

# La DD Council - Status Report of FFY 2022 Action Plan

- '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 (April 1, 2022 – June 30, 2022).	
<b>Goal 1</b> Individuals with developmental disabilities and their families will have access to information and supports to become effective leaders of their communities and advocate for systems changes on behalf of themselves and other individuals with developmental disabilities.	
<b>Obj. 1.1</b> Individuals with developmental disabilities of all ages will have access to opportunities to increase their awareness and knowledge of rights as a contributing member to society; including subject matters on (but not limited to) advocacy, voting, exploitation prevention, financial stability and responsibilities, and decision making.	
<p><b>1.1.1</b> Provide financial support and technical assistance for Partners in Policymaking and its alumni network.</p> <p><b>Approx. FFY 2022 Cost: \$90,000</b></p>	<p>Three sessions of the 2022 Partners in Policymaking class took place this quarter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The fourth PIP session of the 2022 class took place in April 2022. The speakers were Cindy Arceneaux and Rose Gilbert and the topics were inclusive education and lifelong learning.</li> <li>• The fifth PIP session of the 2022 class took place in May 2022. The speaker was Dr. Al Condeluci and the topic was social capital.</li> <li>• The sixth PIP session of the 2022 class took place in June 2022. The speakers were Dr. Brandi Kelly and Tanya Murphy and the topics were service coordination and case management.</li> </ul> <p>All three months' sessions were held via Zoom and included access to documents and participation in activities via a 2022 PIP Trello board, an interactive project management board. Participants also communicated and completed polls and surveys via GroupMe.</p> <p><b>Previous Quarter(s):</b></p> <p>The first PIP session of the 2022 class took place in January 2022 across three days: Meet and Greet; Session One on disability history; and Q&amp;A with Guy Caruso on Social Role Valorization. Of the 23 applicants who were accepted into the 2022 PIP class, 19 participants attended the January session, thus beginning the program in January 2022.</p>

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The second PIP session of the 2022 class took place in February 2022 across two days. Speakers included: Nicole Learson, who presented on Boards, Commissions, and Parliamentary Procedure; and Deborah Whitfield, who presented on Grassroots Organizing and the Art and Science of Negotiation. All 19 participants who began the program in January attended the February session.

The third PIP session of the 2022 class took place in March 2022 across two days. Speakers included: Adrienne Thomas, PIP Coordinator; Amy Deaville, the Council's Executive Director; and Ebony Haven, the Council's Deputy Director. Ms. Thomas presented on the Legislative Process. Ms. Deaville and Ms. Haven presented on the history of Act 378, LaCAN (Louisiana Council's Advocacy Network), the Council's current legislative advocacy agenda and writing testimony.

Information webinars were presented in October 2021. The topics included inclusive education, family engagement, employment, and political action. Guest speakers included Senator Katrina Jackson, Cindy Arceneaux, Rose Gilbert, and previous PIP graduates Corhonda Corley, Wallace Johnson, and Konstance Causey.

All three months' sessions were held via Zoom and included access to documents and participation in activities via a 2022 PIP Trello board, an interactive project management board. Participants also communicated and completed polls and surveys via GroupMe.

**On target:**  Initiative  Expenditures

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<p><b>1.1.2</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 2022 Cost: \$215,000</b></p>	<p>As of June 2022, LaCAN has over 6,500 individuals registered for the Council and LaCAN list serve to receive information and action alerts related to home and community-based services (HCBS), employment, education and early intervention.</p> <p><u>Advocacy Activities</u>          Since October 1, 2021:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eight (8) HCBS action alerts; 1047 actions taken</li> <li>• Eight (8) education action alerts; 930 actions taken</li> <li>• 105 participants attended four (4) HCBS Yellow Shirt Days</li> <li>• 52 participants attended three (3) Education Yellow Shirt Days</li> </ul> <p>Prior to the start of 2022 Legislative Session, LaCAN Leaders supported 65 members at 57 formal legislative visits, of which 34 were with key committee members.</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><b>Previous Quarter(s):</b>          During the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter (January – March 2022) of Fiscal Year 2022, there were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 252 actions taken on two (2) HCBS action alerts;</li> <li>• 238 actions taken on two (2) education action alerts;</li> <li>• 21 participants at one Education yellow shirt day</li> </ul> <p>LaCAN Leaders scheduled visits between members and legislators through the middle of the 2022 Legislative Session that began on March 14, 2022. To date, members have been supported on 52 formal visits of which 32 were with key committee members. Additionally, 21 legislators (10 serving on key committees) attended their regional Legislative Roundtable and received information pertaining to the Council and LaCAN’s advocacy agenda.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>
<p><b>1.1.3</b> Facilitate and support diverse advocacy events, including but not limited to Legislative Roundtables, toward training, services and</p>	<p>LaCAN’s Legislative Debriefing was held on June 20, 2022. LaCAN Leaders, FHF Directors and Council staff discussed the results of advocacy efforts during the 2022 Legislative Session and ideas for improving advocacy activities and effectiveness for the 2023 legislative session . LaCAN Summer Leader Training will be held in August 2022.</p>

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<p>policies that will benefit individuals with developmental disabilities. <b>Approx. FFY 2022 Cost: \$30,000</b></p>	<p>Since October 1, 2021, 206 LaCAN members participated in 24 virtual/ in-person regional LaCAN member meetings to discuss various topics including outcomes of the 2022 Legislative Session, the legislative process, how to become an active member, ways of taking action (action alerts, yellow shirt days, testimony), how to connect with legislators.</p> <p><b>Previous Quarter(s):</b> Since October 1, 2021, 131 LaCAN members participated in 15 virtual/ in-person regional LaCAN member meetings to discuss various topics including outcomes of the 2022 Legislative Session, the legislative process, how to become an active member, ways of taking action (action alerts, yellow shirt days, testimony), how to connect with legislators.</p> <p>Nine Legislative Roundtables were held across the state from February to March 2022 with 377 participants.</p> <p>The LaCAN Leader Call on November 9, 2021 was dedicated to reviewing and enhancing Leader’s understanding of the Council’s 2022 advocacy agenda, reviewing fact sheets, expectations for legislative visits and discussing Roundtables.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>
<p><b>1.1.4</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, 2021, Centers have assisted over 19,686 individuals with disabilities and families with information, referral, peer to peer and other supports. There have been over 29,788 units of information and referral completed and 259 trainings conducted with over 4,088 individuals in attendance. Centers have also conducted 254 outreach activities to hospitals, pediatricians, school districts, Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) clinics and physical therapy clinics.</p> <p>Desk audits for State Fiscal Year 2021 were completed on the following Centers to review Center operations and the achievement of deliverables: Bayou Land FHF, FHF at the Crossroads, and Northshore FHF. All Centers will be audited for FY22.</p> <p>Additionally, the legislature allocated an additional \$500,000 in state general funds to the Council’s FY23 budget to ensure an increase in funding for the Families Helping Families Centers that contract with the Council.</p>

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	<p><b>Previous Quarter(s):</b>                  Since October 1, 2021, Centers have assisted over 9,500 individuals with disabilities and families with information, referral, peer to peer, and other supports. There have been over 17,200 units of information and referral completed with 165 trainings conducted with over 2401 individuals in attendance. Centers have also conducted 132 outreach activities to hospitals, pediatricians, school districts, Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) clinics and physical therapy clinics.</p> <p>The additional \$500,000 in state general fund allocated to the Centers in FY22 was not included in the proposed FY23 budget despite the Council's budget request. A <a href="#">fact sheet</a> was created and disseminated to LaCAN Leaders and FHF Directors to distribute to legislators during visits. Staff has been working with LDH on amendments to include the additional funds in budget amendments and <a href="#">Action Alerts</a> were sent to the LaCAN listserv requesting advocates reach out to their legislators regarding this issue.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>
<p><b>1.1.5</b> 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: accessible housing, COVID-19 issues, IEP guidance, successful educational outcomes and inclusive employment and other demonstrations of "It Can Be Done and You Can Do It" in all aspects of inclusive living, Partners in Policymaking®, assistive technology, inclusive after-school and recreational</p>	<p>O'Neill Communications has continued building an implementation plan for the video project and completed the first video of the contract, "Navigating an IEP," which has been published on the Council's YouTube Channel. Interviewing and production is underway for the second video, which covers Partners in Policymaking (PIP) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).</p> <p><b>Previous Quarter(s):</b>                  The Council has again contracted with O'Neill Communications to produce/ disseminate videos and other visual materials featuring information important to individuals with developmental disabilities/ their families on a number of various topics.</p> <p>O'Neill Communications has begun progress on outlining a storyboard and topics; building an intake form to request video participation from the Council; and building an implementation plan for the video topics.</p>

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<p>activities, ADA, DD Act, Civil Rights, IDEA and dispute resolutions, voting rights and accessible options, LRS services (especially transition) and how to access those services..</p> <p><b>Approx. FFY 2022 Cost: \$51,000</b></p>	<p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>
<p><b>1.1.6</b> Provide financial support for promotion, awareness, training and support in implementation of Supported Decision Making.</p> <p><b>Approx. FFY 2022 Cost: \$50,000</b></p>	<p>Since October 2021, five (5) trainings have occurred with 148 participants in attendance. Additionally, six (6) self-advocates are being mentored through the Supported Decision Making process since the start of the contract in October 2021.</p> <p><b>Previous Quarter(s):</b> The 1<sup>st</sup> statewide training was completed on March 8<sup>th</sup> with six (6) participants in attendance (19 participants registered). Additionally, six (6) self-advocates are being mentored through the entire Supported Decision Making process.</p> <p>The Council has again collaborated with The Arc of Louisiana to offer 5 statewide training events for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their family members and 5 training events for legal and medical professionals to increase their understanding of Supported Decision Making. The Arc of Louisiana will also be mentoring 2 adults through the SDM process.</p> <p>The training schedule and registration information can be found <a href="#">here</a>. The site will be updated as trainings are scheduled. Training schedules will be shared with all FHF Centers, People First of LA and Disability Rights LA.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>
<p><b>1.1.7</b> Produce and provide information important to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families through a variety of electronic and social media (Council</p>	<p>The Council's social media presence on Facebook and Twitter continues to grow each quarter. Data as of June 23, 2022:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council's <a href="#">listserv</a> has 5,557 active subscribers.</li> <li>• The Council's <a href="#">Facebook</a> has 5,876 page followers and 5,479 page likes.</li> <li>• The Council's <a href="#">Twitter</a> has 492 followers.</li> </ul> <p>The following 11 LaDDC Newsletters were released via listserv and advertised on the Council's Facebook and Twitter:</p>

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website, Facebook, and LaDDC News).

1. [Public Notice of LaDDC July 2022 Council Meeting](#), June 27, 2022
2. [Free Community Training Session on Emergency Situations and People with Disabilities](#), June 21, 2022
3. [Voting System Commission Public Meeting Notice](#), June 16, 2022
4. [Medicaid Pink Letter Campaign](#), June 15, 2022
5. [2022 Legislative Session: Celebrate the Successes](#), June 7, 2022
6. [Public Notice of Meeting](#), May 24, 2022
7. [Free Virtual Community Development & Safety Training](#), May 10, 2022
8. [Public Comment Sought on Council's FFY 2023 Action Plan](#), May 9, 2022
9. [SEAP Vacancies and SPED Parent Involvement Survey](#), May 3, 2022
10. [Recruiting Strong Advocates for DD Council](#), April 26, 2022
11. [Supported Decision-Making: Right to Make Choices Trainings and Webinars](#), April 25, 2022

### Previous Quarter(s):

Data as of March 23, 2022:

- The Council's [listserv](#) has 5,557 active subscribers.
- The Council's [Facebook](#) has 5,806 page followers and 5,437 page likes.
- The Council's [Twitter](#) has 482 followers.

The following 8 LaDDC Newsletters were released via listserv and advertised on the Council's Facebook and Twitter:

1. [Council's 2022 Legislative Agenda](#), January 24, 2022
2. [Council's Website Experiencing Technical Difficulties](#), February 11, 2022
3. [Free Virtual Community Development & Safety Training Event](#), February 11, 2022
4. [Council's Website Outage Resolved](#), February 14, 2022
5. [LDOE Seeking Input on IDEA Application Development](#), February 17, 2022
6. [Call for Speakers for Employment Webinar Series](#), February 28, 2022
7. [Discovering Abilities – Employment Webinar Series Kick-Off!](#), March 15, 2022
8. [Free Community Development & Safety Training Session in Shreveport/Bossier Area](#), March 16, 2022

On target:  Initiative

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<p><b>1.1.8</b> Advocate for increased meaningful opportunities for stakeholder input; improved practices to facilitate stakeholder input and consideration of stakeholder recommendations.</p>	<p>The following LaDDC Newsletters advertising meaningful opportunities for stakeholder input were released via listserv and advertised on the Council’s Facebook and Twitter:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <a href="#">Voting System Commission Public Meeting Notice</a>, June 16, 2022</li> <li>2. <a href="#">Public Comment Sought on Council’s FFY 2023 Action Plan</a>, May 9, 2022</li> <li>3. <a href="#">SEAP Vacancies and SPED Parent Involvement Survey</a>, May 3, 2022</li> <li>4. <a href="#">Recruiting Strong Advocates for DD Council</a>, April 26, 2022</li> </ol> <p>Additionally, the Council’s Executive Director sent a letter to the Attorney General’s office in April 2022 seeking an opinion to ensure the legality of virtual participation for members of the public in accordance with Open Meetings Law and the Americans with Disabilities Act. This would in turn allow for increased stakeholder input in all DD Council meetings.</p> <p><b>Previous Quarter(s):</b> Information was shared on the Council’s social media pages to increase meaningful opportunities for stakeholder input including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Positions are available on the State Interagency Coordinating Council for Early Steps (SICC) for parents of children with disabilities who are 12 years old or younger and for Early Steps providers.</li> <li>• The state is accepting public comments on an action plan to spend \$600 million in federal funding for recovery from Hurricanes Laura and Delta. This is a great opportunity for the disability community to share their input!</li> </ul> <p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p><b>Obj. 1.2</b> Louisiana’s self-advocacy network, partner groups, and citizens with developmental disabilities will be supported in self-advocacy training, systems change advocacy, and through participation on a variety of boards and commissions.</p>	
<p><b>1.2.1</b> Provide technical assistance and training opportunities designed to strengthen the self-advocacy network and the effectiveness of its systems change activities and</p>	<p>People First held a free webinar on April 28<sup>th</sup> entitled the “The Road to INCLUSION”. People First also registered 5 self-advocates and 1 professional for the 50<sup>th</sup> National Down Syndrome Congress being held in New Orleans in July of 2022.</p> <p>Additionally, People First (PF) had several self-advocates attend and participate in determining the accessibility of each voting system displayed in the voting machine demonstration sponsored by the Voting System Commission (VSC). The experience was used as an opportunity to learn the</p>



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<p>promote self-advocacy participation in training of other self-advocates in leadership positions.  <b>Approximate Cost for FY2022: \$25,000</b></p>	<p>fundamentals of developing and submitting public comment as well as the importance of public comment. (PF) also developed an instrument to be used in rating the accessibility of each machine/system. They identified issues specific to their own personal disability and determined if and how those issues could be accommodated by each particular system. PF also met with the Secretary of State’s office (SOS) and the VSC to discuss the importance of public comment to people with disabilities and themselves.</p> <p><b>Previous Quarter(s):</b>                  This quarter five (5) self-advocates attended the Disability Policy Seminar March 28<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup>. The Disability Policy seminar is a three-day annual federal legislative conference co-sponsored by The Arc, Autism Society, American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, Association of University Centers on Disabilities, National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities, United Cerebral Palsy, and Self Advocates Becoming Empowered (the partners).</p> <p>The Seminar strengthens our federal advocacy efforts by having people from across the country come to Washington, DC to receive training and updates and visit their Members of Congress. Sessions covered many different areas, such as education, housing, financial security challenges, voting and more.</p> <p>Self-advocate attended the Writing to Change the World 2-day training. The self-advocate representing the Louisiana self-advocacy network reported he was very satisfied with the training. He indicated he learned of the need to view situations and policies from different perspectives, to allow for the “filters” all individuals employ and to be persuasive embracing varying viewpoints. He anticipates information from the training will provide useful advocacy techniques.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>
<p><b>1.2.2</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>An <a href="#">LaDDC News</a> was shared on May 3<sup>rd</sup> with the Council’s listserv announcing SEAP vacancies. SEAP was looking to fill six vacancies on the advisory panel. Interviews were conducted in May 2022 with appointments beginning in June 2022. Information was also shared on the Council’s social media pages.</p> <p><b>Previous Quarter(s):</b>                  Information was shared on the Council’s social media pages with stakeholders for positions for cross-disability and culturally diverse leadership coalitions and advisory bodies including:</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Positions are available on the State Interagency Coordinating Council for Early Steps (SICC) for parents of children with disabilities who are 12 years old or younger and for Early Steps providers.</li> </ul> <p><b>On target:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p><b>1.2.3</b> Support Council members in participation in Council meetings and other functions.</p>	<p>Council members are supported in the participation of quarterly Council meetings, Ad-Hoc committee meetings and other functions and have been offered the provision of assistive technology to facilitate participation in virtual Council meetings.</p> <p><b>Previous Quarter(s):</b></p> <p>Governor Edwards ended the Public Health Emergency on March 16<sup>th</sup> and the suspension of the Council’s in-person activity ended as well. However, due to several barriers, an ADA accommodation will be offered to Council members who are self-advocates or parents/family members of an individual with a developmental disability to attend virtually for the April Council meetings.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p><b>1.2.4</b> Support Council members’ participation in training and educational opportunities and Council leadership’s participation in national training, networking events and advocacy opportunities.</p> <p><b>Approx. FFY 2022 Cost: \$7,000</b></p>	<p>No activity this quarter.</p> <p><b>Previous Quarter(s):</b></p> <p>Council Chair and council member attended the Disability Policy Seminar, March 28<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup>. The Disability Policy seminar is a three-day annual federal legislative conference co-sponsored by The Arc, Autism Society, American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, Association of University Centers on Disabilities, National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities, United Cerebral Palsy, and Self Advocates Becoming Empowered (the partners).</p> <p>The Seminar strengthens our federal advocacy efforts by having people from across the country come to Washington, DC to receive training and updates and visit their Members of Congress. Sessions covered many different areas, such as education, housing, financial security, voting and more.</p> <p>LaDDC Orientation for new members has been scheduled for January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>

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<p><b>Goal 2</b> To be fully participating members of the community, individuals with developmental disabilities, including those with the most challenging needs, and their families will have access to quality supports and services inclusive of affordable healthcare, resources across various service delivery systems, and shall be treated equally by all members of the community.</p>	
<p><b>Obj. 2.1</b> Individuals with developmental disabilities will have increased access to appropriate and affordable healthcare, including primary and specialist providers, preventive health services and prevention of chronic diseases, dental care, sexual/reproductive health services and behavioral health services.</p>	
<p><b>2.1.1</b> Provide information and financial support to coordinate rapid response during a natural disaster or state of emergency for individuals with the most severe disabilities and medical conditions and for Human Service Districts/Authorities and other service entities for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families to be aware of disaster/emergency response resource entities. <b>Approximate Cost for FY2022: \$10,000</b></p>	<p>Contractor continues working with other groups to advertise the availability of funds to assist individuals and families. In February, N95 masks were purchased and provided to an individual in rural Louisiana who has been negatively impacted by COVID19. In May, two families financially affected by COVID19 and Hurricane Ida received assistance with the purchase of assistive communication devices (iPad and vocabulary software). This contract will expire on June 30<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p>Individuals and families in need of assistance can contact Trach Mommas of Louisiana directly at 225-200-5178 or <a href="mailto:trachmommas@gmail.com">trachmommas@gmail.com</a>.</p> <p><b>Previous Quarter(s)</b> Contractor has been working with other groups to advertise the availability of funds to assist individuals and families. No funds distributed in first or second quarter. Contractor cites limitations and prohibitions in the contract as a barrier to use funds. There was a delay in contract approval for this fiscal year, but this did not impact the contractor or their ability to expend funds.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>
<p><b>2.1.2</b> Advocate for adequate funding for waiver services.</p>	<p>An <a href="#">LaDDC News</a> was shared on June 7<sup>th</sup> announcing the many gains as it relates to waiver services and home-and community-based services. All funding necessary to ensure comprehensive dental coverage for adults on I/DD waivers and residing in ICF/DDs was included in the FY23 budget. Funding to annualize the waiver rate increases last year was also included in the budget in addition to funding for transportation services in adult I/DD waivers. Adult and aging waivers also saw increased funding which will provide 250 additional Community Choices waiver slots and increased services rates. Legislation that would have created a Community Options Waiver fund for aging and adult waiver services did not pass.</p>

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	<p><b>Previous Quarter(s)</b>                  A <a href="#">fact sheet</a> about the need for funding to ensure implementation of comprehensive dental coverage for all adults participating in a Medicaid waiver for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities was developed and posted on the Council's website. Information was shared at legislative roundtables across the state. Shared the Council's opposition at the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs Legislative Committee to proposed advocacy, which would allow for the Community and Family Support System Fund to be used to provide services within Intermediate Care Facilities for individuals with disabilities.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p><b>2.1.3</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>In addition to additional funding to support waiver services mentioned above, the FY23 budget also included funding to increase Support Coordination and Early Steps rates. Legislation that would allow the Community and Family Support System fund to be used for all state I/DD services, including ICF/DD services, was passed. Additional issues that were followed by the Council pertaining to home-and community-based services can be found on the Council's website.</p> <p>An <a href="#">LaDDC News</a> was shared on June 15<sup>th</sup> announcing LDH's Pink Letter Campaign which is the department's efforts to ensure all Medicaid recipients' contact information was up-to-date.</p> <p><b>Previous Quarter(s):</b>                  LaDDC staff met with LDH/OCDD Leadership on December 15th regarding a potential funding formula for LGE's. Solicited feedback on appropriate factors for a funding formula through a survey for all Council members. Shared an <a href="#">LaDDC News</a> on 12/15/21 announcing the availability of Act 421 Children's Medicaid Option starting January 1, 2022. Act 421 Children's Medicaid Option (TEFRA) went live on January 1<sup>st</sup>. LDH has developed a <a href="#">website</a> for stakeholders to view more information about this program including steps to apply.</p> <p>LaDDC staff met with LDH/OCDD Leadership and stakeholders on January 26th, February 11th and 21st to discuss and develop a visual workflow document outlining the TEFRA application process to ensure that parents understand how the process works and get feedback from partners and family advocates. The visual for Act 421Children's Medicaid Option TEFRA Application process can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>

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<p><b>2.1.4</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>Previous Quarter(s):</b> LaDDC staff met with OCDD Leadership and was informed that this pilot was started a few years ago and was intended to transition people out of Intermediate Care Facilities (ICFs) into shared living. OCDD was not able to locate 50 people to complete the pilot and instead ended up with about half the number of originally projected participants. Those individuals did transition to shared-living from ICFs and OCDD was able to show that this transition was budget neutral.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Initiative</b></p>
<p><b>2.1.5</b> Advocate for waivers to provide access to services listed in the <a href="#">Freedom of Choice Provider Listing</a>, continue exemptions and flexibilities initiated with COVID-19; and consider individualized emergency preparedness considerations for people with severe disabilities and medical issues.</p>	<p>During the Self-Determination and Community Inclusion Meeting in April 2022, information was shared there has been continuous work around COVID-19 flexibilities becoming permanent in waivers including updating waiver manuals and training for workers and participants. It was noted the amendments for the Residential Options and Supports Waivers had not yet been approved.</p> <p><b>Previous Quarter(s):</b> LaDDC staff met with OCDD Leadership in February 2022 and discussed the progress and pending approval of the waiver amendment and rule changes as it relates to the Appendix K exceptions to remain in place past the public health emergency. OCDD stated that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) required additional information. Therefore, the amendments and rule changes regarding the continuation of some COVID-19 waiver exceptions are still pending CMS approval.</p> <p>The Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities hosted a series of individual forums to develop new waiver amendments and rules for the four OCDD Medicaid waivers as it relates to the Appendix K exceptions. A video of the presentation can be found on the department's <a href="#">YouTube Channel</a>. You can also access the presentation slideshow <a href="#">here</a>. Amendments to the waivers were submitted for public comment in December.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Initiative</b></p>
<p><b>2.1.6</b> Advocate for and collaborate with Louisiana Department of Health on the creation of lists of providers by region to be posted on the Council and LDH's websites.</p>	<p>No activity this quarter.</p> <p><b>Previous Quarter(s):</b> LaDDC staff met with OCDD Leadership in February 2022 to discuss lists of providers that include home and community-based providers, primary care and specialist care providers, preventive health services, prevention of chronic disease services, dental, behavioral health and sexual/reproductive</p>

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<p>This list should include home and community-based providers, primary care and specialist care providers, preventive health services, prevention of chronic disease services, dental, behavioral health and sexual/reproductive health services.</p>	<p>health services. Staff and OCDD discussed where provider list can be found on other sites including the Medicaid site and private insurance websites.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p><b>Obj. 2.2</b> Individuals with developmental disabilities and their families will have access to and be served by qualified trained professionals, including Direct Support Professionals, First Responders, and other professionals, who will value and promote inclusive community living.</p>	
<p><b>2.2.1</b> Provide financial support to conduct training sessions 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 2022 Cost: \$50,000</b></p>	<p>IAG conducted an in-person training event for first responders on March 22<sup>nd</sup> in Bossier City with nine attendees. This was an in-kind training. A virtual training in April had nine first responders present. Six first responders attended the May session. Attendance for the June session was not available at the time this update was created. IAG is starting to plan for more in-person trainings and will host its next in-person training for first responders July 13<sup>th</sup> at the St. John the Baptist Parish Sheriff's Office.</p> <p>An in-person community-training event was held in March with 29 attendees. Another community training held in May had six attendees. This training was announced via <a href="#">LaDDC News</a> on May 10<sup>th</sup>. An in-person community training is scheduled for July 13<sup>th</sup> in St. John the Baptist Parish. This training was also announced via <a href="#">LaDDC News</a> on June 21<sup>st</sup>.</p> <p><b>Previous Quarter(s)</b> Council contracted again with Interaction Advisory Group (IAG) to conduct virtual training sessions for first responders. Due to holidays, trainings were delayed. Per IAG, historically the winter/holiday months are slow with little to no turnout. IAG will make up these trainings in future months. Shared <a href="#">LaDDC News</a> on December 6<sup>th</sup> advertising initiative and community training event on December 16<sup>th</sup>. Shared LaDDC News on <a href="#">February 11<sup>th</sup></a> and <a href="#">March 16<sup>th</sup></a> advertising initiative and upcoming community training events. The February 24<sup>th</sup> event had 10 attendees.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>

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<p><b>2.2.2</b> Provide financial support to establish a training program on emergency preparedness and response relative to people with developmental disabilities <b>Approx. FFY 2022 Cost: \$20,000</b></p>	<p>Niagara University has continued to reach out to and communicate with entities responsible for emergency preparedness throughout the state to discuss the Emergency Management Disability Awareness Training. The first training was held on June 7 - 8 in the New Orleans area. Registration was at capacity with 35. 21 participated in the training with 14 not in attendance. Per the contractor, the information was well received and emergency personnel from the New Orleans area were very involved and appreciative of the training.</p> <p>Contractor still reports issues getting some key players involved especially The LA Emergency Managers Association, FEMA Region 6 Disability Integration Advisor, the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness and LA State ADA Coordinator.</p> <p>The next training is tentatively scheduled for September 13 - 14<sup>th</sup> in Alexandria / Pineville area. More details will be released and the <a href="#">Council's website</a> will be updated once the plans have been finalized.</p> <p><b>Previous Quarter(s)</b> Shared <a href="#">LaDDC News</a> on November 3<sup>rd</sup> advertising initiative and upcoming trainings. During the first quarter, three trainings were conducted (morning and afternoon session for each date): November 18<sup>th</sup> with 140 attendees, November 23<sup>rd</sup> with 137 attendees and December 1<sup>st</sup> with 140 attendees. Shared a <a href="#">LaDDC News</a> on March 25<sup>th</sup> with details about the June training and registration information. More information about the EMDAT training and presenter 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>2.2.3</b> Publicize healthcare provider continuing education opportunities.</p>	<p>No activity this quarter.</p> <p><b>Previous Quarter(s):</b> Healthcare continuing education opportunities were publicized and promoted via the Council's social media pages on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. Those interested in participating in the educational trainings can access the webinars via the <a href="#">LSU Human Development Center's website</a>. The Human Development Center at LSU Health New Orleans is offering 7 webinars to provide training on disability competency issues that are available online 24/7 for free! The goal is to improve access and quality of health care for people with disabilities</p> <p>Those interested in participating in the educational trainings can access the webinars via the <a href="#">LSU Human Development Center's website</a>.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>

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<p><b>2.2.4</b> Advocate for increased meaningful opportunities for stakeholder input; improved practices to facilitate stakeholder input and consideration of stakeholder recommendations.</p>	<p>During the Self-Determination and Community Inclusion meeting in April 2022, Julie Foster-Hagan on behalf of OCDD solicited feedback from the committee members and the public pertaining to the department's OCDD's major initiatives for Fiscal Year 2023. Initiatives the department planned to focus on include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuing work around COVID-19 flexibilities being permanent in waivers including updating waiver manuals and training for workers and participants</li> <li>• Working on electronic plan of care and the tiered waiver assessment tool to prep for eventual migration to a consolidated waiver</li> <li>• Researching what other states are doing and technology used for remote supports</li> <li>• Value based payments to help incentivize person centered planning and thinking which will require waiver amendments</li> <li>• Shared living model which is where multiple waiver participants may be able to share support staff because they may not need one on one assistance.</li> <li>• Continued prep for the Home and Community Based Settings rule which must be implemented by April 2023</li> <li>• Training for dental practitioners on the needs of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.</li> <li>• Training for direct support workers</li> </ul> <p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p><b>Obj. 2.3.</b> Individuals with developmental disabilities and their families will have increased access to safe, affordable, and accessible housing allowing for inclusive community living. (Targeted Disparity – Disadvantaged population).</p>	
<p><b>2.3.1</b> Conduct research and collaborate with appropriate entities to address accessibility and discrimination in housing for people with disabilities.</p>	<p>No activity this quarter.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p><b>Goal 3</b> Individuals with developmental disabilities will have access to quality education in inclusive and safe environments throughout all stages of life and access to self-determined, individualized, equal and gainful employment opportunities that provide competitive wages and integrated work environments.</p>	
<p><b>Obj. 3.1</b> Parents of students with developmental disabilities will have increased access to early diagnosis, identification of needs, early intervention services, childcare and information and opportunities to collaborate with educators regarding individualized educational planning or programming to meet the needs of their students.</p>	



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<p><b>3.1.1</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Approx. FFY 2022 Cost:</b> <b>\$40,000</b></p>	<p>Dr. Beckers disseminated information to LaPIE members and community stakeholders regarding supporting and advocating for <a href="#">SB192</a>. Multiple members of LaPIE testified on behalf of SB192 during this timeframe. Presentations regarding Post-Secondary Education were made to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Inclusive Postsecondary Options 2022 FHFSWLA Virtual Family Empowerment Conference</li><li>• Livingston Parish School Board – virtual presentation</li><li>• East Baton Rouge Parish SEAP</li><li>• SEPSEA Conference</li></ul> <p>Ongoing Technical Assistance was given to LSU-A SPERO (Special Program for the Enhancement of Resources and Opportunities) – Ms. Brittany Soden was hired as Director of the program. SPERO has selected their first cohort of students and will begin in Fall 2022.</p> <p>Ongoing Technical Assistance was also provided to the Calcasieu Parish School Board – Dr. Betty Washington is collaborating with McNeese State University and SOWELA Technical Community College. This initiative (Phase I) will begin on both campuses in Fall of 2022, focusing on 18-21 year old students using IDEA funding. Phase II will be to develop Post-Secondary Education programs on each campus.</p> <p><b>Previous Quarter(s):</b> The Louisiana Alliance on Post-Secondary Inclusive Education (LAPIE), Council members and LaDDC staff are working with Senator Boudreaux to get legislation passed to provide \$1 million to support the creation and growth of Post-Secondary Inclusive Education programs.</p> <p>Information was also shared about the need for funding to ensure the continuation and expansion of current programs and creation of new programs at other Louisiana colleges and universities for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities at the Council and LaCAN’s roundtable events throughout the state.</p> <p>A <a href="#">fact sheet</a> about the need for funding to expand and increase postsecondary inclusive education programs for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Louisiana was developed and posted on the Council’s website. This fact sheet was distributed to LaCAN leaders to be used in legislative visits and member meetings prior to the 2022 legislative session.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>
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<p><b>3.1.2</b> Advocate for increased focus and capacity within Louisiana Department of Education to address Special Education, including specific areas/issues (i.e., disability/topical/etc.)</p>	<p>No activity this quarter.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Initiative</b></p>
<p><b>3.1.3</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>3.1.4</b> Provide information and promote inclusion and acceptance of effective models of school climate and culture.</p>	<p>No activity this quarter.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Initiative</b></p>
<p><b>3.1.5</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), specifically regarding the charter compacts.</p>	<p>No activity this quarter.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Initiative</b></p>

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<p><b>3.1.6</b> Advocate for educational systems change based on emergent education issues.</p>	<p>An <a href="#">LaDDC News</a> was shared on June 7<sup>th</sup> announcing the many gains as it relates to Cameras in Special Education Classrooms. Approximately \$8 million has been included in the FY23 budget to fund cameras in SPED classrooms. In addition, Act 456 of 2021 will be amended to state:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policies must be adopted by December 31, 2022, or within 60 days of receipt of funding, whichever comes first</li> <li>• Copies of the adopted policy are to be submitted to the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) by January 15, 2023 and within 10 days of any policy revisions</li> <li>• Policies must include provisions on how a parent or legal guardian may request cameras</li> </ul> <p>Seven pieces of legislation were filed addressing Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) and school choice. The Council, LaCAN and many other advocates, groups and organizations shared their concerns for ESAs with the legislature and the potential impacts ESAs may have on the public school system and its ability to serve children with disabilities. Two of the bills (<a href="#">HB194</a> and <a href="#">SB203</a>) made it through session, but were both vetoed by the Governor.</p> <p><b>Previous Quarter(s):</b> On March 23<sup>rd</sup>, LaCAN held its first Yellow Shirt Day since the pandemic started in 2020 to advocate for a deadline for the creation of policies for cameras in special education classrooms. While providing testimony before the Senate Education committee, LaCAN members were also asked about the funding cost because the committee was adamant that the funding needed to be included. LaCAN will now be advocating for the funding (approximately \$8 million) for cameras in special education classrooms.</p> <p>A <a href="#">fact sheet</a> about the need to address oversight and accountability regarding cameras in special education classrooms was developed and posted on the Council’s website. Information was also shared at legislative roundtables across the state.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p><b>3.1.7</b> Advocate for increased meaningful opportunities for stakeholder input; improved practices to facilitate stakeholder input and consideration of stakeholder recommendations.</p>	<p>An <a href="#">LaDDC News</a> was shared on May 3<sup>rd</sup> with the Council’s listserv announcing SEAP vacancies. SEAP was looking to fill six vacancies on the advisory panel. Interviews were conducted in May 2022 with appointments beginning in June 2022. Information was also shared on the Council’s social media pages.</p> <p><b>Previous Quarter(s):</b> Information was shared on the Council’s social media pages for meaningful opportunities for stakeholder input including:</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Positions are available on the State Interagency Coordinating Council for Early Steps (SICC) for parents of children with disabilities who are 12 years old or younger and for Early Step providers.</li> <li>• The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires each state to have in place a State Performance Plan (SPP) that describes the state's IDEA implementation and includes targets that measure a mix of student outcomes and compliance with the IDEA requirements. States are now setting new annual targets for federal fiscal years 2020-2025 and they want your input! The target setting survey below is an opportunity for families, educators and school administrators, parent centers, members of the Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP), local and statewide advisory and advocacy groups to provide input on activities to improve outcomes for students with disabilities</li> <li>• The Louisiana Department of Education is seeking feedback from Special Education stakeholder communities to share what activities the public views as important as they develop the comprehensive IDEA grant application for Federal Fiscal Year 2022. An <a href="#">LaDDC News</a> was also shared on February 17<sup>th</sup> to request stakeholder input.</li> </ul> <p><b>On target:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p><b>3.1.8</b> Conduct outreach with appropriate entities on current services and training opportunities for traditional and special education teachers including ongoing support (i.e., high quality ongoing teacher education) which may lead to capacity building efforts to increase high quality educators.</p>	<p>No activity this quarter.</p> <p><b>Previous Quarter(s):</b> Information was sent to Meredith Jordan (Executive Director for Diverse Learners with the Louisiana Department of Education or LDOE) regarding the National Down Syndrome Congress' Educator's Conference this summer in New Orleans for possible distribution to educators.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p><b>Obj. 3.2</b> Individuals with developmental disabilities will have increased employment outcomes upon transitioning from secondary educational settings, access to employment opportunities inclusive of services from highly qualified employment support providers and increased competitive and integrated opportunities from employers who are educated on how to support people with developmental disabilities.</p>	

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<p><b>3.2.1</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 2022 Cost: \$25,000</b></p>	<p>Six (6) half-day Gateway Trainings on Discovery which is the first of the 3 competency areas, and the first step towards complete certification. There are several dates scheduled in July including July 19<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> and July 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. The response has been great and registration is now closed due to being over the limit. The Arc and Marc Gold &amp; Associates will be reaching out, especially, to those who have attended one of the other gateway trainings to maximize the number of people eligible for ACRE (Certificate of Achievement in Employment Services) certification.</p> <p>There are three participants who are close to certification, two of them for Job Development and the other in Discovery, all should be certified by the end of June.</p> <p><b>Previous Quarter(s):</b> All customized employment classes are currently on hold at this time. LRS is currently working on securing 4 new learning partners for participants in the certification classes.</p> <p>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>Two (2) certification classes are currently in process. The Job Development Certification Class is having to pause due to attendees being unable to take time from work to attend training. The Discovery Certification Class has been unable to attain learning partners from LRS to complete the process with the certification class members. This is continuing to cause a delay in completion.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>
<p><b>3.2.2</b> Provide financial support to conduct seminars with Chambers of Commerce throughout the state on the benefits of hiring people with developmental disabilities.</p> <p><b>Approx. FFY 2022 Cost: \$32,000</b></p>	<p>The last five webinars of the DIScovering ABILITIES series took place this quarter. All webinars were advertised on the Council’s social media. The webinars that took place this quarter include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• April 12 &amp; 14: Developing the Inclusive Workplace – <i>Company Culture   Hiring Practices Training Employees From Top Down</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Organizations with a diverse staff and an inclusive workplace culture are more successful and better equipped for hiring people with disabilities. DEI expert Germaine Townsend will discuss how to move beyond just checking boxes, and help us begin to create a work culture where everyone wins.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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- April 26 & 28: Building a Good Recruitment Plan – *Building Partnerships | SWOT Recruiting | Messaging, etc.*
  - Don't miss this opportunity to have a recruiter share ways to partner with the community to build a bridge between the people who are ready to work, and those who are looking to hire. Dajon Jones, through his story, will share the importance of messaging, and how his work has impacted his community.
- May 17 & 19: How Can We Say Yes – Accommodations for Successful Employment – *Assistive Technology | LRS | On the Job Training, etc.*
  - The tools needed to ensure a successful transition to work for people with disabilities are many. You will leave with a toolkit of resources to help you in your journey to successful employment.
- June 7 & 9: Making It Stick – Benefits & Retention Plan – *LRS | Tax Incentives | Benefits Planning, ABLE accounts | Financial benefits, etc.*
  - How do you retain employees once you hire them? This session will be led by subject matter experts sharing the resources available to help guide you through the process, and how to avoid the barriers along the way.
- June 21 – Where Do We Go From Here? – *Reflection | Action Steps | Resources | Networking Event*
  - Join Allan Bergman, CEO of HIGH IMPACT Mission-based Consulting & Training, a nationally recognized change agent and thought leader in cross-disability policy and “best practices” in a discussion on Where Do We Go From Here? We'll be reflecting on what we learned during the series, participating in some networking opportunities, and creating action steps to move us forward on the journey of building a diverse workforce.

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

The Council has contracted again with O'Neill Communications to conduct employment seminars.

In January, O'Neill Communications completed a review of archived footage from [FFY 2021 Working Together campaign](#) and developed a plan to improve on the curriculum and production for FFY 2022, specifically taking a deeper dive into topics and implementing a “story-telling” format. O'Neill Communications met with Council staff to review the contract's Statement of Work outlining deliverables and confirmed the pool of speakers to include employers, employees with disabilities and their family, and all agencies providing support in the hiring and recruiting process.

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	<p>Later in January 2022, O’Neill Communications sent a <a href="#">survey</a> to Louisiana employers to gauge topic interests and engage them for the upcoming series. O’Neill Communications began outreach to secure presenters and confirmed Jeff Arseneaux as the Host of the Series. A branded slide deck was also developed for the FFY 2022 Working Together Campaign: DIScovering ABILITIES Employment Webinar Series – Stories of Lived Experience from the Workplace. These slides are used to complement the webinars and visually reinforce the messages, as well as in advertising of the series.</p> <p>In February 2022, an <a href="#">LaDDC News</a> was sent out calling for speakers for the series and the Council’s Deputy Director emailed Council Member advocates inviting them to participate as speakers. O’Neill Communications developed a comprehensive communications marketing plan and calendar. A press release was sent out to local press and the series was also advertised</p> <p>In March 2022, the Council’s Program Monitor emailed all Council Members individually inviting them to participate as speakers. An <a href="#">LaDDC News</a> was sent out advertising the DIScovering ABILITIES Employment Webinar Series Kick-Off, outlining what the series aims to do, its schedule, and registration information. The series was also advertised on the Council’s social media.</p> <p>On March 22, 2022 the first webinar of the DIScovering ABILITIES series, Stories of Lived Experience from the Workplace, took place. The first webinar kicked off the series with voices from the workplace in a story-telling format. The webinar aimed to bust myths about what work looks like for people with disabilities and shared what the series will offer as it moves forward. There were 93 registrants and 48 attendees.</p> <p>More information about the DIScovering ABILITIES series, descriptions of each webinar, the full schedule, and registration can be found on the <a href="#">Council’s homepage banner</a> and on <a href="#">EventBrite</a>.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>
<p><b>3.2.3</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>

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<p><b>3.2.4</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 type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p><b>3.2.5</b> Share the benefits planning services to a variety of agencies and stakeholders.</p>	<p>No activity this quarter.</p> <p><b>Previous Quarter(s):</b> Information was shared on the Council’s social media pages for benefits planning services including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disability Rights Louisiana Lunch and Learn Series: The Financial Access and Inclusion Resources Program (FAIR)</li> </ul> <p>Information on this topic can be found on the Council’s website under <a href="#">Employment Initiatives</a>.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p><b>3.2.6</b> Advocate for systems change based on emergent employment issues.</p>	<p>No activity this quarter.</p> <p><b>Previous Quarter(s):</b> In February 2022, information was shared with Council members about the Learn with LIFE: Community Conversations webinars that occurred on February 18<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p>Learn with LIFE: Community Conversations is an educational series put on by the UL LIFE Program. Their goal is to build relationships with community businesses, organizations, and stakeholders that could lead to employment and community participation for their students during their time in college and after graduation.</p> <p>At this webinar, UL LIFE staff discussed customizing employment for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, which will include a focus on job carving, job creation, and job sharing for</p>



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	<p>our community. Their session will include break-out room discussions with the LIFE staff to help answer any questions, to discuss ideas, and to deepen our understanding on this topic.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p><b>3.2.7</b> Advocate for information on post-secondary opportunities and access to LRS pre-employment transition services within school districts for all students with disabilities.</p>	<p><a href="#">SB192</a> passed during the 2022 legislative session and will be sent to the Governor. This legislation creates the Postsecondary Inclusive Education Fund to fund programs for students with I/DD at Louisiana postsecondary institutions. SB192 also creates the Postsecondary Inclusive Education Advisory Council to advise the Board of Regents with respect to funding and expanding these programs, provide technical assistance to institutions starting or expanding programs and develop operational guidelines and processes for the programs. Approximately \$1 million has been included in the FY23 budget for this fund.</p> <p><b>Previous Quarter(s):</b> The Louisiana Alliance on Post-Secondary Inclusive Education (LAPIE), Council members and LaDDC staff are working with Senator Boudreaux to get legislation passed to provide \$1 million to support the creation and growth of Post-Secondary Inclusive Education programs.</p> <p>Information was shared about the need for funding to ensure the continuation and expansion of current programs and creation of new programs at other Louisiana colleges and universities for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities at the Council and LaCAN's roundtable events throughout the state.</p> <p>The Louisiana Alliance for Post-secondary Inclusive Education is currently working on legislation to provide \$3 million to support the creation and growth of Post-Secondary Inclusive Education programs. This is on LaDDC's 2022 legislative advocacy agenda.</p> <p>A <a href="#">fact sheet</a> about the need for funding to expand and increase postsecondary inclusive education programs for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Louisiana was developed and posted on the Council's website. This fact sheet was distributed to LaCAN leaders to be used in legislative visits and member meetings prior to the 2022 legislative session.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>

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<p><b>3.2.8</b> Advocate for increased Louisiana Rehabilitation Services counselor positions, including administrative, legislative, and funding efforts.</p>	<p>No activity this quarter.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Initiative</b></p>
<p><b>3.2.9</b> Conduct research to examine the effectiveness and advocate to support efforts of the Louisiana Medicaid “buy-in” program.</p>	<p>LaDDC staff continued research on Medicaid’s buy-in program during the third quarter including determining the eligibility criteria for the program, monthly income limits in order to qualify and the entire eligibility determination process.</p> <p><b>Previous Quarter(s):</b> LaDDC staff conducted reached on Medicaid’s buy-in program on March 8<sup>th</sup>. Staff will contact Medicaid to obtain more information about how individuals interested in participating in the buy-in program can qualify and apply.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Initiative</b></p>