

Agency
Quarterly Report to the DD Council
(July 1 – September 30, 2015)

UPDATE/PROGRESS ON AGENCY INITIATIVES

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

Early Childhood

- HDC opened 20 **Early Head Start** classrooms serving 156 children and families, 12% who have IFSPs. We anticipate opening an additional 9 classrooms in January.
- HDC is hiring 4 highly qualified teachers to work in the **Early Learning Center**. The ELC is recruiting families that have a child with a disability to fill 5 openings at the center.
- HDC is part of the new **Louisiana ACE (Adverse childhood Experiences) Initiative** led by DHH-OPH and Tulane Infant Mental Health. Louisiana is the 7th state to join the ACE Initiative which aims to translate the science of early childhood into key messages for communities and family-serving workforces in order to promote a cultural shift rooted in common understanding. This movement is based on the idea that a shared understanding of ACEs can promote more compassionate and effective practice across sectors including education, healthcare, social services, criminal justice, and policy-making and can support communities in becoming healthier and more resilient.
- HDC is working to promote the new **Watch Me Grow!** campaign, part of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention *Learn the Signs. Act Early* initiative. *The* is a Professional Development series designed to support early care and education providers to understand child development and support parents to seek help when there is a developmental concern about a child.
- HDC recruited their 5th **LEND (Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and other Developmental Disabilities)** class of 7 trainees representing 5 different disciplines including 1 parent. LEND trainees are future leaders in Maternal and Child Health Programs and spend 2 semesters engaged in interdisciplinary coursework and field experiences designed to educate them about leadership and advocacy in developmental disabilities.
- HDC faculty collaborated with a group of LEND programs led by Vanderbilt to develop a repository of **Modules on Neurodevelopmental Disabilities** for use by LEND programs across the country. HDC faculty contributed to modules on Early Intervention, Patient and Family Centered Care/ Medical Home, and Sexual Health and Disability.
- HDC faculty serves on the state **Early Child Care and Education (ECCE) Advisory Board** to LDE/BESE and on the **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 planning of “**Self-Determination through Physical Training**” program by 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)**
 - 3 PEAC students: completed May 2014. Automotive student was competitively employed in August 2014. 1 student has chosen a vendor.
 - 2 students were enrolled in summer classes.
 - 4 students enrolled for Fall 2015
 - PEAC staff will present at the Fall LRA Conference.
- **Supported Employment**
 - HDC provided two (2) **CORE SE trainings (40 hour)** and two (2) **one-day SE trainings** throughout SE LA.
 - 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 attends **Louisiana Rehabilitation Counseling (LRC)** and **APSE (Association of People Supporting Employment First)** meetings
 - 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 will present on the **Apprenticeship Pilot at University Medical Center** at the national AUCD conference in DC
- **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 submitted a proposal in response to the **SSA WIPA RFA** to provide benefits planning services and received that 5 year award along with the Advocacy Center. HDC and the Advocacy Center will continue their collaboration to provide services in Southern Louisiana and Central and North Louisiana respectively.

Health

- Pediatric residents from Tulane and LSU are completing **HCP Training Modules** as part of their developmental rotation with Dr. Berry.
- HDC and CSHS have submitted 8 modules and webinars to Louisiana State Nurses Association for credentialing for nurses (**CNE**).
- HDC and LSU Dental School are completing 2 modules and webinars on oral health and disabilities.

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 are planning to host a CESP exam on December 2nd in conjunction with the annual REACH conference slated for 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 recently released the 2015-2016 training dates.

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 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.

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 two 40-hour CORE Supported Employment as well as two (2) 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 45 individuals.
- HDC provided mentoring to four (4) Community Rehabilitation Providers-Deaf Focus, Mia's Employment & Training, Sides Employment Services and An Ideal Job.
- HDC staff provided two presentation to parents and self-advocates interested in supported and/or customized employment.
- HDC employment staff conducted three training sessions 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 continue 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 July, 2015 as recently appointed 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.
- 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 to provide coaching to early care and education providers in 5 childcare centers serving children with IFSPs in Early Head Start.
- HDC is hiring highly qualified teachers for the Early Learning Center. 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.