La DD Council - Status Report of FFY 2023 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 (October 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022).
Goal 1 Individuals with intellectual and 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 intellectual and developmental disabilities.	
Obj. 1.1 Individuals with intellectual and 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 2023 Cost: $90,000**	There were twenty-eight (28) applications received by the deadline of September 30, 2022 for the 2023 Partners in Policymaking (PiP) class. The 2023 PiP Selection Committee, made up of five (5) PiP graduates from various classes including one (1) Council member and the previous PiP Coordinator, met on October 12, 2022. Of the 28 applications received, 4 were found ineligible, leaving a total of 24 applicants eligible for review and selection based on the national Partners in Policymaking selection criteria. Eligible applicants were comprised of 2 self-advocates, 21 parents, and 1 self-advocate and parent. Due to the increase in overall program cost, 20 applicants were accepted into the 2023 PIP class. Fifteen applicants accepted and will begin the program in January 2023 The first PiP session is scheduled for January 12-14, 2023. <u>Partners in Policymaking Coordinator</u> The PiP Coordinator position was filled on November 15, 2022, by Rebecca Frugé (PiP Class of 2019). **On target: ☒ Initiative ☒ Expenditures**

1.1.2 Provide financial support and information, training, technical assistance, and leadership to a grassroots network of individuals with intellectual 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 intellectual developmental disabilities. **Approx. FFY 2023 Cost: $215,000**	As of December 2022, LaCAN has over 6,603 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, 2022, there have been no LaCAN action alerts or yellow shirt days. LaCAN Leaders are in the process of planning for formal legislative visits with key committee members to discuss this year's advocacy agenda. Legislative visits will begin once all documents pertaining to the Council's advocacy agenda are finalized by staff. These visits will continue throughout the legislative session which begins April 10, 2023. 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 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. **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 intellectual and developmental disabilities. **Approx. FFY 2023 Cost: $30,000**	LaCAN Leaders are in the process of planning for regional legislative roundtables in collaboration with their Families Helping Families Centers. Roundtables will be held virtually in each region prior to the start of legislative session, April 10, 2023. Once all documents pertaining to the Council's advocacy agenda are finalized by staff, the roundtable schedule will be shared iIncluding information on how to register and participate. **On target: ☒ Initiative ☒ Expenditures**

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<td>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.</td>
<td>Since October 1, 2022, Centers have assisted 3,863 individuals with disabilities and families with information, referral, peer to peer and other supports. There have been over 7,140 units of information and referral completed and 89 trainings conducted with over 1,900 individuals in attendance.

All Centers participated in an audit through desk reviews for FY22. Centers missing deliverables submitted a corrective action plan to address how they plan to ensure all deliverables will be met in FY23.

In October, the Council added to its 2023 Legislative Advocacy Agenda funding for the Families Helping Families Centers currently contracting with the Council. For the past two years, an additional $500,000 in state general fund has been added to the Council's budget for FHF Centers. Unfortunately, the Council's request for these additional dollars was not approved in the Fiscal year 24 budget. Advocacy will be needed to obtain these additional dollars.

A factsheet about the need for additional funding for the Families Helping Families Resource Centers will be developed, posted on the Council's website, and distributed to Council members, LaCAN Leaders, and FHF Centers/Directors (once the required data has been obtained). This sheet will be used in legislative visits and member meetings prior to the start of the 2023 legislative session.

On target: ☒ Initiative ☒ Expenditures</td>
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<td>1.1.5 Produce and disseminate videos and other visual materials featuring information important to individuals with intellectual and 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</td>
<td>O'Neill Communications produced and released the final two videos of the Fiscal Year 2022(FY22) contract year. A complete lists of videos and production are as follows:
<table>
<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>Produced & Released November 12th</td></tr>
<tr><td>Assistive Technology</td><td>Produced & Released November 12th</td></tr>
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Videos were uploaded on the Council's Facebook and YouTube channel with corresponding social media posts when released.

The Council has again contracted with O'Neill Communications to produce/ disseminate videos and other visual materials featuring information important to individuals with intellectual and developmental</td>
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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 2023 Cost: $36,000**	disabilities and their families on a number of various topics for FY23. Council staff met with O'Neill on November 7, 2022 to discuss new ideas for video topics. O'Neill Communications has begun progress on outlining a storyboard and topics; sending an intake form to request video participation from the Council; and building an implementation plan for the video topics. **On target: ☒ Initiative ☒ Expenditures**
1.1.6 Provide financial support for promotion, awareness, training and support in implementation of Supported Decision Making**.** **Approx. FFY 2023 Cost: $50,000**	The Council has again collaborated with The Arc of Louisiana to offer statewide regional training events for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their family members to increase their understanding of Supported Decision Making (SDM), also known as the Dustin Gary Act of the 2020 Louisiana legislative session, and other legal options available in Louisiana. A training schedule and registration information can be found here (the site will be updated as more trainings are scheduled). Training events will be held via in-person or through online webinars (depending on the decision of the People First Chapter). The training schedule will be shared with all FHF Centers, People First of LA and Disability Rights LA. The Arc of LA and the DD Council (through websites and social media) are providing promotion of the scheduled events. As of December 21, 2022, new training materials have been developed; a meeting was held with People First to review new training documents; and a training has been scheduled for February 9th at 10:00 AM at the Southwest Louisiana Independence Center. Participants in the program have continued to receive monitoring and mentoring on a monthly basis. A total of nine participants are being mentored through the SDM process. **On target: ☒ Initiative ☒ Expenditures**

1.1.7 Produce and provide information important to individuals with intellectual 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 December 30, 2022: • The Council's listserv has over 6,603 active subscribers. • The Council's Facebook has 6,034 page followers and 5,600 page likes. • The Council's Twitter has 499 followers. The following 7 LaDDC Newsletters were released via listserv and advertised on the Council's Facebook and Twitter: 1. Public Notice of LaDDC October 2022 Council Meeting, October 12, 2022 2. Public Notice of Meeting – Youth Leadership Forum Ad Hoc Committee, October 12, 2022 3. Public Notice of Meeting, Post-secondary Inclusive Education Advisory Council, October 13, 2022 4. Student Behavior, Mental Health and Discipline Task Force Questionnaire, October 17, 2022 5. Now Hiring: Program Manager & Partners Coordinator, October 27, 2022 6. Public Notice of Meeting, Post-secondary Inclusive Education Advisory Council, October 28, 2022 7. Public Notice of LaDDC January 2023 Council Meeting, December 27, 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.	In October, the Council added to its 2023 Legislative Advocacy Agenda advocacy focused on amending open meetings law to allow for virtual and hybrid participation. Currently, the Remote Operations of Public Entities Taskforce is studying the possibility of allowing remote operations for public bodies. This taskforce was created during the 2022 legislative session. The taskforce is expected to release its recommendations in January or February 2023 with subsequent legislation to follow. At this time, Council staff is monitoring the recommendations and meetings of this taskforce to determine the best course of action to advocate for this particular issue. In November, the Louisiana Department of Health held it's initial meeting and a subsequent meeting in December for the new Technology Supports with Remote Features focus group. This focus group is discussing ways to bring new technology to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to allow them as much independence as possible. The group has discussed other states who currently offer technology supports, barriers for individuals with disabilities, building provider capacity and a plan to bring these supports to Louisiana. The group has also discussed how to engage stakeholder input which will be discussed further in upcoming meetings. **On target: ☒ Initiative**

1.1.9 Provide financial support and technical assistance for the Louisiana Youth Leadership Forum. **Approx. FFY 2023 Cost: $30,000**	The Council has contracted with Families Helping Families (FHF) of Acadiana to develop the skills of leadership development and effective systems change advocacy strategies and improve employment and independent living outcomes of youth with disabilities transitioning from high school through the coordination and implementation of a Louisiana Youth Leadership Forum (LAYLF) program that adheres to the National Association of Youth Leadership Forum (NAYLF) standards. FHF of Acadiana also pariticipates in the Association of Youth Leadership Forums (AYLF) monthly conference calls with YLF Chapters across the United States. The AYLF discusses topics of the year, recaps other states' YLFs and possible sources for YLF funding and partnerships just to name a few topics. FHF of Acadiana also met with the University of Louisiana at Lafayette (ULL) in October 2022 to discuss hosting the LAYLF in July 2023. They are currently awaiting a proposal from ULL which should be received in January 2023. In November 2022, they also conducted a meeting with Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS) and the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) to discuss additional funding. LDOE will present a funding request of $15,000 for LAYLF at the March BESE meeting. LRS funding will be dependent on the delegates selected to participate in the YLF, so that amount will be shared after selection of the delegates. FHF has also applied for an additional grant thorugh Enbridge but will not know the results for some time. Lastly, FHF advertised for the LAYLF Coordinator in November 2022 and received a total of 37 applications. Interviews were conducted in December 2022, and the LAYLF Coordinator will tentatively start in January 2023. **On target: ☒ Initiative ☒ Expenditures**
Obj. 1.2 Louisiana's self-advocacy network, partner groups, and citizens with intellectual and 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	People First held a two-day training on October 6th and 7th. This training provided participants knowledge of the voting and the legislative process. The Secretary of State's (SOS) office attended on October 6th taught participants about the voting process and provided hands on experience with both early voting and election day machines. The Self Advocates in attendance were able to test out the assistive technology provided by the SOS office and gave input as to other technology that may be helpful to people who have disabilities.

participation in training of other self-advocates in leadership positions. **Approximate Cost for FY2023: $25,000**	On October 7th, participants met at the Capitol with Representative Edmonds, Representative Davis, and Senator Foil. The legislators explained the legislative process and the participants took a tour of the capitol including visiting a committee room and the chambers. Participants were able to ask questions about the process and about particular bills that have passed previously as well as give future ideas. Twenty-Seven (27) people registered and participated in this two-day event. People left ready for early voting/election day and the 2023 legislative session. **On target: ☒ Initiative ☒ Expenditures**
1.2.2 Provide information and support for participation of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families in cross-disability and culturally diverse leadership coalitions and advisory bodies.	In October the Council sent out public notices about these Advisory Councils: Public Notice of Meeting, Post-secondary Inclusive Education Advisory Council, October 13, 2022 Student Behavior, Mental Health and Discipline Task Force Questionnaire, October 17, 2022 Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families were encouraged to attend and provide stakeholder input. **On target: ☐ Initiative**
1.2.3 Support Council members' participation in training and educational opportunities and Council leadership's participation in national training, networking events and advocacy opportunities. **Approx. FFY 2023 Cost: $15,000**	**No activity this quarter.** **On target: ☒ Initiative ☐ Expenditures**
Goal 2 To be fully participating members of the community, individuals with intellectual and 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 intellectual and 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 Oversee implementation of the Community and Family Support System Plan and advocate for adequate funding, the expansion of home and community based services, for waivers to provide access to services listed in the Freedom of Choice Provider Listing and consistent implementation of policy across regions, including, if necessary, changes in law and/or contracts with local governing entities (LGEs).	In October, the Council added to its 2023 Legislative Advocacy Agenda advocacy focused on providing incontinence supplies to adults on Medicaid waivers. The Council will partner with the Arc of Louisiana to advocate for this issue. At this time, work is being completed with the Louisiana Department of Health to determine the best approach to achieve this particular advocacy item. A fact sheet will be created and shared once information is made available. In October 2022, the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) held two meetings on the Appendix K exception focused on family as paid caregivers which involved 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. OCCD also held a wrap-up meeting on December 14th to discuss the changes they plan to implement and get any final recommendations from stakeholders. In November, the Louisiana Department of Health held it's initial meeting and a subsequent meeting in December for the new Technology Supports with Remote Features focus group. This focus group is discussing ways to bring new technology to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to allow them as much independence as possible. The group has discussed other states who currently offer technology supports, barriers for individuals with disabilities, building provider capacity and a plan to bring these supports to Louisiana. The group has also discussed how to engage stakeholder input which will be discussed further in upcoming meetings. **On target: ☒ Initiative**
2.1.2 Advocate with the Louisiana Department of Education to provide appropriate, accessible sexual education to high school aged students with intellectual and developmental disabilities.	The Council's Executive Director sent correspondence to Meredith Jordan, Department of Education, requesting information about what school systems are currently doing in terms of sexual education for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. **On target: ☒ Initiative**

Obj. 2.2 Individuals with intellectual and 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 intellectual and developmental disabilities and training for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities on how to interact with first responders. **Approx. FFY 2023 Cost: $80,000**	Council contracted again with Interaction Advisory Group (IAG) to conduct in-person and virtual training sessions for first responders. An in-person training with Plaquemines Parish Sheriff's Office was held October 11 – 13 with 266 first responders trained. A community development and safety training session was also held on October 11th with 36 attendees. The training was a great success. View the feedback received from the Plaquemines Parish Sheriff's Office here. Training was not scheduled for November. A virtual training was scheduled in December, but no participants attended. Historically the months of November, December and January are slow with little to no turnout due to the holidays. IAG also stated agencies prefer in-person trainings which may also account for low turnout at virtual options. IAG has scheduled in person trainings for Plaquemines Parish Fire Department (July), Terrebonne Parish Sheriff's Office (May) and currently awaiting confirmation for St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office (date TBD). These trainings will be "whole agency" trainings which is the goal of this initiative. Efforts continue to schedule additional trainings in 2023. **On target: ☒ Initiative ☒ Expenditures**
2.2.2 Provide financial support to establish a training program on emergency preparedness and response relative to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities **Approx. FFY 2023 Cost: $50,000**	Council contracted again with Niagara University to bring its emergency preparedness and disability awareness training to Louisiana. Shared LaDDC News on September 16th advertising this initiative and the training that was held in Baton Rouge on November 9 – 10. Twenty-nine individuals attended the full two-day training with six additional participants in the half-day training. Per the contractor, the response and participation in this initiative have been unmatched in the other states they are offering the same training in. Houma, Monroe and Shreveport are being considered for future training locations. **On target: ☒ Initiative ☒ Expenditures**
2.2.3 Advocate for increased meaningful opportunities for stakeholder input; improved practices to facilitate stakeholder input and consideration of stakeholder recommendations	In October 2022, the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) held two meetings on the Appendix K exception focused on family as paid caregivers which involved 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. OCCD also held a wrap-up meeting on December 14th to discuss the changes they plan to implement and get any final recommendations from stakeholders.

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Obj. 2.3. Females with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families will have increased access to health services and health education. (Targeted Disparity – Disadvantaged population)	
2.3.1 Conduct research and collaborate with the Louisiana Department of Health to address accessible, educational materials on Women's health topics.	The Council will collaborate with the new Office of Women's Health and Community Health (OWHCH). The new program office was created during the 2022 Legislative Session and the OWHCH's primary goal is to provide an agency-wide focus on women's health outcomes through policy, education, evidence-based practices, programs and services. Once OWHCH is established, Council staff will communicate to conduct research and establish a collaboration. **On target: ☐ Initiative**
Goal 3 Individuals with intellectual and 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 intellectual and 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	In October, the Council added to its 2023 Legislative Advocacy Agenda advocacy focused funding new and existing postsecondary inclusive education programs for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. During the 2022 legislative session, and the Postsecondary Inclusive Education Fund was created and $1M was appropriated to the fund. The Council will be advocating for an additional $3M for the fund during the 2023 legislative session. A fact sheet will be created and shared once information is finalized.

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 2023 Cost: $40,000**	The Louisiana Postsecondary Inclusive Education Advisory Council also conducted an informational webinar for colleges and universities interested in applying for the funds on November 14th and the application period opened on November 15, 2022. The deadline to apply for enhancement projects funding for existing programs and initial program development funding is January 15, 2023. The Advisory Council will submit an initial report to the legislature on February 1, 2023. **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 Advocate for educational systems change based on emergent education issues.	No activity this quarter. **On target: ☐ Initiative**

3.1.5 Advocate for increased meaningful opportunities for stakeholder input; improved practices to facilitate stakeholder input and consideration of stakeholder recommendations.	During the 2022 Legislative Session, the passage of House Resolution 173 (HR173) created the Student Behavior, Mental Health, and Discipline Task Force to study improving certain policies relative to student behavior and discipline. On October 17, 2022, the Council shared the Task Force's questionnaire asking for stakeholder input which included sharing experiences that assisted in furthering their work. The Council also shared information on the Louisiana Postsecondary Inclusive Education Advisory Council's meeting that were held in October 2022. **On target:** ☐ **Initiative**

Obj. 3.2 Individuals with intellectual and 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 financial support to conduct seminars with Chambers of Commerce throughout the state on the benefits of hiring people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. **Approx. FFY 2023 Cost: $39,000**	The Council has contracted again with O'Neill Communications to conduct employment seminars. O'Neill Communications plans to again take a deeper dive into topics and implement a "story-telling" format for FY23. O'Neill Communications met with Council staff in November to discuss new topics and potential panelist for the new set of seminars. They also discussed how to get more participation from Council members. **On target:** ☒ **Initiative** ☒ **Expenditures**
3.2.3 Ensure potential employers have access to information about financial incentives to hire unserved and underserved populations including people with the most substantial employment support needs in competitive integrated individualized employment.	No activity this quarter. **On target:** ☐ **Initiative**

3.2.4 Share the benefits planning services to a variety of agencies and stakeholders.	No activity this quarter. **On target:** ☐ **Initiative**
3.2.5 Advocate for systems change based on emergent employment issues.	No activity this quarter. **On target:** ☒ **Initiative**
3.2.6 Conduct research to examine the effectiveness and advocate to support efforts of the Louisiana Medicaid “buy-in” program.	No activity this quarter. **On target:** ☐ **Initiative**