

## La DD Council - Status Report of FFY 2021 Action Plan

Page 1 of 22

- '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 (January 1, 2021 – March 31, 2021).	
<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> Provide technical assistance and training opportunities designed to strengthen the self-advocacy network and the effectiveness of its systems change activities. <b>Approx. FFY 2021 Cost:</b> <b>\$20,000</b>	The DD Council is paying registration fees for four (4) members of People First to attend the 2021 Disability Policy Seminar being conducted virtually April 19 <sup>th</sup> – April 21 <sup>st</sup> .  <b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Initiative</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Expenditures</b>
<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.	

## La DD Council - Status Report of FFY 2021 Action Plan

Page 2 of 22

**1.2.1** Provide financial support and technical assistance for Partners in Policymaking and its alumni network.

**Approx. FFY 2021 Cost:**  
**\$90,000**

The Partners in Policymaking (PIP) Ad-Hoc Committee met January 7, 2021, to receive updates and discuss virtual accommodations for the 2020 class and ITACC disparities in relation to PIP alumni.

The PIP Coordinator has been preparing to implement the completion of the 2020 PIP class virtually and 2021 PIP virtual sessions, as outlined by the recommendations from the PIP Ad-Hoc Committee. Various drafts of proposed plans have been created.

Participants of the 2020 PIP class met virtually in March to get reacquainted and be informed of how this program will be implemented for their completion.

**Previous Quarter(s):**

The Executive Committee approved the following recommendations from the PIP Ad-Hoc Committee:

- 1) The PIP 2020 class move forward in a virtual format; those absent in the March session are accepted back; the January through February sessions are reviewed; and the March session is repeated for all;
- 2) A virtual format in 2021 for Partners in Policymaking sessions, open to anyone who would like to join in, recommending using PIP speakers based on their topics and gives participants an entire PIP class for a year in a PIP format, which will also work as recruiting tool for next year's applicant pool; and

**On target:**  Initiative  Expenditures

## La DD Council - Status Report of FFY 2021 Action Plan

Page 3 of 22

<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.</p> <p><b>Approx. FFY 2021 Cost: \$215,000</b></p>	<p>As of April 2021, LaCAN has over 6,200 members registered to receive information and action alerts related to home and community-based services, employment, education and early intervention.</p> <p><u>Advocacy Activities</u> Since October 1, 2020, there have been no LaCAN action alerts or yellow shirt days.</p> <p>LaCAN Leaders have been conducting formal legislative visits with key committee members and other regional legislators. To date, members have been supported at 59 formal legislative visits, of which 36 were with key committee members. Legislative visits will continue to be made until the start of the 2021 legislative session on April 12th.</p> <p>LaCAN continues to host two LaCAN Leader conference calls per month, which include updates on current concerns/issues and development of strategies to better educate, maintain, support, and lead LaCAN members.</p> <p><u>Update on Leader Positions</u> There is currently a vacancy in Regions 1/10. The position is currently being advertised and those interested are encouraged to apply. More information can be found on the LaDDC <a href="#">website</a>.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>
--	--

## La DD Council - Status Report of FFY 2021 Action Plan

Page 4 of 22

<p><b>1.2.4</b> Facilitate and support advocacy events including but not limited to Legislative Roundtables, a Conference, and advocacy training sessions. <b>Approx. FFY 2021 Cost: \$50,000</b></p>	<p>Nine Legislative Roundtables were held across the state with 297 participants in attendance, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 25 self-advocates</li> <li>• 115 family members</li> <li>• 59 professionals</li> <li>• 73 Other/Unknown</li> <li>• 25 policymakers (i.e. legislators, legislative aides, and/or BESE members)</li> </ul> <p>Since October 1, 2020, 63 LaCAN members participated in 10 virtual regional LaCAN member meetings to discuss the Council’s 2021 Advocacy Agenda, learn how to become a virtually active member, ways of taking action virtually (action alerts, yellow shirt days, public testimony) and how to virtually connect with legislators.</p> <p><b>Previous Quarter(s):</b> The LaCAN Fall Leader Training was conducted on November 12, 2020.</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>No activity this quarter.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p><b>1.3.2</b> Support Council members in participation in Council meetings and other functions.</p>	<p>Council members are supported in participation of Council meetings and other functions and have been offered the provision of assistive technology to facilitate participation in virtual Council meetings.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>

## La DD Council - Status Report of FFY 2021 Action Plan

Page 5 of 22

<p><b>1.3.3</b> Support Council members' participation in training and educational opportunities.  <b>Approx. FFY 2021 Cost: \$3,000</b></p>	<p>Invitations were sent to self-advocate Council members to continue participation in a Discussion Series for Self-Advocates hosted by National Association for Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD).</p> <p><b>Previous Quarter(s):</b>          LaDDC Orientation for new and current members was conducted on January 13, 2021. Invitations were sent to self-advocate Council members to participate in a Discussion Series for Self-Advocates hosted by National Association for Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD). Three (3) Council members have participated in these meetings thus far.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>
<p><b>1.3.4</b> Support the Council leadership's participation in national training, networking events and advocacy opportunities.  <b>Approx. FFY 2021 Cost: \$7,000</b></p>	<p>With approval and in lieu of the Chairperson having to attend, another Council member is registered to attend the virtual 2021 Disability Policy Seminar being conducted April 19<sup>th</sup> – April 21<sup>st</sup>.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>
<p><b>Obj. 1.4</b> Individuals with developmental disabilities, their families, and professionals will obtain the information, training, and support they need.</p>	

## La DD Council - Status Report of FFY 2021 Action Plan

Page 6 of 22

<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, 2020, Centers have assisted over 8,600 individuals with disabilities and families with information, referral, peer to peer and other supports. There have been over 18,000 units of information and referral completed with 153 trainings conducted with over 2200 individuals in attendance. Centers have also conducted 5 outreach activities to hospitals, pediatricians, and school districts.</p> <p>Shared information about the need for additional funding for the Families Helping Families Resource Center across the state at LaCAN Legislative Roundtables and in individual meetings and communications with legislators.</p> <p><b>Previous Quarter(s):</b> A <a href="#">fact sheet</a> about the need for additional funding for the Families Helping Families Resource Centers was developed, posted on the Council's website, and distributed to Council members, LaCAN Leaders, and FHF Centers/Directors to be used in legislative visits and member meetings prior to the start of the 2021 legislative session.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>
<p><b>1.4.2</b> Produce and provide information important to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families through a variety of electronic and social media (Council website, Facebook, and LaDDC News).</p>	<p>The following 2 LaDDC Newsletters were released via listserv and advertised via Facebook and Twitter:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) <a href="#">Council's 2021 Legislative Agenda</a>, January 28, 2021</li> <li>2) <a href="#">Council Launches Video Series Sharing Stories of Louisianans with Disabilities</a>, March 26, 2021</li> </ol> <p>Displays of LaCAN members in action as well as various issues and news of interest to people with developmental disabilities and their families are continuously shared on social media.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council's listserv has 5,477 active subscribers.</li> <li>• Facebook has 5,565 followers and 5,233 likes.</li> <li>• Twitter has 419 followers.</li> </ul> <p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>

## La DD Council - Status Report of FFY 2021 Action Plan

Page 7 of 22

**1.4.3** Produce and disseminate videos and other visual materials featuring information important to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families regarding but not limited to the following topics: self-advocacy, obtaining employment, grade promotion/graduation pathways, and accessing home and community-based services, including waivers.  
**Approx. FFY 2021 Cost: \$51,000**

O'Neill Communications wrote and developed an outreach plan, including email announcement, social media copy, and press release copy for the announcement of the campaigns. The launch Press Release went out on March 26, 2021 to 521 outlets covering all 10 regions of Louisiana and was picked up by KPLC in Lake Charles.

Video production schedule is as follows:

Meet the Council	Produced & Released March 26 <sup>th</sup>
Meet the Council II	In Production
Advocating for What's Important	Produced/ Pending Release April 9 <sup>th</sup>
Strength in Numbers	Produced/ Pending Release April 23 <sup>rd</sup>
Individualized Education Plans (IEPs)	Interviewing/ In Production
Inclusive Post-Secondary Education (IPSE)	Interviewing/ In Production
Employment	Planning
Resources	Planning
Direct Support Professionals (DSPs)	Planning
Waivers	Planning

Videos will be uploaded to the Council's Facebook and YouTube channel with corresponding social media posts on select Fridays as part of #FullyIncludedFriday.

**Previous Quarter(s):**

O'Neill Communications is developing the look and feel, storyboard, and interviewing schedule for the videos and visual materials. O'Neill Communications has also created a presentation of this project to present during the January 2021 Self-Determination/Community Inclusion Committee meeting.

**On target:**  Initiative  Expenditures

## La DD Council - Status Report of FFY 2021 Action Plan

Page 8 of 22

<p><b>1.4.4</b> Provide financial support to develop an emergency response resource in partnership with other organizations to have a clearing house of educational materials, videos, etc. for people with developmental disabilities and their family members. <b>Approx. FFY 2021 Cost: \$7,500</b></p>	<p>Trach Mommas of LA has created a list of available resources and is working with a web designer to create an accessible website with emergency resource information. The anticipated launch date is in June 2021, unless development of the website is completed sooner.</p> <p><b>Previous Quarter(s):</b> Contract initiated with Trach Mommas of LA to develop and manage an accessible website with emergency resources that can be accessed during times of natural disasters and states of emergencies. Contractor is in the process of researching and compiling a list of all available resources with an anticipated website launch date in the summer of 2021.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>
<p><b>1.4.5</b> Provide financial support to provide information on rights, accessible options and information related to voting. <b>Approx. FFY 2021 Cost: \$7,000</b></p>	<p>No activity this quarter.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input 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. 2.4.</b> Funding will be available to provide home and community-based waiver services to people with developmental disabilities.</p>	



## La DD Council - Status Report of FFY 2021 Action Plan

Page 9 of 22

**2.4.1** Advocate for adequate funding for waiver services.

Information was shared about the need for increased home and community-based service (HCBS) rates for services performed by Direct Service Workers (DSWs) and the need to increase DSW starting pay to at least \$8.65 per hour across the state at LaCAN Legislative Roundtables and in individual meetings and communications with legislators. Funding needed to increase these rates was not included in the governor's executive budget proposal.

**Previous Quarter(s):**

During a meeting with the leadership of the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, staff advocated for the need to increase Direct Support Professional pay and discussed the amount funding needed to secure the increase.

**On target:**  **Initiative**

**Obj. 2.5** Individuals with developmental disabilities and their families will have access to the same level and quality of services administered by the Local Governing Entities (LGE's) across the state.

## La DD Council - Status Report of FFY 2021 Action Plan

Page 10 of 22

<p><b>2.5.1</b> Oversee implementation of the Community and Family Support System Plan and advocate for adequate funding, the expansion of services, and consistent implementation of policy across regions, including, if necessary, changes in law and/or contracts with local governing entities (LGE's).</p>	<p>The Council's legislative agenda as it relates to home and community-based (HCBS) service rates and Direct Service Worker (DSW) pay was updated to include a base starting pay for DSWs of at least \$8.65 per hour. An <a href="#">updated fact sheet</a> was developed and shared with stakeholders statewide. The Council's <a href="#">legislative agenda</a> was also shared across the state at LaCAN Legislative Roundtables and in individual meetings and communications with legislators and other stakeholders. Additional funding for FHF Centers and increased rates was not included in the governor's executive budget proposal.</p> <p>The Act 421 Children's Medicaid Option program stakeholder group continues to meet regularly to discuss the systems programming, policy development, and other program details. LDH is still awaiting approval from CMS. The department originally planned, pending approval from CMS, to open registration up in April 2021 with a program implementation date of May 2021. This timeline has been delayed. LDH has developed a <a href="#">website</a> for stakeholders to view more information about this program.</p> <p><b>Previous Quarter(s):</b> A fact sheet about the need for additional funding for the <a href="#">Families Helping Families Resource Centers</a> and a <a href="#">two dollar increase in the base pay rate of Direct Support Professionals</a> was developed and shared with stakeholders. The Act 421 Children's Medicaid Option program application was submitted September 1, 2020.</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 for people with developmental disabilities.</p>	
<p><b>2.6.1</b> Advocate for utilization of the ROW 50 pilot and other opportunities to transition out of institutional settings.</p>	<p>No activity this quarter.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input 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>	

## La DD Council - Status Report of FFY 2021 Action Plan

Page 11 of 22

<p><b>2.7.1</b> Advocate for systems change based on emergent community support issues.</p>	<p>No activity this quarter.</p> <p><b>Previous Quarter(s):</b> Council staff continues to participate in meetings with Emergency Management Disability and Aged Coalition in efforts to respond to COVID-19 and multiple natural disasters.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p><b>2.7.2</b> Provide financial support for promotion, awareness, training and support in implementation of Supported Decision Making. <b>Approx. FFY 2021 Cost: \$50,000</b></p>	<p>The Arc of Louisiana continues to offer statewide regional training events for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their family members to increase their understanding of Supported Decision Making (SDM), also known as the Dustin Gary Act of the 2020 Louisiana legislative session, and other legal options available in Louisiana.</p> <p>A training schedule and registration information can be found <a href="#">here</a>. The site will be updated as more trainings are scheduled. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the training events will be held via online webinars rather than in-person at this time.</p> <p>As of April 2021, four trainings have occurred with 71 participants in attendance. Additionally, three self-advocates are being mentored through the entire Supported Decision-Making process.</p> <p><b>Previous Quarter(s):</b> Training schedules will be shared with all FHF Centers, People First of LA and Disability Rights LA. The Arc of LA and the DD Council (through websites and social media) are providing promotion of these events. As of December 23, 2020, three (3) trainings have been scheduled. The site will be updated as more trainings are scheduled.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>

## La DD Council - Status Report of FFY 2021 Action Plan

<p><b>2.7.3</b> Provide financial support to establish pilot programs in multiple regions across the state on first-responder tactics, approaches and resources in fostering relationships with and dealing with individuals with developmental disabilities and training for people with developmental disabilities on how to interact with first responders.</p> <p><b>Approx. FFY 2021 Cost: \$50,000</b></p>	<p>Interaction Advisory Group (IAG) conducts virtual training sessions for First Responder Professionals routinely scheduled for the first Thursday of every month. These trainings began on January 12th and will continue through September 2021. IAG has been requested by multiple agencies to provide this training to entire forces, which include law enforcement agencies, Attorney General offices, and EMT agencies. Due to this overwhelming response, IAG conducted an additional training for First Responders in March at no cost to the DD Council. As of March 30<sup>th</sup>, 60 professionals have attended these trainings. IAG also conducted a community training event for Louisiana residents in February with the next public training event occurring on April 19th. IAG continues to collaborate with Families Helping Families, Autism Society of LA, and other appropriate entities to help with community participation in the public events, and through those contacts has a self-advocate help with the presentation during the training sessions for both the First Responder Professionals and public community events.</p> <p><b>Previous Quarter(s):</b> Interaction Advisory Group developed a training plan to begin with the Bossier Parish Sheriff's Office and to quickly spread training throughout the state each month. Throughout November and December, IAG contacted "Families Helping Families" as well as multiple autism affiliates across the state of LA and have been in discussion with them about assisting IAG with self-advocate participation within first responder trainings and community trainings.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>
<p><b>2.7.4</b> Provide financial support to establish a training program on emergency preparedness and response relative to people with developmental disabilities</p> <p><b>Approx. FFY 2021 Cost: \$20,000</b></p>	<p>Outreach with appropriate emergency management entities has been marginally more successful since the last quarterly report. An introductory webinar was developed specifically for LA that will highlight the intentions and full program to be delivered. The first of these webinars was conducted on March 30, 2021, which had 55 registrants. Since the DDC was not able to advertise this webinar timely, additional introductory webinars have been scheduled for April 29th and May 5th, 2021.</p> <p><b>Previous Quarter(s):</b> Niagara University has been identifying key stakeholders and establishing connections with disability organizations and emergency planning/preparedness/response entities statewide. The contractor reports that responses to these outreach attempts have been minimal. Their initial review of processes implemented in LA revealed a lack of representation from the disability community in planning, preparedness, response, and recovery.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>

## La DD Council - Status Report of FFY 2021 Action Plan

Page 13 of 22

<p><b>2.7.5</b> Provide financial support to coordinate rapid response during a natural disaster or state of emergency for individuals with the most severe disabilities and medical conditions. <b>Approx. FFY 2021 Cost: \$10,000</b></p>	<p>No activity this quarter.</p> <p><b>Previous Quarter(s):</b> Contract initiated with Trach Mommas of LA to provide individuals with developmental disabilities and their family equipment and supplies not otherwise covered by their Medicaid or private insurance during natural disasters and states of emergency.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>
<p><b>2.7.6</b> Provide financial support to respond to COVID-19 or other natural disasters. <b>Approx. FFY 2021 Cost: \$2,500</b></p>	<p>No activity this quarter.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>
<p><b>Obj. 2.8</b> Individuals receiving waiver services through the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) will have access to a full range of quality health care services that result in improved overall health outcomes.</p>	
<p><b>2.8.1</b> Publicize healthcare provider continuing education opportunities.</p>	<p>No activity this quarter.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>

## La DD Council - Status Report of FFY 2021 Action Plan

Page 14 of 22

**2.8.2** Advocate for waivers to provide access to services listed in the [Freedom of Choice Provider Listing](#), continue exemptions and flexibilities initiated with COVID-19; and consider individualized emergency preparedness considerations for people with severe disabilities and medical issues.

The Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) will host listening sessions on April 5<sup>th</sup> and April 8<sup>th</sup> to share plans for Home and Community Based Waiver Services after the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency ends, and to solicit feedback on those plans. OCDD will provide information on recent federal legislation and funding opportunities and solicited feedback on how the funds should be used from stakeholders. ([LaDDC News](#))

Proposed legislation ([House Bill 204](#)) by Representative Turner, if passed, would permanently continue some COVID exceptions including allowing a DSW to exceed 16 hours per day, allow for DSWs to reside in the same home as the person receiving services, and allow providers and support coordinators to conduct virtual check-ins and electronic signatures.

**Previous Quarter(s):**

The Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) held a stakeholders' meeting on October 14, 2020 to discuss the ending of the home and community-based waiver exceptions (Appendix K) implemented in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. These exceptions were set to expire in January 2021, but the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approved extensions until at least July 2021. More information can be found in the [LaDDC News](#) sent on December 23, 2020.

**On target:**  Initiative

**Obj. 2.9** Individuals with developmental disabilities and their families will have information and training on sexuality, sexual abuse and exploitation.

## La DD Council - Status Report of FFY 2021 Action Plan

Page 15 of 22

<p><b>2.9.1</b> Provide financial support for training on sexuality and relationships and to build awareness and skills with recognizing and handling sexual abuse and exploitation of people with developmental disabilities and publicize available webinars on these topics. <b>Approximate FFY 2021 Cost: \$55,000</b></p>	<p>Training schedule, location, registration and links to other informational webinars can be found <a href="#">here</a>. As of March 2020, three training events have occurred with 14 self-advocates and 46 family members/caregivers in attendance. Due to COVID restrictions, trainings are being offered virtually via Zoom.</p> <p><b>Previous Quarter(s):</b> Contract initiated with Team Dynamics, LLC. to offer training events statewide to increase adult self-advocates and their family members' understanding of healthy and unhealthy relationships and issues that lead to and ways to prevent sexual abuse and exploitation of individuals with disabilities. <a href="#">LaDDC News</a> sent on December 21, 2020 to advertise upcoming initiative and scheduled trainings. Training schedule, location, registration and links to other informational webinars can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>
<p><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.</p>	
<p><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.</p>	
<p><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.)</p>	<p>Council Chair and staff participated in a meeting with the Louisiana School Board Association to discuss cameras in special education classrooms upon request. LSBA indicated that they could not fully support this advocacy agenda without statistical data demonstrating the need for this item.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>

## La DD Council - Status Report of FFY 2021 Action Plan

Page 16 of 22

<p><b>3.1.2</b> Advocate for support structure in school systems that assures adequate understanding and skill to develop and implement IEP's and increased infrastructure of training and technical assistance provided to parents and schools simultaneously.</p>	<p>No activity this quarter.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Initiative</b></p>
<p><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.</p>	
<p><b>3.3.1</b> Advocate for educational systems change based on emergent education issues.</p>	<p>No activity this quarter.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Initiative</b></p>
<p><b>Obj. 3.4</b> An increased number of students with disabilities are included in school culture.</p>	
<p><b>3.4.1</b> Provide information and promote inclusion and acceptance of effective models of school culture.</p>	<p>No activity this quarter.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Initiative</b></p>



## La DD Council - Status Report of FFY 2021 Action Plan

Page 17 of 22

**3.4.2** Provide financial support to establish a Post-Secondary Inclusive Education Alliance to provide mentoring and technical assistance, host training events and develop resources designed to build the capacity of Louisiana postsecondary institutions in providing inclusive postsecondary education opportunities for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities throughout Louisiana.

**Approx. FFY 2021 Cost: \$40,000**

The Alliance has been strategically planning for Spring and Summer 2021 projects to include the following:

1. A monthly newsletter will be developed focusing on a variety of topics throughout Spring/Summer 2021:
  - Interviews with established Post-Secondary Programs in Louisiana
  - Updates on how Alliance is dealing with COVID-19 restrictions
  - Day-to-day challenges in running a Post-Secondary Inclusive Transition Program
  - Updated FAQs section
  - Featured state programs
  - Resources
2. Southeastern University of LA will spearhead a Zoom meeting schedule across the state to recruit for the Alliance and provide guidance for established programs, new programs, and for those interested in developing a program.
3. Set up training webinars for the Alliance.

Louisiana State University at Alexandria has successfully conducted fundraising and is on track to begin a pilot Post-secondary Inclusive Education program the Fall 2021 semester. Grambling State University is still in the process of submitting appropriate documents for grants to begin the development of an inclusive program on their campus.

### **Previous Quarter(s):**

The LA-PIE Alliance is continuing their efforts with increasing inclusive Post-Secondary Education programs. Louisiana State University at Alexandria has conducted activities with the local public to garner financial support and interest in their newly established program which is scheduled to begin the Fall 2021 semester. More information on this activity will be reported after January 11, 2021.

**On target:**  Initiative  Expenditures

## La DD Council - Status Report of FFY 2021 Action Plan

Page 18 of 22

<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.</p>	
<p><b>Obj. 4.2</b> All schools (charter/magnet) accepting public dollars will accept and serve all students with disabilities appropriately.</p>	
<p><b>4.2.1</b> Advocate for Type 2 and Type 5 charter schools to be required to meet 85% rule of enrolling students with disabilities at rates similar to those found in traditional public schools and advocate for and monitor equitable funding based on Minimum Foundation Program (MFP).</p>	<p>No activity this quarter.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Initiative</b></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 increased meaningful opportunities for stakeholder input, improved practices to facilitate stakeholder input, and consideration of stakeholder recommendations.</p>	<p>No activity this quarter.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Initiative</b></p>
<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>	

## La DD Council - Status Report of FFY 2021 Action Plan

Page 19 of 22

<p><b>5.1.1</b> Advocate for employment support professionals to complete high-quality professional development for the improvement of service provisions and employment outcomes.</p>	<p>No activity this quarter.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p><b>5.1.3</b> Provide funding to build the capacity of employment providers in customized employment in a manner which will lead to certification through a competency-based certification program.</p> <p><b>Approx. FFY 2020 Cost: \$50,000</b></p>	<p>From a previous class of five (5), there are 2 Employment Support Professionals (ESP's) still on track to complete Job Development Certification Mentoring through Marc Gold &amp; Associates (MG&amp;A). Due to COVID-19, MG&amp;A will be conducting a virtual Discovery Gateway training for ESP's over the course of 6 half days during the month of April with subsequent virtual Certification Mentoring being offered by the Council for those interested after attending the Discovery Gateway. A virtual Job Development Gateway training is also intended to be scheduled in the same manner during late summer.</p> <p><b>Previous Quarter(s):</b>          Due to COVID-19, Marc Gold &amp; Associates will not be able to offer certification for the Systematic Instruction component of Customized Employment. LSU-HDC has also encountered delays in their efforts to become training and certification providers in Customized Employment due to the pandemic. However, the contract with Arc of LA was renewed for this activity so that more Employment Support Professionals (ESPs) may participate in Discovery and Job Development Gateways and Certification mentoring. This will allow multiple ESPs to be ready to pursue certification in Systematic Instruction either once MG&amp;A can provide certification again, or by LSU-HDC once they have completed their requirements to offer training and certification.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>

## La DD Council - Status Report of FFY 2021 Action Plan

Page 20 of 22

<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 employment providers to have access to financial incentives to support unserved and underserved populations including people with the most substantial employment support needs in competitive integrated individualized employment.</p>	<p>No activity this quarter.</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 this topic can be found on the Council’s website under Employment Initiatives.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p><b>5.3.2</b> Share DD Council employment videos featuring individuals with developmental disabilities on their jobs.</p>	<p>No activity this quarter; however, O’Neill Communications is in the planning phase of creating a video of this nature which is associated with Activity 1.4.3.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>

## La DD Council - Status Report of FFY 2021 Action Plan

Page 21 of 22

**5.3.3** Provide financial support to conduct seminars with Chambers of Commerce throughout the state on the benefits of hiring people with developmental disabilities.

**Approx. FFY 2021 Cost:**  
**\$32,000**

O'Neill Communications finalized *Working Together*, Louisiana's campaign to create inclusive employment opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and to provide businesses and employers "how to" strategies for recruiting, hiring, and retaining these employees in an inclusive work environment. Inclusive employment webinars are being offered virtually statewide to interested employers on these "how-to" strategies and to better understand the processes and resources that can be used to increase employment opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Ten, 60-minute webinars are planned, one in each of the Louisiana Department of Health's regions or services areas, in partnership with local chambers of commerce, SHRM chapters, Louisiana Rehabilitation Services and the Workforce Commission.

Webinars will be presented by Gordon O'Neill (Working Together Campaign Coordinator and founder of O'Neill Communications which specializes in disability advocacy and issues) and Jeff Arseneaux (Inclusive Employment Consultant, Entrepreneur with 30 years management and distribution experience and recipient of Governor Jon Bel Edwards' 2019 Ken Vince Memorial Award).

Regions 2, 3, 7, and 8 are finalized and being held in April and May with registration taking place now. The remaining regions (1/10, 4, 5, 6, 9) are still being scheduled as O'Neill Communications continues to communicate with those Chambers of Commerce. O'Neill Communications created a [site](#) for employers interested in registering for a webinar or anyone wanting to learn more about the *Working Together* campaign.

### **Previous Quarter(s):**

O'Neill Communications has conducted research and created the following documents:

- 1) Curriculum content for the employment seminars;
- 2) Initial outreach email/memo to potential partners at LDH, LRS, Governor's Office for Disability Affairs, Department of Labor/Workforce Commission, Disability Rights Louisiana and Louisiana Assistive Technology Access Network; and
- 3) Proposed Brand strategy with logo options, campaign description and background materials for distribution to partners and Council Members

O'Neill Communications intends to host two (2) seminars each month from March through July 2021 with all 10 regions of the state being covered.

**On target:**  Initiative  Expenditures

## La DD Council - Status Report of FFY 2021 Action Plan

Page 22 of 22

**Obj. 5.4** Individuals with DD will benefit from changes, consistent with Council positions, in policy and practice in employment agencies/programs.

**5.4.1** Advocate for systems change based on emergent employment issues.

No activity this quarter.

**On target:**  **Initiative**