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 (July 1, 2022 – September 30, 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**	One (1) session of the 2022 Partners in Policymaking (PiP) class took place this quarter: • The seventh and final PIP session of the 2022 class took place in July 2022. The speakers were Rashad Bristo, LaShawn James, Sou Hayes and Kara Shupe and the topics were Louisiana Rehabilitation Services, Assistive Technology and Taking Your Platform to the Media. The 2022 PiP class concluded on July 12, 2022 with 19 graduates. The graduation ceremony included Vision Planning projects which were displayed, and both the 2020 and 2022 PiP classes participated in the ceremony on July 13, 2022. LaDDC Newsletters promoting recruitment for the 2023 PiP class were issued on August 12, 2022 and August 22, 2022, as well as corresponding social media posts on Facebook and Twitter. Twenty-eight applications were received by the deadline of September 30, 2022 for the 2023 PiP class. The 2023 PiP Selection Committee is scheduled to convene on October 12, 2022. Partners in Policymaking Coordinator Vacancy The PiP Coordinator position is currently vacant, and the position has been advertised. Those interested are encouraged to apply. The job position can be found here.

	Partners Active in Systems Change One participant testified at a Legislative Committee hearing. Four participants attended Legislative Committee hearings. Seven participants attended Regional Legislative Visits. Six participants attended their Regional Legislative Roundtable. Fifteen participants made 109 responses to LaCAN Action Alerts. Partners' Graduates Active in Systems Change Fourteen appearances were made during the 2022 Regular Legislative Session Committee hearings Eighty-eight responses were made to LaCAN Action Alerts. Two serve as FHF Executive Directors and four serve as LaCAN Leaders. Graduates also serve on state and regional bodies such as: • Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council (7) • State Interagency Coordinating Council (1) • Statewide Independent Living Council (5) • Governor's Advisory Council on Disability Affairs (1) • Regional Human Services Districts/Authorities Boards and Advisory Councils (9) • Board of Directors for the Advocacy Center (3), FHF Centers (6), and People First of LA (2) • Advisory Council on Student Behavior and Discipline (1) • Special Education Advisory Panel (3) • Louisiana ABLE Account Advisory Board (2) • LSU Human Development Center Consumer Advisory Council (2) • Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) • Emergency Management Disability and Aging Coalition (13) • State Advisory Council (5) **Previous Quarter(s):** Sessions 1-6 were completed from January 2022 through June 2022. All 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. **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 September 2022, LaCAN has over 6,557 individuals registered for the Council and LaCAN list serve to receive information and action alerts related to home and community-based services (HCBS), employment, education and early intervention. <u>Advocacy Activities</u> Since October 1, 2021: • Eight (8) HCBS action alerts; 1047 actions taken • Eight (8) education action alerts; 930 actions taken • 105 participants attended 4 HCBS Yellow Shirt Days • 52 participants attended 3 Education Yellow Shirt Days Prior to the start of 2022 Legislative Session, LaCAN Leaders supported 65 members at 57 formal legislative visits, of which 34 were with key committee members. 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. <u>Update on Leader Positions</u> Region 2 hired a new LaCAN leaders with the scheduled start date of October 1, 2022. Region 9 currently has a LaCAN leader position available. This position has been advertised and those interested are encouraged to apply. The job position can be found here. **Previous Quarter(s)**: During the 2nd quarter (January – March 2022) of Fiscal Year 2022, there were: • 252 actions taken on two (2) HCBS action alerts; • 238 actions taken on two (2) education action alerts; • 21 participants at one Education yellow shirt day

	LaCAN Leaders scheduled 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. **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**	Since July 1, 2022, there has been a total of 19 community input/ member meetings conducted by LaCAN leaders/ FHF Directors with a total of 164 individuals in attendance to discuss concerns and ideas for 2023 Legislative Advocacy agenda. LaCAN leaders and FHF Directors participated in the 2023 Legislative Kickoff on September 15, 2022. Advocacy leaders discussed, prioritized and rated the 99 concerns/issues to generate the top items for their official recommendations toward the Council's 2023 legislative advocacy agenda. **Previous Quarter(s)**: Since October 1, 2021, 206 LaCAN members participated in 24 virtual/ in-person regional LaCAN member meetings to discuss various topics including outcomes of the 2022 Legislative Session, the legislative process, how to become an active member, ways of taking action (action alerts, yellow shirt days, testimony), how to connect with legislators. Nine Legislative Roundtables were held across the state from February to March 2022 with 403 participants. LaCAN Leaders participated in a debriefing session held on 06/30/2022 to discuss ideas and strategies for improving advocacy activities and its effectiveness. **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 21,163 individuals with disabilities and families with information, referral, peer to peer and other supports. There have been over 42,854 units of information and referral completed with 352 trainings conducted with over 5,800 individuals in attendance. Centers have also conducted 448 outreach activities to hospitals, pediatricians, school districts, Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) clinics and physical therapy clinics. All Centers are currently being audited through desk reviews for FY22. Those Centers missing any deliverables will be required to submit a corrective action plan to address how they plan to ensure all deliverables are met in FY23. The Council has included in its FY24 budget proposal the additional $500,000 in state general funds appropriated by the legislature for FY23. During the 2023 Legislative Kickoff, LaCAN Leaders and FHF Directors unanimously agreed this funding should be advocated for inclusion in the FY24 budget. **Previous Quarter(s)**: The legislature allocated an additional $500,000 in state general funds to the Council's FY23 budget to ensure an increase in funding for the Families Helping Families Centers that contract with the Council. 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 have 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. **On target:** ☒ **Initiative** ☒ **Expenditures**

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<td>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 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</td>
<td>O’Neill Communications has produced and released a total of three videos which have been published on the Council’s YouTube Channel. Production is underway for the final two videos of the contract:
Video production schedule is as follows:
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<tr><td>Navigating an IEP</td><td>Produced & Released June 16th</td></tr>
<tr><td>Partners in Policymaking</td><td>Produced & Released August 1st</td></tr>
<tr><td>History of the Americans with Disabilities Act</td><td>Produced & Released August 26th</td></tr>
<tr><td>COVID-19 Pandemic Impact</td><td>In Production/Pending Release October 2022</td></tr>
<tr><td>Assistive Technology</td><td>In Production/Pending Release October 2022</td></tr>
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Videos will be uploaded on the Council’s Facebook and YouTube channel with corresponding social media posts when released.

Previous Quarter(s):
O’Neill Communications has continued building an implementation plan for the video project and completed the first video of the contract, “Navigating an IEP,” which has been published on the Council’s YouTube Channel. Interviewing and production is underway for the second video, which covers Partners in Policymaking (PIP) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

On target: ☒ Initiative ☒ Expenditures</td>
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<td>1.1.6 Provide financial support for promotion, awareness, training and support in implementation of Supported Decision Making.
Approx. FFY 2022 Cost: $50,000</td>
<td>Since October 2021, ten (10) trainings (5 statewide trainings and 5 professional trainings) have occurred with a total of 349 participants in attendance. Additionally, there are eight (8) self-advocates participating in the mentoring program through Supported Decision Making. Six (6) self-advocates have completed the mentoring process and the other two (2) individuals will continue being mentored until they have a contract in place.

Previous Quarters:</td>
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	The Council 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 Supported Decision Making process. As of August 2022, three statewide trainings has occurred with 148 participants in attendance. Additionally, six (6) self-advocates are being mentored through the entire Supported Decision Making process since the start of the contract in October 2021. **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).	The Council's social media presence on Facebook and Twitter continues to grow each quarter. Data as of September 26, 2022: • The Council's listserv has over 6,557 active subscribers. • The Council's Facebook has 6,005 page followers and 5,578 page likes. • The Council's Twitter has 502 followers. The following 11 LaDDC Newsletters were released via listserv and advertised on the Council's Facebook and Twitter: 1. Upcoming Emergency Preparedness and Disability Awareness Training, July 11, 2022 2. Public Notice of Membership Ad Hoc Committee Meeting, July 11, 2022 3. Public Notice of Meeting – Youth Leadership Forum Ad Hoc Committee, July 29, 2022 4. Partners in Policymaking – Announcing 2020 and 2022 Graduates, August 12, 2022 5. Partners in Policymaking: Council Recruiting 2023 Applicants, August 22, 2022 6. Partners in Policymaking: Coordinator Vacancy, September 1, 2022 7. Recruiting Applicants for Council Membership, September 6, 2022 8. Free Community Training Session on Emergency Situations and People with Disabilities, September 7, 2022 9. Solicitation of Proposals, September 13, 2022 10. Emergency Preparedness and Disability Awareness Training in Baton Rouge, September 16, 2022 11. Membership Ad Hoc Committee Meeting, September 26, 2022

	Previous Quarter(s): Data as of June 23, 2022: • The Council's listserv has 5,557 active subscribers. • The Council's Facebook has 5,876 page followers and 5,479 page likes. • The Council's Twitter has 492 followers. The following 11 LaDDC Newsletters were released via listserv and advertised on the Council's Facebook and Twitter: 1. Public Notice of LaDDC July 2022 Council Meeting, June 27, 2022 2. Free Community Training Session on Emergency Situations and People with Disabilities, June 21, 2022 3. Voting System Commission Public Meeting Notice, June 16, 2022 4. Medicaid Pink Letter Campaign, June 15, 2022 5. 2022 Legislative Session: Celebrate the Successes, June 7, 2022 6. Public Notice of Meeting, May 24, 2022 7. Free Virtual Community Development & Safety Training, May 10, 2022 8. Public Comment Sought on Council's FFY 2023 Action Plan, May 9, 2022 9. SEAP Vacancies and SPED Parent Involvement Survey, May 3, 2022 10. Recruiting Strong Advocates for DD Council, April 26, 2022 11. Supported Decision-Making: Right to Make Choices Trainings and Webinars, April 25, 2022 **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.	The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) shared the draft decision-making tool for K-2 alternate assessment in July 2022 with the Council's Education and Employment Committee to obtain stakeholder feedback before the tool was presented to the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) in August 2022. Additionally, the LDOE shared the draft policy to add cameras in special education classrooms legislation to Bulletin 741 with the Full Council in July 2022 for stakeholder feedback. Bulletin 741 was approved by BESE at their August 2022 meeting. Council Leadership assigned new members to the Advisory Council on Student Behavior and Discipline, the LA Achieving Better Life Experience (ABLE) Account Advisory Council and the State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC). Council Leadership also assigned members to

	Councils/Task Force that were formed during the 2022 Legislative Session including the Voting Rights Task Force (HCR 14 of the 2022 Regular Legislative Session) and The Postsecondary Inclusive Education Advisory Council (Act 682 of the 2022 Regular Legislative Session). **Previous Quarter(s):** LaDDC Newsletters advertising meaningful opportunities for stakeholder input were released via listserv and advertised on the Council's Facebook and Twitter: 1. Voting System Commission Public Meeting Notice, June 16, 2022 2. Public Comment Sought on Council's FFY 2023 Action Plan, May 9, 2022 3. SEAP Vacancies and SPED Parent Involvement Survey, May 3, 2022 4. Recruiting Strong Advocates for DD Council, April 26, 2022 The Council's Executive Director sent a letter to the Attorney General's office seeking an opinion on virtual participation for public members which would allow for increased stakeholder input in all DD Council meetings. 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**	Seven (7) members of People First attended the National Council on Independent Living's Annual Conference in July of 2022. Topics included: Accessible Voting, Unequal Access to Assistive Technologies, Criminal Justice within the Deaf and Blind Communities, etc. **Previous Quarter(s)**: During the third quarter People First held a free webinar on April 28th entitled the "The Road to INCLUSION". People First also registered 5 self-advocates and 1 professional for the 50th National Down Syndrome Congress being held in New Orleans in July of 2022. Additionally, People First (PF) had several self-advocates attend and participate in determining the accessibility of each voting system displayed in the voting machine demonstration sponsored by the Voting System Commission (VSC). During the first quarter five (5) self-advocates attended the Disability Policy Seminar March 28th - 30th. A self-advocate also attended the Writing to Change the World 2-day training. **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.	The DD Council has advertised for Council membership across the state and shared information for individuals to apply for vacant positions. • Recruiting Applicants for Council Membership, September 6, 2022 Additionally, Council Leadership assigned new members to the Advisory Council on Student Behavior and Discipline, The LA Achieving Better Life Experience (ABLE) Account Advisory Council and The State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC). Council Leadership also assigned members to Councils/Task Force that were formed during the 2022 Legislative Session including the Voting Rights Task Force (HCR 14 of the 2022 Regular Legislative Session) and The Postsecondary Inclusive Education Advisory Council (Act 682 of the 2022 Regular Legislative Session) **Previous Quarter(s):**

	An LaDDC News was shared on May 3rd with the Council's listserv announcing SEAP vacancies. SEAP was looking to fill six vacancies on the advisory panel. Interviews were conducted in May 2022 with appointments beginning in June 2022. Information was also shared on the Council's social media pages.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 the participation of quarterly Council meetings, Ad-Hoc committee meetings and other functions and have been offered the provision of assistive technology to facilitate participation in virtual Council meetings. **Previous Quarter(s)**: 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**	No activity this quarter. **Previous Quarter(s)**: 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.

	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**	This contract concluded on June 30, 2022. Individuals and families in need of assistance can contact Trach Mommas of Louisiana directly at 225-200-5178 or trachmommas@gmail.com. **Previous Quarter(s)** Contractor continues working with other groups to advertise the availability of funds to assist individuals and families. In February, N95 masks were purchased and provided to an individual in rural Louisiana who has been negatively impacted by COVID19. In May, two families financially affected by COVID19 and Hurricane Ida received assistance with the purchase of assistive communication devices (iPad and vocabulary software). Contractor has been working with other groups to advertise the availability of funds to assist individuals and families. No funds distributed in first or second quarter. Contractor cites limitations and prohibitions in the contract as a barrier to use funds. There was a delay in contract approval for this fiscal year, but this did not impact the contractor or their ability to expend funds. **On target: ☒ Initiative ☒ Expenditures**
2.1.2 Advocate for adequate funding for waiver services.	Funding for comprehensive dental services for adults in I/DD waivers started on July 1, 2022, and adults in OCDD waivers can access comprehensive dental services through a Dental Managed Care organization. If adults are already enrolled in a program, they can reach out to them to access services. LDH is working on strategies including trainings to improve access to dentists who

	understand the needs of persons with I/DD. **Previous Quarter(s):** LaDDC News shared on June 7th announcing the many gains as it relates to waiver services and home-and community-based services. All funding necessary to ensure comprehensive dental coverage for adults on I/DD waivers and residing in ICF/DDs was included in the FY23 budget. Funding to annualize the waiver rate increases last year was also included in the budget in addition to funding for transportation services in adult I/DD waivers. Adult and aging waivers also saw increased funding which will provide 250 additional Community Choices waiver slots and increased services rates. Legislation that would have created a Community Options Waiver fund for aging and adult waiver services did not pass. 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. Information was shared at legislative roundtables across the state. 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).	Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) gave an extension to spend the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) dollars through March of 2025 (deadline was initially March of 2024). An extension was given due to the length of time it's taking CMS to approve plans. The following are updates on Initiatives that OCDD is working on currently: (**Note**: OCDD will be developing a document that further explains each of these activities, and this will be shared with the Council upon completion) • OCDD is working to get a contract with the START (systemic, therapeutic, assessment, resources, and treatment) team to begin the START assessment and pilot. Timing is dependent on the length of time for approval of contract. • Implementation of the Value Based Payment (VBP) model and Infrastructure Standup for Technology First Initiative (remote supports) has been submitted and approved by CMS. OCCD is currently building out a project management plan.

	• OCDD is working on a contract with the Louisiana Dental Association to pay for continuing education units for dental training for current dentists • Bonus payments will be given to any Direct Support Worker (DSW) or Support Coordinator (SC) employed during the COVID-19 pandemic. DSWs will receive bonus payments of $125 / month for every month that they worked at least 16 hours and SCs will receive bonus payments for 10 contacts beginning April 1, 2021. Current traditional providers will receive $150 with a requirement that $125 be given to the worker, and staff in self-direction will receive these bonus payments via fiscal intermediary. • SCs will also be give a temporary rate increase of 30%. • The Office of Aging and Adult Services (OAAS) rate increases will be commensurate with OCDD rates Regarding implementation of Act 421 (TEFRA), as of mid-September: • 1,166 applications received • 496 approved • 444 still in review • 203 denied • 23 withdrawn **Previous Quarter(s)** In addition to additional funding to support waiver services mentioned above, the FY23 budget also included funding to increase Support Coordination and Early Steps rates. Legislation that would allow the Community and Family Support System fund to be used for all state I/DD services, including ICF/DD services, was passed. Additional issues that were followed by the Council pertaining to home-and community-based services can be found on the Council's website. LaDDC News was shared on June 15th announcing LDH's Pink Letter Campaign which is the department's efforts to ensure all Medicaid recipients' contact information was up-to-date. 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. Act 421 Children's Medicaid Option (TEFRA) went live on January 1st. LDH has developed a website for stakeholders to view more information about this program including steps to apply.

	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. **On target: ☒ Initiative**
2.1.4 Advocate for utilization of the ROW 50 pilot and other opportunities to transition out of institutional settings.	No activity this quarter. **Previous Quarter(s)** 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) into 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.	The federal public health emergency has been extended through mid-October meaning the Appendix K exceptions for the home- and community- based Medicaid waivers will remain in effect until April 2023. In September 2022, the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) reconvened two of the three focus groups that were convened during the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2022 (October 2021 – December 2021) which involves stakeholders including parents, individuals with disabilities, provider agencies, advocacy group members and other stakeholder groups to help further develop new waiver amendments and rules for the four OCDD Medicaid waivers as it relates to the Appendix K exceptions. Specifically, the department wanted to address two main areas again: family as paid caregivers including legally responsible caregivers and virtual visits/services **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.

	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. **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.	No update this quarter **Previous Quarter(s)** 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	IAG conducted a virtual training for first responders on June 23rd with seven law enforcement officers in attendance. An in-person training was held on July 13th at the St. John the Baptist Sheriff's training center with 22 first responders in attendance. A virtual training scheduled for August 30th was canceled due to low registration. An in-person training with St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office was held on September 12th. Attendance numbers for this training were not available at the time this status report was developed. IAG is starting to plan for more in-person trainings and an increased number of trainings for FY23.

developmental disabilities and training for people with developmental disabilities on how to interact with first responders. **Approx. FFY 2022 Cost: $50,000**	In-person community-training events were held on July 13th and September 12th. Both trainings were announced via LaDDC News. The training on July 13th was held in St. John the Baptist Parish with 9 attendees. The September training was held in St. Tammany Parish, but attendance numbers were not available at the time the status report was developed. **Previous Quarter(s)** IAG conducted an in-person training event for first responders on March 22nd in Bossier City with nine attendees. This was an in-kind training. A virtual training in April had nine first responders present. Six first responders attended the May session. Attendance for the June session was not available at the time this update was created. IAG is starting to plan for more in-person trainings and will host its next in-person training for first responders July 13th at the St. John the Baptist Parish Sheriff's Office. Council contracted again with Interaction Advisory Group (IAG) to conduct virtual training sessions for first responders. Due to holidays, trainings were delayed. 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. Shared LaDDC News on February 11th and March 16th advertising initiative and upcoming community training events. The February 24th event had 10 attendees. **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 has continued to reach out to and communicate with entities responsible for emergency preparedness throughout the state to discuss the Emergency Management Disability Awareness Training. A training was held in Pineville September 13 – 14th. There were 14 individuals in attendance for the complete two-day training and 11 that participated in the half-day training. 10 registrants did not attend the training. Contractor would still like to see more participants from the disability community and emergency managers including, but not limited to, the LA Emergency Managers Association, the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness and LA State ADA Coordinator. The next training is scheduled for November 9 – 10th in Baton Rouge at the American Red Cross. An LaDDC News announcing the upcoming training was shared on September 16th.

	Contractor also spoke at the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs conference in July to discuss this initiative and the need to ensure people with disabilities are at the forefront of everyone's minds when developing emergency preparedness and response plans. **Previous Quarter(s)** The first training was held on June 7 - 8 in the New Orleans area. Registration was at capacity with 35. 21 participated in the training with 14 not in attendance. Per the contractor, the information was well received and emergency personnel from the New Orleans area were very involved and appreciative of the training. Contractor still reports issues getting some key players involved especially The LA Emergency Managers Association, FEMA Region 6 Disability Integration Advisor, the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness and LA State ADA Coordinator. 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. Shared a LaDDC News on March 25th with details about the June training and registration information. More information about the EMDAT training and presenter can be found here. **On target: ☒ Initiative ☒ Expenditures**
2.2.3 Publicize healthcare provider continuing education opportunities.	No update this quarter. **Previous Quarter(s)** 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. **On target: ☒ Initiative ☐ Expenditures**
2.2.4 Advocate for increased meaningful opportunities for stakeholder input; improved practices to facilitate stakeholder input and	In September 2022, the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) reconvened two of the three focus groups that were convened during the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2022 (October 2021 – December 2021) which involves stakeholders including parents, individuals with disabilities, provider agencies, advocacy group members and other stakeholder groups to help further develop new waiver amendments and rules for the four OCDD Medicaid waivers as it relates to the Appendix

consideration of stakeholder recommendations.	K exceptions. Specifically, the department wanted to address two main areas again: family as paid caregivers including legally responsible caregivers and virtual visits/services. **Previous Quarter(s)**: During the Self-Determination and Community Inclusion meeting in April 2022, Julie Foster-Hagan on behalf of OCDD solicited feedback from the committee members and the public pertaining to the department's OCDD's major initiatives for Fiscal Year 2023. Initiatives the department planned to focus on include, but are not limited to: • Continuing work around COVID-19 flexibilities being permanent in waivers including updating waiver manuals and training for workers and participants • Working on electronic plan of care and the tiered waiver assessment tool to prep for eventual migration to a consolidated waiver • Researching what other states are doing and technology used for remote supports • Value based payments to help incentivize person centered planning and thinking which will require waiver amendments • Shared living model which is where multiple waiver participants may be able to share support staff because they may not need one on one assistance. • Continued prep for the Home and Community Based Settings rule which must be implemented by April 2023 • Training for dental practitioners on the needs of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. • Training for direct support workers **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 activity 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 Postsecondary Inclusive Education Advisory Council was created and conducted their first meeting in August 2022. Dr. Beckers (Southeastern Lions Connected), Dr. Breaud (Nicholls Bridge to Independence), Dr. Jurisich (ULL LIFE Program) and Ms. Soden (LSUA SPERO) presented to the Advisory Council about their respective programs. Dr. Beckers was named Chair of the Advisory Council and continues to work on tasks set forth in legislation for the Council, such as creating an application process to distribute funding. Draft surveys were developed to gather data on existing programs and interests in new programs. Following edits, the survey was disseminated to all Institutes of Higher Education in Louisiana on September 27th. LaPIE provided on-going Technical Assistance to Calcasieu Parish School Board collaborating with McNeese State University and SOWELATechnical Community College in Lake Charles, La. This initiative (Phase I) will begin on both campuses Fall 2022, focusing on 18–21-year-old students using IDEA funding. Phase II will be to develop Post-Secondary Education programs on each campus. LaPIE also met with Louisiana State University (Baton Rouge campus) about a potential program. **Previous Quarter(s)**: Dr. Beckers disseminated information to LaPIE members and community stakeholders regarding supporting and advocating for SB192. Multiple members of LaPIE testified on behalf of SB192 during this timeframe. Presentations regarding Post-Secondary Education were made to: • Inclusive Postsecondary Options 2022 FHFSWLA Virtual Family Empowerment Conference • Livingston Parish School Board – virtual presentation • East Baton Rouge Parish SEAP • SEPSEA Conference

	Ongoing Technical Assistance was given to LSU-A SPERO (Special Program for the Enhancement of Resources and Opportunities) – Ms. Brittany Soden was hired as Director of the program. SPERO has selected their first cohort of students and will begin in Fall 2022. Ongoing Technical Assistance was also provided to the Calcasieu Parish School Board – Dr. Betty Washington is collaborating with McNeese State University and SOWELA Technical Community College. This initiative (Phase I) will begin on both campuses in Fall of 2022, focusing on 18-21 year old students using IDEA funding. Phase II will be to develop Post-Secondary Education programs on each campus. 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. 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 assistance provided to parents and schools simultaneously.	No activity this quarter. **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.	In August 2022, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) met and discussed Bulletin 741 to add a cameras in special education classrooms policy. Advocates provided testimony in support of Bulletin 741, and it was approved by BESE with the following measures added to ensure proper use and transparency of funding: • Each local education agency's (LEA) allocation will be made public and can be found here. • Each LEA will have to provide documentation including receipts, invoices, etc. to demonstrate the funding is spent on the installation and operation of cameras.

	• BESE directed the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) to present a report regarding the status of the local education agency (LEA) allocation balances, pertaining to cameras in the classroom, at the June 2023 Administration and Finance Committee meeting. Additionally, in August 2022 BESE discussed the LDOE's proposal for adding K-2 alternate assessment eligibility criteria pursuant to the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESSA) which requires that alternate assessments are provided for students with significant cognitive disabilities, and that state education agencies must provide eligibility criteria for any statewide alternate assessments. LaCAN Leaders and members expressed great concern over the proposed assessment and BESE directed the LDOE to: • Return the policy to the Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP) for additional comment at their scheduled September 27, 2022 meeting and • If comments require the need for updates, the policy will be revised and presented to the Board at the October 2022 meeting. **Previous Quarter(s)**: An LaDDC News was shared on June 7th announcing the many gains as it relates to Cameras in Special Education Classrooms. Approximately $8 million has been included in the FY23 budget to fund cameras in SPED classrooms. In addition, Act 456 of 2021 will be amended to state: • Policies must be adopted by December 31, 2022, or within 60 days of receipt of funding, whichever comes first • Copies of the adopted policy are to be submitted to the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) by January 15, 2023 and within 10 days of any policy revisions • Policies must include provisions on how a parent or legal guardian may request cameras Seven pieces of legislation were filed addressing Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) and school choice. The Council, LaCAN and many other advocates, groups and organizations shared their concerns for ESAs with the legislature and the potential impacts ESAs may have on the public school system and its ability to serve children with disabilities. Two of the bills (HB194 and SB203) made it through session, but were both vetoed by the Governor. 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. A fact sheet about the need to address oversight and accountability regarding cameras in special education classrooms was developed and posted on the Council's website. Information was also shared at legislative roundtables across the state. **On target: ☐ Initiative**
3.1.7 Advocate for increased meaningful opportunities for stakeholder input; improved practices to facilitate stakeholder input and consideration of stakeholder recommendations.	The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) shared the draft decision-making tool for K-2 alternate assessment in July 2022 with the Council's Education and Employment Committee to obtain stakeholder feedback before the tool was presented to the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) in August 2022. Additionally, LDOE shared the draft policy language to add cameras in special education classrooms legislation to Bulletin 741 with the Full Council in July 2022 for stakeholder feedback. Bulletin 741 was approved by BESE at their August 2022 meeting. **Previous Quarter(s)**: An LaDDC News was shared on May 3rd with the Council's listserv announcing SEAP vacancies. SEAP was looking to fill six vacancies on the advisory panel. Interviews were conducted in May 2022 with appointments beginning in June 2022. Information was also shared on the Council's social media pages. Information was shared on the Council's social media pages for 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 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.	No activity this quarter. **Previous Quarter(s)**: 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**	Discovery Gateway training with MG&A took place on July 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 25th and 26th. Twenty (20) people attended and completed the training with two (2) receiving Certificate of Achievement in Employment Services (ACRE) certification. **Previous Quarter(s)**: Six (6) half-day Gateway Trainings on Discovery which is the first of the 3 competency areas, and the first step towards complete certification. There are several dates scheduled in July including July 19th – 22nd and July 25th and 26th. The response has been great and registration is now closed due to being over the limit. The Arc and Marc Gold & Associates will be reaching out, especially, to those who have attended one of the other gateway trainings to maximize the number of people eligible for ACRE (Certificate of Achievement in Employment Services) certification.

	There are three participants who are close to certification, two of them for Job Development and the other in Discovery, all should be certified by the end of June. 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. 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 final webinar was held in June 2022 and O'Neill Communications is currently working on post-production ideas for the webinars. Additionally, in September 2022, they worked on editing the webinars to create clips for the Council to distribute throughout National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) in October 2022.
	
	Previous Quarter(s):
	The last five webinars of the DIScovering ABILITIES series took place in the 3rd quarter. All webinars were advertised on the Council's social media. The webinars that took place this quarter include:
	
	• April 12 & 14: Developing the Inclusive Workplace – *Company Culture
		Hiring Practices Training Employees From Top Down*
		  ○ Organizations with a diverse staff and an inclusive workplace culture are more successful and better equipped for hiring people with disabilities. DEI expert Germaine Townsend will discuss how to move beyond just checking boxes, and help us begin to create a work culture where everyone wins.
		• April 26 & 28: Building a Good Recruitment Plan – *Building Partnerships
			SWOT Recruiting	Messaging, etc.*
				  ○ Don't miss this opportunity to have a recruiter share ways to partner with the community to build a bridge between the people who are ready to work, and

	those who are looking to hire. Dajon Jones, through his story, will share the importance of messaging, and how his work has impacted his community. • May 17 & 19: How Can We Say Yes – Accommodations for Successful Employment – *Assistive Technology	LRS	On the Job Training, etc.* o The tools needed to ensure a successful transition to work for people with disabilities are many. You will leave with a toolkit of resources to help you in your journey to successful employment. • June 7 & 9: Making It Stick – Benefits & Retention Plan – *LRS	Tax Incentives	Benefits Planning, ABLE accounts	Financial benefits, etc.* o How do you retain employees once you hire them? This session will be led by subject matter experts sharing the resources available to help guide you through the process, and how to avoid the barriers along the way. • June 21 – Where Do We Go From Here? – *Reflection	Action Steps	Resources I Networking Event* o Join Allan Bergman, CEO of HIGH IMPACT Mission-based Consulting & Training, a nationally recognized change agent and thought leader in cross-disability policy and "best practices" in a discussion on Where Do We Go From Here? We'll be reflecting on what we learned during the series, participating in some networking opportunities, and creating action steps to move us forward on the journey of building a diverse workforce. **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 have access to financial incentives to support	No activity this quarter.

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.	No activity this quarter. **Previous Quarter(s)**: 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) 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.	No activity this quarter. **Previous Quarter(s)**: 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	The Post-secondary Inclusive Education Advisory Council created by Act 682 of the 2022 Legislative Session will be hosting meetings to discuss the creation and expansion of post-secondary and inclusive education programs across the state of Louisiana. The DD Council encourages all

access to LRS pre-employment transition services within school districts for all students with disabilities.	stakeholders to participate in these public meetings to share their thoughts and ideas on how the post-secondary education system can better serve students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. **Previous Quarter(s)**: SB192 passed during the 2022 legislative session and will be sent to the Governor. This legislation creates the Postsecondary Inclusive Education Fund to fund programs for students with I/DD at Louisiana postsecondary institutions. SB192 also creates the Postsecondary Inclusive Education Advisory Council to advise the Board of Regents with respect to funding and expanding these programs, provide technical assistance to institutions starting or expanding programs and develop operational guidelines and processes for the programs. Approximately $1 million has been included in the FY23 budget for this fund. 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. 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,	During the Education and Employment Committee's (E/E) July 2022 meeting, the committee discussed the recent difficulty LRS and the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) have experienced with hiring and retaining Rehabilitation Counselors and Disability Determination Examiners (DDE), respectively. Due to low starting pay and range, LRS and DCFS are experiencing

legislative, and funding efforts.	ongoing obstacles filling these entry level positions which negatively impact individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities attempting to obtain services within the respective agencies. Therefore, the committee felt it was of the utmost importance to bring this issue to the attention of Civil Service in hopes that a solution can be identified to attract more qualified applicants. A letter was written on behalf of the E/E committee and will be sent in October 2022. **On target: ☐ Initiative**
3.2.9 Conduct research to examine the effectiveness and advocate to support efforts of the Louisiana Medicaid "buy-in" program.	No activity this quarter. **Previous Quarter(s)**: LaDDC staff continued research on Medicaid's buy-in program during the third quarter including determining the eligibility criteria for the program, monthly income limits in order to qualify and the entire eligibility determination process. 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**