

Louisiana
Developmental Disabilities Council

State Plan
FFY 2002 - 2007

Goals and Objectives
for
FFY 2006

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 financial support for the Partners in Policymaking program.

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 Investigate other methods of developing effective system change advocates.

Strategy 1.3 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 2006

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 2006

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 2006

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: \$13,386 for FFY 2006

Objective 6 The parents or family members of 20 individuals residing in developmental centers will be educated on the value and benefits of transition from institutional services to individualized community supports.

Strategy 6.1 If funding is available, develop and implement an SOP for a 1 year pilot project to identify and educate parents/family members on the value and benefits of transition from institutional services to individualized community supports.

Approximate Cost: \$10,000 for FFY 2006

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

Strategy 7.1 **Oversee implementation of the Community and Family Support System Plan.**

Strategy 7.1.1 Determine legislative goals and implement legislative strategy.

Strategy 7.2 **Continue to provide financial support to LaCAN for the expansion of the Community and Family Support System.**

Strategy 7.2.1 Hold strategy meeting with LaCAN Leadership to select new team leaders where there are vacancies and update and implement member recruitment plan.

Strategy 7.2.2 Establish calendar of advocacy activity and develop fact sheets and cost figures.

Strategy 7.2.3 Conduct and evaluate annual LaCAN leader and FHF directors' training event.

Strategy 7.2.4 Support FHF directors and LaCAN leaders to conduct and evaluate regional LaCAN trainings.

Strategy 7.2.5 Provide ongoing staff support and assistance to LaCAN leaders and monitor their activities.

Strategy 7.2.6 Collaborate and coordinate LaCAN activities with other advocacy groups.

Strategy 7.3 Participate in advocacy activities to expand Home and Community Based Waiver services.

Strategy 7.3.1 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 7.3.2 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 7.3.3 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.

Approximate Cost: \$111,699 for FFY 2006

Objective 8 Individuals with disabilities will experience desired personal outcomes through enhanced professionalism and stability of the direct support workforce.

Strategy 8.1 The Council will facilitate the development of a comprehensive plan for presentation to the Department of Health and Hospitals that includes recommendations to establish “living wage” compensation and a career ladder for DSPs.

Strategy 8.1.1 Form a workgroup of Council members and other stakeholders to develop the comprehensive plan.

Strategy 8.1.2 Representatives from the workgroup will present the plan to DHH administrators.

Strategy 8.2 Participate in other groups working on Direct Support Professional issues.

Objective 9 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 9.1 Participate in the development and implementation of a plan for Louisiana to comply with the Olmstead decision in collaboration with other agencies.
ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2005

Strategy 9.2 Support and actively participate in the Governor’s Long-Term Care reform efforts consistent with the Long-Term Care Executive Order which results in rebalancing the Long-Term Care System.

Strategy 9.2.1 Participate in the Disability Services and Supports System Planning Group and the Consumer Task Force to oversee continuation of the Real Choice Systems Change Grants.

Strategy 9.3 DD Council members will make presentations at regional conferences and forums.

Objective 10 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 10.1 Continue supporting Families Helping Families Resource Centers.

Strategy 10.2 Continue to fund a statewide Families Helping Families Coordinator position.

Strategy 10.3 Participate on FHF Statewide Advisory Council.

Approximate Cost: \$64,866 for FFY 2006

Objective 11 Twenty-seven thousand people with developmental disabilities and their families will continue to receive information on disability services and resources through the continued operation, update and promotion of the Disability Information Access Line (DIAL) and the Information and Referral services provided by the 9 FHF Regional Resource Centers.

Strategy 11.1 Make DIAL accessible to non-English speaking persons.
ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2005

Strategy 11.2 Collaborate with the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs and the Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs in the provision of Information and Referral services to the citizens of Louisiana.

Approximate Cost: \$41,965 for FFY 2006

Objective 12 Forty children with developmental disabilities and their parents will receive training on assistive technology devices and services.

Strategy 12.1 Continue funding for the Assistive Technology Camp at current level.

Strategy 12.1.1 Annually conduct consumer satisfaction survey to determine effectiveness of camp.

Approximate Cost: \$3,000 for FFY 2006

Objective 13 The Council will coordinate and support outreach efforts to unserved and underserved persons with disabilities to increase their access to community services; coordinate and support barrier elimination to needed community services, and coordinate and support service demonstrations to avoid unnecessary institutionalization.

Strategy 13.1 Coordinate and support outreach to persons with disabilities and their families who evacuated as a result of hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Strategy 13.1.1 Coordinate and support with Families Helping Families Centers to visit evacuation shelters throughout the state to identify and assist persons with disabilities and their families.

Strategy 13.1.2 Establish and maintain a website with updated hurricane relief information, including resources specifically available to persons with disabilities.

Strategy 13.2 Provide information and referrals to persons with disabilities and their families to access needed community services or resume services disrupted by hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Strategy 13.3 Coordinate and support donations and distribution of supplies and provide direct assistance to persons with disabilities and their families who evacuated as a result of hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Strategy 13.4 Collaborate with OCDD, disability related advocacy groups, and provider agencies to develop and demonstrate effective alternatives to institutionalization through appropriate community supports.

Strategy 13.5 Coordinate and provide individual and systems advocacy on behalf of persons with disabilities and their families who were affected by hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Approximate Cost: \$81,000 for FFY 2006

HOUSING ACTIVITIES

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

Objective 14 People with developmental disabilities will have access to 20 supported living providers that have been trained to provide high quality person-centered supports.

Strategy 14.1 Develop a solicitation of proposals and contract to maintain the training and technical assistance program for supported living providers.

Strategy 14.1.1 Encourage the project leadership to present at statewide conferences.

Strategy 14.1.2 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 14.1.3 Work with the project leadership to seek alternate sources of funding such as other state agencies, provider fees, Incumbent Worker Training Programs, etc.

Strategy 14.2 Promote the existence, goals, principles and benefits of the Supported Living Network.

Strategy 14.2.1 Publicize the Supported Living Network in the Triangle.

Approximate Cost: \$90,000 for FFY 2006

Objective 15 Persons with disabilities will have increased access to housing through Council efforts.

Strategy 15.1 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 15.2 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. **ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2005**

Approximate Cost: \$1,435 for FFY 2006

Objective 16 MR/DD Waiver rates will be increased by 20% as a result of Council advocacy efforts. **ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2003**

Strategy 16.1 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 17 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 17.1 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 Dental Resource Center Advisory Board, the Advocacy Center Board, the University Center for Excellence (HDC) Consumer Advisory Council, the DHH Medical Care

Advisory Committee, the National Alliance of Mental illness (NAMI), the Donaldsonville Health Coalition and the School of Allied Health Professions Administrative Council.

Strategy 17.2 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 17.2.1 Collaborate with the Medical Home Project to increase the number of physicians trained in providing primary health care services to children with disabilities.

Strategy 17.3 Support outreach efforts to the disability community for health related systems like LaCHIP and LaMOMS.

Strategy 17.4 Continue to collaborate in activities related to the Governor's Long-Term Health Care Reform Plan.

Objective 18 Consumer-directed health care practices will be improved as a result of Council action.

Strategy 18.1 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 18.1.1 Identify components of Louisiana's Nurse Practice Act that do not support consumer-directed health care.
ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2005

Strategy 18.1.2 Review Nurse Practice Acts in other states and related information to develop recommendations for improving consumer-directed health care practices.
ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2005

Strategy 18.1.3 Participate on the Louisiana State Board of Nursing's task force to suggest changes to the state's Nurse Practice Act.
ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2005

Strategy 18.1.4 Participate in the rulemaking process resulting from the passage of HB 697.

EDUCATION AND EARLY INTERVENTION ACTIVITIES

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

Objective 19 Key decision-makers in one local school system and other stakeholders will increase their knowledge of the principles and benefits of inclusion.

Strategy 19.1 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 19.1.1 Incorporate a “team” approach for training teachers, administrators, parents, and Families Helping Families staff.
ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2003

Strategy 19.1.2 Collaborate with existing school reform initiatives.
ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2003

Strategy 19.1.3 Monitor and evaluate the program’s effectiveness.
ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2003

Objective 20 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 20.1 Develop a solicitation of proposals and contract to establish LaTEACH, a statewide family-driven special education grassroots advocacy organization.
ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2005

Strategy 20.2 LaTEACH will request that the LA Department of Education sponsor two additional parent conferences in two other areas of the state.

Strategy 20.3 LaTEACH will become involved in assessment, accountability, curriculum, graduation, and exit issues.

Strategy 20.4 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 2006

Objective 21 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 21.1 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 including the Validated Practices Committee.

Strategy 21.2 Nominate a DD Council member to serve on any School Accountability Committees established. **ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2005**

Strategy 21.2.1 A DD Council member will continue to serve on the Continuous Improvement Monitoring Process Committee.

Strategy 21.3 Nominate a DD Council representative to serve on the Transition Committee created by the Executive Order.

Strategy 21.4 The DD Council will continue to be represented on the SICC.

Strategy 21.5 The DD Council will continue to be represented on the LA Children's Cabinet.

Objective 22 The awareness of the 11 Board of Elementary and Secondary Education members will be heightened on the needs of students with developmental disabilities.

Strategy 22.1 Collaborate with the Louisiana State Improvement Grant to develop and disseminate a needs assessment process for parents.

Strategy 22.1.1 Summarize and publicize the results of the needs assessment through the TriAngle.

Strategy 22.2 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 23 The capacity of libraries to increase awareness of disabilities will be enhanced through the development of library resources and corresponding programs.

Strategy 23.1 Contract to create disability awareness resources and corresponding programs in existing school library school-year programs.

Approximate Cost: \$87,452 FFY 2006

Objective 24 5,000 members of the general public will be educated on the rights and abilities of persons with DD through the Council's public awareness efforts.

Strategy 24.1 Collaborate with the Louisiana Department of Education, Governor's Office of Disability Affairs, Families Helping Families and other agencies and organizations to initiate and implement public awareness activities in conjunction with National Inclusive Schools Week.

EMPLOYMENT ACTIVITIES

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

Objective 25 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 25.1 The Council will develop outcomes for the STAR Facilitators.
ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2003

Strategy 25.2 Consumer satisfaction will be surveyed and evaluated annually.

Strategy 25.3 Projects will be monitored and evaluated annually based on desired outcomes.

Approximate Cost: \$60,000 for FFY 2006

Objective 26 Sixty people with developmental disabilities currently being served by a state funded vocational program will realize more integrated, competitive employment opportunities.

Strategy 26.1 Contract with Arc-Baton Rouge on the conversion of a sheltered workshop to community integrated employment.
ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2003

Strategy 26.1.1 Educate parents and self-advocates on the benefits of diversified employment.
ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2003

Strategy 26.1.2 Project will be monitored and evaluated annually.
ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2003

Strategy 26.2 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 26.2.1 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 26.2.2 Educate parents and self-advocates on the benefits of diversified employment.

Strategy 26.2.3 Project will be monitored and evaluated annually.

Strategy 26.2.4 Contract with Arc-Baton Rouge to provide technical assistance.
ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2005

Approximate Cost: \$0 for FFY 2006

Objective 27 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 27.1 Advocate that each WIB include a person with a disability.

Strategy 27.2 Encourage Council members or someone they know to become involved with their local WIB.

Strategy 27.2.1 Solicit Partners Graduates for participation on local WIBs and solicit local WIBs for seats for Partners Graduates.

Strategy 27.3 A Council member will continue to sit on the Workforce Commission.

Objective 28 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 28.1 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.
ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2005

Strategy 28.1.1 Develop the guiding principles, procedures and organizational structure for creation and implementation of the program.
ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2005

Strategy 28.1.2 Seek partnerships with other state agencies to develop funding and internship opportunities for the program.
ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2005

Strategy 28.2 If funding is available, develop an SOP and contract to establish a program to provide young adults with developmental disabilities the opportunity to intern at the State Capitol and other state offices.

Approximate Cost: \$0 for FFY 2006

TRANSPORTATION ACTIVITIES

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

Objective 29 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 29.1 The Council will continue to participate in interagency collaborations on transportation issues including United We Ride.

Strategy 29.1.1 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 30 Nine hundred forty individuals with developmental disabilities will have opportunities to enjoy increased or enhanced recreational activities through Council collaborative efforts.

Strategy 30.1 The Council will be represented on the Louisiana Serve Commission.

Strategy 30.1.1 Advocate for the involvement of people with developmental disabilities in projects funded or supported by LA Serve.

Strategy 30.1.2 Facilitate the involvement of representatives of LA Serve in inclusive recreational opportunities for people with developmental disabilities.

Strategy 30.2 Collaborate with the Arc-Louisiana in increasing recreational opportunities for people with developmental disabilities.

Strategy 30.3 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.

ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2005

Strategy 30.3.1 Monitor and evaluate effectiveness of the project.

ACCOMPLISHED IN FFY 2005

Strategy 30.4 Develop an SOP and contract for an awareness training program to increase inclusion of persons with disabilities in recreation activities and opportunities.

Approximate Cost: \$20,000 for FFY 2006

CHILD CARE ACTIVITIES

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

Objective 31 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 31.1 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 2006