

# Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council

## Status of FFY 2015 Activities

As applicable, data is presented year-to-date and quarterly (March 1, 2015 – May 30, 2015).

### QUALITY ASSURANCE

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

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

**Activity 1.1.1** Provide financial support for the operation of People First of Louisiana.  
**Accomplished in FFY 2014**

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

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

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

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

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

Information was provided to People First of Louisiana regarding an available position on the DD Council from the Monroe area.

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

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

**Activity 1.3.1** Provide financial support and technical assistance for Partners in Policymaking and its alumni network.  
**Approximate Cost: \$80,000 in FFY 2015**

**Partners in Policymaking** graduated 19 participants (6 self-advocates, 2 dads, and 11 moms) in the 2015 Partners class during the June session.

- Confirmed advocacy actions: LaTEACH, 11; and LaCAN, 22.
- Sixteen attended Disability Rights Day.
- One provided testimony during the legislative session.

Partners graduates in advocacy

- 144 are members of the Partners in Policymaking Alumni Facebook page
- Confirmed advocacy actions: LaTEACH, 35; and LaCAN, 66.
- 34 attended Disability Rights Day.
- 3 attended the 2015 National Disability Policy Seminar in Washington, DC in April and visited Congressman Steve Scalise's staff and Senator Cassidy and his staff.
- 11 currently serve on the DD Council.
- 6 graduates are regional LaCAN and/or LaTEACH leaders; 2 are FHF directors.
- Graduates on boards & committees (number of graduates)
  - 2 on Special Education Advisory Panel
  - 3 on Families Helping Families Boards
  - 3 on Region 9 Regional Advisory Committee

**On target:**  Initiative  Expenditures

**Activity 1.3.2** Support up to two Council members' participation in Partners in Policymaking.  
**Approximate Cost: \$3,000 in FFY 2015**

One Council member, April Dunn, graduated with the 2015 Partners in Policymaking class.

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

**Activity 1.4.1** Contract with Families Helping Families Regional Resource Centers (FHF) to financially support stipends for persons with developmental disabilities and their family members to participate in training, conferences, meetings, and events.  
**Approximate Cost: \$18,000 in FFY 2015**

Twenty individuals with disabilities and family members received stipends through Families Helping Families to attend a conference or workshop since January 1, 2015. Since October 1, 2014, 45 stipends have been awarded.

**On target:**  Initiative  Expenditures

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

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

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

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

**Activity 1.5.2** Support Council members' participation in training and educational opportunities.  
**Approximate Cost: \$3,000 in FFY 2015**

Michelle Hurst was provided a stipend of \$85 to attend the Public Affairs Research Council's Annual Conference and Gubernatorial Forum. The balance is \$2,915.

**Activity 1.5.3** Support the Council leadership's participation in national training, networking events and advocacy opportunities.  
**Approximate Cost: \$7,000 in FFY 2015**

No Council member was supported this period.

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

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

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

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

Provider questionnaires are available for use on the Freedom of Choice website (<http://www.dhh.louisiana.gov/index.cfm/page/141>). Participation is voluntary and only 58 providers have chosen to participate, making what could have been a very beneficial tool for individuals/families somewhat meaningless. Providers who have submitted a questionnaire are marked with an asterisk, however this information isn't prominently displayed for individuals/families. An LaDDC News article was disseminated encouraging individuals/families to ask providers if they have completed the questionnaire and encourage those who have not to do so.

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

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

Sent a letter to Governor Jindal urging him to release the Request for Proposals (RFP) for Managed Long Term Supports and Services (MLTSS) with nursing homes included as recommended by DHH, the MLTSS Advisory Council, the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS), and all national disability groups. Sent a letter to CMS expressing concerns over the delay in the RFP release and the possible exclusion of nursing homes in MLTSS.

**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 activity this quarter. Information on the inadequacy of the waiver rates to support a living wage for DSPs and the negative impact this has on people with developmental disabilities and their families, especially those with challenging needs, was presented to legislators last quarter at nine legislative roundtables across the state.

**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.)

An LaDDC News article was disseminated on “Common Misconceptions about Self-Direction.” Advocated for OCDD to issue a communication to correct misinformation regarding the availability of self-direction being provided to individuals/families by some support coordinators and LGE staff.

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

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

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

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

**COMMUNITY SUPPORTS**

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

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

**Activity 3.1.1** Provide financial and other support for the grassroots advocacy organization Louisiana Citizens for Action Now (LaCAN).  
**Approximate Cost: \$125,000 in FFY 2015**

**LaCAN’s** listserv is currently at 2,371. This is an increase of 95 since October 1, 2014.

Advocacy Activities  
LaCAN members took action this period on budget issues.

- Four Action Alerts resulted in 963 total confirmed actions by members and 5 Yellow Shirt Days included 110 instances of confirmed action.

Results of Advocacy  
LaCAN successfully advocated for:

- \$3.5 Million in SGF (\$9.25 Million total funding) to fill frozen waiver slots for individuals with developmental disabilities
- \$170,000 restored to Families Helping Families Centers
- \$500,000 added to EarlySteps (not enough to reach the goal of returning the program to 2012 wider eligibility criteria)

Update on Leader Positions  
There is currently a vacancy for Region 8 LaCAN Leader. We are advertising to fill this position.

**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 2014**

The 2015 Disability Rights Day, held April 29, 2015, included 398 participants including: 139 self-advocates, 141 family members, and 118 other advocates. Participants visited legislators in the House and Senate before convening on the Capitol steps for a rally program. Participants celebrated the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) by signing a pledge to recommit to its full implementation. Participants were also in attendance as Senator Jack Donahue presented SCR37 and Rep. Jim Fannin presented HCR 47 commending the DD Council and LaCAN for its advocacy efforts and officially designating April 29, 2015, Disability Rights Day in Louisiana.

**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 the appropriate use of Act 378 funds, policy governing the behavioral health Act 378 programs, and legislative/budget issues.

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

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

**Activity 3.1.4** Monitor the possible restructuring of long-term supports and services to a managed care system and advocate for an increased quantity of services to be included in the reorganized system.

Advocated for an expanded and improved system of supports during the OCDD System Transformation Core Group meeting.

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

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

**Activity 3.2.1** Advocate in collaboration with the Advocacy Center for

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

No activity this quarter.

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

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

The Department of Health and Hospitals and the Louisiana Board of Nursing are working on this. An update is included in OCDD's report.

**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 new activity this quarter. Information on the inadequacy of the waiver rates to support a living wage for DSPs and the negative impact this has on people with developmental disabilities and their families, especially those with challenging needs, was presented to legislators last quarter at nine legislative roundtables across the state.

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

**Objective 3.3** The number of people in private ICFs/DD per capita in Louisiana will decrease to reach the national average through the transition of people to home- and community-based services.

**Activity 3.3.1** Advocate for

- the MFP grant program to target residents of private ICFs/DD.

**Accomplished in FFY 2012**

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

The Council continues to advocate for people to be able to move into their own homes by having funding allocated for institutional services follow the individual into the community. This recommendation is discussed in every meeting of the OCDD System Transformation Core Group.

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

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

**Activity 3.4.1** Advocate for residents of the Special Education Center to be added to the Developmental Center pool of waiver slots.

**Accomplished in FFY 2012**

**Activity 3.4.2** Monitor OCDD activities in reference to informing families of Special Education Center residents about home and community-based options and advocate with DHH leadership regarding this objective.

No activity this quarter.

**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.

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

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

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

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

**Families Helping Families (FHF) Resource Centers** assisted 6,935 individuals and families with information, referral, or other support this quarter for a total of 17,609 since October 1, 2014.

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

**Activity 4.1.2** Provide information to hospitals and health care professionals on resources available to individuals with developmental disabilities.

FHF Centers completed a total of 37 outreaches to hospitals and health care providers to inform them of resources available this quarter for a total of 100 since October 1, 2014.

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

**Activity 4.1.3** Provide information important to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families through a variety of electronic and social media (Council website, facebook, LaDDC News, etc.)

Information was shared through a variety of media on issues including OCDD Systems Transformation, Managed Long-Term Supports and Services (MLTSS), National Core Indicators, Self-Direction of Waiver Services, the Re-authorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and opportunities for grassroots advocacy during the legislative session.

LaDDC News

- Currently has 1,305 subscribers.

Facebook

- Council – 1,194 Likes, increase of 79 since January 1, 2015
- LaCAN – 859 Likes, increase of 124 since January 1, 2015
- LaTEACH – 465 Likes, increases of 62 since January 1, 2015

YouTube

- No videos posted this quarter

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

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

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

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



The Council leadership discussed concerns over the use of Act 378 funds with DHH Secretary Kathy Kliebert. As a result, Secretary Kliebert sent a letter to all Local Governing Entity (LGE) Executive Directors with the expectation of how the funds are/are not to be used.

A letter was sent to Capital Area Human Services District regarding the use of Act 378 funds on a civil service employee salary. This will no longer be done effective July 1, 2015.

The funding for Families Helping Families was restored to the budget by the legislature. Individual and Family Support funds that were cut were not restored.

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

## HEALTH

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

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

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

No activity this period.

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

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

**Accomplished in FFY 2014**

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

**Approximate Cost: \$6,000 for FFY 2015**

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

**Approximate Cost: \$46,000 for FFY 2015**

*Progress for Activity 6.1.3 and Activity 6.1.4*

**The DD Curricula for Health Care Providers Project:**

- Received draft of two training modules for dental students
- First dental training module Continuing Education Unit webinar slides completed.
- Four of the eight Continuing Nurse Education modules have been submitted to the Louisiana State Nurses Association (LSNA) for accreditation review.

**On target:**  Initiative  Expenditures

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

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

**Accomplished in FFY 2012**

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

**Activity 6.3.1** Advocate for the Louisiana Oral Health Coalition Plan to be amended to include increased access to dental services for people with developmental disabilities.

No activity this quarter.

**On target:**  Effort  Satisfactory Progress

## EDUCATION

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

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

**Activity 7.1.1** Provide financial and other support to Louisiana Together Educating All Children (LaTEACH) for the promotion of appropriate, inclusive education for all students.

**Approximate Cost: \$110,000 in FFY 2015**

The **LaTEACH** listserv had 1,715 members as of June 15, 2015 and has increased by 129 since October 1, 2014.

Advocacy Activities

LaTEACH members took action this period on education policies related to pupil progression/ diploma pathway implementation (Act 833); State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP); alternate assessment/ EOC score policies; IDEA budget; and charter schools/ equitable funding formula (SB 267).

- Since October 1<sup>st</sup>, 23 Action Alerts resulted in 939 total confirmed actions by members including regional Roundtables and 15 Purple Shirt Days (83 instances of confirmed action).

- LaTEACH members attended meetings this period of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), Special Education Advisory Council (SEAP) and House Education Committee.

Results of Advocacy

- Senator Dan Claitor sponsored and the Legislature unanimously passed Senate Bill 267 to clarify that all schools receive funding based on the same funding formula.
- US Dept. of Education acknowledged publicly it did not accurately understand diploma criteria across the nation and indicated acceptance of counting, in part, diplomas of students assessed with LAA-1 in the Louisiana School Accountability system.
- BESE modified proposed language to reflect students on LAA-1 will earn a diploma through an alternative pathway.
- LDOE proposed to stakeholders the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) application will count all diplomas for school and district performance scores as part of the diploma rate, including diplomas earned by students on LAA-1.

Leader Positions

- Recruitment continues to fill LaTEACH vacancies in Regions 3, 5, 7 & 9.

**On target:**  Initiative  Expenditures

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

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

**On target:**  Effort  Satisfactory Progress

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

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

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

- Developed and maintain a section on the Council's website to provide information, updates, sample documents, training materials and videos
- Convened Act 833 Leadership Steering Committee meetings.
- Provided presentations at six FHF Education Conferences.
- Participated in numerous phone calls with other advocates and LDOE staff to provide feedback on materials and information presented in LDOE webinars.

• Participated in LSU-HDC stakeholder meetings to provide feedback on materials for training series on special education (IEPs).

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

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

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

Advocacy resulted in a requirement for charter schools to approximate the percentage of students with disabilities served in traditional public schools and for BESE to develop and administer a process for determining if a charter school is meeting these student enrollment requirements of students with disabilities and to investigate schools that fail to meet the requirements.

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

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

Advocated to increase the amount of the High-Cost Fund pool by \$10 million in the Minimum Foundation Program to cover the full amount of requests from school systems. While this additional amount was not added, BESE did pass the MFP with an increase of \$5.4 million to the High-Cost Fund.

Advocacy efforts resulted in a proposal by LDOE for diplomas earned by students assessed with LAA-1 to count in school performance scores.

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

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

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

No activity this quarter.

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

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

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

**Activity 8.1.1** Provide funding for training/mentoring in the Early Intervention Primary Service Provider Model including implementation of accountability measures.  
**Approximate Cost: \$30,000 in FFY 2015**

The **Early Intervention Primary Service Provider (PSP) Training and Coaching** project added 25 children and family members this period for a total of 134 participants since October 1, 2014.

- Coaching activities for children included individualized supports to enhance their development within their daily routines.
- Family assistance included development of plan of care, help to understand a hearing evaluation, and to access community services.
- All team members submit video to national consultants for fidelity/reliability check.

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

## EMPLOYMENT

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

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

**Activity 9.1.1** Advocate for

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

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

The Council submitted comments to DHH regarding the provider self-assessment tool that will be part of the process of determining if a setting meets the HCBS settings requirements.

On target:  Effort  Satisfactory Progress

**Activity 9.1.2** Participate in the development and implementation (if awarded) of the Partnerships in Employment Systems Change grant with the LSU-HSC Human Development Center and other collaborators to enhance statewide collaborations that will facilitate the transition process from secondary and post-secondary school, or other pre-vocational training settings, to competitive employment in integrated settings.

**Accomplished in FFY 2012**

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

**Approximate Cost: \$60,000 in FFY 2015**

Four agencies participate in the **Supported Employment Mentoring Program**. Activity data since October 1, 2014 is included below. Additionally, in the interest of continuity, the program continues to provide TA to agencies mentored in the prior year.

**Participants** (unduplicated)

Employment Specialist Professionals (ESPs) participating: 26

Job seekers participating: 65

Job seekers achieving outcomes: 27

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

Supported Employment: (6; 14)

Mentoring hours: (123; 373)

On target:  Initiative  Expenditures

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

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

**Accomplished in FFY 2012**

**Objective 9.3** The Louisiana Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) program's federal draw down will increase.

**Activity 9.3.1** Advocate for Louisiana to draw down the entire VR grant award and serve individuals with the most severe disabilities.

The budget approved for the 2015 state fiscal year includes level funding for LRS.

On target:  Effort  Satisfactory Progress

**Objective 9.4** Family members and others will be knowledgeable about options for integrated, competitive employment in collaboration with the Advocacy Center and the LSU-HSC Human Development Center.

**Activity 9.4.1** Provide financial support to conduct a media campaign to educate employers, individuals with disabilities, family members, and provider agencies about the benefits of having people with developmental disabilities as part of the community-based workforce.  
**Accomplished in FFY 2013**

**Activity 9.4.2** Provide funding for an employment education campaign targeting individuals and their family members that emphasizes the benefits of competitive employment.  
**Accomplished in FFY 2012**

## **RECREATION**

**Goal 10** More people with developmental disabilities will participate in inclusive community recreation activities.

**Objective 10.1** Inclusive recreation programs will be developed in at least two areas of the state.

**Activity 10.1.1** Provide funding to support training and technical assistance that builds the capacity of a city or parish recreation department supporting children with disabilities, including those who need positive behavior support, to participate in recreational activities offered to the general public.  
**Accomplished in FFY 2012**

## **CHILD CARE**

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

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

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