

# La DD Council - Status Report of FFY 2020 Action Plan

- ‘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. This report reflects information for the 4th quarter of the 2020 Federal Fiscal Year (June 30, 2020 – September 30, 2020).</p>	
<p><b>Goal 1</b> 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><b>Obj. 1.1</b> Louisiana’s self-advocacy network will be supported in self-advocacy and in systems change advocacy.</p>	
<p><b>1.1.1</b> Provide technical assistance and training opportunities designed to strengthen the self-advocacy network and the effectiveness of its systems change activities. <b>Approx. FFY 2020 Cost: \$10,000</b></p>	<p>With funding from the Council, People First of LA hosted a virtual training event on September 14, 2020. There were 65 participants consisting of 38 self-advocates, 5 parents of individuals with developmental disabilities, and 22 service professionals. Michael R. Bortolotto presented “Don’t Talk, Just Act!”: How having a clear vision of what you want out of life is key to self-advocacy and self-determination.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>
<p><b>Obj. 1.2</b> 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**

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

During the July Council meeting, a Partners in Policymaking Ad-Hoc Committee was created to make decisions regarding how to move forward with this program for the new 2021 class and how to allow the 2020 class to complete the program.

### 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 28 graduates responded to 7 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):**

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.

**On target:**  Initiative  Expenditures

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<p><b>1.2.3</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Approx. FFY 2020 Cost: \$225,000</b></p>	<p>As of September 21, 2020, LaCAN has over 6,160 members registered to receive information and action alerts related to home and community-based services, employment, education and early intervention.</p> <p><u>Advocacy Activities</u> Since October 1, 2019:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Four HBCS action alerts; 334 actions taken</li><li>• Four education action alerts; 415 actions taken</li><li>• Two education yellow shirt days; 6 participants</li></ul> <p>Due to COVID-19, LaCAN Leaders were unable to coordinate meetings between members and legislators at the Capitol during the 2020 Legislative Session. There were 28 members supported at 56 formal legislative visits of which 26 were with key committee members. Leaders have also been conducting informal virtual meetings to ensure members and legislators remain connected.</p> <p>LaCAN is currently hosting LaCAN Leader conference calls twice monthly, which include updates on current concerns/issues and development of strategies to better educate, maintain, support, and lead LaCAN members.</p> <p><u>Update on Leader Positions</u> Currently there is a LaCAN Leader vacancy in Regions 1/10. The position is currently being advertised and those interested are encouraged to apply. More information can be found on the LaDDC <a href="#">website</a>.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>
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**1.2.4** Facilitate and support advocacy events including but not limited to Legislative Roundtables, a Conference, and advocacy training sessions.

**Approx. FFY 2020 Cost:  
\$40,000**

The LaCAN Summer Training was held on August 20, 2020. Leaders discussed creative ways to continue LaCAN activities virtually and keep members active during a pandemic.

Since October 1, 2019, 461 LaCAN members participated in 38 regional LaCAN member meetings to discuss various topics including outcomes of the 2020 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 and to provide input on the Council's 2021 legislative advocacy agenda. Over 60 concerns/issues were received for the Council's consideration.

LaCAN Leaders and FHF Directors participated in the 2021 Legislative Kickoff on September 17, 2020. Advocacy leaders rated over 60 concerns/issues to develop the top nine items generated from across the state. These top items were discussed before being narrowed down to three items for their official recommendations toward the Council's 2021 legislative advocacy agenda.

### **Previous Quarter(s):**

The LaCAN Fall Leader training was conducted on November 21, 2019.

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.

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](#).

LaCAN's Legislative Debriefing was held on June 29, 2020.

Each LaCAN Leader held regional membership meetings in lieu of Roundtables. There were 154 LaCAN members who participated in 15 regional LaCAN member meetings.

**On target:**  Initiative  Expenditures

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<p><b>1.2.5</b> 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>No activity this quarter.</p> <p><b>Previous Quarter(s):</b> 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><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p><b>Obj. 1.3</b> 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>	
<p><b>1.3.1</b> 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>No activity this quarter.</p> <p><b>Previous Quarter(s):</b> 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"> <li>• <a href="#">LaDDC Council Membership (Region 2)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">LaDDC Council Membership (Regions 1 &amp; 9)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Recruiting Advocates for Advisory Council for Student Behavior and Discipline</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Foundation 2020 Public Policy Fellowship Program</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">U.S. Department of Health &amp; Human Services 2019 Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">LaDDC Council Membership (Regions 1, 8, and 9)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Stakeholder Meeting on LDH's Plan to Implement Program for TEFRA Population</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">ACL Emergency Preparedness, Response and Recovery Listening Session</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">2020 Disability Policy Seminar</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">2020 AUCD Policy Forum</a></li> </ul> <p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>

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<p><b>1.3.2</b> 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>Since the July Council meeting, 5 Executive Committee meetings, and 3 Ad-Hoc committee meetings have been conducted.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p><b>1.3.3</b> Support Council members' participation in training and educational opportunities. <b>Approx. FFY 2020 Cost: \$3,000</b></p>	<p>No activity this quarter.</p> <p><b>Previous Quarter(s):</b> 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>Eleven Council members were supported in participating at the Council's Bi-Annual Conference: Navigating the System in November 2019.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>
<p><b>1.3.4</b> Support the Council leadership's participation in national training, networking events and advocacy opportunities. <b>Approx. FFY 2020 Cost: \$7,000</b></p>	<p>No activity this quarter.</p> <p><b>Previous Quarter(s):</b> 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><b>On target:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>
<p><b>Obj. 1.4</b> Individuals with developmental disabilities, their families, and professionals will obtain the information, training, and support they need.</p>	

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**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.

Since October 1, 2019, Centers have assisted over 17,170 individuals with disabilities and families with information, referral, peer to peer and other supports. There have been 39,830 units of information and referral completed and 437 trainings conducted with over 6,530 individuals in attendance. Centers have also conducted 279 outreach activities to hospitals, pediatricians, and school districts. [FHF webinars](#) are published on the Council website.

Monitoring visits to review Center operations and achievement of deliverables for State Fiscal Year 2020 were intended to be completed on Bayou Land FHF, FHF Northeast Louisiana, and FHF Southwest Louisiana. However, due to COVID-19 these visits will be scheduled at a later date. All FHF Centers will participate in desk audits at this time.

At the Legislative Kickoff on September 17, 2020, LaCAN Leaders and FHF Directors voted on recommendations for the Council's 2021 legislative agenda to include additional funding for the FHF Centers.

**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.

**On target:**  Initiative  Expenditures

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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 Sessions Summary](#), July 1, 2020
2. [Public Comment Sought on Council's FFY 2021 Action Plan](#), July 20, 2020
3. [Council Issues Multiple Solicitations of Proposals](#), July 22, 2020

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 5,416 active subscribers.
- [Facebook](#) has 5,392 followers and 5,141 likes.
- [Twitter](#) has 362 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**

**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.

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**2.4.1** Advocate for adequate funding for waiver services.

At the Legislative Kickoff on September 17, 2020, LaCAN Leaders and FHF Directors voted on recommendations for the Council's 2021 legislative agenda to include advocacy for increased DSP wages. Feedback and concerns received from community input meetings related to SUN screenings, the tiered waiver process, and lack of availability of services were also discussed.

**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. 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 was reached in the class action lawsuit against LDH 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.

**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 LaCAN Leaders and FHF Directors at their Legislative Kickoff.

The Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) resumed statewide stakeholders' group meetings regarding [Act 421 of 2019](#) (TEFRA) Children's Medicaid Option. Program application was submitted to CMS on September 1, 2020 with a requested implementation date of January 1, 2021. The application can be viewed [here](#). LDH has developed a [website](#) for stakeholders to view more information about this program.

**Previous Quarter(s):**

A [fact sheet](#) related to SPAS was developed, posted on the Council's website and distributed to Council members, LaCAN Leaders and FHF Centers.

LDH hosted multiple statewide stakeholders' group meetings to provide information and obtain feedback on LDH's proposed implementation of [Act 421 of 2019](#) (TEFRA). The Council added to its 2020 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. [Click here](#) to see LDH's updated implementation timeline.

**On target:**  Initiative

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<p><b>2.5.2</b> 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>At their Legislative Kickoff, LaCAN Leaders and FHF Directors were shared information based on feedback from community input meetings regarding FY20 and FY21 budgets for the Human Services Districts/Authorities (LGEs); specifically, the state general fund, per capita and IFS budgets for each LGE were shared as leaders and directors considered additional funding for LGEs and specific programs.</p> <p>The updated program manual for the Individual and Family Support program was distributed to the Human Services Districts/Authorities on August 19<sup>th</sup> which contained updated policies based on the Council's <a href="#">recommended changes</a> to the IFS and Consumer Care Resources programs. District/Authority staff was trained in September with an implementation date of October 1, 2020.</p> <p><b>Previous Quarter(s)</b> 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>The final rule for the Individual and Family Support Program was published in the <a href="#">March 2020 edition of the LA Register</a>. The rule includes Council <a href="#">recommended changes</a> to the IFS and Consumer Care Resources programs.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p><b>Obj. 2.6</b> Louisiana will reduce reliance on institutional services for people with developmental disabilities.</p>	
<p><b>2.6.1</b> 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><b>Previous Quarter(s):</b> 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><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p><b>Obj. 2.7</b> Individuals with developmental disabilities will benefit from changes, consistent with Council positions, in policy and practice in state and local agencies and programs.</p>	

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<p><b>2.7.1</b> Advocate for systems change based on emergent community support issues.</p>	<p>No activity this quarter.</p> <p><b>Previous Quarter(s):</b> 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>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 <a href="#">LaDDC News</a>.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Initiative</b></p>
<p><b>Obj. 2.8</b> 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><b>2.8.1</b> Publicize healthcare provider continuing education opportunities.</p>	<p>No activity this quarter.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Initiative</b></p>
<p><b>Obj. 2.9</b> Individuals with developmental disabilities and their families will have information and training on sexuality, sexual abuse and exploitation.</p>	

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<p><b>2.9.1</b> 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.  <b>Approx. FFY 2020 Cost: \$32,000</b></p>	<p>This activity was completed in the previous quarter. Since the beginning of this initiative (October 2018), twenty training events occurred with 150 self-advocates and 347 family members/caregivers in attendance. The final summary provided to the Self-Determination and Community Inclusion Committee at its July meeting can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p><b>Previous Quarter(s)</b>  Training schedule, location, registration and links to other informational webinars can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p>Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the remaining training events scheduled in April, May and June 2020 were held via online webinars rather than in-person.</p> <p>A <a href="#">letter</a> was sent to Team Dynamics, LLC. recognizing their work on this initiative.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>
<p><b>2.9.2</b> 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.  <b>Approx. FFY 2020 Cost: \$10,000</b></p>	<p>This activity was completed in the previous quarter with a presentation of findings by Disability Rights LA at the July Council meeting. Their final report can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p><b>Previous Quarter(s):</b>  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><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>
<p><b>Goal 3</b> Students with disabilities will have access to quality, individualized educational programs that address their unique skills, interests, and goals in inclusive environments.</p>	
<p><b>Obj. 3.1</b> 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>	

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<p><b>3.1.1</b> Advocate for increased focus and capacity within LDOE to address Special Education, including specific areas/issues (i.e., disability/topical/etc.)</p>	<p>No activity this quarter.</p> <p><b>Previous Quarter(s):</b>            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>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><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Initiative</b></p>
<p><b>3.1.2</b> Advocate for increased infrastructure of on-site training and technical assistance provided to parents and schools simultaneously.</p>	<p>No activity this quarter.</p> <p><b>Previous Quarter(s):</b>            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><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Initiative</b></p>
<p><b>Obj. 3.2</b> Louisiana’s accountability and support structures for school systems will better assure the development and implementation of individualized education programs in inclusive settings.</p>	
<p><b>3.2.1</b> 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).</p>	<p>No activity this quarter.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Initiative</b></p>
<p><b>3.2.2</b> Advocate for improved complaint and monitoring procedures.</p>	<p>No activity this quarter.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Initiative</b></p>

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<b>3.2.3</b> 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. <b>On target:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Initiative</b>
<b>Obj. 3.3</b> Students with developmental disabilities will benefit from changes, consistent with Council positions, in policy and practice in educational agencies and programs.	
<b>3.3.1</b> Advocate for educational systems change based on emergent education issues.	No activity this quarter. <b>On target:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Initiative</b>
<b>Obj. 3.4</b> An increased number of students with disabilities are included in school culture.	
<b>3.4.1</b> Provide information and promote inclusion and acceptance of effective models of school culture.	No activity this quarter. <b>On target:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Initiative</b>

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**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.

**Approx. FFY 2020 Cost:**  
**\$40,000**

Alliance activities are still being conducted virtually when appropriate and as allowed under COVID-19 restrictions. The provision of mentoring and technical assistance is still ongoing with Grambling State University and LSU-Alexandria in guiding their efforts to create inclusive post-secondary programs on their campuses. In order to continue activities throughout FY 2021, and striving to achieve satisfactory outcomes (with consideration of COVID-19 restrictions), efforts are being taken for curriculum experts to develop ZOOM and Moodle trainings for existing and newly developed programs.

**Previous Quarter(s):**

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 9<sup>th</sup> in South LA but was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The following social media accounts have been established for the LA-PIE Alliance:

Email = [LAPIEalliance@selu.edu](mailto:LAPIEalliance@selu.edu)

Website = [https://www.southeastern.edu/acad\\_research/depts/teach\\_lrn/programs/la-pie/index.html](https://www.southeastern.edu/acad_research/depts/teach_lrn/programs/la-pie/index.html)

Facebook = @LAPIEAlliance

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 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Super Conference on Special Education in January 2020.

**On target:**  Initiative  Expenditures

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<p><b>Goal 4</b> Students with disabilities are considered from the initial phases to the completion of planning and program development of educational policies and initiatives.</p>	
<p><b>Obj. 4.2</b> All schools (charter/magnet) accepting public dollars will accept and serve all students with disabilities appropriately.</p>	
<p><b>4.2.1</b> 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><b>On target:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p><b>4.2.2</b> Advocate for and monitor equitable funding based on Minimum Foundation Program (MFP).</p>	<p>No activity this quarter.</p> <p><b>Previous Quarter(s):</b>            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>In January 2019, <a href="#">the Council sent a request to the Attorney General requesting an opinion</a> 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 <a href="#">La. Attorney General responded</a> indicating the request was cancelled due to the intensive fact-finding required to render an opinion.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>

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<p><b>4.2.3</b> 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. <b>Approx. FFY 2020 Cost: \$90,000</b></p>	<p>Due to COVID-19, no further actions could be conducted with this activity this quarter.</p> <p><b>Previous Quarter(s):</b> LSUHSC-HDC conducted in-person trainings on February 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> 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. 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><b>On target:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>
<p><b>Obj. 4.3</b> Stakeholders will have increased opportunities to provide authentic input that will impact decisions on policies effecting students with disabilities.</p>	
<p><b>4.3.1</b> 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><b>On target:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p><b>Goal 5</b> 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><b>Obj. 5.1</b> 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>	
<p><b>5.1.1</b> Advocate for certification of employment support professionals (ESP).</p>	<p>No activity this quarter.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>

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<p><b>5.1.2</b> 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><b>On target:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p><b>5.1.3</b> Provide funding to build the capacity of employment providers in customized employment through a competency-based certification program.</p> <p><b>Approx. FFY 2020 Cost: \$50,000</b></p>	<p>Due to closures and layoffs caused by the effects of COVID-19, only 2 of the 4 employment support providers are still participating in the Job Development Certification mentoring. Marc Gold &amp; Associates (the training entity) has developed virtual training and certification mentoring modules for the Discovery and Job Development components of Customized Employment, but not for the Systematic Instruction component.</p> <p><b>Previous Quarter(s):</b> 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>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><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>
<p><b>Obj. 5.2</b> 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><b>5.2.1</b> 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><b>Previous Quarter(s):</b> 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><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p><b>Obj. 5.3</b> 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><b>5.3.1</b> Share the benefits planning services to a variety of agencies and stakeholders.</p>	<p>No activity this quarter.</p> <p><b>Previous Quarter(s):</b> 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><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p><b>5.3.2</b> Share DD Council employment videos featuring individuals with developmental disabilities on their jobs.</p>	<p>No activity this quarter.</p> <p><b>Previous Quarter(s):</b> During National Disability Employment Month, Council social media posts included the advertising of a video/program titled “Intelligent Lives”.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p><b>Obj. 5.4</b> Individuals with DD will benefit from changes, consistent with Council positions, in policy and practice in employment agencies/programs.</p>	
<p><b>5.4.1</b> Advocate for systems change based on emergent employment issues.</p>	<p>No activity this quarter.</p> <p><b>On target:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>