

La DD Council - Status Report of FFY 2021 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
As applicable, data is presented year-to-date and quarterly (October 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020).	
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.	
Obj. 1.1 Louisiana’s self-advocacy network will be supported in self-advocacy and in systems change advocacy.	
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 2021 Cost: \$20,000	<p>No activity this quarter.</p> <p>On target: <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</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.	

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<p>1.2.1 Provide financial support and technical assistance for Partners in Policymaking and its alumni network.</p> <p>Approx. FFY 2021 Cost: \$90,000</p>	<p>The PIP Ad-Hoc Committee met October 29, and November 19, 2020, and proposed the following recommendations for the Executive Committee for consideration:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) The PIP 2020 class move forward in a virtual format; those absent in the March session are accepted back; the January through February sessions are reviewed; and the March session is repeated for all;2) A virtual format in 2021 for Partners in Policymaking sessions, open to anyone who would like to join in, recommending using PIP speakers based on their topics and gives participants an entire PIP class for a year in a PIP format, which will also work as recruiting tool for next year's applicant pool; and3) To act as expeditiously as possible in signing a contract with Families Helping Families at the Crossroads for PIP. <p>The Executive Committee convened on December 2, 2020 and accepted all of these recommendations. A contract with FHF at the Crossroads was approved in December 2020.</p>
<p>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.</p> <p>Approx. FFY 2021 Cost: \$215,000</p>	<p>On target: <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p> <p>As of December 10, 2020, LaCAN has over 6,100 members registered to receive information and action alerts related to home and community-based services, employment, education and early intervention.</p> <p>Advocacy Activities Since October 1, 2020, there have been no LaCAN action alerts or yellow shirt days.</p> <p>LaCAN Leaders are in the process of planning formal legislative visits with key committee members. Legislative visit will be made through the start of the 2021 legislative session on April 12, 2021.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Update on Leader Positions There is currently a 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 website.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>

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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 2021 Cost: \$50,000</p>	<p>LaCAN Leaders are in the process of planning regional legislative roundtables in collaboration with their Families Helping Families Centers. These roundtables will occur throughout February and March 2021. The roundtable schedule will be shared on the Council website in January 2021.</p> <p>The LaCAN Fall Leader Training was conducted on November 12, 2020. Leaders engaged in activities to enhance their understanding of the Council's 2021 advocacy agenda and discussed creative ways to continue LaCAN activities virtually including legislative visits and yellow shirt days.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</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>	
<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>No activity this quarter.</p> <p>On target: <input 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 and have been offered the provision of assistive technology to facilitate participation in virtual Council meetings.</p>
<p>1.3.3 Support Council members' participation in training and educational opportunities.</p> <p>Approx. FFY 2021 Cost: \$3,000</p>	<p>LaDDC Orientation for new members has been scheduled for January 13, 2021. Invitations were sent to self-advocate Council members to participate in a Discussion Series for Self-Advocates hosted by National Association for Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD). Three (3) Council members have participated in these meetings thus far.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input 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.</p> <p>Approx. FFY 2021 Cost: \$7,000</p>	<p>The Executive Committee was invited to participate in peer-to-peer meetings with other DD Council Leadership members nationwide hosted by NACDD. These meetings are to be held quarterly with the first one being conducted December 10, 2020.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" 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, 2020, Centers have assisted over 4,000 individuals with disabilities and families with information, referral, peer to peer and other supports. There have been 8287 units of information and referral completed with 63 trainings conducted with over 800 individuals in attendance. Data for the Centers' outreach activities will be provided in January 2021.</p> <p>A fact sheet about the need for additional funding for the Families Helping Families Resource Centers 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 2021 legislative session.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>

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<p>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, and LaDDC News).</p>	<p>The following 8 LaDDC Newsletters were released via listserv and advertised via Facebook and Twitter:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. OCDD Stakeholder Session to Discuss Ending of COVID-19 Exceptions, October 1, 20202. RESCHEDULED: OCDD Stakeholder Session RE: COVID-19 Exceptions, October 7, 20203. Public Comment Sought on Council's FFY 2022-2026 Five-Year Plan, October 26, 20204. Council Seeking Applicants for Executive Director, November 12, 20205. Share Your Input with the DD Services Visuals Workgroup, November 20, 20206. Healthy & Unhealthy Relationships: Preventing Abuse/Exploitation Training, December 21, 20207. Supported Decision-Making: Right to Make Choices Trainings and Webinars, December 23, 20208. COVID-19 Appendix K Exceptions Extended, December 23, 2020 <p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Council's listserv has 5,445 active subscribers.• Facebook has 5,476 followers and 5,166 likes.• Twitter has 389 followers. <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p>1.4.3 Produce and disseminate videos and other visual materials featuring information important to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families regarding but not limited to the following topics: self-advocacy, obtaining employment, grade promotion/graduation pathways, and accessing home and community-based services, including waivers.</p> <p>Approx. FFY 2021 Cost: \$51,000</p>	<p>Contractual activities with O'Neill Communications have been initiated. O'Neill Communications has created the theme <i>Fully Included: Empowering Louisiana's Disability Community</i> with the following subtopics as episodes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Get to Know Us!2) Advocacy3) Education4) Employment Resources5) Direct Support Professionals6) Waivers <p>O'Neill Communications is developing the look and feel, storyboard, and interviewing schedule for the videos and visual materials. O'Neill Communications has also created a presentation of this project to present during the January 2021 Self-Determination/Community Inclusion Committee meeting.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>

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<p>1.4.4 Provide financial support to develop an emergency response resource in partnership with other organizations to have a clearing house of educational materials, videos, etc. for people with developmental disabilities and their family members.</p> <p>Approx. FFY 2021 Cost: \$7,500</p>	<p>Contract initiated with Trach Mommas of LA to develop and manage an accessible website with emergency resources that can be accessed during times of natural disasters and states of emergencies. Contractor is in the process of researching and compiling a list of all available resources with an anticipated website launch date in the summer of 2021.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>
<p>1.4.5 Provide financial support to provide information on rights, accessible options and information related to voting.</p> <p>Approx. FFY 2021 Cost: \$7,000</p>	<p>No activity this quarter.</p> <p>On target: <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>
<p>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.</p>	
<p>Obj. 2.4. Funding will be available to provide home and community-based waiver services to people with developmental disabilities.</p>	
<p>2.4.1 Advocate for adequate funding for waiver services.</p>	<p>During a meeting with the leadership of the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, staff advocated for the need to increase Direct Support Professional pay and discussed the amount funding needed to secure the increase.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p>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.</p>	

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<p>2.5.1 Oversee implementation of the Community and Family Support System Plan and advocate for adequate funding, the expansion of services, and consistent implementation of policy across regions, including, if necessary, changes in law and/or contracts with local governing entities (LGE's).</p>	<p>A fact sheet about the need for additional funding for the Families Helping Families Resource Centers and a two dollar increase in the base pay rate of Direct Support Professionals was developed and posted on the Council's website. Fact sheets were also distributed to LaCAN Leaders and FHF Centers/Directors to be used in legislative visits and member meetings prior to the start of the 2021 legislative session.</p> <p>The Act 421 Children's Medicaid Option program stakeholder group continues to meet monthly to discuss the systems programming, policy development, and other program details. Recent stakeholder meetings have focused on development of Hospital and Nursing Facility Level of Care assessments. LDH is still awaiting approval from Centers on Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) as the original requested implementation date of January 1, 2021 is unlikely. CMS has sent two sets of queries about the program, which the department submitted responses to timely. LDH has developed a website for stakeholders to view more information about this program.</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 activity this quarter.</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>Council staff continues to participate in meetings with Emergency Management Disability and Aged Coalition in efforts to respond to COVID-19 and multiple natural disasters.</p>

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<p>2.7.2 Provide financial support for promotion, awareness, training and support in implementation of Supported Decision Making.</p> <p>Approx. FFY 2021 Cost: \$50,000</p>	<p>The Council has contracted 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.</p> <p>A training schedule and registration information can be found here. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the training events will be held via online webinars rather than in-person at this time. The training schedule will be shared with all FHF Centers, People First of LA and Disability Rights LA. The Arc of LA and the DD Council (through websites and social media) are providing promotion of these events. As of December 23, 2020, three (3) trainings have been scheduled. The site will be updated as more trainings are scheduled.</p>
<p>2.7.3 Provide financial support to establish pilot programs in multiple regions across the state on first-responder tactics, approaches and resources in fostering relationships with and dealing with individuals with developmental disabilities and training for people with developmental disabilities on how to interact with first responders.</p> <p>Approx. FFY 2021 Cost: \$50,000</p>	<p>Interaction Advisory Group (IAG) developed a training plan to begin with the Bossier Parish Sheriff's Office and to quickly spread training throughout the state each month. This plan will be enacted after the first training date of January 12, 2021. IAG is currently working on putting the finishing touches on a new presentation for training during this project – these changes began in mid-November. Throughout November and December, IAG contacted “Families Helping Families” as well as multiple autism affiliates across the state of LA and have been in discussion with them about assisting IAG with self-advocate participation within first responder trainings and community trainings.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>

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<p>2.7.4 Provide financial support to establish a training program on emergency preparedness and response relative to people with developmental disabilities Approx. FFY 2021 Cost: \$20,000</p>	<p>Niagara University has been identifying key stakeholders and establishing connections with disability organizations and emergency planning/preparedness/response entities statewide. The contractor reports that responses to these outreach attempts have been minimal. Their initial review of processes implemented in LA revealed a lack of representation from the disability community in planning, preparedness, response, and recovery.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>
<p>2.7.5 Provide financial support to coordinate rapid response during a natural disaster or state of emergency for individuals with the most severe disabilities and medical conditions. Approx. FFY 2021 Cost: \$10,000</p>	<p>Contract initiated with Trach Mommas of LA to provide individuals with developmental disabilities and their family equipment and supplies not otherwise covered by their Medicaid or private insurance during natural disasters and states of emergency.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>
<p>2.7.6 Provide financial support to respond to COVID-19 or other natural disasters. Approx. FFY 2021 Cost: \$2,500</p>	<p>No activity this quarter.</p> <p>On target: <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>
<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>

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<p>2.8.2 Advocate for waivers to provide access to services listed in the Freedom of Choice Provider Listing, continue exemptions and flexibilities initiated with COVID-19; and consider individualized emergency preparedness considerations for people with severe disabilities and medical issues.</p>	<p>The Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) held a stakeholders' meeting on October 14, 2020 to discuss the ending of the home and community-based waiver exceptions (Appendix K) implemented in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. These exceptions were set to expire in January 2021, but the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approved extensions until at least July 2021. More information can be found in the LaDDC News sent on December 23, 2020.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" 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 and publicize available webinars on these topics.</p> <p>Approximate FFY 2021 Cost: \$55,000</p>	<p>Contract initiated with Team Dynamics, LLC. to offer training events statewide to increase adult self-advocates and their family members' understanding of healthy and unhealthy relationships and issues that lead to and ways to prevent sexual abuse and exploitation of individuals with disabilities. LaDDC News sent on December 21, 2020 to advertise upcoming initiative and scheduled trainings. Training schedule, location, registration and links to other informational webinars can be found here.</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>

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

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<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 2021 Cost: \$40,000</p>	<p>The LA-PIE Alliance is continuing their efforts with increasing inclusive Post-Secondary Education programs. Louisiana State University at Alexandria has conducted activities with the local public to garner financial support and interest in their newly established program which is scheduled to begin the Fall 2021 semester. More information on this activity will be reported after January 11, 2021.</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> <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 and advocate for and monitor equitable funding based on Minimum Foundation Program (MFP).</p> <p>No activity this quarter.</p> <p>On target: <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>

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Obj. 4.3 Stakeholders will have increased opportunities to provide authentic input that will impact decisions on policies effecting students with disabilities.	
4.3.1 Advocate for increased meaningful opportunities for stakeholder input, improved practices to facilitate stakeholder input, and consideration of stakeholder recommendations.	No activity this quarter. On target: <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative
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.	
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.	
5.1.1 Advocate for employment support professionals to complete high-quality professional development for the improvement of service provisions and employment outcomes.	No activity this quarter. On target: <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative

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<p>5.1.3 Provide funding to build the capacity of employment providers in customized employment in a manner which will lead to certification through a competency-based certification program.</p> <p>Approx. FFY 2020 Cost: \$50,000</p>	<p>Due to COVID-19, Marc Gold & Associates will not be able to offer certification for the Systematic Instruction component of Customized Employment. LSU-HDC has also encountered delays in their efforts to become training and certification providers in Customized Employment due to the pandemic. However, the contract with Arc of LA was renewed for this activity so that more Employment Support Professionals (ESPs) may participate in Discovery and Job Development Gateways and Certification mentoring. This will allow multiple ESPs to be ready to pursue certification in Systematic Instruction either once MG&A can provide certification again, or by LSU-HDC once they have completed their requirements to offer training and certification.</p>
<p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input 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>	
<p>5.2.1 Advocate for 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>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
<p>Obj. 5.3 Individuals with developmental disabilities, 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>On target: <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>

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5.3.2 Share DD Council employment videos featuring individuals with developmental disabilities on their jobs.	<p>No activity this quarter.</p> <p>On target: <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>
5.3.3 Provide financial support to conduct seminars with Chambers of Commerce throughout the state on the benefits of hiring people with developmental disabilities. Approx. FFY 2021 Cost: \$32,000	<p>O'Neill Communications has conducted research and created the following documents:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Curriculum content for the employment seminars;2) Initial outreach email/memo to potential partners at LDH, LRS, Governor's Office for Disability Affairs, Department of Labor/Workforce Commission, Disability Rights Louisiana and Louisiana Assistive Technology Access Network; and3) Proposed Brand strategy with logo options, campaign description and background materials for distribution to partners and Council Members <p>O'Neill Communications intends to host two (2) seminars each month from March through July 2021 with all 10 regions of the state being covered.</p> <p>On target: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiative <input type="checkbox"/> Expenditures</p>
Obj. 5.4 Individuals with DD will benefit from changes, consistent with Council positions, in policy and practice in employment agencies/programs.	
5.4.1 Advocate for systems change based on emergent employment issues.	<p>No activity this quarter.</p> <p>On target: <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative</p>