

La DD Council - Status Report of FFY 2023 Action Plan

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- '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 (July 1, 2023 – September 30, 2023).
Goal 1 Individuals with intellectual and 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 intellectual and developmental disabilities.	
Obj. 1.1 Individuals with intellectual and 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>1.1.1 Provide financial support and technical assistance for Partners in Policymaking and its alumni network.</p> <p>Approx. FFY 2023 Cost: \$90,000</p>	<p>LaDDC Newsletters promoting recruitment for the 2024 Partners in Policymaking (PiP) class were issued on August 17, 2023, and September 5, 2023, as well as corresponding social media posts on Facebook and Twitter. Thirty-eight (38) applications were received by the deadline of September 30, 2023 for the 2024 PiP class. The 2024 PiP Selection Committee is scheduled to convene on October 10, 2023.</p> <p><u>Partners Active in Systems Change</u> Ten (10) participants have been active in advocacy and self-advocacy training events provided by LaCAN (Legislative Roundtables, Yellow Shirt Days, Legislative Visions, Action Alerts).</p> <p><u>Partners' Graduates Active in Systems Change</u> Two (2) serve as FHF Executive Directors Four (4) serve as LaCAN Leaders Twenty-three responded to Action Alerts Twelve participated in Yellow Shirt Days</p> <p><u>Graduates also serve on state and regional bodies such as:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council (5) • Louisiana ABLE Account Advisory Board (3) • Disability Rights Louisiana Board of Directors (2) • Governor's Advisory Council on Disability Affairs (2)

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statewide Independent Living Council (3) • Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) State Advisory Council (6) • People First of LA Boards (2) • Special Education Advisory Panel (4) • Advisory Council on Student Behavior and Discipline (2) • Regional Human Services Districts/Authorities Boards (2) • Families Helping Families Boards (6) <p>Previous Quarter(s): Of the 20 applicants who were accepted into the 2023 PIP class, 13 attended the January session, 12 completed the program and were eligible to graduate in June 2023. All sessions were held in person at the Baton Rouge Marriott.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>
<p>1.1.2 Provide financial support and information, training, technical assistance, and leadership to a grassroots network of individuals with intellectual 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 intellectual developmental disabilities. Approx. FFY 2023 Cost: \$215,000</p>	<p>As of September 2023, LaCAN has over 6,730 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, 2022, there have been a total of sixteen (16) LaCAN action alerts and nine (9) yellow shirt days.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16 Action Alerts – 2266 actions taken • 9 Yellow Shirt Days – 134 attended; 24 testimonies provided <p>LaCAN Leaders supported members in 84 formal legislative visits of which 49 were with key committee members to discuss this year’s advocacy agenda.</p> <p>LaCAN continues to host two LaCAN Leader conference calls per month, which include updates on current concerns/issues and the development of strategies to better educate, maintain, support, and lead LaCAN members.</p> <p><u>Update on Leader Positions</u> All LaCAN leader positions are currently filled.</p>

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	<p>LaCAN continues to host two LaCAN Leader conference calls per month, which include updates on current concerns/issues and the development of strategies to better educate, maintain, support, and lead LaCAN members.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>
<p>1.1.3 Facilitate and support diverse advocacy events, including but not limited to Legislative Roundtables, toward training, services and policies that will benefit individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.</p> <p>Approx. FFY 2023 Cost: \$30,000</p>	<p>LaCAN Summer Leader Training was held on August 24, 2023. LaCAN Leaders discussed ideas and strategies to recruit, retain, engage, and teach new members. The Leaders also discussed things that can be done during the Legislative Off-Season.</p> <p>Since July 1, 2023, there has been a total of 20 community input/ member meetings conducted by LaCAN leaders/ FHF Directors with a total of 216 individuals in attendance to discuss concerns and ideas for the 2024 Legislative Advocacy agenda.</p> <p>LaCAN leaders and FHF Directors participated in the 2024 Legislative Kickoff on September 21, 2023. Advocacy leaders discussed, prioritized, and rated the 83 concerns/issues to generate the top items for their official recommendations toward the Council’s 2024 legislative advocacy agenda.</p> <p>Previous Quarter(s): Since October 1, 2022, 238 LaCAN members participated in 28 virtual/ in-person regional LaCAN member meetings to discuss various topics including the agenda and outcomes of the 2023 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. Nine Legislative Roundtables were held across the state with 346 participants in attendance. LaCAN Leaders, FHF Directors, the Partners in Policymaking Coordinator, and Council staff also participated in the LaCAN Legislative Debriefing, held on June 29, to discuss ideas and strategies for improving advocacy activities and their effectiveness. LaCAN Summer Leader Training was held in August 2023. LaCAN Leaders hosted their annual community input member meetings to collect ideas for the Council’s 2024 Legislative advocacy agenda. The dates and times were shared on the Council’s website.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>
<p>1.1.4 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, 2022, Centers have assisted 19,768 individuals with disabilities and families with information, referral, peer-to-peer and other supports. There have been over 42,535 units of information and referral completed with 371 trainings conducted with 8,093 individuals in attendance. Centers have also conducted 403 outreach activities to hospitals, pediatricians, school districts, Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) clinics, and physical therapy clinics.</p> <p>Previous Quarter(s):</p>

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	<p>Since October 1, 2022, Centers have assisted 18,072 individuals with disabilities and families with information, referrals, peer-to-peer, and other supports. There have been over 28,684 units of information and referrals completed and 360 trainings conducted with 7,237 individuals in attendance. Centers have also conducted 334 outreach activities to hospitals, pediatricians, school districts, Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) clinics, and physical therapy clinics. In October, the Council added to its 2023 Legislative Advocacy Agenda funding for the Families Helping Families Centers currently contracting with the Council. For the past two years, an additional \$500,000 in state general fund has been added to the Council’s budget for FHF Centers. A fact sheet was created and disseminated to LaCAN Leaders and FHF Directors to distribute to legislators during visits. The legislature allocated an additional \$500,000 in state general funds to the Council’s FY24 budget ensuring an increase in funding for the Families Helping Families Centers that contract with the Council.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>
<p>1.1.5 Produce and disseminate videos and other visual materials featuring information important to individuals with intellectual and 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 activities, ADA, DD Act, Civil Rights, IDEA and dispute resolutions, voting rights and</p>	<p>23 East (formerly O’Neill Communications) has completed 6 new videos to add to the “Fully Included” video series which can be found on the Council’s YouTube as well as on the LaDDC Website.: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Supported Decision Making 2. EarlySteps 3. IEP 4. TEFRA 5. Waiver services 6. LRS <p>Previous Quarter(s): The Council has again contracted with 23 East Group (formerly O’Neill Communications) to produce/ disseminate videos and other visual materials featuring information important to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families on several various topics for FY23. Council staff met with O’Neill on November 7, 2022, and in February 2023 to discuss new ideas for video and other visual material topics. They have begun the filming, editing, and developing graphics for the learning series which will be focused on “How To” videos on various topics. They are working with The Arc of La, the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD), the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE), and Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS) to complete the videos.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p> </p>

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<p>accessible options, LRS services (especially transition) and how to access those services. Approx. FFY 2023 Cost: \$36,000</p>	
<p>1.1.6 Provide financial support for promotion, awareness, training and support in implementation of Supported Decision Making. Approx. FFY 2023 Cost: \$50,000</p>	<p>The Council has collaborated with The Arc of Louisiana 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>As of September 2023, nine (9) trainings have occurred with more than 150 participants in attendance. Additionally, eight (8) self-advocates are being mentored through the entire Supported Decision Making process. Seven (7) self-advocates have completed the Supported Decision Making process but, are still being monitored.</p> <p>Training events were held in person or through online webinars (depending on the decision of the People First Chapter).</p> <p>Previous Quarter(s): As of December 21, 2022, new training materials have been developed; a meeting was held with People First to review new training documents; and training has been scheduled for February 9th at 10:00 AM at the Southwest Louisiana Independence Center. As of March 2023, three (3) trainings have occurred with 31 participants in attendance. Training events were held in person or through online webinars (depending on the decision of the People First Chapter). As of June 2023, six (6) trainings have occurred with 141 participants in attendance. Additionally, eight (8) self-advocates are being mentored through the entire Supported Decision Making process. Four (4) self-advocates have completed the Supported Decision Making process but, are still being monitored.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>
<p>1.1.7 Produce and provide information important to individuals with intellectual 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 October 2, 2023:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council's listserv has 6,730 active subscribers. • The Council's Facebook has 6,119 page likes. • The Council's Twitter has 532 followers.

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website, Facebook, and LaDDC News).

The following 18 LaDDC Newsletters were released via listserv and advertised on the Council's Facebook and Twitter:

- [Recruiting Strong Advocates for Council Membership](#), July 7, 2023
- [Your Next Best Hire's Employment Webinar Series](#), July 13, 2023
- [Emergency Preparedness and Disability Awareness Training in Houma/Thibodaux Area](#), July 17, 2023
- [Free, Virtual GODA Conference Next Week](#), July 21, 2023
- [Core Advisory Groups – Promoting Inclusive Emergency Management Webinar](#), July 24, 2023
- [Emergency Preparedness and Disabilities Awareness Training in Lake Charles Area](#), August 1, 2023
- [Navigators for a Healthy Louisiana Medicaid Unwind Webinar](#), August 4, 2023
- [Opportunities to Share Feedback on Louisiana's Supports and Services System](#), August 14, 2023
- [Partners in Policymaking – Announcing 2023 Graduates and Recruitment for 2024 Class](#), August 17, 2023
- [Public Notice of Executive Committee Meeting](#), August 23, 2023
- [Recruiting Strong Advocates for Council Membership](#), August 31, 2023
- [Council Wishes the Best to Executive Director Amy Deaville](#), September 1, 2023
- [Partners in Policymaking Recruiting 2024 Applicants](#), September 5, 2023
- [Upcoming Emergency Preparedness Trainings](#), September 11, 2023
- [Council Continues Video Series: Fully Included "How-To Guides"](#), September 15, 2023
- [Autism & Developmental Disability Caregiver Masterclass](#), September 19, 2023
- [Public Notice of Membership Committee Meeting](#), September 26, 2023
- [Public Notice of LaDDC October Council Meeting](#), September 29, 2023

Previous Quarter(s):

The Council's social media presence on Facebook and Twitter continues to grow each quarter. Previous data:

	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3
listserv	6,603 subscribers	6,692 subscribers	6,759 subscribers
Facebook	5,600 page likes	5,650 page likes	6,044 page likes
Twitter	499 followers	512 followers	519 followers
LaDDC News Letters	7 LaDDC News Letters	18 LaDDC News Letters	14 LaDDC News Letters

On target: Initiative

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<p>1.1.8 Advocate for increased meaningful opportunities for stakeholder input; improved practices to facilitate stakeholder input and consideration of stakeholder recommendations.</p>	<p>Shared LaDDC News articles to recruit new Council members on July 7 and August 31. Also shared a LaDDC News on July 21 to encourage participation in the Governor’s Office of Disability Affairs’ annual conference.</p> <p>The National Preparedness Division held an information session on Core Advisory Groups (CAG): Promoting Inclusive Emergency Management to involve individuals with disabilities and others with access and functional needs, their caregivers, and service providers in all aspects of emergency management planning on July 27th. The DD Council encouraged all stakeholders to participate in the webinar and shared a LaDDC Newsletter on July 22nd.</p> <p>The Louisiana Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) collaborated with the University of New Hampshire’s Institute on Disability (IOD) to evaluate how the current service system in Louisiana supports individuals with an Intellectual or Developmental Disability (I/DD) and behavioral/mental health needs. The DD Council encouraged all stakeholders to participate in the survey and shared a LaDDC Newsletter on August 14th.</p> <p>Previous Quarter(s): OCDD hosted statewide Roadshows in February and March to discuss the ending of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE). The federal PHE will end on May 11th which means the Appendix K exceptions are scheduled to end in November. A LaDDC News with the department’s announcement was shared on February 23rd. Slides for the presentation can be found here. In October, the Council added to its 2023 Legislative Advocacy Agenda advocacy focused on amending open meetings law to allow for virtual and hybrid participation. A fact sheet was created and disseminated to LaCAN Leaders and FHF Directors to distribute to legislators during visits. SB201 (Act 393) amends Louisiana’s Open Meetings Law to allow for remote operations (i.e. by electronic means or virtually) of public bodies that meet specific requirements. Louisiana Department of Health held meetings for their new Technology Supports with Remote Features work group. This work group is discussing ways to bring new technology to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to allow them as much independence as possible.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p>1.1.9 Provide financial support and technical assistance for the Louisiana Youth Leadership Forum. Approx. FFY 2023 Cost: \$30,000</p>	<p>The 2024 Youth Leadership Forum (LAYLF) was held July 14th – 16th, 2023. Eleven (11) delegates started and completed the program. The forum included sessions such as Self-Advocacy and Leadership, Your Good Life, Legislative Process, Legislative Advocacy: How To, Disability History, and Sexuality, Dating, & Relationships.</p>

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	<p>LAYLF Debriefing was held Tuesday, August 22nd with members of the DDC Staff and FHF Acadiana Staff to discuss the forum and start preparations for the 2024 forum. They also held a debriefing with the 2023 LAYLF staff members to make improvements for next year’s forum.</p> <p>Additional preparations are being made for next year including scheduling site tours for next year’s LAYLF location and applying for accreditation through the America Camp Association (ACA).</p> <p>Previous Quarter(s): The Council has contracted with Families Helping Families (FHF) of Acadiana to implement a Louisiana Youth Leadership Forum (LAYLF) program that adheres to the National Association of Youth Leadership Forum (NAYLF) standards. LAYLF will be held at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette (ULL) and received funding from the Louisiana Department of Education and Enbridge. LAYLF took place July 13th – 16th with eleven delegates/campers participating. A pre-YLF staff training was held in mid-June, via Zoom, to ensure that on-site staff training was maximized. YLife session has been developed, in which statewide partners were recruited for session participation.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>
<p>Obj. 1.2 Louisiana’s self-advocacy network, partner groups, and citizens with intellectual and developmental disabilities will be supported in self-advocacy training, systems change advocacy, and through participation on a variety of boards and commissions.</p>	
<p>1.2.1 Provide technical assistance and training opportunities designed to strengthen the self-advocacy network and the effectiveness of its systems change activities and promote self-advocacy participation in training of other self-advocates in leadership positions.</p> <p>Approximate Cost for FY2023: \$25,000</p>	<p>The Arc’s National Convention will be held in New Orleans from November 6-November 8. Eight (8) interested members of People First have registered for the conference and the self-advocate symposium.</p> <p>Previous Quarter(s): People First held a two-day training on October 6th and 7th to provide participants with knowledge of the voting and the legislative process. On October 7th, participants met at the Capitol with Representative Edmonds, Representative Davis, and Senator Foil to explain the legislative process and give participants a tour of the Capitol. Twenty-seven (27) people registered and participated in this two-day event. People First held their annual training on June 19 in Baton Rouge. There were 80 participants registered for the training, 46 participants attended, 19 self-advocates, 22 professionals, and 6 family members.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>
<p>1.2.2 Provide information and support for participation of individuals with intellectual</p>	<p>During the fourth quarter the Council sent out public meeting notices and encouraged individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families to attend and/or apply for open positions. These notices include:</p>

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<p>and developmental disabilities and their families in cross-disability and culturally diverse leadership coalitions and advisory bodies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruiting Strong Advocates for Council Membership, July 7, 2023 • Recruiting Strong Advocates for Council Membership, August 31, 2023 <p>Previous Quarter(s): The council sent out public meeting notices and encouraged individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families to attend and/or apply for open positions. These notices include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Notice of Meeting, Post-secondary Inclusive Education Advisory Council, October 13, 2022 • Student Behavior, Mental Health and Discipline Task Force Questionnaire, October 17, 2022 • HCR 14 Disability Voting Task Force Public Meeting Notice, January 6, 2023 • HCR 14 Disability Voting Task Force Public Meeting Notice, January 20, 2023 • HCR 14 Disability Voting Task Force Public Meeting Notice, February 8, 2023 • Louisiana Rehabilitation Council Recruiting Members, February 24, 2023 • Public Notice of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Ad-Hoc Meeting, March 20, 2023 • 2023 Youth Leadership Forum: Last Chance to Apply, March 27, 2023 • SEAP Recruiting New Members – Apply Today, March 28, 2023 • Post-secondary Inclusive Education Advisory Council Public Meeting Notice, May 15, 2023 • Office of Women’s Health and Community Health Advisory Board, June 23, 2023 <p>On target: <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p>1.2.3 Support Council members’ participation in training and educational opportunities and Council leadership’s participation in national training, networking events and advocacy opportunities. Approx. FFY 2023 Cost: \$15,000</p>	<p>The Executive Director, incoming Chair, and Vice-Chair attended the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD) 2023 Annual Conference in Orlando, FL, July 24th – 28th. The theme of the conference was “Beyond the Conversation: It’s About Action!” The incoming Chair and Vice-Chair also attended the New Chair training to prepare for their upcoming roles as leaders for the Council and on the Executive Committee.</p> <p>Council staff participated in Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) training on July 7th with Kahlida Lloyd. DEIA training was also conducted on September 13th and 20th for Council members with Ms. Lloyd. A total of 9 members attended Part I and 10 members attended Part II.</p> <p>Previous Quarter(s): The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee met on March 22, 2023, and discussed possible agencies including colleges, universities, and other entities to complete the Full Council DEI training. The DEI voted to have the DEI committee trained first, followed by the Executive Committee and staff, and finally the Full Council. The Council was trained in September 2023 with the DEI committee and staff was trained on July 7th.</p>

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	On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input type="checkbox"/> Expenditures
<p>Goal 2 To be fully participating members of the community, individuals with intellectual and 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>Obj. 2.1 Individuals with intellectual and 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>2.1.1 Oversee implementation of the Community and Family Support System Plan and advocate for adequate funding, the expansion of home and community based services, for waivers to provide access to services listed in the Freedom of Choice Provider Listing and consistent implementation of policy across regions, including, if necessary, changes in law and/or contracts with local governing entities (LGEs).</p>	<p>Council Staff shared a webinar opportunity via LaDDC News on August 4 to inform individuals about the Medicaid unwind process and the impacts of the redetermination process. Also shared a LaDDC News on August 14 encouraging individuals to participate in a survey to evaluate how the current service system in Louisiana supports individuals with developmental disabilities and behavioral/mental health needs.</p> <p>Medicaid and the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) have added incontinence supplies as a Medicaid-covered benefit under the New Opportunities and Residential Options waivers effective October 1st. An amendment is in the works to add this service to Supports Waivers. On June 29th Governor Edwards vetoed five (5) items in HB1 of the 2023 legislative session and restored the \$100 million reduction in funding to the LDH to protect against devastating programmatic cuts that would result from loss of the funding and the federal matching funds, totaling between \$400M - \$700M.</p> <p>The LDH released information on July 17th stating that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approved the State’s plan to pay \$300 per month bonus payments to Direct Service Workers/Professionals enrolled with a traditional provider agency and self-direction, Support Coordination Agencies, Adult Day Health Care (ADHC), Adult Day Care (ADC) and Respite Providers. Of this \$300 per month, \$250 goes directly to the Direct Support Workers/Staff, Support Coordinators, and the agencies/providers will keep \$50 to assist with employer-related taxes. LDH released information on the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Bonus Payments including webinars, memos and frequently asked questions (FAQs). This information can be found here on their website.</p> <p>OCDD is planning to host a Fall Roadshow similar to the Post Public Health Emergency (PHE) Roadshow they conducted in February and March 2023. This roadshow will again focus on the end of the PHE COVID-19 exceptions but also include other important information. The Council will share information once OCDD has scheduled dates for their Fall Roadshow. OCDD is also planning to conduct these Roadshows twice a year to help keep families informed of changes that would affect them.</p>

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	<p>Previous Quarter(s): In October, the Council added to its 2023 Legislative Advocacy Agenda advocacy focused on providing incontinence supplies to adults on Medicaid waivers. The Council will partner with the Arc of Louisiana to advocate for this issue. Medicaid and the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities or OCDD have started working to add incontinence supplies as a Medicaid-covered benefit under the New Opportunities, Residential Options, and Supports Waivers. The department shared with the Council a commitment letter detailing its plans. In April, states will start reviewing the eligibility of Medicaid recipients and remove those who are no longer eligible. All Medicaid recipients must ensure their mailing addresses, cell phone numbers, and email are current. During the 2023 Legislative Session, \$100 million requested by LDH in FY24 was removed from the budget, but the governor used veto authority to restore that funding. The Community Options Waiver Fund was also established and steps to streamline the transition process for EarlySteps participants. On June 27th, OCDD said that due to the uncertainty with the LDH Budget, they had to push back the effective date of incontinence supplies being covered in the waiver to October 1, 2023.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p>2.1.2 Advocate with the Louisiana Department of Education to provide appropriate, accessible sexual education to high school aged students with intellectual and developmental disabilities.</p>	<p>No activity this quarter.</p> <p>Previous Quarter(s): The Council’s Executive Director sent correspondence to Meredith Jordan, Department of Education, requesting information about what school systems are currently doing in terms of sexual education for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The Executive Director met with Meredith Jordan, Executive Director of Diverse Learners with LDOE. Ms. Jordan also consulted with the Louisiana Department Of Education’s legal department and they sent R.S. 17:281 as a reference for programs in schools regarding sexual education (http://legis.la.gov/legis/Law.aspx?d=80423). Programs have to be approved by local school boards to be included in schools. During research, it was found that one state has a similar activity where they contracted with Elevatus Training to provide trainings.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>

Obj. 2.2 Individuals with intellectual and 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.

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<p>2.2.1 Provide financial support to conduct training sessions on first-responder tactics, approaches and resources in fostering relationships with and dealing with individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and training for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities on how to interact with first responders.</p> <p>Approx. FFY 2023 Cost: \$80,000</p>	<p>The Council contracts with Interaction Advisory Group (IAG) to conduct in-person training sessions for first responders. During the 4th quarter, IAG spent time connecting with agencies across the state to discuss future training opportunities in FY24 and worked to redevelop their website. This redesign will have enhanced capabilities to offer caregiver support and training opportunities. In August, three training sessions were held at the Jefferson Parish Sheriff’s Office Training Academy with 50 deputies trained. In FY23, 465 first responders have been trained. On September 26th, a caregiver masterclass was hosted by IAG with 41 caregivers in attendance. LaDDC News announcing this class was shared on 9/19/23.</p> <p>Previous Quarter(s): During the first quarter, the entirety of the Plaquemines Parish Sheriff’s Department was trained (266 first responders trained). A community development and safety training session was also held with 36 attendees. View the feedback received from the Plaquemines Parish Sheriff’s Office here. Historically the months of November, December, and January are slow with little to no turnout due to the holidays, so only 10 first responders were trained during the second quarter. The contractor has also stated our initiative is having an impact in neighboring states. An Agency in North Mississippi heard about the Council’s initiative and contacted IAG to set up training for their agency. During the third quarter, 85 first responders from Terrebonne Parish Sheriff’s Office were trained. View the positive feedback from a member of the Houma Police Department here. Fourteen attendees from the St. Tammany Sheriff’s Office and 34 from the St. Charles Parish Sheriff’s Office we trained. Feedback from the St. Charles Parish training can be found here. The contractor also trained over 90 school administrators, teachers, counselors, paraprofessionals, special educators, and six school resource officers at the request of Allen Parish School District.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>
<p>2.2.2 Provide financial support to establish a training program on emergency preparedness and response relative to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities</p> <p>Approx. FFY 2023 Cost: \$50,000</p>	<p>Council contracts with Niagara University to bring its emergency preparedness and disability awareness training to Louisiana. Trainings were held in the Houma/Thibodaux area September 25 – 26 and Lake Charles September 27 – 28. These trainings were shared via LaDDC News on July 17, August 1, and September 11. At the time this report was created, attendance was not available. The contractor continues to try and engage Emergency Managers throughout the state and will focus more efforts in this area in FY24.</p> <p>Previous Quarter(s): First quarter, shared LaDDC News advertising this initiative and the training that was held in Baton Rouge on November 9 – 10. Twenty-nine individuals attended the full two-day training with six additional participants in the half-day training. Per the contractor, the response and participation in this initiative have been unmatched in the other states where they are offering the same training. Shared a LaDDC News on February 13th advertising upcoming trainings in North Louisiana. Third quarter, trainings were</p>

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	<p>held in Monroe (training flyer) May 1 – 2 (32 in attendance) and Shreveport (training flyer) May 3 – 4 (4 in attendance).</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>
<p>2.2.3 Advocate for increased meaningful opportunities for stakeholder input; improved practices to facilitate stakeholder input and consideration of stakeholder recommendations</p>	<p>Council Staff shared LaDDC News on July 22 a webinar opportunity hosted by the National Preparedness Division on the importance of engaging people with disabilities and others with access and functional needs in all aspects of emergency management and planning.</p> <p>Navigators for a Healthy Louisiana held a webinar on August 16th with Tara LeBlanc, the Louisiana Department of Health’s Medicaid Executive Director, discussing the impacts of the Medicaid redetermination process and how returning to regular operations is moving forward. The Council encouraged stakeholders to attend the webinar and shared a LaDDC Newsletter on August 4th.</p> <p>Additionally, The Louisiana Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) collaborated with the University of New Hampshire’s Institute on Disability (IOD) to evaluate how the current service system in Louisiana supports individuals with an Intellectual or Developmental Disability (I/DD) and behavioral/mental health needs. The DD Council encouraged all stakeholders to participate in the survey and shared a LaDDC Newsletter on August 14th.</p> <p>Previous Quarter(s): The Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) held two meetings on the Appendix K exception focused on family members as paid caregivers. A focus group then discussed ways to bring new technology to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to allow them as much independence as possible. OCDD hosted statewide Roadshows in February and March to discuss the ending of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE). The federal PHE will end on May 11th which means the Appendix K exceptions are scheduled to end in November. A LaDDC News with the department’s announcement was shared on February 23rd. Slides for the presentation can be found here. The Council and LaCAN advocated throughout the 2023 Legislative Session to amend the state’s Open Meetings Law to allow for remote participation in meetings. The Council took part in the Voting Disability Taskforce created last session and advocated for HB449 (Act 277) which implements recommendations from the Taskforce. OCDD plans to develop trainings that are a deep dive into the changes Post-COVID, as a follow-up to the Roadshows held in February and March.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>

Obj. 2.3. Females with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families will have increased access to health services and health education. (Targeted Disparity – Disadvantaged population)

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<p>2.3.1 Conduct research and collaborate with the Louisiana Department of Health to address accessible, educational materials on Women’s health topics.</p>	<p>No activity this quarter.</p> <p>Previous Quarter(s): The Council will collaborate with the new Office of Women’s Health and Community Health (OWHCH). The new program office was created during the 2022 Legislative Session and the OWHCH’s primary goal is to provide an agency-wide focus on women’s health outcomes through policy, education, evidence-based practices, programs, and services. Once OWHCH is established, Council staff will communicate to conduct research and establish a collaboration. The Executive Director followed up with Dr. Harris, the Assistant Secretary of the Office of Women’s Health & Community Health, again this quarter through email about wanting to meet about a potential collaboration to address accessible, educational materials on Women’s Health topics. Dr. Harris is actively filling vacant positions in the new Office.</p> <p>On target: <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p>Goal 3 Individuals with intellectual and 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>Obj. 3.1 Parents of students with intellectual and 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>	
<p>3.1.1 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</p>	<p>Dr. Gerlinde Beckers is serving as the LAPIE liaison with the Advisory Council on Post-secondary Inclusive Education programs within the Board of Regents (BOR). The Advisory Council is currently focusing on disseminating application reminders for the Post-Secondary Inclusive Education Fund (PIEF).</p> <p>Activities this quarter include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed and implemented BOR webinar for recipients of PIEF funding • Moderated PSE Panel presentation of PSE graduates and current students [representation from each program] at the Annual Governor’s Office of Disabilities Affairs Conference • Set up budget for PIEF funding for LAPIE • September 8 – LAPIE Quarterly Meeting [virtual] • Created and disseminated the PIEF Allocation Survey as a result of LAPIE Quarterly Meeting 2 • September 15 – reported on PSE to the GACDA Education Sub-committee

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<p>with intellectual and developmental disabilities throughout Louisiana. Approx. FFY 2023 Cost: \$40,000</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September 20 – reported on PSE to GACDA Full Council • Prepared article on Inclusive Postsecondary Education in Louisiana for GODA Newsletter • Completed update to the LAPIE Video <p>Also provided Technical Assistance to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Paul Mooney, Louisiana State University – Baton Rouge campus • Dr. Jeremy Bell – University of Louisiana at Monroe <p>Previous Quarter(s): In October, the Council added to its 2023 Legislative Advocacy Agenda advocacy focused on funding new and existing postsecondary inclusive education programs for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. A factsheet about funding new and existing post-secondary inclusive education programs for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities was developed and posted on the Council’s website. The Council advocated for an additional \$3M for the fund during the 2023 legislative session. HB550 is another funding budget in Louisiana currently awaiting the Governor’s approval. \$1 million was appropriated to the Postsecondary Inclusive Education Fund to fund programs for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) at Louisiana postsecondary institutions.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>
<p>3.1.2 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>During the July 2023 Education and Employment Committee meeting, the committee requested that the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) include in all quarterly reports to the E/E committee a statewide report on the discipline of students with disabilities. The report will reflect data on discipline from all districts inclusive of charter schools. This report was given to the committee historically and the members would like to continue to monitor this data to effectively advocate for students with disabilities who may be disproportionately receiving harsher discipline including out-of-school suspensions and expulsions.</p> <p>Council staff met with the Executive Director of Diverse Learners, Meredith Jordan, in August 2023 about concerns on Act 392 of the 2023 Legislative Session. The legislation includes language that The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) may, after a successful appeal, issue an educator credential or other teaching authorization to a person who has been convicted of or has pled nolo contendere to a felony offense or an offense list in R.S. 15:587 (C). Staff expressed concerns with the language in the bill from stakeholders and advocated that the LDOE seriously look into the implications of allowing convicted felons inside of classrooms with students, especially students with disabilities.</p>

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	<p>Previous Quarter(s): The Executive Director met with Meredith Jordan during the second quarter. Ms. Jordan stated that State Superintendent, Dr. Cade Brumley, is planning to ask for money during the legislative session (within LDOE’s budget request) to get some additional contract positions in SPED Compliance. This will assist with monitoring and holding school systems in Louisiana more accountable.</p> <p>On target: <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p>3.1.3 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>Council staff met with the Executive Director of Diverse Learners, Meredith Jordan, in August 2023. Ms. Jordan informed staff that the LDOE would be providing parent training to assist families with navigating the education system for students with disabilities. The Council will share more information once the LDOE schedules these trainings.</p> <p>Additionally, Council staff was informed that the LDOE plans to add an Ombudsman at the State level to assist families with dispute resolution and ensure that needed services included in individual education programs and 504 plans are received. The Council will share more information about the State Ombudsman once the LDOE has the position in place.</p> <p>Previous Quarter(s): Staff members attended Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP) meetings during the second quarter. These meetings were focused on the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) grant application and recommendations. Staff members attended BESE Meetings on April 18, 2023, and June 13, 2023, and the Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP) on June 21, 2023. LDOE’s SPED Playbook was released at the Teacher Leader Summit (May 30 – June 1) this year and was presented at the June SEAP Meeting and the Superintendent’s Advisory Council in June.</p> <p>On target: <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p>3.1.4 Advocate for educational systems change based on emergent education issues.</p>	<p>No activity this quarter.</p> <p>On target: <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p>3.1.5 Advocate for increased meaningful opportunities for stakeholder input; improved practices to facilitate stakeholder input and</p>	<p>No activity this quarter</p> <p>Previous Quarter(s): During the 2022 Legislative Session, the passage of House Resolution 173 (HR173) created the Student Behavior, Mental Health, and Discipline Task Force to study improving certain policies relative to student</p>

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<p>consideration of stakeholder recommendations.</p>	<p>behavior and discipline. On October 17, 2022, the Council shared the Task Force’s questionnaire asking for stakeholder input which included sharing experiences that assisted in furthering their work. The Council also shared information on the Louisiana Postsecondary Inclusive Education Advisory Council’s meeting that was held in October 2022.</p> <p>Information was shared with the Council’s listserv and social media platforms about the Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP) and the IDEA grant application this quarter. Stakeholders were encouraged to provide feedback and apply for vacant positions on SEAP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LDOE Seeks Input on 2023-24 IDEA Application, March 7, 2023 • SEAP Recruiting New Members – Apply Today, March 28, 2023 • LDOE IDEA Grant Application Out for Public Comment, March 31, 2023 <p>The Council and LaCAN advocated throughout the 2023 Legislative Session to amend the state’s Open Meetings Law to allow for remote participation in meetings.</p> <p>The Louisiana Legislative Auditor's Office also conducted a survey to obtain feedback from the parents and/or guardians of students with disabilities as part of a performance audit of the Louisiana Department of Education's (LDOE) oversight of special education services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statewide Special Education Survey, May 13, 2023 <p>The Post-secondary Inclusive Education Advisory Council created by Act 682 of the 2022 Legislative Session met this quarter to discuss the creation and expansion of post-secondary and inclusive education programs across the state of Louisiana.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post-secondary Inclusive Education Advisory Council Meeting Notice, May 15, 2023 <p>On target: <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
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<p>Obj. 3.2 Individuals with intellectual and 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>	
<p>3.2.1 Provide financial support to conduct seminars with Chambers of Commerce throughout the state on the benefits of hiring people with</p>	<p>23 East (formerly O’Neill Communications) completed “Your Next Best Hire!” which was a five-part series on what employers need to know on how to include people with disabilities in their hiring process.</p> <p>The following 5 Webinars were released via the Council’s website and YouTube, with plans to promote via social media in the upcoming weeks:</p>

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<p>intellectual and developmental disabilities. Approx. FFY 2023 Cost: \$39,000</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Building DEI in the Workplace 2. Getting Started 3. The Impact for Employers 4. Benefits for Employers 5. Recruiting Employees with Disabilities! <p>Previous Quarter(s): The Council has contracted again with 23 East Group (formerly O’Neill Communications) to conduct employment seminars. 23 East Group met with Council staff in November and February to discuss new topics and potential panelists and hosts for the new employment webinar series: “Your Next Best Hire!”. “Your Next Best Hire!” is a five-part series on what employers need to know on how to include people with disabilities in their hiring process. The webinar series is planned to run from June 21st – August 23rd online via Zoom. The recording of all webinars can be found on the laddc-working-together.com website.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>
<p>3.2.2 Advocate for employment support professionals to complete high-quality professional development specifically on benefits planning services for the improvement of service provisions and employment outcomes</p>	<p>No activity this quarter.</p> <p>On target: <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p>3.2.3 Ensure potential employers have access to information about financial incentives to hire unserved and underserved populations including people with the most substantial employment support needs in competitive integrated individualized employment.</p>	<p>23 East (formerly O’Neill Communications) completed “Your Next Best Hire!” which was a five-part series on what employers need to know on how to include people with disabilities in their hiring process. The recording of these webinars can be found on the Council’s YouTube as well as on the LaDDC Website.</p> <p>Previous Quarter(s): The Council contracted with 23 East Group (formerly O’Neill Communications) to conduct employment seminars which included information about financial incentives to hire unserved and underserved populations. Previous seminars in the <i>Working Together</i> series and the <i>DIScovering ABILITIES</i> series are on the Council’s YouTube page and can be accessed by potential employers. “Your Next Best Hire!” was also released. It is a five-part series on what employers need to know on how to include people with disabilities in their hiring process. The webinar series is planned to run from June 21st – August 23rd online via Zoom. The recording of all webinars can be found on the laddc-working-together.com website.</p>

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	<p>On target: <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p>3.2.4 Share the benefits planning services to a variety of agencies and stakeholders.</p>	<p>Council Staff shared the recordings of “Your Next Big Hire!” employment seminars on the council’s YouTube and social media, which is a five-part webinar series on how to include people with disabilities in their hiring process.</p> <p>Previous Quarter(s): The Executive Director met with the Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS) Executive Director, Melissa Bayham, about specific training that employment providers may receive on benefits planning. Ms. Bayham stated that there isn’t any specific training that they offer or require. However, LRS does provide information regarding benefit planning to all of their consumers. Also, the Louisiana Association of People Supporting Employment (APSE) has provided some training on benefits planning in the past (their 2021 Annual Conference was specifically mentioned).</p> <p>On target: <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p>3.2.5 Advocate for systems change based on emergent employment issues.</p>	<p>No activity this quarter.</p> <p>On target: <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p>3.2.6 Conduct research to examine the effectiveness and advocate to support efforts of the Louisiana Medicaid “buy-in” program.</p>	<p>Council Staff contacted the Interim Medicaid Executive Director to follow up with our June request. The Medicaid Purchase Plan (MPP) and the “buy-in” program are the same. Some background: The Ticket to Work and Work Incentive Improvement Act (TWWIIA) of 1999 became law in December 1999, which allowed individuals with disabilities to purchase Medicaid coverage while allowing individuals to work. In 2003, the Louisiana Legislature adopted Act 207, which directed the Louisiana Department of Health to implement the “buy-in” program for working persons with disabilities using the TWWIIA, which then became law in 2004. The program's maximum income limit was 250% of the federal poverty limit (FPL), and the maximum amount of countable assets was \$25,000. As a result of budget cuts beginning in January 2014, the maximum income limit was reduced to 100% of the FPL, and the asset limit was lowered to \$10,000 .</p> <p>Previous Quarter(s): Council staff contacted Medicaid in June to get more information on the Medicaid “buy-in” program and the Medicaid Purchase Plan (MPP). Staff wants to determine if the “buy-in” program still exists or if it was replaced by the MPP. More information will be shared in the next quarterly status report and next quarter with the Council’s listserv.</p> <p>On target: <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>