

Agency
Quarterly Report to the DD Council
(January 1 – March 31, 2015)

UPDATE/PROGRESS ON AGENCY INITIATIVES

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

Education

- **LA-Deaf Blind Project** held its first SPARKLE (Supporting Parent Access to Resources, Knowledge, Linkages, and Education) camp for 7 children with dual sensory loss and their families. Over 40 people from across Louisiana participated in the workshops and camp. The event ended with the children performing and the Krewe of Sparkle parade. Watch a YouTube video made by one of the parents here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f6rnOIRiD2k>.
- **LASARD** Conducted team workshops for partner school teams in Natchitoches and St. Charles parishes. Topics included functional behavior assessments/behavior intervention plans, Universal Design for Learning, supporting communication, and visual supports. Over 100 participants attended.
- LASARD conducted **5 online workgroups** with live attendance averaging 37 per session.
 - Meeting the Common Core State Standards through Universal Design for Learning
 - Communicative Competence: How to Really Get Talking
 - Collaborating to Prepare for Annual Transitions
 - Standards-Based IEPs in the Common Core World
 - Digging Deeper into UDL
- LASARD hosted Part 2 in a series of workshops for high school educators and family members – “**Secondary Success for Students with ASD**”. Sessions included employment, relationships and sexuality, self-determination, and educational strategies. Over 50 individuals participated in Natchitoches and Mandeville.
- LASARD provided professional development to outside agencies, universities and non-partner schools including Hand in Hand family support group in Vernon Parish, Southeastern Louisiana University, and St. Helena Parish Schools.
- LASARD staff had over 100 contacts with partner schools for ongoing technical assistance and team meetings.
- HDC received a **contract from SDE** and is collaborating with Families Helping Families of Jefferson and a group of stakeholders to develop trainings on IEPs and Act 833.

- **LAS*PIC** completed Interviews for 2015-16 year in January. A total of 7 school psychology interns will be matched and complete their internship in Louisiana.
- HDC hosted a professional development session for educators on common legal considerations with **IDEA and Section 504** presented by Wayne Stewart, JD, PhD. Fifty five educators attended.
- LAS*PIC faculty and several interns attended and presented at the **National Association of School Psychologists (NASP)** annual convention in Orlando in February.

Employment/Transition

- **Postsecondary Education for All Collaborative (PEAC)** hosted a Meet and Greet at HDC for participants and their families to link them with resources
 - 1 PEAC student is doing classroom observations as part of his coursework (and has learned new RTA route to get there). This student also just earned CPR certification. 3 PEAC students completed the program last semester. Two of them are in **competitive employment** in their field (childcare and automotive). The other student is working with a vendor and seeking competitive employment and had an interview this week with the Audubon Zoo.
 - 9 students are registered for the fall semester
 - 3 students are participating in **internships** in their field of study in the spring semester (1 in radio broadcasting at Delgado radio station, 1 in internet/computing at HDC, 1 in graphic design at HDC).
- PEAC and DCC began a new session of the **Universal Design for Learning Collaborative Project**
- PEAC students provided a tour of Delgado's campus and hosted a Q&A session about college life for local high school students
- PEAC was invited to participate on a panel at the TPSID Project Director's Meeting on "Developing an Inclusive Course of Study"
- **Benefits Planning Services** continue to be provided 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. The Advocacy Center and HDC are jointly submitting to provide services in Southern Louisiana and Central and North Louisiana respectively.
- 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 **LRC** meeting.
- HDC Staff active on the **Employment First Employment Coalition** team and attended the press rally for NDEAM on October 1, 2014.

- 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 presented at **REACH 2014**
- Met with Regional OCDD Employment staff, and Metropolitan Human Services District to discuss collaboration and opportunities.
- Met with **Bossier Community College** to discuss best practice and funding for Post-Secondary and Employment programs in November.

Health

- Pediatric residents are completing **Health Care Provider Training webinars** as part of their developmental rotation.
- HDC has submitted 4 webinars to Louisiana State Nurses Association for credentialing for nurses (**CNE**).
- HDC is developing a unit on Sexual Health and Relationships for People with Disabilities for inclusion in a **national curriculum for LEND programs**. HDC is also collaborating with Vanderbilt to edit existing units on Patient and Family Centered Care and Early Intervention to include in the curriculum.
- HDC is collaborating with Northshore FHF to provide trainings on **Sexual Health for People with Disabilities** and with the Louisiana PTI to conduct webinars on this topic.

Early Childhood

- HDC was awarded over \$3 million dollars by the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families to develop an **Early Head Start Community Childcare Partnership**.
- HDC is collaborating with Families Helping Families of Jefferson to distribute **Act Early** materials in English and Spanish to pediatric departments in hospitals and clinics. Materials are developed by the Centers for Disease Control to promote developmental screening and early identification of children with 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 have initiated discussions with LRS State Office staff to consider implementing a quality assurance indicator that CRPs providing SE services to have a percentage of their staff certified as CESP – motion proposed and passed at last Louisiana Rehabilitation Council meeting in
- HDC staff appointed to Louisiana Rehabilitation Council
- HDC Employment Division continues to provide comprehensive CORE and one-day SE trainings to promote learning of skills and competencies.

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 sit on the Employment Coalition and attend stakeholder meetings as scheduled.

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 three (3) one-day trainings (7.5 hours each): 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 provided mentoring to four (4) Community Rehabilitation Providers-Deaf Focus, Mia's Employment & Training, Sides Employment Services and An Ideal Job.
- HDC staff provided a presentation to parents and students interested in post-secondary and employment.

- HDC employment staff conducted a one-hour online seminar 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 developed and submitted a proposal to Kessler for possible funding for a paid apprenticeship model. HDC included LRS in the proposal and met via telephone to discuss the pilot and Kessler submission.
- HDC met with administrators of the new LCMC in January to continue discussions of hiring individuals with disabilities. The hospital is proposing the pilot proposal to the LCMC administration.
- HDC is currently in discussions with Cintas and Walgreens to discuss disability hiring and apprenticeships. Meetings are being held in March to discuss “next steps”.
- HDC employment staff sit on the national APSE Public Policy Work Group and attend monthly meetings via Go To Meeting.
- HDC Employment Staff attended LRC meetings in January, 2015 as newly appointed member.
- Meeting with Acting Chancellor of Delgado to discuss continued funding of PEAC and the LCMC paid apprenticeship proposed pilot.
- HDC employment staff attended Louisiana APSE governing board meeting.
- HDC staff conducted four (4) one-hour online sessions on various topics in Supported Employment for Families Helping Families.
- 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 received an Early Head Start Community Childcare Partnership grant from ACF. We are currently recruiting families, including those with children with disabilities to participate in the program. At least 24 low income families with children with disabilities will receive Early Head Start services in community childcare centers with support from HDC staff and EarlySteps.

- HDC is opening an Early Learning Center in the spring. 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.