

**Agency**  
**Quarterly Report to the DD Council**  
(January 1 – March 31, 2016)

**UPDATE/PROGRESS ON AGENCY INITIATIVES**

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

**Education**

- **TIERS Group** collaborated with **Jefferson Families Helping Families**, a group of stakeholders and the staff of **LASARD** to develop, field test, and disseminate four professional development modules requirements on developing and implementing IEPs with added attention to **LA Act 833**. These modules are available for download or can be taken online for a certificate of professional development.
- **LASARD** provided 11 online workshops for over 340 educators:
  - Getting to Know Your New Students: Tools and Strategies
  - Stars in Alignment: Setting the Stage for Inclusive Education
  - Behavior...the WHY and the WHAT (Part One-FBA)
  - Behavior...the WHY and the WHAT (Part Two -BIP)
  - Communication is Behavior!
  - Not a Lazy Kid: Executive Functioning in Students with ASD
  - Strengthening the Core: Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Vocabulary Selection
  - Collaboration: *Rules and Tools*, Part 1 – Collaborating among school staff
  - Collaboration: *Rules and Tools*, Part 2 – Collaborating with families
  - Social Smarts: The Complexities of Social Interaction for Students with ASD
  - Social Smarts: Can You Help Me?
- **LASARD** hosted 5 full-day workshops –.
  - All Dressed Up and Somewhere to Go: Preparing High School Students with ASD for Positive Futures - over 90 participants (open to anyone)
    - New Orleans

- Natchitoches
  - LASARD Team Workshops – September and January - average 125 participants (partner school teams only - same participants for each session). One additional Team Workshop scheduled in May.
    - New Orleans
    - Natchitoches
- LASARD staff presented at the Louisiana Council for Exceptional Children Superconference and at the Louisiana School Psychology Association on evidence-based practices related to post-school transition for adolescents with ASD. LASARD staff was also invited to present for Families Helping Families of Southeastern Louisiana on related services in schools.
- **TIERS Group** has provided more than 120 days of on-site consultation to Type 2 & Type 5 charter schools on implementing multi-tiered systems of support and improving results for students with disabilities.
- **Paul Habans Charter School** has joined **LASPIC**, the school psychology consortium, for the 2016-17 school year.
- **LASPIC** received applications from 60 doctoral students in school psychology. Ten school psychology interns will fill previously vacant positions for school psychologists in traditional and charter school systems in 2016-17.
- Six **LASPIC** interns have been trained in **ADOS-2**, the accepted standard in autism spectrum diagnosis.
- **LASPIC** will co-host with Data-Based Consulting the Second Annual Advanced Institute on Response to Intervention in late April. Last year more than 120 professionals attended the conference.
- **LA-Deaf Blind Project** <<Michael will add>>
- HDC is involved in the stakeholder group for the **State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP)** of the LA Department of Education. The Task Force is developing alternate pathways to achieve competencies in credentials that would lead to employment.
- HDC staff presented at the **National Association of School Psychologists** conference issues of implementing school reform strategies in charter schools and participated on an invited panel discussing issues the Common Core.

### Employment/Transition

- **Postsecondary Education for All Collaborative (PEAC)**
- The grant was completed and all objectives and activities met.

### Benefits Planning Services

- HDC continues to provide free benefits counseling throughout the state in conjunction with the Advocacy Center. HDC averages 32 referrals each month and provides Information and Referral to all beneficiaries and more specific and focused benefits planning to individuals who are employed or employment pending as per the terms and conditions of the SSA WIPA RFA. We're focusing on underserved populations, including transition aged youths, veterans, and Native Americans.
- HDC has initiated an email blast to our new and existing coverage area to insure continued opportunities for referrals receiving Social Security disability benefits with employment interests to contact us via the web, email, and our centralized call center. Targeted outreach is being done with key state agencies and includes Education, Medicaid, LRS/LWC, OCDD, Behavioral Health and other local agencies.
- HDC submitted a proposal in response to the SSA WIPA RFA to provide benefits planning services and was awarded a 5 year grant period along with the Advocacy Center. HDC and the Advocacy Center will, once again, work in collaboration to provide services in Southern Louisiana and Central and North Louisiana respectively. There were slight changes to the assigned service provision areas, for example, Advocacy Center now has the Acadiana parishes and HDC acquired the Baton Rouge parishes. Both agencies work in collaboration to help beneficiaries locate the program that services their area and a joint flyer with contact information and a map is being distributed throughout the state. Targeted outreach is being done with key state agencies and includes, Education, Medicaid, LRS/LWC, OCDD, Behavioral Health and local agencies.

### **Supported Employment**

- HDC provided 2 CORE SE trainings (40 hour-one in NOLA and one in Shreveport), one online SE presentation for FHF and 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 reviewed the information and provided input for the January **LRC** meeting.
- Met with M. Martin regarding the HOLD/Freeze on services
- HDC staff attended the August LA APSE meeting.
- HDC Staff continue to be active on Employment First with the Advocacy Center and other DD agencies and providers.
- 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 attending the national AUCD conference in DC and presenting on the Apprenticeship Pilot at UMC.

- Attended JPPSS School Board meeting to be available to answer questions on the MOU funding request and pilot information.

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

**Objective 1:** Improve Early Identification and Referral of Children with Deafblindness

01/22/2016 – Advocacy LA DOE Special Education Advisory Council

01/27/2016 – Presentation to Acadiana FHF, New Iberia, LA

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

01/19/2016 – OHOA Presentation to Parents and Professionals, Alexandria, LA

01/18/2016 – 1:1 T/A with family of AL

01/25-26/2016 – EHDI Parent Training

01/25/2016 – 1:1 T/A with family of AL

02/16/2016 - OHOA Presentation to Parents and Professionals, Lake Charles, LA

02/17/2016 – OHOA Presentation to Parents and Professionals, Lafayette, LA

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

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

12/11/2015 – Presentation to Teachers of Visually Impaired southeast LA districts

01/12/2016 – Technology Training, LSDVI

01/26/2016 – Initiated planning for annual conference “Connections”,

02/02/2016 - Planning Committee meeting

01/28/2016 – Low vision technology “hands-on”

02/04/2016 – Observation of AL, Acadian Elementary, Houma, LA

02/22/2016 – 02/24/2016 – EHDI Training

02/25/2016 – Presentation to LEND Trainees

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

## Health

- HDC in collaboration with Northshore FHF did 3 presentations on **Sexual Health and Wellness for People with Disabilities**. Thirty-two people including self-advocates, parents, and support professionals attended.
- HDC in collaboration with the Bureau of Family Health provided 2 trainings on **Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)** and the impact of toxic stress on emotional and physical development. Trainings were provided for 30 CSoC staff and managers.
- Pediatric residents completing **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**).
- Two webinars to support **Dental Care for People with Disabilities** have been submitted for accreditation for CDE (continuing dental education).
- HDC applied to participate in the **UCLA Health Care Institute**. We were one of the 30 applicants selected from over 150 programs. UCLA HCI will provide Training and TA for 4 years on supporting family health for young children at risk and in poverty. Topics include: childhood disease, mental health, nutrition, and physical health.
- HDC was invited to speak at the national press conference hosted by the CDC and the NCBDDD (National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities) to discuss the latest autism prevalence report from the **ADDM (Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring) network**. We were specifically asked to address the continued disparities in identification of young children with ASD from Latino and Black communities.
- HDC submitted a grant application in collaboration with Title V/CSHS to establish a **LEND (Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities) program** in our state.

## Early Childhood

- **HDC Early Head Start Child Care Partnership** is providing comprehensive services to 160 low-income children and families. Over 10% (17) of those children have IFSPs and multiple others have delays and established medical conditions. We are currently recruiting 90 families including at least 15 children with IFSPs to begin in the program in August.
- HDC in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will be training over 100 early childhood educators in July on the importance of **developmental surveillance and referral for early intervention**.

- HDC will be hosting a community training event for early childhood educators, families, and professionals on the impact of **ACEs** on child development and providing **trauma informed care** for children and families.
- HDC provided training on **Supporting Children with Disabilities in Childcare and Pre-K** for over 50 professionals at the Child Care Health Consultant 2016 training event in Port Sulphur.

## **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 possibly Work Pays will work together to plan for a possible date to host a CESP exam in 2016-2017 state fiscal year.
- 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 2016-2017.

**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).
- LSU School of Nursing is incorporating the HCP Training Curriculum into their community healthcare coursework.

**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.

**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 disincentivize 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 Supported Employment as well as two 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 55 individuals.
- HDC staff provided two presentations to parents and self-advocates interested in supported and/or customized employment.
- HDC employment staff conducted one training session for parents, job-seekers and advocates on Supported Employment.
- HDC employment staff assisted with hosting and facilitating a Louisiana APSE "Meet and Greet" intended to introduce employment stakeholders to the state and national APSE and the related benefits of membership.
- HDC continues to work collaboratively with ALL PAYCHECK apprenticeship pilot entities (LRS, UMC, Orleans and Jefferson parish schools and two LEA charters). HDC has completed targeted job analyses in identified apprenticeship areas.
- 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 did not attend LRC meetings in January though provided feedback/input through chair.

- 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 one family and self-advocate online training sessions on Supported Employment and choosing quality providers for Families Helping Families northshore.
- HDC employment staff, as Louisiana APSE members and WorkPays members met to discuss Employment First policy and related services...including the LRS Hold/Freeze on services.

## **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 collaborate with EarlySteps and community childcare partners to promote effective inclusion of children with disabilities in community childcare settings. We are currently supporting 4 community childcare centers in the GNO are and are discussing providing support and training for all centers in New Orleans in collaboration with Agenda for Children.

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

No recommendations have been received.