

Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council

Status of FFY 2015 Activities

As applicable, data is presented year-to-date and quarterly (June 1, 2015 – August 31, 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 about ABLE Act regulations open for public comment, the 2015 Advocacy Leadership Conference, and the 2016 Partners in Policymaking program. An easy-to-understand document on parliamentary procedure was shared with PFL for possible use with their board meetings.

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 regarding recruitment of applications for the DD Council from the Shreveport, Monroe, and Northshore areas.

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 2015

Despite recruitment for the 2016 Partners in Policymaking class via press release, Facebook, webinar, newsletters, and outreach at meetings, only 15 applications were received as of the September 30th deadline. Unless a sufficient number of applications are received via the U.S. Postal Service with a postmarked date of September 30th, a 2016 Partners class will not be held.

Partners Graduates in Advocacy

- 159 graduates on the Partners in Policymaking Alumni Facebook page (15 new).
- Class of 2015 remains active on their private group Facebook page with updates on their activities with their school systems.
- 11 graduates currently serve on the DD Council.
- 4 graduates serve as LaCAN and/or LaTEACH Leaders; 2 serve as FHF Directors.
- 10 graduates confirmed action to LaTEACH alerts
- 3 of the 5 LaTEACH members who attended BESE in August are graduates
- 11 graduates confirmed action to LaCAN alerts
- Graduates on other boards & committees (10)
 - OCDD Region 9 Regional Advisory Committee (4)
 - OCDD State Advisory Board (1)
 - Special Education Advisory Panel (2)
 - Families Helping Families Boards (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 2015

One Council member, April Dunn, graduated with the 2015 Partners in Policymaking 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.

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: \$18,000 in FFY 2015

Twenty individuals with developmental disabilities and family members received stipends through Families Helping Families to attend a conference or workshop since January 1, 2015. Since October 1, 2014, 45 stipends have been awarded.

On target: Initiative Expenditures

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

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 2015

No stipends were provided this quarter and only one for \$85 was used this FFY. The balance is \$2,915.

Activity 1.5.3 Support the Council leadership's participation in national training, networking events and advocacy opportunities.
Approximate Cost: \$7,000 in FFY 2015

Michelle Hurst participated in the National Association of Developmental Disabilities Annual Conference and ITACC Technical Assistance Event in Sparks, Nevada from July 20-23.

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.

No activity this quarter. Provider questionnaires are available for use on the Freedom of Choice website <http://www.dhh.louisiana.gov/index.cfm/page/141>). Participation is voluntary and only 52 providers have chosen to participate, making what could have been a very beneficial tool for individuals/families somewhat meaningless. Providers who have submitted a questionnaire are marked with an asterisk; however, this information is not prominently displayed for individuals/families.

Previous quarters:

A LaDDC News article was disseminated encouraging individuals/families to ask providers if they have completed the questionnaire and encourage those who have not to do so in a previous quarter.

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

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.

No activity this quarter. 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) with nursing homes included as recommended by DHH, the MLTSS Advisory Council, the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS), and all national disability groups. 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 advocating 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. Council staff also advocated for an expanded and improved system of supports during the OCDD System Transformation Core Group meeting.

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
- 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*

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**

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.)

No activity this quarter.

Previous quarters:

An LaDDC News article was disseminated on “Common Misconceptions about Self-Direction.” Council staff advocated for OCDD to issue a communication to correct misinformation regarding the availability of self-direction being provided to individuals/families by some support coordinators and LGE staff. The Council’s Fact Sheet on Self-Direction was posted on Facebook.

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 2015

LaCAN's listserv is currently at 2,420. This is an increase of 144 since October 1, 2014.

Advocacy Activities

- Since October 1st, 7 Action Alerts resulted in 1,641 confirmed actions, 6 Yellow Shirt Days with 135 members in attendance, 9 Regional Roundtables with 416 members/policymakers in attendance.

Results of Advocacy

- \$3.5 Million in SGF (\$9.25 Million total funding) to fill frozen waiver slots for individuals with developmental disabilities
- \$170,000 restored to Families Helping Families Centers
- \$500,000 added to EarlySteps (movement of these funds to Individual and Family Support is pending)

Capacity Building Activities

- Legislative Debriefing on June 25th for LaCAN, LaTEACH, and FHF Leaders. Discussed the results of advocacy efforts during the 2015 Legislative Session and ideas for improving advocacy effectiveness.
- LaCAN Leader Training on August 19th to enhance leaders' skills in supporting grassroots advocacy members and develop their knowledge of relevant issues.
- Legislative Kickoff on September 16th where LaCAN, LaTEACH, and FHF Leaders prioritized recommendations for FY16 legislative advocacy agenda items following Council staff sharing the state of the state of home and community-based services and education.

Update on Leader Positions

- Two LaCAN Team Leaders were hired during the last quarter: Julie Folse is the Leader in Region 3. Henry Bateman is the Leader in Region 8. An employment contract is pending for a Leader in Region 4.
- Recruitment efforts are under way to fill the two LaCAN Team Leader vacancies in Regions 1 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 2015

No activity this quarter.

Previous quarter:

398 advocates participated in the 2015 Disability Rights Day, held April 29, 2015.

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 the filling of waiver slots, the status of MLTSS, the use of Act 378 funds and policy issues, moving the \$500,000 from EarlySteps to Individual and Family Support, and an enhanced rate for people with challenging needs in the Residential Options Waiver.

Council staff also advocates for systems change initiatives through its representation on the OCDD System Transformation Core Work Group but this group did not meet this quarter.

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.

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

Previous quarters:

Council staff advocates 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 Advocate for Self-direction to be exempted from medication administration requirements.

The Louisiana State Board of Nursing (LSBN) Board of Directors approved the medication assessment tool and the on-line training course for staff in the self-directed programs on 8/13/15. More information is provided in OCDD's report.

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

Activity 3.2.3 Advocate for adequate rates that support services for people with complex medical and behavioral needs.

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

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. 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.

No activity this quarter. This issue is on the agenda for the next quarterly meeting with the DHH Secretary.

Previous quarters:

Council staff advocates 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 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.

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.

No activity this quarter or FFY. Council staff provided information to BESE on this issue in January 2014.

On target: **Initiative**

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 5,972 individuals and families with information, referral, or other support this quarter for a total of 23,581 since October 1, 2014.

On target: **Initiative**

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

FHF Centers completed 15 outreach activities to hospitals and health care providers to inform them of resources available this quarter for a total of 115 since October 1, 2014.

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 changes to behavioral health services in Louisiana, ABLE accounts, voter registration, the 25th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), as well as, the promotion of Partners in Policymaking, the upcoming Advocacy Leadership Conference, and opportunities to apply for LaCAN/LaTEACH Leadership and Council membership.

LaDDC News

- Currently has 1,396 subscribers

Facebook

- Council – 1230 Likes, increase of 115 since January 1, 2015
- LaCAN – 887 Likes, increase of 152 since January 1, 2015
- LaTEACH – 490 Likes, increase of 87 since January 1, 2015

YouTube

- Three videos were posted to promote integrated, competitive employment of individuals with developmental disabilities.

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 advocated for the transfer of funding to Local Governing Entities (LGEs) that could not fund their Priority 1 and 2 Individual and Family Support requests. Movement of these funds is pending.

Discussions continue regarding inconsistent policy implementation of Act 378 programs. This issue is on the agenda for the next quarterly meeting with Secretary Kliebert.

Previous quarters:

Council leadership discussed concerns over the use of Act 378 funds with DHH Secretary Kathy Kliebert resulting in the Secretary sending a letter to all LGEs with the expectation of how the funds are/are not to be used.

A letter was sent to Capital Area Human Services District regarding the use of Act 378 funds on a civil service employee salary. This will no longer be done effective July 1, 2015.

The funding for Families Helping Families was restored to the budget by the legislature. Individual and Family Support funds that were cut were not restored.

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.

No activity this quarter.

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.
Approximate Cost: \$6,000 for 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.
Approximate Cost: \$46,000 for FFY 2015

Progress for Activity 6.1.3 and Activity 6.1.4

The DD Curricula for Health Care Providers Project has requested a 90-day extension to complete the following.

- Establish with LSU Dental School the requirements for accreditation of continuing education modules.
- Finalize first module for functionality and establish with LSU Dental School a process for post-test and evaluation to issue continuing dental education units.
- Review dental curriculum module 1 by subject matter expert.
- Development of dental curriculum module 2 (25% complete).

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.).

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.

Council staff again advocated to Coalition leadership to include “increased access to dental services for people with developmental disabilities” in its plan. Council staff also expressed to the leadership the value of the Coalition in taking a more assertive role in relevant public policy issues.

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 2015

LaTEACH’s listserv is currently at 1,735. This is an increase of 164 since October 1, 2014.

Advocacy Activities

- LaTEACH members took action this period on education policies related to charter schools/equitable funding formula, enrollment of students with disabilities in charter school performance compacts, and parental voice in policies.

- Since October 1st, 25 Action Alerts resulted in 1,024 confirmed actions, 16 Purple Shirt Days with 88 members in attendance, 9 Regional Roundtables with 416 members/policymakers in attendance.
- LaTEACH members attended meetings this period of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE).

Results of Advocacy

- Senate Bill 267 of 2015 by Senator Dan Claitor resulted in shifts of over seven million dollars from charter schools to traditional school systems by requiring the same funding formula to apply to all schools. LDOE/BESE only adjusted the formula for the state, not local, share of funding to charter schools. The actual impact is expected to double when LDOE/BESE applies the same funding formula across the local share of the Minimum Foundation Program to charter schools.

Capacity Building Activities

- Legislative Debriefing on June 25th for LaCAN, LaTEACH, and FHF Leaders. Discussed the results of advocacy efforts during the 2015 Legislative Session and ideas for improving advocacy effectiveness.
- LaTEACH Leader Training on August 14-15th to enhance leaders' skills in supporting grassroots advocacy members and develop their knowledge of relevant issues.
- Legislative Kickoff on September 16th where LaCAN, LaTEACH, and FHF Leaders prioritized recommendations for FY16 Legislative advocacy agenda items following Council staff sharing the state of the state of home and community-based services and education.

Leader Positions

- There have been several changes in LaTEACH Leaders since May including the addition of Mylinda Elliot in Region 5, Melissa Brousette in Region 6 and Tammy Roblez returned as the leader in Region 9. An employment contract is pending for a Leader in Region 4.
- Recruitment to fill LaTEACH vacancies in Regions 1/10, 3, 7 & 8 is underway.

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. These activities include:

- Developed and maintain a section on the Council’s website to provide information, updates, sample documents, training materials and videos
- Convened Act 833 Leadership Steering Committee meetings.
- Provided presentations at six FHF Education Conferences.
- Participated in numerous phone calls with other advocates and LDOE staff to provide feedback on materials and information presented in LDOE webinars.
- Participated in LSU-HDC stakeholder meetings to provide feedback on materials for training series on special education (IEPs).
- Participated in phone conference with LDOE, Representative Schroder and Senator Claitor regarding data on students eligible and exiting school through Act 833.

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 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 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.

Council staff advocated for BESE to

- Correct 2014-2015 MFP distributions in accordance with simulation data provided by LDOE in May. BESE avoided action on the request by accepting Superintendent White's offer to have LDOE develop a legal opinion of when laws go into effect, which is available online [here](#) or specific to Act 467 [here](#).
- Allocate local revenues to charter schools in accordance with the MFP weighted student formula. LDOE disagrees with the math used in making state allocations and other legal interpretations of statute dictating how local funding should be allocated to charter schools.

Previous quarters:

Advocated to increase the amount of the High-Cost Fund pool by \$10 million in the Minimum Foundation Program to cover the full amount of requests from school systems. While this additional amount was not added, BESE did pass the MFP with an increase of \$5.4 million to the High-Cost Fund.

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.

Provided information and technical assistance to multiple parents and stakeholders experiencing issues with undocumented instances of restraints and seclusion, removal from school, and change in placement (Hospital/Homebound) without appropriate medical certification.

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 2015

The **Early Intervention Primary Service Provider (PSP) Training and Coaching** project added 24 children and family members this period for a total of 158 participants since October 1, 2014. Data collection has expanded to Region 9. Collaboration with EarlySteps continues to analyze data collected and begin preliminary research results.

- 10 team meetings this period (37 total)
- 1 PSP training in Region 9 (25 EarlySteps Providers)
- Coaching activities for children included feeding techniques, speech therapy techniques, sitting/ crawling/ walking strategies, techniques to improve fine motor skills, and support for sensory issues.
- Family assistance included processing of SSI, respite and housing supports, follow through on strategies to improve arm use, strategies to redirect tantrums, language assessment, and hearing tests and supports.

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 incentivizing competitive, integrated, individualized employment services, increased third party agreements between local education agencies and Louisiana Rehabilitation Services.

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.

Approximate Cost: \$60,000 in FFY 2015

Four agencies participate in the **Supported Employment Mentoring Program**. Activity data since October 1, 2014 is included below. Additionally, in the interest of continuity, the program continues to provide TA to agencies mentored in the prior year.

Participants (unduplicated)

Employment Specialist Professionals (ESPs) participating: 26

Job seekers participating: 85

Job seekers achieving outcomes: 39

Training and Mentoring (this period; year to date)

Supported Employment: 5; 19)

Mentoring hours: (105: 478)

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

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

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.

The budget approved for the 2015 State Fiscal Year includes level funding for LRS. Council staff advocates for funding through Louisiana Rehabilitation Council activities.

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

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