

La DD Council - Status Report of FFY 2020 Action Plan

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

Activity	Progress
<p>As applicable, data is presented year-to-date and quarterly. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a 2nd quarter report was not provided. This report reflects information for both the 2nd and 3rd quarters of the 2020 Federal Fiscal Year (December 15, 2019 – June 29, 2020).</p>	
<p>Goal 1 Individuals with development disabilities and their family members will have information, training, support and leadership to effectively advocate and impact system change by educating policy makers.</p>	
<p>Obj. 1.1 Louisiana's self-advocacy network will be supported in self-advocacy and in systems change advocacy.</p>	
<p>1.1.1 Provide technical assistance and training opportunities designed to strengthen the self-advocacy network and the effectiveness of its systems change activities. Approx. FFY 2020 Cost: \$10,000</p>	<p>No activity this quarter.</p> <p>On target: <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>
<p>Obj. 1.2 Individuals with developmental disabilities and their family members will have access to opportunities and support to build skills to be effective leaders in systems change advocacy.</p>	

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1.2.1 Provide financial support and technical assistance for Partners in Policymaking and its alumni network.

**Approx. FFY 2020 Cost:
\$90,000**

Partners in Policymaking began on January 9, 2020, with 18 attendees including 4 self-advocates and 1 father. The February session had 15 attendees, and March had 14 attendees. Participation in the class decreased for reasons such as: military and work obligations, illness, lack of appropriate childcare, travel, no shows, and discovery of ineligibility.

The April, May, and June 2020 Partners in Policymaking sessions were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

2020 Partners Active in Systems Change

A total of 6 participants responded to 4 LaCAN Action Alerts.

Partners Graduates Active in Systems Change

A total of 27 graduates responded to 5 LaCAN Action Alerts.

- Partners Graduates serve on state and regional bodies such as:
 - Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council
 - State Interagency Coordinating Council
 - Statewide Independent Living Council
 - Governor's Advisory Council on Disability Affairs
 - Regional Human Services Districts and Authorities Boards and Advisory Councils (Acadiana, Florida Parishes, Imperial Calcasieu, Jefferson, Metropolitan, and Northwest)
 - Board of Directors for the Disability Rights LA, FHF Centers, and People First of LA
 - Advisory Council on Student Behavior and Discipline
 - Special Education Advisory Panel
 - Louisiana ABLE Account Advisory Board
 - LSU Human Development Center Constituent Advisory Committee
 - Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) Emergency Management Disability and Aging Coalition; State Advisory Council, and Systems Transformation Group

Previous Quarter(s):

On December 11, 2019, Mrs. Adrienne Skidmore-Thomas was selected as the new Partners in Policymaking Coordinator

On target: Initiative Expenditures

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1.2.3 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 2020 Cost:
\$225,000**

As of June 29, 2020, LaCAN has over 6,180 members registered to receive information and action alerts related to home and community-based services, employment, education, and early intervention.

Advocacy Activities

Since October 1, 2019:

- Three HCBS action alerts; 238 actions taken
- Three education actions alert; 262 actions taken
- Two education yellow shirt days; 6 participants

Before the 2020 Legislative Session began on March 9, 2020, LaCAN Leaders supported 28 members at 56 formal legislative visits, of which 26 were with key committee members. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, LaCAN Leaders were unable to coordinate meetings between members and legislators at the Capitol during the 2020 Legislative Session.

LaCAN hosts weekly LaCAN Leader conference calls which include updates on current concerns/issues, and the development of strategies to better educate, maintain, support, and lead LaCAN members.

Update on Leader Positions

Currently there are LaCAN Leader vacancies in Regions 1/10 and Region 4. The positions are being advertised and those interested are encouraged to apply. More information can be found on the LaDDC [website](#).

On target: Initiative Expenditures

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<p>1.2.4 Facilitate and support advocacy events including but not limited to Legislative Roundtables, a Conference, and advocacy training sessions.</p> <p>Approx. FFY 2020 Cost: \$40,000</p>	<p>LaCAN’s Legislative Debriefing was held on June 29, 2020. LaCAN Leaders, FHF Directors and Council staff discussed the commitment from the legislature to the disability community by not reducing any funding to disability services as a result of LaCAN advocacy efforts. Ideas were also discussed for improving advocacy activities and effectiveness including ideas for holding virtual events due to the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>On May 23, 2020, the Council hosted a virtual Disability Rights Day in partnership with Families Helping Families and the Community Provider Association. The event was livestreamed on the Council’s YouTube channel and can be viewed here.</p> <p>Each LaCAN Leader held regional membership meetings in lieu of Roundtables. There were 154 LaCAN members who participated in 15 regional LaCAN member meetings to discuss the Council’s Advocacy Agenda, learn how to become an active member, ways of taking action (action alerts, yellow shirt days, testimony) and how to connect with legislators.</p> <p>Previous Quarter(s): The LaCAN Fall Leader training was conducted on November 21, 2019.</p> <p>The 2019 LaDDC Conference, “Navigating the System Across the Lifespan” was held on November 18, 2019 at the Baton Rouge Marriott. The conference had 166 registrants (29 self-advocates, 55 parent-advocates, and 82 professionals) and hosted 147 attendees.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>
<p>1.2.5 Collaborate with Families Helping Families, LaCAN, and others to support the provision of information on advocacy to youth and their families at transition fairs.</p>	<p>LaCAN Leaders and FHF Directors were requested to collaborate with their respective school districts to fulfill this activity. Although most school districts do not conduct their Transition Fairs until the Spring semester, some Leaders and FHF personnel were able to participate in these events before the COVID-19 shutdown.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p>Obj. 1.3 Individuals with developmental disabilities and family members of individuals with developmental disabilities will have support to be effective leaders in systems change through participation on a variety of boards and commissions.</p>	

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<p>1.3.1 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.</p>	<p>The DD Council has advertised for membership applications in multiple regions, and shared information for people to apply for vacant positions within another related council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LaDDC Council Membership (Region 2) • LaDDC Council Membership (Regions 1 & 9) • Recruiting Advocates for Advisory Council for Student Behavior and Discipline <p>Previous Quarter(s): Shared information for people to apply or participate in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Foundation 2020 Public Policy Fellowship Program • U.S. Department of Health & Human Services 2019 Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee • LaDDC Council Membership (Regions 1, 8, and 9) • Stakeholder Meeting on LDH's Plan to Implement Program for TEFRA Population • ACL Emergency Preparedness, Response and Recovery Listening Session • 2020 Disability Policy Seminar • 2020 AUCD Policy Forum <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p>1.3.2 Support Council members in participation in Council meetings and other functions.</p>	<p>Council members are supported in participation of Council meetings and other functions.</p> <p>The Executive Committee met on May 9th and established protocols and procedures for holding virtual meetings.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p>1.3.3 Support Council members' participation in training and educational opportunities. Approx. FFY 2020 Cost: \$3,000</p>	<p>The Oklahoma DD Council's Youth Leadership Forum scheduled for June 7-13 was cancelled due to COVID-19 preventing support for a Council member slated to participate.</p> <p>Previous Quarter(s): Eleven Council members were supported in participating at the Council's Bi-Annual Conference: Navigating the System in November 2019.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>

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<p>1.3.4 Support the Council leadership's participation in national training, networking events and advocacy opportunities. Approx. FFY 2020 Cost: \$7,000</p>	<p>The 2020 Disability Policy Seminar in Washington, D.C. scheduled for March 22-24 was cancelled due to COVID-19 preventing support for a Council Officer slated to participate.</p> <p>On target: <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>
<p>Obj. 1.4 Individuals with developmental disabilities, their families, and professionals will obtain the information, training, and support they need.</p>	
<p>1.4.1 Provide financial support (from the entirety of state general funds) and technical assistance to nine Families Helping Families Regional Resource Centers across the state.</p>	<p>Since October 1, 2019, Centers have assisted over 12,800 individuals with disabilities and families with information, referral, peer to peer and other supports. There have been 31,222 units of information and referral completed and 328 trainings conducted with over 4,880 individuals in attendance. Centers have also conducted 263 outreach activities to hospitals, pediatricians, and school districts. FHF webinars are published on the Council website.</p> <p>During meetings and communications with legislators and LaCAN members, information was shared about the need for additional funding for the Families Helping Families Resource Centers statewide.</p> <p>Previous Quarter(s): A fact sheet about the need for additional funding for the Families Helping Families Resource Center was developed, posted on the Council's website, and distributed to Council members, LaCAN Leaders, and FHF Centers/Directors to be used in legislative visits and member meetings prior to the start of the 2020 legislative session.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>

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1.4.2 Produce and provide information important to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families through a variety of electronic and social media (Council website, Facebook, LaDDC News, and produce and disseminate videos on employment and self-advocacy, grade promotion and graduation pathways for students with disabilities and featuring people who graduate with a diploma and are successfully employed and information on related services, and produce diagrams, visual flow charts and other visual aids on accessing home and community-based services, including waivers, and etc).

Approx. FFY 2020 Cost:
\$51,000

The following DDC Newsletters were released via listserv and advertised via Facebook and Twitter:

1. [2020 Legislative Session Summary](#) July 1, 2020
2. [Update: TEFRA Implementation Timeline](#), June 12, 2020
3. [Louisiana Disability Rights Day](#), May 21, 2020
4. [COVID-19 Updates](#), May 13, 2020
5. [Direct Care Shortages and Rationing of Care During COVID-19 Epidemic](#), March 30, 2020
6. [COVID-19 Exemptions for I/DD HCBS Waivers](#), March 19, 2020
7. [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Update](#), March 13, 2020
8. [Concepts Requested for Council Planning](#), January 31, 2020
9. [Executive Director Sandee Winchell Retires After Successful Advocacy Career](#), January 23, 2020
10. [Recruiting Advocates for DD Council – Regions 1 & 9](#), January 21, 2020
11. [2020 Legislative Advocacy Agenda \(Revised\) and LaCAN Member Meetings](#), January 17, 2020
12. [Recruiting Advocates for Advisory Council for Student Behavior and Discipline](#), January 7, 2020
13. [Recruiting Strong Advocates for DD Council](#), December 20, 2019
14. [DD Network Public Forums Announcement](#), December 19, 2019
15. [Relationships & Intimacy: Preventing Exploitation Training Opportunities](#), December 16, 2019

Displays of LaCAN members in action as well as various issues and news of interest to people with developmental disabilities and their families are continuously shared on social media.

- The Council's listserv has 5,389 active subscribers.
- [Facebook](#) has 5,323 followers and 5,047 likes.
- [Twitter](#) has 343 followers.

Previous Quarter(s):

Possible contractors were identified for videos on employment and self-advocacy, grade promotion, and graduation pathways for students with disabilities. However, pursuits to produce these videos were halted due to the possibility of shifting funding from this activity to the cost of hiring a firm for the search of a new Executive Director then the suspension of in-person activities from COVID-19.

On target: Initiative

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Goal 2 Individuals with developmental disabilities, including those with the most challenging needs, and their families will have access to individualized, appropriate, and quality supports and services as needed to be fully participating members of their community.

Obj. 2.4. Funding will be available to provide home and community-based waiver services to people with developmental disabilities.

2.4.1 Advocate for adequate funding for waiver services.

Information was shared with legislators and LaCAN members statewide about the need for increased home and community-based service (HCBS) rates and skilled nursing rates in waivers and EPSDT. Multiple disability groups collaborated to develop a shared [fact sheet](#) related to the need for increased HCBS rates. Funding needed to increase these rates was not included in the governor's executive budget proposal. However, the budget did contain language preventing cuts to Medicaid waiver services.

A settlement has been reached and approved by a federal judge in the class action lawsuit against the Louisiana Department of Health that will enable children and youth with complex medical needs to receive needed Medicaid in-home nursing services. More information can be found in this [press release](#) from Disability Rights LA.

Previous Quarter(s):

A [fact sheet](#) regarding the need for increased HCBS and skilled nursing rates in waivers and EPSDT was developed, posted on the Council's website, and distributed to Council members, LaCAN Leaders, and FHF Centers/Directors intended to be used in legislative visits and member meetings prior to the start of the 2020 legislative session.

On target: **Initiative**

Obj. 2.5 Individuals with developmental disabilities and their families will have access to the same level and quality of services administered by the Local Governing Entities (LGE's) across the state.

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2.5.1 Oversee implementation of the Community and Family Support System Plan.

Information about the need for additional funding for the State Personal Assistance Services (SPAS) program was shared with legislators and LaCAN members statewide.

The Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) hosted two additional statewide stakeholders' group meetings to provide information and obtain feedback on LDH's proposed implementation of [Act 421 of 2019](#) (TEFRA). Advocated for a program more aligned with the original intent of TEFRA rather than the creation of a program with limited availability and a waiting list for services. The Council added to its advocacy agenda funding to implement TEFRA. A [fact sheet](#) was developed and posted on the Council's website and distributed to Council members, LaCAN Leaders and FHF Centers.

COVID-19 disrupted the implementation of TEFRA by preventing LDH from being able to submit its proposal by the June 1, 2020 timeline. Originally, LDH indicated in a [letter to the Louisiana Legislature](#) it would submit its TEFRA proposal to CMS by January 1, 2021, with a requested implementation date of July 1, 2021. However, in a stakeholder meeting on June 12th LDH stated that they intend to submit its CMS request by September 1, 2020 with a requested implementation date of January 1, 2021. [Click here](#) to see LDH's updated implementation timeline.

Previous Quarter(s):

A [fact sheet](#) about the need for additional funding for the State Personal Assistance Services (SPAS) program was developed, posted on the Council's website, and distributed to Council members, LaCAN Leaders, and FHF Centers/Directors to be used in legislative visits and member meetings prior to the start of the 2020 legislative session.

LDH hosted its first TEFRA ([Act 421 of 2019](#)) stakeholder meeting which provided [an overview](#) of their research findings for implementing TEFRA or TEFRA-like program.

On target: Initiative

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<p>2.5.2 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).</p>	<p>The final rule for the Individual and Family Support Program was published in the March 2020 edition of the LA Register. The rule includes Council recommended changes to the IFS and Consumer Care Resources programs.</p> <p>Previous Quarter(s): Advocated with OCDD to clarify with LGEs that funds allocated for their Families Helping Families contracts should not come from Act 378 dollars.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p>Obj. 2.6 Louisiana will reduce reliance on institutional services for people with developmental disabilities.</p>	
<p>2.6.1 Advocate for utilization of the ROW 50 pilot and other opportunities to transition out of institutional settings.</p>	<p>No update this quarter.</p> <p>Previous Quarter(s): The OCDD Systems Transformation Core Stakeholders Group continues to discuss utilization of ROW slots to enable individuals to transition out of institutional settings.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p>Obj. 2.7 Individuals with developmental disabilities will benefit from changes, consistent with Council positions, in policy and practice in state and local agencies and programs.</p>	
<p>2.7.1 Advocate for systems change based on emergent community support issues.</p>	<p>Concerns about DSP shortages and rationing of care due to the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in OCDD releasing exemptions for its I/DD HCBS waivers and the Council joining other organizations in requesting guidance be provided to hospitals and healthcare workers regarding the importance of valuing all lives; including the lives of individuals with intellectual disabilities, chromosomal abnormalities, or other severe disabilities. More information was shared in this LaDDC News.</p> <p>Previous Quarter(s): The OCDD Systems Transformation Core Stakeholders Group continues to discuss the need to allow people who live in the home of waiver recipients to serve as Direct Support Professionals for that individual. For now, this is addressed through the companion care service in the NOW and ROW waivers.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>

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<p>Obj. 2.8 Individuals receiving waiver services through the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) will have access to a full range of quality health care services that result in improved overall health outcomes.</p>	
<p>2.8.1 Publicize healthcare provider continuing education opportunities.</p>	<p>No activity this quarter.</p> <p>On target: <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p>Obj. 2.9 Individuals with developmental disabilities and their families will have information and training on sexuality, sexual abuse and exploitation.</p>	
<p>2.9.1 Provide financial support for training on sexuality and relationships and to build awareness and skills with recognizing and handling sexual abuse and exploitation of people with developmental disabilities. Approx. FFY 2020 Cost: \$32,000</p>	<p>The Council continues to collaborate with Team Dynamics, LLC. to offer a series of training events statewide to increase adult self-advocates and their family members' understanding of the issues that lead to and ways to prevent sexual abuse and exploitation of individuals with disabilities. Training schedule, location, registration and links to other informational webinars can be found here. As of June 2020, twenty training events have occurred with 150 self-advocates and 347 family members/caregivers in attendance.</p> <p>Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the training events scheduled in April, May and June were held via online webinars rather than in-person.</p> <p>A letter was sent to Team Dynamics, LLC. recognizing their work on this initiative.</p> <p>Previous Quarter(s): Since the beginning of this activity (October 2018), twelve training events have occurred with 137 self-advocates and 208 family members/caregivers in attendance.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>

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<p>2.9.2 Provide funds to research existing state policy and develop a report with legislative, regulatory and other recommendations designed to help prevent the sexual and other abuse of people with developmental disabilities.</p> <p>Approx. FFY 2020 Cost: \$10,000</p>	<p>The Council finalized its contract with Disability Rights LA (formerly The Advocacy Center) to produce a report with comprehensive recommendations to address the sexual and other abuse of people with developmental disabilities. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, DRLA's work on this report has been impacted, but they have an anticipated completion date of June 30th.</p> <p>Previous Quarter(s): The Council is in the process of finalizing a contract with the Advocacy Center to conduct necessary research and produce a report with comprehensive recommendations to address the sexual and other abuse of people with developmental disabilities.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>
<p>Goal 3 Students with disabilities will have access to quality, individualized educational programs that address their unique skills, interests, and goals in inclusive environments.</p>	
<p>Obj. 3.1 Individualized Education Plan (IEP) team members will have increased levels of information and support to demonstrate effective individualized programming consistent with best practice and to enable each member to participate fully as members of the IEP team.</p>	
<p>3.1.1 Advocate for increased focus and capacity within LDOE to address Special Education, including specific areas/issues (i.e., disability/topical/etc.)</p>	<p>The Advisory Council on Student Behavior and Discipline requested the Legislature consider revising La. R.S. 17:252 to require the Louisiana Department of Education address staffing capacity to collect data related to implementation of Model Master Discipline Plans by schools and take action related to findings of implementation.</p> <p>Previous Quarter(s): Advocated for LDOE to revive the Data Quality Review Sub-Committee of the Advisory Council on Student Behavior and Discipline to provide validity and integrity of data and develop uniform definitions of behavior codes.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p>3.1.2 Advocate for increased infrastructure of on-site training and technical assistance provided to parents and schools simultaneously.</p>	<p>Advocated for LDOE to maintain consistency in the support infrastructure for parents of children with disabilities by continuing to fund the regional Families Helping Families Resource Centers.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>

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Obj. 3.2 Louisiana's accountability and support structures for school systems will better assure the development and implementation of individualized education programs in inclusive settings.	
3.2.1 Advocate for an accountability system to value students with disabilities and measure programs and outcomes based on individualized student goals and needs (including service delivery).	No activity this quarter. On target: <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative
3.2.2 Advocate for improved complaint and monitoring procedures.	No activity this quarter. On target: <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative
3.2.3 Advocate for a support structure in school systems that assures adequate understanding and skill to develop and implement Individual Education Plans.	No activity this quarter. On target: <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative
Obj. 3.3 Students with developmental disabilities will benefit from changes, consistent with Council positions, in policy and practice in educational agencies and programs.	
3.3.1 Advocate for educational systems change based on emergent education issues.	No activity this quarter. On target: <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative
Obj. 3.4 An increased number of students with disabilities are included in school culture.	

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<p>3.4.1 Provide information and promote inclusion and acceptance of effective models of school culture.</p>	<p>No activity this quarter.</p> <p>On target: <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p>3.4.2 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.</p> <p>Approx. FFY 2020 Cost: \$40,000</p>	<p>On March 9, 2020, the LA-PIE Alliance hosted a forum in North LA to allow interested Institutes of Higher Learning to learn about inclusive post-secondary education programs and how to create one for their campus. LSU-A and Grambling State University attended the event and provided data for a Needs Assessment to begin the process of creating an inclusive PSE program. LSU-A developed a Steering Committee for this program and has an anticipated start date for an inclusive PSE program to be offered for the Fall 2021 semester. A forum was scheduled for April 9th in South LA but was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>The following social media accounts have been established for the LA-PIE Alliance: Email = LAPIEalliance@selu.edu Website = https://www.southeastern.edu/acad_research/depts/teach_lrn/programs/la-pie/index.html Facebook = @LAPIEAlliance</p> <p>Previous Quarter(s): Dr. Gerlinde Beckers presented in one of the breakout sessions at the 2019 DDC Conference regarding the Post-secondary Inclusive Education Alliance and is doing so again at the LA 39th Annual Super Conference on Special Education in January 2020.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>
<p>Goal 4 Students with disabilities are considered from the initial phases to the completion of planning and program development of educational policies and initiatives.</p>	
<p>Obj. 4.2 All schools (charter/magnet) accepting public dollars will accept and serve all students with disabilities appropriately.</p>	

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<p>4.2.1 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.</p>	<p>No activity this quarter.</p> <p>On target: <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p>4.2.2 Advocate for and monitor equitable funding based on Minimum Foundation Program (MFP).</p>	<p>In January 2019, the Council sent a request to the Attorney General requesting an opinion related to the use of different funding formula for the local share of funds in the Minimum Foundation Program between charter schools and traditional public schools. In December 2019, the La. Attorney General responded indicating the request was cancelled due to the intensive fact-finding required to render an opinion.</p> <p>Previous Quarter(s): Contacted the Office of the Attorney General to inquire about the status of the Council request of an opinion on the distribution of local funds related to students with disabilities. The OAG indicated it intends to respond by the end of the year.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>

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<p>4.2.3 Provide financial support for professional development opportunities for child care providers and EarlySteps interventionists to build capacity with including children with disabilities in Early Learning Center within Local Communities.</p> <p>Approx. FFY 2020 Cost: \$90,000</p>	<p>LSUHSC-HDC conducted in-person trainings on February 11th and 12th in Lafayette and Shreveport. Unfortunately, there were only 11 participants consisting of childcare providers, Early Interventionists, Family Support Coordinators, and an ES Regional Coordinator. Another training event was in the process of being organized until the COVID-19 pandemic began.</p> <p>LSUHSC-HDC staff conducted multiple virtual technical assistance and mentoring webinars with participants from the intensive training sessions that were held in Baton Rouge, New Orleans, Northshore, Lafayette, and Shreveport. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and closures of child care centers, one-one-one (in person) coaching sessions were not conducted.</p> <p>Previous Quarter(s): LSUHSC-Human Development Center was contracted to continue with the provision of training, and mentoring/Technical Assistance for coaching of Early Learning Center staff and Early Interventionists toward the inclusion of children with disabilities in Early Learning Center settings. Training sessions were scheduled. Coaching sessions for attendees of those training sessions and the 21 participants from the previous Covington training class were arranged.</p> <p>On target: <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>
<p>Obj. 4.3 Stakeholders will have increased opportunities to provide authentic input that will impact decisions on policies effecting students with disabilities.</p>	
<p>4.3.1 Advocate for increased meaningful opportunities for stakeholder input, improved practices to facilitate stakeholder input, and consideration of stakeholder recommendations.</p>	<p>No activity this quarter.</p> <p>On target: <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p>Goal 5 Individuals with developmental disabilities including those with the most substantial employment support needs will have access to quality individualized services and funding that support competitive integrated individualized employment, and career and financial goals.</p>	
<p>Obj. 5.1 An increased number of individuals with developmental disabilities will have access to qualified providers who offer a stable workforce of supported employment professionals with recognized skills sets demonstrated to be effective in supporting people with disabilities getting and maintaining employment.</p>	

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<p>5.1.1 Advocate for certification of employment support professionals (ESP).</p>	<p>No activity this quarter.</p> <p>On target: <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p>5.1.2 Advocate for the implementation of a system of accountability to include outcomes-based monitoring and a complaint process.</p>	<p>No activity this quarter.</p> <p>On target: <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p>5.1.3 Provide funding to build the capacity of employment providers in customized employment through a competency-based certification program.</p> <p>Approx. FFY 2020 Cost: \$50,000</p>	<p>Two individuals have completed the Certification process for the Discovery component of Customized Employment. A Job Development Gateway (3-day training event) was conducted February 4 – 6, 2020, with 22 attendees. Four provider agencies who participated in the Discovery component of Customized Employment were represented at this event and are eligible to participate in the Certification process for Job Development. At the conclusion of this Job Development Gateway, 14 individuals indicated that they would like to pursue Certification in all 3 components of this employment service.</p> <p>Previous Quarter(s): Three employment support providers have now completed all 3 components of Customized Employment (Discovery, Job Development, and Systematic Instruction) and are qualified to provide this service through LRS to individuals with significant employment support needs. Five more providers are expected to complete Discovery certification mentoring. The Job Development Gateway is scheduled for February 2020.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>
<p>Obj. 5.2 An increased number of individuals with developmental disabilities will have information and access to an integrated workforce development system that is fully funded.</p>	

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<p>5.2.1 Advocate for supported employment providers to have access to financial incentives to support unserved and underserved populations including people with the most substantial employment support needs in competitive integrated individualized employment.</p>	<p>No activity this quarter.</p> <p>Previous Quarter(s): Council staff has attempted to advocate for this activity at the previous two Louisiana Rehabilitation Council meetings. Unfortunately, due to the LRC not reaching a quorum at either of these meetings, no motion could be voted on for the LRC to officially act on this recommendation.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p>Obj. 5.3 Individuals with DD, their families, and professionals in the various service systems will have increased expectations that people with developmental disabilities can have successful competitive, integrated, individualized employment.</p>	
<p>5.3.1 Share the benefits planning services to a variety of agencies and stakeholders.</p>	<p>No activity this quarter.</p> <p>Previous Quarter(s): As part of the National Disability Employment Month celebration in October, Council social media included posts regarding this subject, such as Ticket to Work.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p>5.3.2 Share DD Council employment videos featuring individuals with developmental disabilities on their jobs.</p>	<p>No activity this quarter.</p> <p>Previous Quarter(s): During National Disability Employment Month, Council social media posts included the advertising of a video/program titled “Intelligent Lives”.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p>Obj. 5.4 Individuals with DD will benefit from changes, consistent with Council positions, in policy and practice in employment agencies/programs.</p>	
<p>5.4.1 Advocate for systems change based on emergent employment issues.</p>	<p>No activity this quarter.</p> <p>On target: <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>