

La DD Council - Status Report of FFY 2023 Action Plan

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

Activity	Progress
<p>As applicable, data is presented year-to-date and quarterly (January 1, 2023 – March 31, 2023).</p>	
<p>Goal 1 Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families will have access to information and supports to become effective leaders of their communities and advocate for systems changes on behalf of themselves and other individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.</p>	
<p>Obj. 1.1 Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities of all ages will have access to opportunities to increase their awareness and knowledge of rights as a contributing member to society; including subject matters on (but not limited to) advocacy, voting, exploitation prevention, financial stability and responsibilities, and decision making.</p>	
<p>1.1.1 Provide financial support and technical assistance for Partners in Policymaking and its alumni network. Approx. FFY 2023 Cost: \$90,000</p>	<p>Of the 20 applicants who were accepted into the 2023 PIP class, 13 attended the January session, thus beginning the program in January 2023.</p> <p>Three sessions of the 2023 Partners in Policymaking class took place this quarter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first PIP session of the 2023 class took place in January 2023. The speakers were Amy Deaville, Liz Gary, Jamie Duplechine and Guy Caruso. • The second PIP session of the 2023 class took place in February 2023. The speakers were Julie Foster Hagan, Nicole Flores, Lillian DeJean, Nicole DeJean, Phil Wilson, and Deborah Whitfield. • The third PIP session of the 2023 class took place in March 2023. The speakers were Amy Deaville, Kristie Curtis, Konstance Causey, Ebony Haven, Liz Gary, and Rebecca Fruge. <p>All three months' sessions were held in person at the Baton Rouge Marriott.</p> <p>Previous Quarter(s): There were twenty-eight (28) applications received by the deadline of September 30, 2022 for the 2023 Partners in Policymaking (PiP) class. Of the 28 applications received, 4 were found ineligible, leaving a total of 24 applicants eligible for review and selection based on the national Partners in Policymaking selection criteria. Eligible applicants were comprised of 2 self-advocates, 21 parents, and 1 self-advocate and parent. Due to the increase in overall program cost, 20 applicants were accepted into the 2023 PIP class. Fifteen applicants accepted and will begin the program in January 2023</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>

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<p>1.1.2 Provide financial support and information, training, technical assistance, and leadership to a grassroots network of individuals with intellectual 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 intellectual developmental disabilities. Approx. FFY 2023 Cost: \$215,000</p>	<p>As of March 2023, LaCAN has over 6,690 individuals registered for the Council and LaCAN list serve to receive information and action alerts related to home and community-based services (HCBS), employment, education and early intervention.</p> <p><u>Update on Leader Positions</u> Region 9 currently has a LaCAN leader position available. This position has been advertised and those interested are encouraged to apply. The job position can be found here.</p> <p>Previous Quarter(s): As of December 2022, LaCAN has over 6,603 individuals registered for the Council and LaCAN list serve to receive information and action alerts related to home and community-based services (HCBS), employment, education and early intervention. LaCAN Leaders are planning for formal legislative visits with key committee members to discuss this year’s advocacy agenda. These visits will continue throughout the legislative session which begins April 10, 2023. LaCAN continues to host two LaCAN Leader conference calls per month, which include updates on current concerns/issues and development of strategies to better educate, maintain, support, and lead LaCAN members. Region 9 currently has a LaCAN leader position available.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>
<p>1.1.3 Facilitate and support diverse advocacy events, including but not limited to Legislative Roundtables, toward training, services and policies that will benefit individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Approx. FFY 2023 Cost: \$30,000</p>	<p><u>Advocacy Activities</u> Since October 1, 2022, there have been a total of five (5) LaCAN action alerts and two (2) yellow shirt days.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 Action Alerts – 643 actions taken • 2 Yellow Shirt Days – 25 attended; 6 testimonies provided <p>LaCAN Leaders are in the process of scheduling and completing formal legislative visits with key committee members to discuss this year’s advocacy agenda. To date, members were supported at 32 formal legislative visits of which 15 were with key committee members. These visits will continue throughout the legislative session which begins in April.</p> <p>LaCAN continues to host two LaCAN Leader conference calls per month, which include updates on current concerns/issues and development of strategies to better educate, maintain, support, and lead LaCAN members.</p>

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	<p>Nine Legislative Roundtables were held across the state with 346 participants in attendance, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 46 Self-Advocates• 152 Family Members• 92 Professionals• 33 Other/Unknown• 23 Policy Makers (i.e. legislators, legislative aides, and/or BESE members) <p>Previous Quarter(s): LaCAN Leaders planned for virtual regional legislative roundtables in collaboration with their Families Helping Families Centers prior to the start of legislative session, April 10, 2023.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>
<p>1.1.4 Provide financial support (from the entirety of state general funds) and technical assistance to nine Families Helping Families Regional Resource Centers across the state.</p>	<p>Since October 1, 2022, Centers have assisted 8,494 individuals with disabilities and families with information, referral, peer to peer and other supports. There have been over 7,540 units of information and referrals completed and 85 trainings conducted with 1,545 individuals in attendance. Centers have also conducted 274 outreach activities to hospitals, pediatricians, school districts, Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) clinics and physical therapy clinics.</p> <p>A factsheet about the need for additional funding for the Families Helping Families Resource Center was developed, posted on the Council’s website. It was also distributed to Council members, LaCAN Leaders, and FHF Centers/Directors. This sheet is being used in legislative visits and member meetings prior to the start of the 2023 legislative session.</p> <p>The additional \$500,000 in state general fund allocated to the Centers in FY23 was not included in the proposed FY24 budget despite the Council’s budget request. A fact sheet was created and disseminated to LaCAN Leaders and FHF Directors to distribute to legislators during visits. Information was shared at regional legislative Roundtables across the state. An action alert was sent to the LaCAN listserv requesting advocates reach out to their legislators regarding this issue.</p> <p>Previous Quarter(s): In October, the Council added to its 2023 Legislative Advocacy Agenda funding for the Families Helping Families Centers currently contracting with the Council. For the past two years, an additional \$500,000 in state general fund has been added to the Council’s budget for FHF Centers.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>

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<p>1.1.5 Produce and disseminate videos and other visual materials featuring information important to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families regarding but not limited to the following topics: accessible housing, COVID-19 issues, IEP guidance, successful educational outcomes and inclusive employment and other demonstrations of “It Can Be Done and You Can Do It” in all aspects of inclusive living, Partners in Policymaking®, assistive technology, inclusive after-school and recreational activities, ADA, DD Act, Civil Rights, IDEA and dispute resolutions, voting rights and accessible options, LRS services (especially transition) and how to access those services..</p> <p>Approx. FFY 2023 Cost: \$36,000</p>	<p>Council staff met with O’Neill in February to discuss new ideas for video and other visual material topics. O’Neill Communications has continued the progress on outlining a storyboard and topics and building an implementation plan for the video topics.</p> <p>Previous Quarter(s): The Council has again contracted with O’Neill Communications to produce/ disseminate videos and other visual materials featuring information important to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families on a number of various topics for FY23. Council staff met with O’Neill on November 7, 2022 to discuss new ideas for video topics.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>

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<p>1.1.6 Provide financial support for promotion, awareness, training and support in implementation of Supported Decision Making. Approx. FFY 2023 Cost: \$50,000</p>	<p>The Council has collaborated with The Arc of Louisiana to offer statewide regional training events for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their family members to increase their understanding of Supported Decision Making (SDM), also known as the Dustin Gary Act of the 2020 Louisiana legislative session, and other legal options available in Louisiana.</p> <p>A training schedule and registration information can be found here (the site will be updated as more trainings are scheduled). Training events will be held via in-person or through online webinars (depending on the decision of the People First Chapter). The training schedule will be shared with all FHF Centers, People First of LA and Disability Rights LA. The Arc of LA and the DD Council (through websites and social media) are providing promotion of the scheduled events.</p> <p>As of March 2023, three (3) trainings have occurred with 31 participants in attendance. Additionally, eight (8) self-advocates are being mentored through the entire Supported Decision Making process. Three (3) self-advocates have completed the Supported Decision Making process but, are still being monitored.</p> <p>Previous Quarter(s): As of December 21, 2022, new training materials have been developed; a meeting was held with People First to review new training documents; and a training has been scheduled for February 9th at 10:00 AM at the Southwest Louisiana Independence Center.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>
<p>1.1.7 Produce and provide information important to individuals with intellectual developmental disabilities and their families through a variety of electronic and social media (Council website, Facebook, and LaDDC News).</p>	<p>The Council's social media presence on Facebook and Twitter continues to grow each quarter. Data as of March 29, 2023:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Council's listserv has 6,692 active subscribers.• The Council's Facebook has 5,650 page likes.• The Council's Twitter has 512 followers. <p>The following 18 LaDDC Newsletters were released via listserv and advertised on the Council's Facebook and Twitter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public Notice of HCR 14 Disability Voting Task Force Meeting, January 6, 2023• Public Notice of HCR 14 Disability Voting Task Force Meeting, January 20, 2023• Council's 2023 Legislative Advocacy Agenda, January 27, 2023

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Notice of HCR 14 Disability Voting Task Force Meeting, February 8, 2023 • Emergency Preparedness and Disability Awareness Trainings in North LA, February 13, 2023 • YLF Recruiting Delegates and Staff, February 14, 2023 • OCDD Hosting Public Health Emergency Roadshows, February 23, 2023 • Louisiana Rehabilitation Council Recruiting Members, February 24, 2023 • Louisiana Rehabilitation Council Recruiting Members – Updated Email Address, March 2, 2023 • LDOE Seeks Input on 2023-24 IDEA Application, March 7, 2023 • Public Notice of FFY 2024 Planning Ad Hoc Committee, March 15, 2023 • Public Notice of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Ad Hoc Meeting, March 20, 2023 • Register Now: Emergency Preparedness Trainings in North LA, March 22, 2023 • Public Notice of LaDDC April 2023 Council Meeting, March 23, 2023 • Don't Lose Your Medicaid Coverage, March 24, 2023 • 2023 Youth Leadership Forum: Last Change to Apply, March 27, 2023 • SEAP Recruiting New Members – Apply Today, March 28, 2023 • LDOE IDEA Grant Application Out for Public Comment, March 31, 2023 <p>Previous Quarter(s): The Council's social media presence on Facebook and Twitter continues to grow each quarter. Data as of December 30, 2022:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council's listserv has over 6,603 active subscribers. • The Council's Facebook has 6,034 page followers and 5,600 page likes. • The Council's Twitter has 499 followers. <p>7 LaDDC Newsletters were released via listserv and advertised on the Council's Facebook and Twitter.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p>1.1.8 Advocate for increased meaningful opportunities for stakeholder input; improved practices to facilitate stakeholder input and consideration of stakeholder recommendations.</p>	<p>OCDD hosted statewide Roadshows in February and March to discuss the ending of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE). The federal PHE will end on May 11th which means the Appendix K exceptions are scheduled to end in November. An LaDDC News with the department's announcement was shared on February 23rd. Slides for the presentation can be found here.</p> <p>A fact sheet was created and disseminated to LaCAN Leaders and FHF Directors to distribute to legislators during visits. Information was shared at regional legislative Roundtables across the state. An action alert was sent to the LaCAN listserv requesting advocates reach out to the Remote Operations Taskforce and attend Yellow Shirt day on March 16th. The taskforce meeting can be watched here with LaCAN testimony beginning at 59:00.</p>

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	<p>An action alert was also sent to the LaCAN listserv requesting advocates reach out to the Remote Operations Taskforce and attend Yellow Shirt day and the Taskforce final meeting on March 24th. The taskforce meeting can be watched here with LaCAN testimony beginning at 34:52.</p> <p>The Disability Voting Rights Task Force created by HCR14 of the 2022 Legislative Session hosted meetings during the 2nd quarter to discuss the voting rights of persons with disabilities and the procedures available to assist voters with disabilities to cast their votes. The DD Council encouraged all stakeholders to participate in those public meetings and shared LaDDC Newsletters on January 6th, January 20th, and February 8th.</p> <p>Previous Quarter(s) In October, the Council added to its 2023 Legislative Advocacy Agenda advocacy focused on amending open meetings law to allow for virtual and hybrid participation.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p>1.1.9 Provide financial support and technical assistance for the Louisiana Youth Leadership Forum. Approx. FFY 2023 Cost: \$30,000</p>	<p>Families Helping Families of Acadiana hired Lillian DeJean as the YLF Coordinator. She started on January 17, 2023.</p> <p>Families Helping Families of Acadiana (FHFOA) Executive Director (ED) conducts weekly meetings with the YLF Coordinator to discuss status of deliverables. The FHFOA ED and YLF Coordinator met with DDC Staff on January 26, 2023 to discuss monthly reporting requirements. The Louisiana Department of Education presented their funding amount of \$15,000 for the YLF at the March 2023 Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) meeting, and BESE approved the funding. The YLF Coordinator conducted outreach with Acadiana Queer Collective, LSU's LEND Program, LSU Student Government, League of Women's Voters, the Partners in Policymaking program, UL GLASS, and Power Coalition</p> <p>In order to secure other funding sources for YLF. She also planned outreach with community organizations focused on servicing people with disabilities, people of color, and the LGBT community.</p> <p>The YLF Coordinator created a new draft budget to accommodate confirmed speaker costs, confirmed lodging and catering estimates, and projected nursing rates. She also communicated with LDOE, LaDDC, and LRS about the YLF funding for 2023. She developed and finalized the 2023 YLF schedule and confirmed the location and catering information for this year's session.</p>

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	<p>Lastly, the YLF Coordinator finalized and disseminated staff and delegate applications for the 2023 YLF session to community partners and social media accounts. The Council shared an LaDDC News announcing the opening of the application period on February 14th. The application period closed on March 31, 2023.</p> <p>Previous Quarter(s): The Council has contracted with Families Helping Families (FHF) of Acadiana to implement a Louisiana Youth Leadership Forum (LAYLF) program that adheres to the National Association of Youth Leadership Forum (NAYLF) standards. FHF of Acadiana met with the University of Louisiana at Lafayette (ULL) in October 2022 to discuss hosting the LAYLF in July 2023. In November 2022, they also conducted a meeting with Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS) and the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) to discuss additional funding. LDOE will present a funding request of \$15,000 for LAYLF at the March BESE meeting. LRS funding will be dependent on the delegates selected. FHF has also applied for an additional grant through Enbridge.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>
<p>Obj. 1.2 Louisiana’s self-advocacy network, partner groups, and citizens with intellectual and developmental disabilities will be supported in self-advocacy training, systems change advocacy, and through participation on a variety of boards and commissions.</p>	
<p>1.2.1 Provide technical assistance and training opportunities designed to strengthen the self-advocacy network and the effectiveness of its systems change activities and promote self-advocacy participation in training of other self-advocates in leadership positions. Approximate Cost for FY2023: \$25,000</p>	<p>People First is planning to hold their annual training in June 2023. They are contracting with Russell Lehmann, a self-advocate, to be their Keynote Speaker. Russell has years of experience in training in advocacy and self-determination for self-advocates, family members, providers, employers, and the general public. They are currently in the planning process and will have materials ready prior to the training.</p> <p>Previous Quarter(s): People First held a two-day training on October 6th and 7th. This training provided participants knowledge of the voting and the legislative process. On October 7th, participants met at the Capitol with Representative Edmonds, Representative Davis, and Senator Foil. The legislators explained the legislative process and the participants took a tour of the capitol including visiting a committee room and the chambers. Twenty-Seven (27) people registered and participated in this two-day event.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>

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<p>1.2.2 Provide information and support for participation of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families in cross-disability and culturally diverse leadership coalitions and advisory bodies.</p>	<p>During the second quarter (January – March 2023) the Council sent out public meeting notices and encouraged individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families to attend and/or apply for open positions. These notices include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HCR 14 Disability Voting Task Force Public Meeting Notice, January 6, 2023 • HCR 14 Disability Voting Task Force Public Meeting Notice, January 20, 2023 • HCR 14 Disability Voting Task Force Public Meeting Notice, February 8, 2023 • Louisiana Rehabilitation Council Recruiting Members, February 24, 2023 • Public Notice of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Ad-Hoc Meeting, March 20, 2023 • 2023 Youth Leadership Forum: Last Chance to Apply, March 27, 2023 • SEAP Recruiting New Members – Apply Today, March 28, 2023 <p>Previous Quarter(s): In October the Council sent out public notices about these Advisory Councils: Public Notice of Meeting, Post-secondary Inclusive Education Advisory Council, October 13, 2022 Student Behavior, Mental Health and Discipline Task Force Questionnaire, October 17, 2022</p> <p>On target: <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p>1.2.3 Support Council members’ participation in training and educational opportunities and Council leadership’s participation in national training, networking events and advocacy opportunities. Approx. FFY 2023 Cost: \$15,000</p>	<p>The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Committee met on March 22, 2023 and discussed possible agencies including colleges and universities and other entities to complete the Full Council DEI training. The DEI voted to have the DEI committee trained first, followed by the Executive Committee and staff and finally the Full Council. Once the committee receives complete information from potential trainers, the DEI committee will meet to select the best proposal.</p> <p>Previous Quarter(s): No activity.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>
<p>Goal 2 To be fully participating members of the community, individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, including those with the most challenging needs, and their families will have access to quality supports and services inclusive of affordable healthcare, resources across various service delivery systems, and shall be treated equally by all members of the community.</p>	

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<p>Obj. 2.1 Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities will have increased access to appropriate and affordable healthcare, including primary and specialist providers, preventive health services and prevention of chronic diseases, dental care, sexual/reproductive health services and behavioral health services.</p>	
<p>2.1.1 Oversee implementation of the Community and Family Support System Plan and advocate for adequate funding, the expansion of home and community based services, for waivers to provide access to services listed in the Freedom of Choice Provider Listing and consistent implementation of policy across regions, including, if necessary, changes in law and/or contracts with local governing entities (LGEs).</p>	<p>Medicaid and the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities or OCDD have started working to add incontinence supplies as a Medicaid covered benefit under the New Opportunities, Residential Options and Supports Waivers. The department shared with the Council a commitment letter detailing its plans to ensure this coverage without the need for legislative advocacy. They anticipate this benefit being available to NOW and ROW participants July 1st. A waiver amendment and rulemaking is required to implement this benefit in the Supports Waiver, so the implementation date will be later once approval from CMS is given and the final rule published.</p> <p>Medicaid Unwind will be starting in April. During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, states could not remove individuals from Medicaid eligibility. In April, states will start reviewing eligibility of Medicaid recipients and remove those who are no longer eligible. It is important that all Medicaid recipients ensure their mailing address, cell phone numbers and email are current. An LaDDC News with information on the Medicaid Unwind was shared on March 24th.</p> <p>Previous Quarter(s): In October, the Council added to its 2023 Legislative Advocacy Agenda advocacy focused on providing incontinence supplies to adults on Medicaid waivers. The Council will partner with the Arc of Louisiana to advocate for this issue.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p>2.1.2 Advocate with the Louisiana Department of Education to provide appropriate, accessible sexual education to high school aged students with intellectual and developmental disabilities.</p>	<p>The Executive Director met with Meredith Jordan, Executive Director of Diverse Learners with LDOE, this quarter. Ms. Jordan indicated that she's not aware of any schools that are offering appropriate, accessible sexual education to high school aged students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Ms. Jordan also consulted with the Louisiana Department Of Education's legal department and they sent R.S. 17:281 as reference for programs in schools regarding sexual education (http://legis.la.gov/legis/Law.aspx?d=80423). Programs have to be approved by local school boards to be included in schools.</p> <p>Council staff is currently looking at other options to accomplish this activity.</p> <p>Previous Quarter(s):</p>

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	<p>The Council's Executive Director sent correspondence to Meredith Jordan, Department of Education, requesting information about what school systems are currently doing in terms of sexual education for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
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<p>Obj. 2.2 Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families will have access to and be served by qualified trained professionals, including Direct Support Professionals, First Responders, and other professionals, who will value and promote inclusive community living.</p>	
<p>2.2.1 Provide financial support to conduct training sessions on first-responder tactics, approaches and resources in fostering relationships with and dealing with individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and training for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities on how to interact with first responders.</p> <p>Approx. FFY 2023 Cost: \$80,000</p>	<p>Council contracted again with Interaction Advisory Group (IAG) to conduct in-person and virtual training sessions for first responders. On January 27th, the contractor was invited by the Special Olympics of Louisiana to present on this topic as part of their Diversity, Equity and Inclusion panel. An opportunity to train additional first responders attending the conference occurred (10 first responders from Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, St. Tammany Parish Sheriff Office, Cankton Police Department, Kenner Police Department, Hammond Fire Department and Lafayette Police Department).</p> <p>Two virtual trainings were scheduled for March, but at the time this report was created attendance was not available. Up-coming trainings include Plaquemines Parish Fire Department (July) and Terrebonne Parish Sheriff's Office (May). Currently awaiting confirmation from St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office as well. These trainings will be "whole agency" trainings, which is the goal of this initiative.</p> <p>Contractor has also stated our initiative is having an impact in neighboring states. An Agency in North Mississippi heard about the Council's initiative and contacted IAG to set up training for their agency.</p> <p>Previous Quarter(s): During the first quarter, the entirety of Plaquemines Parish Sheriff's department was trained (266 first responders trained). A community development and safety training session was also held with 36 attendees. View the feedback received from the Plaquemines Parish Sheriff's Office here. A virtual training was scheduled in December with no attendees. Historically the months of November, December and January are slow with little to no turnout due to the holidays. IAG also stated agencies prefer in-person trainings which may also account for low turnout at virtual options.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>

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<p>2.2.2 Provide financial support to establish a training program on emergency preparedness and response relative to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities Approx. FFY 2023 Cost: \$50,000</p>	<p>Council contracted again with Niagara University to bring its emergency preparedness and disability awareness training to Louisiana. Shared a LaDDC News on February 13th advertising upcoming trainings in North Louisiana. A session will be held in Monroe (training flyer) May 1 – 2 and Shreveport (training flyer) May 3 – 4. Houma, Hammond and New Orleans areas have all expressed interest in bringing this training to their region(s). Contractor is working to establish relationships in the Lafayette and Lake Charles areas as well to ensure all regions of the state are covered.</p> <p>Previous Quarter(s) First quarter, shared LaDDC News advertising this initiative and the training that was held in Baton Rouge on November 9 – 10. Twenty-nine individuals attended the full two-day training with six additional participants in the half-day training. Per the contractor, the response and participation in this initiative has been unmatched in the other states they are offering the same training in.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>
<p>2.2.3 Advocate for increased meaningful opportunities for stakeholder input; improved practices to facilitate stakeholder input and consideration of stakeholder recommendations</p>	<p>OCDD hosted statewide Roadshows in February and March to discuss the ending of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE). The federal PHE will end on May 11th which means the Appendix K exceptions are scheduled to end in November. An LaDDC News with the department’s announcement was shared on February 23rd. Slides for the presentation can be found here.</p> <p>Previous Quarter(s): The Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) held two meetings on the Appendix K exception focused on family as paid caregivers. A focus group then discussed ways to bring new technology to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to allow them as much independence as possible.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>

Obj. 2.3. Females with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families will have increased access to health services and health education. (Targeted Disparity – Disadvantaged population)

<p>2.3.1 Conduct research and collaborate with the Louisiana Department of Health to address</p>	<p>The Executive Director followed-up with Dr. Harris, the Assistant Secretary of the Office of Women’s Health & Community Health, again this quarter through email about wanting to meet about a potential collaboration to address accessible, educational materials on Women’s Health topics. Dr. Harris is actively filling vacant positions in the new Office.</p>
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<p>accessible, educational materials on Women’s health topics.</p>	<p>Previous Quarter(s): The Council will collaborate with the new Office of Women’s Health and Community Health (OWHCH). The new program office was created during the 2022 Legislative Session and the OWHCH’s primary goal is to provide an agency-wide focus on women’s health outcomes through policy, education, evidence-based practices, programs and services. Once OWHCH is established, Council staff will communicate to conduct research and establish a collaboration.</p> <p>On target: <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p>Goal 3 Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities will have access to quality education in inclusive and safe environments throughout all stages of life and access to self-determined, individualized, equal and gainful employment opportunities that provide competitive wages and integrated work environments.</p>	
<p>Obj. 3.1 Parents of students with intellectual and developmental disabilities will have increased access to early diagnosis, identification of needs, early intervention services, childcare and information and opportunities to collaborate with educators regarding individualized educational planning or programming to meet the needs of their students.</p>	
<p>3.1.1 Provide financial support to establish a Post-Secondary Inclusive Education Alliance to provide mentoring and technical assistance, host training events and develop resources designed to build the capacity of Louisiana postsecondary institutions in providing inclusive postsecondary education opportunities for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities throughout Louisiana. Approx. FFY 2023 Cost: \$40,000</p>	<p>A factsheet about funding new and existing post-secondary inclusive education programs for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities was developed and posted on the Council’s website. It was also distributed to Council members, LaCAN Leaders and FHF Centers/Directors. This sheet is being used in legislative visits and member meetings prior to the start of the 2023 legislative session. This information was also shared and presented at LaCAN’s 2023 Legislative Roundtables.</p> <p>Currently, Dr. Gerlinde Beckers is serving as the LAPIE liaison with the Advisory Council on Post-secondary Inclusive Education programs within the Board of Regents (BoR). The Council is currently focusing on disseminating application reminders for the Post-Secondary Inclusive Education Fund (PIEF).</p> <p>Activities this quarter include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February 14 they facilitated their quarterly meeting • March 1–represented LAPIE at BoR PIEF Council Meeting • March 9–represented LAPIE Region 9 Round Table • March 14-Families Helping Families of Acadiana Webinar on Postsecondary Inclusive Education and LAPIE–Nicole Flores

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 21-Northshore Families Helping Families-Webinar on Postsecondary Inclusive Education and LAPIE–Karen Artus <p>They have also given technical assistance to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Dan Bureau & Dr. Paul Mooney, Louisiana State University–Baton Rouge campus PIEF application • Dr. Eaman Halpin & Brittany Soden–LSU-A–PIEF application and Comprehensive Transition and Postsecondary program application. CTP was awarded on March 31, 2023. • McNeese State University–Toby Osborn and Tim Delaney-PIEF 2nd round application • University of Louisiana at Monroe–Dr. Anita Sharma-PIEF 2nd round application <p>Previous Quarter(s): In October, the Council added to its 2023 Legislative Advocacy Agenda advocacy focused funding new and existing postsecondary inclusive education programs for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. During the 2022 legislative session, and the Postsecondary Inclusive Education Fund was created and \$1M was appropriated to the fund. The Council will be advocated for an additional \$3M for the fund during the 2023 legislative session. The Louisiana Postsecondary Inclusive Education Advisory Council also conducted an informational webinar for colleges and universities interested in applying for the funds. The Advisory Council will submit an initial report to the legislature on February 1, 2023.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>
<p>3.1.2 Advocate for increased focus and capacity within Louisiana Department of Education to address Special Education, including specific areas/issues (i.e., disability/topical/etc.)</p>	<p>The Executive Director met with Meredith Jordan in February 2023. Currently, Ms. Jordan has 10 positions in her division. One (1) is a WAE (part-time) position, one (1) is her position, and one (1) position is for English as a Second Language (ESL) work. They also have people on the Program Compliance team, which monitors special education (SPED) programs. Her understanding is that there used to be at least twice that many people, but the positions have been reduced. Ms. Jordan also stated that Dr. Brumley is planning to ask for money during the legislative session (within LDOE’s budget request) to get some additional contract positions in SPED Compliance. This will assist with monitoring and holding school systems in Louisiana more accountable.</p> <p>Previous Quarter(s): No activity.</p>

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	<p>On target: <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p>3.1.3 Advocate for support structure in school systems that assures adequate understanding and skill to develop and implement IEP's and increased infrastructure of training and technical assistance provided to parents and schools simultaneously.</p>	<p>Staff members attended Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP) on January 25, 2023 and March 22 2023. These meetings were focused around the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) Individuals with Disabilities Educations Act (IDEA) grant application and recommendations. During the meetings, the need for paperwork reduction, especially in the special education classes were addressed. Recommendations included: universal paperwork in all school districts, electronic forms, using eSER, and tracking systems for students that have an IEP.</p> <p>Previous Quarter(s): No activity this quarter.</p> <p>On target: <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p>3.1.4 Advocate for educational systems change based on emergent education issues.</p>	<p>No activity this Quarter</p> <p>On target: <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p>3.1.5 Advocate for increased meaningful opportunities for stakeholder input; improved practices to facilitate stakeholder input and consideration of stakeholder recommendations.</p>	<p>Information was shared with the Council's listserv and social media platforms about the Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP) and the IDEA grant application this quarter. Stakeholders were encouraged to provide feedback and apply for vacant positions on SEAP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LDOE Seeks Input on 2023-24 IDEA Application, March 7, 2023 • SEAP Recruiting New Members – Apply Today, March 28, 2023 • LDOE IDEA Grant Application Out for Public Comment, March 31, 2023 <p>Previous Quarter(s): During the 2022 Legislative Session, the passage of House Resolution 173 (HR173) created the Student Behavior, Mental Health, and Discipline Task Force to study improving certain policies relative to student behavior and discipline. On October 17, 2022, the Council shared the Task Force's questionnaire asking for stakeholder input which included sharing experiences that assisted in furthering their work. The Council also shared information on the Louisiana Postsecondary Inclusive Education Advisory Council's meeting that were held in October 2022.</p>

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	On target: <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative
<p>Obj. 3.2 Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities will have increased employment outcomes upon transitioning from secondary educational settings, access to employment opportunities inclusive of services from highly qualified employment support providers and increased competitive and integrated opportunities from employers who are educated on how to support people with developmental disabilities.</p>	
<p>3.2.1 Provide financial support to conduct seminars with Chambers of Commerce throughout the state on the benefits of hiring people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Approx. FFY 2023 Cost: \$39,000</p>	<p>O'Neill Communications plans to again take a deeper dive into topics and implement a "story-telling" format for FFY23. O'Neill Communications met with Council staff in February to discuss new topics and potential panelist for the new set of seminars. They also discussed a potential host for the new Employment Seminar series.</p> <p>Previous Quarter(s): The Council has contracted again with O'Neill Communications to conduct employment seminars. O'Neill Communications plans to again take a deeper dive into topics and implement a "story-telling" format for FY23. O'Neill Communications met with Council staff in November to discuss new topics and potential panelist for the new set of seminars. They also discussed how to get more participation from Council members.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>
<p>3.2.2 Advocate for employment support professionals to complete high-quality professional development specifically on benefits planning services for the improvement of service provisions and employment outcomes</p>	<p>No activity this quarter</p> <p style="text-align: center;">On target: <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p>3.2.3 Ensure potential employers have access to information about financial incentives to hire unserved</p>	<p>The Council contracted with O'Neill Communications to conduct employment seminars which included information about financial incentives to hire unserved and underserved populations. These seminars in the <i>Working Together</i> series and <i>DIScovering ABILITIES</i> series are on the Council's YouTube page and</p>

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<p>and underserved populations including people with the most substantial employment support needs in competitive integrated individualized employment.</p>	<p>can be accessed by potential employers. Staff is also working with O'Neill Communications to determine how to share small clips from the seminars on social media to share this information again.</p> <p>On target: <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p>3.2.4 Share the benefits planning services to a variety of agencies and stakeholders.</p>	<p>The Executive Director met with the Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS) Executive Director, Melissa Bayham, about specific training that employment providers may receive on benefits planning. Ms. Bayham stated that there isn't any specific training that they offer or require. However, LRS does provide information regarding benefit planning to all of their consumers. Also, Louisiana Association of People Supporting Employment (APSE) has provided some training on benefits planning in the past (their 2021 Annual Conference was specifically mentioned).</p> <p>On target: <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p>3.2.5 Advocate for systems change based on emergent employment issues.</p>	<p>No activity this quarter.</p> <p>On target: <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p>3.2.6 Conduct research to examine the effectiveness and advocate to support efforts of the Louisiana Medicaid "buy-in" program.</p>	<p>No activity this quarter.</p> <p>On target: <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>