

Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council

Status of FFY 2016 Activities

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

QUALITY ASSURANCE

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

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

Activity 1.1.1 Provide financial support for the operation of People First of Louisiana (PFL).

Accomplished in FFY 2014

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

Information was provided to People First of Louisiana and the Arc of Louisiana and asked to share with self-advocates regarding updates on Partners regional workshops.

On target: **Initiative**

Objective 1.2 Individuals with developmental disabilities will participate on cross-disability and culturally diverse leadership coalitions.

Activity 1.2.1 Provide information to individuals with developmental disabilities encouraging their participation on identified statewide boards, councils and committees and determine the number of individuals with developmental disabilities represented on targeted boards.

People First of Louisiana and the Arc of Louisiana were sent information to send to self-advocates about applying for vacancies on Families Helping Families boards, the Statewide Independent Living Council and the Governor's Advisory Council on Disability Affairs.

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 held seven regional workshops this period in Baton Rouge, Gray, Lafayette, Covington, New Orleans, Lake Charles and Bossier City on four topics: The Legislative Process, Creating a Valued Future, Inclusive Education, and Building Community through Social Capital. A total of 175 people attended, including 30 Self-Advocates, 84 Parents/Family members, and 61 Other/Professionals. The remaining two workshops are planned for September in Alexandria and Monroe on Supported Employment.

Applications for the 2017 Partners class will be accepted through September 30, 2016. Monthly sessions will be January - June 2017 in Baton Rouge.

Status of Partners' Alumni Groups:

- Alumni liaisons are organizing regional lists to get responses from the graduates in their areas and are reporting they connect via email and Facebook.

Partners' Graduates in Advocacy

- 154 Graduates are active on the Partners' alumni page as of May 31, 2016. Graduates continue to share posts about the Partners' workshops.
- 10 graduates currently serve on the DD Council; 1 recently moved.
- 5 graduates serve as Regional Advocacy Leaders; 2 serve as FHF Directors.
- 25 Graduates on other boards & committees (number of graduates)
 - ABLE Account Authority (2)
 - Acadiana Area Human Services Authority (1)
 - Advocacy Center Board of Directors (2)
 - Governor's Advisory Council on Disability Affairs (2)
 - Jefferson Parish Human Services Authority (2)
 - Louisiana Commission for the Deaf (1)
 - LSU Human Development Center Consumer Advisory Council (4)
 - Louisiana Statewide Independent Living Council (3)
 - Louisiana Statewide Interagency Coordinating Council (2)
 - OCDD State Advisory Council (2)
 - People First of LA Board of Directors (2)
 - Special Education Advisory Panel (2)
- Graduates confirmed actions:
 - LaTEACH: Alerts, 55; Purple Shirt Days, 28
 - LaCAN: Alerts, 159; Yellow Shirt Days, 20

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 was not a Partners in Policymaking class in 2016 so no Council members participated in a regular program.

No Council members requested reimbursement of mileage to attend a Partners workshop.

Activity 1.3.3 Provide financial and staff support for an advocacy leadership conference.

Approximate Cost: \$16,000 in FFY 2016

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

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

Activity 1.4.1 Contract with Families Helping Families Regional Resource Centers (FHF) to financially support stipends for persons with developmental disabilities and their family members to participate in training, conferences, meetings, and events.

Accomplished in FFY 2015

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

Accomplished in FFY 2013

Activity 1.4.3 Provide support for registration costs for ten self-advocates to attend the 2015 REACH Conference.

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

Objective 1.5 Members of the Council and its committees will be supported to serve as effective advocates for state and national systems change and receive staff and administrative support to effectively implement the Council's mission and goals.

Activity 1.5.1 Support individuals with developmental disabilities and family members of individuals with developmental disabilities in participation in Council meetings and other functions.

Council members are supported in participation in Council meetings and other functions.

Activity 1.5.2 Support Council members' participation in training and educational opportunities.
Approximate Cost: \$3,000 in FFY 2016

No stipends were provided this quarter.

Activity 1.5.3 Support the Council leadership's participation in national training, networking events and advocacy opportunities.
Approximate Cost: \$7,000 in FFY 2016

One member was supported in attending the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities Conference and AIDD Technical Assistance Institute in Washington, D.C., July 5-8, 2016.

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 and Advocacy Center staff met with Representative Walt Leger regarding HB790 which calls for implementation of Managed Long Term Supports and Services (MLTSS). Concerns were shared regarding the implementation of MLTSS for people with developmental disabilities, but that those same concerns did not apply to people with adult-onset disability.

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.

Advocated at the MLTSS Advisory Council meetings, the OCDD System Transformation Core Group meetings, with the DHH leadership for an expanded and improved system of supports and services with specific recommendations and disseminated these recommendations to the Council's constituency.

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

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

Activity 2.2.1 Advocate for

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

No activity this quarter.

Previous quarters:

Developed a fact sheet and presented information on the inadequacy of the waiver rates to support a living wage for DSPs to legislators at the 2015 legislative roundtables. DHH is looking at home and community-based rate reimbursement methodology and the feasibility of doing cost reports versus obtaining other information.

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

Activity 2.2.2 Promote the vocation of DSPs by recognizing their important work through the funding of a media campaign.

Approximate Cost: \$10,000 in FFY 2016

The social media campaign will run July-September leading up to DSP Appreciation Week (typically held the week of September 13th). Four videos featuring DSPs and the individuals they support were produced by Hometown Productions. These videos highlight the positive impact each DSP has had in the individual's life and why the DSP enjoys the work he/she does. Posts on the Council's Facebook page ask followers to share their personal stories on how a DSP has improved their life or that of a loved one. These stories will be shared in posts entitled "DSP Spotlight" throughout the campaign along with other posts sharing facts and statistics on the valuable work of DSPs and the need for new individuals to enter the profession.

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.)

No activity this quarter.

Previous quarters:

A letter was sent to members of the La Support Coordination Alliance (LSCA) December 8 sharing the benefits of self-direction and asking for their support in promoting this model of service delivery. Council staff met with members of LSCA on February 16 and they agreed to better promote self-direction.

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

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

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

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

COMMUNITY SUPPORTS

Goal 3 Changes to policies and practices in Louisiana's developmental disability system will result in adequate funding and availability of quality supports and services in the community and reduce reliance on public and private residential facilities for people with developmental disabilities.

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

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

LaCAN's listserv is currently at 2,512. This is a decrease of 110 since the previous quarter due to the removal of bad or non-existent email addresses.

Advocacy Activities

- Nine Yellow Shirt Days with 179 participants (duplicate)
- Eleven Action Alerts: seven tracked (1,160 confirmations)
 - March 21 – Contact Health & Welfare (176)
 - April 14 – Contact Appropriations (137)
 - April 28 – Contact Appropriations (165)
 - May 11 – Contact Your Representative (206)
 - May 16 – Contact Finance (265)
 - May 31 – Contact Your Senator (42)
 - June 01 – Contact Your Representative (169)

Results of Advocacy

LaCAN successfully advocated for the restoration of funding to:

- All four DD home- and community-based services waivers
- Families Helping Families
- State Personal Assistance Services Program (SPAS)
- Long-Term Personal Care Services (LT-PCS)
- LA Rehabilitation Services (the full budget impact is unknown at this time)
- Human Services Districts/Authorities (partial restoration)

Advocacy efforts were unsuccessful in securing funding to:

- Fill vacant waiver slots
- Cover overtime costs for direct support professionals
- Fully restore cuts to the Human Services Districts/Authorities
- Fully restore the High Cost Fund for serving students with significant disabilities (although this is in LDOE's budget, this issue was included in LaCAN alerts during the Second Special Session. It is unknown at this time how much, if any, of the cuts to the High Cost Fund were restored.)

Update on Leader Positions

- Two Leaders were hired this quarter (Daniell Migliore for Region 1 and Laura Breaux for Region 4)
- Recruitment continues for vacancies in Regions 8, 9, and 10.

On target: Initiative Expenditures

Activity 3.1.2 Collaborate with other advocacy groups to plan and support Disability Rights Day.

Approximate Cost: \$5,000 in FFY 2016

Disability Rights Day was held Tuesday, April 5, 2016, and was attended by 326 individuals including 97 self-advocates and 121 family members.

Teams from each region visited legislators throughout the day sharing the message "We're not an OPTION. We're a PRIORITY" along with fact sheets detailing the importance and necessity of funding for various supports and

services that people with disabilities need to live in their own homes and be fully participating members of their communities.

A rally program was held at noon and included comments from Governor John Bel Edwards; Senator Gerald Boudreaux; Representative Frank Hoffman; Bambi Polotzola, parent advocate and Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs; Sandee Winchell; and Co-Masters of Ceremonies April Dunn and Micah Moscovis.

On target: Initiative Expenditures

Activity 3.1.3 Advocate for systems change initiatives, revenue generating strategies, policies and practices needed to expand supports and services.

The Council leadership held its first meeting with the new DHH Secretary, Dr. Rebekah Gee, Deputy Secretary Michelle Alletto, and Mark Thomas. Issues discussed included: Act 378 programs, budget cuts, MLTSS, and the high rate of institutionalization in LA. The next meeting is scheduled for July 5th.

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 and Advocacy Center staff met with Representative Walt Leger regarding HB790 which calls for implementation of Managed Long Term Supports and Services (MLTSS). Shared concerns regarding the implementation of MLTSS for people with developmental disabilities, but that those same concerns did not apply to people with adult-onset disability.

Previous quarters:

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. **Accomplished in FFY 2015**

No activity this quarter.

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

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

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

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

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

Previous quarters:
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.

There is consensus in the group working on the OCDD/Council DSP training initiative on the need for a new service and higher rate to serve people with complex needs. The challenge is figuring out how to fund it.

Previous quarters:

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

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

Council staff and OCDD have been working with providers selected for the pilot to arrange a schedule of classes. OCDD has produced modules for Executive training, Person-Centered Orientation, Positive Behavior Support, and Medical and Allied Health Support. Applications will be solicited from providers interested in participating in the second round beginning September 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 is on the agenda for the Council's meeting with Dr. Gee on July 5th.

Previous quarters:

"Money follows the person" was discussed frequently during the Council's quarterly meetings with the DHH Secretary and during the OCDD System Transformation Core Group meetings. 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.

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

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

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

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

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

No activity this quarter.

Previous quarters:

OCDD sent a list generated from the criteria established between OCDD and the LA Special Education Center (LSEC) (diagnosis codes, service utilization, waiver status) of approximately 700 children to the LSEC Director on September 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 5,616 individuals and families with information, referral, or other support this quarter for a total of 15,565 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 40 outreach activities to hospitals, pediatricians, and health care providers to inform them of resources available this quarter for a total of 76 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: Medicaid expansion, Managed Long-Term Supports and Services, the ABLE Act, voting accessibility, airline accessibility, inclusive education, inclusion in the workplace, the transition from institutional living to home and community-based services, Council-sponsored Advocacy Workshops (held in lieu of Partners in Policymaking), status updates and opportunities to advocate during the 2016 Legislative Sessions, opportunities to advocate at BESE and Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP) meetings, and opportunities to apply for LaCAN/LaTEACH Leadership and Council membership.

LaDDC News (as of 06/13/2016)

- 1,353 current subscribers

Facebook (as of 06/13/2016)

- Council – 1,606 Likes, increase of 366 since October 1, 2015
- LaCAN – 1,089 Likes, increase of 200 since October 1, 2015
- LaTEACH – 569 Likes, increase of 79 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.

Council sponsored grassroots advocacy efforts were successful in seeing funding restored to all four home and community-based waivers for individuals with

developmental disabilities, Families Helping Families, Long-Term Personal Care Services, the State Personal Assistance Services (SPAS) program, and partially restored to the Human Services Districts and Authorities (that administer the Individual and Family Support and Flexible Family Fund Programs).

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

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.

Fact sheets related to this objective were developed.

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

On target: **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.

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

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

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

On target: **Initiative**

Activity 6.3.3 Identify dentists who have participated in training (6.1.4) and disseminate the information to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

No activity this quarter.

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

EDUCATION

Goal 7 Changes in policies and practices will result in inclusive, evidence-based, and safe educational settings for students with developmental disabilities.

Objective 7.1 1,000 people will become active in systems advocacy for increased access to inclusive education opportunities among students with developmental disabilities in all publicly funded schools through the support of a statewide family-driven special education grassroots advocacy organization.

Activity 7.1.1 Provide financial and other support to Louisiana Together Educating All Children (LaTEACH) for the promotion of appropriate, inclusive education for all students.
Approximate Cost: \$110,000 in FFY 2016

The **LaTEACH** listserv had 1,738 members on October 1, 2015 and 1,773 as of June 14, 2016.

Advocacy Activities

LaTEACH members took action this period on education policies related to school funding, school performance scores/accountability, achievement standards, special education spending/reporting/monitoring, use of restraints and seclusion, and the need for the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) to collect/report data. This period:

- Seven Action Alerts resulted in 232 total confirmed instances of member actions.
- Five Purple Shirt Days had 48 members attend meetings of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), Special Education Advisory Panel, Senate Education Committee and House Education Committee.

Results of Advocacy

LaTEACH advocacy was very successful this legislation session. Laws passed require LDOE to report on instances of restraint and seclusion and create an Advisory Council on Student Behavior and Discipline with strong representation of parents of students with disabilities, and require LDOE to produce/report data on special education statistics as had been available prior to 2013.

Leader Positions

- Recruitment to fill LaTEACH vacancies in Regions 8 and 10 continues.
- A new leader was hired in Region 1 for both LaTEACH and LaCAN in June.

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. With the passage of Act 522 of 2016 the Council will have representation on the Advisory Council on Student Behavior and Discipline.

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

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

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

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

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

Advocated for charter schools to be prohibited from requiring students applying for admission from disclosing certain student information, such as medical records. Act 303 passed.

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.

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

The La Department of Education (LDOE) is also working to implement a pilot project to support child care centers to build capacity when serving children with disabilities eligible for CCAP whose individual needs are above and beyond the resource of the new increased rate. The Inclusion Work Group will be meeting to develop recommendations to assist with this process.

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.

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.

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

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 39 children since October for a total of 129 participating in PSP services and held 11 Arc team meetings this period.

Data collection and evaluation activities continued this period. The project is determining the outcomes to report based on the data and expects to have program evaluation results that inform EarlySteps of the benefits of the PSP model and the cost associated with it. Project staff will work to find matches between project data and EarlySteps data from across the state rather than just in Regions 2 and 9.

Meetings were held with EarlySteps and evaluation consultants to discuss how Regional Coordinators will support data collection with the development of an evaluation tool to use as they review EarlySteps data.

The Arc Baton Rouge secured partial funding for the next three years from the United Way for Early Intervention services using the PSP Model. This, in conjunction with other external and EarlySteps funding, will allow Children's Services to continue to build on its current work for implementing activities to expand the PSP approach.

On target: Initiative Expenditures

EMPLOYMENT

Goal 9 Changes in public policy and practice will result in an increase of 1,000 people with developmental disabilities in integrated individualized employment.

Objective 9.1 Louisiana will develop and implement an Employment First plan.

Activity 9.1.1

Advocate for

- policies that incentivize services for individualized integrated, competitive employment and dis-incentivize segregated, sheltered day habilitation services,
- sheltered workshops to transition people into individualized, competitive, paid employment and discontinue admissions into segregated day programs,
- collaborative policy making and practices across state agencies that promote students being supported in and transitioning into competitive paid employment,
- LA Rehabilitation Services (LRS) and OCDD will collaborate to mandate that all supported employment vendors/providers complete a university-based, 40-hour training. **Accomplished** (fourth bullet only)
- Support family members and other advocates to serve on the Louisiana work team in developing an Employment First agenda and implementation plan including participation in state level meetings. **Accomplished** (fifth bullet only)

Council staff repeatedly advocated for increased collaboration with redevelopment of the workforce development system in Louisiana related to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

On target: Effort Satisfactory Progress

Activity 9.1.2

Participate in the development and implementation (if awarded) of the Partnerships in Employment Systems Change grant with the LSU-HSC Human Development Center and other collaborators to enhance statewide collaborations that will facilitate the transition process from secondary and post-secondary school, or other pre-vocational training settings, to competitive employment in integrated settings.

Accomplished in FFY 2012

Activity 9.1.3 Provide funding for provision of the LRS-required training in the 40-hour Supported Employment Core Curriculum and the development and provision of a competency-based mentoring program for Employment Support Professionals who have completed the required 40-hour training.
Accomplished in FFY 2015

Objective 9.2 The capacity of the employment provider system will improve through evidence-based practice in collaboration with the LSU-HSC Human Development Center.

Activity 9.2.1 Provide financial support to the Human Development Center to disseminate a curriculum and provide training to agencies on recommended practices for supporting people with disabilities in employment
Accomplished in FFY 2012

Activity 9.2.2 Provide funding for a paid apprenticeship program for individuals with developmental disabilities.
Approximate Cost: \$20,619 in FFY 2016

Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with Local Education Agencies (LEAs) (Orleans Parish, Jefferson Parish, Cohen, and Collegiate) are developed. MOUs with LA Rehabilitation Services (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.

Advocacy for funding has continued including providing fact sheets to legislators. Only LRS' Order of Selection 1 is open 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.

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.

The Council sponsored two advocacy workshops on “Building Community through Social Capital” which were taught by Al Condeluci in New Orleans and Lake Charles in June. A LaDDC News article is also 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 issue has been discussed in meetings with DHH Secretary Kathy Kliebert.

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