

La DD Council - FFY 2017 Action Plan

ADVOCACY AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Goal 1 Individuals with development disabilities and their family members will have information, training, support and leadership to effectively advocate and impact system change by educating policy makers.

Obj. 1.1 Louisiana's self-advocacy network will be supported in self-advocacy and in systems change advocacy.

Activity 1.1.1 Offer technical assistance and training opportunities designed to strengthen the self-advocacy network and the effectiveness of its systems change activities.

Obj. 1.2 Individuals with developmental disabilities and their family members will have access to opportunities and support to build skills to be effective leaders in systems change advocacy.

Activity 1.2.1 Provide financial support and technical assistance for Partners in Policymaking and its alumni network.

Activity 1.2.2 Support up to two Council members' participation in Partners in Policymaking.

Activity 1.2.3 Provide financial support and information, training, technical assistance, and leadership to a grassroots network of individuals with developmental disabilities and family members of individuals with developmental disabilities to effectively educate policy makers on the development/improvement of programs and services for people with developmental disabilities.

Activity 1.2.4 Facilitate and support Disability Rights Day and other advocacy events.

Obj. 1.3 Individuals with developmental disabilities and family members of individuals with developmental disabilities will have support to be effective leaders in systems change through participation on a variety of boards and commissions.

Activity 1.3.1 Provide information and support for participation of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families in cross-disability and culturally diverse leadership coalitions and advisory bodies.

Activity 1.3.2 Support Council members in participation in Council meetings and other functions.

Activity 1.3.3 Support Council members' participation in training and educational opportunities.

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Activity 1.3.4 Support the Council leadership's participation in national training, networking events and advocacy opportunities.

Obj. 1.4 Individuals with developmental disabilities, their families, and professionals will obtain the information, training, and support they need.

Activity 1.4.1 Provide financial support (from the entirety of state general funds) and technical assistance to nine Families Helping Families Regional Resource Centers across the state.

Activity 1.4.2 Provide information important to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families through a variety of electronic and social media (Council website, Facebook, LaDDC News).

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Goal 2 Individuals with developmental disabilities, including those with the most challenging needs, and their families will have access to individualized, appropriate, and quality supports and services as needed to be fully-participating members of their community.

Obj. 2.1 An increased number of direct support professionals will demonstrate skills sets necessary to meet individual needs and are more appropriately compensated resulting in a qualified and stable workforce.

Activity 2.1.1 Advocate that basic and ongoing training for direct support professionals (DSPs) is competency-based and includes topics of facilitating inclusion and health-related topics such as recognizing signs and symptoms of medical issues and appropriate responses to chronic individual and emergent (generic) medical/behavioral issues.

Obj. 2.2 Individuals with developmental disabilities will have more control over their supports and services, their goals and daily activities.

Activity 2.2.1 Promote the increased use of selfdirection by individuals and families.

Activity 2.2.2 Advocate that web-based provider data be required of all providers for inclusion on a user-friendly search engine.

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Obj. 2.3. Individuals with developmental disabilities, including those with the most challenging medical and/or behavioral needs, will be supported in the community by providers resulting in fewer served in Intermediate Care Facilities (ICFs) for people with developmental disabilities.

Activity 2.3.1 Advocate for the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) to provide financial incentives to serve individuals with challenging needs.

Activity 2.3.2 Collaborate with Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) and fund specialized training and technical assistance for community providers/Direct support professionals in supporting individuals with the most challenging needs.

Obj. 2.4 Funding will be available to provide home and community-based supports and services to people on the waiting list, for it to move at a reasonable pace.

Activity 2.4.1 Advocate for adequate funding for waiver slots and state-funded community and family supports (CFS).

Obj. 2.5 Individuals with developmental disabilities and their families will have access to the same level and quality of services across the state and will be accountable to state regulation.

Activity 2.5.1 Oversee implementation of the Community and Family Support System Plan.

Activity 2.5.2 Advocate for the expansion of services and consistent implementation of policy across regions, including, if necessary, changes in law and/or contract with local governing entities (LGEs).

Obj. 2.6 Louisiana will reduce reliance on institutional services (public and private) for people with developmental disabilities.

Activity 2.6.1 Advocate to fully implement the Money Follows the Person (MFP) in Louisiana.

Obj. 2.7 Individuals with developmental disabilities will benefit from changes, consistent with Council positions, in policy and practice in state and local agencies and programs.

Activity 2.7.1 Advocate for systems change based on emergent community support issues.

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EDUCATION

Goal 3 Students with disabilities will have access to quality, individualized educational programs that address their unique skills, interests, and goals in inclusive environments.

Obj. 3.1 Individualized Education Plan (IEP) team members will have increased levels of information and support to demonstrate effective individualized programming consistent with best practice and to enable each member to participate fully as members of the IEP team.

Activity 3.1.1 Advocate for increased focus and capacity within LDOE to address Special Education, including specific areas/issues (i.e., disability/topical/etc.).

Activity 3.1.3 Provide financial support for the development and initial training of modules to increase the capacity of family support organizations and local school systems in facilitating family and student involvement in Individual Education Plan (IEP) meetings.

Obj. 3.2 Louisiana's accountability and support structures for school systems will better assure the development and implementation of individualized education programs in inclusive settings.

Activity 3.2.1 Advocate for an accountability system to value students with disabilities and measure programs and outcomes based on individualized student goals and needs (including service delivery).

Obj. 3.3 Students with developmental disabilities will benefit from changes, consistent with Council positions, in policy and practice in educational agencies and programs.

Activity 3.3.1 Advocate for educational systems change based on emergent education issues.

Goal 4 Students with disabilities are considered from the initial phases to the completion of planning and program development of educational policies and initiatives.

Obj. 4.1 An increased number of students with disabilities will graduate with a high school diploma.

Activity 4.1.1 Monitor and provide input into policy development and implementation of Act 833 of 2014.

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Obj. 4.2 All schools (charter/magnet) accepting public dollars will accept and serve all students with disabilities appropriately.

Activity 4.2.1 Monitor rates of students with disabilities across schools and advocate for inclusive practices.

Obj. 4.3 Stakeholders will have increased opportunities to provide authentic input that will impact decisions on policies effecting students with disabilities.

Activity 4.3.1 Advocate for availability of data necessary for monitoring education system(s).

Activity 4.3.2 Advocate for increased meaningful opportunities for stakeholder input; improved practices to facilitate stakeholder input and consideration of stakeholder recommendations.

EMPLOYMENT

Goal 5 Individuals with developmental disabilities including those with the most substantial employment support needs will have access to quality individualized services and funding that support competitive integrated individualized employment, and career and financial goals.

Obj. 5.1 An increased number of individuals with developmental disabilities will have access to qualified providers who offer a stable workforce of supported employment professionals with recognized skills sets demonstrated to be effective in supporting people with disabilities getting and maintaining employment.

Activity 5.1.1 Advocate for certification of employment support professionals (ESPs).

Obj. 5.2 An increased number of individuals with developmental disabilities will have information and access to an integrated workforce development system that is fully-funded.

Activity 5.2.1 Advocate for state appropriation to access full federal vocational rehabilitation (VR) allotment, higher waiver rates, funding for follow-along services for individuals with developmental disabilities in Intermediate Care Facilities (ICFs).

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Activity 5.2.2 Monitor state implementation of:

- the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and
- the CMS home- and community-based services settings rule and share the progress with stakeholders and advocates.

Obj. 5.3 Individuals with developmental disabilities, their families, and professionals in the various service systems will have increased expectations that people with developmental disabilities can have successful competitive, integrated, individualized employment.

Activity 5.3.1 Share the benefits planning services to a variety of agencies and stakeholders.

Activity 5.3.2 Share DD Council employment videos featuring individuals with developmental disabilities on their jobs.

Activity 5.3.3 Disseminate pertinent research pertaining to employment of people with developmental disabilities in competitive integrated individualized jobs.

Activity 5.3.4 Promote the benefits of and provide family peer-to-peer support for successful competitive integrated individualized employment.

Obj. 5.4 Individuals with developmental disabilities will benefit from changes, consistent with Council positions, in policy and practice in employment agencies/programs.

Activity 5.4.1 Advocate for systems change based on emergent employment issues.

Activity 5.4.2 Provide financial support for a specialist in employment policy to provide support and information to the Employment First Workgroup on best practice in supporting people with complex and significant disabilities in integrated competitive employment.