

# Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council

## Status of FFY 2014 Activities

As applicable, data is presented year-to-date and quarterly (June 1, 2014 – August 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. There are six chapters across the state in New Orleans, Ascension Parish, Lafayette, Lake Charles, Shreveport and Monroe.

#### Trainings (sessions, participants)

- For self-advocates by PFL Board (1, 5)
- For self-advocates by Director (3, 53)

#### Advocacy Update

1. ABLE Act update
  - Anticipated to pass as amended in committee
  - Amendment restricts eligibility to those who had onset of a disability prior to age 26 (previously had no age restrictions) making many who advocated for the ABLE Act ineligible.
  - Advocacy efforts temporarily suspended; PFL to resume once it passes by advocating for an amendment to include all persons with disabilities.
2. People First language legislation was signed by the governor (HB 63/Act 811).

#### 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 (3)
- 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 provided 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** has received nine applications for 2015 class as of September 18, 2014. Recruitment for 2015 continues and planning for the Partners Selection and/or Ad Hoc committee(s) has begun.

Partners in advocacy

- The Partners in Policymaking Alumni Facebook page has 145 members.
- Ten graduates of Partners currently serve on the DD Council
- Five graduates are regional LaCAN and/or LaTEACH leaders
- Graduates confirmed 34 instances of taking action on LaCAN agenda activities.
- Graduates confirmed 29 instances of taking action LaTEACH agenda activities.
- Graduates on boards (number of graduates)
  - Special Education Advisory Panel (2)
  - Families Helping Families Boards (3)

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

**Activity 1.3.2** Support up to two Council members' participation in Partners in Policymaking.  
**Approximate Cost: \$3,000 in FFY 2014**

No current Council members participated in this past 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**

Four individuals with disabilities and family members received **stipends through Families Helping Families** to attend a conferences and workshops this quarter for a total of 58 since

October 1, 2013.

**On target:**  Initiative  Expenditures

**Activity 1.4.2** Provide financial support for the continuation and expansion of a training program for people with developmental disabilities by individuals with developmental disabilities on advocacy, independence, self-determination, productivity, integration, and inclusion leadership topics.  
**Accomplished in FFY 2013**

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

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

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

**Activity 1.5.2** Support Council members' participation in training and educational opportunities.  
**Approximate Cost: \$3,000 in FFY 2014**

Three Council members were awarded stipends this period totaling \$1,554. The balance in the Council member Stipend Fund is \$92.

**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**

Two Council members participated in two national training events.

**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.

OCDD sent waiver providers a questionnaire in regard to types of services they provide, population they serve, and other general information about their agency. Provider

information will be posted online by September 30<sup>th</sup> to assist individuals and families in making a more informed decision when selecting a provider.

**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*

No Council activity this quarter. 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 involves developing 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 46 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 46 individuals served, eighteen cases are still open and 28 cases have been closed.

The Advocacy Center has received ten (10) referrals from Jefferson Parish Human Services Authority (JPHSA), four (4) referrals from Metropolitan Human Services District (MHSD), and 32 referrals from other sources. Monthly, the Advocacy Center reports the status of individuals served as well as systemic issues identified to the Council, the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, JPHSA and MHSD.

Funding to continue the project and expand into the Greater Baton Rouge area was included in the state's FY15 budget by the legislature. The Advocacy Center is working to hire additional staff for the expansion.

**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 met with five Pro Bono Projects in the Baton Rouge and New Orleans areas. Attorneys at three firms have expressed interest in assisting with Adult Protective Services cases. The training for this project is still in development. The Advocacy Center has applied to have the training accredited by the Bar Association, is planning for a live Continuing Legal Education event in November, and plans to have a video available for future training. The contract is being extended to allow additional time to achieve this deliverable.

**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 2,244. This is an increase of 195 since October 1, 2013.

Advocacy Activities

- LaCAN/LaTEACH Leaders and FHF Directors met on June 19<sup>th</sup> at the annual Legislative Debriefing to discuss the 2014 legislative session.
- LaCAN Leader Training was held on August 7<sup>th</sup>.
- LaCAN/LaTEACH Leaders and FHF Directors met together on September 10<sup>th</sup> for the 2015 Legislative Kickoff to develop proposed items for the Council's 2016 Grassroots Legislative Advocacy Agenda.

Results of Advocacy

- Approximately 1,200 people with developmental disabilities on the waiver waiting list are expected to receive services this year.
- Increased funding for Individual and Family Support in three regions will result in these regions being able to better meet the needs in their region.
- Restored funding to Families Helping Families will allow the centers to better serve the population in their regions.

Update on Leader Positions

The LaCAN Leader position in Region 8 is vacant. Applications are 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 19<sup>th</sup> with 421 participants.

**On target:**  Initiative  Expenditures

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

The Council leadership meets quarterly with DHH Secretary Kathy Kliebert and OCDD Assistant Secretary Mark Thomas to advocate for systems change initiatives. Items discussed this quarter included allocation of Emergency Waiver Slots; timeline/phase-in of newly funded waiver slots; Individual and Family Support funding; transition plan for sheltered workshops to comply with new HCBS definition; Personal Care Assistance rates/availability through EPSDT; and online provider data.

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.

Two concept papers were released by DHH this quarter. Concerns were expressed at the

Managed Long Term Supports and Services (MLTSS) Advisory Council meeting about a couple of issues included in the OCDD concept paper.

**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 continues to advocate 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. OCDD's quarterly report to the Council includes an update on this initiative. In addition, the latest MLTSS concept paper acknowledges that system improvements must address behavioral health challenges – the top reason for failure in the community.

An LaDDC News article and a Facebook posting encouraged individuals with developmental disabilities and families to share their experience in accessing behavioral support services. This information will allow the Council to provide informed input to DHH.

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

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

Act 504 of 2014 requires 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 collaboration with the Louisiana Board of Nursing. An initial

meeting was held to begin developing the administrative rule that will govern this program.

**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)

OCDD is continuing discussions with two IFC/DD providers who have expressed interest in conversion to the ROW. See OCDD's quarterly report for more information on this issue.

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

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

The Council continues to advocate for people to be able to move into their own homes and take their funding with them. This recommendation has been discussed on repeated occasions in the OCDD System Transformation Core Group meetings.

**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.

The Council has requested the profile of residents of the LA Special Education Center from OCDD but this information has not yet been received. This information will help the Council understand what type of supports, both in-home and in-school, are needed in order for the children at the center to transition out.



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

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

The Council's position on the Special Education Center was shared in a meeting with the pending Council member representing the Department of Education.

**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 5,696 individuals and families with information, referral, or other support this quarter for a total of 22,160 since October 1, 2013.

**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 43 outreaches to hospitals and health care providers to inform them of resources available this quarter for a total of 151 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. Concerns were shared with DHH Secretary Kliebert regarding the new funding secured not supplanting existing funds for the Individual and Family Support (IFS) Program. LaCAN Leaders and other advocates are attending Local Governing Entity Board and Regional Advisory Committee meetings to express support for this program and to monitor its funding. Concerns have been expressed to OCDD regarding the varied interpretation of IFS policy across the state.

**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.

Individuals with developmental disabilities previously excluded from Bayou Health are now able to voluntarily opt in to this managed health care system. Those who opt in would be able to opt out and return to the Medicaid fee-for-service system if not satisfied with Bayou Health. Access to Bayou Health for these individuals was 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** will have completed development of its final two training modules by the end of September. Each module includes: Power Point Presentation with embedded videos, links, and resources, and an Instructor Guide Manual. The project has requested a contract extension to complete expansion of Operation House Call to Shreveport.

**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 had 1,595 members as of September 12, 2014 and has increased by 270 since October 1, 2013.

Advocacy Activities  
LaTEACH members took action on student progression and diploma policies (HB1015/ Act 833).

- Since July 1<sup>st</sup>, five Action Alerts resulted in 141 total confirmed actions by members.
- Three Purple Shirt Days involved a total of 14 LaTEACH members participating in the Accountability Commission, the Superintendent’s Advisory Council, and the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE).

Results of Advocacy

- The Governor signed Act 833 and BESE adopted proposed rules allowing for certain students with disabilities to have an alternative pathway to be promoted through grades and to earn a diploma. BESE amended rules related to alternative pathways for students with disabilities to be promoted and earn diplomas to be aligned with Act 833. This change allows all students, including students with the most significant disabilities (i.e., students on LAA-1), the opportunity to graduate with a diploma.
- BESE charged the Louisiana Department of Education (LDE) to work with advocates and school systems to refine the accountability system to reflect how schools serve ALL students, including those with the most significant disabilities.
- The Council is convening the Act 833 Leadership Steering Committee to provide recommendations for implementation of policies and procedures to maintain high expectations for all students and enable each student the opportunity to earn a high school diploma.

Leader Positions

- Tammy Roblez became the new leader for Region 9 effective August 8, 2014.
- Recruitment to fill LaTEACH vacancies in Regions 3, 5, & 6 continues.

**On target:**  Initiative  Expenditures

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

The Council is represented on the Louisiana Council for Exceptional Children 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.

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

- Development and maintenance of a website to provide information, updates, sample documents, and training materials and videos
- Ten (10) weekly webinars were hosted with Local Education Agency special education directors, parents and policy makers to share updates and have a forum for questions and answers (averaging over 50 participants per webinar)
- Four (4) training videos were developed and disseminated; viewed by over 640 people
- Advocated at the Superintendents' Advisory Council for continued collaboration between parents and school systems in implementing Act 833 and promoting effective policy changes
- Advocated at the Special Education Advisory Panel and BESE to change initial proposal for Bulletin 1530 (IEP handbook) to align with Act 833. BESE adopted Council recommendations in full.
- Participated in phone conferences between Representative Schroder, Congressman Scalise, U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) senior staff, and the LA Department of Education regarding the basis of concerns issued by USDOE
- Convened the initial Act 833 Leadership Steering Committee meeting

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) Task Force parent representative was changed to include a LaTEACH leader. The MFP Task Force will convene with one meeting devoted to special education funding and a charge to create an equitable funding structure.

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,
- 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 alternative positive evidence based options (e.g., positive behavior practices, etc.) and advocate for policies and practices that promote the safe and effective practices in collaboration with the Advocacy Center.

No activity this quarter.

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

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

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

**Activity 8.1.1** Advocate for an accountability structure that ensures

- service delivery levels greater than 24 hours in a 6-month period have data-driven team justifications,
- family participation in quarterly team meetings, and
- outcomes in Individual Family Support Plans will be measureable.

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

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

The **Early Intervention Primary Service Provider (PSP) Training and Coaching** project added 19 family members and provided three technical assistance (TA) sessions and eight coaching sessions this reporting period: 30 TA and 92 coaching sessions in support of 126 children and families since October 1, 2013.

Experts provided TA regarding utilization of coaching skills to Arc staff (Provider Coaches). Specific feedback, analysis and instruction were provided to each provider coach. Follow-up coaching sessions were planned to log and analyze each provider's coaching skills for improvement.

Feedback by experts included recommendations to provide support within the family's routine or activity/setting rather than specific times during the week. Experts also provided support for data collection during evaluation activities and working with EarlySteps administration. Within its State Improvement Plan, EarlySteps will address coaching and evaluate project data for quality and cost saving practices.

**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.

A letter was sent to Mark Thomas, OCDD Assistant Secretary, recommending revisions to portions of the Support Coordinator Service Agreement applying to Employment First.

**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 data since October 1, 2013 is included below. The project hasn't invoiced for its Activities in July or August.

**Participants** (unduplicated)

Employment Specialist Professionals (ESPs) participating: 25

Job seekers participating: 34

Job seekers achieving outcomes: 14

**Training and Mentoring** (this period, year to date)

Supported Employment: (5, 25)

Mentoring hours: (161, 436)

**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 the day of the Rally. 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**