

**Human Development Center**  
**Quarterly Agency Report to the DD Council**  
(October - December, 2018)

**UPDATE/PROGRESS ON AGENCY INITIATIVES**

HDC has initiatives across the areas of **Early Childhood, K-12 Education, Employment/Transition/Community.**

**Early Childhood IA Update**

*Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership*

- Serving 210 children and their families including 26 children with IFSPs in childcare centers
- Program hired a new Early Intervention Educational Coach to support childcare teachers

*Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND)*

- 12 Trainees attended the AUCD conference in November
- Trainees went to Capitol Hill to discuss policy issues that impact people with disabilities and families with congressional leaders

*New Orleans Early Education Network (NOEEN)*

- Selected to evaluate the NOEEN City Seats Program which was created to investigate the impact of the city's historic investment in children, families, and participating childcare centers. The pilot includes a priority to serve children with disabilities. Careful evaluation of the program's effectiveness in meeting the needs of families is necessary to determine the value of the program and the significance of the city's investment in publicly funded childcare.

*EC Commission*

- Authorized by legislature in last regular session; HDC Faculty appointed by Gov. John Bell Edwards to serve and represent children with disabilities and their families; working to develop plan to increase access to quality, support local governance, and develop a funding model for birth to 5; initial report presented to legislature in December

*Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council*

- BESE approved recommended changes to licensing Bulletin 137; went into effect Nov 1st (highlights: reduce screen time allowed in birth to 5 settings to align more closely with AAP recommendations; lower teacher child ratios; align age and education requirements for staff and Directors in Type I, II, and III licensed centers)

**K-12 Initiatives Area Update**

**Louisiana Autism Spectrum and Related Disorders Project (LASARD) Julie Riley, Coordinator**

- LASARD hosted webinars on October 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. The webinars were part of a series to teach social interaction skills to students with ASD. Each webinar had over 40 participants from across the state.
- LASARD also hosted a workshops for high school educators and family members - *Tips and Tools for High School Success*. These workshop were presented in Natchitoches and

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New Orleans and included sessions on employment, behavior, assistive technology, and other resources. Over 60 individuals participated in these workshops.

- The LASARD facilitators have continued their work in LEAs and schools across the state, providing professional development sessions for both partner and nonpartner districts on topics such as planning for social interaction, essential supports, reinforcement strategies, collaboration across disciplines, and applied behavior analysis. LASARD facilitators have also conducted over 100 technical assistance visits with partner schools.

### **Louisiana Deaf-Blind Project (LA D-BP) – Michael Norman**

#### Individual Technical Assistance:

- 10/16/2018 Initiate home intervener services, Lafayette, LA

#### Targeted Technical Assistance:

- 10/03/2018: Parent Training Series – St. Bernard Autism Krewe
- 10/10/2018: Parent Training Series – St. Bernard Autism Krewe
- 10/17/2018: Parent Training Series – St. Bernard Autism Krewe
- 10/24/2018: Parent Training Series – St. Bernard Autism Krewe
- 11/05/2018: Proxy for R. Ottallah – LEAD-K Planning Committee
- 11/11-11/14/2018: Poster Session & DBDB SIG meeting – AUCD, Washington, DC
- 11/15/2018: ASD for H.S. Students – LASARD
- 11/19/2018: Guest Lecture – LSUHSC Dept. of Occupational Therapy
- 11/26/2018: Lecture – LEND Program, LSUHSC HDC
- 11/28/2018: Due Process Training – FHF of GNO

#### Intensive Technical Assistance:

- 10/31/2018: Consult Abrahams Science Academy
- 11/08/2018: Late Effects Clinic- CHNO
- 11/29/2018L Consult Carver High School Opportunities Academy

#### Universal Technical Assistance:

- 10/09/2018: Exhibited Career Day, LSUHSC School of Public Health
- 10/30/2018: Introduction of new mission at LA School for the Deaf
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### **Louisiana School Psychology Internship Consortium (LAS\*PIC)**

Six interns continue their internship year (2018-19). You will recall interns work Tuesday through Friday each week in their school placements as certified school psychologists. Interns completed the Media Development rotation by developing professional learning & development (PLDs) presentations in three formats: (a) professional presentation at professional association, (b) webinar, and (c) Online Learning Module (Articulate). Interns made presentations at the annual conference of the Louisiana School Psychological Association in Lafayette in November.

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## **Louisiana Advisory Council on Student Behavior and Discipline (ASCBD)**

The Louisiana legislature created an advisory council to inform the legislature on student discipline and the concerns about violence in schools, too many students excluded, and the school-to-prison pipeline. Annual reports are required with recommendations. ASCBD is in its second year with 21 council members (including Alan Coulter this year) and is targeting how to reduce out-of-school suspensions and a new school discipline law.

ACSBD met in December and elected a new chair while congratulating current chair, Shawn Fleming, on his noble service.

## **Louisiana Legislative Task Force on Bullying Awareness and Prevention**

The task Force met December 13. HDC pressed for increased support from legislature to schools to reduce bullying of students with disabilities.

## **Institution for Higher Education Consultant for Special Education Improvement**

HDC has one of three appointed consultants to the LA Department of Education on improvement efforts by the Louisiana Department of Education (LA DoE) efforts to improve performance including the state special education improvement grant (SPDIG). December's task was to review the supports added by LA DoE to the ELA Guidebook units for grades 3-5

# **Transition, Employment & Community (TEC) Update**

## **Employment/Transition**

**Postsecondary Apprenticeship for Youth (Pay Check Pilot) – TPCA contract ends December 31, 2018.** Working on acquiring LRS vendorship to provide Pay Check Transition Pathways and have completed all paperwork. Awaiting vendor approval and vendor number. 6-8 continuing students and 6-8 new students to be enrolled in the new Pay Check model. Pay Check students will begin job shadowing and matching for the paid apprenticeship portion of their program beginning at the end of April and continuing through August. New students will be enrolled each semester as the pilot begins expanding participants/students.

Pay Check Partners include: LRS/LWC, Delgado CC, UMC-New Orleans, Jefferson Parish Foundation Academy, Orleans parish school charters and Jefferson Parish Public School System.

## **Transition and Employment**

HDC TEC continue to provide Employment First Training across the state. Currently developing the 2019 Statewide Training Calendar.

## **Benefits Planning Services**

HDC provides Louisiana Benefits Planning Services (LA-BPS) through a SSA-WIPA RFA to all Louisiana SSA recipients. HDC supports SSDI and SSI beneficiaries with disabilities by providing

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work incentives planning and assistance services to support beneficiaries in their efforts to acquire, retain, and increase meaningful employment and improve financial independence. The focus of the services are to provide proactive guidance to beneficiaries to ensure full access to work incentives, support accurate and timely reporting to reduce the size or likelihood of benefit overpayments and to offer information and support needed for beneficiaries to access services to make a successful transition to employment. These services are provided at no cost to the beneficiary throughout the state. The HDC averages 30-35 referrals each month and provides Information and referral to all beneficiaries and individualized benefits planning for those who are employed or considering employment.

### **Supported Employment Training and Technical Assistance**

- HDC attended several EFSLM Vision Quest/Employment work group calls and meetings
- HDC staff attended LRC meeting in October, 2018
- HDC staff attended the one-day LA APSE Employment First Policy Symposium.
- Provided one CORE (3 day) Employment Training to CRPs, and three one-day employment trainings
- HDC working with collaborative team to develop alternate funding strategies for a Jefferson Parish pilot of the Youth Build model. The Jefferson Workforce Investment Board is working with the team to identify funding to provide employment pathways to low-income unemployed youth (16-24).
- Meetings conducted with school personnel, students and families to provide education/outreach and to discuss apprenticeship pilot.

### **STATUS OF AGENCY'S ACTIVITIES ON DDC PLAN INITIATIVES AND IMPACT**

**Objective 2.3** *DSPs serving Louisianans with developmental disabilities will display a minimum skills set and have access to a graduated certification process with corresponding compensation increases.*

**Activity 2.3.1** *Advocate for the development of a (or use of existing) comprehensive and evidence-based training curriculum and certification for DSPs statewide*

- HDC and LA APSE continue to collaborate and to advocate for Certified Employment Support Professional (CESP) certification. The CESP certification test is now done through an online portal and once application is completed and accepted, the test taker can schedule their exam with a local testing center.
- HDC Employment Division is still developing the 2019/2020 training calendar for comprehensive CORE and one-day SE trainings to promote learning of skills and competencies and have initiated the statewide employment trainings throughout the state.
- HDC TEC worked in collaboration with GODA to apply to ODEP for an EFSLMP CORE grant as well as a new Vision Quest and was awarded both

**Objective 7.2** *Changes in policies and practices that result in students with developmental disabilities attaining competitive employment in integrated settings.*

**Activity 7.2.1** *Advocate with the LSU-HSC Human Development Center and other collaborators for the development and implementation of policies and practices (i.e., college and career*

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*pathways) that ensure students with developmental disabilities have access to and opportunities that prepare them for post-secondary education and/or competitive, integrated employment.*

- HDC staff continues to advocate for and promote Employment First by providing Community Trainings and participating meetings and trainings offered by/through FHF, GODA Employment Coalition, State as Model Employer Task Force, LA APSE, LRC and stakeholder meetings as scheduled.
- HDC continues to work on the developing collaborative funding models for apprenticeship and career pathways for transition age students.

**Objective 9.1** *Louisiana will develop and implement an Employment First plan (ON GOING)*

**Activity 9.1.1** *LSU Health Human Development Center continues to advocate for:*

- *policies that incentivize services for individualized integrated, competitive employment and disincentivize segregated, sheltered day habilitation services,*
- *sheltered workshops to transition people into individualized, competitive, paid employment and discontinue admissions into segregated day programs,*
- *collaborative policy making and practices across state agencies that promote students being supported in and transitioning into competitive paid employment,*
- *LRS and OCDD will collaborate to mandate that all supported employment vendors/providers complete a university-based 40-hour training,*
- *Support family members and other advocates to serve on the Louisiana work team in developing an Employment First agenda and implementation plan including participation in state level meetings.*

- HDC continues to work collaboratively with ALL PAYCHECK apprenticeship pilot entities (LRS, UMC, Orleans and Jefferson parish schools and two LEA charters).
- HDC employment staff sits on the national APSE Public Policy Work Group and attend monthly meetings.
- HDC Employment Staff attend LRC meetings as LRC member.
- HDC employment staff attends Louisiana APSE governing board meetings.
- HDC employment staff, as Louisiana APSE members attended quarterly meetings.
- HDC co-chair of the recently awarded Employment First State Leadership Mentoring-Vision Quest award
- Attend SAME Task Force. The State as a Model Employer Task Force has the following duties:
  - a. Develop policies, strategies and services designed to achieve the seven percent employment target.
  - b. Establish a five-year plan with annual goals that will enable the state workforce to reach parity with the percentage of working age people with disabilities in Louisiana.
  - c. Provide guidance and other support to agencies and institutions of higher education of higher education on recruitment, retention, accommodation and accessibility for persons with disabilities.