

Human Development Center
Quarterly Report to the DD Council
(July 1-Sept 30, 2013)

UPDATE/PROGRESS ON AGENCY INITIATIVES

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

Education

- HDC Applied to OSEP to direct the Louisiana DeafBlind Project.
- HDC is collaborating with LaPTI and FHF Jefferson to host the Inclusion Matters Conference June 5-7, 2014.

Employment/Transition

- Postsecondary Education for All Collaborative (PEAC) supported 2 students taking summer courses; 5 students registered for the Fall semester
- PEAC signed an MOU with Landry-Walker Charter to support students with IDD transitioning to post-secondary education
- PEAC provided training in UDL at DCC Convocation (46 attendees)
- HDC has been funded for Benefits Planning and will have three (3) certified staff to provide Benefits Planning Services throughout the state, with the exception of Orleans, Jefferson and Florida parishes.
- HDC has prepared 75 people in Louisiana to be Certified Employment Support Professionals

Health

- HDC recruited a new LEND/IT class including trainees in SLP,OT, PT, AUD, SPED.

Early Childhood

- HDC launched the *Act Early Louisiana* website in collaboration with the CDC to promote early identification and referral of children with delays in development.
- LSU and Tulane pediatric residency program incorporated 2 Autism Case Training Modules to improve identification and referral of young children with ASD and other developmental disabilities.

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. To date, nearly 500 individuals have taken the test nationally.
- Seventy-five (75) individuals took the test in Louisiana and HDC is hoping to collaborate with LA APSE to sponsor another certification test here in Louisiana.

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.*

- Developed fifth curriculum module for NP and PA schools: "Community Supports and Resources for Referral".
- Developed third web-based module designed for continuing medical education (CME) credits: "Early Intervention: What Health Care Professionals Need to Know."
- Secured accreditation to provide CME units to physicians from LSU School of Medicine.
- Recruited a Family Training Coordinator through FHF Region 7 to support families participating in Operation House Call –Shreveport.

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.

- PEAC hired a staff person to help prepare students in the postsecondary program for competitive employment.

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.*
- HDC staff is a member of the National APSE Public Policy Committee and attends monthly national employment public policy updates and planning meetings. Current advocacy efforts include: Employment First, eliminating sub minimum wage, and advocating for more community-based funding.
 - HDC staff continues to serve on the OCDD Employment First Committee/Task Force. The committee has not met for several months. HDC staff also sits on the Rate sub-committee.
 - HDC is providing 40 hour CORE Supported Employment as well as three (3) one-day trainings: SE Management and Funding/Budgeting, Job Developer Clinic, and SSA Benefits and Work Incentives. HDC is providing at least one training each month in various locations around the state.
 - HDC is working 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.
 - HDC has started the preliminary work necessary to provide mentoring to four (4) Community Rehabilitation Providers who have committed to the philosophy of Employment First beginning October 1st.

- HDC has several staff that sit on the LA APSE board. The board is interested in collaborating with HDC and possibly APSE to conduct/host an Employment Symposium in 2014 in New Orleans.

STATUS OF COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS TO AGENCY

No recommendations have been received.