La DD Council - Status Report of FFY 2022 Action Plan

- *'On Target: Initiative'* indicates progress has been made as expected.
- *'On Target: Expenditures'* indicates invoiced amounts are as expected.

Activity	Progress As applicable, data is presented year-to-date and quarterly (January 1, 2022 – March 31, 2022).
Goal 1 Individuals with developmental disabilities and their families will have access to information and supports to become effective leaders of their communities and advocate for systems changes on behalf of themselves and other individuals with developmental disabilities.	
Obj. 1.1 Individuals with developmental disabilities of all ages will have access to opportunities to increase their awareness and knowledge of rights as a contributing member to society; including subject matters on (but not limited to) advocacy, voting, exploitation prevention, financial stability and responsibilities, and decision making.	
1.1.1 Provide financial support and technical assistance for Partners in Policymaking and its alumni network. **Approx. FFY 2022 Cost: $90,000**	The first PIP session of the 2022 class took place in January 2022 across three days: Meet and Greet; Session One on disability history; and Q&A with Guy Caruso on Social Role Valorization. Of the 23 applicants who were accepted into the 2022 PIP class, 19 participants attended the January session, thus beginning the program in January 2022. The second PIP session of the 2022 class took place in February 2022 across two days. Speakers included: Nicole Learson, who presented on Boards, Commissions, and Parliamentarian Procedure; and Deborah Whitfield, who presented on Grassroots Organizing and the Art and Science of Negotiation. All 19 participants who began the program in January attended the February session. The third PIP session of the 2022 class took place in March 2022 across two days. Speakers included: Adrienne Thomas, PIP Coordinator; Amy Deaville, the Council's Executive Director; and Ebony Haven, the Council's Deputy Director. Ms. Thomas presented on the Legislative Process. Ms. Deaville and Ms. Haven presented on the history of Act 378, LaCAN (Louisiana Council's Advocacy Network), the Council's current legislative advocacy agenda and writing testimony. All three months' sessions were held via Zoom and included access to documents and participation in activities via a 2022 PIP Trello board, an interactive project management board. Participants also communicated and completed polls and surveys via GroupMe.

	Previous Quarter(s): Information webinars were presented in October 2021. The topics included inclusive education, family engagement, employment, and political action. Guest speakers included Senator Katrina Jackson, Cindy Arceneaux, Rose Gilbert, and previous PIP graduates Corhonda Corley, Wallace Johnson, and Konstance Causey. The 2020 PIP class completed requirements for graduation on October 31, 2021. An in-person graduation ceremony is tentatively scheduled for January 2022. In November 2021, recruitment efforts were extended via social media, Families Helping Families networks, PIP alumni, press release, interviews, and other promotional means. Statistical data was compiled to organize an overview snapshot of alumni by region, Council involvement, and Families Helping Families involvement. There were 25 applications received for the 2022 Partners in Policymaking (PIP) class. The PIP Selection Committee, made up of 4 Council members and attended by the PIP Coordinator, met on December 1, 2021 and reviewed the 25 applications. Of the 25 applications received, 3 were self-advocates, 21 were parents, and 1 was both a self-advocate and a parent. Of the 25 applications received, 2 were found ineligible, leaving a total of 23 applicants eligible for review. All 23 eligible applicants were accepted into the 2022 PIP class. The PIP Coordinator sent out “PIP Points,” a monthly update for the current PIP class providing information about the upcoming sessions, in December 2021 for the upcoming January 2022 session. It included: a welcome to the class of 2022; the January 2022 session at-a-glance; and a short biography of the PIP Coordinator. The 2022 PIP class is moving forward virtually at this time due to the current suspension of in-person activities. In the virtual format, the class will: meet via Zoom one day per month and complete activities throughout the month; access documents and participate in activities via a 2022 PIP Trello board, an interactive project management board; and communicate, text, and complete polls and surveys via GroupMe. **On target: ☒ Initiative ☒ Expenditures**

1.1.2 Provide financial support and information, training, technical assistance, and leadership to a grassroots network of individuals with developmental disabilities and family members of individuals with developmental disabilities to effectively educate policy makers on the development/improvement of programs and services for people with developmental disabilities. **Approx. FFY 2022 Cost: $215,000**	As of March 2022, LaCAN has over 6,600 members registered to receive information and action alerts related to home and community-based services, employment, education, and early intervention. <u>Advocacy Activities</u> Since October 1, 2021: • 252 actions taken on two (2) HCBS action alerts; • 238 actions taken on two (2) education action alerts; • 21 participants at end Education yellow shirt days LaCAN Leaders are actively scheduling visits between members and legislators through the middle of the 2022 Legislative Session that began on March 14, 2022. To date, members have been supported on 52 formal visits of which 32 were with key committee members. Additionally, 21 legislators (10 serving on key committees) attended their regional Legislative Roundtable and received information pertaining to the Council and LaCAN's advocacy agenda. LaCAN continues to host two LaCAN Leader conference calls per month, which include updates on current concerns/issues and development of strategies to better educate, maintain, support, and lead LaCAN members. **On target: ☒ Initiative ☒ Expenditures**
1.1.3 Facilitate and support diverse advocacy events, including but not limited to Legislative Roundtables, toward training, services and policies that will benefit individuals with developmental disabilities. **Approx. FFY 2022 Cost: $30,000**	Nine Legislative Roundtables were held across the state virtually with 377 participants in attendance, including: • 33 self-advocates • 163 family members • 151 professionals • 30 policy makers (i.e. legislators, legislative aides, and/or BESE members) Since October 1, 2021, 131 LaCAN members participated in 15 virtual regional LaCAN member meetings to discuss the Council's 2022 Advocacy Agenda, learn how to become an active member, ways of taking action virtually and in person (action alerts, yellow shirt days, public testimony) and how to connect with legislators virtually and in person.

	Previous Quarter(s) The LaCAN Leader call on November 9, 2021 was dedicated to reviewing and enhancing Leader's understanding of the Council's 2022 advocacy agenda, reviewing fact sheets, expectations for legislative visits and discussing Roundtables. **On target: ☒ Initiative ☒ Expenditures**
1.1.4 Provide financial support (from the entirety of state general funds) and technical assistance to nine Families Helping Families Regional Resource Centers across the state.	Since October 1, 2021, Centers have assisted over 9,500 individuals with disabilities and families with information, referral, peer to peer, and other supports. There have been over 17,200 units of information and referral completed with 165 trainings conducted with over 2401 individuals in attendance Centers have also conducted 132 outreach activities to hospitals, pediatricians, school districts, Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) clinics and physical therapy clinics. The additional $500,000 in state general fund allocated to the Centers in FY22 was not included in the proposed FY23 budget despite the Council's budget request. A fact sheet was created and disseminated to LaCAN Leaders and FHF Directors to distribute to legislators during visits. Staff has been working with LDH on amendments to include the additional funds in budget amendments and Action Alerts were sent to the LaCAN listserv requesting advocates reach out to their legislators regarding this issue. **Previous Quarter(s)**: Since October 1, 2021, Centers have assisted over 4,100 individuals with disabilities and families with information, referral, peer to peer, and other supports. There have been over 7,100 units of information and referral completed with 74 trainings conducted with over 900 individuals in attendance. Data for the Centers' outreach activities to hospitals, pediatricians, school districts, Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) clinics and physical therapy clinics will be provided in January 2022 **On target: ☒ Initiative ☒ Expenditures**
1.1.5 Produce and disseminate videos and other visual materials featuring information important to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families regarding but not limited to the following topics: accessible	The Council has again contracted with O'Neill Communications to produce/ disseminate videos and other visual materials featuring information important to individuals with developmental disabilities/ their families on a number of various topics. O'Neill Communications has begun progress on outlining a storyboard and topics; building an intake form to request video participation from the Council; and building an implementation plan for the video topics.

housing, COVID-19 issues, IEP guidance, successful educational outcomes and inclusive employment and other demonstrations of "It Can Be Done and You Can Do It" in all aspects of inclusive living, Partners in Policymaking®, assistive technology, inclusive after-school and recreational activities, ADA, DD Act, Civil Rights, IDEA and dispute resolutions, voting rights and accessible options, LRS services (especially transition) and how to access those services.. **Approx. FFY 2022 Cost: $51,000**	**Previous Quarter(s):** The following 4 videos featuring information important to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families were released: 1. Fully Included: Why DSPs are Important for the Disability Community 2. Fully Included: Understanding Louisiana's Waivers 3. Fully Included: Employment and People with Disabilities 4. Fully Included - What are Families Helping Families Resource Centers? O'Neill Communications met with the Council's Executive Director reviewing topics for videos for the contract beginning October 1 that are expressly listed in the FFY 2022 Action Plan (accessible housing, COVID-19 issues, IEP guidance, successful educational outcomes and inclusive employment and other demonstrations of "It Can Be Done and You Can Do It" in all aspects of inclusive living, Partners in Policymaking®, assistive technology, inclusive after-school and recreational activities, ADA, DD Act, Civil Rights, IDEA and dispute resolutions, voting rights and accessible options, LRS services [especially transition] and how to access those services), as well as potential additional topics (a deeper dive into the Council, the ADA with images from the Capitol Crawl, other historically significant events, and a deeper dive into Employment). **On target: ☒ Initiative ☒ Expenditures**
1.1.6 Provide financial support for promotion, awareness, training and support in implementation of Supported Decision Making. **Approx. FFY 2022 Cost: $50,000**	As of March 2022, one statewide training has occurred with six (6) participants in attendance (19 participants registered). Additionally, six (6) self-advocates are being mentored through the entire Supported Decision Making process since the start of the contract in October 2021. **Previous Quarter(s)**: The Council has again collaborated with The Arc of Louisiana to offer 5 statewide training events for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their family members and 5 training events for legal and medical professionals to increase their understanding of Supported Decision Making. The Arc of Louisiana will also be mentoring 2 adults through the SDM process. The training schedule and registration information can be found here. The site will be updated as trainings are scheduled. Training schedules will be shared with all FHF Centers, People First of LA and Disability Rights LA. **On target: ☒ Initiative ☒ Expenditures**

1.1.7 Produce and provide information important to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families through a variety of electronic and social media (Council website, Facebook, and LaDDC News).	Data as of March 23, 2022: • The Council's listserv has 5,557 active subscribers. • The Council's Facebook has 5,806 page followers and 5,437 page likes. • The Council's Twitter has 482 followers. The following 8 LaDDC Newsletters were released via listserv and advertised on the Council's Facebook and Twitter: 1. Council's 2022 Legislative Agenda, January 24, 2022 2. Council's Website Experiencing Technical Difficulties, February 11, 2022 3. Free Virtual Community Development & Safety Training Event, February 11, 2022 4. Council's Website Outage Resolved, February 14, 2022 5. LDOE Seeking Input on IDEA Application Development, February 17, 2022 6. Call for Speakers for Employment Webinar Series, February 28, 2022 7. Discovering Abilities – Employment Webinar Series Kick-Off!, March 15, 2022 8. Free Community Development & Safety Training Session in Shreveport/Bossier Area, March 16, 2022 **Previous Quarter(s)**: Data as of January 3, 2022: • The Council's listserv has 5,537 active subscribers. • Facebook has 5,761 page followers and 5,365 page likes. • Twitter has 466 followers. The following 5 LaDDC Newsletters were released via listserv: 1. Act 421 Children's Medicaid Option (TEFRA) Begins January 1, December 15, 2021 2. Upcoming Community Training Event on Interactions with First Responders, December 6, 2021 3. Upcoming Emergency Preparedness and Disability Awareness Trainings, November 3, 2021 4. Legislators Want Your Opinion: Finding Children With Disabilities In Emergencies, October 22, 2021 5. LRS Statewide Needs Assessment Survey, October 13, 2021 **On target: ☒ Initiative**

1.1.8 Advocate for increased meaningful opportunities for stakeholder input; improved practices to facilitate stakeholder input and consideration of stakeholder recommendations.	Information was shared on the Council's social media pages to increase meaningful opportunities for stakeholder input including: • Positions are available on the State Interagency Coordinating Council for Early Steps (SICC) for parents of children with disabilities who are 12 years old or younger and for Early Steps providers. • The state is accepting public comments on an action plan to spend $600 million in federal funding for recovery from Hurricanes Laura and Delta. This is a great opportunity for the disability community to share their input! **On target: ☒ Initiative**
Obj. 1.2 Louisiana's self-advocacy network, partner groups, and citizens with developmental disabilities will be supported in self-advocacy training, systems change advocacy, and through participation on a variety of boards and commissions.	
1.2.1 Provide technical assistance and training opportunities designed to strengthen the self-advocacy network and the effectiveness of its systems change activities and promote self-advocacy participation in training of other self-advocates in leadership positions. **Approximate Cost for FY2022: $25,000**	This quarter five (5) self-advocates attended the Disability Policy Seminar March 28th - 30th. The Disability Policy seminar is a three-day annual federal legislative conference co-sponsored by The Arc, Autism Society, American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, Association of University Centers on Disabilities, National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities, United Cerebral Palsy, and Self Advocates Becoming Empowered (the partners). The Seminar strengthens our federal advocacy efforts by having people from across the country come to Washington, DC to receive training and updates and visit their Members of Congress. Sessions covered many different areas, such as education, housing, financial security challenges, voting and more. **Previous Quarter(s)**: Self-advocate attended the Writing to Change the World 2-day training. The self-advocate representing the Louisiana self-advocacy network reported he was very satisfied with the training. He indicated he learned of the need to view situations and policies from different perspectives, to allow for the "filters" all individuals employ and to be persuasive embracing varying viewpoints. He anticipates information from the training will provide useful advocacy techniques. **On target: ☒ Initiative ☒ Expenditures**

1.2.2 Provide information and support for participation of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families in cross-disability and culturally diverse leadership coalitions and advisory bodies.	Information was shared on the Council's social media pages with stakeholders for positions for cross-disability and culturally diverse leadership coalitions and advisory bodies including: • Positions are available on the State Interagency Coordinating Council for Early Steps (SICC) for parents of children with disabilities who are 12 years old or younger and for Early Steps providers. **On target: ☐ Initiative**
1.2.3 Support Council members in participation in Council meetings and other functions.	Council members are supported in participation of Council meetings and other functions and have been offered the provision of assistive technology to facilitate participation in virtual Council meetings. Governor Edwards ended the Public Health Emergency on March 16th and the suspension of the Council's in-person activity ended as well. However, due to several barriers, an ADA accommodation will be offered to Council members who are self-advocates or parents/family members of an individual with a developmental disability to attend virtually for the April Council meetings. **On target: ☒ Initiative**
1.2.4 Support Council members' participation in training and educational opportunities and Council leadership's participation in national training, networking events and advocacy opportunities. **Approx. FFY 2022 Cost: $7,000**	Council Chair and council member attended the Disability Policy Seminar, March 28th - 30th. The Disability Policy seminar is a three-day annual federal legislative conference co-sponsored by The Arc, Autism Society, American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, Association of University Centers on Disabilities, National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities, United Cerebral Palsy, and Self Advocates Becoming Empowered (the partners). The Seminar strengthens our federal advocacy efforts by having people from across the country come to Washington, DC to receive training and updates and visit their Members of Congress. Sessions covered many different areas, such as education, housing, financial security, voting and more. **Previous Quarter(s)**: LaDDC Orientation for new members has been scheduled for January 7th, 2021. **On target: ☒ Initiative ☐ Expenditures**

Goal 2 To be fully participating members of the community, individuals with developmental disabilities, including those with the most challenging needs, and their families will have access to quality supports and services inclusive of affordable healthcare, resources across various service delivery systems, and shall be treated equally by all members of the community.	
Obj. 2.1 Individuals with developmental disabilities will have increased access to appropriate and affordable healthcare, including primary and specialist providers, preventive health services and prevention of chronic diseases, dental care, sexual/reproductive health services and behavioral health services.	
2.1.1 Provide information and financial support to coordinate rapid response during a natural disaster or state of emergency for individuals with the most severe disabilities and medical conditions and for Human Service Districts/Authorities and other service entities for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families to be aware of disaster/emergency response resource entities. **Approximate Cost for FY2022: $10,000**	Contractor continues working with other groups to advertise the availability of funds to assist individuals and families. There has been a delay in contract approval for this fiscal year. Contractor did assist families in need in the month of February, but that data will be forthcoming. Individuals and families in need of assistance should contact the contractor, Trach Mommas of Louisiana directly at 225-200-5178 or trachmommas@gmail.com. **Previous Quarter(s)** Contractor has been working with other groups to advertise the availability of funds to assist individuals and families. No funds distributed in first quarter. Contractor cites limitations and prohibitions in the contract as a barrier to use funds. **On target: ☒ Initiative ☒ Expenditures**
2.1.2 Advocate for adequate funding for waiver services.	Shared information about the need for funding to ensure implementation of comprehensive dental coverage for all adults participating in a Medicaid waiver for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities at the Council and LaCAN's roundtable events throughout the state. Also discussed this need in individual communications and visits with legislators and via the Council's social media pages. LaDDC News announcing the Council's legislative agenda published on January 24th also included information about this issue. Funding for this need was included in the governor's FY23 proposed budget.

	Previous Quarter(s) A fact sheet about the need for funding to ensure implementation of comprehensive dental coverage for all adults participating in a Medicaid waiver for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities was developed and posted on the Council's website. Shared the Council's opposition at the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs Legislative Committee to proposed advocacy, which would allow for the Community and Family Support System Fund to be used to provide services within Intermediate Care Facilities for individuals with developmental disabilities (ICF/DD). **On target: ☒ Initiative**
2.1.3 Oversee implementation of the Community and Family Support System Plan and advocate for adequate funding, the expansion of services, and consistent implementation of policy across regions, including, if necessary, changes in law and/or contracts with local governing entities (LGE's).	Act 421 Children's Medicaid Option (TEFRA) went live on January 1st. The Council created and shared multiple posts on its social media pages to advertise the availability of this new program and eligibility. LDH has developed a website for stakeholders to view more information about this program including steps to apply. This information was also shared in the Council's January Self-Determination and Community Inclusion Committee meeting. LaDDC staff met with LDH/OCDD Leadership and stakeholders on January 26th, February 11th and 21st to discuss and develop a visual workflow document outlining the TEFRA application process to ensure that parents understand how the process works and get feedback from partners and family advocates. The visual for Act 421Children's Medicaid Option TEFRA Application process can be found here. **Previous Quarter(s)** LaDDC staff met with LDH/OCDD Leadership on December 15th regarding a potential funding formula for LGE's. Solicited feedback on appropriate factors for a funding formula through a survey for all Council members. Shared an LaDDC News on 12/15/21 announcing the availability of Act 421 Children's Medicaid Option starting January 1, 2022. **On target: ☒ Initiative**
2.1.4 Advocate for utilization of the ROW 50 pilot and other opportunities to transition out of institutional settings.	LaDDC staff met with OCDD Leadership and was informed that this pilot was started a few years ago and was intended to transition people out of Intermediate Care Facilities (ICFs) and in to shared living. OCDD was not able to find 50 people to complete the pilot and instead ended up with about half the number of originally projected participants. Those individuals did transition to shared living from ICFs and OCDD was able to show that this transition was budget neutral. **On target: ☒ Initiative**

2.1.5 Advocate for waivers to provide access to services listed in the Freedom of Choice Provider Listing, continue exemptions and flexibilities initiated with COVID-19; and consider individualized emergency preparedness considerations for people with severe disabilities and medical issues.	LaDDC staff met with OCDD Leadership in February 2022 and discussed the progress and pending approval of the waiver amendment and rule changes as it relates to the Appendix K exceptions to remain in place past the public health emergency. OCDD stated that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) required additional information. Therefore, the amendments and rule changes regarding the continuation of some COVID-19 waiver exceptions are still pending CMS approval. **Previous Quarter(s)** The Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities hosted a series of individual forums to develop new waiver amendments and rules for the four OCDD Medicaid waivers as it relates to the Appendix K exceptions. A video of the presentation can be found on the department's YouTube Channel. You can also access the presentation slideshow here. Amendments to the waivers were submitted for public comment in December. **On target:** ☒ **Initiative**
2.1.6 Advocate for and collaborate with Louisiana Department of Health on the creation of lists of providers by region to be posted on the Council and LDH's websites. This list should include home and community-based providers, primary care and specialist care providers, preventive health services, prevention of chronic disease services, dental, behavioral health and sexual/reproductive health services.	LaDDC staff met with OCDD Leadership in February 2022 to discuss lists of providers that include home and community-based providers, primary care and specialist care providers, preventive health services, prevention of chronic disease services, dental, behavioral health and sexual/reproductive health services. Staff and OCDD discussed where provider list can be found on other sites including the Medicaid site and private insurance websites. **On target:** ☐ **Initiative**
Obj. 2.2 Individuals with developmental disabilities and their families will have access to and be served by qualified trained professionals, including Direct Support Professionals, First Responders, and other professionals, who will value and promote inclusive community living.	

2.2.1 Provide financial support to conduct training sessions on first-responder tactics, approaches and resources in fostering relationships with and dealing with individuals with developmental disabilities and training for people with developmental disabilities on how to interact with first responders. **Approx. FFY 2022 Cost: $50,000**	Council contracted again with Interaction Advisory Group (IAG) to conduct virtual training sessions for first responders. Trainings for first responders were not held in January and February due to low turnout. Per IAG, this is very common and training participation picks up in the spring. IAG conducted an in-person training event on March 22nd in Bossier City. This was an in-kind training. A virtual training session is also scheduled for April 5th. Shared LaDDC News on February 11th and March 16th advertising initiative and upcoming community training events. The February 24th event had 10 attendees. As of the creation of this status update, March 22nd attendance numbers were not available. As additional community events are scheduled, they will be updated on the Council's website **Previous Quarter(s)** Training was scheduled for November but did not have any participants register. Per IAG, historically the winter/holiday months are slow with little to no turnout. IAG will make up these trainings in future months. Shared LaDDC News on December 6th advertising initiative and community training event on December 16th. **On target: ☒ Initiative ☒ Expenditures**
2.2.2 Provide financial support to establish a training program on emergency preparedness and response relative to people with developmental disabilities **Approx. FFY 2022 Cost: $20,000**	Niagara University (contractor) has been reaching out to and communicating with entities responsible for emergency preparedness throughout the state to discuss the Emergency Management Disability Awareness Training. At this time, two in-person trainings are to be held this contract year. The first training is scheduled for June 7 - 8 in the New Orleans area. Shared a LaDDC News on March 25th with details about the training and registration information. More information about the EMDAT training and presenter can be found here. As updated trainings are scheduled, the Council's website will be updated. **Previous Quarter(s)** Shared LaDDC News on November 3rd advertising initiative and upcoming trainings. During the first quarter, three trainings were conducted (morning and afternoon session for each date): November 18th with 140 attendees, November 23rd with 137 attendees and December 1st with 140 attendees. **On target: ☒ Initiative ☒ Expenditures**

2.2.3 Publicize healthcare provider continuing education opportunities.	Healthcare continuing education opportunities were publicized and promoted via the Council's social media pages on January 22nd. Those interested in participating in the educational trainings can access the webinars via the LSU Human Development Center's website. The Human Development Center at LSU Health New Orleans is offering 7 webinars to provide training on disability competency issues that are available online 24/7 for free! The goal is to improve access and quality of health care for people with disabilities **Previous Quarter(s)**: Those interested in participating in the educational trainings can access the webinars via the LSU Human Development Center's website. **On target:** ☐ **Initiative** ☐ **Expenditures**
2.2.4 Advocate for increased meaningful opportunities for stakeholder input; improved practices to facilitate stakeholder input and consideration of stakeholder recommendations.	No update this quarter **On target:** ☐ **Initiative**
Obj. 2.3. Individuals with developmental disabilities and their families will have increased access to safe, affordable, and accessible housing allowing for inclusive community living. (Targeted Disparity – Disadvantaged population).	
2.3.1 Conduct research and collaborate with appropriate entities to address accessibility and discrimination in housing for people with disabilities.	No update this quarter. **On target:** ☐ **Initiative**
Goal 3 Individuals with developmental disabilities will have access to quality education in inclusive and safe environments throughout all stages of life and access to self-determined, individualized, equal and gainful employment opportunities that provide competitive wages and integrated work environments.	
Obj. 3.1 Parents of students with developmental disabilities will have increased access to early diagnosis, identification of needs, early intervention services, childcare and information and opportunities to collaborate with educators regarding individualized educational planning or programming to meet the needs of their students.	

3.1.1 Provide financial support to establish a Post-Secondary Inclusive Education Alliance to provide mentoring and technical assistance, host training events and develop resources designed to build the capacity of Louisiana postsecondary institutions in providing inclusive postsecondary education opportunities for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities throughout Louisiana. **Approx. FFY 2022 Cost: $40,000**	The Louisiana Alliance on Post-Secondary Inclusive Education (LAPIE), Council members and LaDDC staff are working with Senator Boudreaux to get legislation passed to provide $1 million to support the creation and growth of Post-Secondary Inclusive Education programs. Information was also shared about the need for funding to ensure the continuation and expansion of current programs and creation of new programs at other Louisiana colleges and universities for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities at the Council and LaCAN's roundtable events throughout the state. **Previous Quarter(s)**: The Alliance is currently working on legislation to provide $3 million to support the creation and growth of Post-Secondary Inclusive Education programs. This is on LaDDC's 2022 legislative advocacy agenda. A fact sheet about the need for funding to expand and increase postsecondary inclusive education programs for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Louisiana was developed and posted on the Council's website. This fact sheet was distributed to LaCAN leaders to be used in legislative visits and member meetings prior to the 2022 legislative session. **On target: ☒ Initiative ☒ Expenditures**
3.1.2 Advocate for increased focus and capacity within Louisiana Department of Education to address Special Education, including specific areas/issues (i.e., disability/topical/etc.)	No activity this quarter. **On target: ☒ Initiative**
3.1.3 Advocate for support structure in school systems that assures adequate understanding and skill to develop and implement IEP's and increased infrastructure of training and technical	No activity this quarter.

assistance provided to parents and schools simultaneously.	**On target:** ☐ **Initiative**
3.1.4 Provide information and promote inclusion and acceptance of effective models of school climate and culture.	No activity this quarter. **On target:** ☐ **Initiative**
3.1.5 Advocate for Type 2 and Type 5 charter schools to be required to meet 85% rule of enrolling students with disabilities at rates similar to those found in traditional public schools and advocate for and monitor equitable funding based on Minimum Foundation Program (MFP), specifically regarding the charter compacts.	No activity this quarter. **On target:** ☐ **Initiative**
3.1.6 Advocate for educational systems change based on emergent education issues.	On March 23rd, LaCAN held its first Yellow Shirt Day since the pandemic started in 2020 to advocate for a deadline for the creation of policies for cameras in special education classrooms. While providing testimony before the Senate Education committee, LaCAN members were also asked about the funding cost because the committee was adamant that the funding needed to be included. LaCAN will now be advocating for the funding (approximately $8 million) for cameras in special education classrooms. **On target:** ☐ **Initiative**
3.1.7 Advocate for increased meaningful opportunities for stakeholder input; improved practices to facilitate	Information was shared on the Council's social media pages for meaningful opportunities for stakeholder input including:

stakeholder input and consideration of stakeholder recommendations.	• Positions are available on the State Interagency Coordinating Council for Early Steps (SICC) for parents of children with disabilities who are 12 years old or younger and for Early Step providers. • The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires each state to have in place a State Performance Plan (SPP) that describes the state's IDEA implementation and includes targets that measure a mix of student outcomes and compliance with the IDEA requirements. States are now setting new annual targets for federal fiscal years 2020-2025 and they want your input! The target setting survey below is an opportunity for families, educators and school administrators, parent centers, members of the Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP), local and statewide advisory and advocacy groups to provide input on activities to improve outcomes for students with disabilities • The Louisiana Department of Education is seeking feedback from Special Education stakeholder communities to share what activities the public views as important as they develop the comprehensive IDEA grant application for Federal Fiscal Year 2022. An LaDDC News was also shared on February 17th to request stakeholder input. **On target:** ☐ **Initiative**
3.1.8 Conduct outreach with appropriate entities on current services and training opportunities for traditional and special education teachers including ongoing support (i.e., high quality ongoing teacher education) which may lead to capacity building efforts to increase high quality educators.	Information was sent to Meredith Jordan (Executive Director for Diverse Learners with the Louisiana Department of Education or LDOE) regarding the National Down Syndrome Congress' Educator's Conference this summer in New Orleans for possible distribution to educators. **On target:** ☒ **Initiative**
Obj. 3.2 Individuals with developmental disabilities will have increased employment outcomes upon transitioning from secondary educational settings, access to employment opportunities inclusive of services from highly qualified employment support providers and increased competitive and integrated opportunities from employers who are educated on how to support people with developmental disabilities.	

3.2.1 Provide funding to build the capacity of employment providers in customized employment in a manner which will lead to certification through a competency-based certification program. **Approx. FFY 2022 Cost: $25,000**	All customized employment classes are currently on hold at this time. LRS is currently working on securing 4 new learning partners for participants in the certification classes. **Previous Quarter (s)**: The contract with Arc of LA was renewed for this activity so that more Employment Support Professionals (ESPs) may participate in Discovery and Job Development Gateways and Certification mentoring. This will allow multiple ESPs to be ready to pursue certification in Systematic Instruction either once MG&A can provide certification again, or by LSU-HDC once they have completed their requirements to offer training and certification. Two (2) certification classes are currently in process. The Job Development Certification Class is having to pause due to attendees being unable to take time from work to attend training. The Discovery Certification Class has been unable to attain learning partners from LRS to complete the process with the certification class members. This is continuing to cause a delay in completion. **On target: ☒ Initiative ☒ Expenditures**
3.2.2 Provide financial support to conduct seminars with Chambers of Commerce throughout the state on the benefits of hiring people with developmental disabilities. **Approx. FFY 2022 Cost: $32,000**	The Council has contracted again with O'Neill Communications to conduct employment seminars. In January, O'Neill Communications completed a review of archived footage from FFY 2021 Working Together campaign and developed a plan to improve on the curriculum and production for FFY 2022, specifically taking a deeper dive into topics and implementing a "story-telling" format. O'Neill Communications met with Council staff to review the contract's Statement of Work outlining deliverables and confirmed the pool of speakers to include employers, employees with disabilities and their family, and all agencies providing support in the hiring and recruiting process. Later in January 2022, O'Neill Communications sent a survey to Louisiana employers to gauge topic interests and engage them for the upcoming series. O'Neill Communications began outreach to secure presenters and confirmed Jeff Arseneaux as the Host of the Series. A branded slide deck was also developed for the FFY 2022 Working Together Campaign: DIScovering ABILITIES Employment Webinar Series – Stories of Lived Experience from the Workplace. These slides are used to complement the webinars and visually reinforce the messages, as well as in advertising of the series. In February 2022, an LaDDC News was sent out calling for speakers for the series and the Council's Deputy Director emailed Council Member advocates inviting them to participate as speakers. O'Neill Communications developed a comprehensive communications marketing plan and calendar. A press release was sent out to local press and the series was also advertised

	In March 2022, the Council's Program Monitor emailed all Council Members individually inviting them to participate as speakers. An LaDDC News was sent out advertising the DIScovering ABILITIES Employment Webinar Series Kick-Off, outlining what the series aims to do, its schedule, and registration information. The series was also advertised on the Council's social media. On March 22, 2022 the first webinar of the DIScovering ABILITIES series, Stories of Lived Experience from the Workplace, took place. The first webinar kicked off the series with voices from the workplace in a story-telling format. The webinar aimed to bust myths about what work looks like for people with disabilities and shared what the series will offer as it moves forward. There were 93 registrants and 48 attendees. More information about the DIScovering ABILITIES series, descriptions of each webinar, the full schedule, and registration can be found on the Council's homepage banner and on EventBrite. **Previous Quarter(s):** O'Neill Communications met with the Council's Executive Director and discussed plans to review the employment seminars' information and possibly make changes. The last two webinars were completed (Region 4 and Region 1/10). Completed webinar materials (curriculum booklet, webinar recording, and webinar powerpoint) for each region were compiled and made available on the Working Together site for participants or visitors to download as a resource. **On target: ☒ Initiative ☒ Expenditures**
3.2.3 Advocate for employment support professionals to complete high-quality professional development for the improvement of service provisions and employment outcomes.	No activity this quarter. **On target: ☐ Initiative**
3.2.4 Advocate for employment providers to	No activity this quarter.

have access to financial incentives to support unserved and underserved populations including people with the most substantial employment support needs in competitive integrated individualized employment.	**On target:** ☐ **Initiative**
3.2.5 Share the benefits planning services to a variety of agencies and stakeholders.	Information was shared on the Council's social media pages for benefits planning services including: • Disability Rights Louisiana Lunch and Learn Series: The Financial Access and Inclusion Resources Program (FAIR) **Previous Quarter(s)**: Information on this topic can be found on the Council's website under Employment Initiatives. **On target:** ☒ **Initiative**
3.2.6 Advocate for systems change based on emergent employment issues.	In February 2022, information was shared with Council members about the Learn with LIFE: Community Conversations webinars that occurred on February 18th. Learn with LIFE: Community Conversations is an educational series put on by the UL LIFE Program. Their goal is to build relationships with community businesses, organizations, and stakeholders that could lead to employment and community participation for their students during their time in college and after graduation. At this webinar, UL LIFE staff discussed customizing employment for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, which will include a focus on job carving, job creation, and job sharing for our community. Their session will include break-out room discussions with the LIFE staff to help answer any questions, to discuss ideas, and to deepen our understanding on this topic. **On target:** ☒ **Initiative**

3.2.7 Advocate for information on post-secondary opportunities and access to LRS pre-employment transition services within school districts for all students with disabilities.	The Louisiana Alliance on Post-Secondary Inclusive Education (LAPIE), Council members and LaDDC staff are working with Senator Boudreaux to get legislation passed to provide $1 million to support the creation and growth of Post-Secondary Inclusive Education programs. Information was shared about the need for funding to ensure the continuation and expansion of current programs and creation of new programs at other Louisiana colleges and universities for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities at the Council and LaCAN's roundtable events throughout the state. **Previous Quarter(s)**: The Louisiana Alliance for Post-secondary Inclusive Education is currently working on legislation to provide $3 million to support the creation and growth of Post-Secondary Inclusive Education programs. This is on LaDDC's 2022 legislative advocacy agenda. A fact sheet about the need for funding to expand and increase postsecondary inclusive education programs for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Louisiana was developed and posted on the Council's website. This fact sheet was distributed to LaCAN leaders to be used in legislative visits and member meetings prior to the 2022 legislative session. **On target:** ☒ **Initiative**
3.2.8 Advocate for increased Louisiana Rehabilitation Services counselor positions, including administrative, legislative, and funding efforts.	No activity this quarter. **On target:** ☐ **Initiative**
3.2.9 Conduct research to examine the effectiveness and advocate to support efforts of the Louisiana Medicaid "buy-in" program.	LaDDC staff conducted reached on Medicaid's buy-in program on March 8th. Staff will contact Medicaid to obtain more information about how individuals interested in participating in the buy-in program can qualify and apply. **On target:** ☐ **Initiative**