



LSU Human Development Center Activities Report, 1st Quarter 2021

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 is 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)
 - HDC is collaborating with Louisiana Public Broadcasting and Families Helping Families to implement the Sesame Street in communities grant this spring. The project seeks to bring tools and resources to educators, families, and children in rural areas and underserved communities.
- 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. Seventeen (17) additional children were referred to EarlySteps for evaluation.
- 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 began in October. HDC staff provided screening, referral, and teacher to support children at 5 sites offering Head Start, City Seats, LA-4, and NSECD programs.
 - HDC will start a mental wellness campaign for infants and toddlers, families, and teachers in January. The campaign will focus on expanding use of evidence-based strategies and curricula with teachers (Conscious Discipline) and families (Triple P) to support social-emotional development of children and wellness of families and staff.
 - In February, HDC will conduct in-depth training for teachers on implementing developmental screening in programs serving children ages birth to 5 years-old and effectively discussing child development with families. Training will be followed-up with coaching support for teachers and administrators.

K-12 Initiatives:

- Enhance Collaboration
 - HDC LASARD secured contracts with 37 school systems across Louisiana to provide training and coaching to support teachers and service providers of students with disabilities. Some schools systems also have added additional services to their original contracts. These include traditional districts, charter networks, and virtual schools.

- In order to meet the demand for HDC LASARD services, three additional LASARD facilitators have been added to the staff. Katie Collins and Maci Brown are based in New Orleans, and Kristen McDaniel is based in Scott.
- Increase Access to Quality Services
 - HDC LASARD was included in a LDOE pilot to increase inclusive practices pre-k programs in school districts. Ascension, Assumption, and Rapides parishes are included in this pilot and are contracting with LASARD.
- Promote Use of Evidence Based Practice
 - HDC LASARD has provided over 45 trainings to over 1000 participants this quarter. Topics range from virtual instruction to function behavior assessment.

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 TEC staff is active on the national APSE Public Policy committee with a specific focus on providing supports and services to individuals during the pandemic.
 - HDC TEC staff has been appointed to the national APSE SSA Public Policy Workgroup focusing on SSA Policy Reform where a “white paper” is being drafted on necessary policy and legislation needed.
- Increase Access to Quality Services
 - Currently there are 32 students in HDC’s PAY Check program from Jefferson Parish Schools System in the program, which now has a significant focus on providing paid internships.
 - The HDC LA-BPS had been averaging between 30-35 referrals each month and provides Information and referral to all beneficiaries and individualized benefits planning for those employed or considering employment. Over the past year, there was a significant decrease in referrals due to the onset of the pandemic. Moreover, the 4th Quarter of each year usually saw a slowing down of referrals from the Social Security Call Center. This is not the case for the 4th Quarter of 2020 as there has been a significant increase in HDC referrals as many service industries jobs have opened again.
- Promote Use of Evidence Based Practice
 - HDC TEC will resume training in early 2021 providing online CORE trainings until the restrictions are lifted.
 - 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 among two University Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) in the nation to begin the pilot (Louisiana and Colorado), with expansion to UCEDD’s in each state through with the new US Rehabilitation Services Administration grant (i.e., Vocational Rehabilitation Quality Management) recipient, San Diego State. HDC attended a Zoom meeting November 13, 2020 with all partners to discuss process which has been stalled due to Covid and the inability to complete the one-on-one training with mentors and stakeholders.

Interdisciplinary Training

- Enhance Collaboration
 - Collaboration between HDC and departments of School of Allied Health Professions, LSU main campus, Tulane University, and University of Louisiana Lafayette resulted in Trainees and faculty from a number of departments participating in the virtual AUCD conference
 - HDC, Tulane and ULL faculty began collaborative efforts to write new 5-year LEND proposal
 - HDC (LEND) collaborated with staff from Nurse-Family Partnership program to arrange and provide experiences for LEND LTTs
 - Collaboration between the LSU HSC Department of Occupational Therapy and HDC resulted in the design of a seminar series regarding disability.
 - Recruitment efforts for the 2021-22 Academic Year were commenced with the Interprofessional Preparation and the LEND programs agreeing to complete some recruitment activities in tandem with one another.
 - Scholars enrolled from five preservice professional preparation programs engaged in observation of typical human development at the elementary, middle, and high school level within the Plaquemines Parish schools.
- Increase Access to Quality Services
 - Conducted three interdisciplinary ASD diagnostic clinics observed by LSUHSC and Tulane medical residents and LEND LTT from a variety of disciplines
 - Continue to provide high quality inclusive childcare to approximately a dozen children/families following COVID 19 guidelines
- Promote Use of Evidence Based Practice
 - As part of the LEND and Interdisciplinary Preparation for Related Services personnel, nine seminars were conducted across a variety of topics (e.g., human development, Social Determinants of Health, disability & disability experiences)