

# Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council

## Status of FFY 2013 Activities

As applicable, data is presented year-to-date and quarterly (March 1, 2013 – May 30, 2013).

### QUALITY ASSURANCE

**Goal 1** 1,000 self-advocates and family members of persons with developmental disabilities will advocate for policies and practices that promote the self-determination, independence, productivity, integration and inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in all facets of community life.

**Objective 1.1** Louisiana's self-advocacy organization consisting of people with developmental disabilities will promote advocacy by guiding local chapters and provide leadership training to individuals with developmental disabilities.

**Activity 1.1.1** Provide financial support and technical assistance for the operation of People First of Louisiana. People First will develop a plan to become self-sustaining by 2016.

**Approximate Cost: \$94,000 in FFY 2013**

**Progress: People First of Louisiana** (PFL) supports 275 members in self-advocacy and leadership.

- 5 self-advocates joined PFL this quarter.
- 6 chapters, statewide (the five in the Greater New Orleans area combined into one).

#### Trainings

- Trainings for PFL Board of Directors (2 sessions; 9 participants).
- PFL Board to self-advocates (1 session; 6 participants).
- "Keys to Effective Communication & Difficult Conversations with Families" to self-advocates (1 session; 27 participants).

#### Advocacy activities

- Provided information and support to members and Congressional delegates regarding accumulation of resources without jeopardizing eligibility to means-tested programs (i.e., Medicaid, SSI) as is contained in the ABLE Act.

#### Advocacy Facilitator activities

- Collaborated with LaCAN Leader for meeting with Sen. Morrish and Rep. Guinn.
- Provided technical assistance to nine self-advocates in Lafayette on the duties and responsibilities of officers on People First boards.
- Supported Lafayette and Lake Charles PF chapters.

#### PFL Members on boards

- OCDD Regional Advisory Committees (Regions 1 & 5).
- Down Syndrome Association of Greater New Orleans.
- Mayor's Advisory Council on Disability Affairs (New Orleans and Lake Charles).

#### Implementing a plan for financial sustainability

- Language for recruitment of Foundation Board members has been developed and amount of funding required for general operations has been determined.
- Conducting an online survey and special board meeting to gather information and develop strategies for continued viability.

**On target:**  Initiative  Expenditures

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**Objective 1.2** Individuals with developmental disabilities will participate on cross-disability and culturally diverse leadership coalitions.

**Activity 1.2.1** Provide information to People First of Louisiana board members and other leaders to participate on the Governor's Advisory Council on Disability Affairs (GACDA), Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) Regional Advisory Councils (RACs), and other identified coalitions.

**Progress:** Council staff provide information to People First of LA members on joining and participating in various boards of interest to them statewide.

**On target:**  Initiative

**Objective 1.3** 75 to 100 individuals with developmental disabilities and parents of young children with developmental disabilities will develop skills in leadership development and systems change activities.

**Activity 1.3.1** Provide financial support and technical assistance for Partners in Policymaking.  
**Approximate Cost: \$80,000 in FFY 2013**

**Progress: Partners in Policymaking** graduated all 21 participants that began the 2013 class in January.

Partners in advocacy

- There were 113 members on the La Partners in Policymaking Alumni Facebook page.
- Partners' Coordinator encouraged Alumni to participate in the Disability Rights Rally.
  - 23 Partners' graduates participated.
  - 11 Participants of 2013 class participated.
- Partners' graduates (including 2013) confirmed participation in Council advocacy during legislative session (42 for LaTEACH activities and 57 for LaCAN).
- Eight current Council members and three individuals recommended for Council membership are Partners' graduates.

**On target:**  Initiative  Expenditures

**Activity 1.3.2** Support up to two Council members' participation in Partners in Policymaking.  
**Approximate Cost: \$3,000 in FFY 2013**

**Progress:** No current Council members participated in this year's class.

**Objective 1.4** 375 people with developmental disabilities and their family members will advance their knowledge of home- and community- based supports and services and promote advocacy leadership through participation in conferences and other training events.

## Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council Status of FFY 2013 Activities

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- Activity 1.4.1**      Contract with Families Helping Families Regional Resource Centers (FHF) to financially support stipends for persons with developmental disabilities and their family members to participate in training, conferences, meetings, and events.  
**Approximate Cost: \$25,000 in FFY 2013**

**Progress:** Forty-five individuals with disabilities and family members received **stipends through Families Helping Families** to attend conferences and workshops since October 1, 2012. Remaining stipend balances for October through June are being provided to the Louisiana Chapter of the Autism Society to support individuals attending their Biannual Autism Conference. Each stipend contract is on target.

**On target:**  Initiative

- Activity 1.4.2**      Provide financial support for the continuation and expansion of a training program for people with developmental disabilities by individuals with developmental disabilities on advocacy, independence, self-determination, productivity, integration, and inclusion leadership topics.  
**Approximate Cost: \$10,000 in FFY 2013**

**Progress: My Choice** provided five trainings for 225 participants in Regions 1, 3, and 6 this quarter. Topics included “Communicating My Wants and Needs to My Support Staff,” “Staying Safe in Your Community,” and “Identifying Abuse.” Seven of the ten trainings were completed so far this year.

**On target:**  Initiative  Expenditures

- Objective 1.5**      Members of the Council and its committees will be supported to serve as effective advocates for state and national systems change and receive staff and administrative support to effectively implement the Council’s mission and goals.

- Activity 1.5.1**      Support individuals with developmental disabilities and family members of individuals with developmental disabilities in participation in Council meetings and other functions.

**Progress:** Council members are supported in participation in Council meetings and other functions.

- Activity 1.5.2**      Support Council members’ participation in training and educational opportunities.  
**Approximate Cost: \$3,000 in FFY 2012**

**Progress:** One Council member stipend has been approved for \$1,500 but it has not yet been expended. If all of the allowable costs are utilized, the balance in the Council member Stipend Fund will be \$1,500.

## Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council Status of FFY 2013 Activities

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- Activity 1.5.3** Support the Council leadership's participation in national training, networking events and advocacy opportunities.  
**Approximate Cost: \$7,000 in FFY 2013**

**Progress:** Council Vice-Chair Rocky Fuselier and Deputy Director Shawn Fleming will participate in the 2013 AIDD Technical Assistance Institute and NACDD Annual Conference which will be held back-to-back in Washington D.C. in July.

- Goal 2** Improve the quality of community-based supports and services for Louisianans with developmental disabilities.

- Objective 2.1** The quality of waiver services in Louisiana will improve through the development and implementation of a comprehensive home- and community-based services plan.

- Activity 2.1.1** Participate in the further development, implementation, and monitoring of the plan mandated by Act 299 of 2011.

**Progress:** No Council activity this quarter.

**On target:**  **Effort**  **Satisfactory Progress**

- Activity 2.1.2** Advocate for sharing provider data online to assist individuals and families in making informed choices regarding waiver providers.

**Progress:** This activity was added in January 2013. One OCDD workgroup meeting was held to make initial plans for implementation. The second meeting was cancelled and has not yet been re-scheduled by OCDD.

**On target:**  **Effort**  **Satisfactory Progress**

- Objective 2.2** Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) serving Louisianans with developmental disabilities will receive competitive compensation.

- Activity 2.2.1** Participate in and monitor activities of the Act 299 workgroup for
- the starting DSP compensation level to be at or above the national average and
  - the dedication of a certain percentage of the HCBS rate to DSP costs (based on provider cost reports).
- Timeline: FFY 2015 (second bullet only)*

**Progress:** DHH will begin collecting cost reports from providers in the Fall of 2013.

**On target:**  **Effort**  **Satisfactory Progress**

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**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 and
- the implementation of graduated pay increases for DSPs to correspond with performance on a graduated certification process.

*Timeline: FFY 2015 (second bullet only)*

**Progress:** There was no Council activity this fiscal year.

**On target:**  **Effort**  **Satisfactory Progress**

**Objective 2.4** 500 additional individuals with developmental disabilities will self-direct their waiver services.

**Activity 2.4.1** Promote self-direction through community education through the creation and dissemination of key selling points and benefits and resources to assist in the process (i.e., LaDDC News, Fact sheets, etc.)

**Progress:** An LaDDC News article and fact sheet on self direction was released on April 1<sup>st</sup> to promote the expansion of self direction in the New Opportunities Waiver.

**On target:**  **Effort**  **Satisfactory Progress**

**Objective 2.5** People with developmental disabilities receiving Supported Independent Living (SIL) services are kept safe and their rights are protected.

**Activity 2.5.1** Provide financial support for a SIL ombudsman pilot program in Jefferson Parish.  
**Approximate Cost: \$90,000 in FFY 2013**

**Progress:** The **Supported Independent Living Ombudsman Program** is serving 12 individuals living in Jefferson Parish by protecting their rights to live in safe housing, to make their own financial and lifestyle choices, and to access appropriate health care resources. In addition, these individuals were assisted with accessing other useful community resources. The project received five referrals from Jefferson Parish Human Services Authority and seven from the community. OCDD is recommending expansion of the program into Metropolitan Human Services District.

**On target:**  **Initiative**  **Expenditures**

# Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council

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### COMMUNITY SUPPORTS

**Goal 3** Changes to policies and practices in Louisiana's developmental disability system will result in adequate funding and availability of quality supports and services in the community and reduce reliance on public and private residential facilities for people with developmental disabilities.

**Objective 3.1** 4,000 people on the waiting list will begin receiving home- and community-based services by educating stakeholders, policy makers and the public about the waiting list and needed systems reforms.

**Activity 3.1.1** Provide financial and other support for the grassroots advocacy organization Louisiana Citizens for Action Now (LaCAN).  
**Approximate Cost: \$125,000 in FFY 2013**

**Progress:** LaCAN's listserv has increased by 235 since October 1, 2012, bringing its total membership to over 2,867. In addition to information previously reported on regional roundtable attendance and participation in legislative visits leading up to the 2013 legislative session,

- 96 advocates participated in three Yellow Shirt Days with 22 members testifying and
- 1,875 confirmed actions by members to nine Action Alerts.

The legislature positively responded to this advocacy resulting in 200 additional NOW slots and an overall achievement of 83.4% of LaCAN's advocacy goals prior to the Governor's veto. Unfortunately the veto dropped that percentage to zero.

**On target:**  Initiative  Expenditures

**Activity 3.1.2** Collaborate with other advocacy groups to plan and support Disability Rights Rallies.  
**Approximate Cost: \$5,000 in FFY 2013**

**Progress:** The Disability Rights Rally was held Wednesday, May 1, 2013 at the Louisiana State Capitol with over 400 participants. The rally message was "Restore and Protect Individualized Support Services for People with Developmental Disabilities and their Families." Individuals took the opportunity to meet with their legislators. The event featured Kay Marcel as keynote and Senator Jack Donahue.

**Activity 3.1.3** Advocate for systems change initiatives, revenue generating strategies, policies and practices needed to expand supports and services.

**Progress:** The Council leadership meets quarterly with DHH Secretary Kathy Kliebert and OCDD Assistant Secretary Laura Brackin to advocate for systems change initiatives. The Council is also represented on various DHH workgroups.

**On target:**  Effort  Satisfactory Progress

## Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council Status of FFY 2013 Activities

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**Objective 3.2** Admissions to developmental centers will cease by increasing access to behavioral and medical intervention in the community and the discontinuation of people adjudicated into developmental centers.

**Activity 3.2.1** Advocate in collaboration with the Advocacy Center for

- additional short-term emergency placement for behavioral and medical stabilization; and
- improving the home and community based system by soliciting feedback from individual families using or trying to access behavioral health services and sharing that information with the DHH leadership.

**Progress:** The Council and Advocacy Center met with the Magellan CEO in January to discuss behavioral health services for people with developmental disabilities. We were accompanied by three parents of children with a dual diagnosis to share their experiences/difficulties accessing services. Continued and increased advocacy to build the capacity of the system is needed. There was no Council activity this quarter.

**On target:**  **Effort**  **Satisfactory Progress**

**Objective 3.3** The number of people in private ICFs/DD per capita in Louisiana will decrease to reach the national average through the transition of people to home- and community-based services.

**Activity 3.3.1** Advocate for

- changes to the rate structure of the Residential Options Waiver to encourage private ICF/DD providers to convert their beds so individuals can transition to waiver services, and
- the MFP grant program to target residents of private ICFs/DD.  
**Accomplished FFY 2012** (second bullet only)

**Progress:** Despite Council advocacy, there has been no progress on this objective this fiscal year. And although residents of private ICFs/DD are included in the target population of the Money Follows the Person grant, without funded waiver slots, there is no funding mechanism for them to move into their own home. New strategies are needed to address this issue.

**On target:**  **Effort**  **Satisfactory Progress**

**Activity 3.3.2** Monitor and participate in the implementation of the Money Follows the Person (MFP) initiative to allow residents of private ICFs/DD to obtain waiver services.

**Progress:** Despite Council advocacy there is no Money Follows the Person initiative at DHH. A new strategy is needed to advocate for policy change.

**On target:**  **Effort**  **Satisfactory Progress**

## Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council Status of FFY 2013 Activities

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- Activity 3.3.3** Collaborate with the Community Living Ombudsman Program (CLOP) on the implementation of the MFP initiative.

**Progress:** There has been no progress on this objective this fiscal year.

**On target:**  **Effort**  **Satisfactory Progress**

- Objective 3.4** The number of people at large public residential facilities will decrease thirty percent through transition to home and community-based services.

- Activity 3.4.1** Advocate for residents of the Special Education Center to be added to the Developmental Center pool of waiver slots.  
**Accomplished FFY 2012**

- Activity 3.4.2** Monitor OCDD activities in reference to informing families of Special Education Center residents about home and community-based options and advocate with DHH leadership regarding this objective.

**Progress:** After the Legislative Auditor's Report was released, residents of the Louisiana Special Education Center who were beyond the age of twenty-one were transitioned to other settings. It is unknown how many of these individuals transitioned, but it is our understanding they all selected other ICFs/DD. Recently the Special Education Center renewed efforts at promoting themselves and advertising to fill their beds. The Council leadership continues to advocate with DHH leadership on this objective, but little progress has been made.

**On target:**  **Effort**  **Satisfactory Progress**

- Activity 3.4.3** Provide information to the Department of Education and BESE on home and community-based services.

**Progress:** Information was provided to Supt. White on home and community based services at the Council's request by DHH Leadership about nine months ago. No other Council action has been taken. New strategies are needed for this activity.

**On target:**  **Effort**  **Satisfactory Progress**

- Goal 4** Individuals with developmental disabilities, their families, and professionals will obtain the information, training, and support they need.

- Objective 4.1** 75,000 individuals with developmental disabilities, their families, and professionals will obtain information, training, and support.

- Activity 4.1.1** Provide funding (from state general funds) and technical assistance to nine Families Helping Families Regional Resource Centers across the state.



## Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council Status of FFY 2013 Activities

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**Progress: Families Helping Families (FHF) Resource Centers** assisted 6,541 individuals and families with information, referral, or other support this quarter for a total of 18,598 since October 1, 2012.

**On target:**  Initiative

**Activity 4.1.2** Provide information to hospitals and health care professionals on resources available to individuals with developmental disabilities.

**Progress:** FHF Centers have performed outreach to 50 hospitals and health care providers to inform them of resources available this quarter for a total of 93 year-to-date.

**On target:**  Initiative

**Goal 5** The Community and Family Support System will continue to deliver flexible, individualized, and person-centered supports.

**Objective 5.1** 3,500 individuals with developmental disabilities will receive (Act 378 of 1989) state-funded supports.

**Activity 5.1.1** Oversee implementation of, and advocate for, the continuation of the Community and Family Support System Plan.

**Progress:** Successfully advocated with the Legislature for funding for Individual and Family Support Services, additional NOW slots, and Families Helping Families Regional Resource Centers, all components of the Community and Family Support System. Unfortunately these items were vetoed by the Governor.

**On target:**  Effort  Satisfactory Progress

### HEALTH

**Goal 6** Policies and practices will result in improved health outcomes for Louisiana citizens with developmental disabilities.

**Objective 6.1** Access to quality medical services for individuals with developmental disabilities will increase.

**Activity 6.1.1** Advocate for BAYOU HEALTH policies to ensure people with developmental disabilities have access to adequate health care services.

**Progress:** Medicaid has postponed enrollment of waiver recipients into Bayou Health until further notice. Council leadership advocated with DHH leadership that no waiver recipients be forced to enroll in Bayou Health, instead allowing waiver recipients to be optional participants. There has been no Council activity this quarter.

**On target:**  Effort  Satisfactory Progress

## Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council Status of FFY 2013 Activities

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- Activity 6.1.2** Advocate for the implementation of ongoing multiagency health data collection, management, sharing and analysis to reduce redundancies for individual eligibility determinations and to increase early detection and intervention of health care issues.

**Progress:** There has been no progress on this objective this fiscal year.

**On target:**  Effort  Satisfactory Progress

- Activity 6.1.3** 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.

**Approximate Cost: \$ 91,100 for FFY 2013**

**Progress:** The **DD Health Care Training Project** has continued development of training modules and agreements for replication.

- Finalized agreements to replicate Operation House Call in Shreveport.
- Completed two training modules for Nurse Practitioners (NP) and Physician Assistants (PA). Each module includes: Powerpoint Presentation with embedded videos, links, and resources, and Instructor Guide Manual.
- It is anticipated the project will complete four modules in June (two for NPs and PAs and two for Physician CMEs).

**On target:**  Initiative  Expenditures

- Objective 6.2** Families will have access to information regarding Medicaid providers.

- Activity 6.2.1** Disseminate Medicaid's web-based listing of providers searchable by region through a variety of methods (i.e. Council's website and Facebook page, FHF, etc.).

**Completed in FFY 2012**

- Objective 6.3** Louisiana recipients of waiver services aged 22 and older will have access to dental services.

- Activity 6.3.1** Advocate for the New Opportunities Waiver and Supports Waiver to be amended to include dental services.

**Progress:** Staff has gained membership on the La. Oral Health Coalition and has advocated for the inclusion of stronger language in the Coalition's plan to enhance oral health services to people with developmental disabilities. The Coalition is developing a priority action plan through March 2014. There was no Council activity this quarter.

**On target:**  Effort  Satisfactory Progress

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### EDUCATION

**Goal 7** Changes in policies and practices will result in inclusive, evidence-based, and safe educational settings for students with developmental disabilities.

**Objective 7.1** 1,000 people will become active in systems advocacy for increased access to inclusive education opportunities among students with developmental disabilities in all publicly funded schools through the support of a statewide family-driven special education grassroots advocacy organization.

**Activity 7.1.1** Provide financial and other support to Louisiana Together Educating All Children (LaTEACH) for the promotion of appropriate, inclusive education for all students.

**Approximate Cost: \$110,000 in FFY 2013**

**Progress: LaTEACH's** membership has increased by 121 since October 1, 2012, bringing its total membership to over 1,628.

#### LaTEACH Advocacy

- 3 Purple Shirt Days (including BESE in March) and 5 action alerts issued.
- 52 members confirmed action and 16 members participated in BESE meetings to testify regarding the MFP funding changes.
- 110 LaTEACH members confirmed action during legislative session.
- 21 members attended regional events (FHF workshops, trainings, education events).
- 27 meetings and contacts with Louisiana Department of Education (LDE) & Legislators were completed by LaTEACH Staff.
- LaTEACH staff assisted participants at Partners in Policymaking with mock testimony; attended the SEAP meetings; and provided public comment regarding education policy changes.

LaTEACH advocacy resulted in preventing the creation of publicly funded segregated private schools for students with disabilities; education funding proposal that did not address inequities in funding across school systems for students with disabilities to not move forward; and, preventing some students with disabilities having to take assessments (i.e., LEAP, End of Course tests, and ACT).

#### Status of LaTEACH Positions

- The Statewide Coordinator resigned and recruitment began to fill the position. Duties and responsibilities are being handled by Council staff and the FHF-SWLA Director until a new LaTEACH Coordinator is hired.
- Recruitment for vacancies in Regions 1/10, 4, 5, 6, 8 & 9 for LaTEACH Leaders continue. Steps taken to hire and retain LaTEACH Regional Leaders include restructuring the hours of work and wages to be paid on an hourly basis rather than a monthly stipend.
- Applications have been received for Region 9 and interest has been expressed for Region 4.

**On target:**  Initiative  Expenditures

## Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council Status of FFY 2013 Activities

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**Activity 7.1.2** The Council will be represented on a variety of education policy-making/advisory bodies.

**Progress:** The Council is represented on:

- Caddo Parish Special Education Parent Advisory Committee,
- Louisiana Council for Exceptional Children,
- La. Dept. of Education (LDE) Bias Review Committee, and
- LDE Special Education Advisory Council.

**On target:**  **Effort**  **Satisfactory Progress**

**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.

**Progress:** Council members and staff participated in LDE listening tour events related to revamping the diploma and accountability system.

**On target:**  **Effort**  **Satisfactory Progress**

**Objective 7.3** There will be an increase in the number of charter schools, early education programs, and other publically funded education facilities that approximate the percentage of students statewide served with developmental disabilities across all LEAs.

**Activity 7.3.1** Advocate for improved oversight and monitoring of admissions and service delivery to students with disabilities in Charter Schools, early education programs, and other publicly funded education facilities in collaboration with the Advocacy Center.

**Progress:** Council members and staff have taken action to advocate for improved admission oversight and monitoring.

- Patsy White and staff supported efforts to increase stakeholder input into policies and practices that impact students with disabilities at the Special Education Advisory Panel and other committees reviewing state policies.
- Staff advocated for BESE to ensure Charter Schools are open to all students and not create schools for students with specific disabilities.
- Staff developed roundtable presentations and fact sheets on this issue.
- Data on rates of students by special education classification by school system has not been made available by LDE since February 1, 2010.

**On target:**  **Effort**  **Satisfactory Progress**

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**Objective 7.4** Students will be protected from discipline practices that cause harm and/or violate their rights.

**Activity 7.4.1** Educate legislators, policy makers and the general public about harmful practices (e.g., restraint and seclusion, corporal punishment, unnecessary use of law enforcement, etc.) and alternative positive evidence based options (e.g., positive behavior practices, etc.) and advocate for policies and practices that promote the safe and effective practices in collaboration with the Advocacy Center.

**Progress:** Legislators were educated about these issues during the session.

**On target:**  **Effort**  **Satisfactory Progress**

**Goal 8** Children participating in EarlySteps will demonstrate improved developmental outcomes through increased access to quality services.

**Objective 8.1** EarlySteps will return to a transdisciplinary service delivery system.

**Activity 8.1.1** Advocate for an accountability structure that ensures

- service delivery levels greater than 24 hours in a 6-month period have data-driven team justifications,
- family participation in quarterly team meetings, and
- outcomes in Individual Family Support Plans will be measureable.

**Progress:** No activity for this objective occurred during this fiscal year.

**On target:**  **Effort**  **Satisfactory Progress**

**Activity 8.1.2** Advocate for adequate support and training of Community Outreach Specialists.

**Progress:** No activity for this objective occurred during this fiscal year.

**On target:**  **Effort**  **Satisfactory Progress**

**Activity 8.1.3** Support the preliminary activities of the development of EarlySteps transdisciplinary training and mentoring materials.  
**Approximate Cost: \$19,000 in FFY 2013**

**Progress:** The **Early Intervention Primary Service Provider (PSP) Training and Coaching** project is consulting with national experts on the early intervention teaming approach to assist with developing the work plan, to provide training, and to provide follow-up support.

**On target:**  **Initiative**  **Expenditures**

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### EMPLOYMENT

**Goal 9** Changes in public policy and practice will result in an increase of 1,000 people with developmental disabilities in integrated individualized employment.

**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,
  - implementation of ongoing multiagency employment data collection, management and analysis, and
  - LRS and OCDD will collaborate to mandate that all supported employment vendors/providers complete a university-based 40 hour training.

**Progress:** Council staff participates in OCDD's Employment First Workgroup with several other parent, advocate, and agency members. The group met April 23 and appointed new chairs to the Data Committee and the Rate Committee. There has been no significant progress on this objective this fiscal year.

**On target:**  **Effort**  **Satisfactory Progress**

**Activity 9.1.2** Participate in the development and implementation (if awarded) of the Partnerships in Employment Systems Change grant with the LSU-HSC Human Development Center and other collaborators to enhance statewide collaborations that will facilitate the transition process from secondary and post-secondary school, or other pre-vocational training settings, to competitive employment in integrated settings.  
**Completed in FFY 2012**

**Activity 9.1.3** 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.

**Progress:** No activity for this objective occurred during this fiscal year.

**On target:**  **Effort**  **Satisfactory Progress**

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**Objective 9.2** The capacity of the employment provider system will improve through evidence-based practice in collaboration with the LSU-HSC Human Development Center.

**Activity 9.2.1** Provide financial support to the Human Development Center to disseminate a curriculum and provide training to agencies on recommended practices for supporting people with disabilities in employment.

**Completed in FFY 2012**

**Activity 9.2.2** Advocate for the development of a collaborative cross-agency infrastructure supporting the use of consistent definitions and practice, standardized training curriculum and technical assistance for employment providers.

**Progress:** Council staff continues to collaboratively advocate through Louisiana Association of People Supporting Employment First and the OCDD Employment First Work Group for consistent definitions and practice, standardized training curriculum and technical assistance for employment providers.

**On target:**  **Effort**  **Satisfactory Progress**

**Objective 9.3** The Louisiana Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) program's federal draw down will increase.

**Activity 9.3.1** Advocate for Louisiana to draw down the entire VR grant award and serve individuals with the most severe disabilities.

**Progress:** The Council collaborates with other groups such as the Louisiana Rehabilitation Council which reports progress on educating legislators on the issues surrounding LRS' budget and drawdown. This issue was included in LaCAN's advocacy agenda for the Legislative session but no additional state match for LRS was obtained from the legislature.

**On target:**  **Effort**  **Satisfactory Progress**

**Objective 9.4** Family members and others will be knowledgeable about options for integrated, competitive employment in collaboration with the Advocacy Center and the LSU-HSC Human Development Center.

**Activity 9.4.1** Provide financial support to conduct a media campaign to educate employers, individuals with disabilities, family members, and provider agencies about the benefits of having people with developmental disabilities as part of the community-based workforce.

**Approximate Cost: \$24,000 in FFY 2013**

**Progress: Employment Media Campaign** ran TV and radio spots reaching an estimated 460,000 people statewide during the month of March.

**On target:**  **Initiative**  **Expenditures**

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**Activity 9.4.2** Provide funding for an employment education campaign targeting individuals and their family members that emphasizes the benefits of competitive employment.  
**Completed in FFY 2012**

### RECREATION

**Goal 10** More people with developmental disabilities will participate in inclusive community recreation activities.

**Objective 10.1** Inclusive recreation programs will be developed in at least two areas of the state.

A new proposal for a FFY 2013 **Inclusive Recreation/ Positive Behavioral Supports Training** was removed from consideration by the proposer.

### CHILD CARE

**Goal 11** The number of quality, affordable, inclusive child care services accessible to parents of children with significant disabilities will increase.

**Objective 11.1** The capacity of the Louisiana's child care system to support children with significant disabilities will improve.

**Activity 11.1.1** Provide funding to the Arc of Baton Rouge to increase the capacity of child care centers statewide regarding inclusion to accept children with developmental disabilities.  
**Approximate Cost: \$32,500 in FFY 2012**

**The Inclusive Child Care Training** provided 17 opportunities for Technical Assistance (TA) through monthly conference calls to 23 (unduplicated count) trainers/technical assistance providers for Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) Agencies. Individuals receiving TA represented Regions 1, 2, 3, 4, and 9 and included BrightStart and State representatives.

- Implemented a new electronic TA protocol for CCR&R agencies to request TA from The Arc Baton Rouge for children with disabilities.
- Focused TA on the most pressing needs requested by providers and included practical ideas to address classroom management and behavioral concerns.
- Provided strategies that are simple, practical, and inexpensive changes to classroom set up that fit the social, emotional and play skill level of children in that classroom.
- Provided TA for CCR&R Agencies assisting families to :
  - find child care and out of school care for children with developmental disabilities,
  - mental health challenges moving from institutional care back home,
  - bilingual or speech challenges, and
  - challenges in maintaining school system services and supports during summer.



## Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council Status of FFY 2013 Activities

As applicable, data is presented year-to-date and quarterly (March 1, 2013 – May 30, 2013).

An ad-hoc BrightStart Inclusion Workgroup convened to address issues related to young children with disabilities. The work plan includes the following.

- Support incorporation of recommendations provided to the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) for the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) special needs rate to better accommodate eligible children and families.
- Integration of recommendations from disability advocates and key stakeholders into policies that incorporate measures of inclusion of children with disabilities as quality indicators in the state's new "Louisiana's Early Childhood Outcomes-Based Rating System."
- Collaboration with the DCFS and the Department of Education to incorporate recommendations from the Inclusive Child Care project into the Early Childhood Pilot programs.
- Submit to BrightStart for funding the proposal by The Arc Baton Rouge to continue its work started in the Inclusive Child Care Project around coaching with the Pilot Projects.

**On target:**  Initiative  Expenditures

**Activity 11.1.2** Advocate for

- state-subsidized day care centers to be paid according to a formula that provides a higher rate for children with disabilities,
- the day care center star rating system to include inclusive practices, and
- DCFS to publish a web-based listing of inclusive day care centers searchable by region.

**Progress:** This activity is being carried out by the Inclusive Child Care contract (Activity 11.1.1).

**On target:**  Effort  Satisfactory Progress