

Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council

Status of FFY 2014 Activities

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

QUALITY ASSURANCE

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

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

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

Approximate Cost: \$63,000 in FFY 2014

People First of Louisiana (PFL) continues to support 279 members in self-advocacy and leadership. There are currently six chapters across the state.

Trainings

- For PFL Board of Directors (1 session; 5 participants)
- For self-advocates (1 sessions; 18 participants)

Advocacy Activities

1. PFL provided information on the federal ABLE Act in which 52 U.S. Senators and 319 U.S. Representatives are co-sponsoring.
 - PFL provided information to La's congressional delegation on how the ABLE Act would assist individuals with disabilities: Congressman John Fleming (Shreveport) became a co-sponsor in November.
 - Action Alerts on the ABLE Act were sent to several organizations that agreed to distribute the action alerts to the individuals and families they serve.
2. PFL participated in a coalition to provide information regarding proposed changes to the Medicaid Purchase Plan (MPP).

PFL Members on boards

- Down Syndrome of Greater New Orleans (Regions 1 and 10)
- Families Helping Families (Region 1)
- Mayor's Advisory Council on Disability Affairs (Region 5)
- Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council (Regions 2 and 8)
- OCDD Regional Advisory Committee (Region 5)
- OCDD State Advisory Committee (SAC) (Region 7)

Implementing a plan for financial sustainability

- Board is re-evaluating possible business structures.
- The next steps in establishing 501(c)(3) are pending.
- "Building Membership," training was provided to five PFL board members. Board members will present to self-advocates in their regions.

On target: Initiative Expenditures

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 provide information to People First of LA members on joining and participating in various boards of interest to them statewide.

On target: Initiative

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

Activity 1.3.1 Provide financial support and technical assistance for Partners in Policymaking and its alumni network.

Approximate Cost: \$80,000 in FFY 2014

Partners in Policymaking selected 20 applicants (from a total of 24 applications) to participate in the 2014 session. Planning continues for the next class beginning in January.

Partners in advocacy

- As of December 12, 2013 there were 129 members on the La Partners in Policymaking Alumni Facebook page.
- At least 45 graduates participated in the Advocacy Leadership Conference.
- Four graduates participated in the HDC Constituent Advisory Council meeting and spoke on issues affecting individuals with disabilities.
- One Partners graduate, LaTEACH Region 9 Leader, Amanda Serpas, addressed the MFP Task Force on the importance of ensuring the funding formula considers the needs of students with disabilities and avoids creating segregated settings.
- One graduate, Donnica Conway, chaired and coordinated the Autism Conference in New Orleans. Ten graduates attended the Conference, spoke at the conference and/or represented an advocacy organization.

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 2014

No current Council members are participating in this year's class

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

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: \$20,000 in FFY 2014

Twenty-seven individuals with disabilities and family members received **stipends through Families Helping Families** to attend conferences and workshops since October 1, 2013.

A total of 104 stipends were issued during FFY 2013 (October 2012 – September 2013).

On target: **Initiative**

Activity 1.4.2 Provide financial support for the continuation and expansion of a training program for people with developmental disabilities by individuals with developmental disabilities on advocacy, independence, self-determination, productivity, integration, and inclusion leadership topics.
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 2014

One Council member received a \$695 stipend to participate in an out-of-state conference and six Council members were supported with participating in the 2013 Advocacy Conference at a cost of \$1,356. The balance in the Council member Stipend Fund is \$949.

Activity 1.5.3 Support the Council leadership's participation in national training, networking events and advocacy opportunities.
Approximate Cost: \$7,000 in FFY 2014

None 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.

Contacted OCDD again this quarter to reiterate the need for provider information to be available online to help individuals and families make an informed decision when choosing a provider. Offered the Council's assistance in getting this project up and running.

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*

DHH began collecting cost reports from providers in the Fall of 2013.

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

Objective 2.3 DSPs serving Louisianans with developmental disabilities will display a minimum skills set and have access to a graduated certification process with corresponding compensation increases.

Activity 2.3.1 Advocate for

- the development of a (or use of existing) comprehensive and evidence-based training curriculum and certification for DSPs statewide and
- the implementation of graduated pay increases for DSPs to correspond with performance on a graduated certification process. *Timeline: FFY 2015*

No Council activity this quarter.

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.)

A *LaDDC News* article reporting when self-direction will be available in Children's Choice and how to access this option was released and posted on Facebook in December 2013. A fact sheet on self-direction is currently posted on the Council's website.

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.
Approximate Cost: \$90,000 in FFY 2014

The **Supported Independent Living Ombudsman Program** has served 31 individuals living in the Greater New Orleans area by protecting their rights to live in safe housing, to make their own financial and lifestyle choices, and to access appropriate health care resources. In addition, these individuals were assisted with accessing other useful community resources. Of the 31 individuals served eleven cases have been closed.

The Advocacy Center has received four referrals from Jefferson Parish Human Services Authority (JPHSA), one referral from Metropolitan Human Services District (MHSD), and 26 referrals from within the community. Monthly, the Advocacy Center reports the status of individuals served as well as systematic issues identified to the Council, OCDD, JPHSA and MHSD.

The Advocacy Center is working to expand the legislation for the Community Living Ombudsman Program (CLOP) to include Supported Independent Living. They are working to get funding added to the Attorney General's budget for FY 15.

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

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.
Approximate Cost: \$20,000 in FFY 2014

The **Legal Representation for Adults** program contract has been submitted for approval. The Advocacy Center has developed a list of pro bono projects throughout the state. Work to expand the scope and capacity of these projects will begin in January 2014.

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

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 2014

LaCAN's listserv is currently at 2072. This is an increase of 23 since October 1, 2013.

Advocacy Activities

- LaCAN co-hosted the 2013 Advocacy Leadership Conference on 10/29/13. It was attended by 120 participants including 26 self-advocates, 58 family members, 32 professionals, and 4 others.
- LaCAN sent two action alerts this quarter: Contact Joint Budget Committee about Unfilled Waiver Slots (11/14/13; 95 confirmations) and Send Holiday Greetings to Legislators (12/05/13; confirmations not tracked).
- LaCAN has sent various info alerts this quarter regarding the 2014 legislative/advocacy agenda and LaCAN Leader vacancies and new hires.

Results of Advocacy

- Unknown at this time

Update on Leader Positions

- Two LaCAN Team Leaders have been hired during the last quarter: Rickii Ainey (Regions 1 & 10), and Jennifer Lanceslin (Region 3)
- There is currently one vacant position in Region 8

On target: Initiative Expenditures

Activity 3.1.2 Collaborate with other advocacy groups to plan and support Disability Rights Rallies.
Approximate Cost: \$5,000 in FFY 2014

The Disability Rights Rally is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, March 18, 2014, at the Louisiana State Capitol. A rally committee met for the first time in December 2013 to begin planning for this event.

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 Interim Assistant Secretary Mark Thomas to advocate for systems change initiatives. The Council first recommended changes/additions to the Children's Choice waiver in March 2010. These included the option to self-direct and the addition of six therapeutic services and specialized equipment and supplies. These waiver improvements have been approved by CMS and are scheduled to be available to Children's Choice recipients in early 2014. Plans of care are currently being revised for children needing these services.

The Council leadership has also repeatedly advocated in these quarterly meetings with the

Secretary for increased community capacity in providing supports to people with challenging behavioral and medical needs. While sufficient capacity to provide these services is not yet realized, progress in this area has been made by using OCDD Resource Centers in two pilot regions to provide crisis diversion and technical assistance to community providers. Implementation of the pilot activities to all remaining Human Services Districts/Authorities is in process. (See OCDD's quarterly report to the Council for more information on this initiative.)

The Council is also represented on various DHH workgroups, such as the OCDD System Transformation Core Work Group and the DHH Managed Long Term Supports and Services Advisory Council.

Round table presentations and fact sheets on the need for expansion of supports and services were developed.

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 quality and quantity of services to be included in the reorganized system.

The Council is represented on the DHH Managed Long Term Supports and Services Advisory Council. Advocacy for increased quality and quantity of services takes place at every opportunity. The December meeting focused on quality, allowing for specific recommendations regarding stringent accountability measures for the Managed Care Organizations.

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

Activity 3.1.5 Research impact of managed care on individuals determined to be dual eligible and make recommendations to DHH.

No Council activity this quarter.

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

Activity 3.1.6 Monitor the effect of Medicare/Medicaid dual eligibility on services for people with developmental disabilities.

No Council activity this quarter.

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.

The Council leadership has repeatedly advocated in meetings with the DHH Secretary for increased community capacity in providing supports to people with challenging behavioral and medical needs in order to decrease any out-of-home placement. While sufficient capacity to provide these services is not yet realized, progress in this area has been made by using OCDD Resource Centers in two pilot regions to provide crisis diversion and technical assistance to community providers. Implementation of the pilot activities to all remaining Human Services Districts/Authorities is in process. (See OCDD's quarterly report to the Council for more information on this initiative.)

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

Activity 3.2.2 Advocate for Self-direction to be exempted from medication administration requirements.

Inquiry was made by the Council regarding this issue at OCDD's State Advisory Committee meeting. It was reported by OCDD that plans are still being researched/developed to address medication administration training requirements for staff providing supports to people in self-direction. This issue will also be on the agenda for the January 2014 meeting with DHH Sec. Kathy Kliebert.

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

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

Advocacy on this issue was conducted at the October 2013 meeting with DHH Sec. Kathy Kliebert. Sec. Kliebert reported that there is a group working on this issue, but if rate increases were to be implemented for persons with challenging needs, budget neutrality must be maintained.

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

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

Activity 3.3.1 Advocate for

- changes to the rate structure of the Residential Options Waiver to encourage private ICF/DD providers to convert their beds so individuals can transition to waiver services, and
- the MFP grant program to target residents of private ICFs/DD.

Accomplished in FFY 2012 (second bullet only)

Despite Council advocacy on this issue on a regular basis, there has been very little progress on this objective. There are reportedly one or two ICF/DD providers who have agreed to participate in a ROW conversion pilot, but no details on the progress of this initiative have been released.

Residents of private ICFs/DD are included in the target population of the Money Follows the Person grant, but without funded waiver slots, there is no funding mechanism for them to move into their own home.

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

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

There is an indication that if services for people with developmental disabilities are moved into a managed care system, the opportunity for people to transition from ICFs/DD would be increased. Since it will perhaps be years before this occurs, more immediate strategies are needed to address the high number of people in private ICFs/DD.

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.

A request was made to the Special Education Center administrator for characteristics and demographic information on current residents but no information has been received to date.

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

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

Information was provided to BESE on the shift of Louisiana and nation from over-reliance on large developmental centers to services enabling individuals to live in their home and the community. It was recommended to BESE that it reconsider its approach of using and promoting segregated settings and transition to a model of inclusive practices.

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

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

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

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

FHF Resource Centers assisted 4,531* individuals and families with information, referral, or other support since October 1, 2013. There were a total of 27,548* individuals and families assisted during FFY 2013 (October 2012 – September 2013).

*Correction

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 performed outreach to 10 hospitals and health care providers to inform them of resources available since October 1, 2013. There were a total of 142 outreach efforts performed during FFY 2013 (October 2012 – September 2013).

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 continues to monitor Act 378 services and discovered great disparity in the availability of these services provided by the Human Services Districts/Authorities. As a result, increased funding for the Individual and Family Support Program in four districts/authorities was included on the Council's legislative/advocacy agenda. Also included was increased funding for the Consumer Care Resources Program and Families Helping Families Centers.

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 policies that ensure people with developmental disabilities have access to adequate health care services.

The Council responded positively to a DHH proposal to allow populations currently excluded from Bayou Health to voluntarily opt in to this managed care health system with assurances that those who opt in would be able to opt out and return to the Medicaid fee-for-service system if they were not satisfied with Bayou Health. Bayou Health offers some advantages (such as a robust network of providers) that may be appealing to some people with developmental disabilities who are currently excluded.

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.
Approximate Cost: \$ 91,100 for FFY 2014

The **DD Health Care Training Project** has continued development of training modules and completed one web-based physician Continuing Medical Education (CME) module this quarter. Each module includes: Power Point Presentation with embedded videos, links, and resources, and an Instructor Guide Manual. Operation House Call Shreveport is identifying additional families to participate

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.

The Council provided comments regarding improved oral health services to people with developmental disabilities to the Chairperson of the La. Oral Health Coalition at the October Council meeting. The Council is represented on this coalition but no meeting was held 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 2014

The LaTEACH listserv is currently 1,686 including 48 new members since October 1, 2013. Planning for the 2014 Roundtables in January has begun.

Advocacy Activities

- LaTEACH co-hosted the 2013 Advocacy Leadership Conference on 10/29/13. It was attended by 120 participants including 26 self-advocates, 58 family members, 32 professionals, and 4 others.
- Three Purple Shirt Days were called for BESE, MFP Task Force and Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP) meetings.
- 102 members confirmed taking action on alerts or attending/participating in BESE, MFP Task Force, Accountability Commission and SEAP meetings.
- Leaders provided LaTEACH information during thirteen regional events including Families Helping Families (conference, job fair, workshops, training, etc.), school board, community and educational events in which 3,095 individuals attended.
- LaTEACH Leaders made 310 contacts with policy makers including Louisiana Department of Education (LDE) staff, BESE members & legislators.

Leader Positions

- Statewide coordination continues with shared responsibilities by the LaTEACH Statewide Support Coordinator and Council/ Families Helping Families-SWLA staff.
- Amanda Serpas is the new Leader in Region 9. Recruitment for vacancies in Regions 3, 5, 6, & 8 for LaTEACH Leaders continues.

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:

- Caddo Parish Special Education Parent Advisory Committee
- Louisiana Council for Exceptional Children
- LDE Special Education Advisory Panel

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.

Differences in student promotion and graduation determination methods and outcomes from other states were researched and compared. In collaboration with other stakeholders, a proposal developed in alignment with the Council advocacy agenda regarding student promotion and graduation determinations was submitted to Superintendent White in November.

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

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

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

The Council advocated for improved admission oversight and monitoring.

- A request was made for BESE to consider a charter school's record with including students with all disabilities and not just the absolute scores produced by students as a better metric of success.
- Data was provided to BESE on the impact of low and high rates of students with disabilities on school performance scores and requested consideration for weighing the student composition of a school when evaluating whether it is a success or failure and determining whether to allow students to escape the school or cancel a contract (charter school).
- Roundtable presentations and fact sheets were developed on this issue.

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

Activity 7.3.2 Advocate for financial and accountability structures that support the inclusion of all students.

Parents were supported in advocating and the Council provided information to the Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) Task Force regarding the need for funding to be based on a student's need and for the same formula to be used across all schools so adequate funding will truly follow the child and to eliminate 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 alternative positive evidence based options (e.g., positive behavior practices, etc.) and advocate for policies and practices that promote the safe and effective practices in collaboration with the Advocacy Center.

No activity this quarter.

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

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

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

- Activity 8.1.1** Advocate for an accountability structure that ensures
- service delivery levels greater than 24 hours in a 6-month period have data-driven team justifications,
 - family participation in quarterly team meetings, and
 - outcomes in Individual Family Support Plans will be measureable.

This activity is being carried out in part by the Early Intervention Primary Service Provider (PSP) Training and Coaching contract (Activity 8.1.2).

- Activity 8.1.2** Provide funding for training/mentoring the Early Intervention Primary Service Provider Model.
Approximate Cost: \$35,000 in FFY 2014

The **Early Intervention Primary Service Provider (PSP) Training and Coaching** project provided eight technical assistance sessions and 17 coaching sessions in support of 75 children and families. The project conducts regular team meetings in which staffing and coaching across disciplines occur for specific children and families. In addition, national experts provide technical assistance to each provider about their coaching interaction style with families based on the coaching logs and videos completed by the providers.

Coaching sessions assist The Arc Baton Rouge Early Intervention primary providers, families, and child care providers in providing individualized support to enhance each child's development within the daily routines and activities. All children in The Arc program are receiving all components of the full model.

The Project continues to collaborate with EarlySteps in identifying appropriate data for project evaluation and planning to define other partners' roles in the process. Overall positive feedback notes that providers have improved with coaching strategies.

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,
- 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.

OCDD reports that training continues to be provided around the state on Employment First at Families Helping Families trainings, Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS) Regional Offices and OCDD providers. Data has not been provided on the number of people trained to implement Employment First. OCDD's Employment First Workgroup most recently met in July 2013.

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 2014

39 supported employment Certified Rehabilitation Providers were invited across Regions 1, 2 and 3 to participate in the project. MOUs and Capacity Enhancement Plans (CEPs) have been completed with three agencies. The project is collaborating with APSE to arrange a Certified Employment Specialist Professional Exam date in Louisiana.

Training and Mentoring

Job Development (five Employment Support Professionals, ESPs)

Job Development Clinic (five ESPs)

Mentoring hours completed: 31

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.

No activity this quarter. Advocacy efforts in 2013 did not produce additional state match for LRS.

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