

LOUISIANA DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL STATUS OF FFY 2009 PLAN ACTIVITIES

Current through May 31, 2009

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 will celebrate the graduation of 19 participants on June 20, 2009.

From March 1 to May 31, 2009, 20 individuals with disabilities and family members received stipends through Families Helping Families to attend conferences and workshops. During the same period, 15 individuals utilized People First Stipends.

My Choice training initiative recruited four self-advocates to participate in the Train-the-Trainer session on June 26th. Trainer candidates will receive intensive training on delivering the topics *Communicating My Wants and Needs to my DSP* and *Identifying and Preventing Abuse*. The trainers will present at least 10 training sessions to self-advocates throughout the state between July and September.

Objective 2

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

People First of Louisiana currently has 350 members in 14 chapters. One chapter has met state People First affiliation benchmarks and others are working to attain this goal. Sharon Hennessey was selected and accepted to serve as the Executive Director.

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.

Eighteen self-advocates and family members were supported in attending the Council meeting in April 2009.

One Council member received stipend funds to participate in the Disability Summit. The current balance of the Council Member Travel Stipend Fund is \$2,475.97.

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 3,589 subscribers.

Objective 5 ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2007

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).

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

Objective 6 ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2008

2500 individuals with developmental disabilities and their families will receive individual and family supports through support of grassroots systemic advocacy.

Objective 7

Reform of the long term care system to align resources to meet demand will be advanced through advocacy, collaboration, coordination, and education of legislators, policy makers and other stakeholders.

LaCAN has 2,761 members coordinated by 9 regional leaders. Two new leaders are Pat Giamanco in Region 2 and Daniel Lirette in Region 3. Members sent thousands of letters and made numerous visits to law makers to advocate on key pieces of legislation. The annual Disability Rights Rally at the State Capitol May 7th had an estimated 1,000 participants. LaCAN successfully advocated for several actions this Legislative session: maintaining the NOW Trust Fund and reestablishing provider rates in the budget; and avoiding absolute capped costs for the NOW. Unfortunately, LaCAN was unsuccessful in getting the Legislature to authorize an additional 2,000 NOW slots. LaCAN Regional Leaders and FHF Directors will participate in the legislative debriefing meeting July 2, 2009.

End the Wait! featured 3 individuals in dozens of commercials and PSAs statewide to educate policy makers and the general public on the waiting list and benefits of community living. An End The Wait! folder holding information sheets was distributed to legislators at the Disability Rights Rally. An End The Wait! webpage is linked to the Council and LaCAN websites.

Objective 8

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 4,761 individuals and families with information, referral or other support, between March 1 and May 31, 2009,

Objective 9 COMPLETED IN 2008

27,000 people with developmental disabilities and their families will continue to receive information on disability services and resources through the continued operation, update and promotion of the Disability Information Access Line (DIAL) and the Information and Referral services provided by the 10 FHF Regional Resource Centers.

Objective 10 ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2008

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.

Objective 11

Direct Support Professionals (DSP) will be compensated at or above the southern regional average.

The **OCDD Direct Support Professional Coalition** has been hindered in its progress by a lack of OCDD staff, a lack of Licensing staff to adequately monitor providers and a lack of leadership in the administration and legislature who recognize this serious issue that will take a real commitment of dollars and effort to address.

Objective 12

The emergency preparation needs of 5,000 people with developmental disabilities will be included in the Red Cross sheltering plans and the state and parish emergency operations' plans.

The **Emergency Management Disability and Aging Coalition** is implementing a system to recruit and coordinate volunteers who have experience in supporting people with disabilities to work in inclusive emergency shelters. Additionally, the Coalition assisted with HB 554, which will provide civil immunity for certain volunteers working in coordination with the state or its political subdivisions. HB 554 is expected to pass.

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

The Disaboom website has discussion and information strands on topics relevant to people with disabilities in Louisiana. A recent posting featured the "What Can You Do?" Video Contest, sponsored by the *Campaign for Disability Employment*, which is looking to shatter misconceptions about people with disabilities in the workplace.

HOUSING ACTIVITIES: Adults choose where and with whom they live.

Objective 14

Persons with disabilities will have increased access to housing through Council efforts.

A Home of Your Own has five individuals participating in intensive training on *How to Develop a Home of Your Own Program* between July and September 2009.

Money Follows the Person (MFP) Demonstration program staff is working with a support coordination agency to transition one young man from a nursing into an apartment. Discussions with other families regarding transition of their children from nursing facilities are ongoing.

LA Housing Connection website (lahousingconnection.com) provides information on housing links and related resources.

HEALTH ACTIVITIES: People are healthy and benefit from the full range of needed health services.

Objective 15

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 at least 12 healthcare-related advocacy groups: the OCDD Resource Allocation Stakeholders Workgroup, 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, Spina Bifida Association, Autism Research Institute, Louisiana Families for Effective Autism Treatment, Hydrocephalous Association, National Association of Disorders of the Corpus Callosum, Act 648 Autism Insurance Implementation, and Department of Health and Hospitals Medical Care Advisory Committee.

Objective 16

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

Implementation of **ACT 552 of 2008** allowing routine nursing tasks to be performed by DSPs with appropriate training has been postponed by DHH due to their projected high cost of the training. Rules are currently being written through collaboration between DHH and the Nursing Board.

The Council supported SB 191 which would provide OCDD access to more information following a death to identify systemic problems and correct them. SB 191 is expected to pass. The Council has supported HB 406 that would prohibit health insurers from requiring or using genetic testing and genetic information in certain circumstances and is expected to pass. The Council opposed HB 788 which would have set upper payment benchmarks for long-term care services for people with disabilities and older Adults but due to strong opposition, this bill was withdrawn.

EDUCATION AND EARLY INTERVENTION ACTIVITIES: Students reach their educational potential and infants and young children reach their developmental potential.

Objective 17

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

LaTEACH continues to advocate for inclusive education practices with 950 members. The LaTEACH Advisory Council was expanded to include more members of the DD Council and People First. The first meeting of the expanded Advisory Committee is anticipated to occur in early August.

Inclusive Schools Art Contest solicited entries to meet the October 5, 2009, deadline. Judging is from October 20 to 22 at the State Library in Baton Rouge. The awards ceremony will be held in December at the State Museum in Baton Rouge.

Objective 18

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 8 educational and/or early childhood groups: State Performance Plan Part B Committee/ Policy Review Group, Louisiana State Positive Behavioral Support Advisory Committee, Children's Cabinet Advisory Board, State Improvement Grant Management Team, State Autism Team, Low Incidence Disabilities Consortium, State Interagency Coordinating Council, and School to Prison Reform.

Objective 19

30 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 is soliciting family members of young children with autism to participate in research on a training and technical support model. LSU HDC reported problems with the project including obtaining Institutional Review Board approval, conflict between intensive behavioral interventions vs. inclusive education on the model, selecting Centers to receive training and technical assistance, and identifying an adequate pool of young children with autism.

EMPLOYMENT ACTIVITIES: People get and keep employment consistent with their interests, abilities and needs.

Objective 20 ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2008

Young adults with developmental disabilities will gain employment experience through a governmental internship program developed by the Council in collaboration with other state agencies.

Objective 21

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

The **Employment Provider Training** project established an Employment Consortium with four job seekers, six personal care attendants, one parent, and six job coaches/provider agencies participating. Eleven professional development opportunities were provided regarding topics such as Social Networking, Benefits Information, Job Development Forms and Information, Interviewing Skills, Pre-Employment/ Hiring Process/ Post-Employment Activities, and Supported Employment Best Practices. Three of the job seekers are in job development looking for employment as a lawn care worker, a vending machine business operator and a loading dock worker. The fourth job seeker is working with LRS to establish an employment plan.

The **Employment Outreach Campaign** has shot footage for two videos highlighting workers with disabilities and employers dedicated to diversity in the workplace. Footage for a third video is in the planning stage. The videos will air in primetime media spots and provide examples for employers to demonstrate the benefits of inclusive hiring practices.

Objective 22

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

The **Employment Study** has identified 9 agencies to review and analyze their policies. Results will identify barriers to accessing and maintaining employment for people with developmental disabilities. LSU HDC will collect and analyze national literature on employment and collaborate with the University of Illinois to conduct the policy analysis of state agencies. The Association for Persons in Supported Employment (APSE) Employment Study pilot has been created and the final survey is due for dissemination soon. Upon receipt of this data, this information will be incorporated into the results of the study.

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

Objective 23

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 needs to explore possible options to meet this objective.

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

Objective 24

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

Inclusive Recreation/PBS Project provided positive behavior supports training and technical assistance to recreation department professionals and volunteers at City of Hammond Inclusive League (C.H.I.L.) and Pelican Park Inclusive Recreation League (P.P.I.R.L) in Mandeville. C.H.I.L. has had three seasons with multiple sports. Its basketball season had 34 children, including 15 with developmental disabilities; their bowling season had 47 participants, 15 with developmental disabilities. Currently, CHIL's Kickball season has 58 participants, 12 with developmental disabilities. P.P.I.R.L had 133 enrolled participants, 20 with developmental disabilities, during the basketball season and anticipates a Summer Sports Academy to focus on a different sport each week for six weeks.

The **Louisiana Indian Education Association (LIEA)** annual meeting, scheduled June 30th, will discuss grant opportunities and new activities. LIEA will make recommendations to the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs (GOIA) for recipients of the 2009 American Indian Scholarship and offer recommendations for revision of the GOIA scholarship application to include preference for students with disabilities.

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

Objective 21 ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2008

Childcare providers in each region of the state will have access to training on supporting children with disabilities in inclusive day care settings.