

**Human Development Center**  
**Quarterly Agency Report to the DD Council**  
(April - June, 2017)

**UPDATE/PROGRESS ON AGENCY INITIATIVES**

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

**Early Childhood Initiatives**

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

- ✓ 8 trainees (5 graduate students, 2 self-advocates, 1 parent) completed the LEND program in May
- ✓ Recruited 12 trainees (across 7 disciplines, including 2 self-advocates) for the 2017-2018 LEND program year

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

- ✓ Provided one week of training for 70 childcare providers on individualization for all children, infant and early childhood mental health, and supporting at-risk families
- ✓ Assisted 94 families through transition from childcare to PreK using the coordinated enrollment system in New Orleans

**CLASS Special Needs Pilot (LDE)**

- ✓ HDC supported 19 educators to successfully complete the My Teaching Partner – MTP CLASS pilot conducted by LDE to assess an evidence-based coaching intervention.

**HDC Early Learning Center (LSU SAHP)**

- ✓ Twelve children are currently enrolled and 4 (not yet born) infants will be enrolled in early fall. **HDC is recruiting infants and toddlers with special health care needs/and or developmental disabilities for the Early Learning Center.** Four seats are available for quality full day inclusive childcare for children 6 weeks to 36 months.

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

**Louisiana School Psychology Internship Consortium – (LAS\*PIC, APA-accredited)**

- ✓ Interns completed rotations at Louisiana School for the Deaf and Visually Impaired and a private practice specializing in providing support to children with autism spectrum disorder and feeding issues.
- ✓ Hosted the **3<sup>rd</sup> annual MTSS/Rtl Conference** that drew over 200 attendees from across the country to learn more about supporting all students. Special emphasis at the conference was given to supporting students with autism spectrum disorder and students with learning difficulties in reading and math.
- ✓ Interns completed their year and 70% of the class will remain in Louisiana next year as they begin their careers in charter schools and school districts.

### **Louisiana Autism Spectrum and Related Disorders Project LASARD)**

- ✓ LASARD hosted the final face-to-face workshop for the school year for partner school team members in New Orleans on May 11. The workshop included a “graduation” for districts that have been with LASARD for over three years. Each districts shared what they have gained from their partnership with LASARD. Amy Clausen, from St. Tammany Parish, reflected that since she is relatively new with the district, she did realize how many of their procedures, such as year to year transition planning, were a result of the partnership with LASARD. A highlight for most attendees was a panel of young adults with ASD discussing their experiences with school. One attendee noted that the panel provided “invaluable insight and motivation as a teacher.”
  
- ✓ LASARD accepted 4 new LEAs as full partners the 2017-2018 school year: Bienville Parish, Bossier Parish, East Baton Rouge Parish, and FirstLine Schools. Fifteen LEAs submitted applications for the four available slots. LASARD will remain with: Algiers Charters, Collegiate Academies, Tangipahoa Parish, Natchitoches Parish, and Webster Parish.
  
- ✓ 76 participants registered for the LASARD online modules.
  
- ✓ We are delighted to welcome **Amy Dakin** as a facilitator. Amy worked for Lincoln Parish schools for 8 years as a special education teacher and most recently as a student services coordinator. In Lincoln Parish, Amy was a valuable member of their LASARD team and has expertise in educating students with ASD and related disabilities.

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

- ✓ TIERS Group has conducted 170 school visits to date working with school leaders, network leaders, special education directors, student support staff, and teachers.
- ✓ Twenty-two professional development events were provided to school staff on Multi-tiered Systems of Support (MTSS), Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS), Functional Behavior Assessments & Behavior Intervention Plans (FBA/BIP), De-escalation of Behavior, and Classroom Behavior Management, and IEPs. To allow for school personnel to access resources to help with teaching, intervening, and using data, the TIERS Group is currently creating on-demand learning modules for highly requested topics.
- ✓ There have been over 300 downloads of the IEP modules and we, with LASPIC, pulled off another awesome RtI/MTSS conference with over 200 attendees and fabulous presenters.

### **Collaborative for Students with Unique Communication Needs:**

- ✓ 04/05/2017 Debriefing following multi-site regional intensive trainings
- ✓ 05/16/2017: Participated in IEP for student with deafblindness in support of school based team in Calcasieu Parish.

- ✓ 05/17/2017: Provided TA to Office of Disability Services, LSU Health New Orleans regarding the use of ASL interpreter for student conferencing.
- ✓ 05/19/2017: Initiated discussion with Ochsner Clinic School Mental Health Project regarding possible inclusion in Collaborative Project.
- ✓ 06/08/2017: Planning meeting for CONNECTIONS 2017 conference with Collaborative Project faculty.
- ✓ 06/19/2017: Planning meeting for CONNECTIONS 2017 conference with Collaborative Project faculty.
- ✓ 06/28/2017: Planning meeting for CONNECTIONS 2017 conference with Collaborative Project faculty.

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

- ✓ 04/03/2017: Initiated collaborative project with NOLA Vision.
- ✓ 04/04/2017: Presentation to Families Helping Families of Acadiana, Region 4; Educational supports for students with deafness, blindness, and deafblindness.
- ✓ 04/06/2017: Technology EXPO 2017, LSU Health New Orleans
- ✓ 04/11/2017: Exhibit – Children’s Hospital New Orleans Resource Fair
- ✓ 04/12/2017: Continued foundational meeting with Meaux Foundation principals regarding collaboration.
- ✓ 04/13/2017: Participated in Children’s Hospital New Orleans “Late Effects” Clinic for survivors of pediatric cancer.
- ✓ 04/25/2017: Provided disability awareness training to medical students participating in Camp Tiger.
- ✓ 05/04/2017: Initial meeting with staff of Lions Club cub group to design 6 week course in ASL in summer 2017.
- ✓ 05/11/2017: Participated in Children’s Hospital New Orleans “Late Effects” Clinics for survivors of pediatric cancer.
- ✓ 05/18/2017: Participated in Children’s Hospital New Orleans “Late Effects” Clinic for survivors of pediatric cancer.
- ✓ 05/20/2017: Hosted continuing education program for ASL Educational Interpreters.
- ✓ 05/20/2017: Exhibited at Kenner Discovery Health Sciences Academy regarding technology for students with visual impairment.
- ✓ 06/01/2017: Hired Rose Angelocci, Ph.D. into Assistant Coordinator position for LA DBP.
- ✓ 06/01/2017: Initiated work with Raeghan DeCuir, Summer Research Internship Program, LSU Health New Orleans, School of Medicine
- ✓ 06/08/2017: Participated in Children’s Hospital New Orleans “Late Effects” Clinic for survivors of pediatric cancer.
- ✓ 06/12/2017: Initiated six week community education ASL Class for Lions Cubs.
- ✓ 06/13-17/2017: Attended Western Regional Early Intervention conference Phoenix, AZ.
- ✓ 06/22/2017: Participated in Children’s Hospital New Orleans “Late Effects” Clinic for survivors of pediatric cancer.
- ✓ 06/23/2017: Initiated collaboration with Kevin Hemenger, Speech-Language Pathologist, University Medical Center regarding Lunch-N-Learn at UMC concerning disability awareness – sensory deficits.
- ✓ 06/27/2017: Home visit new enrollee to LA Deafblind Registry
- ✓ 06/29/2017: Home visit new enrollee to LA Deafblind Registry

## **Employment/Transition Initiatives**

### **Post Secondary Apprenticeship for Youth (PAY Check) TCPA pilot**

As a result of LRS closing ALL Orders of Selection in February, 2017, PAY Check pilot re-direct personnel and related activities and duties to align with the Pre-ETS only budget and program policy requirements. ALL staff provided DIRECT service intervention and support. The PAY Check pilot supported twelve (12) students in UMC Apprenticeships and provided Pre-Employment Transition Services and related training in the community and on the Delgado Community College (DCC) campus. PAY Check continues to ensure target employment goals and apprenticeship outcomes are met for each student and work in collaboration with the schools/LEAs, UMC and LRS to achieve these outcomes.

On the job work readiness training, support and instruction for this period includes:

- ✓ •Job Shadowing at University Medical Center
- ✓ •Work-based learning experiences at University Medical Center (Apprenticeships & Job Shadowing)
- ✓ •Instruction in self-advocacy (including peer and coworker mentoring) at Delgado CC, in the community and at University Medical Center
- ✓ •on-the-job Workplace readiness training to develop social skills and independent living including;
- ✓ social and independent living skills, such as, banking, transportation planning and training, stress management, personal care, confidence building, and daily work related behaviors, to include: punctuality, dependability, motivation, and the ability to follow instructions.

### **Activities of Student Apprentices - UMC**

Student interviews were completed with Human Resources at UMC and all apprentices are scheduled for part time (10-15 hours) training in various UMC non-medical career areas, such as Patient Access, Sterile Processing Department and Human Resources. Due to a massive UMC management re-organization, the on-boarding of the student apprentices as paid apprentices is now slated for mid June. All apprentices have completed the mandatory orientation for new affiliates.

## **Benefits Planning Services**

- ✓ HDC continues to provide free benefits counseling throughout the state in conjunction with the Advocacy Center. HDC averages 30-40 referrals each month and provides

Information and Referral to all beneficiaries and more specific and focused benefits planning to individuals who are employed or considering employment.

- ✓ HDC received this 5 year award along with the Advocacy Center. HDC and the Advocacy Center work in collaboration to provide services in Southern Louisiana and Central and North Louisiana respectively. Both agencies work in collaboration to help beneficiaries locate the program that services their area and a joint flyer with contact information and a map is being distributed throughout the state. Targeted outreach is being done with key state agencies and includes, Education, Medicaid, LRS/LWC, OCDD, Behavioral Health and local agencies.

### **Supported Employment**

- ✓ HDC provided 3 CORE SE trainings (40 hour) and 6 one-day SE trainings throughout SE LA during this quarter.
- ✓ HDC continues to work with LRS staff and administration to advocate for quality service provision. HDC has included the new manual materials/Technical Guidance in the CORE curriculum training and materials for CRP administration and agency personnel.
- ✓ HDC has provided technical support and assistance to families, self-advocates and providers impacted by the LRS shutdown in February, 2017.
- ✓ HDC staff attends the quarterly LA APSE meeting.
- ✓ HDC Staff attended the Governor's Employment First Workgroup meetings.
- ✓ HDC staff active on the national **APSE Public Policy committee** and have attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday monthly meetings which have focused primarily on the Workforce Investment and Opportunities Act (WIOA) and the new CMS HCBS waiver notice for states to develop a five-year plan.
- ✓ HDC staff attended the national Employment First conference in Portland, OR and presented a paper that was recently published in the Journal of Vocational Rehabilitation.
- ✓ Attended meetings with JPPSS School Board members and administrators to initiate planning on an HDC/JPPSS Capacity-Building proposal for Career Pathways for students in transition.

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

**Objective 2.3** *DSPs serving Louisianans with developmental disabilities will display a minimum skills set and have access to a graduated certification process with corresponding compensation increases.*

**Activity 2.3.1** *Advocate for the development of a (or use of existing) comprehensive and evidence-based training curriculum and certification for DSPs statewide*

- ✓ HDC and LA APSE continue to collaborate and to advocate for Certified Employment Support Professional (CESP) certification.
- ✓ HDC, APSE and Work Pays will work together to plan for a possible date to host a CESP exam in 2017-2018 state fiscal year.
- ✓ HDC Employment Division continues to provide comprehensive CORE and one-day SE trainings to promote learning of skills and competencies and are currently developing the NEW 2017-2018 Training Calendar.

**Objective 7.2** *Changes in policies and practices that result in students with developmental disabilities attaining competitive employment in integrated settings.*

**Activity 7.2.1** *Advocate with the LSU-HSC Human Development Center and other collaborators for the development and implementation of policies and practices (i.e., college and career pathways) that ensure students with developmental disabilities have access to and opportunities that prepare them for post-secondary education and/or competitive, integrated employment.*

- ✓ HDC staff continues advocate for and promote Employment First by providing Community Trainings through FHF and attend Governor's EF Workgroup, APSE/Work Pays and stakeholder meetings as scheduled.
- ✓ HDC continues to work on the development of a comprehensive best practice transition models focusing on an Apprenticeship to Careers and Employment model.

**Objective 9.1** *Louisiana will develop and implement an Employment First plan.*

**Activity 9.1.1** *Advocate for*

- ✓ *policies that incentivize services for individualized integrated, competitive employment and dis-incentivize segregated, sheltered day habilitation services,*
  - ✓ *sheltered workshops to transition people into individualized, competitive, paid employment and discontinue admissions into segregated day programs,*
  - ✓ *collaborative policy making and practices across state agencies that promote students being supported in and transitioning into competitive paid employment,*
  - ✓ *LRS and OCDD will collaborate to mandate that all supported employment vendors/providers complete a university-based 40-hour training,*
  - ✓ *Support family members and other advocates to serve on the Louisiana work team in developing an Employment First agenda and implementation plan including participation in state level meetings.*
- 
- ✓ HDC staff provided three presentations to parents and self-advocates interested in transition, supported and/or customized employment.
  - ✓ HDC employment staff conducted 4 training sessions for parents, job-seekers and advocates on Supported Employment.
  - ✓ HDC continue to work collaboratively with ALL PAYCHECK apprenticeship pilot entities (LRS, UMC, Orleans and Jefferson parish schools and two LEA charters).
  - ✓ HDC employment staff sits on the national APSE Public Policy Work Group and attend monthly meetings via Go To Meeting. Recent focus has been on the federal budget and the Affordable Care Act.
  - ✓ HDC Employment Staff attended LRC meeting.
  - ✓ HDC employment staff attended Louisiana APSE governing board meeting.
  - ✓ HDC staff conducted a one-day Transition conference for family and self-advocates.

- ✓ HDC employment staff, as Louisiana APSE members and WorkPays members met to discuss Employment First policy and related services...including the LRS Hold/Freeze on services.

### **Direct Services Initiatives**

- ✓ Hosted **ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis), Communication and All that Jazz Conference** on June 9-10, 2017 in conjunction with Team Gleason. Internationally renowned speakers presented at the conference. These included: John Costello (Speech language Pathologist), and Peggy Delea (Occupational therapist) from Boston Children's Hospital and Harvard University and Lisa Bardach (Speech-language Pathologist) from Michigan. John Costello addressed intervention for pALS (patients with) in general, Peggy talked about positioning, seating and access for AAC systems whereas Lisa Bardach addressed objective and evidence based AAC evaluations. Austin Enfield from Team Gleason presented on environmental controls and home automation. A panel of pALS and their caregivers/spouses participated in a question and answer session led by John Costello.
- ✓ Set up home automation and environmental control lab in room 233G to demonstrate access to lights, fans, TVs, video doorbell, etc. via Alexa and Google using communication systems and voice input. The lab was set up in coordination with Louisiana Rehabilitation Services.
- ✓ Continue with twelve additional AAC evaluations of individuals across the life span and disabilities. Continue with provided intervention for thirty-five individuals with a variety of disabilities including (ALS, autism, Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, etc.). Clients were seen at the Human Development Center as well as in the natural home or school environment. Coordinated services with Applied Behavior Analysis therapist during therapy sessions in order to incorporate communication systems into therapy.
- ✓ Keynote presenter at national convention, New York Speech-language and Hearing Association in Sarasota, New York on April 21, 2017. Excellent reviews from audience.
- ✓ Conducted and chaired 2 site visits for Committee on Academic Accreditation (CAA) during the spring semester in Florida and Illinois.

### **STATUS OF COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS TO AGENCY**

No recommendations have been received.