



LSUHSC Human Development Center Activities Report, 3rd Quarter for July - September 2024

The Human Development Center (HDC) is part of a nationwide network of University Centers of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) and serves as a resource for Louisiana in the areas of education, research, and service relative to the needs of people with developmental disabilities. During this period, HDC reorganized its programs to the following four initiative areas: Early Childhood; Education Transition, Community; Community Health; and Long-Term Training. See the organization chart on the HDC website www.hdc.lsuhs.edu. Each of HDC's initiative areas is described below including the highlights of their activities that took place last quarter (July - September 2024).

Early Childhood Initiatives

Early Childhood Initiatives target children between the ages of 1 and 5 years and include the **Early Head Start Childcare Partnership (EHS-CCP)**, **Inclusive Practices in Early Childhood (IPEC)**, and the **LSU Health Sciences Early Learning Center**. These programs provide training, technical assistance, and resources to increase access and equity to quality inclusive early learning environments.

- HDC's Early Head Start program has added 2 new childcare center partners in Orleans Parish, and 1 new childcare partner in Jefferson Parish.
- The Early Childhood team add a Licensed Social Worker to serve as a Family & Engagement Specialist.
- HDC EHS provided Professional Development (PD) for their Childcare Partners:
 - On May 22 for 72 teachers from 7 different centers with topics covering Harmony in Learning, Executive Function in toddlers, and Supporting Emotional Regulation in the Classroom, among others
 - On May 17 for 19 teachers onsite at one center covering these same topics
 - For five days in July & August, HDC hosted PD for over 60 childcare teachers
- HDC EHS started the new school year with five days of PD in July/August for over 60 early childcare teachers.
- The EHS Health Specialist continues to provide CPR training for Early Head Start teachers as needed.
- HDC EHS kicked off its Conscious Discipline Parenting series with 10 families supporting them in teaching their kids to safely manage their thoughts, feelings and behaviors.
- HDC IPEC provided a training to one early childcare center in April for 21 teachers.
- HDC continues to provide support to new Head Start Directors across Region VI by participating in the Director Mentorship Program.
- HDC's Early Learning Center continues to grow with the addition of an assistant teacher and children to its childcare program.

Education, Transition, & Community Initiatives

HDC's Education, Transition, and Community Initiatives provides continuing education and technical assistance to families, educators, administrators, and policymakers regarding best practices for evidence-based and inclusive education. Additionally, this initiative area initiatives supports agencies, programs, service providers, and job seekers with disabilities to obtain and maintain community employment outcomes that are competitive and integrated by building knowledge and capacity of secondary and post-secondary educators, community providers, employers, and self-advocates/advocates. These programs include **Louisiana Autism Spectrum and Related Disabilities project (LASARD)**, **Louisiana Deafblind Project for Children and Youth (LADBP)**, **West South-Central Work Incentives Planning Assistance (WSC-WIPA)**, **Computing for Youth with Autism (CYA) with FHF NOLA**, **Employment First Core Training**, **Customized Employment Training and Postsecondary Apprenticeship for Youth (PAYCheck)**.

- LADBP
 - HDC LADBP hosted OSEP leadership for a site visit and discussion
 - HDC LADBP had one of our interveners in training attain national certification. (Interveners are highly trained paraprofessionals who specialize in deafblindness and work one-on-one with a specific DeafBlind child.)
 - HDC LADBP entered into a data sharing agreement with EHDI to improve early identification of infants and toddlers who may be DeafBlind.

- LASARD
 - HDC LASARD currently has 50 contracts with 38 school districts/charter networks statewide
 - HDC LASARD provided 25 Back-to-School professional development sessions for districts across the state
 - HDC LASARD provided training on Universal Design for Learning for the LSU Health School of Allied Health Professions faculty
 - HDC LASARD facilitated co-planning and co-teaching for St. James Parish to promote more inclusion services for students

- PAYCheck
 - HDC PAYCheck supported college level courses at Delgado Community College and provided Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) for 18 students

Community Health Initiatives

HDC's Community Health initiative area partners with community members and organizations to address their health-related priorities to improve ALL community members' well-being and quality-of-life. These initiatives target root causes of disparities not only in health, but in education access & quality, economic stability, and neighborhood & social circumstances. Listed below are current partners and a brief description of their programs.

In this last quarter, HDC's Community Health Initiative participated in the following ways:

- In collaboration with **Split Second Foundation**, hosted a Multiple Sclerosis Support Group
- Continued providing educational and vocational support planning to **Treatment After Cancer and Late Effects Clinic**.
- Observed FASD Clinics at **University of Washington and University of New Mexico** in preparation of bringing a FASD clinic online with the LSU Human Development Center.
- Provided developmental screening to families associated with **We Play by Training Grounds** child care center.

- Participated in community event “**Kids Zoo to Do**” representing the LSU Health New Orleans, School of Allied Health Professions
- Continued providing technical assistance to the **American Muslims for Accessibility, Advocacy, and Nurturing Acceptance (AMAANA)**, a local support agency providing health/educational/social navigation in the Greater New Orleans Area.
- Continued planning for **BIORETS grant** summer programming. The project is a joint effort with the **LSU School of Allied Health Professions, LSU School of Public Health, and the LSU School of Medicine**. HDC participated in BIORETS “kick off” event providing six science teachers from Louisiana orientation to the summer BIORETS residency program.

Long-Term Training Initiatives

HDC’s Long-Term Training Initiatives provides training opportunities to graduate students, professionals, families, and self-advocates. HDC’s Interdisciplinary Training programs include **Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and related Disabilities (Louisiana LEND)** (funded by US Department of Health and Human Services- Maternal Child Health Bureau) and **Interprofessional Preparation for Related Services Personnel Serving Children with Disabilities Who Have High Intensity Needs (known as IPP)** (funded by US Office of Special Education Programs) grants.

The HDC LEND program is designed to prepare students for future roles as leaders in supporting families and individuals with developmental delays/disabilities and special health care needs. HDC LEND promotes principles of family and person-centered care (and thinking) as well as interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary collaboration. The IPP program is designed to foster collaboration between the related services professionals and special education educators in providing comprehensive services to students receiving special education services as mandated by IDEA.

Both programs provide over 300 hours of training as well as clinical and field experiences to graduate students and professionals working in a variety of disciplines, as well as self-advocates and family members. HDC’s Interdisciplinary Training Initiatives also include the Autism Spectrum Disorder Interdisciplinary Diagnostic Clinic (ASDID) which provides opportunities for interdisciplinary experiential learning.

- HDC’s **Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and related Disabilities (LEND)** 2024-2025 cohort is composed of 9 scholars from various disciplines including BCBA, Education, Speech Language Pathology, Audiology, Public Health and Dentistry. Scholars with lived experiences include a parent and a self-advocate. Scholars attended an Orientation and participated in a 40-hour Maternal Child Health Foundations Week. Biweekly seminars have begun.
- HDC’s **Interprofessional Preparation for Related Services Personnel Serving Children with Disabilities Who Have High Intensity Needs** program completed its final semester for **IPP Cohort 4** (12 graduate students; 4 physical therapy, 4 occupational therapy, 2 audiology, 1 speech-language pathology, and 1 SPED Deaf/Hard of Hearing education). It also received a no-cost extension to use left over funding for two students to participate in the program in 2025