

Agency
Quarterly Report to the DD Council
(July 1 – Sept 30, 2014)

UPDATE/PROGRESS ON AGENCY INITIATIVES

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

Education

- LA Deaf Blind Project has started a Family Engagement network to link and support families across LA who have children with dual sensory loss.
- LA-DBP provided training for in Thibodeaux, Grant, Caddo, Ouachita, Lafourche, Jeff Davis, and Lafayette.
- LA-DBP is co-hosting the Usher Syndrome Symposium in Baton Rouge in October.
- LA-DBP is recruiting families to participate in our first SPARKLE Camp (Supporting Parent Access to Resources, Knowledge, Linkages, and Education) for children and families.
- LASARD Team Workshops were held to introduce new teams to the LAQI Key Areas and have returning teams share how they have implemented practices in the Key Areas. Other sessions included Universal Design for Learning, Increasing Communication, and Implementing Visual Supports.
 - 9/9/14 in Natchitoches for northern teams
 - 9/11/14 in St. Charles parish for southern teams
- Online workgroups – 9/23/14 The 3Rs: Rules, Routines, and Reinforcement
 - Description: In this workgroup we will explore evidence-based strategies to guide educators to establish and expect positive student behaviors in school wide and classroom environments. (more than 200 people registered!)
- Upcoming –
 - high school workshops “Secondary Success for Students with ASD”. Sessions include employment, relationships and sexuality, person-centered planning, educational strategies, and evidence-based practices for HS educators.
 - Natchitoches – October 21, 2014 and February 2, 2015
 - Mandeville – October 22, 2014 and February 4, 2015
- The LA School Psychology Internship Consortium has placed a new class of 10 school psychology interns in Louisiana schools for the 2014-2015 year.

Employment/Transition

- Postsecondary Education for All Collaborative (PEAC)
 - 12 students registered for the summer and 13 are registered for fall
 - 3 PEAC students completed the program in May.
 - One of the PEAC completers earned a certificate in automotive repair and he obtained a full-time job at Tire World (his dream job!)
 - Another PEAC completer is finishing her required hours on internship and when finished will earn her Child Development Associate (CDA) credential. She is currently being supported to find a job in Child Care Program as CDA by a local LRS approved Community Rehabilitation Provider
 - The third PEAC completer has an open case with LRS and is looking for work related to his career goal and Delgado certificate in Office Management.
- The Ready to Achievement Mentoring Program (RAMP) funded by the US Department of Justice has 40 new high school students from two high schools (Miller McCoy Academy and Joseph S. Clark) enrolled. This past month, one young man and his father were accompanied by Sonya Heisser (HDC staff) to the annual Institute for Educational Leadership annual meeting and conference. The young man shared his career exploration experiences with audience. His talk focused on how a field trip to the LSUHSC-NO Clinical Laboratory Science program had inspired him to pursue a career in the medical field.
- Benefits Planning Services are being provided throughout the state in conjunction with the Advocacy Center.
 - LWC has been asked that Benefits Planning staff attend regional job fairs to provide presentations and, in addition benefits planners will also be scheduling individual appointments with job seekers receiving benefits.
- HDC continues to attend SE provider meetings and to work with LRS staff and administration to advocate for quality service provision.
- Sue Killam (from HDC) has been appointed to the LA Rehabilitation Council.
- HDC Staff remain active on the Employment First Employment Coalition team.
- Sue Killam presented at the National APSE conference (quality standards and certification)

Health

- HDC has 6 new LEND/Interdisciplinary Trainees representing occupational therapy, speech therapy, audiology, rehabilitation counseling, physical therapy and family disciplines.
- 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 DDC funded *Health Care Professional Training* series.
- HDC continues to provide pediatric resident training. LSU and Tulane pediatric medical residents accompany HDC staff on a home visit and HDC staff provide training to them on best practice in early intervention.

Early Childhood

- HDC applied for an Early Head Start Community Childcare Partnership-Expansion grant.
- The HDC Deaf Blind 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.
- 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. Staff is providing training on developmental monitoring, surveillance and screening to students in Allied Health programs.
- HDC is opening a new Early Learning Center that will provide quality inclusive childcare demonstration services for families and training opportunities to early care providers and interventionists.

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

- Sue Killam (HDC staff) serves as Chair of the National Certified Employment Support Professional (CESP) certification committee.
- In collaboration with Louisiana APSE, HDC continues to advocate for policies that will support and reward Community Rehabilitation Providers (CRP) for employing certified employment professionals, 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 CESP
- HDC continues to discuss the possibility of Delgado Community College initiating a Technical Competency Area for Employment Support Professionals.
- HDC staff appointed to Louisiana Rehabilitation Council
- Worked in collaboration with Louisiana APSE to host a CESP exam 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.

- Eight 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, Care Coordination, and Management of ASD.
- Eight webinars are complete and under review by the School of Medicine for CME credit, by the School of Nursing for CNE credit, and Social Work credit.

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.

- HDC staff sits on the Employment Coalition and attended a policy and planning meeting with OCDD (Mark Thomas and staff) to discuss Disability Employment Awareness Month and Employment First policy.
- HDC implements a project funded by the US Department of Education designed to support students with intellectual disabilities attend post-secondary education and is hoping the results of this demonstration project will raise awareness of the viability of post-secondary education as an alternative for 18-22 year olds with ID as a setting to complete their IEP goals and “jump start” their transition to careers and life in the community.
- Dr. Alan Coulter serves on the both the Act 833 and JumpStart stakeholder committees, representing HDC.

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 (SE) trainings, 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 is providing mentoring to four (4) Community Rehabilitation Providers. All CRPs involved have committed to the philosophy of Employment First.*
- *HDC staff sits on Employment Coalition planning for Employment First and Louisiana Disability Employment Awareness Month coinciding with the National celebration/promotion.*
- *HDC is working with the new LCMC administration to discuss hiring individuals with disabilities. HDC has met with hospital administration to discuss large scale hiring protocols to access a pool of talented and qualified job seekers and also to develop paid apprenticeships for key task areas.*

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.

- **HDC is collaborating with UNO on their Early Intervention personnel preparation grant** from OSEP that will help train 35 early interventionists (teachers).
- **HDC applied 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 232 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 and Camp** 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 and use to advocate for better services.
- HDC is opening an Early Learning Center in the Spring. 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.

STATUS OF COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS TO AGENCY

No recommendations have been received.