

Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council

Status of FFY 2016 Activities

As applicable, data is presented year-to-date and quarterly (December 1, 2015 – February 29, 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.

Information was provided to People First of Louisiana and the Arc of Louisiana and they were asked to share with self-advocates regarding three of nine regional Partners workshops starting in March on the Legislative Process. Other workshops and topics will be shared as they are scheduled.

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.

People First of Louisiana and the Arc of Louisiana were asked to share with their contacts that self-advocates are needed for the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) and the Governor's Advisory Council on Disability Affairs (GACDA). Information was also shared about vacancies on five Families Helping Families boards and the contact information for each council/board was provided. At least two individuals with developmental disabilities serve on Families Helping Families boards.

On target: **Initiative**

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

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

Approximate Cost: \$80,000 in FFY 2016

Partners in Policymaking has begun planning for the 2017 class. The 2016 Regional workshops on the Legislative Process have begun and more workshops are planned on Community Building; Creating a Valued Future: Organizing for Change; and Inclusive Education.

- Workshops are hosted in collaboration with the Families Helping Families (FHF) Regional Resource Centers.
- Regional alumni liaisons are working to contact graduates in their area to establish contact lists, encourage involvement in Council advocacy, and advise graduates to help promote the 2017 Partners in Policymaking program.
- Regions generally plan to connect with graduates and re-engage in systems advocacy via email and Facebook.

Partners Graduates in Advocacy

- 156 Graduates are active on the Partners alumni page as of February 29, 2016. Graduates who moved out of state were removed.
- Eleven graduates currently serve on the DD Council
- Four graduates serve as Regional Advocacy Leaders
- Two graduates serve as FHF Directors.
- 28 Graduates on other boards & committees (number of graduates)
 - Advocacy Center (2)
 - Families Helping Families Boards (3)
 - Human Development Center's Consumer Advisory Council (4)
 - OCDD Regional Boards (6)
 - OCDD State Board (2)
 - People First of LA (2)
 - St. Landry Abilities Board (6)
 - Special Education Advisory Panel (2)
 - UP21 board in St. Tammany (3)
- 53 Graduates attended the Regional Roundtables
- Fourteen of the 76 people who responded to LaTEACH action alerts for SEAP and BESE in January are Graduates (18%)
- Five of the nine people in attendance at LaTEACH Purple Shirt Days in January are Graduates (55 %)
- 29 Graduates attended Yellow shirt days at the Capitol during the special session

On target: Initiative Expenditures

Activity 1.3.2 Support up to two Council members' participation in Partners in Policymaking.
Approximate Cost: \$3,000 in FFY 2016

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

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

The Advocacy Leadership Conference: "Creating a Meaningful Life" was held 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

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

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

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

Activity 2.1.1 Disseminate Medicaid's web-based listing of providers searchable by region through a variety of methods (i.e. Council's website and Facebook page, FHF, etc.) to assist individuals and families in making informed choices.
Accomplished in FFY 2012

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

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

Council staff met with Representative Walt Leger and three other advocates regarding HB790 which calls for implementation of Managed Long Term Supports and Services (MLTSS). Provided him with information on MLTSS and suggested amendments to the bill that would ensure that both institutional and home and community based services were included, and that implementation for people with developmental disabilities would occur only after a complete and thorough planning process with stakeholders and only if it can be demonstrated that MLTSS will be in the best interest of people with developmental disabilities.

Previous quarters:

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.

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

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

Objective 2.2 Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) serving Louisianans with developmental disabilities will receive competitive compensation.

Activity 2.2.1 Advocate for

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

No activity this quarter.

Previous quarters:

Developed a fact sheet and presented information on the inadequacy of the waiver rates to support a living wage for DSPs to legislators at 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

Posts have been shared on Facebook to recruit additional participants for the social media campaign. So far, two stories have been submitted. Staff will work with these individuals to develop scripts for 30 second homemade videos to be shared during the campaign.

The Council will also be contracting with Hometown Productions to film 3-4 professional quality videos that can be used both during this campaign and in the future to promote the DSP profession.

Previous quarters:

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

On target: Initiative Expenditures

Objective 2.4 500 additional individuals with developmental disabilities will self-direct their waiver services.

Activity 2.4.1 Promote self-direction through community education through the creation and dissemination of key selling points and benefits and resources to assist in the process (i.e., LaDDC News, Fact sheets, etc.)

Council staff met with Leslie Fontenot and Janet Connell, members of the La Support Coordination Alliance (LSCA) on Tuesday, February 16, 2016, and they agreed to better promote self-direction.

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. A response was received from LSCA December 11 expressing their commitment to working with the Council on this and other initiatives to improve the delivery of home and community based services and requesting a meeting to discuss any barriers to services.

On target: Effort Satisfactory Progress

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

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

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

COMMUNITY SUPPORTS

Goal 3 Changes to policies and practices in Louisiana's developmental disability system will result in adequate funding and availability of quality supports and

services in the community and reduce reliance on public and private residential facilities for people with developmental disabilities.

Objective 3.1 4,000 people on the waiting list will begin receiving home- and community-based services by educating stakeholders, policy makers and the public about the waiting list and needed systems reforms.

Activity 3.1.1 Provide financial and other support for the grassroots advocacy organization Louisiana Citizens for Action Now (LaCAN).
Approximate Cost: \$125,000 in FFY 2016

LaCAN's listserv is currently at 2,622. This is an increase of 202 since October 1, 2015.

Advocacy Activities

- LaCAN co-hosted nine Legislative Roundtables during January and February with 454 in attendance including 67 self-advocates; 181 family members; 159 professionals; and 28 legislators, legislative aides, and/or BESE members.
- LaCAN Leaders and members have completed 76 formal legislative visits.
- Between roundtables and formal visits, 90 legislators (63%) have been presented information on the LaCAN advocacy agenda. Many more legislators were visited during the course of the Legislative Special Session.
- LaCAN held Yellow Shirt Days each day of the Special Session (2/14/2016 – 3/09/2016) with a total of 124 members in attendance on one or multiple days.
- LaCAN had seven action alerts January – March (four of these alerts were tracked):
 - 01/28/2016 – Contact Legislators to Avoid Cuts – 223 confirmations
 - 02/05/2016 – Contact House Ways and Means – 432 confirmations
 - 02/24/2016 – Contact Your State Rep. – 72 confirmations
 - 02/26/2016 – Contact Your Rep. & Senator – 273 confirmations

Results of Advocacy

- Throughout the Special Session, LaCAN members educated members of the legislature on the need for identifying additional revenue to prevent devastating cuts and/or elimination of DD services. While revenue was raised, the negative impact of the remaining deficit on essential services has yet to be determined.

Update on Leader Positions

- Recruitment efforts are under way to fill four LaCAN Leader vacancies in Regions 1, 4, 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 is scheduled for Tuesday, April 5, 2016. There were 403 individuals registered to attend as of 03/31/2016.

LaCAN Leaders have identified visit team captains to lead members of their regional teams on legislative visits throughout the day. A rally program will be held at 12:00 noon. Council member and self-advocate, April Dunn, along with parent advocate, Micah Moscovis, will be the event emcees. Bambi Polotzola, parent advocate and Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs, will be the keynote speaker. Legislators from both the House and Senate and Governor John Bel Edwards are scheduled to address the crowd.

The cost for buses to transport LaCAN members to the Capitol is \$8,700. As in previous years, LaCAN funding is being used to cover expenses over the \$5,000 Disability Rights Day budget.

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 has met quarterly with the DHH Secretary and OCDD Assistant Secretary to advocate for systems change initiatives, but a meeting with the new Secretary, Dr. Rebekah Gee has not yet taken place.

In previous quarters, issues discussed included concerns regarding lack of consistent service provision by the Local Governing Entities (LGEs) across the state; the new overtime rule impacting Direct Support Professionals (DSPs); 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.

Council staff met with Representative Walt Leger and three other advocates regarding HB790 which calls for implementation of Managed Long Term Supports and Services (MLTSS). Provided him with information on MLTSS and suggested amendments to the bill that would ensure that both institutional and home and community based services were included, and that implementation for people with developmental disabilities would occur only after a complete and thorough planning process with stakeholders and only if it can be demonstrated that MLTSS will be in the best interest of people with developmental disabilities.

Previous quarters:

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

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

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

Activity 3.2.1 Advocate in collaboration with the Advocacy Center for

- additional providers with specialized expertise in behavioral services;
- the development of plan upon admission that includes specific activities, persons responsible and timelines for discharge or transition; and
- improving the home and community based system by soliciting feedback from individual families using or trying to access behavioral health services and sharing that information with the DHH leadership. **Accomplished in FFY 2015**

No activity this quarter.

Previous quarters:

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

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

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

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

No activity to report this quarter. Council staff participated in and shared information about the OCDD/Medicaid webinar on this topic via LaDDC News and Facebook on October 27, 2015.

On target: **Initiative**

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

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

No activity this quarter.

Previous quarters:

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

Developed a fact sheet and presented information on the inadequacy of the waiver rates to support a living wage for DSPs to legislators in 2015. 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 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

The DSP training initiative is currently in planning. Proposals are being solicited from providers interested in participating in the pilot and a fiscal agent for the contract has been selected. The pilot is expected to begin in May 2016.

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.

This issue was discussed with Rep. Walt Leger as one of the benefits of Managed Long Term Supports and Services.

Previous quarters:

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

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

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

Objective 3.4 The number of people at large public residential facilities will decrease thirty percent through transition to home and community-based services.

Activity 3.4.1 Advocate for residents of the Special Education Center to be added to the Developmental Center pool of waiver slots.
Accomplished in FFY 2012

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

No activity this quarter.

Previous quarters:

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

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

Activity 3.4.3 Provide information to the Department of Education and BESE on home and community-based services.
Accomplished in FFY 2015

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

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

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

Families Helping Families (FHF) Resource Centers assisted 5,536 individuals and families with information, referral, or other support this quarter for a total of 9,949 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 36 outreach activities to hospitals, pediatricians, and health care providers to inform them of resources available 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: the 2016 Legislative Roundtables, the 2016 Disability Rights Day, LaCAN/LaTEACH Legislative Visits, the ABLE Act, the Affordable Care Act, Medicaid expansion, inclusive education, diversity and inclusion in the workplace, supported employment, sheltered workshops, the state budget shortfall for the current and next fiscal years, the Legislative Special Session, opportunities to advocate for increased revenue to protect DD services in the Department of Health and Hospitals and La Rehabilitation Services, opportunities to advocate at BESE and SEAP meetings, opportunities to participate in the Council's DSP Social Media Campaign, and opportunities to apply for LaCAN/LaTEACH Leadership and Council membership.

LaDDC News (as of 03/22/2016)

- 1,432 current subscribers

Facebook (as of 03/22/2016)

- Council – 1,513 Likes, increase of 273 since October 1, 2015
- LaCAN – 1,003 Likes, increase of 114 since October 1, 2015
- LaTEACH – 544 Likes, increase of 54 since October 1, 2015

YouTube

- No new videos posted since October 1, 2015

On target: Initiative

Goal 5 The Community and Family Support System will continue to deliver flexible, individualized, and person-centered supports.

Objective 5.1 3,500 individuals with developmental disabilities will receive (Act 378 of 1989) state-funded supports.

Activity 5.1.1 Oversee implementation of, and advocate for, the continuation of the Community and Family Support System Plan.

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. While revenue was raised in the Legislative Special Session, the final impact of the remaining deficits on developmental disability services has yet to be determined. This information will be shared via LaDDC News and/or LaCAN action alert as soon as it is available.

Previous quarters:

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.

On target: Effort Satisfactory Progress

HEALTH

Goal 6 Policies and practices will result in improved health outcomes for Louisiana citizens with developmental disabilities.

Objective 6.1 Access to quality health services for individuals with developmental disabilities will increase.

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

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

On target: Effort Satisfactory Progress

Activity 6.1.2 Provide support for the modification of a curriculum for Nurse Practitioner (NP) and Physician Assistant (PA) students, development of a curriculum for online Continuing Medical Education (CME) units for physicians, and the expansion of Operation House Call to Shreveport that provides an understanding of experiences of individuals with significant disabilities and their families.
Accomplished in FFY 2014

Activity 6.1.3 Provide support for the modification of a curriculum for Continuing Nurse Education that provides an understanding of treating individuals with developmental disabilities.
Accomplished in FFY 2015

Activity 6.1.4 Provide support for the modification of a curriculum for Dental and Dental Hygienist students and Continuing Dental Education that provides an understanding of treating individuals with developmental disabilities.
Accomplished in FFY 2015

Objective 6.2 Families will have access to information regarding Medicaid providers.

Activity 6.2.1 Disseminate Medicaid's web-based listing of providers searchable by region through a variety of methods (i.e. Council's website and Facebook page, FHF, etc.).
Accomplished in FFY 2012

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

Activity 6.3.1 Advocate for the Louisiana Oral Health Coalition Plan (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. No activity this quarter.

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

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

Disseminated information via Facebook regarding information on no 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 at 1,824. This is an increase of 86 since October 1, 2015.

Advocacy Activities

LaTEACH members took action this period on education policies related to school funding, monitoring of Special Education services, use of restraints and seclusion, achievement standards and the need for the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) to collect and share data. This period:

- 3 Action Alerts resulted in 104 total confirmations
- 3 Purple Shirt Days had 15 members at the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) and 6 members at the Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP)

Results of Advocacy

LaTEACH advocacy helped the BESE recognize the need for: 1) an equitable funding formula to serve students with disabilities; 2) stakeholder input in the development of Louisiana standards; and 3) scores of students with significant disabilities should be included in the accountability system. BESE members voted March 4 that LDOE should not release any report with false information about vouchers saving the state money as this information about cost and outcomes does not reflect students with disabilities. Now students with the most significant disabilities who take LAA-1 will have their diplomas count starting with

graduation this year.

Leader Positions

- Recruitment to fill LaTEACH vacancies in Regions 1, 3, 7, 8 and 10 continues.
- New leaders were hired in Regions 4 and 9.

On target: Initiative Expenditures

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

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

On target: Effort Satisfactory Progress

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

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

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

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

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

On target: Effort Satisfactory Progress

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

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

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

No activity this quarter.

Previous quarter:

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.

Council staff advocated for language in the proposed MFP for 2017 to be consistent with law (R.S. 17:3995), consistent across sections within the MFP, and consistent with calculations made to determine funding levels for each school. BESE agreed to have the MFP Task Force review these recommendations prior to next time the MFP is proposed.

Previous quarters:

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. LaTEACH and the Council continue to advocate for:

- the need for funding to be based on a student's need,
- the same formula to be used across all schools so adequate funding will truly follow the child, and

- the elimination of financial incentives for not serving students with the highest cost needs.

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

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

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

Council staff and members met with LDOE to discuss possible enhancements to state activities related to behavioral supports initiatives, data collection and sharing and enhancing stakeholder input.

Previous Quarters:

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 18 children since October for a total of 108 participating in PSP services and held 9 Arc team meetings this period.

Data collection activities began this period with a focus on outcomes for the first set of participants then moved to a new sample set that included the children within Region 9 added after July 1, 2015. The Arc requested DHH EarlySteps staff outline the state's plan to support this model to be implemented at the state level. Evaluation activities identified 64 subjects to compare with EarlySteps data.

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 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

Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with Local Education Agencies (LEAs) (Orleans Parish, Jefferson Parish, Cohen, and Collegiate) are developed. MOUs with LRS, Delgado Community College, and University Medical Center (UMC) are under development. Recruitment materials are completed: brochures, flyers, Powerpoint, Contract, and Application. Currently performing job analyses at UMC and developing the 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 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.

Fact sheets were shared with legislators. LRS was recently forced to close Orders of Selection 1-3 (4 and 5 were previously closed) due to budget cuts.

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

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

No activity this quarter. 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. A LaDDC News article is being drafted on this topic.

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

CHILD CARE

Goal 11 The number of quality, affordable, inclusive child care services accessible to parents of children with significant disabilities will increase.

Objective 11.1 The capacity of the Louisiana's child care system to support children with significant disabilities will improve.

Activity 11.1.1 Provide funding to the Arc of Baton Rouge to increase the capacity of child care centers statewide regarding inclusion to accept children with developmental disabilities.
Accomplished in FFY 2013

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

Alternatives to PDHCs were discussed with a group of parents who support PDHCs in a meeting on March 28th.

Previous quarters:

This issues has been discussed in meetings with DHH Secretary Kathy Kliebert.

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