



LSU Human Development Center Activities Report, 3rd Quarter 2020

Early Childhood Initiatives:

- Enhance Collaboration
 - HDC is collaborating with the New Orleans Early Education Network (NOEEN) and 21 childcare centers to implement a developmental screening pilot. HDC will support developmental screening, referral and follow up for 276 infant and toddlers enrolled in the New Orleans City Seats program.
 - HDC's Early Head Start Childcare Partnership (EHS CCP) program expanded to 8 childcare centers (33 classrooms serving 210 infants and toddlers)
- Increase Access to Quality Services
 - HDC's EHS CCP enrolled 21 infants and toddlers with an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) in inclusive classrooms since August 1st. All other children (i.e., approximately 190) received developmental screening within 45 days of enrollment. Five (5) additional children were referred for evaluation with EarlySteps
- Promote Use of Evidence Based Practice
 - HDC EHS CCP is providing support for early learning center partners and EarlySteps providers to resume early intervention services at all 8 partner sites.
 - Practice-based coaching and disability specific coaching will begin in October

K-12 Initiatives:

- Enhance Collaboration
 - HDC Louisiana Autism Spectrum and Related Disabilities (LASARD) project developed trainings related to educating students with disabilities during the COVID-19 pandemic and have provided 18 presentations (to 5 school districts and 2 community agencies, so far) at which information and resources were shared.
 - HDC LASARD made a presentation to over 100 teachers, related service staff and educational administrators at the New Orleans Public Schools (NOLA-PS) Summer Training Collaborative on preparing students with disabilities for a face-to-face re-entry to school buildings.
 - HDC LASARD prepared and conducted a webinar for parents and educators sponsored by Families Helping Families Greater New Orleans on school-home collaboration to prepare for the school year.
 - HDC LASARD presented *Supporting Students during Virtual Schooling* at the North Louisiana Autism Society's Virtual Summer Institute.
 - The HDC Louisiana Deafblind Project participated in seven "Late Effects" clinics at Children's' Hospital of New Orleans.
 - Michael Norman was appointed to the advisory committee (Regional Krewe of LA "All of Us" for the LSUHSC "All of Us" research program.

- The HDC Interprofessional Preparation grant program established Memoranda of Understanding (with four school districts, one not-for-profit agency and one for profit agency) to serve as observation/ training sites for graduate students enrolled in the Interprofessional Preparation program.
- Increase Access to Quality Services
 - The HDC Louisiana Deafblind Project participated in seven intensive technical assistance events with a variety of topics (e.g., [role of parents in the IEP process](#), [express dissatisfaction/concern during IEP conferences without being confrontational](#), [Guidance regarding use of the *communication plan* in meeting the ADA standard of “Effective Communication”](#))
- Promote Use of Evidence Based Practice
 - Beginning July 1, 2020, funding for HDC LASARD shifted the Louisiana Department of Education (LDoE) to being a vendor for schools in Louisiana.
 - HDC LASARD has secured contracts with over 30 local school systems across Louisiana to provide training and coaching to support teachers and service providers of students with disabilities
 - HDC LASARD launched a new website (www.lasard.org) with updated training and resources for subscribers
 - The HDC Louisiana Deafblind Project entered into an intensive technical assistance agreement with the National Center on Deaf-Blindness to increase efforts to establish the use of deafblind interveners in Louisiana’s schools
 - The HDC Louisiana Deafblind Project and the National Center on Deaf-Blindness co-sponsored a two-hour seminar with guest speakers from Illinois and Utah addressing the development of intervener use in Louisiana schools

Transition, Employment, and Careers Initiatives:

- Enhance Collaboration
 - Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS) and Jefferson parish public schools (JPPSS) continue to collaborate with HDC to implement the Postsecondary Apprenticeship for Youth (PAY Check) program
 - HDC TEC is working in partnership with FHF NOLA and Operation SPARK to expand and refine a disability/diversity talent pipeline to technology-field careers
 - HDC TEC attends Office of Disability Employment Programs (ODEP) US Department of Labor Visionary Opportunities to Increase Competitive Employment (VOICES), State as Model Employer (SAME) initiative calls and meetings
 - HDC staff (Laura Stazio) recently appointed by the Governor to serve on the Louisiana Rehabilitation Council
 - HDC staff active on the national APSE Public Policy committee with a specific focus on eliminating subminimum wage certificates for individuals with disabilities
 - HDC staff appointed to the national APSE SSA Public Policy Workgroup focusing on SSA Policy Reform
- Increase Access to Quality Services
 - Currently there are 34 students in HDC’s PAY Check program from Jefferson Parish Schools System in the program, which now has a significant focus on paid internships
 - HDC provides Louisiana Benefits Planning Services (LA-BPS) through a SSA-WIPA RFA to all Louisiana SSA recipients who reside within the LSUHSC HDC catchment area. HDC supports SSDI and SSI beneficiaries with disabilities by providing work incentives planning and assistance services to support beneficiaries in their efforts to acquire, retain, and increase meaningful employment and improve financial independence.
 - The HDC LA-BPS averages 30-35 referrals each month and provides Information and Referral to all beneficiaries and individualized benefits planning for those employed or considering employment.
- Promote Use of Evidence Based Practice
 - HDC TEC provided one online CORE (3 day) Employment Training to CRPs.
 - HDC TEC provided a twelve-week online (every Wednesday from 1-2:30) CORE training

- Since the COVID restrictions have been in place, HDC TEC has provided online training to over 30 training participants across the state.
- HDC TEC staff successfully completed the online training and Zoom meeting mentoring for the nine national Customized Employment modules developed by the University of South Florida and approved by WIN TAC.
 - The Human Development Center is the first University Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) in the nation to begin the pilot, with expansion to UCEDD's in each state to begin when the new US Rehabilitation Services Administration grant (i.e., Vocational Rehabilitation Quality Management) is awarded.

Interdisciplinary Training

- Enhance Collaboration
 - HDC LEND faculty collaborated with Tulane Masters in Maternal Child Health faculty to design and deliver training related to Leadership and Health Disparities for approximately 20 graduate students and LEND Trainees
 - Ms. Nadia Johnson collaborated with Louisiana Title V personnel to design and provide didactic and field-based learning experiences related to Care Coordination for 10 Trainees
 - Nadia Johnson, collaborated with Region 6 Nurse-Family Practice program staff to design and provide didactic and field-based learning experiences for 10 LEND Trainees
- Increase Access to Quality Services
 - HDC LEND faculty members and Trainees participated in Autism Spectrum & Related Disorders Evaluation Clinics for three families
 - HDC Early Learning Center (ELC) staff provided inclusive childcare for approximately 12 families of first responders and LSUHSC faculty
 - HDC ELC prepared for expanding capacity of the ELC from 20 to 32 children from 6-weeks to 48 months (pending Fire Marshall approval and move of City of New Orleans from COVID-19 re-opening Phase 2 to Phase 3)
- Promote Use of Evidence Based Practice
 - A Dozen HDC LEND faculty members mentored research project for first and second year LEND Trainees
 - In August, HDC LEND and Interprofessional Preparation grant programs initiated interdisciplinary training of 20 graduate students from five Louisiana universities
 - HDC LEND faculty members and Trainees participated in Autism Spectrum & Related Disorders Evaluation Clinics for three families
 - HDC LEND contracted with an expert in Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) to provide a lecture to approximately 20 Trainees and faculties that highlighted best practices and resources for professionals and parents to use to identify and support individuals with FASD