

Louisiana
Developmental Disabilities Council

State Plan
FFY 2002 - 2007

Goals and Objectives
for
FFY 2005

QUALITY ASSURANCE ACTIVITIES

GOAL **People have information, skills, opportunities and supports to live free of abuse, neglect, financial and sexual exploitation, and violations of their human and legal rights.**

Objective 1 1588 persons with developmental disabilities and family members will be trained to become effective advocates.

Strategy 1.1 Continue Partners in Policymaking by awarding contracts for the Partners' Coordinator and Fiscal Agent.

Strategy 1.1.1 Solicit applications from potential participants and meet with selection committee by November of each year to select new Partners.

Strategy 1.1.2 Continue to conduct individual session evaluations of the Partners in Policymaking Program and modify the program as warranted.

Strategy 1.2 Continue to contract with Families Helping Families to financially support stipends for persons with developmental disabilities and their family members to participate in training conferences, meetings, events, and community memberships.

Approximate Cost: \$142,392 for FFY 2005

Objective 2 A statewide self-advocacy organization will be established through collaboration with the Louisiana Self-Advocacy Project.

Strategy 2.1 Continue supporting the operation of the statewide program.

Strategy 2.1.1 Support training for the organization's officers and leadership.

Strategy 2.1.2 Fund a statewide coordinator position to supervise and coordinate all self-advocacy activities in the state.

Strategy 2.1.3 Develop and support regional self-advocacy boards and support volunteer advisors across the state.

Strategy 2.2 Develop and fund a solicitation of proposals for a leadership training program for two self advocates per regional chapter and their advisor.
ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2003

Approximate Cost: \$96,500 for FFY 2005

Objective 3 Individuals with disabilities and family members of individuals with disabilities will be supported as members of the Council to serve as effective advocates for systems change in Louisiana.

Strategy 3.1: Support individuals with disabilities and family members of individuals with disabilities in participation in Council meetings and other functions.

Approximate Cost: \$13,500 for FFY 2005

Objective 4 One thousand people with disabilities will be supported and empowered to become self-advocates. **ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2003**

Strategy 4.1 Support people to participate in the Self-Advocacy movement in Louisiana through collaboration with the LA Self-Advocacy Project.

Strategy 4.1.1 Advocate for and help facilitate the appointment and participation of individuals with developmental disabilities, especially those with cognitive disabilities, on state and regional boards and committees.

Strategy 4.1.2 Provide support for a statewide self-advocacy conference. **ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2001**

Strategy 4.1.3 Sponsor training for Council members and other organizations on supporting self-advocates in meetings. **ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2003**

Strategy 4.2 Financial support will be provided to the LA Youth Leadership Forum. **ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2002**

Strategy 4.3 Develop and fund an SOP to select a provider or providers to utilize an existing curriculum to train people with disabilities on voter's rights and registering people to vote, in all 10 DHH regions of the state. **ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2004**

Objective 5 The lives of people with developmental disabilities and their families will be enhanced by continuing a collaborative relationship through TRI*ADD, the joint effort of the Council, the Advocacy Center, and the Human Development Center.

Strategy 5.1 Multiply the impact of the efforts of the three DD Programs by focusing and coordinating mutually agreed upon objectives.

Strategy 5.1.1 Promote efficiency and cost-effectiveness for the three programs through joint ventures such as producing and distributing a joint newsletter in print and on line.

Approximate Cost: \$16,305 for FFY 2005

OTHER SERVICES AVAILABLE OR OFFERED TO INDIVIDUALS IN A COMMUNITY, INCLUDING FORMAL AND INFORMAL COMMUNITY SUPPORTS THAT AFFECT THEIR QUALITY OF LIFE

GOAL Individuals have access to other services available or offered in a community, including formal and informal community supports that affect their quality of life.

Objective 6 Two thousand individuals with developmental disabilities and their families will receive individual and family supports through support of grassroots systemic advocacy.

Strategy 6.1 Oversee implementation of the Community and Family Support System Plan.

Strategy 6.1.1 Determine legislative goals and implement legislative strategy.

Strategy 6.2 Continue to provide financial support to LaCAN for the expansion of the Community and Family Support System.

Strategy 6.2.1 Hold strategy meeting with LaCAN Leadership to select new team leaders where there are vacancies and update and implement member recruitment plan.

Strategy 6.2.2 Establish calendar of advocacy activity and develop fact sheets and cost figures.

Strategy 6.2.3 Conduct and evaluate annual LaCAN leader and FHF directors' training event.

Strategy 6.2.4 Support FHF directors and LaCAN leaders to conduct and evaluate regional LaCAN trainings.

Strategy 6.2.5 Provide ongoing staff support and assistance to LaCAN leaders and monitor their activities.

- Strategy 6.2.6 Collaborate and coordinate LaCAN activities with other advocacy groups.
- Strategy 6.3 Participate in advocacy activities to expand Home and Community Based Waiver services.
- Strategy 6.3.1 Advocate for a plan for Louisiana to increase its capacity to provide high quality individualized supports and services in the community and close its developmental centers.
- Strategy 6.3.2 Advocate for Louisiana to begin to reallocate resources away from developmental centers and invest additional resources to provide community supports to the individuals re-entering the community and those on the waiting list.
- Strategy 6.3.3 Advocate for Louisiana to continue transitioning individuals out of developmental centers into home and community based waiver services in their own homes in the community and begin to close its existing developmental centers.
- Strategy 6.4 Participate in groups working on Direct Support Professional issues.
- Strategy 6.5 Explore several strategies to increase Direct Support Professionals wages including but not limited to:
- a) requiring cost reports of waiver providers and the possibility of establishing a minimum percentage that must be passed to Direct Support Professionals;
 - b) removing the domestic worker status currently applied to Direct Support Professionals that results in exemptions for overtime pay;
 - c) identifying strategies to lower workers compensation costs, and
 - d) identifying costs associated with regulatory requirements of Home and Community Based Services and request support from the Department of Health and Hospitals to reduce those cost burdens.

Approximate Cost: \$44,315 for FFY 2005

Objective 7 Reform of the long term care system and the implementation of the Olmstead decision will be advanced through advocacy, collaboration, coordination, and education of legislators, policy makers and other stakeholders.

- Strategy 7.1 Participate in the development and implementation of a plan for Louisiana to comply with the Olmstead decision in collaboration with other agencies.

Strategy 7.1.1 Participate in the Disability Services and Supports System Planning Group and the Consumer Task Force

Strategy 7.2 DD Council members will make presentations at regional conferences and forums.

Objective 8 Seventy-five thousand persons with developmental disabilities and their families will continue to obtain the information, training, and support they need through support to the Families Helping Families Resource Centers.

Strategy 8.1 Continue supporting Families Helping Families Resource Centers.

Strategy 8.2 Continue to fund a statewide Families Helping Families Coordinator position.

Strategy 8.3 Participate on FHF Statewide Advisory Council.

Approximate Cost: \$64,866 for FFY 2005

Objective 9 Twenty-seven thousand people with developmental disabilities and their families will continue to receive information on disability services and resources through the continued operation of the Disability Information Access Line (DIAL).

Strategy 9.1 Continue to provide services for the Baby Line and Early Steps funded by the Maternal and Child Health Program and the LA Department of Health and Hospitals.

Strategy 9.1.1 Continue to update the DIAL data base.

Strategy 9.1.2 Make DIAL accessible to non-English speaking persons.
ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2002

Strategy 9.1.3 Collaborate with the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs in order to avoid duplication of effort with the internet resource data base.

Strategy 9.1.4 Promote awareness of DIAL at state agencies, health fairs, conferences, etc.

Strategy 9.1.5 Ensure that DIAL is listed on as many appropriate web sites and brochures as possible.

Approximate Cost: \$68,000 for FFY 2005

Objective 10 Forty children with developmental disabilities and their parents will receive training on assistive technology devices and services.

Strategy 10.1 Continue funding for the Assistive Technology Camp at current level.

Strategy 10.1.1 Annually conduct consumer satisfaction survey to determine effectiveness of camp.

Approximate Cost: \$3,000 for FFY 2005

HOUSING ACTIVITIES

GOAL **Adults choose where and with whom they live.**

Objective 11 People with developmental disabilities will have access to 20 supported living providers that have been trained to provide high quality person-centered supports.

Strategy 11.1 Continue supporting the “Partnership for Excellence” Project.

Strategy 11.1.1 Encourage the Partnership for Excellence Project to present at statewide conferences.

Strategy 11.1.2 Monitor and evaluate project’s effectiveness by interviewing recipients of participant providers by using a modified version of the Personal Life Quality assessment tool.

Strategy 11.1.3 Work with the Partnership for Excellence to seek alternate sources of funding such as other state agencies, provider fees, Incumbent Worker Training Programs, etc.

Strategy 11.2 Promote the existence, goals, principles and benefits of the Supported Living Network.

Strategy 11.2.1 Publicize the Supported Living Network in the Triangle.

Approximate Cost: \$90,000 for FFY 2005

Objective 12 Persons with disabilities will have increased access to housing through Council efforts.

Strategy 12.1 Provide funding for website for collaborative grant project with the Advocacy Center, the Human Development Center, and the Fair Housing Action Center to provide fair housing education and outreach.

Strategy 12.2 Educate public housing authorities throughout the state about the available funding to assist people with disabilities and encourage public housing authorities to apply for this funding.

Approximate Cost: \$1,435 for FFY 2005

Objective 13 MR/DD Waiver rates will be increased by 20% as a result of Council advocacy efforts. ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2003

Strategy 13.1 Participate in advocacy activities for Waiver reform and expansion.
ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2003

HEALTH ACTIVITIES

GOAL **People are healthy and benefit from the full range of needed health services.**

Objective 14 Health care for persons with developmental disabilities will become a priority in Louisiana as a result of the DD Council's collaboration with at least 9 advocacy bodies, programs and projects.

Strategy 14.1 Participate in collaborative advocacy bodies, including but not limited to the Mental Health Planning Council, the Mental Health Reform Coalition, La Team, the LA Aging and Disability Consortium, the OCDD Oral Health Task Force, the Advocacy Center Board, the University Center for Excellence (HDC) Consumer Advisory Council, the DHH Medical Care Advisory Committee, and the School of Allied Health Professions Administrative Council.

Strategy 14.2 Participate in collaborative programs and projects, including but not limited to the CSHS Long Range Plan Committee, the Medicaid Buy-in Advisory Council and the Medical Home Project.

Strategy 14.2.1 Collaborate with the Medical Home Project to increase the number of physicians trained in providing primary health care services to children with disabilities.

Strategy 14.3 Support outreach efforts to the disability community for health related systems like LaCHIP and LaMOMS.

Strategy 14.4 Continue to collaborate in activities related to the Governor's Health Care Summit.

Objective 15 Consumer-directed health care practices will be improved as a result of Council action.

Strategy 15.1 Council members and other stakeholders will review the impact of Louisiana's Nurse Practice Act on consumer choice, flexibility, and control of services to support independent living in the community.

Strategy 15.1.1 Identify components of Louisiana's Nurse Practice Act that do not support consumer-directed health care.

Strategy 15.1.2 Review Nurse Practice Acts in other states and related information to develop recommendations for improving consumer-directed health care practices.

Strategy 15.1.3 Participate on the Louisiana State Board of Nursing's task force to suggest changes to the state's Nurse Practice Act.

EDUCATION AND EARLY INTERVENTION ACTIVITIES

GOAL Students reach their educational potential and infants and young children reach their developmental potential.

Objective 16 Key decision-makers in one local school system and other stakeholders will increase their knowledge of the principles and benefits of inclusion.

Strategy 16.1 Contract with the St. Charles Parish School Board to develop and implement a training academy based on the Michigan or similar model.
ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2003

Strategy 16.1.1 Incorporate a "team" approach for training teachers, administrators, parents, and Families Helping Families staff.
ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2003

Strategy 16.1.2 Collaborate with existing school reform initiatives.
ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2003

Strategy 161.3 Monitor and evaluate the program's effectiveness.
ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2003

Objective 16.2 Key decision-makers in one local school system and other stakeholders will increase their knowledge of the principles and benefits of inclusion through replication of the St. Charles Parish School Project.

Strategy 16.2.1 Disseminate a solicitation for proposals and contract to develop and implement a training academy using lessons learned from the St. Charles Parish School Project.

Strategy 16.2.1.1 Incorporate a "team" approach for training teachers, administrators, parents, and Families Helping Families staff.

Strategy 16.2.1.2 Collaborate with existing school reform initiatives (e.g., No Child Left Behind, School Improvement Process, etc.)

Strategy 16.2.1.3 Monitor and evaluate the program's effectiveness.

Strategy 16.2.1.4 Participants from the St. Charles School Project will provide technical assistance.

Approximate Cost: \$100,000 for FFY 2005

Objective 17 Two hundred people will become active in systems advocacy about inclusive education through establishment of a statewide family-driven special education grassroots advocacy organization.

Strategy 17.1 Develop a solicitation of proposals and contract to establish LaTEACH, a statewide family-driven special education grassroots advocacy organization.

Strategy 17.2 LaTEACH will request that the LA Department of Education sponsor two additional parent conferences in two other areas of the state.

Strategy 17.3 LaTEACH will become involved in assessment, accountability, curriculum, graduation, and exit issues.

Strategy 17.4 LaTEACH will develop and implement strategies with the LA Department of Education to better disseminate information to special education students and their families.

Approximate Cost: \$20,000 for FFY 2005

Objective 18 The DD Council will be represented on at least 3 educational decision making bodies in order to represent the interests of students with developmental disabilities.

Strategy 18.1 The DD Council will continue to be represented on Louisiana's Task Force to respond to the US Department of Education's Federal Monitoring Citations.

Strategy 18.2 Nominate a DD Council member to serve on any School Accountability Committees established.

Strategy 18.3 Nominate a DD Council representative to serve on the Transition Committee created by the Executive Order.

Strategy 18.4 The DD Council will continue to be represented on the SICC.

Strategy 18.5 The DD Council will continue to be represented on the LA Children's Cabinet.

Objective 19 The awareness of the 11 Board of Elementary and Secondary Education members will be heightened on the needs of students with developmental disabilities.

Strategy 19.1 Collaborate with the Louisiana State Improvement Grant to develop and disseminate a needs assessment process for parents.

Strategy 19.1.1 Summarize and publicize the results of the needs assessment through the TriAngle.

Strategy 19.2 LaTEACH will develop and implement strategies on how the concerns identified can be communicated and addressed by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and other policymakers.

Objective 20 The capacity of libraries to increase awareness of disabilities will be enhanced through the development of library resources and corresponding programs.
ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2004

Strategy 20.1 Contract to create disability awareness resources and corresponding programs in existing school library school-year programs.

Strategy 20.2 Contract to create disability awareness resources and corresponding programs in existing public library summer programs.

EMPLOYMENT ACTIVITIES

GOAL **People get and keep employment consistent with their interests, abilities and needs.**

Objective 21 Five hundred families of adolescents with developmental disabilities will obtain information on service options for adults with developmental disabilities resulting in families having more opportunities to make informed choices.

Strategy 21.1 The Council will develop outcomes for the STAR Facilitators.
ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2003

Strategy 21.2 Consumer satisfaction will be surveyed and evaluated annually.

Strategy 21.3 Projects will be monitored and evaluated annually based on desired outcomes.

Approximate Cost: \$60,000 for FFY 2005

Objective 22 Sixty people with developmental disabilities currently being served by a state funded vocational program will realize more integrated, competitive employment opportunities.

Strategy 22.1 Contract with Arc-Baton Rouge on the conversion of a sheltered workshop to community integrated employment.
ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2003

Strategy 22.1.1 Educate parents and self-advocates on the benefits of diversified employment.
ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2003

Strategy 22.1.2 Project will be monitored and evaluated annually.
ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2003

Strategy 22.2 Contract with Arc-Greater New Orleans for the conversion of a sheltered workshop to community integrated employment using lessons learned from the Arc-Baton Rouge Project.

Strategy 22.2.1 Develop, in cooperation with OCDD, funding mechanisms and program strategies which provide an incentive for providers of sheltered workshops to move towards providing integrated employment opportunities to the people they serve.

- Strategy 22.2.2 Educate parents and self-advocates on the benefits of diversified employment.
- Strategy 22.2.3 Project will be monitored and evaluated annually.
- Strategy 22.2.4 Contract with Arc-Baton Rouge to provide technical assistance.

Approximate Cost: \$45,000 for FFY 2005

Objective 23 The interests of individuals with developmental disabilities will be addressed in the activities of the Workforce Commission and through participation on each of the 18 local Workforce Investment Boards (WIB).

Strategy 23.1 Advocate that each WIB include a person with a disability.

Strategy 23.2 Encourage Council members or someone they know to become involved with their local WIB.

- Strategy 23.2.1 Solicit Partners Graduates for participation on local WIBs and solicit local WIBs for seats for Partners Graduates.

Strategy 23.3 A Council member will continue to sit on the Workforce Commission.

Objective 24 Young adults with developmental disabilities will gain employment experience through a governmental internship program developed by the Council in collaboration with other state agencies.

Strategy 24.1 Council members and other stakeholders will explore the possibility of creating a program to provide young adults with developmental disabilities the opportunity to intern at the State Capitol or in other government offices.

- Strategy 24.1.1 Develop the guiding principles, procedures and organizational structure for creation and implementation of the program.

- Strategy 24.1.2 Seek partnerships with other state agencies to develop funding and internship opportunities for the program.

TRANSPORTATION ACTIVITIES

GOAL **People have transportation services for work, school, medical, and personal needs.**

Objective 25 Transportation choices and opportunities for persons with disabilities will be expanded through the Council's assistance in the coordination of at least one transportation program in Louisiana.

Strategy 25.1 The Council will continue to participate in interagency collaborations on transportation issues.

Strategy 25.1.1 The Council will support efforts to expand transportation services and develop new transportation services in the state through interagency collaborative efforts.

RECREATION ACTIVITIES

GOAL **People benefit from inclusive recreational, leisure and social activities consistent with their interests and abilities.**

Objective 26 Nine hundred forty individuals with developmental disabilities will have opportunities to enjoy increased or enhanced recreational activities through Council collaborative efforts.

Strategy 26.1 The Council will be represented on the Louisiana Serve Commission.

Strategy 26.1.1 Advocate for the involvement of people with developmental disabilities in projects funded or supported by LA Serve.

Strategy 26.1.2 Facilitate the involvement of representatives of LA Serve in inclusive recreational opportunities for people with developmental disabilities.

Strategy 26.2 Collaborate with the Arc-Louisiana in increasing recreational opportunities for people with developmental disabilities.

Strategy 26.3 Contract with the Arc of Iberia for an awareness training program for a recreation department in Iberia Parish to increase inclusion of people with disabilities in recreation activities/opportunities.

Strategy 26.3.1 Monitor and evaluate effectiveness of the project.

Approximate Cost: \$15,000 for FFY 2005

CHILD CARE ACTIVITIES

GOAL **Children and families benefit from a range of inclusive, flexible child care options.**

Objective 27 12 children with developmental disabilities will be accepted into regular day care settings as a result of training and technical assistance provided to child care providers.

Strategy 27.1 Contract with the LSU Early Intervention Institute to provide training and technical assistance to child care providers to increase their knowledge and acceptance of children with disabilities.

Approximate Cost: \$50,000 for FFY 2005