

Louisiana
Developmental Disabilities Council

State Plan
FFY 2007 - 2012

Goals and Objectives
for
FFY 2007

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 a minimum of 25 new Partners.

Strategy 1.1.2 Modify application form to solicit information from applicants on issues of concern and their ideas for improvement.

Strategy 1.1.3 Continue to conduct individual session evaluations of the Partners in Policymaking Program and modify the program as warranted.

Strategy 1.1.4 Develop a system to keep track of graduates and maintain supportive connections (i.e., develop a listserv; recruit graduates as mentors for current participants, etc.)

Strategy 1.1.5 Coordinate and fund a reunion of graduates in conjunction with a refresher course to enhance leadership skills.

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: \$128,323 for FFY 2007

Objective 2 The statewide self-advocacy organization will be supported and strengthened through collaboration with the Louisiana Self-Advocacy Project.

Strategy 2.1 Continue supporting the operation of People First of Louisiana.

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

Strategy 2.1.2 Fund sufficient staff positions 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 2.1.4 Support a bi-annual People First Conference.
- Strategy 2.1.5 Ensure that all meetings are conducted in an accessible format (i.e., sign language interpreters, large print, etc.).
- Strategy 2.1.6 Ensure that sufficient funds are available to support transportation needs of People First members.
- Strategy 2.2 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 (i.e., advocate for travel reimbursement).
- Approximate Cost: \$110,000 for FFY 2007

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: \$16,500 for FFY 2007

Objective 4 The lives of people with developmental disabilities and their families will be enhanced by continuing a collaborative relationship among the Council, the Advocacy Center, and the Human Development Center.

- Strategy 4.1 Multiply the impact of the efforts of the three DD Programs by focusing on and coordinating mutually agreed upon objectives.

- Strategy 4.1.1 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 2007

Objective 5 The parents or family members of 25 individuals residing in developmental centers will be educated on the value and benefits of transition from institutional services to individualized community supports and resources that are available in the community (including housing).

Strategy 5.1 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.

Strategy 5.2 Evaluate and continue project if pilot project is successful.

Approximate Cost: \$18,000 for FFY 2007

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

Strategy 6.2.1 Determine legislative goals and implement legislative strategy.

Strategy 6.2.2 Hold strategy meeting with LaCAN Leadership to select new team leaders where there are vacancies and update and implement member recruitment plan.

Strategy 6.2.3 Establish calendar of advocacy activity and develop fact sheets and cost figures.

Strategy 6.2.4 Conduct and evaluate annual LaCAN leader and FHF directors' training event.

Strategy 6.2.5 Support FHF directors and LaCAN leaders to conduct and evaluate regional LaCAN events.

Strategy 6.2.6 Provide ongoing staff support and assistance to LaCAN leaders and monitor their activities.

Strategy 6.2.7 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 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 6.3.2 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: \$135,540 for FFY 2007

Objective 7 Reform of the long term care system to align resources to meet demand will be advanced through advocacy, collaboration, coordination, and education of legislators, policy makers and other stakeholders.

Strategy 7.1 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 7.2 Educate legislators on the need for long-term care reform through face-to-face visits by Council members.

Strategy 7.3 Provide advocacy and education to the LA Recovery Authority on long-term care reform as it relates to persons with developmental disabilities.

Strategy 7.4 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 the Families Helping Families of Louisiana Executive Director position.

Approximate Cost: \$55,000 for FFY 2007

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, update and promotion of the Disabilities Information Access Line (DIAL) and the Information and Referral services provided by the 9 FHF Regional Resource Centers.

Strategy 9.1 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 9.2 Maintain and update disaster recovery and emergency preparedness information.

Approximate Cost: \$47,000 for FFY 2007

Objective 10 300 direct support professionals (DSP) will be recruited through collaboration with the Human Development Center in the development and distribution of recruitment materials.

Strategy 10.1. Develop Council approved brochures, posters, radio spots, DVDs, and other recruitment materials describing the career of Direct Support Professionals

Strategy 10.2 Distribute the approved recruitment materials to workforce development and career placement offices at community colleges, vocational technical schools, colleges, and universities, one stop career centers, libraries, etc.

Strategy 10.3 Participate in other groups working on Direct Support Professional issues.

Approximate Cost: \$3,000 for FFY 2007

HOUSING ACTIVITIES

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

Objective 11 Persons with disabilities will have increased access to housing through Council efforts.

Strategy 11.1 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 11.2 Fund consulting and technical assistance to housing developer(s) to insure the availability of affordable, accessible, and integrated housing.

Strategy 11.3 Provide advocacy and education to the Louisiana Recovery Authority on housing as it relates to people with developmental disabilities.

Approximate Cost: \$34,435 for FFY 2007

HEALTH ACTIVITIES

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

Objective 12 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 8 advocacy bodies, programs and projects.

Strategy 12.1 Participate in collaborative advocacy bodies, including but not limited to the Mental Health Planning Council, the Mental Health Reform Coalition, 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), and the Donaldsonville Health Coalition.

Strategy 12.2 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 12.2.1 Collaborate with the Medical Home Project to increase the number of physicians trained in providing primary health care services to children with disabilities.

Strategy 12.3 Support outreach efforts to the disability community for health related systems like LaCHIP and LaMOMS.

Strategy 12.4 Continue to collaborate in activities related to the Governor's Long-Term Health Care Reform Plan.

Objective 13 Consumer-directed health care practices will be improved as a result of Council action.

Strategy 13.1 Council members and other stakeholders will review the impact of the implementation of Act 451 (resulting from passage of HB697) to ensure consumer choice, flexibility, and control of services to support independent living in the community (i.e., monitoring of rule amendments, relative legislation, etc.)

EDUCATION AND EARLY INTERVENTION ACTIVITIES

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

Objective 14 Five hundred people will become active in systems advocacy about inclusive education through support of a statewide family-driven special education grassroots advocacy organization.

- Strategy 14.1 LaTEACH will continue to collaborate annually with the LA Department of Education to sponsor parent conferences in multiple regions of the state.
- Strategy 14.2 LaTEACH will expand involvement and advocacy for policymaking in assessment, accountability, curriculum, graduation, and exit issues.
- Strategy 14.3 LaTEACH will develop and implement strategies with the LA Department of Education to better disseminate information to special education students and their families.
- Strategy 14.4 LaTEACH will provide an area coordinator in each BESE district.
- Strategy 14.5 LaTEACH will develop and implement strategies on how the concerns identified in the parent needs assessment can be addressed by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and other policymakers.

Approximate Cost: \$40,000 for FFY 2007

Objective 15 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 15.1 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 15.2 A DD Council member will continue to serve on the Continuous Improvement Monitoring Process Committee.
- Strategy 15.3 Nominate a DD Council representative to serve on the Transition Committee created by the Executive Order.
- Strategy 15.4 The DD Council will continue to be represented on the SICCC.
- Strategy 15.5 The DD Council will continue to be represented on the LA Children's Cabinet.

Objective 16 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 16.1 Form an ad hoc committee to 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.

Approximate Cost: \$7,000 for FFY 2007

Objective 17 The capacity of libraries to increase awareness of disabilities will be enhanced through the development of library resources and corresponding programs.

Strategy 17.1 Contract to replicate the disability awareness program developed by McNeese University to expand and enhance disability awareness resources and corresponding programs in existing school library programs.

Approximate Cost: \$25,000 FFY 2007

EMPLOYMENT ACTIVITIES

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

Objective 18 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 18.1 Develop an SOP and contract for a 1-Year planning phase to develop and ultimately establish a permanent program to provide young adults with developmental disabilities the opportunity to intern at the State Capitol and other state and local offices.

Strategy 18.2 Collaborate with LRS on Job Fairs held in conjunction with National Disability Awareness Month.

Approximate Cost: \$20,000 for FFY 2007

TRANSPORTATION ACTIVITIES

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

Objective 19 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 19.1 The Council will continue to participate in interagency collaborations on transportation issues including United We Ride.

Strategy 19.1.1 The Council will support efforts to expand transportation services and develop new transportation services in the state through interagency collaborative efforts.

Strategy 19.2 The Council will be represented on Mayor's Councils on Disabilities to advocate for accessible public transportation in major metropolitan areas.

RECREATION ACTIVITIES

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

Objective 20 Fifty individuals with developmental disabilities will have opportunities to enjoy increased or enhanced recreational activities through Council collaborative efforts.

Strategy 20.1 The Council will be represented on the Louisiana Serve Commission.

Strategy 20.1.1 Advocate for the involvement of people with developmental disabilities in projects funded or supported by LA Serve.

Strategy 20.1.2 Facilitate the involvement of representatives of LA Serve in inclusive recreational opportunities for people with developmental disabilities.

Strategy 20.2 Develop an SOP and contract to enhance the capacity of existing summer programs or create summer programs for children with disabilities.

Strategy 20.3 Collaborate with the Louisiana Indian Education Association (LIEA) to facilitate the inclusion of ten American Indian students with disabilities in activities funded or supported by LIEA.

Approximate Cost: \$42,000 for FFY 2007

CHILD CARE ACTIVITIES

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

Objective 21 Twelve 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 21.1 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: \$37,500 for FFY 2007