

**HDC**  
**Quarterly Report to the DD Council**  
(January 1 – March 31, 2014)

**UPDATE/PROGRESS ON AGENCY INITIATIVES**

HDC has initiatives across the areas of Education, Employment/Transition, Health, and Early Childhood.

Education

- HDC is collaborating with LaPTI and FHF Jefferson to host the Inclusion Matters Conference June 5-7, 2014.
- HDC is participating in a community resource fair to distribute information about dual sensory loss and support available to children and families through the Deaf Blind Project
- **Anything we want to add about Alan's group or LASARD renewal?**

Employment/Transition

- Postsecondary Education for All Collaborative (PEAC)
  - 8 students are registered this semester
  - 3 PEAC students will complete the program in May.
  - Academic mentors expanding study groups to all students in class; extra credit for students who attend
  - HDC provided longitudinal professional development to assist 4Delgado instructors to redesign courses using principles of UDL
- Benefits Planning Services are being provided throughout the state in conjunction with the Advocacy Center.
  - LRS has asked that the Benefits Planning staff conduct trainings on project services to each LRS region. Dates have been set for all of these trainings which will continue through the summer.
- HDC continues to attend all SE provider meetings and to work with LRS staff and administration to advocate for quality service provision.
  - HDC is trying to reschedule a meeting with LRS State Office to discuss funding opportunities related to building capacity of SE providers.

Health

- HDC is sending 7 LEND trainees to DC in April to a Disability Policy Seminar where they will meet with members of our state delegation to discuss issues important to people with disabilities and their families.

Early Childhood

- As part of the *Learn the Signs. Act Early.* initiative HDC is participating in a community resource fair to distribute information about child development and resources available to families if they have concerns about their child's development.

- HDC is applying for an OSEP personnel preparation grant to train students in speech therapy, occupational therapy, and physical therapy on best practices in early intervention.

## **STATUS OF AGENCY'S ACTIVITIES ON DDC PLAN INITIATIVES AND IMPACT**

**Objective 2.3** *DSPs serving Louisianans with developmental disabilities will display a minimum skills set and have access to a graduated certification process with corresponding compensation increases.*

**Activity 2.3.1** *Advocate for the development of a (or use of existing) comprehensive and evidence-based training curriculum and certification for DSPs statewide*

- HDC staff serves as Chair of the National Certified Employment Support Professional (CESP) certification committee.
- In collaboration with Louisiana APSE, HDC will advocate for certified employment professionals in CRPs statewide.
- HDC and LA APSE have initiated discussions with LRS State Office staff to consider implementing a quality assurance indicator that CRPs providing SE services to have a percentage of their staff certified as CESPs
- HDC continues to discuss Delgado Community College initiating a Technical Competency Area for Employment Support Professionals.

**Objective 6.1** *Access to quality health services for individuals with developmental disabilities will increase.*

**Activity 6.1.2** *Provide support for the modification of a curriculum for Nurse Practitioner (NP) and Physician Assistant (PA) students, development of a curriculum for online Continuing Medical Education (CME) units for physicians, and the expansion of Operation House Call to Shreveport that provides an understanding of experiences of individuals with significant disabilities and their families.*

- Videos of self-advocates and families have been recorded and are currently being edited to add to the webinars/ CE activities.
- First draft of Medical Home curriculum module is complete.

**Objective 7.2** *Changes in policies and practices that result in students with developmental disabilities attaining competitive employment in integrated settings.*

**Activity 7.2.1** *Advocate with the LSU-HSC Human Development Center and other collaborators for the development and implementation of policies and practices (i.e., college and career pathways) that ensure students with developmental disabilities have access to and opportunities that prepare them for post-secondary education and/or competitive, integrated employment.*

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**Objective 9.1** Louisiana will develop and implement an Employment First plan.

**Activity 9.1.1** Advocate for

- *policies that incentivize services for individualized integrated, competitive employment and dis-incentivize segregated, sheltered day habilitation services,*
  - *sheltered workshops to transition people into individualized, competitive, paid employment and discontinue admissions into segregated day programs,*
  - *collaborative policy making and practices across state agencies that promote students being supported in and transitioning into competitive paid employment,*
  - *LRS and OCDD will collaborate to mandate that all supported employment vendors/providers complete a university-based 40-hour training,*
  - *Support family members and other advocates to serve on the Louisiana work team in developing an Employment First agenda and implementation plan including participation in state level meetings.*
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- HDC is providing 40 hour CORE Supported Employment as well as four (4) one-day trainings (7.5 hours each): SE Management and Funding/Budgeting, Job Developer Clinic, Assessment Clinic and SSA Benefits and Work Incentives. HDC is providing at least one training each month in various locations around the state.
  - HDC continues to contract with a large vocational service provider in New Orleans to mentor, train and consult by working directly with the agency job seekers and the employment personnel on best practice techniques and standards. The agency has two staff dedicated to this service and have eight (8) clients/job seekers.
  - HDC is providing mentoring to three (3) Community Rehabilitation Providers and have identified the fourth provid. HDC is currently working with the new mentor agency to set up initial meeting and to develop the mentoring plan. The plan should be completed at the beginning of April, 2014. All CRPs involved have committed to the philosophy of Employment First.

**STATUS OF COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS TO AGENCY**

No recommendations have been received.