

# Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council

## Status of FFY 2016 Activities

As applicable, data is presented year-to-date and quarterly (June 1, 2016 – August 31, 2016).

### 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.

Council staff shared information with People First of Louisiana and the Arc of Louisiana about Partners in Policymaking regional workshops.

**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.

Council staff shared information with People First of Louisiana and the Arc of Louisiana on vacancies on the Florida Parishes Human Services Authority Regional Advisory Council. Information was shared statewide seeking applicants with developmental disabilities for DD Council membership.

**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: \$58,000 in FFY 2016**

The final two **Partners** regional workshops (Pineville and Monroe) were held in September on Supported Employment. A total of 43 people attended, including 4 Self-Advocates, 10 Parents/Family members, and 29 Other/Professionals.

To date, 34 applications for the 2017 **Partners in Policymaking** class have been received. Applications were due September 30.

#### Partners Graduates in Advocacy

- 154 Graduates are active on the Partners' alumni page as of September 23.
- 10 graduates currently serve on the DD Council
- 4 graduates serve as Regional Advocacy Leaders; 2 serve as FHF Directors.
- The Partners Coordinator met with Senator Donahue, Erin Bendily and Jamie Wong (LDOE) to discuss Act 522 (i.e., how the data on restraint and seclusion will be distributed to the public) and the Advisory Council on Student Behavior and Discipline that was established as a result of the Act.
- The Partners Coordinator and a Partners graduate advocated at a DD Council meeting and a Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP) meeting about the need for parent involvement in special education monitoring.
- The Partners Coordinator and a Partners graduate attended the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities Conference in Washington, D. C. They also met with Congressman Graves, Congressman Scalise and Senator Cassidy sharing their concerns regarding Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and the optional waiver program at the federal level.
- Graduates on other boards & committees (number of graduates)
  - ABLÉ Account Authority (2)
  - Advocacy Center Board of Directors (2)
  - Community and Family and Support Task force (7)
  - Governor's Advisory Council on Disability Affairs (2)
  - Louisiana Commission for the Deaf (1)
  - LSU Human Development Center Consumer Advisory Council (4)
  - Louisiana Statewide Independent Living Council (3)
  - Louisiana Statewide Interagency Coordinating Council (2)
  - OCDD State Advisory Council (2)
  - People First of LA Board of Directors (2)
  - Special Education Advisory Panel (2)
- Graduates confirmed actions:
  - LaTEACH: Alerts, 21; Purple Shirt Days, 12
  - LaCAN: Alerts, 15

**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**

Two Council members have applied for the 2017 Partners in Policymaking class.

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

The Advocacy Leadership Conference: "Creating a Meaningful Life" was held on Thursday, November 19, 2015.

**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.

The Council provided registration costs for seven self-advocates and three parents to attend REACH 2015 in December.

**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**

April Dunn participated in the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD) Technical Institute on July 5<sup>th</sup> and the National Association of Developmental Disabilities Councils Annual Conference from July 6-8, 2016 in Washington D.C.

**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.

No activity this quarter.

Previous quarters:

Met with Representative Walt Leger regarding HB790.

Sent a letter to Governor Jindal urging him to release the Request for Proposals (RFP) for MLTSS for the population served by the Office of Aging and Adult Services 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.

Advocated at the MLTSS Advisory Council meetings, the OCDD System Transformation Core Group meetings, with the DHH leadership for an expanded

and improved system of supports and services with specific recommendations and disseminated these recommendations to the Council's constituency.

**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 the 2015 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**

The DSP social media campaign began in July and ran through DSP Recognition Week September 11 - 17. Four professional videos were produced to highlight the valuable work of direct support professionals and their positive impact on the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities. These videos were produced and aired on television by Hometown Productions for \$7,500. The Council also shared over 25 Facebook posts to recognize and raise public awareness of the importance of the direct support profession. These posts were promoted on Facebook at a cost of \$1,400 with a target audience of Louisiana residents ages 18 to 65. As of September 19, 2016, these posts had a reach of 178,407 views and generated over 6,476 responses ('likes', 'loves', 'wows', etc.), 717 shares, and 206 comments. Comments included individuals praising the work of DSPs, discussing the need for higher rates of pay, and asking about how to acquire DSP services for a loved one or employment as a DSP.

**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.)

An LaDDC News article highlighted the change of fiscal agent for waiver recipients in self-direction from Acumen to PALCO.

Previous quarters:

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. Council staff met with members of LSCA on February 16 and they agreed to better promote self-direction.

**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 2,560. This is an increase of 66 since October 1, 2015.

#### Advocacy Activities

- LaCAN Leaders will be conducting legislative visits through October 2016 with a focus on building relationships with policymakers throughout the region. As of September 21, 2016, 17 visits (12%) have been completed.

#### Capacity Building Activities

- Legislative Debriefing was hosted on June 29, 2016 and attended by leaders of LaCAN, LaTEACH, and FHF Directors. Discussion was held regarding results of advocacy efforts during the 2016 Legislative Sessions and ideas for improving advocacy effectiveness.
- LaCAN Summer Leader Training was hosted on August 4, 2016. This was the first training combining LaCAN and LaTEACH leaders in preparation for the merger of both networks. Leaders engaged in activities to enhance their skills in developing and supporting grassroots advocacy members as well as developing relationships with policymakers.
- Legislative Kickoff was hosted on September 22, 2016 and attended by leaders of LaCAN, LaTEACH, and FHF Directors. Council staff shared information on the state of the state for both home and community-based services, employment, and education. Leaders and Directors then discussed and prioritized recommendations for the Council to consider for its legislative advocacy agenda for FY17.

#### Update on Leader Positions

- The Region 9 LaCAN Leader position was filled in August.
- Recruitment efforts are still underway to fill vacancies in Regions 8 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**

Disability Rights Day was held Tuesday, April 5, 2016, and was attended by 326 individuals including 97 self-advocates and 121 family members. Teams from each region visited legislators throughout the day sharing the message "We're not an OPTION. We're a PRIORITY" along with fact sheets detailing the importance and necessity of funding for various supports and services that people with disabilities need to live in their own homes and be fully participating members of their communities. A rally program was held at noon and included comments from Governor John Bel Edwards; Senator Gerald Boudreaux; Representative Frank Hoffman; Bambi Polotzola, parent advocate and Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs; Sandee Winchell; and Co-Masters of Ceremonies April Dunn and Micah Moscovis.

**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 met with LDH Secretary, Dr. Rebekah Gee, on July 5<sup>th</sup>. Issues discussed included a pilot program to offer ICF/DD residents on the waiver waiting list a ROW waiver opportunity, giving OCDD programmatic oversight of the ICFs/DD, the formation of the Community and Family Support Task Force, prioritization of the waiting list, and the tiered waiver.

In previous quarters, issues discussed included concerns regarding lack of consistent service provision by the Local Governing Entities (LGEs) across the state; MLTSS; the high rate of institutionalization in LA; budget cuts; the new overtime rule impacting Direct Support Professionals (DSPs); Money Follows the Person; housing shortage for people with developmental disabilities; Home and Community Based Services Settings Rule and its impact on sheltered workshops/employment; and frozen waiver slots.

**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.

Previous quarters:

Met with Representative Walt Leger regarding HB790.

Advocated for an expanded and improved system of supports during the OCDD System Transformation Core Group meeting.

**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 LDH leadership. **Accomplished in FFY 2015**



Sent a letter to Dr. Gee advocating for direct services with an enhanced rate be amended into all the DD waivers for people with the highest level of complex behavioral and/or medical support needs and that LDH seek funding for these services in its budget request for FY18. This issue is on the agenda for the Council's quarterly meeting with the Secretary on October 4<sup>th</sup>.

Previous quarters:

In quarterly meetings with DHH Secretary Kliebert and in other state level meetings, advocated for an increased rate to serve people with challenging needs.

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.

No activity this quarter.

Previous quarters:

No complaints have been received regarding lack of access to behavior health services. The name of Bayou Health has been changed to Healthy Louisiana. 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.

Sent a letter to Dr. Gee advocating for direct services with an enhanced rate be amended into all the DD waivers for people with the highest level of complex behavioral and/or medical support needs and that LDH seek funding for these services in its budget request for FY18. This issue is on the agenda for the Council's quarterly meeting with the Secretary on October 4<sup>th</sup>.

Previous quarters:

Advocated for an increased rate to serve people with challenging needs to DHH Secretary Kliebert.

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

**Activity 3.2.5** Provide financial support for the training of direct service professionals and providers on serving individuals with complex medical and behavioral needs.  
**Approximate Cost: \$70,000 in FFY 2016**

Twenty-one applications were received from providers interested in participating in the future rounds of training. Three providers are currently participating in the training program. There are expected to be unutilized expenditures due to a lower than expected number of Direct Support Professionals participating in the training from each provider agency and one provider agency withdrawing completely from the program due to complications with flooding in the Baton Rouge area.

**On target:**  Initiative  Expenditures

**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.

In the Council's quarterly meeting with Dr. Gee she approved a pilot program to offer 50 people on the waiver waiting list currently residing in an ICF/DD a ROW waiver opportunity (or Supports Waiver depending on their level of need).

Previous quarters:

"Money follows the person" was discussed frequently during the Council's quarterly meetings with the DHH Secretary and during the OCDD System Transformation Core Group meetings. This issue was also discussed with Rep. Walt Leger as one of the benefits of Managed Long Term Supports and Services.

**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 22<sup>nd</sup>. 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 5,120 individuals and families with information, referral, or other support this quarter for a total of 20,685 since October 1, 2015.

**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 a total of 64 outreach activities to hospitals, pediatricians, and health care providers to inform them of resources available this quarter for a total of 140 since October 1, 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: waiting lists for home and community-based services, inclusive education, resources for those affected by recent flooding, voting resources, employment and appropriate wages for individuals with developmental disabilities, Direct Support Professional recognition, Council-sponsored Advocacy Workshops (held in lieu of Partners in Policymaking), the LaCAN/LaTEACH merger, and opportunities to apply for LaCAN Leadership and Council membership.

LaDDC News (as of 09/19/2016)

- 1,272 current subscribers

Facebook (as of 09/19/2016)

- Council – 1,974 Likes, increase of 368 this quarter (734 since October 1, 2015)
- LaCAN – 1,133 Likes, increase of 44 this quarter (244 since October 1, 2015)
- LaTEACH – 600 Likes, increase of 31 this quarter (110 since October 1, 2015)
- The LaTEACH Facebook page will be closed following the merger of LaCAN and LaTEACH on October 1, 2016. Several posts are scheduled to encourage LaTEACH followers to “like” the LaCAN page to continue getting updates.

YouTube

- Four new videos were posted highlighting the valuable work of direct support professionals.

**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.

The Council hosted two meetings of the Community and Family Support System (CFSS) Task Force. Members developed a list of barriers related to the CFSS goals and several recommendations to overcome those barriers. Recommendations will be finalized at the third and final CFSS Task Force meeting to be held on October 10, 2016.

Previous quarters:

Council sponsored grassroots advocacy efforts were successful in seeing funding restored to all four home and community-based waivers for individuals with developmental disabilities, Families Helping Families, Long-Term Personal Care Services, the State Personal Assistance Services (SPAS) program, and partially restored to the Human Services Districts and Authorities (that administer the Individual and Family Support and Flexible Family Fund Programs).

Council Chairperson Delery Rice appointed 23 members to the CFSS Task Force which will develop recommendations for policymakers to improve the system. The first meeting will be held on July 27th.

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 this objective were developed.

Due to the massive budget shortfalls in both the current and upcoming fiscal years, the Council's advocacy efforts have shifted from the expansion of services (as reported in previous quarters) to the protection of existing services from devastating cuts and/or elimination.

**On target:**  Initiative

## 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 LDH to implement a process of health data analysis for individuals served.

The Council began participating in the Bayou Health Quality Committee in December, 2015, in hopes 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 (LOHC) to be amended to include increased access to dental services for people with developmental disabilities.

Council staff has advocated for inclusion on increasing service delivery to adults with developmental disabilities in the LOHC plan.

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

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

Disseminated information via Facebook regarding information on no-cost and reduced-cost services through the Louisiana Dental Association website.

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

**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 is currently 1,738.

### Advocacy Activities

LaTEACH members took action this period on education policies related to stakeholder input, special education monitoring, school funding, restraint and seclusion, establishment of the Advisory Council on Student Behavior and Discipline, retroactive diploma requests, communication plans in IEPs, special education teacher certification, and alternative schools/programs. This period:

- Three Action Alerts resulted in 115 confirmed instances of member actions.
- Three Purple Shirt Days had 27 members attend meetings of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), and Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP).

### Results of Advocacy

The Council sought nominations of parents of students with disabilities for the Advisory Council on Student Behavior and Discipline as established by Act 522 of 2016. The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) hosted regional meetings on changes to Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and parents/stakeholders provided input on these education policies.

### Leader Positions:

- Recruitment for advocacy leaders in regions 3, 7, 8 and 10 is ongoing.

**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, the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Advisory Council, the Advisory Council on Student Behavior and Discipline and the Governor's Advisory Council on the Every Student Succeeds Act.

**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.

Previous Quarters:

Staff participated in a training conducted by LDOE on alternative pathways to graduate for students assessed on LAA-1 and offered perspectives and information to participating parents, educators and advocates.

**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.



No activity this quarter. Previous quarters:  
Advocated for charter schools to be prohibited from requiring students applying for admission from disclosing certain student information, such as medical records. Act 303 passed.

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.

**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.

Previous quarters:

After many years and much advocacy by the Council, the Inclusion Workgroup and other stakeholders, children with disabilities in child care eligible for the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) will be able to receive an increased Child Care Assistance rate based on the new definition of disability which is a child having an active Individual and Family Support Plan or Individual Education Plan.

The La Department of Education (LDOE) is also working to implement a pilot project to support child care centers to build capacity when serving children with disabilities eligible for CCAP whose individual needs are above and beyond the resource of the new increased rate.

Council staff advocated for BESE to allocate local revenue shares to charter schools in accordance with the MFP weighted student formula (July 2015). 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. 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.

**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.

**Previous Quarters:**

As a result of the Council's advocacy efforts, Act 522 will require LDOE to report on instances of restraint and seclusion and create an Advisory Council on Student Behavior and Discipline with strong representation of parents of students with disabilities.

Council staff requested data on the number of incidents of restraint and seclusion from LDOE. Law requires LDOE to collect and analyze such data. 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 added 52 children since October for a total of 142 participating in PSP services and held seven Arc team meetings this period.

The Arc Children's Services Center flooded in August. Staff resumed seeing children in their homes or other natural settings soon after waters receded. Reestablishing previous routines for the children and families became the priority. The Children's Services Center was able to share space with another program and still conducted one Arc team meeting and added four children during August.

Unfortunately, the Children Services Center lost its database, professional development materials, child assessment instruments, adaptive equipment,

program/training supplies, and furniture. The Arc providers continue to collect data for the second data set sample of children in Region 2 area and in selected areas of Region 9. It has not been determined yet if the data is recoverable with both the primary server and backup data (stored at a separate location) both damaged by flooding.

**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,
- LA Rehabilitation Services (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 repeatedly 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: \$20,619 in FFY 2016**

The paid apprenticeship program completed its deliverables through accessing the appropriate Memoranda of Understanding, development of recruitment materials, performing job analyses, and completion of digital learning materials.

**On target:**  Initiative  Expenditures

**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.

Council staff have repeatedly advocated for LRS to implement measures to increase the number of ESPs who are certified and to implement the use of a report card for supported 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.

No activity this quarter. Previous quarters:  
Fact sheets were provided to legislators on the importance of fully funding the state match required to draw down LA's entire VR grant award.

**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.

Council staff has requested information regarding the progress of existing partnerships throughout the state.

**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.

Previous quarters:

The Council sponsored two advocacy workshops on “Building Community through Social Capital” by Al Condeluci in New Orleans and Lake Charles in June.

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

## **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 Centers (PDHCs) to be used to support children in inclusive settings.

No activity this quarter.

Previous quarters:

Alternatives to PDHCs were discussed with a group of parents who support PDHCs in a meeting on March 28<sup>th</sup>. This issue has also been discussed in meetings with DHH Secretary Kathy Kliebert.

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