

Agency
Quarterly Report to the DD Council
(October 1 – December 31, 2013)

UPDATE/PROGRESS ON AGENCY INITIATIVES

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

Education

- HDC was awarded a grant from OSEP to direct the Louisiana DeafBlind Project.
- HDC is collaborating with LaPTI and FHF Jefferson to host the Inclusion Matters Conference June 5-7, 2014.
- HDC's Louisiana School Psychology Internship program (LASPIC) and out partner schools are interviewing for next year's class of doctoral level psychology interns in December and January. This year approximately 100 interns from universities all over the country are interviewing, our biggest pool of applicants in 20 years!

Employment/Transition

- Postsecondary Education for All Collaborative (PEAC) registered 4 new students for January 2014.
- PEAC signed an MOU with Orleans Parish Public Schools to support students with IDD transitioning to post-secondary education
- PEAC students passed all DCC courses this semester and first 2 students complete the program in the spring.
- HDC has been funded for Benefits Planning and has three (3) certified staff to provide Benefits Planning Services throughout the state, with the exception of Greater New Orleans, Baton Rouge and Florida parishes.
- HDC continues to provide five (5) 40-hour CORE SE trainings throughout the state and has initiated three special topics sessions (7.5 hours each) in New Orleans, Baton Rouge and Lafayette
- HDC continues to implement the DDC funded Supported Employment Mentoring project (see below)

Health

- HDC is collaborating with Title V, Medical Home Initiative program to deliver lunch and learn trainings to pediatric clinics around the state.
- HDC continues to implement the DDC funded Health Care Professional Training program (see below)
- HDC is developing a pediatric feeding and swallowing clinic.

Early Childhood

- This spring, HDC will be offering training and materials to childcare centers to support the use of the CDC Act Early materials with families they serve. These materials are designed to help families understand typical development and act early if they suspect a delay in their child's development.

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 staff serves as Chair of the National Certified Employment Support Professional (CESP) certification committee.
- In collaboration with Louisiana APSE, HDC will advocate for certified employment professionals in CRPs statewide.
- Conducting initial meeting with Delgado Community College administration to discuss possible Technical Competency Area for Employment Support Professionals.

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.*

- Healthcare Transition for Youth with Special Health Care Needs module is under review by SME.
- Met with School of Nursing to discuss contract to offer CNE for nurses in addition to CME for physicians. Contract under development.
- Title V, Children's Special Health Services office is negotiating with HDC to provide lunch and learn trainings to pediatric clinics around the state. Topics would include 3 of the 8 modules developed or under development for the HCP training project.

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.*

- PEAC hired a new Educational Coach in October to help support the additional students enrolled at Delgado.

- HDC working with Delgado Community College to expand universal design for learning practices across campus and provide supports to students with and without disabilities in technical certificate programs.

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 is providing 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 is providing at least one training each month in various locations around the state.
 - HDC is contracting with a large vocational service provider in New Orleans to mentor, train and consult by working directly with the agency job seekers and the employment personnel on best practice techniques and standards.
 - In fulfillment of the award we received from the Council, HDC is providing mentoring to three (3) Community Rehabilitation Providers and will be selecting the fourth provider in February, 2014. All CRPs involved have committed to the philosophy of Employment First. Providers who complete this mentoring program will acquire knowledge and skills to expand their business model and serve an increased number of job seekers with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

STATUS OF COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS TO AGENCY

No recommendations have been received.