

**Agency**  
**Quarterly Report to the DD Council**  
(October 1 – December 31, 2014)

**UPDATE/PROGRESS ON AGENCY INITIATIVES**

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

Education

- **LA-Deaf Blind Project** has recruited 7 families from across Louisiana to participate in our first **SPARKLE Camp and Workshop** (Supporting Parent Access to Resources, Knowledge, Linkages, and Education) for children and families. MS Deaf Blind Project is sending a family and staff person to SPARKLE to participate and learn about the project.
- **LASARD** provided 5 online workshops for over 200 educators: “Enter the Matrix: Assessing and Planning for the Day”, “ABA Strategies in the Classroom: Prompting”, “ABA Strategies in the Classroom: Reinforcement”, “Communication: Back to the Basics”, Peer Mediated Instruction and Intervention: Utilizing Peers Across Settings”.
- **LASARD** hosted high school workshops – high school workshops “Secondary Success for Students with ASD”. Sessions include employment, relationships and sexuality, person-centered planning, educational strategies, and evidence-based practices for HS educators.
  - Natchitoches and Mandeville – October, 2014
  - Follow-up workshops will be held in February, 2015
- HDC is collaborating with a group of stakeholders to identify the needs of educators and families in implementing the requirements of developing and implementing IEPs with a particular emphasis on LA **Act 833** and develop a plan to address those needs.
- 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.
- HDC staff presented at **LA Educational Diagnostician Association** conference in October and at the **LA School Psychology Association** conference in November.
- **LASPIC** interns are being trained in **ADOS-2**, the standard in autism spectrum diagnosis.
- **LASPIC** received applications from 65 doctoral students in school psychology. They will accept 7-10 interns for 2015-2016.
- **Einstein Charter Schools** will join the school psychology consortium in 2015.
- **LASPIC** hosted a **professional development activity** for over 80 participants on the development and implementation of performance-based IEPs (Dr. Mark Shinn presented).

- LASPIC will host a **professional development activity** in February on legal issues around IDEA and Section 504 with Dr. Wayne Stewart presenting.

### Employment/Transition

- **Postsecondary Education for All Collaborative (PEAC)**
  - 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.
  - 10 students are registered for the spring semester
  - 3 students will participate 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).
- **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 Benefits Planning Services attended **LWC-sponsored job fairs** in their regions to provide an informational overview of Benefits Planning Services and also provided one-on-one benefits planning (information and referral) to individuals attending the job fairs who were scheduled appointments.
- 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 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.
- Presented at **AUCD conference** in Washington, DC on a panel regarding the new HCBS rules from CMS.
- HDC staff presented at **REACH 2014**
- Met with Regional OCDD Director, Donna Francis and David Timol to discuss employment best practice for the OCDD, LRS and provider pilot in Orleans parish.
- Met with Rebecca Hanberry, **Bossier Community College** to discuss best practice and funding for Post-Secondary and Employment programs in November.
- Provided agency-specific **2-day training** to Strive, Inc. on Supported Employment (7 staff).
- Provided one **(1) core refresher training** and five **(5) special topic trainings** to sixty (60) individuals.

- HDC staff attended and presented information on transition and employment to high school teachers in **Mandeville and Natchitoches**.

### Health

- HDC/Title V presented their first **Lunch & Learn activities** with 20 pediatric residents and 66 nurses and social workers in Shreveport. Topics were the Developmental Screening and Medical Home modules of the HCP Training Series.
- HDC continues to provide **pediatric resident training**. HDC staff have residents accompany them on a home visit with Part C.
- Pediatric residents are completing HCP Training Modules as part of their developmental rotation.
- HDC is preparing to submit modules and webinars to Louisiana State Nurses Association for credentialing for nurses (**CNE**).

### Early Childhood

- HDC is negotiating with Administration for Children and Families about the **Early Head Start Community Childcare Partnership- Expansion** grant. <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ecd/early-learning/ehs-cc-partnerships/grant-awardees>
- HDC hired a new Childcare Director for the **Early Learning Program** scheduled to open March 1<sup>st</sup> and is currently hiring highly qualified childcare staff.

## **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 sits on the National Certified Employment Support Professional (CESP) certification committee.
- 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 has been meeting and planning with community college administrators statewide to discuss Technical Competency Areas and paid internships.
- HDC staff appointed to Louisiana Rehabilitation Council attended first meeting October 31, 2014.

- In collaboration with Louisiana APSE hosted a CESP exam in Baton Rouge on November 6, 2014. Eighteen (18) individuals wrote the exam. Results are expected back early in 2015.

**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 sit on the Employment Coalition and attended a policy and planning meeting with OCDD to discuss Disability Employment Awareness Month and Employment First policy.

**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 four (4) one-day trainings (7.5 hours each): SE Management and Funding/Budgeting, Job Developer Clinic, Assessment Clinic and SSA Benefits and Work Incentives. HDC is providing at least one training each month in various locations around the state. In this reporting period, HDC has trained 70 individuals.
- HDC is providing mentoring to four (4) Community Rehabilitation Providers.
- HDC staff was part of the Employment Coalition planning for Employment First and Louisiana Disability Employment Awareness Month. HDC produced three (3) videos for the Louisiana celebration and promotion of National Disability Awareness Month.
- HDC has met with administrators of the new LCMC to continue discussions of hiring individuals with disabilities. HDC met again in December to discuss the use and implementation of a pilot program for paid apprenticeships in key areas of non-clinical hiring. This pilot will lead to large scale hiring protocols whereby the new LCMC can access a pool of talented and qualified job seekers and certified employment support specialists.

## **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 applied for an Early Head Start Community Childcare Partnership grant from ACF. We are currently negotiating the award. When funded, the grant will allow us to work with community childcare centers to provide 232 EHS slots for families (at least 10% of the slots will be designated for children with disabilities).
- 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.