

Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council

Status of FFY 2015 Activities

As applicable, data is presented year-to-date and quarterly (December 1, 2014 – February 28, 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.
Accomplished in FFY 2014

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

Information was provided about development of the ABLE Resource Center by the National Disability Institute to help states establish ABLE account programs, the National Council on Disability's Forum in Baton Rouge and the DD Network's Public Forums in Baton Rouge and Shreveport.

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 an available position on the DD Council from the Greater New Orleans area.

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

Partners in Policymaking began the 2015 class in January with 21 individuals (6 self-advocates, 3 dads, and 12 moms). All continued through the February class.

Participants' advocacy activities:

- One participant attended the January BESE meeting

- Ten attended roundtables (two in Region 1/10; two in Region 2; three in Region 4; three in Region 9); Note: Some roundtables occurred prior to the Partners class.
- Two attended the Act 833 Leadership Steering Committee meeting in Baton Rouge

Partners in advocacy

- The Partners in Policymaking Alumni Facebook page has 144 members.
- Nine graduates of Partners currently serve on the DD Council (DDC).
- One DDC member participates in the 2015 class and one PIP graduate is pending appointment to the Council.
- Six graduates are regional LaCAN and/or LaTEACH leaders; two are FHF directors.
- Nine attended Act 833 Leadership Steering Committee meetings this period.
- Five graduates attended and three testified during the Joint Education Committee meeting at the Capitol in December.
- Attendance at Roundtables included 49 Partners alumni from around the state.
- Eight attended the National Council on Disability Forum in Baton Rouge in February.
- RAC meeting in Region 9 – 4 alumni were in attendance – 3 serve on the Committee
- Graduates on boards & committees (number of graduates)
 - Special Education Advisory Panel (2)
 - Act 833 Leadership Steering Committee (7)
 - MFP Task Force (1)
 - Families Helping Families Boards (3)
 - Region 9 Regional Advisory Committee (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, is participating in 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 disabilities and family members received stipends through Families Helping Families to attend a conference or workshop since January 1, 2015. To date, 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 Council member has requested a stipend since October 2014. The balance in the Council member Stipend Fund is \$3,000.

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

No Council member has been supported to participate in national training events since October 2014.

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.

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 very few 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 isn't prominently displayed for individuals/families.

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.

Expressed the importance of independent support coordination to be available and for supports and services that allow people to live in their own homes with whom they choose be maintained in the new MLTSS system at the MLTSS Advisory Council meetings.

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*

Presented information on the inadequacy of the waiver rates to support a living wage for DSPs to legislators and participants at nine legislative roundtables across the state and the negative impact this has on people with developmental disabilities and their families.

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.)

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 2,362. This is an increase of 86 since October 1, 2014.

Advocacy Activities

- LaCAN co-hosted nine Legislative Roundtables this January that were attended by a total of 397 people including: 48 self-advocates, 202 family members, 102 professionals, and 45 legislators or legislative assistants.
- LaCAN Leaders and members have completed 55 legislative visits.
- Between roundtables and visits, 77 legislators (54%) have been presented information on the full LaCAN advocacy agenda.
- LaCAN had one action alert on 2/10/15 to Contact Joint Budget in Support of DHH and Waivers. 368 members confirmed their action on this alert. 25 attended a Yellow Shirt Day on this same issue.

Update on Leader Positions
Samantha Bruscato was hired as the Region 8 LaCAN Leader in mid-January. All LaCAN Leader positions are currently filled.

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

The 2015 Disability Rights Day is scheduled for April 29, 2015. Approximately 200 individuals have pre-registered for transportation to the event. Requests for legislation designating April 29th as Disability Rights Day in Louisiana have been made to both the House and Senate.

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: that funding for Pediatric Day Health Care services should be made available to cover the added cost of serving children with complex needs in inclusive child care settings; that Medicaid should send a letter to Waiver Waiting List participants regarding availability of services through the Medicaid State Plan such as personal care services; an update on the overtime rule in Fair Labor Standards Act; Outreach for Disability Rights Day.

The Council also advocates for systems change initiatives through its representation on the OCDD System Transformation Core Work Group and the DHH Managed Long Term Supports and Services Advisory Council.

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.

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 DHH leadership.

Continue to advocate 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.

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

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

The Department of Health and Hospitals and the Louisiana Board of Nursing are still developing language for the administrative rule to comply with Act 507 of 2014. This law requires direct support professionals for people participating in self-direction to comply with customized medication administration training requirements.

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

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

Presented information on the inadequacy of the waiver rates to support a living wage for DSPs to legislators and participants at nine legislative roundtables across the state and the negative impact this has on people with developmental disabilities and their families, especially those with challenging needs.

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.

The Council continues to advocate for people to be able to move into their own homes by having funding allocated for institutional services follow the individual into the community. This recommendation is discussed 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 provided the Council with the number of LA Special Education Center residents by age and disability. What type of supports, both in-home and in-school, would be needed for the children and adults at the center to transition out could not be determined from this information.

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 Council activity this quarter.

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 6,195 individuals and families with information, referral, or other support this quarter for a total of 10,674 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 a total of 34 outreaches to hospitals and health care providers to inform them of resources available this quarter for a total of 63 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 the ABLE Act, the Family Opportunity Act, Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Therapy, the 2016 Executive Budget, Managed Long-Term Supports and Services (MLTSS), and Implementation of Act 833 of 2014.

LaDDC News

- Currently has 1,395 subscribers.

Facebook

- Council – 1,142 Likes, increase of 27 since January 1, 2015
- LaCAN – 812 Likes, increase of 77 since January 1, 2015
- LaTEACH – 424 Likes, increases of 21 since January 1, 2015

YouTube

- No videos posted this quarter

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.

An ad hoc committee was established to address concerns the Council has had about Act 378 services and associated funding. The Committee's recommendations and rationale were shared with the Human Services Interagency Council. Input was solicited from the Local Governing Entity (LGE) Executive Directors.

- The Office of Behavioral Health (OBH) will finalize the Policy and Procedures Manual for the Consumer Care Resources/Adult Supported Living Programs with input from the DD Council.
- OBH will propose performance indicators for the Act 378 programs for inclusion in the Accountability Implementation Plan using OCDD's as a guide.
- OBH will coordinate this policy with Jefferson Parish Human Services Authority and any other LGE currently developing policies for accreditation purposes to avoid inconsistent policy within an LGE.
- Act 378 funding for Individual and Family Support (OCDD), Flexible Family Fund (OCDD and OBH), Consumer Care Resources (OBH) and Adult Supported Living (OBH and OAAS) shall not be used for Civil Service employee salaries or for LGE operating expenses. This recommendation shall be implemented by inclusion in
 - A letter to the LGEs from the DD Council,
 - The Policy and Procedures Manuals for the Act 378 programs, and/or
 - The Accountability Implementation Plan as a performance indicator.

The additional funding for Individual and Family Support that LaCAN was successful in advocating for during the 2014 Legislative session was cut from the Governor's FY 2016 Proposed Executive Budget.

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 period.

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:

- Submitted four of eight Continuing Nursing Education (CNE) modules for accreditation.
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) completed pending dental subject matter expert (SME) approval.
- Two of two dental module outlines pending dental subject matter expert (SME) approval.

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.

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 2015

The **LaTEACH** listserv had 1,678 members as of March 13, 2015 and has increased by 80 since October 1, 2014.

Advocacy Activities

LaTEACH members took action on education policies related to student progression and diploma pathway (Act 833 of 2014); education funding; flexibility waiver for students with disabilities; expansion of LAA-1; technical assistance to charter schools; State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP); IDEA budget; standards and tests; and school/teacher accountability.

- Since October 1st, 17 Action Alerts resulted in 303 total confirmed actions by members.
- Eleven Purple Shirt Days involved a total of 56 LaTEACH members attending meetings of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), MFP Task Force, Act 833 Leadership Steering Committee, and Special Education Advisory Council (SEAP)
- Nine Legislative Roundtables in January had 397 people who attended (48 self-advocates, 202 family members, 102 professionals, and 45 legislators or legislative assistants).

Results of Advocacy

- LaTEACH advocacy resulted in LDOE hearing recommendations from a number of members and other stakeholders (i.e., parents, superintendents, special education staff, etc.) from across the state about what districts need for implementation of student progression and diploma pathway policies (Act 833 of 2014).
- LDOE and BESE agreed to add an additional \$5.4 M to the High Risk Pool to help districts serve students with the most significant support needs. Although this is not the full amount needed by districts, it will increase the percentage of needs met from 38% to 66%.

Leader Positions

- LaTEACH Leaders in Regions 7 and 9 resigned and Region 6 hired a new Leader, Melissa Brossette, this period. There is interest in the Region 9 Leader position.
- Recruitment to fill LaTEACH vacancies in Regions 3, 5, 7 & 9 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 the Louisiana Council for Exceptional Children, the Special Education Advisory Panel, the State Systemic Improvement Plan, and the Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council.
On target: **Effort** **Satisfactory Progress**

Objective 7.2 Changes in policies and practices that result in students with developmental disabilities attaining competitive employment in integrated settings.

Activity 7.2.1 Advocate with the LSU-HSC Human Development Center and other collaborators for the development and implementation of policies and practices (i.e., college and career pathways) that ensure students with developmental disabilities have access to and opportunities that prepare them for post-secondary education and/or competitive, integrated employment.

Numerous activities have occurred to build the capacity and advocate for policies and implementation of alternative pathways for students with disabilities to be promoted and graduate, including:

- 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).

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.

There was no direct advocacy this quarter related to monitoring of admissions and service delivery to students with disabilities in charter schools. Advocacy did occur for equitable funding and accountability measures across all schools.

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

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

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.

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.

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 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 109 participants since October 1, 2014. Coaching activities are provided to families and child care providers so children receive individualized support to enhance each child's development within their daily routines and activities. Support provided through coaching methods included redirecting tantrums; progressing in communication skills; preventing choking/aspiration; addressing other feeding support needs; teaching crawling/walking techniques; and addressing sensory/speech/behavior concerns. Data collection and review/analysis by national expert are in process.

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)

Two federal actions, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and the revised Home- and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Settings rule, will encourage states to move toward competitive employment in the community and rely less on segregated work/day programs. WIOA also includes a provision for a cross-agency Unified State Plan. The La. Rehabilitation Council (LRC) and DD Council requested full participation in the process to develop the Plan.

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: 22
 Job seekers participating: 29
 Job seekers achieving outcomes: 13

Training and Mentoring (this period; year to date)
Supported Employment: (4; 8)
Mentoring hours: (99; 250)

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 La. Rehabilitation Council provided information to the Division of Administration on the importance of the VR program and full funding. The Governor's proposed budget maintains the 2015 funding level 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