

Human Development Center
Quarterly Report to the DD Council
(October 1 – December 31, 2015)

UPDATE/PROGRESS ON AGENCY INITIATIVES

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

Early Childhood

- **Early Head Start Child Care Partnership**
 - HDC is serving 156 children and families, in 20 classrooms in childcare centers across New Orleans. We anticipate opening an additional 9 classrooms in February. Each classroom includes 1-2 children receiving Part C services. Childcare centers are provided Trainign and Technical Assistance to work with EarlySteps and families to successfully include children with disabilities in community childcare settings.
- **Early Learning Center**
 - HDC has identified 4 highly qualified teachers to work in the **Early Learning Center**.
 - The ELC is recruiting families that have a child with special health care needs or significant disabilities to fill 5 openings at the center.
- **Louisiana ACE (Adverse childhood Experiences) Initiative**
 - HDC is collaborating on the ACE Initiative led by DHH-Bureau of Family Health and Tulane Infant Mental Health.
 - HDC staff did one training in December and a have a second scheduled in conjunction with Children’s Hospital in January.
- **Watch Me Grow!**
 - HDC is coordinating trainings for 100 childcare providers on the importance of developmental screening and early intervention as part of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention *Learn the Signs. Act Early* initiative.
- **LEND**
 - 7 trainees representing 5 different disciplines including 1 parent completed their first semester in the Leadership Education in Neuro Developmental Disabilities program.
- **Act 3 Implementation**
 - HDC staff attended 2 Early Child Care and Education (ECCE) Advisory Board to LDE/BESE and a strategic planning retreat hosted by **New Orleans Early Education Network (NOEEN) Steering Committee**. These groups are charged with advising state and local agencies on the implementation of Act 3.

Education

- The **LASARD** (Louisiana Autism Spectrum and Related Disabilities) Project started its **10th year** supporting LEAs and educators across the state to implement evidence-based practices to effectively support students with ASD and related disabilities.
 - LASARD staff conducted **Louisiana Autism Quality Indicator (LAQI) assessment** in all partner schools in 10 districts across the state.
 - Conducted **team workshops** for partner schools. Topics included an *Overview of Autism Spectrum Disorder and Identifying Evidence-Based Practices*. Over 141 participants attended.
 - Facilitated 2 **online workgroups** – *Getting to Know Your Students: Tools and Strategies* and *Stars in Alignment: Setting the Stage for Inclusive Education*
- **LAS*PIC (Louisiana School Psychology Internship Consortium)** welcomed 6 new interns with a week-long orientation in July
 - We began a partnership with a new LEA in the consortium, **Einstein Charter Schools**, for 2015-16 with two interns placed with Einstein Charter Schools
 - The **Jefferson Parish Public Schools** voted to rejoin the consortium for the 2016-17 school year
 - The current interns are completing their **Media Rotation with TIERS** that will produce three webinars, three training videos, and three web-based learning modules that allow educators to improve their practices as they support students
- The **LA DeafBlind Project**
 - Participated in **OSEP Deaf-Blind Summit 2015**, Salt Lake City, UT. Selected as member of Working Group on Network Development for the National Center for Deaf-Blindness.
 - Hosted planning meeting for Deaf Education Alliance annual **Deaf Education Summit** (September 25, 2015)
 - Coordinated with the **Louisiana Assistive Technology Initiative** to provide year-long training activities for parents using *Open Hands – Open Access* online training modules. Oct. 14, 2015 Southeast AT Center, November 9, 2015 Northeast & Northwest AT Centers, November 10, 2015 South River AT Center, January 12, 2016 Central AT Center, February 16, 2016 Southwest AT Center. South Central region to be announced.
 - Provided **Technical Assistance** – KIPP Central City, LA School for the Deaf, adult with newly acquired deafblindness, Assistive Technology Clinic

- Initiated “**Self-Determination through Physical Training**” program with Dr. John Johnson (LSU HDC) and Nijela Baron (LSU HSC Wellness Center).
- Initiated participation in “**Core Transition Team**” in coordination with LRS Lafayette office and Lafayette Parish Schools
- HDC collaborated with a group of stakeholders to develop **four IEP Team modules** that are now accessible on line at <http://www.hdc.lsuohsc.edu/tiers/modules/ieptrainingmodules/iepModules.aspx> . The modules can be downloaded and customized for training.
- HDC is involved in the **Jump Start Task Force** of the LA Department of Education. The Task Force is developing alternate pathways to achieve competencies in credentials that would lead to employment.

Employment/Transition

- **Postsecondary Education for All Collaborative (PEAC)**
 - 4 PEAC students: still receiving supports.
 - PEAC staff attended and presented at the Fall LRA Conference.
 - HDC is in the process of finalizing a pilot proposal to be submitted as a Third Party Agreement (TPA) proposal to LWC/LRS for approval
- **Supported Employment**
 - HDC provided two (2) CORE SE trainings (40 hour and one CORE refresher) and two (2) 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 has included the new manual materials/Technical Guidance in the CORE curriculum training and materials for CRP administration and agency personnel.
 - HDC staff attended the October **LRC** meeting.
 - Met with M. Bayham and Angela Montgomery to discuss new technical guidance materials and how to include them in the HDC trainings.
 - HDC Staff continue to be active on Employment First and continue to collaborate and help to facilitate any partnerships possible.
 - HDC staff attended and presented at LRA conference in Baton Rouge.
 - HDC staff recently attended the LA APSE annual meeting. Laura Stazio was voted to the Executive of the Board.
 - HDC staff active on the national **APSE Public Policy committee** and have attended the 3rd 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 AUCD conference in DC and presented on the Apprenticeship Pilot at UMC.

- Met with Larry Dale and Rebecca Hanberry with all HDC staff to discuss best practice and funding for Act 833 and Post-Secondary and Employment programs.
- Met with key leadership of JPPSS, Orleans Collegiate Academies, and Orleans Parish Schools to discuss the Apprenticeship Pilot and to gauge interest and support.
- **Benefits Planning Services**
 - HDC continues to provide free benefits counseling throughout the state in conjunction with the Advocacy Center. HDC averages 20-30 referrals each month and provides Information and Referral to all beneficiaries and more specific and focused benefits planning to individuals who are employed or considering employment.
 - HDC and the Advocacy Center will, once again, work in collaboration to provide services in Southern Louisiana and Central and North Louisiana respectively. Most agencies work in collaboration to help beneficiaries locate the program that services their area and a joint flyer with contact information and a map has been distributed throughout the state. Targeted outreach is being done with key state agencies and includes, Education, Medicaid, LRS/LWC, OCDD, LA APSE, CESP, Behavioral Health and local agencies.

Health

- Pediatric residents from Tulane and LSU complete **Health Care Provider Training in Developmental Disabilities CP Training Modules** as part of their developmental rotation each month.
- HDC and CSHS have submitted 8 modules and webinars to Louisiana State Nurses Association for credentialing for nurses for have been credentialed and four are under review (**CNE**).
- HDC and LSU Dental School have submitted 2 webinars on oral care and disabilities for dental accreditation.
- HDC conducted 4 trainings on Sexual Health and Disabilities in four parishes. Over 80 people attended including 18 self-advocates. Another training is scheduled in Plaquemines in January.

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 hosted a CESP exam on December 2nd in conjunction with the annual REACH conference at HDC in New Orleans.
- HDC Employment Division continues to provide comprehensive CORE and one-day SE trainings to promote learning of skills and competencies and is currently developing the 2016-2017 training calendar.

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 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.
- HDC is considering apprenticeship grant due in the spring of 2016.

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 one 40-hour CORE and one CORE refresher Supported Employment trainings. HDC continues to provide at least one training each month in various locations around the state. In this reporting period, HDC has trained 185 individuals.
 - HDC was one of the hosts for the REACH 2015 conference with nearly 150 attendees from across this state.

- HDC employment staff conducted two training sessions for parents, job-seekers and advocates on Supported Employment.
- HDC continues to conduct job analyses in targeted apprenticeship areas. UMC has agreed to the pilot concept and asked HDC to focus on the two areas where we have made contact and in September have agreed to the pilot and will initiate on-site analysis of other key positions targeted in the Pilot Proposal.
- 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.
- HDC Employment Staff attended LRC meetings in October, 2015.
- HDC continued conversation with LRS to discuss funding for supported apprenticeship model with University Medical Center.
- HDC employment staff attended Louisiana APSE governing board meeting.
- HDC staff conducted two (2) family and self-advocate training sessions on Supported Employment and choosing quality providers for Families Helping Families Northshore.
- HDC employment staff, as Louisiana APSE members met to discuss and plan annual REACH conference.

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 working with EarlySteps providers to coach early care and education providers in 5 childcare centers serving children with IFSPs in Early Head Start.
- HDC is negotiating with Agenda for Children to provide trainings to child care providers on working with infants and toddlers with disabilities.

STATUS OF COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS TO AGENCY

No recommendations have been received.