



LSU Human Development Center Activities Report, 3rd Quarter 2021

Since the beginning of their Fiscal Year 2021 (July 1, 2020), the Human Development Center (HDC) has served 12,208 individuals in the following areas:

- Persons with Developmental Disabilities & families received Model Demonstration Services: 1,003
- Number of long-term and intermediate-term trainees are in Interdisciplinary Leadership Training: 29
- Individuals received Continuing Education: 6,196
- Practitioners/Professionals received Technical Assistance: 3,252
- Stakeholders received Community Trainings: 1,728

Below are highlights of the activities that took place last quarter (April-June, 2021) in HDC's four initiative areas according to the three main goals for this grant cycle: Enhance Collaboration, Increase Access to Quality Services, and Promote Use of Evidence Based Practice.

Early Childhood Initiatives:

○ Enhance Collaboration

- HDC is collaborating with the New Orleans Early Education Network (NOEEN), Tulane TIKES and 22 childcare centers to implement developmental screening programs that will impact at least 400 children in private childcare centers. HDC is supporting developmental screening and referral, and directly implementing disability supports to centers, teachers and families.
- HDC's Early Head Start-Childcare Partnership (EHS-CCP) program expanded to 8 childcare centers (33 classrooms serving 210 infants and toddlers).
- HDC's Inclusive Practices in Early Childhood (IPEC) program is collaborating with TrainingGrounds to provide autism specific training and consultation for parent educators and families.
- HDC's IPEC program collaborated with Exceptional Lives to produce a webinar about parental rights for families transitioning into early childhood special education (Part B, Section 619).
<https://www.exceptionallives.org/webinar>
- HDC's EHS-CCP program is collaborating with LDH to pilot the Act Early/Safe, Secure and Loved program to educate and support families in developmental monitoring and mindful parenting practices.

○ Increase Access to Quality Services

- HDC's EHS CCP provided comprehensive educational and health services to 34 infants and toddlers with an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) in inclusive classrooms since August 1. Two hundred twenty-five (225) children received developmental screening. Screening resulted in 17 referrals to EarlySteps for evaluation. Eleven children qualified for early intervention through our referral.
- HDC is providing interdisciplinary autism evaluations to rule in or rule out ASD to children in Early Head Start, NOEEN City Seats and local LA4 programs.
- HDC's EHS-CCP program will implement an autism-screening pilot (in addition to general developmental screening) with over 100 toddlers in childcare centers the fall.

○ **Promote Use of Evidence Based Practice**

- HDC is expanding disability consultation and coaching to 22 childcare sites participating in the NOEEN City Seats Program, in addition to the 8 Early Head Start sites.
- HDC provided autism training and follow-up coaching/TA visits to support TrainingGrounds, Inc., a local NPO, in their Spectrum Supports program for 12 families and 5 educators in April/May.
- HDC will conduct training in August for 90 early childhood educators on implementing developmental screening in programs serving children birth to 5 years-old, and effectively discussing child development with families. Training will be followed-up with coaching or consultation with teachers and administrators in the fall.

K-12 Initiatives:

○ **Enhance Collaboration**

- HDC's LASARD began securing contracts with schools systems across the state for the 2021-2022 school year as an approved vendor in the Louisiana Department of Education Partnership for Success vendor guide.
- HDC's LASARD staff provided a guest lecture for Dr. Maria Ruiz' graduate level education course at the University of Louisiana Lafayette on the topic of antecedent behavior strategies.
- HDC's Louisiana DeafBlind Project has expanded participation in clinical services within the Ambulatory Care Services of Children's Hospital of New Orleans. Services now include three Cancer Survivor Late Effects clinics and one Hearing Disorders ENT clinic per month. For this quarter staff from the LA DBP participated in six (6) Late Effects Clinics and three (3) Cochlear Implant/Hearing Clinics.
- HDC's Louisiana DeafBlind Project provided presentations to eight (8) supporting agencies including CHNO Pediatric residents, Early Steps Regional Interagency Coordinating Council Regional meeting, and Family Helping Families agencies.
- HDC's Louisiana Deafblind Project for Children and Youth participated in monthly meetings of the Louisiana Deafblind Collaborative Team coordinated by the Helen Keller National Center.
- HDC's Louisiana Deafblind Project exhibited and supported the Louisiana Special Education Administrators summer 2021 meeting in New Orleans.

○ **Increase Access to Quality Services**

- HDC's LASARD continued to provide professional development sessions and coaching to over 30 school districts across the state.
- HDC's LASARD Facilitators participated the LA State Department of Education funded Early Childhood Inclusion Pilot in four school districts during the 2020-2021 school year. HDC LASARD will have the opportunity to partner with districts again this year as an approved vendor for early childhood support in schools.
- HDC's Louisiana DeafBlind Project continues an intensive technical assistance relationship with the National Center for Deaf-Blindness in efforts to establish the use of Interveners with DeafBlind students in Louisiana.
- HDC's Louisiana Deafblind Project received fourteen (14) referral for newly identified students with deafblindness in this quarter
- HDC's Louisiana Deafblind Project provided thirty-nine (39) intensive technical assistance opportunities on behalf of Louisiana students, families, teachers, and school districts

○ **Promote Use of Evidence Based Practice**

- Two HDC LASARD presentations, *Inclusive Practices in PreK: All Means All!* and *Virtual Communities of Practice for Educators*, were selected for multiple sessions at the Louisiana Department of Education Teacher Leader Summit, held in New Orleans on May 25-27, 2021.
- A survey was conducted with schools and districts LASARD contracted with in the 2020-2021 school year. Seventy (70%) of respondents reported they implemented a new evidence based practice because of the LASARD services they received during the 2020–2021 school year. Regarding student impact, respondents reported 3,397 students with and without disabilities were positively impacted by LASARD services. Additionally, six respondents indicated the impact was district wide. Reports of district wide impact indicate LASARD services reach far beyond the 3,397 students reported.
- HDC’s Louisiana Deafblind Project entered a MOU with and participated in the Families Helping Families of Greater New Orleans’ RSA PTI Region B-2 “*Independent Futures that Work!*” Project.

Transition, Employment, and Careers (TEC) Initiatives:

○ **Enhance Collaboration**

- PAY Check - Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS), Jefferson parish public schools (JPPSS) continue to collaborate with HDC to implement the Postsecondary Apprenticeship for Youth (PAY Check) program. The program has had an increase in the overall number of students due to the fact that the pandemic interrupted the paid internships and business visits and job shadowing. These services are now being offered to the students who were unable to complete these due to the pandemic. Other parish schools systems and LRS are now referring students/clients for PAY Check services.
- Coding Pathway for Youth with Autism - HDC TEC continues working in partnership with FHF NOLA, LRS and Operation SPARK to expand and refine a disability/diversity talent pipeline to technology careers. During this quarter, TEC assisted FHF NOLA in developing their Coding Career Pathway and submitting their manual materials to LRS for approval as a CRP vendor and will continue to provide technical assistance and mentoring.
- HDC TEC attends Office of Disability Employment Programs (ODEP) US Department of Labor Visionary Opportunities to Increase Competitive Employment (VOICES) and State as Model Employer (SAME) initiative calls and meetings.
- HDC TEC staff is active on the national APSE Public Policy committee with a specific focus on providing supports and services to individuals during the COVID pandemic.
- HDC TEC is collaborating with St. Paul’s Catholic High School to provide a pilot PAY Check services on the north shore for five students that will start mid-August. Currently working with LRS, teachers and administrators and area businesses to plan implementation of these services with HDC serving as the LRS vendor.

○ **Increase Access to Quality Services**

- Currently there are 45 students in HDC’s PAY Check program from various school systems and direct referrals from LRS.
- PAY Check continues the focus on providing each participant with two paid internships, Job Shadowing and Work Site Visits as they progress along their career pathway.
- HDC LA-BPS continues to average between 35-40 referrals each month and provides Information and referral to all beneficiaries and individualized benefits planning for those employed or considering employment. There had been a decrease in referrals at the start of the pandemic, but many beneficiaries have found work as essential employees that has increased the number of referrals.
- HDC TEC was awarded the five-year grant for West South Central Work Incentives Planning Assistance (WSC-WIPA) services on June 30. The new RFA catchment area for the HDC WIPA includes twenty-one Texas counties and thirty-three Louisiana parishes.

○ **Promote Use of Evidence Based Practice**

- HDC TEC continues to provide online Employment First CORE trainings and hosted nearly 35 virtual participants in the March 3-day event. The next training has been scheduled for September.
- HDC TEC staff are now beginning the in-person CE training and have received two LRS CE referrals. HDC TEC staff will work in pairs to work the CE case starting with DISCOVERY, Plan Development and Placement with Train-the-Trainer mentoring across the nine national Customized Employment modules from the University of South Florida and approved by WIN TAC.
- HDC TEC is working with national Project Search to discuss starting another Project Search in Louisiana and have begun discussions with a large statewide employer interested in being a host site. HDC TEC staff will attend the national Project Search virtual conference in July 2021.

Interdisciplinary Training

○ **Promote Use of Evidence Based Practice**

- HDC received a notice of award for a new 5-year LEND proposal which includes collaborations with Tulane and ULL faculty and a focus on an emerging issue, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD).
- Twelve Trainees were selected for the 2021-22 Academic Year for the LEND program. Disciplines represented include: Social Work, Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Audiology, Public Health, and Psychology. In addition, we have a Trainee that is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst practicing in the Lafayette area, two parents (one in Monroe and one in Lafayette), and a self-advocate on the Spectrum from Eunice.
- HDC submitted an additional supplemental grant to the Maternal Child Health Bureau for LEND Audiology trainees on June 30, 2021. We anticipate learning if we received the award within the next month.
- Cohort one of HDC's Interprofessional Preparation for Related Services Personnel program will complete their yearlong study Wednesday, August 21, 2021. Cohort one consisted of ten graduate students from graduate programs in occupational therapy, physical therapy, audiology, speech-language pathology, and school psychology. The cohort represented four Louisiana university systems; LSU Health New Orleans, Xavier University of New Orleans, Tulane University, and University of Louisiana Monroe.
- Cohort two of HDC's Interprofessional Preparation for Related Services Personnel program has been recruited and will commence their yearlong study August 11, 2021. Cohort two consists of eleven graduate students from graduate programs in occupational therapy, physical therapy, audiology, speech-language pathology and SPED blind and visually impaired studies. Students in cohort two represent three university systems: the LSU Health New Orleans, the University of New Orleans in Louisiana, and the Stephen F. Austin University in [Texas](#).