

La DD Council - FFY 2017 Action Plan

Page 1 of 18

- 'On Target: Initiative' indicates progress has been made as expected.
- 'On Target: Expenditures' indicates invoiced amounts are as expected.

Activity	Progress As applicable, data is presented year-to-date and quarterly (June 1, 2017 – August 31, 2017).
Goal 1 Individuals with development disabilities and their family members will have information, training, support and leadership to effectively advocate and impact system change by educating policy makers.	
Obj. 1.1 Louisiana's self-advocacy network will be supported in self-advocacy and in systems change advocacy.	
1.1.1 Offer technical assistance and training opportunities designed to strengthen the self-advocacy network and the effectiveness of its systems change activities.	Provided information to People First of LA regarding Partners in Policymaking and encouraged them to share the information with self-advocates who may be interested in applying. Previous quarter: Provided statistics to People First on people on waivers, people on waiting lists, costs of waivers, and information on various versions of mid-year budget proposals for FY17. On target: ☒ Initiative
Obj. 1.2 Individuals with developmental disabilities and their family members will have access to opportunities and support to build skills to be effective leaders in systems change advocacy.	
1.2.1 Provide financial support and technical assistance for Partners in Policymaking and its alumni network. Approx. FFY 2017 Cost: \$80,000	Partners in Policymaking graduated 23 participants on June 10th. Currently, we are recruiting applicants for the 2018 class. Deadline is September 30th. <u>Partners Graduates Active in Systems Change</u> • The Partners in Policymaking Alumni Facebook page has 182 members. • Thirteen graduates of Partners currently serve on the DD Council. This is an increase of one since the last report. • Three graduates serve as FHF Executive Directors. • Four graduates serve as LaCAN Leaders.

La DD Council - FFY 2017 Action Plan

Page 2 of 18

Activity	Progress As applicable, data is presented year-to-date and quarterly (June 1, 2017 – August 31, 2017).
	• Graduates serve on state and regional bodies such as ○ Regional Human Services District/Authority Boards ○ Advisory Council on Student Behavior and Discipline ○ Advocacy Center Board of Directors ○ Commission for the Deaf ○ Families Helping Families Regional Resource Center Boards of Directors ○ Governor's Advisory Council on Disability Affairs ○ Louisiana ABLE Account Advisory Board ○ LSU Health Human Development Center Consumer Advisory Council ○ Louisiana Statewide Independent Living Council ○ Louisiana State Interagency Coordinating Council ○ Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) Emergency Management Disability and Aging Coalition ○ OCDD State and Regional Advisory Councils ○ OCDD Systems Transformation Core Work Group ○ People First of Louisiana Board of Directors ○ Special Education Advisory Panel ○ St. Landry's Abilities Board On target: ☒ Initiative ☒ Expenditures
1.2.2 Support up to two Council members' participation in Partners in Policymaking.	Two Council members participated in the 2017 Partners in Policymaking class. On target: ☒ Initiative

La DD Council - FFY 2017 Action Plan

Page 3 of 18

Activity	Progress
1.2.3 Provide financial support and information, training, technical assistance, and leadership to a grassroots network of individuals with developmental disabilities and family members of individuals with developmental disabilities to effectively educate policy makers on the development/improvement of programs and services for people with developmental disabilities. Approx. FFY 2017 Cost: \$245,000	As applicable, data is presented year-to-date and quarterly (June 1, 2017 – August 31, 2017).
	LaCAN's listserv as of September 25, 2017 is 4,741. • 2,370 Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) & Employment • 1,171 Education & Early Intervention • 1,200 HCBS & Employment and Education & Early Intervention <u>Advocacy Activities</u> Since October 1, 2016: • Seven education action alerts; 572 actions taken • Twelve education yellow shirt days; 81 participants • Thirteen HCBS action alerts; 2,353 actions taken • Eleven HCBS yellow shirt days; 267 participants LaCAN conference calls held two times per month to update leaders on current concerns/issues affecting individuals with DD and their families. Leaders also engage in discussions and exercises on how to better develop, maintain, support, and lead their regional members. <u>Update on Leader Positions</u> Currently no vacancies. Laci Polotzola was hired in August as the LaCAN Leader in Region 4 (Acadiana area). In June, Karen Artus began covering home and community-based services in addition to her education role in Region 9 (Florida Parishes area). On target: ☒ Initiative ☒ Expenditures

La DD Council - FFY 2017 Action Plan

Page 4 of 18

Activity	Progress As applicable, data is presented year-to-date and quarterly (June 1, 2017 – August 31, 2017).
1.2.4 Facilitate and support Disability Rights Day and other advocacy events. Approx. FFY 2017 Cost: \$40,000	LaCAN Summer Leader Training was held August 3, 2017. Leaders engaged in activities to enhance their skills in developing and supporting grassroots advocacy members, managing burnout and stress as well as identifying and developing compelling testimony. Legislative Kickoff was held on September 13, 2017 for LaCAN leaders and FHF Directors. Council staff shared information on the state of the state for both home and community-based services, employment, and education. Leaders and Directors then discussed and prioritized recommendations for the Council to consider for its legislative advocacy agenda for FY18. The Council's employment conference, "Raising Expectations: Employment For All," is scheduled for Thursday, November 9, 2017. Registration opened September 6 and will close October 31. Participants will hear from national speakers, Allan Bergman and Steven Hunt, on strategies, processes, and policies that are effective in supporting individuals with the most intense support needs to obtain and maintain competitive integrated employment. The conference will also feature a panel of state agency representatives sharing information about services available to individuals and a panel of parents and self-advocates sharing their experiences finding employment. Total estimated cost of the conference is \$17,000 (including an estimated \$1,300 for Council member travel). Costs will be offset by registration payments, currently \$989.46. Of the 200 available seats, 71 have registered. On target: ☒ Initiative ☒ Expenditures
Obj. 1.3 Individuals with developmental disabilities and family members of individuals with developmental disabilities will have support to be effective leaders in systems change through participation on a variety of boards and commissions.	
1.3.1 Provide information and support for participation of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families in cross-disability and culturally diverse leadership coalitions and advisory bodies.	People First of La. was informed of the openings on the DD Council and asked to share this information with self-advocates and the process to apply. Three parents of children with disabilities were supported in participating in the Advisory Council on Student Behavior and Discipline. Information was provided to the individual with a disability on the Special Education Advisory Panel. On target: ☒ Initiative

La DD Council - FFY 2017 Action Plan

Page 5 of 18

Activity	Progress As applicable, data is presented year-to-date and quarterly (June 1, 2017 – August 31, 2017).
1.3.2 Support Council members in participation in Council meetings and other functions.	Council members are supported in participation in Council meetings and other functions.
1.3.3 Support Council members' participation in training and educational opportunities. Approx. FFY 2017 Cost: \$3,000	No stipends were provided this quarter.
1.3.4 Support the Council leadership's participation in national training, networking events and advocacy opportunities. Approx. FFY 2017 Cost: \$7,000	Randall Brown participated in the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD) Technical Assistance Institute on July 11-12, 2017 and the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities Annual Conference from July 12-14, 2017 in Salt Lake City, Utah.
Obj. 1.4 Individuals with developmental disabilities, their families, and professionals will obtain the information, training, and support they need.	
1.4.1 Provide financial support (from the entirety of state general funds) and technical assistance to nine Families Helping Families Regional Resource Centers across the state.	In FY17 4th Quarter, the Centers have assisted 6,260 individuals and families with information, referral, or other supports. 9,112 units of information and referral were completed. Outreach data completed for the quarter will be available in October after the submission of September invoices. Since October 1, 2016, Centers have assisted 20,083 individuals and families with information, referral, or other supports. 31,653 units of information and referral were completed. Centers completed 197 outreaches to hospitals, pediatrician offices, and school districts. On target: ☒ Initiative ☒ Expenditures

La DD Council - FFY 2017 Action Plan

Page 6 of 18

Activity	Progress
1.4.2 Provide information important to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families through a variety of electronic and social media (Council website, Facebook, LaDDC News).	As applicable, data is presented year-to-date and quarterly (June 1, 2017 – August 31, 2017). Provided information through LaDDC News on the Recruitment of Applicants for Council Membership Vacancies and for the 2018 Partners in Policymaking class, the 2017 Partners in Policymaking graduates, the Governor’s Office of Disability Affairs’ ADA Symposium and their Inclusive Art Contest, the Council’s 2017 Employment Conference, the threat to Medicaid from the Senate’s attempts to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act (ACA), ABLE accounts, and the Financial Inclusion Summit in New Orleans. Provided information through Facebook on various issues of interest to people with developmental disabilities and their families. Most notably was the information on the threats to Medicaid and other protections in the ACA. LaDDC News (as of 9/25/2017) • 1,622 current subscribers Facebook (as of 6 /16/2017) • Council – 2,253 Likes, increase of 106 this quarter • LaCAN – 1,425 Likes, increase of 62 this quarter Twitter (as of 6/28/17) • 77 Followers YouTube • No new activity. On target: ☒ Initiative
1.4.3 Provide for training for Boards of Directors and Peer Support for nine Families Helping Families Regional Resource Centers across the state.	Louisiana Association of Nonprofit Organizations (LANO) completed its training of all nine FHF Centers’ Boards of Directors at a cost of \$13,000. These trainings occurred between May and September 2017. Feedback from the trainings has been overwhelmingly positive. On target: ☒ Initiative ☒ Expenditures

La DD Council - FFY 2017 Action Plan

Page 7 of 18

Activity	Progress As applicable, data is presented year-to-date and quarterly (June 1, 2017 – August 31, 2017).
Goal 2 Individuals with developmental disabilities, including those with the most challenging needs, and their families will have access to individualized, appropriate, and quality supports and services as needed to be fully-participating members of their community.	
Obj. 2.1 An increased number of direct support professionals will demonstrate skills sets necessary to meet individual needs and are more appropriately compensated resulting in a qualified and stable workforce.	
2.1.1 Advocate that basic and ongoing training for direct support professionals (DSPs) is competency-based and includes topics of facilitating inclusion and health-related topics such as recognizing signs and symptoms of medical issues and appropriate responses to chronic individual and emergent (generic) medical/behavioral issues.	Lessons learned from the capacity building project for direct support providers (Activity 2.3.2) will be used to provide input to OCDD. On target: ☒ Initiative
Obj. 2.2 Individuals with developmental disabilities will have more control over their supports and services, their goals and daily activities.	
2.2.1 Promote the increased use of self-direction by individuals and families. Approx. FFY 2017 Cost: \$30,000	One self-advocate and four parents who are enrolled in the self-direction option served as mentors to other individuals with disabilities and parents new to or considering self-direction. The mentors held forty-four workshops across the state where they shared their experience with self-direction to 250 participants state-wide. Sixty-two percent, or 155, of the participants indicated that they agreed or strongly agreed that the workshop convinced them to pursue self-direction. Strengths noted from the workshop evaluations include the following.

La DD Council - FFY 2017 Action Plan

Page 8 of 18

Activity	Progress As applicable, data is presented year-to-date and quarterly (June 1, 2017 – August 31, 2017).
	• Workshop participants were able to relate to the presenter as they are experienced in self-direction. • Participants were empowered by the knowledge presented. • Information presented was clear and concise. • Participants noted the comfortable style of workshops and the presenters' friendliness and approachability. • Mentors informed participants on how to overcome challenges in self-direction. Mentors continue offering ongoing support to those interested in pursuing self-direction. On target: ☒ Initiative ☒ Expenditures
2.2.2 Advocate that web-based provider data be required of all providers for inclusion on a user-friendly search engine.	No activity this quarter. On target: ☐ Initiative
Obj. 2.3. Individuals with developmental disabilities, including those with the most challenging medical and/or behavioral needs, will be supported in the community by providers resulting in fewer served in Intermediate Care Facilities (ICFs) for people with developmental disabilities.	
2.3.1 Advocate for the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) to provide financial incentives to serve individuals with challenging needs.	Shared information on this issue at the Legislative Kickoff. The advocacy leaders included it as one of their top recommendations for the Council's 2018 legislative agenda. <u>Previous Quarter(s)</u> Advocated leading into and during the legislative session for funding for an enhanced waiver rate to support individuals with complex medical and behavioral health needs. The importance of this enhanced rate was included in testimony before the House Appropriations committee. This funding was not included in the budget for FY18. Data from the capacity building project for direct support providers (Activity 2.3.2) will be used to provide input to OCDD. On target: ☒ Initiative

La DD Council - FFY 2017 Action Plan

Page 9 of 18

Activity	Progress As applicable, data is presented year-to-date and quarterly (June 1, 2017 – August 31, 2017).
2.3.2 Collaborate with Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) and fund specialized training and technical assistance for community providers/Direct support professionals in supporting individuals with the most challenging needs.	The Complex Needs Training and Technical Assistance Partnership with OCDD works with home- and community-based providers to increase capacity and improve outcomes for the people they support through in-class training and provider-specific ongoing technical support. The program currently has three providers. The region-wide trainings open to all providers is expected to begin in November. Provider benchmarks completed and anticipated next quarter: Preliminary results from one provider nearing completion of the initiative reveals dramatic decreases in Emergency Room visits and critical incidents with dramatic increases in important personal outcomes for individuals (i.e., Independence, Community Involvement Supports, Connections to Family/Friends, Personal Goals in Plan, Actions toward Competitive Employment, etc.). On target: ☒ Initiative ☒ Expenditures
Obj. 2.4 Funding will be available to provide home and community-based supports and services to people on the waiting list, for it to move at a reasonable pace.	
2.4.1 Advocate for adequate funding for waiver slots and state-funded community and family supports (CFS).	Shared information on the waiver waiting list and the disparity in state funding per capita among the Human Services Districts/Authorities at the Legislative Kickoff. The advocacy leaders included funding for additional waiver slots as one of their top recommendations for the Council's 2018 legislative agenda. Two regions of the state will seek additional funds for their district/authority, but this was not recommended for the Council's statewide agenda. Previous Quarter(s) Advocated for funding to fill 627 vacant waiver slots and to increase state funded services prior to and during the legislative session. Successful advocacy efforts resulted in \$1.6 million in state general funds to fill vacant waiver slots; restoration of funding used to fund many community and family supports, and restoration of most of the \$235 million in cuts to the LA Department of Health. Successful advocacy also resulted in a requirement for the Human Services Districts/Authorities to allocate a minimum amount equal to 9% of its state funds to Act 378 services for people with developmental disabilities. On target: ☒ Initiative

La DD Council - FFY 2017 Action Plan

Page 10 of 18

Activity	Progress As applicable, data is presented year-to-date and quarterly (June 1, 2017 – August 31, 2017).
Obj. 2.5 Individuals with developmental disabilities and their families will have access to the same level and quality of services across the state and will be accountable to state regulation.	
2.5.1 Oversee implementation of the Community and Family Support System Plan.	Flexible Family Fund Workgroup met on September 22, 2017 to review the policies and practices within the Flexible Family Fund program to determine if any recommendations should be provided to address issues and concerns identified from families. Members consisted of parents and self-advocates from across the state as well as representatives from the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs, the Advocacy Center, the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, and Jefferson Parish Human Services Authority. After discussing the issues, members identified recommendations that will be presented to the Act 378 Sub-committee and Full Council at their next meetings on October 18 - 19, 2017. The workgroup plans to meet prior to the January 2018 Council meeting to continue discussion of issues and recommendations. <u>Previous Quarter(s)</u> Recommendations of the Community and Family Support System (CFSS) Task Force were shared with policymakers and others. The two recommendations dealing with funding of Act 378 services were included on the Council's 2017 legislative agenda. One of those was achieved through the passage of Act 73 (SB58) requiring Human Services Districts/Authorities to allocate a minimum amount equal to 9% of its state funds to Act 378 services for people with developmental disabilities. This mandatory minimum will help ensure more equal access to services across the state. Act 73 also requires more equal representation of the three service delivery areas and increased representation of consumers/parents/advocates on the boards of the Districts/Authorities In January 2017, the Council approved recommendations made by the Families Helping Families Ad-Hoc Committee to improve the capacity and quality of service provision of the Centers. The Center contracts were amended to reflect these new requirements. On target: ☒ Initiative

La DD Council - FFY 2017 Action Plan

Page 11 of 18

Activity	Progress As applicable, data is presented year-to-date and quarterly (June 1, 2017 – August 31, 2017).
2.5.2 Advocate for the expansion of services and consistent implementation of policy across regions, including, if necessary, changes in law and/or contract with local governing entities (LGEs).	Previous Quarter(s) Successful advocacy efforts resulted in a requirement for the Human Services Districts/Authorities to allocate a minimum amount equal to 9% of its state funds to Act 378 services for people with developmental disabilities and increased representation of people with developmental disabilities/parents/advocates on their boards. Several of the Community and Family Support System Task Force recommendations address both the expansion of services and consistent policy implementation and still need to be implemented. On target: ☒ Initiative
Obj. 2.6 Louisiana will reduce reliance on institutional services (public and private) for people with developmental disabilities.	
2.6.1 Advocate to fully implement Money Follows the Person (MFP) in Louisiana.	Advocated at the OCDD System Transformation Core Group meeting for OCDD to re-approach residents of ICFs/DD on the waiver waiting list to ensure they fully understand the first ROW opportunity they were offered through the ROW 50 Pilot. Previous Quarter(s) Testified before the Appropriations Committee on the need to fund waiver services to prevent institutionalization. Also discussed the Money Follows the Person concept with the committee LDH accepted the Council's recommendation to initiate a pilot program allowing 50 ICF/DD residents on the waiver waiting list to move into their own homes with waiver services. OCDD is continuing to make waiver offers to individuals to participate in the pilot. On target: ☒ Initiative

La DD Council - FFY 2017 Action Plan

Page 12 of 18

Obj. 2.7 Individuals with developmental disabilities will benefit from changes, consistent with Council positions, in policy and practice in state and local agencies and programs.

2.7.1 Advocate for systems change based on emergent community support issues.

Provided information and advocacy support to our grassroots advocacy network to communicate with Congress to prevent the massive cuts and caps to Medicaid and to keep the protections for essential health benefits and pre-existing conditions included in the Affordable Care Act.

Previous quarter: Advocated for an increased rate and policy changes in the EPSDT personal care services program with Dr. Rebekah Gee.

Goal 3 Students with disabilities will have access to quality, individualized educational programs that address their unique skills, interests, and goals in inclusive environments.

Obj. 3.1 Individualized Education Plan (IEP) team members will have increased levels of information and support to demonstrate effective individualized programming consistent with best practice and to enable each member to participate fully as members of the IEP team.

3.1.1 Advocate for increased focus and capacity within LDOE to address Special Education, including specific areas/issues (i.e., disability/topical/etc.).

No activity this quarter.

Previous Quarters: Served on the Governor's Advisory Council on the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and advocated that schools identified for comprehensive support and improvement should receive comprehensive support strategies from well-qualified individuals within the LDOE and to rebuild capacity within LDOE regarding the full range of supports and services students need from schools to meet their needs. These recommendations were adopted by the Governor's Advisory Council. Unfortunately, these recommendations were not fully incorporated into the ESSA plan submitted.

On target: ☒ Initiative

La DD Council - FFY 2017 Action Plan

Page 13 of 18

Obj. 3.2 Louisiana's accountability and support structures for school systems will better assure the development and implementation of individualized education programs in inclusive settings.	
3.2.1 Advocate for an accountability system to value students with disabilities and measure programs and outcomes based on individualized student goals and needs (including service delivery).	No activity this quarter Previous Quarters: Served on the Governor's Advisory Council on the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and advocated for the District and School Accountability Index to ensure any student has the possibility and probability of earning his school the same number of points as any other student in any other school in Louisiana. Removal of bias based on the students enrolled in a school was agreed upon by the Governor's Advisory Council on ESSA. The final ESSA plan submitted improved valuing students with disabilities but is still expected to be slightly biased against schools based on the percentage of students with disabilities served. On target: ☒ Initiative
Obj. 3.3 Students with developmental disabilities will benefit from changes, consistent with Council positions, in policy and practice in educational agencies and programs.	
3.3.1 Advocate for educational systems change based on emergent education issues.	Submitted letter to U.S. DOE related to violations with SEAP membership not meeting the required majority of individuals with disabilities or parents of students with disabilities. Submitted a letter requesting BESE fund Families Helping Families (FHF) Centers at their previous levels and ensure stakeholder input is considered in the changes to FHF catchment areas and deliverables. Issues brought to the attention of the Council include: <u>Accessible Materials:</u> Students requiring materials in alternate formats are no longer receiving the materials needed at the same time as other students. Reports indicate delays of 6 to 7 months for some students receiving materials. A decade ago an LDOE team drove an initiative focused on Accessibility and Universal Design for Instructional Materials that virtually eliminated any delay in alternate format materials. On target: ☒ Initiative

La DD Council - FFY 2017 Action Plan

Page 14 of 18

Goal 4 Students with disabilities are considered from the initial phases to the completion of planning and program development of educational policies and initiatives.	
Obj. 4.1 An increased number of students with disabilities will graduate with a high school diploma.	
4.1.1 Monitor and provide input into policy development and implementation of Act 833 of 2014.	The Council's Education/Employment Committee attempted to consider implementation of the alternative pathways to high school diplomas at the April 2017 meeting. However, LDOE did not provide a breakdown by Local Education Agency (LEA) of the number of students eligible for an alternative pathway to a diploma under Act 833. The total number of eligible students statewide and the percentage of LEAs with students with an 833 eligibility determination in SER (<u>see slide 8</u>) is not sufficient information to determine how effectively Act 833 is being implemented across the state. A report from LDOE in 2016 indicated thousands of students were taking courses that did not allow the students access to Carnegie Credits necessary to graduate. This affects current students who may be denied a diploma in the future (Act 833 of 2014) and former students applying for a diploma via Act 303 of 2016. On target: ☒ Initiative
Obj. 4.2 All schools (charter/magnet) accepting public dollars will accept and serve all students with disabilities appropriately.	
4.2.1 Monitor rates of students with disabilities across schools and advocate for inclusive practices.	No activity this quarter Previous Quarters: Reviewed data in the <u>2014-2015 Special Education Data Profile</u> and the <u>2015-2016 Report on School Performance According to Requirements under R.S. 17:3991</u> related to charter school enrollment of students with disabilities. Less than half of all charter schools, 47%, meet the legal requirement for having an adequate number of students with disabilities enrolled. On target: ☒ Initiative

La DD Council - FFY 2017 Action Plan

Page 15 of 18

Obj. 4.3 Stakeholders will have increased opportunities to provide authentic input that will impact decisions on policies effecting students with disabilities.

4.3.1 Advocate for availability of data necessary for monitoring education system(s).

No activity this quarter

Previous Quarters:

Although staff met with three BESE members and LDOE staff on November 28, 2016 with an agreement for LDOE to provide ongoing information to SEAP regarding contracts and obligations of IDEA state set-aside funds, LDOE did not provide this information. Lacking this information is leading to decisions being made at the discretion of LDOE without stakeholder input.

SEAP members requested public reporting of LDOE monitoring reports and corrective action plans with school systems. LDOE refused to provide this information.

Data on behavior has been provided; however, much of the data do not seem to be valid.

On target: ☒ Initiative

4.3.2 Advocate for increased meaningful opportunities for stakeholder input; improved practices to facilitate stakeholder input and consideration of stakeholder recommendations.

An Action Alert went out regarding concerns over the Special Education Advisory Panel not meeting the special rule in federal law (i.e., requiring a majority of members be individuals with disabilities or parents of students with disabilities). Six individuals who applied, but were not selected, in May 2017 met the criteria of an individual with a disability or a parent of a student with a disability. At the September 27th SEAP meeting a motion to increase the membership in SEAP bylaws passed. LDOE is expected to announce vacancies for additional SEAP positions. It is not clear if enough members will meet the majority rule after these positions are filled.

Previous Quarters:

The Education/Employment Committee determined a definition of opportunities for meaningful and authentic stakeholder input again at the April meeting. Council staff requested LDOE withdraw the RFAs for family support until vetted by stakeholders.

On target: ☒ Initiative

La DD Council - FFY 2017 Action Plan

Page 16 of 18

Goal 5 Individuals with developmental disabilities including those with the most substantial employment support needs will have access to quality individualized services and funding that support competitive integrated individualized employment, and career and financial goals.	
Obj. 5.1 An increased number of individuals with developmental disabilities will have access to qualified providers who offer a stable workforce of supported employment professionals with recognized skills sets demonstrated to be effective in supporting people with disabilities getting and maintaining employment	
5.1.1 Advocate for certification of employment support professionals (ESPs).	Advocated for the certification of ESPs during La Rehabilitation Council meetings. As a result of this advocacy, the LRC formally requested a method for increasing certification be sought. On target: ☒ Initiative
Obj. 5.2 An increased number of individuals with developmental disabilities will have information and access to an integrated workforce development system that is fully-funded.	
5.2.1 Advocate for state appropriation to access full federal vocational rehabilitation (VR) allotment, higher waiver rates, funding for follow-along services for individuals with developmental disabilities in Intermediate Care Facilities (ICFs).	No activity this quarter Previous Quarter(s) Advocated for full federal VR allotment at nine legislative roundtables across the state, legislative visits, and throughout the legislative session. Fact sheet was developed on this issue and disseminated. On target: ☒ Initiative

La DD Council - FFY 2017 Action Plan

Page 17 of 18

5.2.2 Monitor state implementation of: - the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and - the CMS home- and community-based services settings rule and share the progress with stakeholders and advocates.	In May, CMS announced it is allowing three additional years for states to comply with the new Home- and Community-Based Settings (HCBS) rule. This does not impact the expectation to implement the regulations themselves, only that states are allowed to change their deadline from March 2019 to as late as March 2022. After analysis of the state's timelines to demonstrate compliance, OCDD extended its deadline by just one year, to 2020. Louisiana's Statewide Transition Plan has received initial approval with notice to address five items to achieve final approval. LRS is reviewing policy and guidance for its State Plan to incorporate changes resulting from WIOA. LRS is upgrading to Windows 10 to support a newer version of AWARE for the needed data elements required by WIOA. Previous Quarters: OCDD reported to the Council that it is performing trainings for direct support providers to focus on needed changes in provider programs to align with the CMS home and community based settings rule and the WIOA. LRS continues to collaborate with the La. Department of Education and with local education agencies to implement expanded pre-employment transition services. LRS reports serving more than 2,600 students in the pilot. Of these 2,600, more than 500 have been placed in work-based learning experiences. On target: ☒ Initiative
Obj. 5.3 Individuals with developmental disabilities, their families, and professionals in the various service systems will have increased expectations that people with developmental disabilities can have successful competitive, integrated, individualized employment.	
5.3.1 Share the benefits planning services to a variety of agencies and stakeholders.	Information on benefits planning is shared on a quarterly basis on the Council's Facebook page. On target: ☒ Initiative
5.3.2 Share DD Council employment videos featuring individuals with developmental disabilities on their jobs.	DD Council videos on employment are posted on the Councils YouTube page and shared quarterly on the Council's Facebook page. On target: ☒ Initiative

La DD Council - FFY 2017 Action Plan

Page 18 of 18

5.3.3 Disseminate pertinent research pertaining to employment of people with developmental disabilities in competitive integrated individualized jobs.	Pertinent research is shared on the Council's Facebook page periodically, especially during National Disability Employment Awareness Month. On target: ☒ Initiative
Obj. 5.4 Individuals with developmental disabilities will benefit from changes, consistent with Council positions, in policy and practice in employment agencies/programs.	
5.4.1 Advocate for systems change based on emergent employment issues.	A subcommittee of the Employment First Work Group will finalize the report and plan on how to make improvements to the system of employment services for people with disabilities. Previous Quarters: Successfully advocated for an Employment First Workgroup to be established by the Governor to align policies across agencies and programs to promote inclusive, individualized, competitive employment. The workgroup held five meetings. David Hoff, a specialist in the area of policy relating to employing people with disabilities, facilitated four of the workgroup meetings.