

Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council

Status of FFY 2014 Activities

As applicable, data is presented year-to-date and quarterly (March 1, 2014 – May 31, 2014).

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) supports 289 members in self-advocacy and leadership including 10 new members since October 1, 2013. There are six chapters across the state.

Trainings (sessions, participants)

- For self-advocates (4, 62)
- Self-advocates Presented to Community (1, 7)
- PFL Presentations by Director (1, 7)

Advocacy Update

1. ABLE Act update
 - 72 U.S. Senators and 363 U.S. Representatives are co-sponsoring.
 - Provided information to Michigan's Self-advocacy Network on developing an ABLE Act action alert and making congressional visits.
2. The LA ABLE Act (HB 833) became Act 93 making it the first state level ABLE Act.
3. The "People First" language bill (HB 63), in which PFL assisted in drafting, is pending the Governor's signature. (as of 6/25/2014)
4. PFL advocated for additional waiver slots, filling existing slots, restoration of Families Helping Families funding, Individual and Family Support (3 regions) and Louisiana Rehabilitation Services.
5. 53 self-advocates participated in the Disability Rights Rally.
6. 25 self-advocates participated in Disability Awareness activities.
7. Six self-advocates participated in End the R word activities.

PFL Members on boards (number of PFL members)

- Down Syndrome of Greater New Orleans (1)
- Families Helping Families - Southeast Board of Directors (1)
- LATAN Financial Loan Committee (1)
- Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council (4)
- LSUHSC Human Development Center Consumer Advisory Council (4)
- Mayor's Advisory Council on Disability Affairs (2)
- OCDD Regional Advisory Committee (2)
- OCDD State Advisory Committee (2)

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 graduated 15 participants on June 7th. Recruitment for the 2015 Partners class has begun with one application received plus several inquiries and commitments to apply.

Partners in advocacy

- Eight graduates of Partners currently serve on the DD Council (two are pending appointment by the Governor).
- 38 graduates attended the regional Roundtables (12% of 326 attendees).
- Four graduates testified during State Education Advisory Panel's February meeting.
- A 2013 graduate is the Region 1/10 LaCAN Leader.
- Graduates on boards
 - Advocacy Center (2)
 - FHF - Jefferson Board of Directors (1)
 - SEAP (2)

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 participated 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

Eleven individuals with disabilities and family members received **stipends through Families Helping Families** to attend conferences and workshops this quarter for a total of 52 since October 1, 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 stipend was used this period in the amount of \$651. The balance in the Council member Stipend Fund is \$1,654.

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.

The Council has advocated for this issue repeatedly and it is included on the list of “ongoing issues” provided to Secretary Kathy Kliebert in our January meeting with her. OCDD is working on this. An update on their progress can be found in their July quarterly report under Freedom of Choice Enhancements.

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. OAAS reports that the first year will be reviewed for information purposes only. The next phase of this project involves working to develop a cost-based rate methodology for Home and Community Based services.

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.)

No activity this quarter.

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 44 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 44 individuals served, seventeen (17) cases have been closed.

The Advocacy Center has received eight (8) referrals from Jefferson Parish Human Services Authority (JPHSA), one (1) referral from Metropolitan Human Services District (MHSD), and 35 referrals from within the community. Monthly, the Advocacy Center reports the status of individuals served as well as systematic issues found to the Council, the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, JPHSA and MHSD.

House Bill 1 includes funding in the Attorney General's budget to continue this project and expand it to Greater Baton Rouge.

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 has meet with five Pro Bono Projects in the Baton Rouge and New Orleans areas. No projects have agreed to take Adult Protective Services (APS) cases at this time; however all of them have agreed to circulate information regarding the need for Pro Bono Attorneys for Adult Protective Services cases. The Advocacy Center is working to schedule meetings in Shreveport and has begun work on the training videos for Pro Bono attorneys interested in Adult Protective Services Cases.

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 2,180. This is an increase of 131 since October 1, 2013.

Advocacy Activities

- Five action alerts with a total of 1,504 confirmations.
- Seven Yellow Shirt Days with a total of 204 participants.
- A total of 1,431 individuals participated in LaCAN activities this year. A total of 3,426 actions were taken (including conference, roundtable, rally, legislative visit, or yellow shirt day attendance and participation in action alerts)

Results of Advocacy

- The Legislature passed the budget with funding for every item on the LaCAN advocacy agenda including waivers, Families Helping Families, the Individual and Family Support Program, and La. Rehabilitation Services.
- LaCAN was unsuccessful in advocating for the protection of critical services for vulnerable populations.

Update on Leader Positions

- The LaCAN Leader position in Region 8 will be vacant as of June 20th. Applications are currently being accepted.

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 2014 Disability Rights Rally was held on March 19th with confirmed attendance by 421 people including: 170 self-advocates and 136 family members.

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 included emergency waiver slots, online provider data, the LA Special Education Center, Managed Long-Term Supports and Services, and issues regarding the Legislative session.

The Council also advocates for this activity 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 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 (MLTSS) Advisory Council but the Advisory Council did not meet this quarter. The Council sent a letter to Secretary Kliebert with recommendations for the design and implementation of MLTSS.

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. See OCDD's July quarterly report to the Council for an update on this initiative. The letter to secretary Kliebert regarding MLTSS included recommendations on this issue.

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

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

At the request of a Partners' graduate, Sen. Kenny Havard introduced HB185 (Bailey's Law) that would exempt direct support staff for people participating in Self-direction from medication administration training requirements. Act 507 (HB 185) was passed by the legislature, but amended to require direct support professionals for people participating in

self-direction to comply with medication administration training requirements; however their training will be customized for people in self-direction and developed by the Department of Health and Hospitals in collaborations with the Louisiana Board of Nursing.

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

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

No Council activity this quarter.

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. OCDD is continuing discussions with two IFC/DD providers who have expressed interest in conversion.

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 currently no funding mechanism for them to receive supports in 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.

OCDD reported they are developing a profile of residents of the LA Special Education Center but this information has not been shared with the Council.

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

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

No activity this quarter. Information has been shared with BESE previously.

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.

Families Helping Families (FHF) Resource Centers assisted 6,282 individuals and families with information, referral, or other support this quarter for a total of 16,464 since October 1, 2013. Currently reported data reflects a correction from the two previous reports.

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 48 outreaches to hospitals and health care providers to inform them of resources available this quarter for a total of 108 since October 1, 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 and advocate for expansion of Act 378 services. The Council and LaCAN were successful in securing additional funding for the Individual and

Family Support Program in three districts/authorities and the Families Helping Families Centers statewide. An Act 378 Ad Hoc Committee reviewed a draft policy manual developed by the Office of Behavioral Health on the Consumer Care Resources program.

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 health care 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. Access to Bayou Health for these populations will be available July 1, 2014.

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 Nurse Practitioner/Physician Assistant 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 physicians and 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.

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 2014

The **LaTEACH** listserv was 1,540 as of June 12, 2014. The listserv is being updated to remove duplicates/old email addresses so this number represents an increase of 166 since October 1, 2013.

Advocacy Activities

LaTEACH members took action on the follow agenda items: student progression and diploma pathway; school performance score formula; funding formula (MFP); and teachers' authority to have students arrested.

- Five Action Alerts were sent with 555 total confirmations.
- Four Purple Shirt Days were held with 122 participants.
- Leaders made 541 informal contacts with policymakers (i.e., BESE members & Legislators) and completed 26 formal legislative visits this year.
- Leaders provided LaTEACH information during 23 regional outreach events in which 1,531 individuals attended.

Results of Advocacy

- Legislators responded to advocacy efforts regarding student outcomes by passing HB1015. With the passage of HB1015 certain students with disabilities will have an alternate pathway for grade promotion and graduation as determined by performance requirements established by their IEP teams.
- A proposal to give teachers the authority to have a student arrested and eventually sent to an alternative school (SB652) failed.
- Efforts to have the Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) be based on student needs and equitable across school systems were unsuccessful.
- School Performance Scores continue to reflect which students are in a school instead of how well the school serves all students.

Leader Positions

- Denay Hooks is the new LaTEACH leader for Region 8 effective May 14, 2014.
- Shanee Holmes is the new LaTEACH leader for Region 1/10 effective July 1, 2014.
- LaTEACH has vacancies in Regions 3, 5, 6, & 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 and the 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's advocacy agenda regarding student promotion and graduation determinations was submitted to Superintendent White in November, presented at the Special Education Advisory Panel in February, and was included in legislation (HB993 and HB1015). HB1015 passed and was signed by the Governor becoming Act 833.

On target: Effort Satisfactory Progress

Objective 7.3 There will be an increase in the number of charter schools, early education programs, and other publically funded education facilities that approximate the percentage of students statewide served with developmental disabilities across all 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. Superintendent White has initiated discussions and shared plans for adjusting funding and accountability systems to address bias against serving students with more significant disabilities. The Council advocated for BESE to reconsider using a proposed different accountability system for charter schools serving at-risk students (including students with disabilities).

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 BESE and the Legislature regarding the Minimum Foundation Program (MFP):

- 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,
- to eliminate financial incentives for not serving students with the highest cost needs.

The Legislature approved the MFP without addressing these issues.

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.

Advocacy resulted in the failure of a proposal (SB652) that would have given teachers the authority to have a student arrested and eventually sent to an alternative school.

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 measurable.

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 added 22 family members and provided six technical assistance (TA) sessions and 22 coaching sessions this reporting period: 27 TA and 69 coaching sessions in support of 107 children and families since October 1, 2013.

Experts provided follow-up training to 12 Arc Early Intervention Team Members that focused on use of modeling and hands on strategies during coaching sessions. Technical assistance sessions focused on the utilization of coaching skills. Additionally, work was conducted to begin evaluation activities and develop a timeline for data review.

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.

No Council activity this quarter. 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. For more information on OCDD's Employment First Initiative, see OCDD's July report.

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

Four agencies participate in the **Supported Employment Mentoring Program**. Activity since October 1, 2013 includes:

Participants (unduplicated)

Employment Specialist Professionals (ESPs) participating: 14

Job seekers participating: 23

Job seekers achieving outcomes: 9

Training and Mentoring (this period, year to date)

Supported Employment: (7, 20)

Mentoring hours: (163, 275)

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.

Advocacy to draw down the entire VR grant award was part of discussions with legislators during regional roundtables and Rally day. Due to advocacy by the DD Council, LaCAN, the Louisiana Rehabilitation Council, and other partners, the Legislature restored the Governor's proposed cut of \$762,000 in state appropriation to La. Rehabilitation Services. The cut would have resulted in a federal reduction of \$2,815,465 for a total reduction of \$3,577,465.

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