

LSUHSC-Human Development Center

Fall of 2010 was another busy quarter for HDC faculty and staff. In addition to participating in a variety of Councils, Commissions, and stakeholder groups (e.g., DD Network Blue Ribbon panel, MIG HLLC; Employment Policy Summit, Severe Disabilities Leadership Network, etc.) faculty and staff of HDC remain very engaged in planning, implementing and evaluating specific projects. While too numerous to provide a full accounting of all HDC projects and activities, this report does provide a synopsis of many of our current projects.

During the past quarter HDC hired a new staff member, Mr. Merle Bumgarner, to develop and deliver training on the “Basics of Supported Employment”. Merle comes to us from North Carolina where he directed employment services for individuals who were served in group homes and independent living arrangements across the state. Merle has been actively involved in both employment services for IWD and as a staff development provider for the past three decades. Using funds from the Council, HDC has conducted 2-day Basic Supported Employment in Shreveport, Monroe, Pineville, and Ruston. Training was scheduled in Lake Charles but had to be rescheduled due to lack of registrants. Mylinda Elliot of Families Helping Families of Southwest LA has volunteered to assist us to reschedule in the spring. Approximately 50 people have completed this training. Additional training is scheduled in Lafayette, Houma, Baton Rouge, New Orleans and the Northshore in the spring and summer. For information about dates/locations or to register for future trainings please visit: www.hdc.lsuohsc.edu or email Mr. Merle Bumgarner at: mbum1@lsuohsc.edu.

HDC received a four year grant from the US Department of Education to establish a model demonstration for post-secondary education for students with intellectual disabilities. The project called the Post-secondary Education for All Collaborative (PEAC) includes a partnership with Delgado Community College and a number of school districts in the Greater New Orleans area, including RSD, St. Charles, and St. Tammany. The goals of this project include ensuring that students with disabilities participate in an inclusive fashion on a college campus where they will identify and take classes to further their career interest, obtain and maintain employment, and explore the social and recreational venues and activities that their age-typical peers engage in at or through their participation on campus. For more information or questions may be directed to the co-PIs of the project: Alisa Lowrey (klowre@lsuohsc.edu) or Phil Wilson (pwilso2@lsuohsc.edu).

The EarlySteps Teaming Project continues to seek families residing in the Greater New Orleans area with young children (birth to three years) who have been identified or are

at risk of having an autism spectrum disorder. To date, the project has served approximately 20 families. For more information, contact Gina Easterly (geastE@lsuhsc.edu) or Maria Blanco(mblanc@lsuhsc.edu)

HDC completed the first semester of its new Leadership Education in Neuro-developmental and related Disabilities program. This project is an interdisciplinary training program that is designed to expose participants from a wide variety of disciplines and roles to family- and person-centered philosophy and practice, as well as interdisciplinary experiences and knowledge so that they will be better prepared to provide services and supports to families an youth with disabilities- and in the case of family members, so that they can learn to communicate their perspectives, priorities and preferences. We are very excited about this project, which we are now collaborating with the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and Southern Mississippi University to implement with support from Maternal Child Health. We hope to grow this program in the coming years into one that will be an LSU “stand alone” program. Stay tuned! For more information or questions, please contact Lauren Giovingo (lgiovi@lsuhsc.edu) or Phil Wilson (pwilso2@lsuhsc.edu).

HDC and the Louisiana Department of Education will host the 5th annual LASARD Summer Institute June 7-9, 2011 in New Orleans. For more information please go to: <http://www.hdc.lsuhs.edu/lasard/events.htm> , be sure to check for updates on topics and speakers in the spring. Seats are limited so to ensure your spot, be sure to register early.

The Louisiana School Psychology Internship Consortium (LASPIC) is interviewing applicants for next year’s class. We received more than 60 applications for 10 spots in this popular program from all over the country. In 18 years, LASPIC has prepared more than 200 post-doctoral School Psychology professionals. More than half of the graduates of LASPIC practiced in Louisiana schools for at least 3 years; many are still working in Louisiana schools. We anticipate another outstanding class will begin in August of 2011. For more information, contact Alan Coulter (acoulter@lsuhsc.edu) or George Hebert (gheber@lsushc.edu) .