

# La DD Council - FFY 2017 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
As applicable, data is presented year-to-date and quarterly (March 1, 2017 – May 31, 2017).	
<b>Goal 1</b> 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.	
<b>Obj. 1.1</b> Louisiana's self-advocacy network will be supported in self-advocacy and in systems change advocacy.	
<b>1.1.1</b> Offer technical assistance and training opportunities designed to strengthen the self-advocacy network and the effectiveness of its systems change activities.	<p>No activity this quarter.</p> <p>Previous quarter: Provided statistics to People First of people on waivers, people on waiting lists, costs of waivers, and information on various versions of mid-year budget proposals for FY17.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<b>Obj. 1.2</b> 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.	
<b>1.2.1</b> Provide financial support and technical assistance for Partners in Policymaking and its alumni network. <b>Approx. FFY 2017 Cost: \$80,000</b>	<p>Partners in Policymaking graduated 23 participants June 10. The class began with 26 including five self-advocates and three dads but three moms were unable to complete all sessions.</p> <p><u>2017 Partners Class Active in Systems Change</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two participants attended the House Health and Welfare Committee for SB58.</li> <li>• Five participants attended the Senate Finance Committee public testimony day</li> <li>• Three participants testified on Senate Finance Committee public testimony day</li> <li>• Six participants responded to action alert #15</li> <li>• Six participants responded to action alert #16</li> <li>• Two participants responded to action alert #17</li> <li>• Six participants attended the yellow shirt day for Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP) and Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) in March</li> <li>• Four participants responded to the Action alerts for SEAP and BESE in March.</li> </ul>

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- Three participants, including a self-advocate, attended the Appropriation Committee meeting, two testified.
- Twenty participants attended the Disability Rights Day, including five self-advocates and fifteen parents.
- Six responded to the Every Student Succeeds Act and Individuals with Disabilities Education Act budget plan.
- Three responded to the action alerts for funding of services for people with developmental disabilities.
- One parent and one self-advocate attended the House Health and Welfare for SB58.
- Four parents and one self-advocate attended the Senate Finance public testimony day three Partners participants testified.
- Four parents and two self-advocates responded to action alert # 15 to contact legislators on HB1 and SB58.
- Four parents and two self-advocates responded to action alert #16 to Senate Finance on HB1 to save disability services.
- One parent and one self-advocate responded to a House Health and Welfare action alert #17 to save disability services SB58 in House.

### Partners Graduates Active in Systems Change

- The Partners in Policymaking Alumni Facebook page has 155 members.
- Twelve graduates of Partners currently serve on the DD Council. This is an increase of two since the last report.
- Two graduates serve as FHF Executive Directors.
- Eight graduates are Regional Advocacy Leaders.
- Thirty-one graduates attended the Disability Rights Day at the Capitol.
- Two graduates testified to the House Appropriations Committee.
- Two graduates meet regularly with legislators concerning services for people with developmental disabilities.
- Sixteen graduates attended committee meetings in May.
- One graduate testified SB58 in House Health and Welfare.
- Graduates serve on state and regional bodies.
  - Acadiana Area Human Services Authority
  - Advisory Council on Student Behavior and Discipline
  - Advocacy Center Board of Directors

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Activity	Progress
	<p style="text-align: center;">As applicable, data is presented year-to-date and quarterly (March 1, 2017 – May 31, 2017).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Commission for the Deaf</li> <li>○ Families Helping Families Regional Resource Center Boards of Directors</li> <li>○ Governor’s Advisory Council on Disability Affairs</li> <li>○ Imperial Calcasieu Regional Advisory Council</li> <li>○ Jefferson Parish Human Services Authority</li> <li>○ Louisiana ABLE Account Advisory Board</li> <li>○ LSU Human Development Center (UCEDD) Consumer Advisory Council</li> <li>○ Louisiana Statewide Independent Living Council</li> <li>○ Louisiana State Interagency Coordinating Council</li> <li>○ Metropolitan Human Service District Regional Advisory Council</li> <li>○ Northwest Human Service District Regional Advisory Council</li> <li>○ Office for Citizens with DD State Advisory Council</li> <li>○ Special Education Advisory Panel</li> <li>○ State Interagency Coordinating Council</li> <li>○ Statewide Independent Living Council</li> </ul> <p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>
<p><b>1.2.2</b> Support up to two Council members’ participation in Partners in Policymaking.</p>	<p>Two Council members graduated from the 2017 Partners in Policymaking class.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p><b>1.2.3</b> 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. <b>Approx. FFY 2017 Cost: \$245,000</b></p>	<p>LaCAN’s listserv as of June 6, 2017 is 4,703.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 2,392 Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) &amp; Employment</li> <li>● 1,173 Education &amp; Early Intervention</li> <li>● 1,138 HCBS &amp; Employment and Education &amp; Early Intervention</li> </ul> <p><u>Advocacy Activities</u> Since October 1, 2016 the following activities occurred.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Seven education action alerts; 473 actions taken.</li> <li>● Ten education yellow shirt days; 66 participants.</li> <li>● Eleven HCBS action alerts; 1,824 actions taken.</li> <li>● Eleven HCBS yellow shirt days; 267 participants.</li> </ul>

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	<p style="text-align: center;">As applicable, data is presented year-to-date and quarterly (March 1, 2017 – May 31, 2017).</p> <p>Since August 1, 2016, 81 legislative visits have been completed; 66% to key committee members.</p> <p>LaCAN conference calls are hosted each Thursday 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.</p> <p><u>Results of Advocacy</u>            LaCAN successfully advocated for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$1.6 million in state general funds to fill 627 vacant waiver slots,</li> <li>• Restoration of funding for the Low-Income and Needy Care Collaboration, Agreement (LINCCA) used by many of the Districts/Authorities to fund DD services,</li> <li>• Districts/Authorities to allocate a minimum amount equal to 9% of its state funds to Act 378 services for people with developmental disabilities.</li> <li>• Increased representation of people with developmental disabilities on the boards of the Human Services Districts/Authorities.</li> </ul> <p><u>Update on Leader Positions</u>            Stephanie Bartet was hired for Regions 1 and 10. The Region 4 position remains vacant.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>

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<p><b>1.2.4</b> Facilitate and support Disability Rights Day and other advocacy events. <b>Approx. FFY 2017 Cost: \$40,000</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">As applicable, data is presented year-to-date and quarterly (March 1, 2017 – May 31, 2017).</p> <p>Disability Rights Day was held at a cost of \$9,526.55 on Wednesday, April 26, 2017, and was attended by 410 individuals including 149 self-advocates and 134 family members. Teams from each region visited legislators throughout the day sharing the message “Fund Community Services” and fact sheets detailing the importance of funding home- and community-based supports and services that people with disabilities need to remain in their own homes and be fully participating members of their communities.</p> <p>A rally program was held at noon and included comments from Representative Barbara Carpenter, Senator Sharon Hewitt, Senator Wesley Bishop, Senator Troy Carter; Steve Spires of the Governor’s Office, DD Council Executive Director Sandee Winchell, and event emcees Jeff Arseneaux and Doris Heckert. Representative Carpenter presented House Resolution 26 and Senator Hewitt presented Senate Concurrent Resolution 18 commending the DD Council and LaCAN for its advocacy efforts and officially designating April 26, 2017, as Disability Rights Day in Louisiana.</p> <p>LaCAN’s Legislative Debriefing was held on June 29, 2017, in Pineville. LaCAN Leaders and FHF Directors discussed the results of advocacy efforts during the 2017 Legislative Session(s) and ideas for improving advocacy effectiveness with Council staff.</p> <p>LaCAN Summer Leader Training is scheduled for August 3, 2017. This training will focus on enhancing leaders’ skills to support their grassroots advocacy members and develop their knowledge of relevant issues.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>
<p><b>Obj. 1.3</b> 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.</p>	
<p><b>1.3.1</b> 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.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>

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Activity	Progress
	As applicable, data is presented year-to-date and quarterly (March 1, 2017 – May 31, 2017).
<p><b>1.3.2</b> Support Council members in participation in Council meetings and other functions.</p>	Council members are supported in participation in Council meetings and other functions.
<p><b>1.3.3</b> Support Council members' participation in training and educational opportunities. <b>Approx. FFY 2017 Cost: \$3,000</b></p>	No stipends were provided this quarter.
<p><b>1.3.4</b> Support the Council leadership's participation in national training, networking events and advocacy opportunities. <b>Approx. FFY 2017 Cost: \$7,000</b></p>	No support was provided this reporting period for Council leadership's participation in national training, networking events and advocacy opportunities.
<p><b>Obj. 1.4</b> Individuals with developmental disabilities, their families, and professionals will obtain the information, training, and support they need.</p>	
<p><b>1.4.1</b> 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, 2016, Centers have assisted 8,047 individuals and families with information, referral, or other supports. 10,652 units of information and referral were completed. Centers completed 50 outreaches to hospitals, pediatrician offices, and school districts.</p> <p>Successfully advocated with the Commissioner of Administration for full funding for FHF to be included in the Governor's proposed FY18 budget.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>

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Activity	Progress
<p><b>1.4.2</b> Provide information important to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families through a variety of electronic and social media (Council website, Facebook, LaDDC News).</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">As applicable, data is presented year-to-date and quarterly (March 1, 2017 – May 31, 2017).</p> <p>Provided information through LaDDC News on the availability of the 2016 Annual Report, an updated list of Self-direction workshops, recruitment of DD Council members, Five Year Plan revisions, Governor’s Office of Disability Affairs Inclusive Art Contest, and the risk to federal Medicaid funding. Provided information through Facebook on various issues of interest to people with developmental disabilities and their families. Most notably was the information provided from the 2017 Legislative Session and the Republican’s plan to repeal the Affordable Care Act in Congress.</p> <p>The Council became active on Twitter this quarter using it as a tool to disseminate information quickly during the legislative sessions and with recent activity in Congress concerning healthcare.</p> <p>LaDDC News (as of 6/16/2017)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1,523 current subscribers</li> </ul> <p>Facebook (as of 6/16/2017)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council – 2,147 Likes, increase of 91 this quarter</li> <li>• LaCAN – 1,363 Likes, increase of 75 this quarter</li> </ul> <p>Twitter (as of 6/28/17)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 77 Followers</li> </ul> <p>YouTube</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employment videos posted to YouTube were shared to Facebook in conjunction with National Disability Employment Month (NDEAM).</li> </ul> <p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>

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Activity	Progress
	As applicable, data is presented year-to-date and quarterly (March 1, 2017 – May 31, 2017).
<p><b>1.4.3</b> Provide for training for Boards of Directors and Peer Support for nine Families Helping Families Regional Resource Centers across the state.</p>	<p>Louisiana Association of Nonprofit Organizations (LANO) will provide board training to nine Centers by September 2017. Board trainings have occurred with four Centers to date: Crossroads; Northeast; Southwest; and Acadiana. Kathy Brill of Parent-to-Parent USA provided Peer-to-Peer Support training to Center staff June 19 - 20, 2017. LANtec provided Center staff training in customer service June 20, 2017. A train-the-trainer component was included to facilitate ongoing capacity building at the Centers through annual refresher trainings and provide the information to new staff. Participants have raved about the Board training and the Customer Service training. Unfortunately, the Peer-to-Peer Support training did not meet our expectations and was not well received.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>
<p><b>Goal 2</b> 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.</p>	
<p><b>Obj. 2.1</b> 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.</p>	
<p><b>2.1.1</b> 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.</p>	<p>No activity this quarter.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p><b>Obj. 2.2</b> Individuals with developmental disabilities will have more control over their supports and services, their goals and daily activities.</p>	

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Activity	Progress
<p><b>2.2.1</b> Promote the increased use of self-direction by individuals and families.  <b>Approx. FFY 2017 Cost: \$30,000</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">As applicable, data is presented year-to-date and quarterly (March 1, 2017 – May 31, 2017).</p> <p>One self-advocate and four parents who are enrolled in the self-direction option were selected to serve as mentors to other individuals with disabilities and parents new to or considering self-direction. Forty-four workshops are being held throughout the state through September, co-hosted by Families Helping Families, where the mentors share their personal experience with self-direction. They will also be available to provide support to those interested in pursuing self-direction. There have been a total of 19 workshops held thus far with 103 participants. According to participant evaluations some of the strengths of the workshops include having someone who is experienced in self-direction to facilitate the discussion, presenters being highly knowledgeable, comfortable style of workshops, and how easy it was to discuss the process with the mentors.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p><b>2.2.2</b> Advocate that web-based provider data be required of all providers for inclusion on a user-friendly search engine.</p>	<p>No activity this quarter.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p><b>Obj. 2.3.</b> 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.</p>	
<p><b>2.3.1</b> Advocate for the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) to provide financial incentives to serve individuals with challenging needs.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>

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Activity	Progress
<p><b>2.3.2</b> 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.  <b>Approx. FFY 2017 Cost: \$180,000</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">As applicable, data is presented year-to-date and quarterly (March 1, 2017 – May 31, 2017).</p> <p>The <b>Complex Needs Training and Technical Assistance Partnership</b> with OCDD works with home- and community-based support 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 intended region-wide trainings open to all providers is still in the planning phase. This quarter the ongoing technical support was extended increasing the total number of benchmarks from two to four. Provider benchmarks completed/anticipated next quarter:                      Benchmark 1 - 2/1                      Benchmark 2 - 1/1                      Benchmark 3 - 0/1                      Benchmark 4 - 0/0</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>
<p><b>Obj. 2.4</b> 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.</p>	
<p><b>2.4.1</b> Advocate for adequate funding for waiver slots and state-funded community and family supports (CFS).</p>	<p>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.</p>

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Activity	Progress
	<p style="text-align: center;">As applicable, data is presented year-to-date and quarterly (March 1, 2017 – May 31, 2017).</p> <p><b>Previous Quarter(s)</b>                      Fact sheets related to funding needed to fill 627 vacant home and community-based waiver slots and equitable funding for the local human services districts/authorities with a mandatory minimum dedicated to CFS have been developed, posted on the Council's website, and distributed to Council members, LaCAN Leaders and FHF Centers to be used in legislative visits prior to the 2017 Legislative Session.</p> <p>Advocated for funding to fill vacant waiver slots and to increase state funded services at nine legislative roundtables, at a meeting with LDH Secretary Dr. Rebekah Gee, and at the Governor's Advisory Council on Disability Affairs. These funds are not included in the Governor's proposed FY18 budget.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p><b>Obj. 2.5</b> 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.</p>	
<p><b>2.5.1</b> Oversee implementation of the Community and Family Support System Plan.</p>	<p>Successful legislative advocacy efforts resulted in the increased representation of consumers/parents/advocates of people with developmental disabilities on the boards of the Human Services Districts/Authorities.</p>
	<p><b>Previous Quarter(s)</b>                      Advocated for the need for increased funding for Act 378 services at nine legislative roundtables, at a meeting with LDH Secretary Dr. Rebekah Gee, and at the Governor's Advisory Council on Disability Affairs. This mandatory minimum would help ensure more equal access to services across the state. 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 are being amended to reflect these new requirements.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>

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Activity	Progress
<p><b>2.5.2</b> 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).</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">As applicable, data is presented year-to-date and quarterly (March 1, 2017 – May 31, 2017).</p> <p>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.</p> <p><b>Previous Quarter(s)</b>            Advocated for a mandatory minimum of the Human Services Districts/Authorities' state funds be dedicated to Act 378 services at nine legislative roundtables, at a meeting with LDH Secretary Dr. Rebekah Gee, and at the Governor's Advisory Council on Disability Affairs. This mandatory minimum would help ensure more equal access to services across the state.            Several of the Community and Family Support System Task Force recommendations address both the expansion of services and consistent policy implementation. Meetings were held this quarter with the Governor's Office, the LDH Leadership and the Executive Directors of the Districts/Authorities to discuss and promote the recommendations.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p><b>Obj. 2.6</b> Louisiana will reduce reliance on institutional services (public and private) for people with developmental disabilities.</p>	
<p><b>2.6.1</b> Advocate to fully implement Money Follows the Person (MFP) in Louisiana.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p><b>Previous Quarter(s)</b>            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.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p><b>Obj. 2.7</b> Individuals with developmental disabilities will benefit from changes, consistent with Council positions, in policy and practice in state and local agencies and programs.</p>	

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Activity	Progress
	As applicable, data is presented year-to-date and quarterly (March 1, 2017 – May 31, 2017).
<b>2.7.1</b> Advocate for systems change based on emergent community support issues.	Previous quarter: Advocated for an increased rate and policy changes in the EPSDT personal care services program with Dr. Rebekah Gee.
<b>Goal 3</b> Students with disabilities will have access to quality, individualized educational programs that address their unique skills, interests, and goals in inclusive environments.	
<b>Obj. 3.1</b> 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.	
<b>3.1.1</b> Advocate for increased focus and capacity within LDOE to address Special Education, including specific areas/issues (i.e., disability/topical/etc.).	Served on the Governor’s Advisory Council on the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and advocated for 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.  <b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative
<b>Obj. 3.2</b> Louisiana’s accountability and support structures for school systems will better assure the development and implementation of individualized education programs in inclusive settings.	
<b>3.2.1</b> 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).	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.  <b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative

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As applicable, data is presented year-to-date and quarterly (March 1, 2017 – May 31, 2017).	
<b>Obj. 3.3</b> Students with developmental disabilities will benefit from changes, consistent with Council positions, in policy and practice in educational agencies and programs.	
<b>3.3.1</b> Advocate for educational systems change based on emergent education issues.	<p>Advocated for BESE to fund Families Helping Families (FHF) Centers at their full amount during July through September 2017 (rather than at only 62% of what they have been receiving) and to withdraw the Request for Applications (RFA) for family support that reduces the amount of funding by \$305,000 annually to ensure stakeholder input is considered. The RFA changes catchment areas of FHF Centers which would cause duplication of resources in 16 parishes and confusion of parents of children with disabilities regarding which FHF Center serves their parish. In making this change LDOE is reversing 20 years of cross agency collaboration to provide a one-stop shop for people with disabilities and their family members to receive information, training, referrals and peer-to-peer support. LDOE shifted the amount of funding for family support through FHF Centers without notice of the changes or opportunity for stakeholder input.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<b>Goal 4</b> Students with disabilities are considered from the initial phases to the completion of planning and program development of educational policies and initiatives.	
<b>Obj. 4.1</b> An increased number of students with disabilities will graduate with a high school diploma.	
<b>4.1.1</b> Monitor and provide input into policy development and implementation of Act 833 of 2014.	<p>The Council’s Education and Employment Committee attempted to consider implementation of the alternative pathways to high school diplomas at the April 2017 meeting. Unfortunately, LDOE only provided a single statistic on the number of students eligible (5,173) for an alternative pathway to a diploma under Act 833 (<a href="#">see slide 8</a>).</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<b>Obj. 4.2</b> All schools (charter/magnet) accepting public dollars will accept and serve all students with disabilities appropriately.	

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<p><b>4.2.1</b> Monitor rates of students with disabilities across schools and advocate for inclusive practices.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">As applicable, data is presented year-to-date and quarterly (March 1, 2017 – May 31, 2017).</p> <p>No activity this quarter</p> <p><b>Previous Quarters:</b> Reviewed data in the <a href="#">2014-2015 Special Education Data Profile</a> and the <a href="#">2015-2016 Report on School Performance According to Requirements under R.S. 17:3991</a> 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.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p><b>Obj. 4.3</b> Stakeholders will have increased opportunities to provide authentic input that will impact decisions on policies effecting students with disabilities.</p>	
<p><b>4.3.1</b> Advocate for availability of data necessary for monitoring education system(s).</p>	<p>Although staff met with three BESE members, LDOE staff, on November 28<sup>th</sup> with an agreement for LDOE to provide ongoing information to SEAP regarding contracts and obligations of IDEA state set aside funds LDOE has not provided this information. Lacking this information is leading to decisions being made at the discretion of LDOE without stakeholder input. While data on one initiative was presented at the following SEAP meeting, and historical context was provided to SEAP with the <a href="#">proposed FFY17 IDEA State-level Activities</a>, data regarding previous expenditures and comparisons across years of changes to funding priorities was notably absent.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p><b>4.3.2</b> Advocate for increased meaningful opportunities for stakeholder input; improved practices to facilitate stakeholder input and consideration of stakeholder recommendations.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>

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Activity	Progress
<p><b>Goal 5</b> 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.</p>	
<p><b>Obj. 5.1</b> 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</p>	
<p><b>5.1.1</b> Advocate for certification of employment support professionals (ESPs).</p>	<p>Advocated for the systematic 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.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p><b>Obj. 5.2</b> An increased number of individuals with developmental disabilities will have information and access to an integrated workforce development system that is fully-funded.</p>	
<p><b>5.2.1</b> 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).</p>	<p>Advocated for full federal VR allotment at nine legislative roundtables across the state, legislative visits, and throughout the legislative session.</p> <p><b>Previous Quarter(s)</b> Fact sheet was developed requesting the funding needed to allow Louisiana Rehabilitation Services to draw down the full federal VR allotment has been posted on the Council's website, distributed to Council members, LaCAN Leaders and FHF Centers.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>

## La DD Council - FFY 2017 Action Plan

Activity	Progress
<p><b>5.2.2</b> Monitor state implementation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and</li> <li>• the CMS home- and community-based services settings rule</li> </ul> <p>and share the progress with stakeholders and advocates.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">As applicable, data is presented year-to-date and quarterly (March 1, 2017 – May 31, 2017).</p> <p>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 only allows states to change their deadline from March 2019 to as late as March 2022, but not the regulations themselves. 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 (STP) has received initial approval with notice to address five items to achieve final approval (see OCDD’s report).</p> <p>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.</p> <p><b>Previous Quarters:</b> 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p><b>Obj. 5.3</b> 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.</p>	
<p><b>5.3.1</b> Share the benefits planning services to a variety of agencies and stakeholders.</p>	<p>Information on benefits planning is shared on a quarterly basis on the Council’s Facebook page.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>

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Activity	Progress
	As applicable, data is presented year-to-date and quarterly (March 1, 2017 – May 31, 2017).
<p><b>5.3.2</b> Share DD Council employment videos featuring individuals with developmental disabilities on their jobs.</p>	<p>DD Council videos on employment are posted on the Councils YouTube page and shared quarterly on the Council’s Facebook page.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p><b>5.3.3</b> Disseminate pertinent research pertaining to employment of people with developmental disabilities in competitive integrated individualized jobs.</p>	<p>Pertinent research is shared on the Council’s Facebook page periodically, especially during National Disability Employment Awareness Month.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p><b>5.3.4</b> Promote the benefits of and provide family peer-to-peer support for successful competitive integrated individualized employment. <b>Approx. FFY 2017 Cost: \$42,500</b></p>	<p>The Council is currently seeking families to provide support to other families who currently have family members in a sheltered workshop in the transition process into competitive employment. Despite efforts to promote this initiative through LaDDC News and Facebook, and by enlisting the help of OCDD, providers and support coordination agencies, only one mom has been identified to serve in this role to date. And while some individuals have been referred to the program for support, none of them were actually individuals/families needing support in the transition process to employment.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>
<p><b>Obj. 5.4</b> Individuals with developmental disabilities will benefit from changes, consistent with Council positions, in policy and practice in employment agencies/programs.</p>	
<p><b>5.4.1</b> Advocate for systems change based on emergent employment issues.</p>	<p>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. The next step is the drafting of a report and plan for the Governor on how to make system improvements.</p>