

**Human Development Center**  
**Quarterly Agency Report to the DD Council**  
(July - October, 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 grant)**

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

- ✓ 11 long-term trainees (including 2 self-advocates) completed the Maternal and Child Health Foundations course
- ✓ 13 trainees are enrolled in the Topics in ASD and Neurodevelopmental Disabilities course for the fall.

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

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

- ✓ Provided one week of training for 70 childcare providers on language development, social emotional development, and working with early intervention
- ✓ Assisted 94 families through transition from childcare to PreK using the coordinated enrollment system in New Orleans
- ✓ Enrolled 94 new at risk infants and toddlers into the EHS program including 11 homeless children, 1 in foster care, and 24 children with an IFSP.
- ✓ Started a practice-based coaching program with 4 child care partners/ 70 teachers

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

*Model demonstration inclusive high quality childcare program.*

- ✓ Fourteen children are currently enrolled and 6 infants will be enrolled in early fall. HDC enrolled 2 children with disabilities in the program and is working with the VACP program at Children's Hospital to train all staff.

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

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

- Staff attended a 2 day training in New Mexico for year 2 activities to support oral health in at-risk populations.
- Staff trained 64 teachers and 24 families
- Round one follow-up intervention begins in October

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

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

- Recruited 7 adults and 14 children into cohort 1.
- Classes started in September and continue through October.

## **Health**

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

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

- Offered a total of 4 six-week Cooking Matters nutrition and cooking courses (12 hours of training per course) to individuals with I/DD and their friends, family and support workers.
- Thirty-two (32) people completed the course including 8 adults with disabilities.

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

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

- ✓ Curriculum Revisions – 06/08/2017
- ✓ CONNECTIONS 2017 Planning Committee – 06/19/2017

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

- ✓ Presentation to Families-Helping-Families of Acadiana regarding LA DBP – 04/04/2017
- ✓ Lunch N Learn for LSUHSC Faculty & Students concerning adaptive equipment – 04/06/2017
- ✓ Exhibited Family Resource Fair Children’s Hospital of New Orleans – 04/11/2017
- ✓ Late Effects Clinic – Children’s Hospital of New Orleans – 04/13/2017
- ✓ Presented to Camp Tiger Counselors – management of children with sensory deficits - 04/25/2017
- ✓ Late Effects Clinic – Children’s Hospital of New Orleans – 05/11/2017
- ✓ Presentation to LSUHSC Office of Disabilities regarding students with sensory impairments – 05/17/2017

- ✓ Late Effects Clinic – 05/18/2017
- ✓ Exhibited Kenner Discovery Health Sciences Academy, Health Fair – 05/20/2017
- ✓ Late Effects Clinic – Children’s Hospital of New Orleans – 06/08/2017
- ✓ Attended Western Regional Early Intervention Conference, Phoenix, AZ – 06/13-17/2014
- ✓ Exhibited and Presented – Helen Keller Deafblind Awareness Luncheon – 06/22/2017
- ✓ Late Effects Clinic – Children’s Hospital of New Orleans – 06/22/2017
- ✓ ALS Class in conjunction with LA Lions Eye Foundation – 06/26-07/2017
- ✓ Direct Technical Assistance – 06/27/2017, 06/29/2017 (2 visits)

## **Louisiana School Psychology Internship Consortium (LASPIC)**

- ✓ Completed orientation in July, welcoming 10 new interns from across the country who will each be serving in one of 6 LEAs
- ✓ Provided CPI’s Nonviolent Crisis Intervention training to interns
- ✓ Currently in Media Rotation where interns are honing their skills in creating and delivering professional learning for education stakeholders using three different methods

## **LASARD quarterly updates**

- ✓ LASARD met with all partner LEAs during the summer break for a two day planning session. Each session resulted in an Action Plan with time-specific goals for the LEA to achieve during the 2017-2018 school year.
- ✓ LASARD hosted the fall workshops for partner school team members in New Orleans on September 8 and in Natchitoches on September 14. Ninety-seven LASARD partner team members attended the workshops. The workshops focused on antecedent behavior strategies for classrooms and individuals. Attendees participated in small group sessions on specific antecedent strategies and data collection. The workshop concluded with a Bring Your Own Problem (BYOP) session in which teams met with other teams from across the state, presented a challenge they were experiencing with a student with ASD, and gathered ideas from the other teams. The BYOP session was noted as being a highlight for many team members. Participants noted: “The best part of the day was being able to share with other teams. The problem solving was great!” “It was helpful to talk with different types of professionals and parents to problem solve.”
- ✓ LASARD has conducted two webinars so far this school year. The first webinar, *Bring on the Sunshine! Shining Light on ASD and Essential Supports*, was attended by 50 participants. The next webinar, *Schedules at a Glance!* was attended by 82 participants.
- ✓ LASARD has conducted over 60 hours of technical assistance in partner LEAs and schools so far this school year.

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

Special Joint Project with Families Helping Families Northshore - ***Student & Family-Centered IEP Meeting Training***

The intent of an IEP meeting is to design a program of specialized instruction and related services to meet the needs of a student with disabilities. One of the biggest challenges for families of students with developmental disabilities and schools is effective education program planning that both meets the needs of the student and is judged satisfying for all participants. Individual education program (IEP) planning, while required at least once a year by federal and state law, is one of the most frequently cited sources of dissatisfaction by both families and teachers when conflicts arise. Parents and other family members report that IEP meetings can be confusing, lack clarity and sufficient explanations.

1. The module is designed to target (a) family members who will participate in IEPs, and (b) school personnel who both teach students with disabilities and participate in IEP meetings. A component of the module will focus on how educators can prepare student to lead their own IEP meetings by teaching team leadership skills, transition terminology, goal setting, progress self-monitoring, and decision-making. The module are directed at basic knowledge and skills school personnel need and can use to facilitate parent/family involvement. Individual teachers can use this module in their efforts at increasing and facilitating parent involvement.
2. The module contains the following components for easy use by family advocates and educators:
  - a) Overview
  - b) Agenda for Module Presentation
  - c) PowerPoint Slide file for presentation
  - d) Presenter Notes for each slide image and all activities
  - e) Handouts for participants
  - f) Implementation Integrity Measure (to support accurate implementation)
3. The module is designed to be presented or used by a trainer in a workshop or in self-instruction by an individual teacher and applied without the assistance of outside resources or accessed online for self-paced learning. Therefore, all the information necessary to present the module and to begin using the ideas suggested within the module is included. While other resources such as local experts in facilitating parent involvement (such as Families Helping Families) can be used, the module do not necessarily require such support.

## **Employment/Transition Initiatives**

### **Employment/Transition**

#### **Postsecondary Apprenticeship for Youth (Pay Check Pilot)**

- ✓ The Postsecondary Apprenticeship Pilot for Youth (Pay Check) pilot is an innovative collaboration between the LSUHSC-Human Development Center (HDC), Louisiana

Rehabilitation Services, Delgado Community College, two public school systems, one public Charter school association, and the University Medical Center-New Orleans.

- ✓ Pay Check is a 3-5 semester program wherein students select courses at Delgado Community College related to UMC targeted apprenticeship areas, participate in professional career development activities, learn community and work skills, and gain employment experience through a paid apprenticeship at the University Medical Center.
- ✓ Pay Check Partners include: LRS/LWC, Delgado CC, UMC-New Orleans, Orleans parish school charters and Jefferson Parish Public School System. Currently working with LRS State Office to modify TPCA to reflect a Pre-ETS focus.

### **Transition**

- ✓ Submitted “DRAFT” curriculum - Pre-ETS training for providers and possibly educators to Louisiana Rehabilitation Council (LRC).
- ✓ Submitted requested Capacity-Building proposal for JPPSS Transition personnel – Transition and Career Pathways.
- ✓ Received approval for ten-twelve additional students from JPPSS for the PAY Check pilot.

### **Benefits Planning Services**

- ✓ HDC provides Louisiana Benefits Planning Services (LA-BPS) through an SSA-WIPA RFA for the next four years to all Louisiana SSA recipients, to locate local and community programs that services their area of the state. HDC continues to support SSDI and SSI beneficiaries with disabilities by providing work incentives planning and assistance services to support beneficiaries in their efforts to acquire, retain, and increase meaningful employment and improve financial independence.

BPS provides comprehensive, proactive guidance to beneficiaries in order to:

- ✓ Retain the documentation and information beneficiaries need to ensure full access to work incentives, anticipate changes in benefits, and access all available Federal, State, and local work incentives including, but not limited to, Plans to Achieve Self-Support (PASS), the Ticket to Work (TTW), and Impairment Related Work Expenses (IRWE).
- ✓ Encourage and support accurate and timely reporting to reduce the size or likelihood of benefit overpayments.
- ✓ Offer information and support beneficiaries need to access services to make a successful transition to employment.

HDC continues to provide free benefits counseling throughout the state in conjunction with the Advocacy Center. HDC averages 28-35 referrals each month and provides

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

Certification trainings are ongoing to insure HDC Benefits Planners maintain knowledge content for serving Social Security beneficiaries with the latest information regarding the impact of income on the disability benefits received from Social Security and other state local support programs.

<b>WIPA Benchmarks for in report period 6/1/2017 – 8/31/2017</b>
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<b>I&amp;R Services</b>	<b>#</b>
Number of Referrals Accepted or New Enrollees	115

<b>I&amp;R Services</b>	<b>#</b>
Number of Referrals Accepted or New Enrollees	83

**Supported Employment Training and Technical Assistance**

- ✓ During this quarter, HDC suspended ALL CORE and related SE Trainings due to the LRS freeze.
- ✓ HDC attended one (1) Employment First Workgroup meetings
- ✓ HDC staff attended the national APSE conference in Portland, Oregon and presented a paper on the PAY Check Apprenticeship Model.
- ✓ HDC staff active on the national **APSE Public Policy committee** and attend 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday monthly meetings which have focused primarily on the Workforce Investment and Opportunities Act (WIOA).
- ✓ Meetings with school personnel students and families to provide education/outreach and to discuss apprenticeship pilot.

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

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

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

- ✓ HDC and LA APSE continue to collaborate and to advocate for Certified Employment Support Professional (CESP) certification.
- ✓ 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**

- ✓ Fall semester clinic started with 15 clients. Two AT/AAC evaluations scheduled for fall semester. Three hour AAC presentation completed with collaborative grant to Lincoln Parish via Adobe conferencing.
- ✓ Memorandum of agreements signed and intervention and evaluations started at Morris Jeff School and Collegiate Academy.
- ✓ Physical therapist and dietician in the process of being recruited and credentialed for Feeding and Swallowing clinic as well as Assistive technology clinic.

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

No recommendations have been received.