

**Human Development Center**  
**Quarterly Agency Report to the DD Council**  
(January - March, 2018)

**UPDATE/PROGRESS ON AGENCY INITIATIVES**

HDC has initiatives across the areas of **Early Childhood, K-12 Education, Employment/Transition, Health, and Direct Services.**

**Early Childhood Initiatives**

**Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and other Disabilities – LEND (HRSA grant)**

*Training program for students, self-advocates, families, and community providers to be leaders in advocating for quality interdisciplinary services and supports for people with developmental disabilities.*

- ✓ 11 trainees (including 2 self-advocates) enrolled in Topics in ASD and Neurodevelopmental Disabilities II course
- ✓ Currently recruiting graduate students, self-advocates, and family members for 2018-2019 cohort

**Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership (Admin. For Children & Families grant)**

*Program designed to improve quality of Early Care and Education for children and families in at-risk communities including children with disabilities.*

- ✓ Currently recruiting 90 infants/toddlers (15 with disabilities)

**HDC Early Learning Center (LSU SAHP & private funding)**

*Model demonstration inclusive high quality childcare program.*

- ✓ Twenty children are currently enrolled including 2 children with disabilities and 2 children with disabilities on the waitlist.
- ✓ Established inclusive childcare practicum for students in Child and Family Studies program at Delgado Community College

**Health Care Institute (Collaborative agreement with UCLA/ Johnson & Johnson)**

*Five year research project designed to improve health and health literacy of families at-risk including families and children with disabilities. Topics include treating common childhood illness, oral health, nutrition, and behavioral health.*

- ✓ Provided professional development for 80 childcare providers on Positive Discipline and Stress Management
- ✓ Parent training for 100 on Positive Discipline and Stress Management scheduled for April 2<sup>nd</sup>

### **Little Bitty Learning (Collaboration with LSUHSC School of Public Health and the Schweitzer Foundation)**

*Pilot program developed to decrease childhood obesity through a family-based early childhood intervention focused on health eating and physical activity.*

- ✓ Recruited 7 families for Spring semester
- ✓ Recruited 10 graduate student volunteers to work with low income families
- ✓ Partnered with dietetic interns and Rouse's to support training on nutrition for young children

### **Nutrition is For Everyone (Walmart grant)**

*Program designed to implement nutrition education interventions, including direct training for people with disability and community members*

- Conducted collaborative nutrition and physical activity program with Special Olympics

### **Early Childhood Inclusion Institute (HDC, Early Head Start, LEND collaboration)**

June 14-16, 2018. Conference for educators (birth to 5), EarlySteps providers, and families to support effective inclusion of children with disabilities. Agenda includes 2 ½ days of workshops (5 modules):

- ✓ Understanding Part C and Part B: federal law and state requirements (Module 1)
- ✓ Recommended practices to support children with disabilities in childcare/preK (Module 2)
- ✓ Integrating interventions and CLASS dimensions: Strategies to improve teacher child interactions with young children who have special needs. (Modules 3 and 4)
- ✓ Practice-based coaching (Module 5)
- ✓ Family/sibling strand available

## **Education - K-12 School-Age Initiative**

### **Louisiana Deafblind Project for Children and Youth:**

Individual Technical Assistance:

- ✓ 01/05/2018: New Enrollee Home Visit – Transition
- ✓ 02/20/2018: Outreach re: student in West Baton Rouge Parish Schools, including parent, Callie Kershaw SPED Director, Wes Watts, Superintendent
- ✓ 03/01/2018L Outreach, re Collaborative project, Kenner Discovery School, Kenner, LA
- ✓ 03/19/2018: School Observation, LA DBP registry enrollee
- ✓ 03/26/2018: IEP Conference, LA DBP registry enrollee

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#### Targeted Technical Assistance:

- ✓ 01/29/2018: Planning meeting LA Commission for the Deaf & LA Deafblind Project
- ✓ 02/16/2018: Planning meeting Department of Genetics, LSU Health New Orleans, LA Deafblind Project & Calcasieu Parish Schools
- ✓ 02/19/2018: Meeting Michelle Fontenot, St. Martin Parish Schools, re: Professional Development assistance regarding IEP Development and Communication Plan Development
- ✓ 03/08/2018: American Sign Language for Health Professionals, LSU Health New Orleans
- ✓ 03/12/2018: Coordinated LEND Class on Advocacy Agencies in LA
- ✓ 03/15/2018 Late Effects Clinic, Children's Hospital of New Orleans, New Orleans
- ✓ 03/23-25/2018: Attended Southeastern U.S. Family Transition Training, Cordele, GA
- ✓ 03/28/2018: Planning meeting LA commission for the Deaf, LA Deafblind Project & LA DOE Special Education

#### Intensive Technical Assistance:

- ✓ 01/09/2018, 01/24/2018, 02/08/2018: Deafblind Committee Member, LA Commission of the Deaf
- ✓ 01/11 & 12/2018: Collaborative Training, St. Tammany Parish Schools
- ✓ 02/23/2018: LA Commission of the Deaf meeting, Baton Rouge, LA
- ✓ 03/22/2018: Planning Meeting CONNECTIONS 2018 Conference
- ✓ 03/29/2018 Communication Plan training with FHF of GNO staff, FaceBook "Live" interview regarding LA Deafblind Project for Children and Youth

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#### Universal Technical Assistance:

- ✓ 01/25 & 26/2018: Attended Deaf Education Alliance Summit, 2018
- ✓ 01/23/2018: Guest Lecture, Occupational Therapy Program & Physical Therapy Program, LSU Health New Orleans
- ✓ 02/19/2018: Deaf & Hard of Hearing EXPO, Calcasieu Parish Schools
- ✓ 02/22/2018: Presentation to perspective students LSU Health New Orleans regarding the Human Development Center & LA Deafblind Project
- ✓ 03/08 & 09/2018: Attended LA Educational Research Association meeting, Lafayette, LA
- ✓ 03/10/2018: Attended Usher Syndrome in Louisiana meeting, Lafayette, LA
- ✓ 03/28/2018: Attended LA DOE, Special Education Advisory Committee meeting

## **Louisiana School Psychology Internship Consortium (LAS\*PIC)**

- ✓ Matched with 6 interns for 2018-19.
- ✓ Interns are currently diversifying their skills in providing school psychological services in different settings and with different populations by engaging in activities in an interdisciplinary private practice and at LSDVI.
- ✓ While there are more than 50 vacancies for school psychologists in the state's public schools, no funding is being provided to recruit school psychology interns as a source to supply school psychologists to deploy much-needed mental health services. Without funding support for 2019-20, LAS\*PIC may cease to function.

## **LASARD quarterly updates**

- ✓ LASARD hosted workshops for partner team members. Sessions at the workshop focused on building behavior plans based on functional behavior assessments and options for determining implementation fidelity. These workshops were held on January 22 in Natchitoches and February 22 in New Orleans.
- ✓ Webinars:
  - Let's Keep Talking! Increasing Communication for Emerging Speakers – February 1
  - The End of Bullying Begins with You! - March 1
  - All Means All: Building Inclusive Practices in Schools – March 8
  - Small Groups are the Big Idea! – March 22
- ✓ Conference Presentation: Bring on the Sunshine! Shining Light on ASD and Essential Supports at the Louisiana Council for Exceptional Children Conference on January 23
- ✓ LASARD has conducted over 210 hours of technical assistance and professional development in partner LEAs and schools so far this quarter.

## **Teams Intervening Early to Reach all Students (TIERS Group)**

- ✓ Conducted five professional development events
- ✓ Conducted 15 school visits
- ✓ Refined the TIERS Group website
- ✓ Began content development on a contract with Michigan Department of Education on Quality Data Use.
- ✓ Conducted first of three sequenced workshops to train state personnel in quality data use
- ✓ Downloads of the IEP Modules increased by 50 from previous total

## **Employment/Transition Initiatives**

### **Employment/Transition**

**Postsecondary Apprenticeship for Youth (Pay Check Pilot)** – Currently there are 11 students Jefferson Parish Schools System students in the pilot who will be exiting in 2018 and some in early 2019. HDC will also be enrolling Inspire NOLA and Collegiate Academy students next semester and Jefferson Foundation Charter Academy next semester.

Pay Check students will begin job shadowing and matching for the paid apprenticeship portion of their program beginning at the end of April and continuing through August. New students will be enrolled each semester as the pilot begins expanding participants/students.

Pay Check Partners include: LRS/LWC, Delgado CC, UMC-New Orleans, Orleans parish school charters and Jefferson Parish Public School System.

### **Transition and Employment**

HDC will be negotiating with existing JPPSS partner to establish a new contract for additional students for 2019.

HDC received a Transition Capacity Building Initiative (TCBI) grant to provide Professional Development for all related transition, vocational and special education personnel. This grant includes a 2-day Transition Summit, 14 Live and Archived Webinars and one 3-day Transition Core training.

HDC awarded Mentoring grant from LA DCC and is currently working with two IDD Medicaid employment providers (one in Alexandria-Rapides ARC) and one on the Northshore (Teem Academy). Agencies will receive individualized mentoring through a mutually developed capacity enhancement plan, access to CORE and one day trainings and will receive outcome incentive payments as the identified outcomes are met

### **Benefits Planning Services**

HDC provides Louisiana Benefits Planning Services (LA-BPS) through a SSA-WIPA RFA to all Louisiana SSA recipients. HDC supports SSDI and SSI beneficiaries with disabilities by providing work incentives planning and assistance services to support beneficiaries in their efforts to acquire, retain, and increase meaningful employment and improve financial independence. The focus of the services are to provide proactive guidance to beneficiaries to ensure full access to work incentives, support accurate and timely reporting to reduce the size or likelihood of benefit overpayments and to offer information and support needed for beneficiaries to access services to make a successful transition to employment. These services are provided at no cost to the beneficiary throughout the state. The HDC averages 30-35 referrals each month and provides Information and referral to all beneficiaries and individualized benefits planning for those who are employed or considering employment.

### **Supported Employment Training and Technical Assistance**

- ✓ HDC attended several EFSLM Vision Quest/Employment work group calls and meetings
- ✓ HDC staff attended LRC meeting January 25, 2018

- ✓ HDC staff active on the national **APSE Public Policy committee** and attend 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday monthly meetings which have focused primarily on the Workforce Investment and Opportunities Act (WIOA).
- ✓ Provided three CORE (3 day) Employment Training to CRPs, and ten one day employment trainings
- ✓ HDC working with collaborative team to begin planning for Department of Labor Youth Build **anticipated funding announcement** to provide employment pathways to low-income unemployed youth (16-24) who are no longer in school. YouthBuild programs participants learn construction skills through building affordable housing for homeless and low-income people in their neighborhoods and other community assets such as schools, playgrounds, and community centers.
- ✓ Meetings with school personnel students and families to provide education/outreach and to discuss apprenticeship pilot.

## **STATUS OF AGENCY'S ACTIVITIES ON DDC PLAN INITIATIVES AND IMPACT**

***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***

- HDC and LA APSE continue to collaborate and to advocate for Certified Employment Support Professional (CESP) certification co-hosted a CESP exam the day prior to the DDC summit
- HDC Employment Division has resumed calendar of comprehensive CORE and one-day SE trainings to promote learning of skills and competencies and have initiated the statewide employment trainings throughout the state.

***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.***

- HDC staff continues to advocate for and promote Employment First by providing Community Trainings and participating meetings and trainings offered by/through FHF, GODA Employment Coalition, Work Pays, LRC and stakeholder meetings as scheduled.
- HDC continues to work on the development of a collaborative funding model for an Apprenticeship to Careers and Employment model.
- Worked collaboratively with GODA, DD Council, and Advocacy Center to discuss implementation of Employment First Executive Order.

**Objective 9.1** *Louisiana will develop and implement an Employment First plan (ON GOING)*

**Activity 9.1.1** *LSU Health Human Development Center continues to 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.*

- HDC continues to work collaboratively with ALL PAYCHECK apprenticeship pilot entities (LRS, UMC, Orleans and Jefferson parish schools and two LEA charters).
- HDC employment staff sits on the national APSE Public Policy Work Group and attend monthly meetings via Go to Meeting. Recent focus has been on comments and advocacy for WIOA and sub-minimum wage rules.
- HDC Employment Staff attends LRC meetings as LRC member.
- HDC employment staff attends Louisiana APSE governing board meeting in May.
- HDC employment staff, as Louisiana APSE members and WorkPays members attended quarterly meetings.
- HDC co-chair of the recently awarded Employment First State Leadership Mentoring-Vision Quest award – LA State Vision Quest meetings are held monthly with state agency collaborators. State team worked to prepare a State as Model Employer (SAME) Executive Order which was signed on Monday, March 19, 2018! Sue Killam named in the Governor's EO to be on the SAME Task Force. The State as a Model Employer Task Force will have the following duties:
  - a. Develop policies, strategies and services designed to achieve the seven percent employment target.
  - b. Establish a five-year plan with annual goals that will enable the state workforce to reach parity with the percentage of working age people with disabilities in Louisiana.
  - c. Provide guidance and other support to agencies and institutions of higher education of higher education on recruitment, retention, accommodation and accessibility for persons with disabilities.