

Agency
Quarterly Report to the DD Council
(April 1 – June 30, 2014)

UPDATE/PROGRESS ON AGENCY INITIATIVES

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

Education

- HDC hosted the Inclusion Matters Conference June 5-7, 2014 in collaboration with FHF Jefferson and LaPTIC. 235 people attended and 152 CEU certificates were issued. 92% of participants reported being highly satisfied/ satisfied with the conference.
- HDC hosted a Deafblind Symposium in collaboration with Low Vision, Inc. on June 25 at the DOE for early interventionists and educators.
- Our LASARD project was refunded for the 2014-2015 school year. A new facilitator was hired to support schools in GNO/South Louisiana
- LASARD conducted 3 online workgroups, a team workshop for participating schools, and professional development around transition for schools in RSD and Lincoln Parish.
- LASARD collect year end data using the LAQI (LA Autism Quality Indicators) for all participating schools in 10 school districts.
- The LA School Psychology Internship Consortium has placed a new class of 12 school psychology interns in Louisiana schools for the 2014-2015 year.
- HDC faculty are collaborating with the University of Oklahoma to prepare and submit an application for an US Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) national information center grant.

Employment/Transition

- Postsecondary Education for All Collaborative (PEAC)
 - 12 students are registered for the summer
 - 3 PEAC students completed the program in May.
- 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 trainings and they have begun and 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 in discussion with LRS State Office staff regarding strategies to use funds from local school districts as match that LRS can use to draw down additional

funding from RSA to support the continuation of the Post-secondary education project (PEAC) that is designed to enhance employment and career outcomes for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

- HDC added another Community Rehabilitation Provider to the Supported Employment mentoring project located in the Baton Rouge area (which is supported in part by the DD Council).
- HDC staff remain involved in several statewide initiatives and work groups focused on employment of individuals with disabilities.

Health

- HDC is recruiting the 5th LEND/Interdisciplinary Training class. We have 15 applicants, including two family members, for the 5 available scholarships.
- HDC is collaborating with Title V/CSHS to plan a series of Lunch and Learn activities with pediatric clinics across LA to promote medical home implementation and increase quality and access for children with disabilities. They will use 4 modules from the Health Care Professional Training series.
- HDC continues to provide pediatric resident training. Medical student residents accompany HDC staff on a home visit and HDC staff provide didactic instruction to residents on best practice in early intervention.
- HDC is collaborating with the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) project to identify and provide services to children with hearing disabilities and their families.

Early Childhood

- HDC applied for an OSEP personnel preparation grant to train students in speech therapy, occupational therapy, and physical therapy on best practices in early intervention. Awards will be announced this summer.
- HDC is applying to the U.S. Administration for Children and Families (ACF) for an Early Head Start Community Childcare Partnership- Expansion grant.
- The HDC Deafblind Technical Assistance Project has a strong focus on early identification and referral and is currently working with over 15 agency and community partners to develop an action plan to identify and support families and children.
- The Deafblind project conducted a symposium in Baton Rouge in June that was co-hosted by Enhanced Vision and the Louisiana Department of Education.
- HDC staff is working with the CDC through the Act Early Ambassador program to increase developmental monitoring for all young children in Louisiana. The goal is to help families understand child development and act early if they have a concern. HDC is offering free training to childcare providers, home visitors, and health care professionals on incorporating the validated, quality materials developed by the CDC and the Birth to Five- Watch Me Thrive campaigns into their own programs.

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.*

- 7 of 8 Curriculum modules are complete including: Developmental Screening, Early Intervention, Navigating the School System, Patient and Family Centered Care, Youth Health care Transition, The Medical Home, and Care Coordination.
- 6 of eight webinars are complete and under review by the School of Medicine for CME credit and by the School of Nursing for CNE credit. The Care Coordination webinar is under review by the SME.

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.*

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 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 provider. 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.

AREA OF EMPHASIS GOAL

Goal 8: Children participating in EarlySteps will demonstrate improved developmental outcomes through increased access to quality services and will lead to the full inclusion and meaningful participation of people with developmental disabilities in all facets of community life.

Things HDC is doing or planning related to Goal 8:

- HDC has applied for a **Related Services personnel preparation grant** from OSEP. If funded, the grant would allow us to train 35 OT, SLP, PT to work in early intervention. There is a shortage of providers in these disciplines making it difficult for families to get the quality services they need.
- HDC is collaborating with UNO on their application for an **Early Intervention personnel preparation grant** from OSEP. If funded, we will help train 35 early intervention (teachers).
- HDC is applying for an **Early Head Start Community Childcare Partnership** grant from ACF. If funded, the grant would allow us to work with community childcare centers to provide at least 72 EHS slots for families (at least 10% of the slots would be designated for children with disabilities). HDC would provide training, technical assistance, and funding to support centers in becoming high quality childcare centers. Having more high quality community childcare options would help all families of young children including those at risk for or with disabilities.
- HDC is reaching out to early intervention providers and early care and education providers to increase awareness of **dual sensory impairments (deafblindness)** and provide resources and training for any provider working with families of young children with dual sensory impairment. We are also organizing a **SPARKLE Workshop** for families to provide information and resources. Families will be supported to develop portfolios about their child's strengths and support needs that they can share with providers.
- HDC is planning to open an Early Learning Center in our new building sometime in 2015. The center will be a high quality inclusive early learning program that will serve as a training ground for early care providers and early interventionists.

Barriers to addressing issues related to Goal 8:

- Three barriers to HDC addressing issues related to Goal 8 have existed for some time including: funding, lack faculty and staff with relevant training and experience, and physical infrastructure. In the fall of 2014, the new HDC building will open. The building contains state of the art classrooms and other facilities for serving young children and families- as well as instructional space and infrastructure for training professionals/ paraprofessionals and families to implement recommended practices. We are seeking funding from multiple sources to recruit and employ highly qualified faculty and staff to expand our ability to better engage in activities that will benefit young children and families.

STATUS OF COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS TO AGENCY

No recommendations have been received.