the skills necessary to train and mentor EarlySteps providers to support children with disabilities.

EMPLOYMENT

Goal 9 Changes in public policy and practice will result in an increase of 1,000 people with developmental disabilities in integrated individualized employment.

Objective 9.1 Louisiana will develop and implement an Employment First plan.

- Activity 9.1.1** Advocate for
- policies that incentivize services for individualized integrated, competitive employment and dis-incentivize segregated, sheltered day habilitation services,
 - sheltered workshops to transition people into individualized, competitive, paid employment and discontinue admissions into segregated day programs,
 - collaborative policy making and practices across state agencies that promote students being supported in and transitioning into competitive paid employment,
 - implementation of ongoing multiagency employment data collection, management and analysis.
 - LRS and OCDD will collaborate to mandate that all supported employment vendors/providers complete a university-based 40 hour training.

Progress: Council staff participates in OCDD's Employment First Workgroup with several other parent, advocate, and agency members.

- The group met January 23 for the first time since June and appointed members including Council staff to a Data Committee and a Rate Committee to develop specific recommendations.

On target: Effort Satisfactory Progress

Activity 9.1.2 Participate in the development and implementation (if awarded) of the Partnerships in Employment Systems Change grant with the LSU-HSC Human Development Center and other collaborators to enhance

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statewide collaborations that will facilitate the transition process from secondary and post-secondary school, or other pre-vocational training settings, to competitive employment in integrated settings.

Completed in FFY 2012

Activity 9.1.3 Support family members and other advocates to serve on the Louisiana work team in developing an Employment First agenda and implementation plan including participation in state level meetings.

Progress: No activity for this objective occurred during this fiscal year.

On target: Effort Satisfactory Progress

Objective 9.2 The capacity of the employment provider system will improve through evidence-based practice in collaboration with the LSU-HSC Human Development Center.

Activity 9.2.1 Provide financial support to the Human Development Center to disseminate a curriculum and provide training to agencies on recommended practices for supporting people with disabilities in employment.

Completed in FFY 2012

Activity 9.2.2 Advocate for the development of a collaborative cross-agency infrastructure supporting the use of consistent definitions and practice, standardized training curriculum and technical assistance for employment providers.

Progress: Council staff continues to collaboratively advocate through Louisiana Association of People Supporting Employment First and the OCDD Employment First Work Group for consistent definitions and practice, standardized training curriculum and technical assistance for employment providers.

On target: Effort Satisfactory Progress

Objective 9.3 The Louisiana Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) program's federal draw down will increase.

Activity 9.3.1 Advocate for Louisiana to draw down the entire VR grant award and serve individuals with the most severe disabilities.

Progress: The Council collaborates with other groups such as the Louisiana Rehabilitation Council which reports progress on educating legislators on the issues surrounding LRS' budget and drawdown.

- The Council wrote a letter of support to the Commissioner of Administration on Sept. 27th in support of fully funding the necessary state match to draw down LA's federal allotment.
- This issue was presented at 11 legislative roundtables across the state and fact sheets on this topic are being given to legislators at every LaCAN legislative visit.

On target: Effort Satisfactory Progress

Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council Status of FFY 2013 Activities

Objective 9.4 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.

Activity 9.4.1 Provide financial support to conduct a media campaign to educate employers, individuals with disabilities, family members, and provider agencies about the benefits of having people with developmental disabilities as part of the community-based workforce.
Approximate Cost: \$24,000 in FFY 2013

Progress: Employment Media Campaign, runs TV and radio spots to reach an approximated 460,000 people. The TV spots ran statewide during the month of March.

On target: Initiative Expenditures

Activity 9.4.2 Provide funding for an employment education campaign targeting individuals and their family members that emphasizes the benefits of competitive employment.
Completed in FFY 2012

RECREATION

Goal 10 More people with developmental disabilities will participate in inclusive community recreation activities.

Objective 10.1 Inclusive recreation programs will be developed in at least two areas of the state.

CHILD CARE

Goal 11 The number of quality, affordable, inclusive child care services accessible to parents of children with significant disabilities will increase.

Objective 11.1 The capacity of the Louisiana's child care system to support children with significant disabilities will improve.

Activity 11.1.1 Provide funding to the Arc of Baton Rouge to increase the capacity of child care centers statewide regarding inclusion to accept children with developmental disabilities.
Approximate Cost: \$32,500 in FFY 2012

The Inclusive Child Care Training provided direct on-site technical assistance on three occasions to teachers, aides, and a director of a child care center in Region 2.

- Project staff has requested to be part of the Department of Children and Family Services workgroup exploring the restructuring of the Child Care Assistance Program to impact the special needs rate.
- Project staff participated in Bright Start activities, providing feedback on the state's plan presented by the Department of Education on the new rating system to support inclusion of children with disabilities.

Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council Status of FFY 2013 Activities

- Project staff reviewed current training modules needing revisions to align with the state's Early Childhood Redesign and also the current technical assistance protocol used for Child Care Resource and Referral agencies to request technical assistance for children with disabilities.
- The Department of Education did include the feedback previously provided to the Bright Start survey and reiterated at the BESE meeting their intent to implement recommendations submitted by the project.

On target: Initiative Expenditures

Activity 11.1.2 Advocate for

- state-subsidized day care centers to be paid according to a formula that provides a higher rate for children with disabilities,
- the day care center star rating system to include inclusive practices and
- DCFS to publish a web-based listing of inclusive day care centers searchable by region.

Progress: This activity is being carried out by the Inclusive Child Care contract (Activity 11.1.1).

On target: Effort Satisfactory Progress