



LSU Human Development Center Activities Report, 2nd Quarter 2021

Since the beginning of the Fiscal Year 2021 (July 1, 2020), the Human Development Center (HDC) has served 5,346 individuals in the following areas:

- Persons with Developmental Disabilities & families received Model Demonstration Services: 615
- Number of Long-term trainees are in Interdisciplinary leadership Training: 18
- Individuals received Continuing Education: 2,696
- Practitioners/Professionals received Technical Assistance: 1,451
- Stakeholders received Community Trainings: 566

Below are highlights of the activities that took place last quarter in HDC's four initiative areas according to the three main goals for this grant cycle: Enhance Collaboration, Increase Access to Quality Services, and Promote Use of Evidence Based Practice.

Early Childhood Initiatives:

- Enhance Collaboration
 - HDC is collaborating with the New Orleans Early Education Network (NOEEN), Tulane TIKES and 20 childcare centers to implement a developmental screening pilot. HDC is supporting 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 provided professional development to over 150 early childhood educators statewide in Feb/March and will be providing a parent workshop in April. The program will provide tools and resources to educators, families, and children in rural areas and underserved communities. See promo for families [LPB's Statewide Virtual Family Community Summit Tickets, Sat, Apr 17, 2021 at 10:00 AM | Eventbrite](#).
- 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 1. 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.
 - HDC is providing interdisciplinary autism evaluations to rule in or rule out ASD to children in Early Head Start, NOEEN City Seats and local LA4 programs.
- Promote Use of Evidence Based Practice
 - Practice-based coaching and disability specific coaching began in October. HDC staff provided screening, referral, and teacher to support children at five sites offering Head Start, City Seats, LA-4, and NSECD programs.
 - HDC is expanding disability training and coaching to 20 sites participating in the NOEEN City Seast Program.

- HDC will conduct 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.
- HDC is collaborating with a local NPO to provide autism training and support. HDC will provide staff training and follow-up coaching/TA visits to support TrainingGrounds, Inc., a local NPO, in their Spectrum Supports program for families and educators in April/May.

K-12 Initiatives:

○ Enhance Collaboration

- HDC LASARD continues to provide professional development and coaching to over 30 contracted school systems across the state. Services have continued to be provided in person or virtual as required by COVID restrictions.
- The Louisiana DeafBlind Project has expanded participation in clinical services within the Ambulatory Care Services of Children's Hospital of New Orleans. Services now include three Cancer Survivor Late Effects clinics and one Hearing Disorders ENT clinic per month.
- The Louisiana DeafBlind Project provided lectures to LSUHSC Departments of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy concerning ADA, IDEA & Section 504 history and regulations regarding individuals with disabilities.
- The Louisiana Deafblind Project for Children and Youth joined the Louisiana Deafblind Collaborative Team coordinated by the Helen Keller National Center.

○ Increase Access to Quality Services

- HDC LASARD has provided over 40 professional development sessions attended by over 1500 professionals. Topics include: increasing virtual engagement, executive functioning, supporting communication, environmental arrangement, providing paraeducator support, implementing visual supports, proactive positive behavior strategies, and teaching functional skills.
- Virtual communities of practice (CoPs) have been implemented by LASARD facilitators in multiple districts to bring together educators with a similar role, such as paraeducators, early childhood teachers, behavior specialists, and special educators. These individuals are often isolated in their school building, and the CoP provides a supportive environment to collaborate with others in the same role across their district. The CoPs consist of a short content presentation and a structured collaborative problem-solving component. Feedback has been positive from the participants of CoPs.
- The Louisiana DeafBlind Project continues an intensive technical assistance relationship with the National Center for Deaf-Blindness in efforts to establish the use of Interveners with DeafBlind students in Louisiana.
- The Louisiana Deafblind Project presented to Louisiana Early Steps Region 9 administration and providers regarding the state DeafBlind Project.
- The Louisiana DeafBlind Project successfully recruited and employed Nicky Gillies to assume the role of Coordinator of Outreach and Education.

○ Promote Use of Evidence Based Practice

- The HDC LASARD website has over 500 subscribers. Subscribers to the website have access to instructional modules, downloadable resources, and short strategy trainings.
- HDC LASARD has used social media, such as Facebook, to promote the use of evidence-based practices. Since January 1, 2021, our Facebook posts have reached 10,266 people.
- The Louisiana Deafblind Project coordinated a symposium regarding assistive technology for individuals with sensory disabilities for the LSUHSC Department of Occupational Therapy.

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 continues working in partnership with FHF NOLA, LRS and Operation SPARK to expand and refine a disability/diversity talent pipeline to technology careers.
 - HDC TEC attends Office of Disability Employment Programs (ODEP) US Department of Labor Visionary Opportunities to Increase Competitive Employment (VOICES) and 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 COVID pandemic.
 - HDC TEC staff has been appointed to the national APSE SSA Public Policy Workgroup focusing on SSA Policy Reform generating a “white paper” draft on necessary policy and legislation changes.
- Increase Access to Quality Services
 - Currently there are 35 students in HDC’s PAY Check program from Jefferson Parish Schools System and now has a significant focus on two paid internships.
 - 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. There was a significant decrease in referrals due to the onset of the pandemic but for the past few months there has been a significant increase in HDC referrals as many service industries jobs have opened again.
 - The SSA, Office of Research, Demonstration, and Employment Support-Notice of Funding Opportunity for the WIPA program was published in February with the five-year application due on April 19, 2021. The new RFA catchment area for the HDC WIPA includes twenty-one Texas counties and thirty-three Louisiana parishes.
- Promote Use of Evidence Based Practice
 - HDC TEC continued to provide online CORE trainings and hosted nearly 35 virtual participants in the March 3-day event.
 - HDC TEC staff are now beginning the in-person CE training and have received two LRS CE referrals. HDC TEC staff will work in pairs to work the CE case starting with DISCOVERY, Plan Development and Placement with Train-the-Trainer mentoring across the nine national Customized Employment modules from the University of South Florida and approved by WIN TAC.
 - HDC TEC is working with national Project Search to discuss starting another Project Search in Louisiana and have begun discussions with a large statewide employer interested in being a host site. HDC TEC staff will attend the national Project Search virtual conference in July 2021.

Interdisciplinary Training

- Enhance Collaboration
 - Collaboration between HDC LEND 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 seminars, projects and complete field assignments/activities.
 - HDC submitted a new 5-year LEND proposal which includes collaborations with Tulane and ULL faculty and a focus on an emerging issue, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD).

- 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.
- The Interprofessional Preparation for Related Services Personnel and the Louisiana LEND program completed recruitment meetings with Departments of Speech-Language Pathology, Audiology, Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy for the 2021-22 cohorts beginning in Fall 2021.
- Increase Access to Quality Services
 - HDC LEND conducted three interdisciplinary ASD diagnostic clinics observed by LSUHSC and Tulane medical residents and LEND LTT from a variety of disciplines.
 - HDC Early Learning Center continues 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).