

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

**UPDATE/PROGRESS ON AGENCY INITIATIVES**

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

**Education**

Rtl/MTSS Institute - In collaboration with Data-based Consulting, TIERS Group and LAS\*PIC (Louisiana School Psychology Internship Consortium) hosted the second annual two-day institute on Rtl/MTSS with sessions focusing on behavior (PBIS), literacy, legal issues, and Rtl/MTSS development, implementation, and sustainability. Renowned speakers at this institute included Randy Sprick, Nancy Marchand-Martell, Perry Zirkel, Mark Shinn, Michelle Shinn, and W. Alan Coulter. The institute drew over 275 attendees from across the country including attendees from as far as the Marianas Islands, more than twice as many attendees as last year's institute. Positive feedback from attendees about the institute was overwhelming and we're looking forward to planning for the third annual institute next spring.

15-16 LAS\*PIC graduates - LAS\*PIC interns spent the last half of the year engaged in their second and third experiential rotations. One of these rotations was at the private practice of LAS\*PIC professional supervisor Scuddy Fontenelle, III. In Dr. Fontenelle's practice, interns experienced the provision of psychological services in a setting outside of the school and learned more about the ins and outs of private practice. Another rotation was with the LASARD group. Interns were trained in the current version of the LAQI and then engaged in literature reviews to determine appropriate revisions to the LAQI based on recent research and best practice guidelines. Revision suggestions for the LAQI were presented to the LASARD team for consideration. **NOTE: At the end of June, LAS\*PIC will celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the consortium with the successful completion of the internship program by our six interns for 2015-16.**

CPI Training - LAS\*PIC & TIERS Group faculty attended a four-day training on non-violent crisis intervention through the Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI) and successfully completed trainer certification, allowing them to train other HDC faculty, staff, and trainees. LAS\*PIC interns received training from our certified faculty in non-violent crisis intervention in June and will leave the internship with full certification to engage in CPI's model for de-escalation and non-violent restraint.

TIERS Group Consultations - Since March TIERS has conducted 50 school visits, conducted 4 PDs on PBIS, FBAs, BIPs, and De-escalation of behavior, as well as posted new academic and behavior resources on our website.

TIERS Group Program Evaluations – In early May, TIERS Group, in conjunction with faculty of the University of Minnesota, completed the second district wide program evaluation of PBIS & RtI. Presentation of the evaluation report with extensive recommendations for improvements in professional development and implementation were provided to the school district leadership. Additionally, in May, TIERS Group completed a contract for executive coaching and program evaluation of MTSS and PBIS for the Baltimore City Schools.

IEP Training - The IEP modules, developed in conjunction with Jefferson Families Helping Families, have been downloaded 200 times. Consumers of the material represent 37 LEAs (sped directors, sped assistant directors, sped teachers, gen ed teachers, federal programs, related service providers, appraisal members), 3 in state institutions of higher learning, 2 out of state institutes of higher learning, LA DoE, members of the DD Council, college students, parents, 4 states, and 2 US territories.

LASARD Consultations - Throughout the 2015-2016 school year, LASARD conducted over 300 technical assistance contacts and facilitated over 150 partner school team meetings. The LASARD advisory panel will meet on June 8<sup>th</sup>.

### **LASARD Workshops & Workgroups**

- LASARD hosted the final workshop for their partner teams at HDC in New Orleans on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Over 100 educators and family members from across the state attended.
- The final LASARD online workgroup for the year was held on April 12. The topic was Self-Determination and 20 individuals participated.
- LASARD is conducting 2 webinars for Families Helping Families Jefferson in May and June. The May session will address writing social and communication goals for students with ASD, and the June topic is self-determination.
- LASARD is presenting 2 sessions at the Louisiana Department of Education Teacher Leader Summit. The presentation is titled: Think Functionally! Managing Challenging Behaviors in the Classroom Resulting from Communication Barriers.

### **Employment/Transition**

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

### **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 Benefits Planning Services and the Advocacy's Center Work Incentive and Planning Services provided a joint online presentation in April for OCDD targeted to IDD providers and Support Coordinators.

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. A joint flyer with contact information and a map is being distributed throughout the state for referral opportunities. Targeted outreach is being done with key state agencies and includes, Education, Medicaid, LRS/LWC, OCDD, Behavioral Health, Veterans, Native Americans, and local agencies.

### **Supported Employment**

- HDC provided 2 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 April 28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> **LRC** meeting.
- Met with M. Martin regarding the HOLD/Freeze on services.
- HDC staff attended the May 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 attending the national APSE conference in OH and presenting on the Apprenticeships
- 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 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 & 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.

01/06/2016 – CORE Transition Team, 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.

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 are available online.

Two webinars to support Dental Care for People with Disabilities have been submitted for accreditation for CDE (continuing dental education).

HDC staff is participating in a research study with UCLA to improve health literacy of at-risk families. Four staff members attended a 2-day training in New Mexico and will begin implementing the training and data collection in July. HDC will provide training for 90 early education providers in July designed to promote health literacy of early care providers and parents to reduce unnecessary ER visits and improve adherence to EPSDT schedules.

HDC in collaboration with the Bureau of Family Health provided training on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and the impact of toxic stress on brain development to 15 case managers. HDC staff participated in a 2-day summit in Lafayette for various stakeholders to continue to disseminate information on ACEs across sectors (health, juvenile justice, social services, early care and education, K-12 etc.).

HDC is collaborating with LSU School of Public Health to develop a “Trim Kids” program at HDC. This integrated program supports improving nutrition and increasing physical activity for children and youth. HDC will be recruiting children and youth with and without disabilities to participate in the program later this summer.

### **Early Childhood**

HDC Early Head Start Child Care Partnership is providing comprehensive services to 188 low-income children and families. Over 12% (23) of those children have IFSPs and others have delays and established medical conditions. We are currently recruiting 80 families including at least 15 children with IFSPs to begin in the program in August.

HDC provided introductory training for 45 early childhood educators on working with EarlySteps in May.

HDC in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will be training over 90 early childhood educators on the importance of developmental surveillance and referral for early intervention in July.

HDC is collaborating with LSU School of Public Health to implement a “Knapsack” program to teach early care educators and families about improving nutrition for infants and toddlers including young children with disabilities.

### **Clinics Initiative**

ASDID Autism Spectrum Disorders Diagnostic Clinic - Monthly clinics conducted using inter-professional practice. Disciplines participating include school psychologist, speech language pathologist, occupational therapist, developmental pediatricians and residents.

Purpose of the clinic is to use a multi-disciplinary approach to diagnose children who are on the autism spectrum disorders. It also is used for training purposes for residents, speech language pathology and occupational therapy students. Plans are to expand the clinic to twice a month and include other disciplines such as physician assistant, audiology, and rehabilitation counseling.

AT clinic - Since February 1, 2016, 2-3 evaluations for augmentative and alternative communication have been conducted. Clients referred for evaluation include children and adults with autism and traumatic brain injury, developmental disorders, adults with ALS, etc. Assistive technology evaluations have been conducted within the Charter schools in collaboration with general education and special education teachers and psychologists. Plans are to expand AAC evaluations to include more assistive technology such as positioning and seating, etc.

AAC clinic - Since January 20, 2016, 25 clients have been seen weekly for intervention. Clients include mainly those in need of AAC systems and that carry a diagnosis of autism, developmental and cognitive impairments, traumatic brain injury, aphasia and ALS. Clients are seen once a week and intervention is conducted in individual and small groups to aid in socialization and peer interaction.

## **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 in 2016-2017 state fiscal year...possibly at the recently planned LA APSE Symposium to be held sometime in the fall of 2016.
- 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).
- 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.

**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 two presentations to parents and self-advocates interested in supported and/or customized employment.

- HDC employment staff conducted 1 training sessions for parents, job-seekers and advocates on Supported Employment.
- HDC employment staff assisted with hosting and facilitating Louisiana APSE “Meet and Greets” intended to introduce employment stakeholders to the state and national APSE and the related benefits of membership in conjunction with the SE CORE trainings.
- HDC continue to work collaboratively with ALL PAYCHECK apprenticeship pilot entities (LRS, UMC, Orleans and Jefferson parish schools and two LEA charters). HDC is now working with the schools to conduct informational sessions and to meet with prospective student applicants.
- 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 in April as LRC member.
- 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 in May.
- HDC staff conducted 1 family and self-advocate online training sessions on Supported Employment and choosing quality providers for FHF Greater New Orleans.
- HDC employment staff, as Louisiana APSE members and WorkPays members attended May meeting.

## **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.