

DD Council's Education Recommendations and Collaborative Action Plan

January 22, 2015

Needs

- More coordination is needed between schools/LA Rehabilitation Services (LRS)
- Additional school work and training opportunities should be available and tailored to individual needs.
- LRS needs increased staff capacity to participate in transition planning

Action Steps

- Avis Brown with LRS will speak to the Health/Education/Employment Committee regarding the LRS/Local Education Agency (LEA) partnerships she is promoting and how the Council can assist in promoting these partnerships. (April 15, 2015)
- LRS will send information on the LRS/LEA partnerships to the La. Department of Education (LDOE) for inclusion in the LDOE newsletter that all LEAs receive. (March 1, 2015)
- The Human Development Center will follow-up with LRS to revisit LEAs in Southeast LA that have expressed interest in forming partnerships. (April 1, 2015)

Needs

- Parents need more information regarding services available through LRS, their rights related to transition, and characteristics of a good transition plan.

Action Steps

- The Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) will direct Support Coordinators to inform parents of their children's rights regarding transition at age 16. (April 15, 2015)
- The LDOE will provide information to parents regarding Transition Planning & LRS services through its electronic newsletter and other means (July 15, 2015)
- The DD Council and Human Development Center will collect examples of "good" transition plans and share what a good plan should include. (July 15, 2015)
- Jamie Wong will send DD Council resources for effective transition planning. (Completed)

Needs

- Collaboration between school officials and outside therapists is needed.
- Schools should fully utilize Medicaid as a funding source.
- Schools need the financial resources to fully provide needed services.

Action Steps

- The Council will ask the LA Association of Special Education Administrators to collect policies/procedures from all LEAs related to allowing or restricting

therapists from outside agencies to provide services in school and ask LEAs if there are any barriers to collaborating with outside therapists or accessing Medicaid. (Request by Council completed)

Needs

- Awareness of strategies/practices and skills to implement inclusive education and values based-training are needed for school leadership.

Action Steps

- The Council will contact La. Association of Principals to arrange/encourage values-based training on inclusive practices to principals. (Completed)

Needs

- Services for children at the LA Special Education Center (LSEC) need to be provided by their LEA so placement at this residential facility will not be needed.

Action Steps

- OCDD will provide Council with profile of LSEC residents. (February 27, 2015)
- The Council will inform Dept. of Health and Hospitals Secretary Kathy Kliebert of recent marketing/recruiting efforts by LSEC. (March 15, 2015)
- Human Development Center will provide Council with information regarding which other states' Medicaid agencies sent a bill for services to the Local Education Agency from where the child originated. (April 1, 2015)