

Human Development Center
Quarterly Agency Report to the DD Council
(October - December, 2017)

UPDATE/PROGRESS ON AGENCY INITIATIVES

HDC has initiatives across the areas of **Early Childhood, K-12 Education, Employment/Transition, Health, and Direct Services.**

Early Childhood Initiatives

Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and other Disabilities – LEND (HRSA grant)

Program which trains students, self-advocates, families, and community providers to be leaders in advocating for quality interdisciplinary services and supports for people with developmental disabilities.

- ✓ 12 trainees (including 2 self-advocates) completed the Topics in ASD and Neurodevelopmental Disabilities course
- ✓ 11 trainees attending the annual meeting of the Association of University Centers on Disability in Washington, DC

Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership (Admin. For Children & Families grant)

Program designed to improve quality of Early Care and Education for children and families in at-risk communities and for children with disabilities.

- ✓ Provided professional development on Adverse Childhood Experiences and Resilience, and Curriculum Implementation for 70 childcare providers
- ✓ Staff serving on task force to revise State Childcare Licensing Regulations (Bulletin 137).

HDC Early Learning Center (LSU SAHP & private funding)

Model demonstration inclusive high quality childcare program.

- ✓ Twenty children are currently enrolled including 2 children with disabilities and 2 children with pending referrals for early intervention.
- ✓ Collaborating with LSUHSC School of Nursing and School of Allied Health Professions to create opportunities for nursing students to learn about quality inclusive childcare.
- ✓ Hired Paycheck student (see Employment Initiatives) to work as student worker in office.

Health Care Institute (Collaborative agreement with UCLA/ Johnson & Johnson)

Five year research project designed to improve health and health literacy of families at-risk including families and children with disabilities. Topics include treating common childhood illness, oral health, nutrition, and behavioral health.

- Completed follow-up data collection on oral health training with 75 families
- Staff completed 3 of 5 trainings on mental wellness; will complete training and implement mental wellness program for children and families in spring 2018

Little Bitty Learning (Collaboration with LSUHSC School of Public Health and the Schweitzer Foundation)

Pilot program developed to decrease childhood obesity through a family-based early childhood intervention focused on health eating and physical activity.

- 3 of 9 families completed 8 week program
- Recruited 10 graduate student volunteers to work with low income families
- Partnered with dietician interns and Rouse's to support training on nutrition for young children

Nutrition is for Everyone (Walmart grant)

Program designed to implement nutrition education interventions, including direct training for people with disability and community members

- Offered a total of 3 six-week Cooking Matters nutrition and cooking courses in partnership with the ARC, Paycheck, and LSUHSC Dept of Family Medicine
- Fourteen people with disabilities and 2 community members participated
- Trained 24 individuals to become Cooking Matters instructors/volunteers including
 - 2 community members
 - 1 professional
 - 2 LEND trainees (psychology and speech language pathology)
 - 9 medical students
 - 10 occupational health students
- 7 advocacy/outreach meetings, notable resulting in:
 - New partnership with Special Olympics Louisiana
 - Involvement in the Complete Streets Coalition

Education - K-12 School-Age Initiative

Louisiana Deafblind Project for Children and Youth:

Individual Technical Assistance:

- 10/02/2017: IEP Conference, Terrebonne Parish Schools
- 10/20/2017: IEP Conference, Ouachita Parish, Schools
- 10/30/2017: Audiology appointment/consult regarding student from Terrebonne Parish Schools, Children's Hospital of New Orleans
- 11/03/2017: Enrollment Visit (JB), Lafourche Parish, Part C
- 11/03/2017: Enrollment Visit (SL), Lafourche Parish, Part C
- 12/05/2017: Meeting with Sam Morgan, National Center for the Deaf-Blind Program Manager, New Orleans
- 12/07/2017: IEP Conference, Lafayette Parish Schools
- 12/15/2017: Proxy member, Louisiana Commission for the Deaf

Targeted Technical Assistance:

- 10/12, 30/2017: Use of Braille with deafblind students – St. Bernard Parish Schools
- 11/06/2017: Panel Presentation, AUCD National Conference
- 11/07/2017: Inaugural Meeting of Special Interest Group – Deaf, Blind, Deafblind, AUCD National Conference
- 11/16/2017: LA DBP Advisory Board Meeting, LSU Health New Orleans
- 12/12/2017: Planning meeting Southeast U.S. Transition Institute

Intensive Technical Assistance:

- 10/17, 19, 24, 26, 31 /2017, 11/02, 7, 9, 14 /2017: American Sign Language Instruction (16 students)– LSU Health New Orleans
- 11/09/2017 & 12/14/2017: Survivorship/Late Effects Clinic, Children's Hospital of New Orleans
- 10/19, 26, /2017, 11/02, 9, 16, 30/2017 & 12/07,14/2017: Braille Instruction (7 Students) – LSU Health New Orleans and University of New Orleans
- 10/24-25/2017: Intensive Training, Collaborative for Students with Unique Communication Needs, St. Martin Parish Schools
- 12/01/2017: Mentoring, Collaborative for Students with Unique Communication Needs, Homer, LA
- 12/04/2017: Committee Member, School Resource Officers, Advocacy Center of Louisiana
- 12/06/2017: Revision of Collaborative for Students with Unique Communication Needs curriculum manual.

Universal Technical Assistance:

- 11/15/2017: Introductory meeting regarding Project with high school student interested in an internship experience
- 11/20/2017: Guest Lecture, Occupational Therapy Program, LSU Health New Orleans

- 11/28/2017: Case Management, Calcasieu Parish Schools

Louisiana School Psychology Internship Consortium (LAS*PIC)

- ✓ 2017-18 Interns completed Media Rotation where their skills in creating and delivering professional learning for education stakeholders using three different methods
- ✓ Screened 60+ applications for 2018-19 Internship year and invited 36 applicants for on-site interviews
- ✓ Conducted three of four days of interviews with applicants and local traditional and charter schools for six internship positions in schools. **Note** that due to no funding support, LAS*PIC is taking only six interns for 2018-19 school year despite over 30 vacancies in the metropolitan area. Significant shortages in school psychologists to meet the needs of students and teachers still exist and are growing. Without funding support for 2019-20, LAS*PIC may cease to function.

LASARD quarterly updates

- ✓ LASARD hosted workshops for high school educators – Breaking Barriers and Building Connections: Social Skills for Life. The workshops were held on November 2, 2017 in New Orleans and November 8, 2017 in Natchitoches.
- ✓ Webinars:
 - Facilitated IEPs – October 5
 - Co-Planning: What Benefits Me, Benefits You – October 19
 - Fair vs. Equal: Supporting All Students' Needs - November 16
 - Say What?!? Exploring AAC – November 30
 - If You Build It, They Will Come: Building Communication Opportunities – December 14
- ✓ Conference Presentation: LASARD Updates at the Gulf Coast Applied Behavior Analysis Conference on October 6
- ✓ LASARD has conducted over 220 hours of technical assistance in partner LEAs and schools so far this school year.

Teams Intervening Early to Reach all Students (TIERS Group)

- Five PDs
- 15 school visits
- Refining TIERS group website
- Successful conclusion to LASPIC rotation on Media in Professional Development
- Michigan contract for Data Team training
- IEP downloads.....increased the last number by 50

Employment/Transition Initiatives

Employment/Transition

Postsecondary Apprenticeship for Youth (Pay Check Pilot)

The Postsecondary Apprenticeship Pilot for Youth (Pay Check) pilot is an innovative collaboration between the LSUHSC-Human Development Center (HDC), Louisiana Rehabilitation Services, Delgado Community College, two public school systems, one public Charter school association, and the University Medical Center-New Orleans.

Pay Check is a 3-5 semester program wherein students select courses at Delgado Community College related to UMC targeted apprenticeship areas, participate in professional career development activities, learn community and work skills, and gain employment experience through a paid apprenticeship at the University Medical Center.

Pay Check Partners include: LRS/LWC, Delgado CC, UMC-New Orleans, Orleans parish school charters and Jefferson Parish Public School System. Currently working with LRS State Office to modify TPCA to reflect a Pre-ETS focus.

Transition and Employment

Received Agreement and MOUs for ten additional students from JPPSS for the PAY Check pilot. Applications are still being received and reviewed. Paycheck students will begin Jan 3, 2018.

HDC awarded Mentoring grant from LA DCC.

Received Contract with JPPSS for a year-long Transition Capacity Building Initiative (TCBI). Training calendar includes one 2-day summit, 14 Live and archived webinars and one 3-day core Transition Specialist training.

Benefits Planning Services

HDC provides Louisiana Benefits Planning Services (LA-BPS) through an SSA-WIPA RFA for the next four years to all Louisiana SSA recipients, to locate local and community programs that services their area of the state. HDC continues to support 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.

BPS provides comprehensive, proactive guidance to beneficiaries in order to:

- Retain the documentation and information beneficiaries need to ensure full access to work incentives, anticipate changes in benefits, and access all available Federal, State, and local work incentives including, but not limited to, Plans to Achieve Self-Support (PASS), the Ticket to Work (TTW), and Impairment Related Work Expenses (IRWE).
- Encourage and support accurate and timely reporting to reduce the size or likelihood of benefit overpayments.

- Offer information and support that beneficiaries need to access services to make a successful transition to employment.

HDC continues to provide free benefits counseling throughout the state in conjunction with the Advocacy Center. HDC averages 28-35 referrals each month and provides Information and Referral to all beneficiaries with specific and focused benefits planning to individuals who are employed or considering employment.

Benefit Planner certification training is ongoing to insure HDC Benefits Planners maintain knowledge of the dynamic content to serve Social Security beneficiaries with the latest information regarding the impact of income on the disability benefits received from Social Security and other state local support programs.

Supported Employment Training and Technical Assistance

- ✓ HDC attended several EFSLM Vision Quest/Employment work group calls and meetings
- ✓ HDC staff attended LRC meeting
- ✓ Financial inclusion and follow-up meetings and calls with NDI and local partners
- ✓ HDC staff active on the national **APSE Public Policy committee** and attend 3rd Friday monthly meetings which have focused primarily on the Workforce Investment and Opportunities Act (WIOA).
- ✓ Provided one CORE (3 day) Employment Training to CRPs, one CORE refresher and one Alternative Funding training
- ✓ Attended DDC Summit
- ✓ Meetings with school personnel students and families to provide education/outreach and to discuss apprenticeship pilot.

STATUS OF AGENCY'S ACTIVITIES ON DDC PLAN INITIATIVES AND IMPACT

Objective 2.3 *DSPs serving Louisianans with developmental disabilities will display a minimum skills set and have access to a graduated certification process with corresponding compensation increases.*

Activity 2.3.1 *Advocate for the development of a (or use of existing) comprehensive and evidence-based training curriculum and certification for DSPs statewide*

- HDC and LA APSE continue to collaborate and to advocate for Certified Employment Support Professional (CESP) certification co-hosted a CESP exam the day prior to the DDC summit
- HDC Employment Division has resumed calendar of comprehensive CORE and one-day SE trainings to promote learning of skills and competencies and have posted the 2017-2018 training calendar on the HDC website.

Objective 7.2 *Changes in policies and practices that result in students with developmental disabilities attaining competitive employment in integrated settings.*

Activity 7.2.1 *Advocate with the LSU-HSC Human Development Center and other collaborators for the development and implementation of policies and practices (i.e., college and career pathways) that ensure students with developmental disabilities have access to and opportunities that prepare them for post-secondary education and/or competitive, integrated employment.*

- HDC staff continues to advocate for and promote Employment First by providing Community Trainings and participating meetings and trainings offered by/through FHF, GODA Employment Coalition, Work Pays, LRC and stakeholder meetings as scheduled.
- HDC continues to work on the development of a collaborative funding model for an Apprenticeship to Careers and Employment model.
- Worked collaboratively with GODA, DD Council, and Advocacy Center to discuss implementation of Employment First Executive Order.

Objective 9.1 *Louisiana will develop and implement an Employment First plan.*

Activity 9.1.1 *Advocate for:*

- *policies that incentivize services for individualized integrated, competitive employment and dis-incentivize segregated, sheltered day habilitation services,*
- *sheltered workshops to transition people into individualized, competitive, paid employment and discontinue admissions into segregated day programs,*
- *collaborative policy making and practices across state agencies that promote students being supported in and transitioning into competitive paid employment,*
- *LRS and OCDD will collaborate to mandate that all supported employment vendors/providers complete a university-based 40-hour training,*
- *Support family members and other advocates to serve on the Louisiana work team in developing an Employment First agenda and implementation plan including participation in state level meetings.*

- HDC continue to work collaboratively with ALL PAYCHECK apprenticeship pilot entities (LRS, UMC, Orleans and Jefferson parish schools and two LEA charters).
- HDC employment staff sits on the national APSE Public Policy Work Group and attend monthly meetings via Go to Meeting. Recent focus has been on comments for WIOA and sub-minimum wage comments.
- HDC Employment Staff attended LRC meetings as LRC member.
- HDC Pay Check pilot funded and initiated with LRS - supported apprenticeship model with University Medical Center.
- HDC employment staff attended Louisiana APSE governing board meeting in May.
- HDC employment staff, as Louisiana APSE members and WorkPays members attended quarterly meetings.
- HDC co-chair of the recently awarded Employment First State Leadership Mentoring-Vision Quest award – previous to this HDC participated as part of a committee working with LWC and Shannon Joseph to discuss and develop and on-going forum to assess possible direct collaboration with LWC in terms of ways to ways to enhance access for individuals with disabilities to the menu of services offered through the statewide BCSCs.

Direct Services Initiatives

Provided intervention once a week to 16 clients who use AAC or need social communication intervention. Six clients were seen in social groups to encourage social interaction. Four client were seen at their respective schools and/or ABA therapy sessions to encourage inclusion and interprofessional practice. Four AAC evaluations completed at Collegiate Charter Schools in collaboration with OT, PT and classroom teacher. Continued to see two students at Morris Jeff Charter School and provided consultation, support and training to General and special education teachers as well as child specific assistant for two students who use AAC and participate in the regular classroom. Completed nine AAC evaluations, some in conjunction with school or private OT/PT as well as ABA therapist.

Attended Telepractice workshop in Belfast, Maine. Completed training the trainer and telepractice workshop in Pittsburg, PA. Mentoring provided to school therapist for developing AAC assessment and intervention expertise. School therapist shadowed clinician for two days to help learn how to incorporate AAC strategies.

Newly elected chair of ASHA Ad Hoc committee to conduct a systematic review and take a more in depth look at Facilitated Communication and Rapid Prompt Method.

STATUS OF COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS TO AGENCY

No recommendations have been received.