

Planning Committee Status Report of FFY 2024 Action Plan Including Staff Recommendations for FFY2025

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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
	As applicable, data is presented year-to-date and quarterly. Staff have also included recommendations.
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.	
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.	
1.1.1 Provide financial support and technical assistance for Partners in Policymaking and its alumni network. Approx. FFY 2024 Cost: \$90,000	Partners in Policymaking (PiP) is a national leadership training program for people with developmental disabilities and parents of young children with developmental disabilities. It provides the most current knowledge about disability issues and develops the competencies necessary for effective advocacy to influence public policy at all levels of government. The 2024 PiP class will complete the January – June sessions in person. PiP will continue to complete sessions in person for Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) and accept at least twenty (20) parents and/or self-advocates in the class. Staff Recommendations: Staff recommends continuing this activity and increasing funding to \$100,000 for Fiscal Year 2025 due to the increased costs associated with inflation (i.e. hotel expenses, travel, etc.). There were 3 alternates from northern Louisiana that PIP could not afford because of reimbursement costs. Funding has been at this level since 2022. On target: ☒ Initiative ☒ Expenditures

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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 2024 Cost: \$240,000	All LaCAN leader positions have been filled. Leaders continue to educate, maintain, support, and lead LaCAN members by building relationships with legislators through various LaCAN activities including LaCAN member meetings, Legislative Roundtables, Legislative Visits, Yellow Shirt Days and Public Testimony Days. <u>Staff Recommendations:</u> Staff recommends continuing this activity in Fiscal Year 2025 at its current budget. This budget was increased from \$215,000 to its current funding in FFY24. On target: ☒ Initiative ☒ Expenditures
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 2024 Cost: \$30,000	LaCAN Leaders, in collaboration with their Families Helping Families Centers, completed regional legislative roundtables in February and March. Roundtables were held virtually and in person in each region before the start of the legislative session, on March 11, 2024. LaCAN members meetings and trainings are also covered in this activity which are typically held in person. <u>Staff Recommendations:</u> Staff recommends continuing this activity in Fiscal Year 2025 at its current level. On target: ☒ Initiative ☒ Expenditures
1.1.4 Provide financial support (from the entirety of state general funds) and technical assistance to nine Families Helping Families	Families Helping Families (FHF) Centers continue to provide information and referrals, education and training, peer-to-peer support, and other support to individuals with disabilities and their families. They are also conducting outreach activities to hospitals, pediatricians, school districts, Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) clinics, and physical therapy clinics.

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Regional Resource Centers across the state.	<u>Staff Recommendations:</u> Staff recommends continuing this activity in Fiscal Year 2025. The FHF Centers currently utilize all of the Council's State General Funds. On target: ☒ Initiative ☒ Expenditures
1.1.5 Share videos and other visual materials featuring information important to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.	Council staff shares videos and other materials from 23 East (O'Neill Communications) from the past three years on social media. The videos are also on the Council's website and YouTube page for the public to utilize. <u>Staff Recommendations:</u> Staff recommends discontinuing this activity for Fiscal Year 2025. This is accomplished in 1.1.6. On target: ☒ Initiative ☒ Expenditures
1.1.6 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).	The Council continues to provide information through a variety of electronic and social media. The number of subscribers, followers, and likes grows daily. <u>Staff Recommendations:</u> Staff recommends continuing this activity for Fiscal Year 2025. On target: ☒ Initiative
1.1.7 Advocate for increased meaningful opportunities for stakeholder input; improved practices to facilitate stakeholder input and consideration of stakeholder recommendations.	The Council continues to search and advertise opportunities for meaningful opportunities for stakeholder input and consideration of stakeholder recommendations including vacancies on other Boards and Advisory Councils. <u>Staff Recommendations:</u> Staff recommends continuing this activity for Fiscal Year 2025. On target: ☒ Initiative
1.1.8 Provide financial support and technical assistance for the Louisiana Youth Leadership Forum.	Louisiana Youth Leadership Forum (LAYLF) is an innovative, overnight training program for high school-aged individuals with developmental and other disabilities. It includes career awareness and leadership development information to assist young people with disabilities in reaching their full potential. LAYLF is also receiving \$15,000 from Louisiana Department of Education and may receive funding from the

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Approx. FFY 2024 Cost: \$45,000	Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS) depending on the delegates selected to participate in the LAYLF (that amount, if any, will be shared after the selection of the delegates). LAYLF is in the second year of a five year re-occurring grant from Enbridge for transportation and meals. LAYLF also received an additional grant for housing and meals through the Brown Foundation. LAYLF will take place June 20-23 at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. For FFY2024 LAYLF is accepting 14 delegates, including 1 high support camper, and will take place over 3.5 days. <u>Staff Recommendations:</u> Staff recommends continuing this activity at its current budget for Fiscal Year 2025. The budget was increased from \$30,000 to its current level in FFY 2024. In FFY 2023 LAYLF accepted 13 delegates and lasted 3 days. On target: ☒ Initiative ☒ Expenditures
1.1.9 Provide financial support, technical assistance to educate and train individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities on voting awareness, rights and accessibility. Approx. FFY 2024 Cost: \$30,000	The Council has collaborated with People First of Louisiana to offer statewide training opportunities to empower and educate individuals on voting rights for people with disabilities. Attendees will gain valuable information about: Why you should vote; The process of voting; Assistance and accommodations with voting; Rights and Responsibilities; and The meaning of Constitutional Amendments. The in-person training session included representatives from the Secretary of State's office to provide hands-on experience with voting machines used for both early voting and election day voting. Adults with disabilities, their families and other interested organizations and stakeholders are encouraged to attend through LaDDC News and social media. <u>Staff Recommendations:</u> Staff recommends continuing this activity at its current budget for Fiscal Year 2025. On target: ☒ Initiative ☒ Expenditures
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.	
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	The Council continues to provide technical assistance and training opportunities to strengthen the self-advocacy network. <u>Staff Recommendations:</u> Staff recommends continuing this activity at its current budget for Fiscal Year 2025.

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participation in training of other self-advocates in leadership positions. Approx. FFY 2024 Cost: \$25,000	On target: ☒ Initiative ☒ Expenditures
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.	The Council continues to provide information and support participation in cross-disability and culturally diverse leadership coalitions and advisory bodies. Council members currently serve on The ABLE Account Advisory Council, the Advisory Council on Student Behavior and Discipline, the Voting Rights Task Force and the Post-Secondary Inclusive Education Advisory Council. <u>Staff Recommendations:</u> Staff recommends continuing this activity for Fiscal Year 2025. On target: ☐ Initiative
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 2024 Cost: \$15,000	Council members' participation in training and educational opportunities will continue to be supported. Staff will ensure Council members are made aware of opportunities to participate when available. <u>Staff Recommendations:</u> Staff recommends continuing this activity for Fiscal Year 2025. According to ITACC, this activity cannot have money attached to it. On target: ☒ Initiative ☐ Expenditures
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.	
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.	
2.1.1 Oversee implementation of the Community and Family Support System Plan and advocate for adequate	The Council continues to oversee the implementation of the Community and Family Support System plan through its Act 378 Subcommittee, Self-Determination and Community Inclusion Committee and various meetings with the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD). Council staff continue to attend and participate in stakeholder groups and task force meetings, including the Governor's Advisory Council on Disability Affairs (GACDA) to stay informed about changes to the

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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).	Community and Family Support System Plan. The Executive Director also holds monthly calls with the Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD). The Council continues to advocate every year for additional funding for services, expanded services and consistent implementation across regions. This year the Council is advocating for: • Recurring Funding for the Families Helping Families Regional Resource Centers • Eliminate the Flexible Family Fund Wait List • Increase the Waiver Rate for Night Services Staff Recommendations: Staff recommends continuing this activity for Fiscal Year 2025, but changing the wording to read “Oversee implementation of the Community and Family Support System Plan”. On target: ☒ Initiative
2.1.2 Conduct research on best practices to provide appropriate, accessible sexual education to middle and high school aged people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.	Council staff has researched other states and their activities that are similar to this activity. Staff has been in contact with other state Councils and their contractors. Both state councils purchased curriculum and did a round of training themselves. Available training sessions include topics such as youth, LGBTQ+, workplace, and more. Attendance was high for one council, but low for the other. Staff is meeting with a contractor March 5 for more information. Staff Recommendations: Staff recommends discontinuing this activity at this capacity. If the Council is interested in continuing this initiative, it is recommended a contract be entered with an outside entity that can develop an educational program specific to students with intellectual and developmental disabilities and offer these trainings statewide on a voluntary basis and outside of school setting. Funding will need to be allocated for this initiative. On target: ☒ Initiative
2.1.3 Provide financial support for training to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities on how to navigate the Developmental Disability, Behavioral Health and Medicaid/Managed Care Organization Systems.	The Council contracted with Hustle & Grow provide training opportunities to improve overall awareness and early recognition of co-occurring intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and mental health diagnoses for persons with disabilities and their families. The first installment of the in-person trainings focused on how to identify co-occurring I/DD and mental health disorders. Hustle & Grow conducted three trainings in north, central, and south Louisiana. Their next set of in-person trainings on Trauma-Informed and person-centered Care for people with I/DD and their families began February 27. Hustle & Grow will also host 2 statewide virtual webinars, one on Rapid Response: De-Escalation Tactics in Times of Behavioral Health Crisis Training, the other on How to Choose the Right Behavioral Health Provider Training. Individuals with disabilities and their families and caretakers are encouraged to attend through LaDDC News and social media.

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Approx. FFY 2024 Cost: \$30,000	<u>Staff Recommendations:</u> Staff recommends continuing this activity for Fiscal Year 2025, but recommends opening the contract up for proposals. Hustle and Grow’s initial proposal did not meet the activity and had to be rewritten. Even with these rewrites, the staff feels as though the trainings are not meeting the activity requirements On target: ☒ Initiative ☒ Expenditures
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.	
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. Approx. FFY 2024 Cost: \$80,000	The Council has contracted with the Interaction Advisory Group (IAG) for four consecutive Fiscal Years (FY21-FY24) to conduct in-person and virtual training sessions for first responders. IAG has completed community training and virtual training events, and some of the trainings they have conducted were “in-kind” at no expense to the Council. Since the start of the contract in October 2020, a total of 1401 first responders (which includes law enforcement and community members) have been trained. <u>Staff Recommendations:</u> Staff recommends discontinuing this activity for Fiscal Year 2025. Staff feel this activity has run its course. Council Member recommendation was that this be inclusive of Emergency Room workers- possible new contract. On target: ☒ Initiative ☒ Expenditures
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 2024 Cost: \$50,000	The Council has contracted with Niagara University for four consecutive Fiscal Years (FY21-FY24) to bring its emergency preparedness and disability awareness training to Louisiana. Per the contractor, the response and participation in this initiative has been unmatched in the other states they are offering the same training. Since the start of the contract in October 2020, 352 participants attended the virtual trainings (completed in FY21) and 191 participants attended the in-person trainings. <u>Staff Recommendations:</u> Staff recommends the committee determine if this activity should continue into a fifth year. While trainings have been well received, general coverage across the state will be

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	accomplished in FFY24 with some areas seeing repeat trainings. It is likely in FFY25 repeat locations will occur as well. On target: ☒ Initiative ☒ Expenditures
2.2.3 Advocate for increased meaningful opportunities for stakeholder input; improved practices to facilitate stakeholder input and consideration of stakeholder recommendations.	The Council continues to search and advertise opportunities for meaningful opportunities for stakeholder input and consideration of stakeholder recommendations. <u>Staff Recommendations:</u> Staff recommends continuing this activity for Fiscal Year 2025. On target: ☒ Initiative
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)	
2.3.1 Collaborate with the Louisiana Department of Health to address accessible, educational materials on Women’s health topics.	The Council will collaborate with Louisiana Department of Health or 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. <u>Staff Recommendations:</u> Staff recommends continuing this activity for Fiscal Year 2025. On target: ☐ Initiative
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.	
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.	
3.1.1 Advocate for increased focus and capacity within Louisiana Department of Education to address Special Education, including specific areas/issues (i.e., disability/topical/etc.)	Council staff continue to attend the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) meetings, the Special Education Advisory Council (SEAP) meetings, the Advisory Council on Student Behavior and Discipline (ACSBD) meetings and other education boards, councils and task forces that make decisions and recommendations impacting students with disabilities. The Executive Director hosts monthly calls with the Executive Director of Diverse Learners. The Council receives quarterly updates on education issues from LDOE.

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	<u>Staff Recommendations:</u> Staff recommends continuing this activity for Fiscal Year 2025 and to collaborate with the LDOE on ways to accomplish this activity. On target: ☐ Initiative
3.1.2 Advocate for the Louisiana Department of Education to perform ongoing monitoring of local school districts to ensure compliance of all Special Education laws and policies.	Council staff continue to attend the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), the Special Education Advisory Council (SEAP), the Advisory Council on Student Behavior and Discipline (ACSB) and other education boards, council and task forces that make decisions and recommendations that impact students with disabilities. The Executive Director hosts monthly calls with the Executive Director of Diverse Learners. The Council receives quarterly updates on education issues from LDOE. <u>Staff Recommendations:</u> Staff recommends continuing this activity for Fiscal Year 2025. On target: ☐ Initiative
3.1.3 Advocate for educational systems change based on emergent education issues.	Council staff continue to attend BESE, SEAP and ACSBD meetings. The Council receives quarterly updates on education issues from LDOE. <u>Staff Recommendations:</u> Staff recommends continuing this activity for Fiscal Year 2025. On target: ☒ Initiative
3.1.4 Advocate for increased meaningful opportunities for stakeholder input; improved practices to facilitate stakeholder input and consideration of stakeholder recommendations.	The Council continues to search and advertise opportunities for meaningful opportunities for stakeholder input and consideration of stakeholder recommendations including vacancies on other Boards and Advisory Councils. <u>Staff Recommendations:</u> Staff recommends continuing this activity for Fiscal Year 2025. On target: ☒ Initiative
3.1.5 Provide financial support to build capacity for advocacy regarding education and employment. Approx. FFY 2024 Cost: \$87,000	The Council contracted with the Arc of Louisiana as an education and employment consultant by conducting statewide trainings on how to identify and follow new and/or proposed changes in policies around special education and employment for individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD). They will provide in-person trainings across the state for education and employment. Trainings will be provided to individuals with I/DD and their families. They also attend meetings and advocate where education and employment policies and legislation are discussed, including but not limited to the Board of Secondary and Elementary Education (BESE), the Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP),

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	the Louisiana Rehabilitation Council (LRC), the Louisiana Legislature, and other related meetings such as the Accountability Commission, the Superintendents Advisory Council, etc. <u>Staff Recommendations:</u> Staff recommends discontinuing this activity for Fiscal Year 2025. If the committee would like to keep this activity, staff feels it should be two separate contracts, one for education and one for employment. On target: ☒ Initiative ☒ Expenditures
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.	
3.2.1 Advocate for systems change based on emergent employment issues.	Council staff attend the Louisiana Rehabilitation Counsel (LRC) meetings and receive quarterly updates on employment from LRS. <u>Staff Recommendations:</u> Staff recommends continuing this activity for Fiscal Year 2025. On target: ☐ Initiative

Other Staff Recommendations:

- Under Objective 1.1 include: “Advocate for systems changes based on emergent advocacy issues” – recommended by ITACC
- Under Objective 2.1 include: “Advocate for systems changes based on emergent healthcare issues” – recommended by ITACC
- Contracting out for the 5 year plan to research/hold town halls.
- Website overhaul and plain language.