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 (April 1, 2023 – June 31, 2023).
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**	Of the 13 participants who started the program in January 2023, 12 completed the final three sessions and were eligible to graduate in June 2023. Three sessions of the 2023 Partners in Policymaking class took place this quarter: • The fourth PIP session of the 2023 class took place in April 2023. The speakers were Brandi Kelly (OCDD), Debra Weinberg (DRLA), Dr. Francis Hwang (ABA), Cindy Arceneaux and Rose Gilbert. • The fifth PIP session of the 2023 class took place in May 2023. The speakers were Dr. Gerlinde Beckers (Lions Connected) and Al Condeluci. • The sixth PIP session of the 2023 class took place in June 2023. The speakers were Meghan Reno (LATAN), Nicole Learson (Parliamentarian), and Courtney Ryland (LRS). The sixth session ended with the class graduation. The graduation speakers were Rebecca Fruge (PIP Coordinator), Amy Deaville (LaDDC), four (4) class graduates and Wilbert Johnson (PIP Graduate Class of 2019). All three months' sessions and the graduation were held in person at the Baton Rouge Marriott. **Previous Quarter(s):** Of the 20 applicants who were accepted into the 2023 PIP class, 13 attended the January session, thus beginning the program in January 2023. The first - third PIP sessions of the 2023 class took place in January - March. All three months' sessions were held in person at the Baton Rouge Marriott. **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 June 2023, LaCAN has over 6,759 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. Advocacy Activities • Since October 1, 2022, there have been a total of sixteen (16) LaCAN action alerts and nine (9) yellow shirt days.16 Action Alerts – 2266 actions taken • 9 Yellow Shirt Days – 134 attended; 24 testimonies provided To date, LaCAN Leaders have supported members in 84 formal legislative visits of which 49 were with key committee members to discuss this year's advocacy agenda. LaCAN continues to host two LaCAN Leader conference calls per month, which include updates on current concerns/issues and development of strategies to better educate, maintain, support, and lead LaCAN members. Update on Leader Positions 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**	Since October 1, 2022, 238 LaCAN members participated in 28 virtual/ in-person regional LaCAN member meetings to discuss various topics including the agenda and outcomes of the 2023 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. LaCAN Leaders, FHF Directors, the Partners in Policymaking Coordinator and Council staff will participate in LaCAN Legislative Debriefing that will be held on June 29 to discuss ideas and strategies for improving advocacy activities and its effectiveness. LaCAN Summer Leader Training will be held in August 2023. LaCAN Leaders will also be hosting their annual community input member meetings to collect ideas for the Council's 2024 Legislative advocacy agenda. The dates and times will be shared on the Council's website. **Previous Quarter(s):** Nine Legislative Roundtables were held across the state with 346 participants in attendance.

	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, 2022, Centers have assisted 18,072 individuals with disabilities and families with information, referral, peer to peer and other supports. There have been over 28,684 units of information and referral completed and 360 trainings conducted with 7,237 individuals in attendance. Centers have also conducted 334 outreach activities to hospitals, pediatricians, school districts, Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) clinics and physical therapy clinics. The legislature allocated an additional $500,000 in state general funds to the Council's FY24 budget ensuring an increase in funding for the Families Helping Families Centers that contract with the Council. At the time this report was compiled, the budget was awaiting final approval from the governor. **Previous Quarter(s):** 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. A fact sheet was created and disseminated to LaCAN Leaders and FHF Directors to distribute to legislators during visits. **On target: ☒ Initiative ☒ Expenditures**
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 Do It" in all aspects of inclusive living, Partners in Policymaking®, assistive	23 East Group (formerly O'Neill Communications) is continuing development of the Council's *Fully Included* video plan. They have begun the filming, editing and developing graphics for the learning series which will be focused on "How To" videos on various topics including: • Supported Decision Making – The Dustin Gary Act • Early Steps, Waivers and TEFRA • IEPs and • LRS Additionally, 23 East Group will be creating infographics on each topic. They have submitted drafts of the Fully Included Series – Supported Decision Making video which will be the first video released. They are working with The Arc of La, Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD), Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) and Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS) to complete the videos. **Previous Quarter(s):** 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

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. Council staff met with O'Neill in February to discuss new ideas for video and other visual material topics. O'Neill Communications has continued the progress on outlining a storyboard and topics 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 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. As of June 2023, six (6) trainings have occurred with 141 participants in attendance. Additionally, eight (8) self-advocates are being mentored through the entire Supported Decision Making process. Four (4) self-advocates have completed the Supported Decision Making process but, are still being monitored. 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 continued to 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. **Previous Quarter(s):** 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. As of March 2023, three (3) trainings have occurred with 31 participants in attendance. Training events were held via in-person or through online webinars (depending on the decision of the People First Chapter). The training schedule was 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) to provide promotion of the scheduled events. **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 June 26, 2023: • The Council's listserv has 6,759 active subscribers. • The Council's Facebook has 6,044 page likes. • The Council's Twitter has 519 followers. The following 14 LaDDC Newsletters were released via listserv and advertised on the Council's Facebook and Twitter: • FFY 2024 Planning Ad Hoc Committee Canceled, April 4, 2023 • IMPORTANT UPDATE April 2023 Council & Committee Meetings, April 5, 2023 • Public Notice of Membership Committee Meeting, April 10, 2023 • Executive Committee and Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee, April 17, 2023 • Public Comment Sought on Council's FFY 2024 Action Plan, April 25, 2023 • Recruiting Strong Advocates for DD Council, May 9, 2023 • Statewide Special Education Survey, May 13, 2023 • Post-secondary Inclusive Education Advisory Council Meeting Notice, May 15, 2023 • People First of Louisiana Annual Training, May 24, 2023 • Council Issues Multiple Solicitations of Proposals, May 31, 2023 • Public Notice of Nominating Committee Meeting, June 5, 2023 • 2023 Legislative Session Impacts, June 14, 2023 • Public Notice of LaDDC July 2023 Council Meeting, June 19, 2023 • Office of Women's Health and Community Health Advisory Board, June 23, 2023 **Previous Quarter(s):** 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. 7 LaDDC Newsletters were released via listserv and advertised on the Council's Facebook and Twitter. The Council's social media presence on Facebook and Twitter continues to grow each quarter. Data as of March 29, 2023: • The Council's listserv has 6,692 active subscribers. • The Council's Facebook has 5,650 page likes.

	• The Council's Twitter has 512 followers. 18 LaDDC Newsletters were released via listserv and advertised on the Council's Facebook and Twitter. **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 Council and LaCAN advocated throughout the 2023 Legislative Session to amend the state's Open Meetings Law to allow for remote participation in meetings. SB201 (Act 393) amends Louisiana's Open Meetings Law to allow for remote operations (i.e. by electronic means or virtually) of public bodies that meet specific requirements detailed in the bill. Act 393 allows: • Members of the public with a disability recognized by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or their designated caregiver to participate in meetings electronically and encourages similar measures be implemented to maximize public participation; • A member of any public body or advisory council with a disability recognized by the ADA or their designated caregiver to participate in meetings electronically; and • Any public body that is strictly advisory or that primarily focuses on issues dealing with disabilities host meetings remotely. The new Office of Women's Health and Community Health (OWHC) created by Act 676 of the 2022 Legislative Session and housed within the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) recruited members for their Advisory Board this quarter. The Council encouraged all stakeholders interested in serving on the board to apply and shared an LaDDC Newsletter on June 23rd. **Previous Quarter(s):** OCDD hosted statewide Roadshows in February and March to discuss the ending of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE). The federal PHE will end on May 11th which means the Appendix K exceptions are scheduled to end in November. An LaDDC News with the department's announcement was shared on February 23rd. Slides for the presentation can be found here. 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. A fact sheet was created and disseminated to LaCAN Leaders and FHF Directors to distribute to legislators during visits. Louisiana Department of Health held meetings for their new Technology Supports with Remote Features work group. This work group is discussing ways to bring new technology to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to allow them as much independence as possible.

	On target: ☒ Initiative
1.1.9 Provide financial support and technical assistance for the Louisiana Youth Leadership Forum. **Approx. FFY 2023 Cost: $30,000**	As LAYLF approaches, outreach has shifted from recruitment to communication with confirmed staff, speakers, and delegates. LAYLF Coordinator continued monthly meetings to discuss LAYLF budget. LAYLF acquired a re-occurring grant from Enbridge for transportation and meals. This grant money will be received yearly, for five years. LAYLF Coordinator obtained preapproval from FHFOA ED and financial manager for all expenses. The Coordinator also collaborated with other FHFOA employees with disabilities to choose the final slate of staff and delegates. Preference was given to persons of color (POCs) and those of diverse backgrounds. A pre-YLF staff training was held mid-June, via Zoom, to ensure that on-site staff training was maximized. The LAYLF schedule has been finalized and all speakers/participants are confirmed (with the exception of legislators for Capitol Day.) Emergency plans have been developed. Manuals and picture schedules are in the creation process. YLife session has been developed, in which statewide partners were recruited for session participation. LAYLF is set to take place July 13th – 16th with eleven delegates/campers participating. **Previous Quarter(s):** The Council has contracted with Families Helping Families (FHF) of Acadiana to implement a Louisiana Youth Leadership Forum (LAYLF) program that adheres to the National Association of Youth Leadership Forum (NAYLF) standards. LAYLF will be held at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette (ULL) and the Louisiana Department of Education present a funding request of $15,000 at the March BESE meeting with was granted. Families Helping Families of Acadiana Executive Director conducts weekly meetings with the YLF Coordinator to discuss status of deliverables. The YLF Coordinator created a new draft budget to accommodate confirmed speaker costs, confirmed lodging and catering estimates, and projected nursing rates. She also communicated with LDOE,

	LaDDC, and LRS about the YLF funding for 2023. She developed and finalized the 2023 YLF schedule and confirmed the location and catering information for this year's session. Lastly, the YLF Coordinator finalized and disseminated staff and delegate applications for the 2023 YLF session to community partners and social media accounts. Application period closed on March 31, 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 participation in training of other self-advocates in leadership positions. **Approximate Cost for FY2023: $25,000**	People First held their annual training on June 19 in Baton Rouge. The keynote speaker was Russel Lehmann, who is a self-advocate. He has years of experience in training in advocacy and self-determination for self-advocates, family members, providers, employers, and the general public. In June there were 80 participants registered for the training, 46 participants attended, 19 self-advocates, 22 professionals, and 6 family members. Flyers were sent out to all local chapters of People First, social media, FHF Centers, and our provider email distribution list. **Previous Quarter(s):** People First held a two-day training on October 6th and 7th. This training provided participants knowledge of the voting and the legislative process. 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. Twenty-Seven (27) people registered and participated in this two-day event. **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.	During the third quarter (April – June 2023) the Council sent out public meeting notices and encouraged individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families to attend and/or apply for open positions. These notices include: • Post-secondary Inclusive Education Advisory Council Public Meeting Notice, May 15, 2023 • Office of Women's Health and Community Health Advisory Board, June 23, 2023 **Previous Quarter(s):** Council sent out public meeting notices and encouraged individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families to attend and/or apply for open positions. These notices include: • 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 • HCR 14 Disability Voting Task Force Public Meeting Notice, January 6, 2023 • HCR 14 Disability Voting Task Force Public Meeting Notice, January 20, 2023 • HCR 14 Disability Voting Task Force Public Meeting Notice, February 8, 2023 • Louisiana Rehabilitation Council Recruiting Members, February 24, 2023 • Public Notice of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Ad-Hoc Meeting, March 20, 2023 • 2023 Youth Leadership Forum: Last Chance to Apply, March 27, 2023 • SEAP Recruiting New Members – Apply Today, March 28, 2023 **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**	A trainer was chosen, the Council will be trained in September 2023 with the DEI committee and staff will be trained on July 7th. **Previous Quarter(s):** The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Committee met on March 22, 2023 and discussed possible agencies including colleges and universities and other entities to complete the Full Council DEI training. The DEI voted to have the DEI committee trained first, followed by the Executive Committee and staff and finally the Full Council. Once the committee receives complete information from potential trainers, the DEI committee will meet to select the best proposal. **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	HB1 is the state's Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) budget bill that will take effect on July 1st. At the time this report was created, the budget has not been approved by the governor. Unfortunately, $100 million dollars of additional funding requested by the Department of Health (LDH) for FY24 was removed from the budget during the final moments of session. LDH appeared before Senate Health and Welfare to discuss reductions that would occur should this funding not be restored. Services to be impacted include behavioral health and pediatric day health centers. There is wording in the budget stating "there shall be no reduction

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).	to waiver services or disability services". However, with the proposed cuts and reductions presented by the department it appears some services may actually be impacted. Act 84 (HB367) aims to streamline the transition of children aging out of EarlySteps by • Requiring EarlySteps to submit a list of children reaching the age of two and a half each month to the local education agency (LEA) where the child resides; • Instructing the LEA to coordinate scheduling of any appraisal conferences and the facilitation of services for the child(ren); and • Requiring LEAs to conduct appraisals year-round to ensure no delays in services occur especially during summer months when schools are typically on break. Act 187 (SB39) established the Community Options Waiver Fund to provide additional revenues for Medicaid services provided under the Community Choices Waiver, the Adult Day Health Care Waiver or any other Medicaid home- and community-based services for people with adult-onset disabilities. HB480 of the 2023 Legislative Session by Representative Miller would have allowed people ages sixteen and over as Direct Support Professionals for Medicaid waivers and services. Although the Council remained neutral on this issue and the bill failed to complete the legislative process, the Louisiana Department of Health has agreed to allow this change and will address this through rule changes rather than legislation. On June 27th, OCDD said that due to the uncertainty with the LDH Budget, they had to push back the effective date of incontinence supplies being covered in the waiver to October 1, 2023. **Previous Quarter(s):** 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. Medicaid and the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities or OCDD have started working to add incontinence supplies as a Medicaid covered benefit under the New Opportunities, Residential Options and Supports Waivers. The department shared with the Council a commitment letter detailing its plans. In April, states will start reviewing eligibility of Medicaid recipients and remove those who are no longer eligible. It is important that all Medicaid recipients ensure their mailing address, cell phone numbers and email are current. **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.	Council staff is currently researching other states and their activities that are similar to this activity. Currently one state was found to have a similar activity where they contracted with Elevatus Training to provide trainings. **Previous Quarter(s):** 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. The Executive Director met with Meredith Jordan, Executive Director of Diverse Learners with LDOE, this quarter. Ms. Jordan indicated that she's not aware of any schools that are offering appropriate, accessible sexual education to high school aged students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Ms. Jordan also consulted with the Louisiana Department Of Education's legal department and they sent R.S. 17:281 as reference for programs in schools regarding sexual education (http://legis.la.gov/legis/Law.aspx?d=80423). Programs have to be approved by local school boards to be included in schools. **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	The Council contracted again with Interaction Advisory Group (IAG) to conduct in-person and virtual training sessions for first responders. Contractor reports a steady decline in virtual training participation, so more efforts have continued to host in-person trainings. In May, a three-day training event with Terrebonne Parish Sheriff's Office was held. A community engagement event was also held. 85 first responders were trained and 15 community members attended the event. This training was well received. View the positive feedback from a member of the Houma Police Department here. In June, 3 in-person trainings were held: St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office new cadet class (14 attendees) and two with St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office (34 attendees). Feedback from the St. Charles Parish training can be found here. Contractor also trained over 90 school administrators, teachers, counselors, paraprofessionals, special educators and six school resource officers at the request of Allen Parish School District.

how to interact with first responders. **Approx. FFY 2023 Cost: $80,000**	**Previous Quarter(s):** During the first quarter, the entirety of Plaquemines Parish Sheriff's department was trained (266 first responders trained). A community development and safety training session was also held with 36 attendees. View the feedback received from the Plaquemines Parish Sheriff's Office here. Historically the months of November, December and January are slow with little to no turnout due to the holidays, so only 10 first responders were trained during the second quarter. Contractor has also stated our initiative is having an impact in neighboring states. An Agency in North Mississippi heard about the Council's initiative and contacted IAG to set up training for their agency. **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**	The Council contracted again with Niagara University to bring its emergency preparedness and disability awareness training to Louisiana. This past quarter, trainings were held in Monroe (training flyer) May 1 – 2 and Shreveport (training flyer) May 3 – 4. Attendance was not available at the time this report was created. Contractor has been working diligently to try and bring this training to the Lake Charles area. At this time, they are working to potentially host a training in Lake Charles and Houma in September. Contractor continues to try and engage Emergency Managers throughout the state and will focus more efforts in this area in FY24. **Previous Quarter(s):** First quarter, shared LaDDC News 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 has been unmatched in the other states they are offering the same training in. Shared a LaDDC News on February 13th advertising upcoming trainings in North Louisiana. **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	The Council and LaCAN advocated throughout the 2023 Legislative Session to amend the state's Open Meetings Law to allow for remote participation in meetings. SB201 (Act 393) amends Louisiana's Open Meetings Law to allow for remote operations (i.e. by electronic means or virtually) of public bodies that meet specific requirements detailed in the bill. Act 393 allows: • Members of the public with a disability recognized by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or their designated caregiver to participate in meetings electronically and encourages similar measures be implemented to maximize public participation; • A member of any public body or advisory council with a disability recognized by the ADA or their designated caregiver to participate in meetings electronically; and • Any public body that is strictly advisory or that primarily focuses on issues dealing with disabilities host meetings remotely.

	The Council took part on the Voting Disability Taskforce created last session and advocated for HB449 (Act 277) which implements recommendations from the Taskforce. This legislation: • Creates an Americans with Disabilities Act officer within the Secretary of State's office to address issues during elections; • Creates a Voting Accessibility Advisory Group within the Department of State; and • Requires specific instruction and examination of elections commissioners relative to the rights of voters with disabilities. OCDD plans to develop trainings that are a deep dive into the changes Post-COVID, as a follow-up to the Roadshows held in February and March. **Previous Quarter(s):** The Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) held two meetings on the Appendix K exception focused on family as paid caregivers. A focus group then discussed ways to bring new technology to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to allow them as much independence as possible. OCDD hosted statewide Roadshows in February and March to discuss the ending of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE). The federal PHE will end on May 11th which means the Appendix K exceptions are scheduled to end in November. An LaDDC News with the department's announcement was shared on February 23rd. Slides for the presentation can be found here. **On target: ☒ Initiative ☐ Expenditures**

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.	No activity this quarter. **Previous Quarter(s):** 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. The Executive Director followed-up with Dr. Harris, the Assistant Secretary of the Office of Women's Health & Community Health, again this quarter through email about wanting to meet about a potential collaboration to address accessible, educational materials on Women's Health topics. Dr. Harris is actively filling vacant positions in the new Office. **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 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**	Dr. Gerlinde Beckers is serving as the LAPIE liaison with the Advisory Council on Post-secondary Inclusive Education programs within the Board of Regents (BoR). The Advisory Council is currently focusing on disseminating application reminders for the Post-Secondary Inclusive Education Fund (PIEF). HB550 is another funding budget in Louisiana currently awaiting the Governor's approval. $1 million was appropriated to the Postsecondary Inclusive Education Fund to fund programs for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) at Louisiana postsecondary institutions. This fund was created during the last legislative session with an initial appropriation of $1 million. While the $1 million appropriated this year is short of the Council and LaCAN's $3 million ask, we are thankful to the legislature for their continued support of these programs. LaPIE website was updated to make it more easily accessible and highlight the social media posts. All posts are used to promote awareness of LAPIE and available resources. Social Media interactions have increased. Activities this quarter include: • April 18- State Capitol, testified in front of House of Appropriations as expert in the area of postsecondary inclusive education

	• May 5- Baton Rouge, Presented Postsecondary Inclusive Education to Partners in Policymakers • May 17- Chaired BoR PIEF meeting approved 2nd round of applications for new and • enhancement of PSE programs • May 22- State Capitol, to testify in front of Senate Finance committee as expert in the area of postsecondary inclusive education • June 19– reported on PIEF additional funding to GACDA Education Sub-committee • June 21–reported on PIEF additional funding to GACDA Full Council Provided technical assistance to: • Dr. Dan Bureau and Dr. Paul Mooney, Louisiana State University Baton Rouge campus PIEF application • Dr. Jeremy Bell, University of Louisiana at Monroe **Previous Quarter(s):** 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 advocated for an additional $3M for the fund during the 2023 legislative session. The Louisiana Postsecondary Inclusive Education Advisory Council also conducted an informational webinar for colleges and universities interested in applying for the funds. The Advisory Council will submit an initial report to the legislature on February 1, 2023. A factsheet about funding new and existing post-secondary inclusive education programs for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities was developed and posted on the Council's website. It was also distributed to Council members, LaCAN Leaders and FHF Centers/Directors. This sheet is being used in legislative visits and member meetings prior to the start of the 2023 legislative session. This information was also shared and presented at LaCAN's 2023 Legislative Roundtables. A factsheet about funding new and existing post-secondary inclusive education programs for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities was developed and posted on the Council's website. It was also distributed to Council members, LaCAN Leaders and FHF Centers/Directors. This sheet is being used in legislative visits and member meetings prior to the start of the 2023 legislative session. This information was also shared and presented at LaCAN's 2023 Legislative Roundtables. Dr. Gerlinde Beckers is serving as the LAPIE liaison with the Advisory Council on Post-secondary Inclusive Education programs within the Board of Regents (BoR). The Council is currently focusing on disseminating

	application reminders for the Post-Secondary Inclusive Education Fund (PIEF). They have also given technical assistance. **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 update this quarter **Previous Quarter(s):** The Executive Director met with Meredith Jordan during the second quarter. Ms. Jordan stated that State Superintendent, Dr. Cade Brumley, is planning to ask for money during the legislative session (within LDOE's budget request) to get some additional contract positions in SPED Compliance. This will assist with monitoring and holding school systems in Louisiana more accountable. **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.	Staff members attended BESE Meetings on April 18, 2023 and June 13, 2023 and Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP) on June 21, 2023. LDOE's SPED Playbook was released at the Teacher Leader Summit (May 30 – June 1) this year and was presented at the June SEAP Meeting and the Superintendent's Advisory Council in June. The playbook focuses on inclusive practices for special education students. There is a plan to do a regional tour about the playbook and more professional development around the playbook in the months to come. **Previous Quarter(s):** Staff members attended Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP) meetings during the second quarter. These meetings were focused around the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) Individuals with Disabilities Educations Act (IDEA) grant application and recommendations. During the meetings, the need for paperwork reduction, especially in the special education classes were addressed. Recommendations included: universal paperwork in all school districts, electronic forms, using eSER, and tracking systems for students that have an IEP. **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.	The Council and LaCAN advocated throughout the 2023 Legislative Session to amend the state's Open Meetings Law to allow for remote participation in meetings. SB201 (Act 393) amends Louisiana's Open Meetings Law to allow for remote operations (i.e. by electronic means or virtually) of public bodies that meet specific requirements detailed in the bill. Act 393 allows: • Members of the public with a disability recognized by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or their designated caregiver to participate in meetings electronically and encourages similar measures be implemented to maximize public participation; • A member of any public body or advisory council with a disability recognized by the ADA or their designated caregiver to participate in meetings electronically; and • Any public body that is strictly advisory or that primarily focuses on issues dealing with disabilities host meetings remotely. The Louisiana Legislative Auditor's Office also conducted a survey to obtain feedback from the parents and/or guardians of students with disabilities as part of a performance audit of the Louisiana Department of Education's (LDOE) oversight of special education services. The DD Council encouraged all stakeholders to participate in the survey and shared an LaDDC Newsletter on May 13th. • Statewide Special Education Survey, May 13, 2023 The Post-secondary Inclusive Education Advisory Council created by Act 682 of the 2022 Legislative Session met this quarter to discuss the creation and expansion of post-secondary and inclusive education programs across the state of Louisiana. The DD Council encouraged all stakeholders to participate and shared an LaDDC Newsletter on May 15th. • Post-secondary Inclusive Education Advisory Council Meeting Notice, May 15, 2023 **Previous Quarter(s):** 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.

	Information was shared with the Council's listserv and social media platforms about the Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP) and the IDEA grant application this quarter. Stakeholders were encouraged to provide feedback and apply for vacant positions on SEAP: • LDOE Seeks Input on 2023-24 IDEA Application, March 7, 2023 • SEAP Recruiting New Members – Apply Today, March 28, 2023 • LDOE IDEA Grant Application Out for Public Comment, March 31, 2023 **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**	23 East Group (O'Neill Communications) has developed a branding and outreach plan for the new employment webinar series: "Your Next Best Hire!". In discussion with the DD Council staff, they have partnered with LRS, and they are approaching the series as a step-by-step of what employers need to know and do to make disability a part of their DEI hiring process. "Your Next Best Hire!" is a five-part series on what employers need to know on how to include people with disabilities in their hiring process. The webinar series is planned to run from June 21st – August 23rd online via Zoom. The first webinar, "What is inclusion in the workforce" was held on June 21st with presenter Rikki David (State ADA Coordinator). The recording to this webinar will be available soon. The upcoming webinars can be found on the laddc-working-together.com website. **Previous Quarter(s):** 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.

	O'Neill Communications plans to again take a deeper dive into topics and implement a "story-telling" format for FFY23. O'Neill Communications met with Council staff in February to discuss new topics and potential panelist for the new set of seminars. They also discussed a potential host for the new Employment Seminar series. **On target: ☒ Initiative ☒ Expenditures**
3.2.2 Advocate for employment support professionals to complete high-quality professional development specifically on benefits planning services for the improvement of service provisions and employment outcomes	No activity this quarter. **On target: ☐ Initiative**
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.	The Council contracted with 23 East Group (O'Neill Communications) to conduct employment seminars which included information about financial incentives to hire unserved and underserved populations. Previous seminars are on the Council's YouTube page and can be accessed by potential employers. A new series, "Your Next Big Hire!" is currently being held on what employers need to know on how to include people with disabilities in their hiring process. Staff is also working with 23 East Group to determine how to share small clips from the seminars on social media to share this information again. The upcoming webinars can be found on the laddc-working-together.com website. **Previous Quarter(s):** The Council contracted with O'Neill Communications to conduct employment seminars which included information about financial incentives to hire unserved and underserved populations. These seminars in the *Working Together* series *and DIScovering ABILITIES* series are on the Council's YouTube page and can be accessed by potential employers. Staff is also working with O'Neill Communications to determine how to share small clips from the seminars on social media to share this information again. **On target: ☐ Initiative**
3.2.4 Share the benefits planning services to a variety	No activity this quarter.

of agencies and stakeholders.	**Previous Quarter(s):** The Executive Director met with the Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS) Executive Director, Melissa Bayham, about specific training that employment providers may receive on benefits planning. Ms. Bayham stated that there isn't any specific training that they offer or require. However, LRS does provide information regarding benefit planning to all of their consumers. Also, Louisiana Association of People Supporting Employment (APSE) has provided some training on benefits planning in the past (their 2021 Annual Conference was specifically mentioned). **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.	Council staff contacted Medicaid in June to get more information on the Medicaid "buy-in" program and the Medicaid Purchase Plan (MPP). Staff wants to determine if the "buy-in" program still exists or if it was replaced by the MPP. More information will be shared on the next quarterly status report and next quarter with the Council's listserv. **On target: ☐ Initiative**