

La DD Council - FFY 2017 Action Plan

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- 'On Target: Initiative' indicates progress has been made as expected.
- 'On Target: Expenditures' indicates invoiced amounts are as expected.

Activity	Progress
<p style="text-align: center;">As applicable, data is presented year-to-date and quarterly (December 1, 2016 – February 28, 2017).</p>	
<p>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.</p>	
<p>Obj. 1.1 Louisiana's self-advocacy network will be supported in self-advocacy and in systems change advocacy.</p>	
<p>1.1.1 Offer technical assistance and training opportunities designed to strengthen the self-advocacy network and the effectiveness of its systems change activities.</p>	<p>No activity this quarter.</p> <p>Previous quarter: Provided statistics to People First of people on waivers, people on waiting lists, costs of waivers, and information on various versions of mid-year budget proposals for FY17.</p> <p>On target: <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p>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.</p>	
<p>1.2.1 Provide financial support and technical assistance for Partners in Policymaking and its alumni network. Approx. FFY 2017 Cost: \$80,000</p>	<p>Partners in Policymaking began the January class with 26 participants including five self-advocates and three dads. Two moms have resigned leaving the total number of participants at 24.</p> <p><u>2017 Partners Class Active in Systems Change</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five participants attended a yellow shirt day during special session, including one self-advocate. • Seventeen attended regional roundtables. • Two provided personal testimony at roundtables. • Ten responded action alerts.

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Activity	Progress
	<p style="text-align: center;">As applicable, data is presented year-to-date and quarterly (December 1, 2016 – February 28, 2017).</p> <p><u>Partners Graduates Active in Systems Change</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Partners in Policymaking Alumni Facebook page has 155 members. • Twelve graduates of Partners currently serve on the DD Council. This is an increase of two since the last report. • Two graduates serve as FHF Executive Directors. • Eight graduates are Regional Advocacy Leaders. • Eleven graduates responded to the BESE, SEAP, MFP Action alert # 5 that took place from January 20th – 25th • 28 graduates responded to a request to serve as mentors to the Class of 2017 • 46 graduates attended the Roundtables throughout the state. • Graduates serve on state and regional bodies such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Acadiana Area Human Services Authority ○ Advisory Council on Student Behavior and Discipline ○ Advocacy Center Board of Directors ○ Families Helping Families Regional Resource Center Boards of Directors ○ Governor’s Advisory Council on Disability Affairs ○ Louisiana ABLA Account Advisory Board ○ LSU Human Development Center (UCEDD) Consumer Advisory Council ○ Louisiana Statewide Independent Living Council ○ Louisiana State Interagency Coordinating Council ○ Office for Citizens with DD State Advisory Council ○ Special Education Advisory Panel <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>
<p>1.2.2 Support up to two Council members’ participation in Partners in Policymaking.</p>	<p>Two Council members are participating in the 2017 Partners in Policymaking class.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>

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Activity	Progress
<p>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. Approx. FFY 2017 Cost: \$245,000</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">As applicable, data is presented year-to-date and quarterly (December 1, 2016 – February 28, 2017).</p> <p>LaCAN's listserv as of March 20, 2017 is 4,700.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2,437 Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) & Employment • 1,171 Education & Early Intervention • 1,092 HCBS & Employment and Education & Early Intervention <p><u>Advocacy Activities</u> Since October 1, 2016:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Six education action alerts; 341 actions taken • Eight education yellow shirt days; 47 participants • Three HCBS action alerts; 476 actions taken • Five HCBS yellow shirt days; 79 participants <p>Since August 1, 2016, 81 legislative visits have been completed; 66% to key committee members.</p> <p>LaCAN conference calls are hosted each Thursday to update leaders on current concerns/issues affecting individuals with DD and their families. Leaders also engage in discussions and exercises on how to better develop, maintain, support, and lead their regional members.</p> <p><u>Update on Leader Positions</u> Konstance Causey was hired to be the Leader in Region 8. Current vacancies include Regions 1, 4, 9 (HCBS) and 10.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>

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Activity	Progress
<p>1.2.4 Facilitate and support Disability Rights Day and other advocacy events. Approx. FFY 2017 Cost: \$40,000</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">As applicable, data is presented year-to-date and quarterly (December 1, 2016 – February 28, 2017).</p> <p>Disability Rights Day will be held April 26, 2017, at the Louisiana State Capitol with a rally program scheduled at noon. As of 3/21/2017, 280 individuals have registered to attend. LaCAN Leaders have identified visit team captains to lead regional members on legislative visits throughout the day. Self-Advocate, Jeff Arseneaux, and parent advocate, Doris Heckert, will serve as Masters of Ceremonies. Rep. Barbara Carpenter will be the keynote speaker. Legislators from the House and Senate have also been invited to address the rally.</p> <p>Nine Legislative Roundtables hosted around the state in January - February 2017. Of the 534 participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 75 were Self-Advocates • 181 were Family Members • 202 were Professionals • 34 were Legislators, Legislative Aides, and/or BESE members <p>LaCAN Fall Leader Training hosted on November 10, 2016. Leaders engaged in activities to enhance their understanding of the Council's advocacy agenda and their roles as a leader during the upcoming 2017 Legislative Session.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>
<p>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.</p>	
<p>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.</p>	<p>People First of La. was informed of the openings on the DD Council and asked to share this information with self-advocates and the process to apply. Three parents of children with disabilities were supported in participating in the Advisory Council on Student Behavior and Discipline.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>

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Activity	Progress
<p>1.3.2 Support Council members in participation in Council meetings and other functions.</p>	<p>As applicable, data is presented year-to-date and quarterly (December 1, 2016 – February 28, 2017).</p> <p>Council members are supported in participation in Council meetings and other functions.</p>
<p>1.3.3 Support Council members' participation in training and educational opportunities. Approx. FFY 2017 Cost: \$3,000</p>	<p>No stipends were provided this quarter.</p>
<p>1.3.4 Support the Council leadership's participation in national training, networking events and advocacy opportunities. Approx. FFY 2017 Cost: \$7,000</p>	<p>No support was provided this reporting period for Council leadership's participation in national training, networking events and advocacy opportunities.</p>
<p>Obj. 1.4 Individuals with developmental disabilities, their families, and professionals will obtain the information, training, and support they need.</p>	
<p>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.</p>	<p>Since October 1, 2016, Centers have assisted 8,047 individuals and families with information, referral, or other supports. 10,652 units of information and referral were completed. Centers completed 50 outreaches to hospitals, pediatrician offices, and school districts.</p> <p>Successfully advocated with the Commissioner of Administration for full funding for FHF to be included in the Governor's proposed FY18 budget.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>

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Activity	Progress
<p>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).</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">As applicable, data is presented year-to-date and quarterly (December 1, 2016 – February 28, 2017).</p> <p>Provided information through LaDDC News on the Council’s Legislative Advocacy Agenda, Recruitment of Applicants for Council Membership Vacancies, and announcing the launch of the Self-direction Workshops. Provided information through Facebook on various issues of interest to people with developmental disabilities and their families including awareness posts during national Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in March. Most notably was the information provided from Special Session and the Roundtables held across the state.</p> <p>LaDDC News (as of 3/27/2017)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,469 current subscribers <p>Facebook (as of 1/3/2017)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council – 2,056 Likes, increase of 53 this quarter • LaCAN – 1,288 Likes, increase of 105 this quarter • The LaTEACH Facebook page was closed following the merger of LaCAN and LaTEACH on October 1, 2016. Several posts encouraged LaTEACH followers to “like” the LaCAN page to continue getting updates. <p>YouTube</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment videos posted to YouTube were shared to Facebook in conjunction with National Disability Employment Month (NDEAM). <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p>1.4.3 Provide for training for Boards of Directors and Peer Support for nine Families Helping Families Regional Resource Centers across the state.</p>	<p>Louisiana Association of Nonprofit Organizations (LANO) will provide board training to nine FHF Centers in their respective regions beginning in April 2017. Parent-to-Parent USA will provide Peer-to-Peer Support training to Center staff on June 19-20. LANtec will provide customer service training to select staff from every Center on June 20th. A “Train the Trainer” component will be added to these trainings to ensure new Center staff are trained and annual refresher trainings are provided to current staff.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>

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Activity	Progress
<p>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.</p>	
<p>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.</p>	
<p>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.</p>	<p>No activity this quarter.</p> <p>On target: <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p>Obj. 2.2 Individuals with developmental disabilities will have more control over their supports and services, their goals and daily activities.</p>	
<p>2.2.1 Promote the increased use of self-direction by individuals and families. Approx. FFY 2017 Cost: \$30,000</p>	<p>One self-advocate and four parents who are enrolled in the self-direction option were selected to serve as mentors to other individuals with disabilities and parents new to or considering self-direction. The mentors have scheduled and confirmed locations to host their workshops where they will share their experience with self-direction. The workshops are being held throughout the state from March – September 2017 and the mentors will provide ongoing support to those interested in pursuing self-direction. An LaDDC News article was sent on 03/15/2017 and 03/31/2017 announcing the times and locations of each workshop.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>

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Activity	Progress
<p>2.2.2 Advocate that web-based provider data be required of all providers for inclusion on a user-friendly search engine.</p>	<p>As applicable, data is presented year-to-date and quarterly (December 1, 2016 – February 28, 2017).</p> <p>No activity this quarter.</p> <p>On target: <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p>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.</p>	
<p>2.3.1 Advocate for the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) to provide financial incentives to serve individuals with challenging needs.</p>	<p>Advocated for funding for an enhanced waiver rate to support individuals with complex medical and behavioral health needs at the nine legislative roundtables across the state, at a meeting with LDH Secretary Dr. Rebekah Gee, and at the Governor’s Advisory Council on Disability Affairs. This funding was not included in the Governor’s proposed FY18 budget.</p> <p>Previous Quarter(s) The Council supported the Louisiana Department of Health’s budget request for enhanced waiver rates to support individuals with complex medical and behavioral health support needs.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p>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. Approx. FFY 2017 Cost: \$180,000</p>	<p>The Complex Needs Training and Technical Assistance Partnership with OCDD works with direct service providers from around the state to increase their capacity and improve outcomes for the people they support through in-class training and provider-specific ongoing technical support. One provider dropped out of the project this quarter – leaving three providers currently participating (in Hammond, Monroe, and Lafayette). One provider is expected in the next quarter to satisfy its second benchmark, one met its first benchmark this quarter, and the third is expected to satisfy its first benchmark in the next quarter. Planned improvements to the model include 1) region-wide trainings open to all providers and 2) extended time in the mentoring relationship with selected providers with abbreviated in-class training.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>

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Activity	Progress
<p>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.</p>	
<p>2.4.1 Advocate for adequate funding for waiver slots and state-funded community and family supports (CFS).</p>	<p>Advocated for funding to fill vacant waiver slots and to increase state funded services at nine legislative roundtables, at a meeting with LDH Secretary Dr. Rebekah Gee, and at the Governor’s Advisory Council on Disability Affairs. These funds are not included in the Governor’s proposed FY18 budget.</p> <p>Previous Quarter(s) Fact sheets related to funding needed to fill 627 vacant home and community-based waiver slots and equitable funding for the local human services districts/authorities with a mandatory minimum dedicated to CFS were developed, posted on the Council’s website, and distributed to Council members, LaCAN Leaders and FHF Centers to be used in legislative visits leading into the 2017 Legislative Session.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p>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.</p>	
<p>2.5.1 Oversee implementation of the Community and Family Support System Plan.</p>	<p>Advocated for the need for increased funding for Act 378 services at nine legislative roundtables, at a meeting with LDH Secretary Dr. Rebekah Gee, and at the Governor’s Advisory Council on Disability Affairs. This mandatory minimum would help ensure more equal access to services across the state.</p> <p>In January 2017, the Council approved recommendations made by the Families Helping Families Ad-Hoc Committee to improve the capacity and quality of service provision of the Centers. The Center contracts are being amended to reflect these new requirements.</p>

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Activity	Progress
	<p style="text-align: center;">As applicable, data is presented year-to-date and quarterly (December 1, 2016 – February 28, 2017).</p> <p>Previous Quarter(s) Recommendations of the Community and Family Support System (CFSS) Task Force were shared with Council members, the Governor’s Office, LDH Secretary, Deputy Secretary, Assistant Secretaries, and LGE Executive Directors. The two recommendations dealing with funding of Act 378 services were included on the Council’s legislative agenda and are being shared with legislators.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p>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).</p>	<p>Advocated for a mandatory minimum of the Human Services Districts/Authorities’ state funds be dedicated to Act 378 services at nine legislative roundtables, at a meeting with LDH Secretary Dr. Rebekah Gee, and at the Governor’s Advisory Council on Disability Affairs. This mandatory minimum would help ensure more equal access to services across the state.</p> <p>Previous Quarter: Several of the Community and Family Support System Task Force recommendations address both the expansion of services and consistent policy implementation. Meetings were held this quarter with the Governor’s Office, the LDH Leadership and the Executive Directors of the Districts/Authorities to discuss and promote the recommendations.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p>Obj. 2.6 Louisiana will reduce reliance on institutional services (public and private) for people with developmental disabilities.</p>	
<p>2.6.1 Advocate to fully implement Money Follows the Person (MFP) in Louisiana.</p>	<p>LDH accepted the Council’s recommendation to initiate a pilot program allowing 50 ICF/DD residents on the waiver waiting list to move into their own homes with waiver services. OCDD is continuing to make waiver offers to individuals to participate in the pilot.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p>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.</p>	

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Activity	Progress
<p>2.7.1 Advocate for systems change based on emergent community support issues.</p>	<p>As applicable, data is presented year-to-date and quarterly (December 1, 2016 – February 28, 2017).</p> <p>Previous quarter: Advocated for an increased rate and policy changes in the EPSDT personal care services program with Dr. Rebekah Gee.</p>
<p>Goal 3 Students with disabilities will have access to quality, individualized educational programs that address their unique skills, interests, and goals in inclusive environments.</p>	
<p>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.</p>	
<p>3.1.1 Advocate for increased focus and capacity within LDOE to address Special Education, including specific areas/issues (i.e., disability/topical/etc.).</p>	<p>Served on the Governor’s Advisory Council on the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and advocated for schools identified for comprehensive support and improvement should receive comprehensive support strategies from well-qualified individuals within the LDOE and to rebuild capacity within LDOE regarding the full range of supports and services students need from schools to meet their needs. These recommendations were adopted by the Governor’s Advisory Council.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p>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.</p>	
<p>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).</p>	<p>Served on the Governor’s Advisory Council on the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and advocated for the District and School Accountability Index to ensure any student has the possibility and probability of earning his school the same number of points as any other student in any other school in Louisiana. Removal of bias based on the students enrolled in a school was agreed upon by the Governor’s Advisory Council on ESSA.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p>Obj. 3.3 Students with developmental disabilities will benefit from changes, consistent with Council positions, in policy and practice in educational agencies and programs.</p>	

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Activity	Progress
<p>3.3.1 Advocate for educational systems change based on emergent education issues.</p>	<p>As applicable, data is presented year-to-date and quarterly (December 1, 2016 – February 28, 2017).</p> <p>Advocated for ESSA Plan to 1) include specific strategies to address severe shortage of teachers certified in special education, 2) include validated measures of suspensions, 3) include more stakeholder input on specific elements within the plan. Praised LDOE and Superintendent White for presenting an accountability framework in ESSA proposed plan that values achievements of students with disabilities, even students with the most significant cognitive disabilities more fairly than the current system. Urged the Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP) to consider recommending alignment in FFY17 IDEA proposed budget with LDOE’s stated priority areas. Advocated for BESE to consider stronger positions with charter schools not following the law in serving adequate rates of students with disabilities.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p>Goal 4 Students with disabilities are considered from the initial phases to the completion of planning and program development of educational policies and initiatives.</p>	
<p>Obj. 4.1 An increased number of students with disabilities will graduate with a high school diploma.</p>	
<p>4.1.1 Monitor and provide input into policy development and implementation of Act 833 of 2014.</p>	<p>5,173 students are eligible for an alternative graduate pathway under Act 833 (see slide 8). It is not clear how many students who are eligible are accessing the alternative pathway. Data on the numbers of students who earned a high school diploma through an alternative pathway under Act 833 have not been made available.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p>Obj. 4.2 All schools (charter/magnet) accepting public dollars will accept and serve all students with disabilities appropriately.</p>	
<p>4.2.1 Monitor rates of students with disabilities across schools and advocate for inclusive practices.</p>	<p>Reviewed data in the 2014-2015 Special Education Data Profile and the 2015-2016 Report on School Performance According to Requirements under R.S. 17:3991 related to charter school enrollment of students with disabilities. Less than half of all charter schools, 47%, meet the legal requirement for having an adequate number of students with disabilities enrolled.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>

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Activity	Progress
<p>Obj. 4.3 Stakeholders will have increased opportunities to provide authentic input that will impact decisions on policies effecting students with disabilities.</p>	
<p>4.3.1 Advocate for availability of data necessary for monitoring education system(s).</p>	<p>As a result of Act 522 and the Advisory Council on Student Behavior and Discipline, stakeholders were provided data on the use of discipline practices across school systems.</p> <p>Previous Quarter A meeting with three BESE members, LDOE staff, and DD Council staff on September 28th resulted in an agreement for LDOE to provide ongoing information to SEAP regarding contracts and obligations of IDEA state set aside funds. While data on one initiative was presented at the following SEAP meeting, and historical context was provided to SEAP with the proposed FFY17 IDEA State-level Activities, data regarding previous expenditures and comparisons across years of changes to funding priorities was notably absent.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p>4.3.2 Advocate for increased meaningful opportunities for stakeholder input; improved practices to facilitate stakeholder input and consideration of stakeholder recommendations.</p>	<p>The Education/Employment Committee will determine a definition of opportunities for meaningful and authentic stakeholder input again at the April meeting. A workgroup has met multiple times to refine the definition and measurement tool for determining whether meaningful stakeholder input occurred.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p>Goal 5 Children with disabilities across the state will have access to an array of quality, affordable, inclusive child care and after-school program options.</p>	
<p>Obj. 5.1 Children with significant or complex needs will have access to funding assistance to support them in inclusive child care settings.</p>	
<p>5.1.1 Advocate for shifting Medicaid funds from segregated Pediatric Day Health Care (PDHC) Centers to services in inclusive settings.</p>	<p>No activity this quarter.</p> <p>On target: <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>

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Activity	Progress
As applicable, data is presented year-to-date and quarterly (December 1, 2016 – February 28, 2017).	
<p>Goal 6 Students and young adults with developmental disabilities, including those with the most substantial employment support needs, will have transition plans that result in competitive integrated individualized employment.</p>	
<p>Obj. 6.1 An increased number of Transition Plans will address students' unique skills and interests, employment and career goals, and post-secondary educational goals.</p>	
<p>6.1.1 Advocate for Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) and Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS) to develop integrated transition plans with qualified personnel (transition coordinators) who possess necessary skill sets, have access to training and results in paid work experience prior to exiting school.</p>	<p>No activity this reporting period.</p> <p>On target: <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p>6.1.2 Promote third party arrangements between LRS and local education agencies (LEAs).</p>	<p>No activity this reporting period.</p> <p>On target: <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p>Goal 7 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.</p>	
<p>Obj. 7.1 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</p>	

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Activity	Progress
<p>7.1.1 Advocate for certification of employment support professionals (ESPs).</p>	<p>As applicable, data is presented year-to-date and quarterly (December 1, 2016 – February 28, 2017).</p> <p>Advocated for the systematic certification of ESPs during La Rehabilitation Council meetings. As a result of this advocacy, the LRC formally requested a method for increasing certification be sought.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p>Obj. 7.2 An increased number of individuals with developmental disabilities will have information and access to an integrated workforce development system that is fully-funded.</p>	
<p>7.2.1 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).</p>	<p>Advocated for full federal VR allotment at nine legislative roundtables across the state and at the Governor’s Advisory Council on Disability Affairs.</p> <p>Previous Quarter: Fact sheet was developed requesting the funding needed to allow Louisiana Rehabilitation Services to draw down the full federal VR allotment has been posted on the Council’s website, distributed to Council members, LaCAN Leaders and FHF Centers to be used in legislative visits prior to the 2017 Legislative Session.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p>7.2.2 Monitor state implementation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and • the CMS home- and community-based services settings rule <p>and share the progress with stakeholders and advocates.</p>	<p>OCDD reported to the Council that it is performing trainings for direct support providers to focus on needed changes in provider programs to align with the CMS home and community based settings rule and the WIOA.</p> <p>LRS continues to collaborate with the La. Department of Education and with local education agencies to implement expanded pre-employment transition services. LRS reports serving more than 2,600 students in the pilot. Of these 2,600, more than 500 have been placed in work-based learning experiences.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p>Obj. 7.3 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.</p>	

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Activity	Progress
<p>7.3.1 Share the benefits planning services to a variety of agencies and stakeholders.</p>	<p>As applicable, data is presented year-to-date and quarterly (December 1, 2016 – February 28, 2017).</p> <p>Information was shared on the Council's Facebook page multiple times during National Disability Employment Awareness Month and periodically at other times.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p>7.3.2 Share DD Council employment videos featuring individuals with developmental disabilities on their jobs.</p>	<p>Videos were shared on the Council's Facebook page multiple times during National Disability Employment Awareness Month and periodically at other times.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p>7.3.3 Disseminate pertinent research pertaining to employment of people with developmental disabilities in competitive integrated individualized jobs.</p>	<p>Pertinent research was shared on the Council's Facebook page multiple times during National Disability Employment Awareness Month and periodically at other times.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p>7.3.4 Promote the benefits of and provide family peer-to-peer support for successful competitive integrated individualized employment. Approx. FFY 2017 Cost: \$42,500</p>	<p>The Council is currently seeking families to provide support to other families who currently have family members in a sheltered workshop in the transition process into competitive employment. We have promoted this initiative through LaDDC News and Facebook, and enlisted the help of OCDD, providers and support coordination agencies. Despite these efforts, we have not been able to identify individuals interested in serving in this role to date.</p> <p>On target: <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>
<p>Obj. 7.4 Individuals with developmental disabilities will benefit from changes, consistent with Council positions, in policy and practice in employment agencies/programs.</p>	
<p>7.4.1 Advocate for systems change based on emergent employment issues.</p>	<p>Successfully advocated for an Employment First Workgroup to be established by the Governor to align policies across agencies and programs to promote inclusive, individualized, competitive employment. The workgroup has held two meetings. On March 23 employment policy specialist, David Hoff, of the Institute for Community Inclusion provided an overview of Employment First-focused policies and practices. Mr. Hoff will facilitate in-person in the April, May, and June workgroup meetings.</p>