

Advocating Daily



EDUCATING AND EMPOWERING INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

Volume 8, Issue 2

Fall 2014

**EXPECT.
EMPLOY.
EMPOWER.**

What can YOU do?

NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT
AWARENESS MONTH

OFFICE OF DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT POLICY
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

www.dol.gov/odep

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Opinions contained herein do not necessarily represent those of the funding sources, and no endorsement should be inferred.

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LETTER FROM THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Hello all! Let me start by saying that I am truly honored to serve as the Assistant Director for Families Helping Families of Southeast Louisiana. I began working at Families Helping Families of Jefferson as the EarlySteps' Community Outreach Specialist before moving to the FHFSELA office serving parents and families in Orleans, St. Bernard, and Plaquemines Parishes. At FHFSELA I have served as the EarlySteps' Community Outreach Specialist, the Data Entry Specialist, and now the Assistant Director. My journey to become an advocate was inspired by my daughter.



My daughter is a great kid with an awesome smile and a big presence. She was diagnosed with a rare developmental disability called Freeman Sheldon Syndrome. This syndrome affects her ability to walk and talk. She communicates non-verbally and is non-ambulatory. Like many other parents of children with developmental disabilities, I felt completely lost. I looked for support groups and medical care. But in the beginning, help in the way of Waiver Supports, education (IEPs and 504 accommodations), and financial supports never occurred to me.

*My passion for educating parents is one that is
reflective of my desire to know my rights and
advocate for my own daughter.*

While working for FHFSELA my knowledge in all aspects of the disabilities world has expanded. I am dedicated to promoting awareness that all parents and families need as they prepare for their children's academic success, progression in life skills, life after school, and individual growth as a person with a disability. FHFSELA serves all ages, birth to death, and in this capacity we are able to reach all ages. We have partnered with new family centered organizations to bring awareness and provide services to more people with developmental disabilities and their families. We appreciate all of the organizations that have chosen to partner with us.

So as we move into the holiday season, remember to continue to let your voices be heard! We as the disabilities community matter- as individuals, as families, as support systems- we matter in this world. From all of us here at FHFSELA, have a safe and happy holiday.

"The only disability in this world is a bad attitude." –Scott Hamilton

WE WELCOME A NEW STAFF MEMBER



I would like to thank you in advance for giving me the opportunity to work with your family. My name is Tomorrow Fondal. I am the new EarlySteps Community Outreach Specialist for Orleans Region 1 and 10. Region 1 covers Orleans, St. Bernard, and Plaquemines Parishes. Region 10 covers Jefferson Parish. I am the parent of a young child with a disability, who receives early intervention services.

My youngest son was born with diaphragmatic paralysis and chronic lung disease on his right side and requires oxygen 24 hours 7 days a week. He has been enrolled in EarlySteps since late January, 2014 but was hospitalized due to contracting Influenza A. He remained hospitalized until mid, May, 2014. Since he was released from hospitalized, he has worked with his EarlySteps Team at least once a week. He is now sitting independently and crawling.

I became involved with EarlySteps as a Family Service Coordinator. Little did I know that I would be utilizing the program for my baby and family; however, it is beneficial that I have experience with receiving and case management components of the EarlySteps. As a Family Service Coordinator, I played the role of a case manager to coordinate services the families received and an advocate on the team but as a parent, I try my best to lead the team.

Now as a Community Outreach Specialist, I want to help you advocate, find or identify resources/ support groups and/or opportunities to empower you to continue to lead as well as play an integral role on your Early Steps Team.

It is an honor and pleasure to be serving on your team. Please do not hesitate to contact me at Families Helping Families Southeast Louisiana. I am here to serve you!

Tomorrow Fondal

Community Outreach Specialist
Early Steps, Regions 1 & 10
504-943-0343



FHFSELA Board of Directors:

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Now Green!

**FHF-SELA is now publishing
our newsletter online only!
For a paper letter please call
us today!**

**504-943-0343
1-877-243-7352**

FHF-SELA receives partial funding from Metropolitan Human Services District, the State Department of Education, the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council, Family to Family Health Information Center, Amerigroup, Xerox Corporation, LSU Health Science Center, and Early Steps.

Families Helping Families of Southeast Louisiana Services and Programs

FHF of SELA is a 501(c)3 non-profit resource center for individuals with disabilities and their families. For more information about the services and programs we provide, please call 504-943-0343.

PROGRAMS

ALL AGES

LA Citizens for Action Now (LaCAN) ♦ A statewide grassroots network for individuals and families advocating for a service system supporting individuals with disabilities to live in their own homes rather than a facility.

0-3

Early Steps Community Outreach Specialist ♦ The specialist visits hospitals and clinics with information about Early Steps for hospitals, clinics and parents who have children who may exhibit developmental delay.

4 – 14

Education Advocate (Funded by the State Department of Education) ♦ Advocates for all students to be in regular education and community settings to ensure full and valued membership in society, provides workshops, presentations, and one-to-one support. Advocates for children to be educated in the Least Restrictive Environment and educates parents on being their child's advocate.

The Prism Project of Greater NOLA: Roux-Roux Productions (TPP of GNO) ♦ A performing arts program for children aged 6-14, with and without special needs. TPP of GNO teaches children dance, music, and theater, creating an original performance.

15 – 22

Career Symposium ♦ A multi-faceted workshop for students with disabilities, their families, and teachers to better prepare students with disabilities to have meaningful careers after high school.

Transition Advocate (Funded by the State Department of Education) ♦ Trains, educates and empowers families and professionals to develop Individualized Transition Plans.

22 +

People First of NOLA ♦ An adult advocacy group for people with disabilities ♦

SERVICES

INFORMATION AND REFERRAL

- ♦ Information and referral for evaluations, medical services, Medicare, Medicaid, and Crisis Intervention ♦
- ♦ Information on community programs, services and opportunities ♦
- ♦ Educational materials, disability-friendly apps, and publications ♦
- ♦ Internet and personal resources across all three parishes ♦

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Workshops on caregivers, transition, education, IEP/504, school and family partnerships, communication, healthcare, advocacy and more.

Register for our latest workshops online or by calling 504-943-0343.

PEER-TO-PEER SUPPORT

Continuous information, guidance, and support from our employees who are parents, siblings, and self-advocates.

OUR VISION

We envision a region where people with disabilities live and are fully included in school, work, and recreational activities.

OUR MISSION

Families Helping Families of Southeast Louisiana's mission is to educate and empower individuals with disabilities, their families, professionals, and communities by providing resources, training, and family-to-family support.



**BROUGHT TO YOU BY FAMILIES
HELPING FAMILIES OF SOUTHEAST
LOUISIANA**

**UNDERSTANDING YOUR RIGHTS
OPPORTUNITIES
& RESPONSIBILITIES**

OCTOBER 23, 2014

5:00 - 7:00 P.M.

7240 Crowder Blvd. Ste 202

New Orleans, LA 70127

**Presented By Tomorrow Fondal
Community Outreach Specialist
Regions 1 & 10**

For additional information please
contact Families Helping Families of
Southeast Louisiana at 504-943-0343.





QUARTERLY SELF-DIRECTION FORUM **Wednesday, October 29, 2014**

Documentation and Record Keeping



We will provide helpful information and tips on organizing and maintaining your records.

New Orleans Public Library* Norman Mayer Library
3001 Gentilly Boulevard
New Orleans – 504-596-3102
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

For more information, please contact our office at 504-620-2202 or Katrina.Harrington@la.gov

WHAT IS SELF-DIRECTION?

Self-Direction allows participants to employ persons of their choice to provide supports for them. Being the employer, you are

Hiring your staff

Choosing their pay rate

Terminating staff

Training and managing

By choosing Self-Direction, you have more freedom of choice available to you. If you're interested in finding out more, contact your Support Coordination Agency. You may also contact Ms. Rickii

People First of NOLA

If you are an adult with a developmental disability and want to learn self-advocacy skills, come join People First of NOLA!

People First of NOLA is...

- A self-advocacy group run by people with disabilities, for people with disabilities
- Where people learn to speak for themselves about decisions they make.
- Where members can connect with others in the community, nation, and world
- Where members learn about their rights and responsibilities as citizens of the US



People First of NOLA meets every 3rd Tuesday of the month at 4:30 PM

October 14, November 11, December 9

New Orleans Healing Center

2372 St. Claude Ave

OCTOBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
National Disability Employment Awareness Month Breast Cancer Awareness Month						
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
		LSU HSC ASD Workshops		EarlySteps Presentation		
26	27	28	29	30	31	
		Career Symposium	Quarterly Self- Direction Forum			

More on Pg 11

More on Pg 5

More on Pg 5

The Buddy Walk
on Pg 9The Komen New
Orleans Race for the
Cure on Pg 9

People First meets 4:30-
6:00pm in 254 and 256
of the Healing Center
2372 St Claude Ave

NOVEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	OneApp		BE IN		REACH 2014	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
		OFFICE CLOSED			Health Insurance Marketplace	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Turkey Bowl				OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE CLOSED	
30						

Process open for
new and
transferring
students

More on Pg 10

More on Pg 11

Open Enrollment
Begins

More on Pg 13

Workshops every
Mon, Wed & Fri
10:00am-1:00pm IEP
beginning to end

DECEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	Health Insurance Marketplace					
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	OFFICE CLOSED					
28	29	30	31			

Office re-opens
January 5th, 2015Enroll by
deadline to
ensure new
coverage begins
on Jan 1st

Happy New Year
from FHFSELA!

What's Happening Around Town!

THE 2014 DASAGNO BUDDY WALK

DATE: Saturday, October 25, 2014

TIME: 9:00-10:30am Pre-register
11:00am Walk



For more information or to register please go to
<http://www.ezeventsolutions.com/fr/dsagno/2014buddywalk>

THE 2014 Komens New Orleans Race for the Cure



DATE: Saturday, October 25

TIME: 7:00am Race Day registration/packet pickup opens
8:00am Survivor Recognition Program
8:30am Kids Dash
8:45am 1 mile run/walk
9:30am 5K run/walk

For more information visit
<http://komenneworleans.org/2014-komen-new-orleans-race-for-the-cure/>

Brushes, Buddies, and Beyond for Autism

Applications: Due Monday, October 27

Sessions: November 4 - December 9 (excluding November 25)

For more information please visit
<http://www.asgno.org/other-asgno-events/>



WHAT IS ACT 833 (HB 1051) OF 2014?

HB1015 provides for Individualized Education Program teams of certain students with disabilities to have the option of determining alternative pathways for students with disabilities to advance to the next grade (promotion) and graduation. This bill in no way changes any of IDEA and the federal mandates as required that protects students with disabilities.

For more information and answers to frequently asked questions please visit
<http://www.laddc.org/userfiles/files/HB1015FAQs7-1-14.pdf>

BElieve IN Employment for Persons with disabilities:
BE Inspired, BE Involved, BE INvested

BE IN

Breakfast
& Snacks
Provided!

Expect, Employ, Empower
All you need to know....

You could win a
\$100.00 Walmart
Gift card!!!

Will my loved-one be safe?

Can my loved one work
and still get benefits?

What is
my role?

Can my loved one really
get a job??

What supports can my
loved one get?

November 5, 2014 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Registration begins at 9:00 a.m.

Lindy C. Boggs International Conference Center
University of New Orleans
2045 Lakeshore Drive, Suite 248
New Orleans, LA 70122

To register go to: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/beleive-in-employment-tickets-13630985645>
contact Rickii Ainey (504) 943-0343; rainey@fhfseia.org or **you can register at the door**

TRAININGS & EVENTS

These are just some of the upcoming conferences, events, trainings and workshops in Louisiana. Do you have a training or know of a workshop you would like us to list? Please send the details and a link to ajohnson@fhfsela.org

LSU HSC HUMAN DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Secondary Success for Students with ASD Workshop

Natchitoches - October 21, 2014 and February 2, 2015 Natchitoches Events Center, 750 Second Street, Natchitoches, Louisiana 71458

Mandeville - October 22, 2014 and February 4, 2015 Treen Instructional Technology Center, 2024 Livingston, Mandeville, LA 70448

Registration - 8:00-8:30 - workshop begins at 8:30 and ends at 3:30. Lunch provided onsite

Louisiana APSE Presents: **REACH 2014**

Join us for a day devoted to:

Raising Expectations, Awareness, and Capacity in Hiring people with disabilities

Featuring: Representative Walt Leger, Louisiana State House of Representatives Speaker Pro Tempore; David Hoff, Institute for Community Inclusion U Mass Boston; Sue Killam, LSU HSC Human Development Center; Pat Keul, Business ACTS; Dr. Nicolas Abraham, Licensed Professional Counselor

MC: David Kiviaho, Kiisa Corporation

Friday, November 7 from 8:30am - 3:30pm

Marriott Hotel
5500 Hilton Avenue
Baton Rouge, LA

Seats are limited and going fast! Register now at <http://www.laapse.org/>



Stipends and Financial Assistance for Conferences in Louisiana



Financial assistance is available to parents of children with developmental disabilities and people with developmental disabilities who would like to attend workshops and conferences. Please visit the website and/or call the agencies that are hosting the event if you are interested in attending or see if this is something you would benefit from. If you want to attend and need help with the cost of registration, hotel, and/or mileage, please call us for a **Stipend Application**. Funds are limited, so we ask that you notify us of your request as early as possible.



(504) 943-0343

ajohnson@fhfsela.org

ASK AN ADVOCATE

Dear Education Advocate,

My child is being bullied at school because of his disability. Is there anything I can do about this?



Absolutely! You can incorporate a Bullying Plan into your child's IEP. Now, this would be specific to each child and address the particular problems each child is having. Some examples of things that might be included are:

- Leaving class early to avoid other students in the hallways.
- Creating a system to have teachers document all bullying cases.
- Assign the child a safe place or person to go to in times of need.
- Having staff shadow the child while in areas of distress.
- Making sure the school has a bullying education plan in place.

Remember, you know your child best, and you can best advocate for your child and his needs. Do not hesitate to call IEP meetings for a bullying plan. If your child is old enough, have him involved in the process too.

Ideas for National Disability Employment Awareness Month

Held each October, National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) is a national campaign that raises awareness about disability employment issues and celebrates the many and varied contributions of America's workers with disabilities. The theme for 2014 is "Expect. Employ. Empower."

NDEAM's roots go back to 1945, when Congress enacted a law declaring the first week in October each year "National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week." In 1962, the word "physically" was removed to acknowledge the employment needs and contributions of individuals with all types of disabilities. In 1988, Congress expanded the week to a month and changed the name to "National Disability Employment Awareness Month." Upon its establishment in 2001, ODEP assumed responsibility for NDEAM and has worked to expand its reach and scope ever since.

Each year the United States Department of Labor Office of Disability Employment Policy provides a **Toolkit** of public domain resources in English and Spanish for organizations planning and implementing NDEAM activities. The toolkit includes the annual poster, drop-in articles, and samples such as a proclamation, a participation press release, and social media content. The toolkit also offers tips for better social media accessibility.

For more **Ideas** for employers, employees, educators, youth service professionals, disability related organizations, and federal agencies go to <http://www.dol.gov/odep/topics/ndeam/index-2014.htm>



FHFSELA's Third Annual Turkey Bowl!

Sunday, November 23rd 2014

1:00pm - 4:00pm

Rock 'n' Bowl

**3000 S Carrollton Ave
New Orleans, LA 70118**



Join us for bowling, food, soft drinks (cash bar available), music,
dancing, silent auction, & fun!

All proceeds from this fundraiser support the ongoing programs of
Families Helping Families of Southeast Louisiana.

Visit <http://fhfseleturkeybowl.eventbrite.com> for tickets!



Tickets

Early Bird: \$15 for adults ★ \$5 for children 12 & under

Door Price: \$18 for adults ★ \$7 for children 12 & under

★ Includes food & soft drinks, shoe rental, & bowling ★

VIP and Corporate Sponsorship

\$100 reserves 1 lane for 1 hour for up to 6 people

\$500 reserves 1 lane for 3 hours for up to 6 people

★ Includes all of the above, bowling without waiting,
and your name displayed on a lane! ★

Reserve your lane today by calling 504-943-0343

NOW SEEKING BOARD MEMBERS

Are you interested in serving on the FHFSELA Board? Please call Aisha Johnson at (504) 943-0343 ext. 204 or email ajohnson@fhfsela.org.

Our board meetings are open to and welcome the public.

Meetings are held at 6pm on the 3rd Monday of even numbered months.

The remaining scheduled 2014 Board Meetings are October 20 and December 15.

Meetings are held in the 3rd floor conference room.

7240 Crowder Blvd
New Orleans, LA 70127

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS!

MAJOR DONORS!

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Fay Daspit

Bruce Davenport

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FHF of SELA is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. We rely on contracts with organizations, partnerships with community groups, grants, and private donations. Through these incredible organizations and people, FHF of SELA is able to provide free services and programming to families and professionals across Orleans, Plaquemines, and St. Bernard Parishes. It is all thanks to these supporters and the anonymous donors that enable our organization to assist thousands of families across the Greater New Orleans Region achieve education and empowerment.

GRANTS

The Barmans Fund

The Davis-Molony Fund

The New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Foundation

Xerox Corporation

Valero

MAKE A DONATION TODAY!

\$5 connects families without internet to accurate resources

\$10 provides a student with a disability tools for a career

\$30 covers the cost of participating in The Prism Project of Greater New Orleans

\$72 enables two adults with disabilities to become empowered self-advocates

\$150 allows a child with special needs to attend summer camp

Your donation could help families of people with special needs connect with accurate resources, provide recreational opportunities to children with special needs, teach parents or people with disabilities self-advocacy skills, or provide a student with a disability the means to a dream career.

Thank you for your support!

All donations are tax-deductible

You can make a donation online by clicking Donate at www.fhfsela.org

Scan the QR Reader

OR



Mail in your donation with the form below to

Families Helping Families of Southeast Louisiana
7240 Crowder Blvd. Suite 202
New Orleans, LA 70127

Yes, I would like to donate and learn more about Families Helping Families of Southeast Louisiana!

Name: _____ Address: _____

Phone: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

Email: _____ Parish: _____

Relationship: ☐ Parent ☐ Sibling ☐ Self-Advocate ☐ Professional ☐ Family Member ☐ Donor

Please add me to your mailing list: ☐ Yes ☐ No

I would like to donate:

☐ \$5 ☐ \$10 ☐ \$30 ☐ \$72 ☐ \$150 ☐ Other _____

I would like to volunteer or apply for an internship: ☐ Yes ☐ No

I would like information about: _____



Still Waiting for Waiver Services?

Join LaCAN NOW!

LaCAN (Louisiana Citizens for Action Now) is a statewide grassroots network of individuals and families who have worked together since 1988 advocating for a system that supports individuals live in their own homes rather than having to move to a facility to receive needed services.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE! JOIN LACAN!

www.lacanadvocates.org

MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

JOIN LACAN!



LaTEACH
Louisiana Together Educating ALL Children

LaTEACH (Louisiana Together Educating All Children) is a grassroots network of individuals that believe all children should have the opportunity to be educated with their typical peers in a typical classroom.

LaTEACH has made great strides this year, but we still need **YOU** to help make a difference in improving education for our children with disabilities.

PLEASE CONTACT

www.lateach.org



What is LaDisAbilityTalk?

It's an email talk list from Louisiana Parent Training and Information Center/Families Helping Families of Jefferson to help families of people with disabilities and their advocates share information, resources, and support.

What's a talk list?

It's a way for email users to be in a group with others who have similar interests.

Who should join?

Parents of children with disabilities, self-advocates, and advocates of people with disabilities in Louisiana

How do I join? Just send an email to:
fhhpromter@yahoo.com or

LaDisabilityTalk-subscribe@yahoo.com

FREE-FREE-FREE

Like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/FHFofSELA follow us on Twitter @FHFofSELA & Pinterest FHFSELA to stay up-to-date on all exciting events, articles of interest, links to other advocacy groups, information on trainings and more!



Website: www.fhfseila.org

Email: info@fhfseila.org

Fax: (504) 940-3242

1-877-243-7352

Office: (504) 943-0343

New Orleans, LA 70127

Suite 202

7240 Crowder Blvd.

FHF of SELA



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