

Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council

Status of FFY 2016 Activities

As applicable, data is presented year-to-date and quarterly (October 1, 2015 – November 30, 2015).

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 for the operation of People First of Louisiana (PFL).

Accomplished in FFY 2014

Activity 1.1.2 Provide technical assistance and training opportunities through stipends, partnerships, staff support, etc.

Information was provided to People First of Louisiana and the Arc of Louisiana regarding the Partners workshops to be held around the state between February and September 2016 and that the deadline to apply for the 2017 Partners in Policymaking class is September 30, 2016.

On target: **Initiative**

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

Activity 1.2.1 Provide information to individuals with developmental disabilities encouraging their participation on identified statewide boards, councils and committees and determine the number of individuals with developmental disabilities represented on targeted boards.

Information was provided to People First of Louisiana and the Arc of Louisiana to advise individuals with developmental disabilities about vacancies on the Louisiana Rehabilitation Council.

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 and its alumni network.
Approximate Cost: \$80,000 in FFY 2016

Partners in Policymaking sessions will not be held in 2016 due to an insufficient number of applicants. The Partners Coordinator will host regional advocacy leadership workshops in collaboration with FHF between February and September 2016 instead. This change reduced the maximum contract amount to \$58,000. Recruitment for a 2017 class will continue through September 30, 2016.

Partners Graduates in Advocacy

- 159 graduates on the Partners in Policymaking Alumni Facebook page (15 new).
- Ten graduates currently serve on the DD Council; two graduates are pending appointment.
- Three graduates serve as LaCAN and/or LaTEACH Leaders; two serve as FHF Directors.
- Graduates on other boards & committees
 - Advocacy Center (2)
 - Families Helping Families Boards (3)
 - LSU Human Development Center Constituency Advisory Council (4)
 - OCDD Regional Boards (6)
 - OCDD State Board (3) – Note: Also on OCDD Regional Boards
 - People First of LA (4)
 - St. Landry Abilities Board (6)
 - Special Education Advisory Panel (2)
 - UP21 board in St. Tammany (3)

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 2016

There will not be a Partners in Policymaking class in 2016 so no Council members will be participate in a regular program until at least 2017.

Activity 1.3.3 Provide financial and staff support for an advocacy leadership conference.
Approximate Cost: \$16,000 in FFY 2016

The Council's 2015 Advocacy Leadership Conference: "Creating a Meaningful Life" was held on Thursday, November 19, 2015. The event was attended by 105 people including seventeen self-advocates and 57 family members. Attendees heard from two national speakers, Al Condeluci and Deborah Whitfield, about the importance of advocacy, social capital, and building natural supports to create a meaningful life for themselves and those they know with developmental disabilities. The conference also featured a legislative panel during which

Senator Jack Donahue, Representative John Schroder, and Representative Ledricka Thierry praised the Council's grassroots advocacy efforts and gave tips for our continued success.

The total cost for the conference was \$13,386 (including \$1,322 for Council member travel). Costs were offset by the receipt of \$2,444.93 in registration payments and \$1,625 in Council-funded stipends dedicated to the Conference last federal fiscal year.

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.

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.

Accomplished in FFY 2015

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.

Accomplished in FFY 2013

Activity 1.4.3 Provide support for registration costs for ten self-advocates to attend the 2015 REACH Conference.

REACH 2015 was held December 3 and 4 and featured national and state speakers in the areas of employment, post-secondary education, transition, and asset development. There were 149 participants including 20 self-advocates and parents. The Council supported seven self-advocates and three parents, totaling \$1,600.

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.

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 2016

No stipends were provided this quarter.

Activity 1.5.3 Support the Council leadership's participation in national training, networking events and advocacy opportunities.
Approximate Cost: \$7,000 in FFY 2016

No member was supported in attending a national training event this quarter.

Goal 2 Policies and practice will lead to improved quality of community-based supports and services for Louisianans with developmental disabilities.

Objective 2.1 The quality of services to people with developmental disabilities in Louisiana will improve as a result of better informed individuals and families and market-driven providers.

Activity 2.1.1 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.) to assist individuals and families in making informed choices.
Accomplished in FFY 2012

Activity 2.1.2 Advocate for sharing provider data online to assist individuals and families in making informed choices regarding waiver providers.
Accomplished in FFY 2015

Activity 2.1.3 Monitor the restructuring of long-term supports and services to a managed care system and advocate for increased quality of services to be included in the reorganized system.

DHH is no longer pursuing MLTSS under the current administration.

Previous quarters:

Sent a letter to Governor Jindal urging him to release the Request for Proposals (RFP) for Managed Long Term Supports and Services (MLTSS) as written and sent a letter to CMS expressing concerns over the delay in the RFP release and the possible exclusion of nursing homes in MLTSS.

At the MLTSS Advisory Council meetings, Council staff expressed the importance of independent support coordination. Sent a letter to DHH and advocated during the OCDD System Transformation Core Group meeting for an expanded and improved system of supports and services with specific recommendations. Disseminated a LaDDC News article with these comments and encouraged individuals and families to submit their own recommendations to DHH.

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 Advocate for

- competitive compensation to retain a viable stable qualified workforce of DSPs in Louisiana and
- the dedication of a certain percentage of the HCBS rate to DSP costs (based on provider cost reports).

No activity this quarter.

Previous quarters:

Developed a fact sheet and presented information on the inadequacy of the waiver rates to support a living wage for DSPs to legislators at nine legislative roundtables. DHH is looking at home and community-based rate reimbursement methodology and the feasibility of doing cost reports versus obtaining other information.

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

Activity 2.2.2 Promote the vocation of DSPs by recognizing their important work through the funding of a media campaign.

Approximate Cost: \$10,000 in FFY 2016

Council members identified individuals, families and DSPs who may be interested in taking part in the videos for this campaign. This media campaign will launch in the summer/fall leading up to DSP Appreciation Week in September 2016.

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

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.)

A letter was sent to members of the La Support Coordination Alliance (LSCA) December 8 sharing the benefits of self-direction and asking for their support in promoting this model of service delivery. A response was received from LSCA December 11 expressing their commitment to working with the Council on this and other initiatives to improve the delivery of home and community based services and requesting a meeting to discuss any barriers to services.

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

Objective 2.5 People with developmental disabilities living in their own homes will be kept safe and their rights will be protected.

Activity 2.5.1 Provide financial support for a SIL ombudsman pilot program in Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, and St. Bernard Parishes.
Accomplished in FFY 2014

Activity 2.5.2 Provide funding for a Court Appointed Advocates for Vulnerable Adults Program to investigate and provide assistance for vulnerable adults (i.e. a person, eighteen years of age or older, who is a victim of abuse, neglect or exploitation, or who has a disability) who are subject to court proceedings.
Accomplished in FFY 2014

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 2016

LaCAN's listserv is currently at 2,494. This is an increase of 64 since October 1, 2015. LaCAN Leaders are collaborating with LaTEACH and Families Helping Families to host nine Legislative Roundtables in January - February 2016.

Advocacy Activities

- One Action Alert on December 9, 2015 encouraging members to send a card or personal note to their legislators with Holiday Greetings.
- LaCAN Leaders completed six legislative visits as of December 16, 2015.

Update on Leader Positions

- Recruitment efforts are under way to fill three LaCAN Leader vacancies in Regions 1, 4, and 10.

On target: Initiative Expenditures

Activity 3.1.2 Collaborate with other advocacy groups to plan and support Disability Rights Day.
Approximate Cost: \$5,000 in FFY 2016

No activity this quarter. The date for this event will be announced after the first of the new year.

On target: Initiative Expenditures

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

The Council leadership meets quarterly with DHH Secretary Kathy Kliebert and OCDD Assistant Secretary Mark Thomas to advocate for systems change initiatives. Items discussed this quarter included concerns regarding lack of consistent service provision by the Local Governing Entities (LGEs) across the state; the new overtime rule impacting Direct Support Professionals (DSPs); DHH's plans to address issues in the DD system Managed Long Term Supports and Services (MLTSS) was designed to fix (support coordination, Money Follows the Person, the waiting list); housing shortage for people with developmental disabilities; 200 NOW slots included in DHH's budget request; the status of administrative rule on allowable use of Act 378 funds; Home and Community Based Services Settings Rule and its impact on sheltered workshops/ employment; and frozen waiver slots.

In previous quarters Council staff advocated for systems change initiatives through its representation on the OCDD System Transformation Core Work Group but this group is no longer meeting.

On target: Effort Satisfactory Progress

Activity 3.1.4 Monitor the possible restructuring of long-term supports and services to a managed care system and advocate for an increased quantity of services to be included in the reorganized system.

No activity this quarter. DHH is no longer pursuing MLTSS under the current administration.

Previous quarters:

Advocated for an expanded and improved system of supports during the OCDD System Transformation Core Group meeting. Sent a letter to DHH advocating for an expanded and improved system of supports and services and included recommendations on specific components in DHH's draft plan for the new system. Disseminated a LaDDC News article with these comments and encouraged individuals and families to submit their own recommendations to DHH.

On target: Effort Satisfactory Progress

Objective 3.2 Admissions to residential facilities will decrease by increasing access to behavioral and medical intervention in the community and the discontinuation of people adjudicated into state-operated facilities.

- Activity 3.2.1** Advocate in collaboration with the Advocacy Center for
- additional providers with specialized expertise in behavioral services;
 - the development of plan upon admission that includes specific activities, persons responsible and timelines for discharge or transition; 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. **Accomplished in FFY 2015**

No activity this quarter.

Previous quarters:

In quarterly meeting with DHH Secretary Kliebert, advocated for an increased rate to serve people with challenging needs. Council staff advocated in meetings of the Managed Long Term Supports and Services Advisory Council and OCDD System Transformation Core Group for behavioral health professionals with expertise and experience serving people with developmental disabilities to be available to people with developmental disabilities.

Feedback received from individuals with developmental disabilities and their families on their experience accessing behavioral health services was sent via email to the Medicaid staff at DHH.

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

Activity 3.2.2 Monitor access to behavioral health services after the shift from Magellan to Bayou Health.

Council staff participated in and shared information about the OCDD/Medicaid webinar on this topic via LaDDC News and Facebook on October 27, 2015.

On target: **Initiative**

Activity 3.2.3 Advocate for Self-direction to be exempted from medication administration requirements.
Accomplished in FFY 2015

Activity 3.2.4 Advocate for adequate rates that support services for people with complex medical and behavioral needs.

No activity this quarter.

Previous quarters:

In the Council's quarterly meeting with DHH Secretary Kliebert, advocated for an increased rate to serve people with challenging needs.

Developed a fact sheet and presented information on the inadequacy of the waiver rates to support a living wage for DSPs to legislators. DHH is looking at home and community-based rate reimbursement methodology and the feasibility of doing cost reports versus obtaining other information.

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

- the MFP grant program to target residents of private ICFs/DD.
Accomplished in FFY 2012

Activity 3.3.2 Advocate for initiatives that allow residents of private ICFs/DD to obtain waiver services.

"Money follows the person" was discussed during the Council's quarterly meeting with the DHH Secretary. A certain # of slots could be designated in the NOW for people on the waiting list who are living in private ICFs/DD. The vacated beds would not necessarily be backfilled due to the lack of demand. If the beds are not filled, the money previously used to support the people in those facilities could be transferred to fund their waiver services. The Council needs to work with DHH to bring this to fruition.

Previous quarters:

Council staff advocated for people to be able to move into their own homes by having funding allocated for institutional services follow the individual into the community in every meeting of the OCDD System Transformation Core Group.

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 in FFY 2012

Activity 3.4.2 Monitor collaborative efforts of OCDD and LDOE for the following: to identify gaps in educational services and services provided through OCDD and potential supports to children and families to maximize the benefits of education to developmental disabilities services for children with orthopedic and other severe significant disabilities such that children currently residing at the La. Special Education Center are able to receive special education services in their least restricted environment possible.

No activity this quarter.

Previous quarters:

OCDD sent a list generated from the criteria established between OCDD and the LA Special Education Center (LSEC) (diagnosis codes, service utilization, waiver status) of approximately 700 children to the LSEC Director on September 22nd. LSEC will match the children from Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) data to determine the services and location of services provided by the LDOE. The profile will be developed from the matching of the lists.

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

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

Accomplished in FFY 2015

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 financial support (from state general funds) and technical assistance to nine Families Helping Families Regional Resource Centers across the state.

Families Helping Families (FHF) Resource Centers assisted 4,413 individuals and families with information, referral, or other support since October 1, 2015.

There were a total of 25,480 individuals and families assisted during FFY 2015 (October 2014 – September 2015).

On target: **Initiative**

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

There were a total of 165 outreach activities to hospitals and health care providers to inform them of resources available during FFY 2015 (October 2014 – September 2015).

On target: Initiative

Activity 4.1.3 Provide information important to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families through a variety of electronic and social media (Council website, facebook, LaDDC News, etc.).

Information was shared through a variety of media on issues including: the Council's Five Year Plan for 2017-2021, National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM), the 2015 Elections and voter resources, the new overtime rule for direct support professionals (DSPs), the transition of behavioral health services to Bayou Health, the freeze on filling home and community-based waiver slots, inclusive education and the 40th Anniversary of IDEA, as well as, the promotion of the 2015 Advocacy Leadership Conference, and opportunities to apply for LaCAN/LaTEACH Leadership.

LaDDC News (as of 12/15/2015)

- 1,413 current subscribers

Facebook (as of 12/15/2015)

- Council – 1,301 Likes, increase of 61 since October 1, 2015
- LaCAN – 913 Likes, increase of 24 since October 1, 2015
- LaTEACH – 514 Likes, increase of 24 since October 1, 2015

YouTube

- No new videos posted since October 1, 2015

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.

Council staff met with Mark Thomas and the OCDD Leadership to discuss the need for consistent implementation of policy across Local Governing Entities (LGEs) related to Act 378 programs and the need for fair representation of developmental disability service professionals and recipients on all LGE Boards.

Fact sheets related to the need for increased funding for home and community-based waiver slots, the Individual and Family Support Program, and Louisiana

Rehabilitation Services' Vocational Rehabilitation Program have been developed and are posted on the Council's website. These fact sheets are also being used in legislative visits around the state to educate policymakers on the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities prior to the 2016 Legislative Session.

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 health services for individuals with developmental disabilities will increase.

Activity 6.1.1 Advocate for DHH to implement a process of health data analysis for individuals served.

The Council began participating in the Bayou Health Quality Committee December 14. Participation in the committee will provide a new platform for advocacy regarding health outcomes and data analysis.

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

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.

Accomplished in FFY 2014

Activity 6.1.3 Provide support for the modification of a curriculum for Continuing Nurse Education that provides an understanding of treating individuals with developmental disabilities.

Accomplished in FFY 2015

Activity 6.1.4 Provide support for the modification of a curriculum for Dental and Dental Hygienist students and Continuing Dental Education that provides an understanding of treating individuals with developmental disabilities.

Accomplished in FFY 2015

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.).
Accomplished in FFY 2012

Objective 6.3 Individuals with developmental disabilities will have increased access to dental services.

Activity 6.3.1 Advocate for the Louisiana Oral Health Coalition Plan to be amended to include increased access to dental services for people with developmental disabilities.

No activity this quarter.
On target: **Effort** **Satisfactory Progress**

Activity 6.3.2 Disseminate information about where people can get free and/or reduced cost dental services.

No activity this quarter.
On target: **Effort** **Satisfactory Progress**

Activity 6.3.3 Identify dentists who have participated in training (6.1.4) and disseminate the information to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

No activity this quarter.
On target: **Effort** **Satisfactory Progress**

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 2016

The **LaTEACH** listserv had 1738 members on October 1, 2015 and has increased by 24 for a total of 1,762 members as of December 14, 2015.

Advocacy Activities

LaTEACH members took action this period on education policies related to distribution of local funds to charter schools based on student needs

- In October, 2 Action Alerts resulted in 88 total confirmed instances of members taking action and 2 Purple Shirt Days had 4 members attending Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) meetings and 4 members attending the MFP (funding) Task Force meeting.

Results of Advocacy

- LaTEACH advocacy has helped MFP Task Force Committee members recognize the discrepancy with LDOE's interpretation of the law for distribution of the local share of education funding. The MFP Task Force voted on December 2, 2015 to request LDOE work in collaboration with the DD Council in seeking an expedited opinion from the Attorney General's office regarding distributions of local funding shares to charter schools.

Leader Positions

- Recruitment to fill LaTEACH vacancies in Regions 1/10, 3, 4, 7 & 8 continues.
- There is interest in Regions 1/10 and 7.
- Interviews were conducted in Region 1/10.

On target: Initiative Expenditures

Activity 7.1.2 The Council will be represented on a variety of education policy-making/advisory bodies and support stakeholders who serve on boards.

The Council is represented on the Louisiana Council for Exceptional Children, the Special Education Advisory Panel, the State Systemic Improvement Plan, and the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) 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.

Council staff have engaged in numerous activities to build the capacity and advocate for policies and implementation of alternative pathways for students with disabilities to be promoted and graduate.

Recent information provided was related to issues caused by delays in schools receiving data on student performance on standardized assessments, one of the ways students may meet eligibility requirements for alternate pathways to promotion and graduation.

Provided LDOE a draft report on the issues related to graduation rates and participated in a conference call with LDOE staff on the report required by HR209 of 2015.

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

Activity 7.2.2 Provide information on and monitor the appropriate implementation of Act 833 of 2014.

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 local education agencies (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.

Council members and staff advocated at BESE for charter school performance compact agreements to include as a critical indicator the requirement of a rate of students with disabilities equal to at least 85% of the rate found in traditional school systems.

Previous quarter:

Advocacy occurred for equitable funding and accountability measures across all schools. Advocacy resulted in a change in law (Act 467of 2015) requiring charter schools to approximate the percentage of students with disabilities served in traditional public schools and for BESE to develop and administer a process for determining if a charter school is meeting these student enrollment requirements of students with disabilities and to investigate schools that fail to meet the requirements.

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

Activity 7.3.2 Advocate for financial and accountability structures that support the inclusion of all students, including young children in Early Childhood settings.

Council staff advocated for BESE to allocate local revenue shares to charter schools in accordance with the MFP weighted student formula (July 2015). LDOE disagrees. The MFP Task Force (12/2/15) requested for LDOE to work with the DD Council in seeking an expedited opinion from the Attorney General regarding the LDOE disregard for following language in law specifying how local funds should be allocated to charter schools. Council staff requested LDOE to include in its request to the AG office the legal citation justifying the LDOE calculation of local funding amounts to charter schools and how sections of the law referencing 'following sources' can be interpreted to not apply to those subsequent subsections within the statute (law). Over two weeks have passed since the request for an expedited AG opinion without LDOE issuing a request for an opinion letter.

Previous quarters:

For over four years, Council staff have repeatedly advocated to BESE to use an equitable funding formula across all school systems. In 2012, HCR 124 passed requesting LDOE and BESE study the issue of inequitable funding and address it as soon as possible. Throughout three years of multiple MFP Task Force meetings each year, this December (2015) was the first time the MFP Task Force agenda included the funding inequity issue. In 2015, Act 467 passed clarifying charter school allocations, state and local shares, should be based on the same weighted student calculations used in the MFP funding formula.

Advocacy efforts have resulted in a proposal by LDOE for diplomas earned by students assessed with LAA-1 to count in school performance scores.

The Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) Task Force parent representative was changed to include a LaTEACH leader. LaTEACH and the Council continue to advocate for:

- the need for funding to be based on a student's need,
- the same formula to be used across all schools so adequate funding will truly follow the child, and
- the elimination of financial incentives for not serving students with the highest cost needs.

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

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

Activity 7.4.1 Monitor and advocate as necessary against the use of harmful practices (e.g., restraint and seclusion, corporal punishment, unnecessary use of law enforcement, etc.) and advocate for alternative positive evidence based options (e.g., positive behavior practices, etc.) and policies and practices that promote the safe and effective practices in collaboration with the Advocacy Center.

Council staff requested data on the number of incidents of restraint and seclusion from LDOE. Law requires LDOE to collect and analyze such data. It appears LDOE has not been collecting nor analyzing data related to these practices. It is not clear how LDOE produced reports on instances of restraints and seclusion from the 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 school years since there has not been a mechanism to collect data from local school systems. Requests by the Council for this data did not yield sufficient information or responses from LDOE. Council staff discussed this issue with legislators who expressed interest in possibly clarifying LDOE responsibilities and tweaking other elements of the law.

Council staff provided LDOE with recommendations for data elements on restraints and seclusion to consider collecting.

Provided information and technical assistance to multiple parents and stakeholders experiencing issues with undocumented and potentially unlawful instances of restraints and seclusion.

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 Provide funding for training/mentoring in the Early Intervention Primary Service Provider Model including implementation of accountability measures.

Approximate Cost: \$30,000 in FFY 2016

The **Early Intervention Primary Service Provider (PSP) Training and Coaching** project began with 90 active children; added five additional children during October and November; and held seven Arc team meetings. Participating children received individualized PSP service through which coaching activities were provided for team members and caregivers to support them in providing individualized support to enhance each child's development within their daily routines.

Data collection continued in Region 2 and began in portions of Region 9 (Livingston Parish) with 3 children and families. Additional data collection activities focused on review of documents to identify data related to the accomplishment of Individualized Family Support Plan (IFSP) outcomes and the time frame outcomes were accomplished for the first set of participants.

The project continues to collaborate with EarlySteps to work on an implementation plan. A proposal with some initial data analysis, including preliminary cost, will be submitted to DHH for a PSP EarlySteps pilot project

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

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,
- LRS and OCDD will collaborate to mandate that all supported employment vendors/providers complete a university-based, 40-hour training. **Accomplished** (fourth bullet only)
- 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. **Accomplished** (fifth bullet only)

Council staff advocated for increased collaboration with redevelopment of the workforce development system in Louisiana related to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

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.

Accomplished in FFY 2012

Activity 9.1.3

Provide funding for provision of the LRS-required training in the 40-hour Supported Employment Core Curriculum and the development and provision of a competency-based mentoring program for Employment Support Professionals who have completed the required 40-hour training.

Accomplished in FFY 2015

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
Accomplished in FFY 2012

Activity 9.2.2 Provide funding for a paid apprenticeship program for individuals with developmental disabilities.
Approximate Cost: \$60,000 in FFY 2016

The Council was informed by the contractor it had accessed significant funding from another source and that they required a lesser amount from the Council. This change reduced the maximum contract amount to \$20,619.

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

Activity 9.2.3 Advocate for measures to enhance and ensure the quality of supported employment services through

- certification of Employment Support Professionals (ESPs), and
- a system of accountability to include outcomes-based monitoring and a complaint process.

No activity this quarter.

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.

Fact sheets for LRS were updated.

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

Activity 9.3.2 Assist Louisiana Rehabilitation Services in promoting partnerships with Local Education Agencies to utilize local and state education funds as match for the federal Vocational Rehabilitation grant.

No activity this quarter.

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.

Accomplished in FFY 2013

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

Accomplished 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.

Activity 10.1.1 Provide funding to support training and technical assistance that builds the capacity of a city or parish recreation department supporting children with disabilities, including those who need positive behavior support, to participate in recreational activities offered to the general public.

Accomplished in FFY 2012

Activity 10.1.2 Promote examples of and guidance for adults involved in inclusive recreational/leisure activities.

No activity this quarter. A LaDDC News article is being drafted on this topic to share in January 2016.

On target: Effort Satisfactory Progress

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.

Accomplished in FFY 2013

Activity 11.1.2 Advocate for Medicaid funds supporting children in Pediatric Day Health Care Centers to be used to support children in inclusive settings.

No activity this quarter.

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