

DD Council's Recommendations and Collaborative Action Plan on Community Supports

NEED

- Individuals with developmental disabilities and their families need more information to make an informed choice when selecting a provider.

ACTION STEPS

- The Council and Families Helping Families (FHF) will publicize the online provider questionnaire to individuals and families to encourage greater participation among providers.
- The Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) will consider including provider report cards in the new Managed Long Term Supports and Services (MLTSS) system. This could be accomplished through enhancement of the provider freedom of choice questionnaire.

NEED

- Individuals with developmental disabilities and their families need more information about rules/regulations regarding the impact of employment on benefits.

ACTION STEP

- The Council will publicize the availability of benefits planning assistance from the Human Development Center and the Advocacy Center through the Work Initiatives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) grants.

NEED

- Workforce training is needed on facilitating inclusion.

ACTION STEPS

- OCDD will provide a list of required Direct Support Professional (DSP) training topics to the Council.
- The Council will share training topics with FHF and encourage them to develop training on facilitating inclusion and advertise its availability to providers.
- OCDD will consider adding "facilitating inclusion" to the list of required training topics when the workforce training modules for waiver redesign and MLTSS are developed.
- The Council will consider funding development of training for DSPs on facilitating inclusion.

NEEDS

- More affordable, accessible, safe housing is needed.
- Application process for housing needs to be simplified/streamlined.

ACTION STEPS

- The Council will meet with Nicole Sweezy with the Louisiana Housing Corporation to get information on the various housing assistance programs available to people with disabilities.

- The Council will meet with Michelle Jones at the Office of Aging and Adult Services (OAAS) to learn more about the Permanent Supportive Housing program.
- Based on information learned at these two meetings, the council will determine what, if any, advocacy activities are needed to increase housing and simplify application processes.

NEED

- A qualified and stable workforce is needed.

ACTION STEPS

- The Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) will look at cost report data to determine what rate would be needed to support an appropriate wage and what percentage should be allowed for administrative costs.
- The Council will develop and conduct a public awareness campaign to recognize the profession of DSPs and the valuable and important work they do.
- OCDD will consider making Support Coordinator and DSP training competency-based (critical thinking/comprehension vs. memorization).

NEED

- An increase in expectations regarding the abilities of people with developmental disabilities is needed.

ACTION STEPS

- The Council will write an LaDDC News article encouraging families to invite their support coordinator to their child's IEP/ITP meeting. This can be used as their quarterly their support coordinator meeting. The article will also include resources/information for parents regarding the IEP process.
- OCDD will also disseminate this information.

NEED

- There is a need for law enforcement officers to be trained in appropriately working with people with developmental disabilities.

ACTION STEP

- The Council will get information from the Arc of LA regarding their provision of law enforcement training statewide.