

**Human Development Center**  
**Quarterly Agency Report to the DD Council**  
(July 1 – September 30, 2016)

**UPDATE/PROGRESS ON AGENCY INITIATIVES**

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

**Education - K-12 School-Age Initiative**

- TIERS Group Technical Assistance and Consultation- TIERS Group is developing an evaluation protocol with the University of Minnesota to investigate school practices in managing discipline and challenging student behaviors. The protocol will be used in a large, suburban school district of Minneapolis to find facts, offer recommendations, and design technical assistance. TIERS Group has provided three keynote presentations on MTSS and Data-Based Decision-Making, two in Minnesota and one for a state-wide conference in Nebraska.
  
- IEP Modules - The IEP Modules, developed in conjunction with Jefferson Families Helping Families, have been downloaded 275 times. Consumers of these materials include Special Education Administrators and Directors, Special Education Teachers, General Education Teachers, Federal Programs Specialists, Related Service Providers, School Appraisal Personnel, School Counselors, and Administrative Support Staff, from 40+ parishes. Other consumers include members of the Louisiana Department of Education, seven institutions of higher learning, members of the DD council, college students, parents, and staff from five states and two US territories. In addition, two schools in the New Orleans area requested professional development from the TIERS Group that are based on the IEP Modules.
  
- Professional Development. TIERS Group has conducted 25 school visits during the quarter working with school leaders, network leaders, special education directors, student support staff, and teachers. Nine professional development events were provided to school staff on Universal Design for Learning (UDL), Accommodations and Modifications for All Students, Multi-tiered Systems of Support (MTSS), Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS), Functional Behavior Assessments & Behavior Intervention Plans (FBA/BIP), and Classroom Behavior Management. The TIERS Group was invited to lead a two day professional development session for school leaders and support teams for a parish in the north. In addition, new academic and behavior resources have been posted to the website.

- Louisiana School Psychology Internship Consortium (LAS\*PIC, APA-accredited) welcomed 10 new interns in July for two weeks of orientation to the practice of school psychology and special education in Louisiana, program requirements, and assessment of autism spectrum disorder. The consortium has seven partner Local Education Agencies in New Orleans and parts of southeast Louisiana for the 2016-17 school year, serving to reduce a critical shortage of school psychologists in our state. The interns were certified in August in nonviolent crisis intervention practices. Currently, the interns are engaging in their Media Rotation where they are developing their skills in effective professional learning and developing resources to help educators and those who work with children improve their practices and ensure better outcomes for students.
- Louisiana Autism Spectrum and Related Disorders project (LASARD) is scaling up! LASARD revised its capacity building model in order to meet the needs of more LEAs across the state. LASARD will build the capacity of partner LEAs by working closely with a district-level team to take over training and coaching after a few years of partnering with LASARD. This year, LASARD will partner with new districts: Natchitoches Parish, Cameron Parish, Webster Parish, and Collegiate Academies. Returning partner districts include: St. Tammany Parish, St. Charles Parish, Morris Jeff Community School, Algiers Charter School Association, and Tangipahoa Parish. LASARD facilitators met with each partner LEA team over the summer to assess their needs and plan for the upcoming school year. A new addition to LASARD is Alumni Districts, which includes LEAs that have partnered with LASARD and are ready to support their district with limited involvement from LASARD. Alumni districts include: Lincoln Parish, Vernon Parish, Plaquemines Parish, and KIPP New Orleans.
- LASARD's Professional Development Activities. LASARD opened the school year with invited professional development sessions with Algiers Charter School Association, Cameron Parish, and First Line Schools. Session topics ranged from an overview of ASD to specific supports for social interaction.
- The first LASARD webinar of the year, Autism Spectrum Disorder – The Essentials: What It Is, What to Do, and When to Do it, was held on Thursday, August 25th and attended by over 110 educators and family members from across the state.

### **Employment/Transition**

- **Postsecondary Apprenticeship for Youth (Pay Check Pilot)**

The Postsecondary Apprenticeship Pilot for Youth (Pay Check) pilot is an innovative collaboration between the LSUHSC-Human Development Center (HDC), Louisiana

Rehabilitation Services, Delgado Community College, two public school systems, one public Charter school association, and the University Medical Center-New Orleans.

Pay Check is a 3-5 semester program wherein students select courses at Delgado Community College related to UMC targeted apprenticeship areas, participate in professional career development activities, learn community and work skills, and gain employment experience through a paid apprenticeship at the University Medical Center.

Delgado Community College First Semester Courses include; Survey of Computer Applications, College Career Success Skills and Fitness (elective).

UMC targeted apprenticeship area examples; Central Sterile Processing, Courier (Patient Escort), Patient Access, OT/PT Aide, Central Stock Supply, OT Aide, and PT Aide.

The Pre-Employment Transition Skills and On-the-Job Training skills include; Work-Based Learning Experiences, Work Skills Training, Self-Advocacy, Life Skills, Creating & Managing Schedules, Budgeting and Money Management Skills and Using Public Transportation.

Pay Check Partners include: LRS/LWC, Delgado CC, UMC-New Orleans, Orleans parish school charters and Jefferson Parish Public School System.

### **Transition**

April 8, 2016: Presentation to LEND trainees addressing research evidence and strategies for implementing self-determination strategies for youth with disabilities.

May 13, 2016: Conducted workshop for Minnesota Partners in Policymaking addressing community organizing strategies and public testimony specific to the Minnesota Olmstead Plan for 29 self-advocates and family members.

January 15 to present: Organizing LSUHDC Transition Institute to facilitate development and implementation of an action plan to improve transition services and outcomes for youth with disabilities age 16 and older. Institute scheduled June 20-21, 2016.

### **Benefits Planning Services**

HDC continues to provide free benefits counseling throughout the state in conjunction with the Advocacy Center. HDC averages 28-35 referrals each month and provides Information and Referral to all beneficiaries with specific and focused benefits planning to individuals who are employed or considering employment.

HDC's SSA-WIPA RFA for the next four years will provide the HDC and Advocacy Center opportunities to work independently and collaboratively to provide services to all Louisianans, to locate local and community programs that services their area of the state.

Certification trainings have begun to insure HDC Benefits Planners maintain knowledge content for serving Social Security beneficiaries with the latest information regarding the

impact of income on the disability benefits received from Social Security and other state local support programs. A recent email blast was initiated by HDC for targeted referrals from key state agencies including, Education, Medicaid, LRS/LWC, OCDD, Behavioral Health, Veterans, Native Americans, and local agencies.

### **Supported Employment**

- HDC provided 3 CORE SE trainings (40 hour) and 3 one-day SE trainings throughout SE LA during this quarter.
- HDC continues to attend all **SE provider meetings** and to work with LRS staff and administration to advocate for quality service provision.
- HDC staff attended the July **LRC** meeting.
- HDC staff attended the July LA APSE meeting.
- HDC staff active on the national **APSE Public Policy committee** and have attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday monthly meetings which have focused primarily on the Workforce Investment and Opportunities Act (WIOA) and the new CMS HCBS waiver notice for states to develop a five-year plan.
- HDC staff attended the national APSE conference in OH and presented on the Apprenticeship Pilot.
- Meetings with school personnel students and families to provide education/outreach and to discuss apprenticeship pilot.

### **Louisiana Deafblind Project for Children and Youth**

Objective 1: Improve Early Identification and Referral of Children with Deaf blindness

08/06/2016: Attended and Exhibited at Usher Syndrome Louisiana Meeting, Lafayette, LA

08/27/2016: Attended and Exhibited at LA Lions Eye Foundation Health Fair, Metairie, LA

09/15/2016: Organizational meeting with Dionka Pierce, Children with Special Health Care Needs to attempt to coordinate identification data with LA DBP

09/28/2016: LADBP Advisory Council Meeting

Objective 2: Ensure Families have Training and Information to Maintain and Improve Productive Partnerships with Service Providers

07/18/2016: Individual TA with family and student, Houma, LA

07/19/2016: Meeting with Deaf Education Alliance "Summit" planning committee. LSU HDC will be hosting annual summit 08/26&27/2016, New Orleans, LA

08/11/2016: Individual TA with family and new student, Baton Rouge, LA

08/25/2016: Attended and Participated in IEP for student, Opelousas, La

08/30/2016: Attended and Participated in IEP for student, Houma, LA

Objective 3: Increase the number of Children with Deaf blindness Receiving Best Practice in Early Intervention and School Setting

07/31/2016: Attended DB Summit sponsored by the OSEP, Washington, DC

08/01-03/2016: Attended Project Directors Conference sponsored by the OSEP, Washington, DC

Objective 4: Provide Opportunities for Interdisciplinary Personnel Preparation of Individuals Desiring to Provide Services to the State Deafblind Population

07/22/2016: Poster Day for intern for LA DBP, New Orleans, LA

09/30/2016: Sponsored teacher training at LA Teacher Training Conference on Blindness and Low Vision

Objective 5: Implement Statewide Transition Program to Address Needs of Deafblind Students Ages 16 to 22 years.

08/24/2016: Initial meeting with LRS to set up WBLE for PM

08/29/2016: Interviewed PM for student worker position (WBLE)

09/13/2016: Attended Transition CORE Meeting, LRS Lafayette, LA

### **Health**

HDC is collaborating with 3 other UCEDDs and the Association for University Centers on Disabilities on a Wal-Mart Foundation grant to implement a program aimed at improving nutrition, increasing physical activity, and reducing obesity rates of people with disabilities across Louisiana. The Nutrition is for Everyone (NIFE) project has identified 6 Deputy Nutrition Ambassadors from 3 regions (Orleans, Jefferson, and Rapides Parishes) who will teach Cooking Matters courses in their respective areas. Cooking Matters is a 6-week cooking and nutrition education course that teaches participants how to cook, eat, and shop healthfully on a budget. NIFE is adapting the current curriculum to be inclusive of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Our 6 Deputies will attend a half-day training session hosted in partnership with Second Harvest Food Bank at the HDC in September, where they will learn how to become Cooking Matters instructors. After the training, they will return home to begin recruiting participants for the courses. Our project plans to recruit 4 more Deputies in 2 additional regions to host courses in the spring semester. The project has begun to establish an online social media presence through its Facebook page which offers inclusive nutrition information and more.

Pediatric residents at LSU and Tulane complete Health Care Provider Training Modules as part of their developmental rotation. Topics include: Developmental Screening, Early Intervention, Navigating the School System, Patient and Family Centered Care, Medical Home, Care Coordination, ASD, and Youth Health Care Transition.

All HCP webinars have been accredited by Louisiana State Nurses Association for continuing nursing education (CNE) and by LSU School of Medicine for CMEs and are available online.

HDC staff is participating in a research study with UCLA to improve health literacy of at-risk families (Health Care Institute). HDC trained 70 early education providers in July on recommended practices to promote health literacy of parents. One hundred parents will be trained and receive follow-up home visits this fall.

HDC provided training on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and the impact of toxic stress on brain development to LEND students and faculty. A presentation is scheduled to medical students in the Inter-professional Education program at LSU for the fall.

### **Early Childhood**

HDC was awarded a LEND (Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities) grant by HRSA in July. LEND is a national training program with over 50 programs around the country. HDC recruited 8 trainees this first year: 2 occupational therapy students, 1 audiology student, 1 speech therapy student, 1 physical therapy student, 1 parent of a child with a disability, and 2 self-advocates. The year-long program focuses on preparing leaders and advocates to work in Maternal Child Health fields and serve children and families with neurodevelopmental disabilities including ASD.

HDC Early Head Start Child Care Partnership is providing comprehensive services to 210 low-income children and families. Over 13% (29) of those children have IFSPs and others have delays and established medical conditions.

HDC was selected to participate in the CLASS Special Needs pilot conducted by the Department of Education. The pilot is intended to assess the impact of 3 different coaching interventions to improve the quality of services available to children with disabilities in child care settings. The pilot will begin implementation and data collection this fall.

HDC will be training LEND students and 70 child care providers to complete autism screening with over 150 toddlers (18- and 24 months) in child care settings.

HDC is recruiting infants and toddlers with special health care needs/and or developmental disabilities for the Early Learning Center. Four placements are available for quality full day inclusive childcare. The ELC will provide high quality care for children and families and training opportunities for students and professionals.

### **Clinics Initiative**

ASDID clinic: Clinics increased to 2 per month since last month August 2016. More conversations continue to invite other disciplines into the clinic.

AT clinic – continue to complete 2 evaluations per month.

AAC clinic – continue conducting 2 -3 evaluations per week. Seeing 25 clients for AAC intervention weekly. Motor expert needed for assessing positioning and seating for access and use of AAC devices

Feeding and swallowing clinic – equipment purchased. Personnel for clinic being explored.

## **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 and LA APSE continue to collaborate and to advocate for Certified Employment Support Professional (CESP) certification.
- HDC and APSE and Work Pays plan to a CESP exam early in the 2017 state fiscal year – possibly January or February 2017.
- HDC Employment Division continues to provide comprehensive CORE and one-day SE trainings to promote learning of skills and competencies and are currently developing the NEW 2017-2018 calendar.

**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.*

- Pediatric residents from Tulane and LSU are completing the webinars as part of their developmental rotation. (3-4 residents each month).
- Twenty pediatric residents from Shreveport Medical Center participated in a lecture on Developmental Screening and Surveillance (Module 1).
- 66 CNE/Social Work CEs from Shreveport Medical Center received credit for completing Module 6 (Patient Centered Medical Home).

**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 continues to advocate for and promote Employment First by providing Community Trainings through FHF and attend Employment Coalition, Work Pays and stakeholder meetings as scheduled.
- HDC continues to work on the development of a collaborative funding model for an Apprenticeship to Careers and Employment model.
- Worked collaboratively with GODA, DD Council, and Advocacy Center to discuss Employment First Executive Order.

**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 provided 2 40-hour CORE Supported Employment as well as 3 one-day trainings: SE Management and Funding/Budgeting, Job Developer Clinic and SSA Benefits and Work Incentives. HDC provides at least one training each month in various locations around the state. In this reporting period, HDC has trained 75 individuals.
- HDC staff provided four presentations to parents and self-advocates interested in supported and/or customized employment.
- HDC employment staff conducted 4 training sessions for parents, job-seekers and advocates on Supported Employment.
- HDC continue to work collaboratively with ALL PAYCHECK apprenticeship pilot entities (LRS, UMC, Orleans and Jefferson parish schools and two LEA charters).
- HDC employment staff sits on the national APSE Public Policy Work Group and attend monthly meetings via Go to Meeting. Recent focus has been on comments for WIOA and sub-minimum wage comments.
- HDC Employment Staff attended LRC meetings as LRC member.
- HDC Pay Check pilot funded and initiated with LRS - supported apprenticeship model with University Medical Center.
- HDC employment staff attended Louisiana APSE governing board meeting in May.
- HDC staff conducted 2 family and self-advocate online training sessions and one in-person session on Supported Employment and choosing quality providers for FHF Greater New Orleans.



- HDC employment staff, as Louisiana APSE members and WorkPays members attended quarterly meetings.

## **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 continues to serve on the Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council to LDE and BESE. HDC staff served on a workgroup to develop recommendations on implementation of Act 3, specifically improvements to coordinated enrollment, coordinated funding, and accountability. Major recommendations included increased transparency and information to families (specifically about coordinated enrollment process) and increasing CCAP rate for children with IFSPs/IEPs.

## **STATUS OF COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS TO AGENCY**

No recommendations have been received.