



Serving Families in
Orleans, Plaquemines
and St. Bernard Parishes

Volume 7, Issue 2

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

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Help Us Go Green!

Email

aabend@fhfsela.org

to go paperless.

Advocating Daily

Educating and Empowering Individuals with Disabilities

Winter 2014

The New Louisiana Deafblind Project and What It Means For Our Families

The Louisiana Deafblind Project (LA-DBP) is a statewide identification and support program for individuals ages, birth to 22, with the diagnosis of deafblind. Deafblind is a unique diagnosis as the individual has a combination of losses due to both hearing and vision impairments. Although difficult, LA-DBP is here to help and now operates under LSU Health Sciences Center's Human Development Center and is partnering with Families Helping Families of Southeast Louisiana to identify and support individuals experiencing deafblindness. Please turn to page 10 to read more about the project and how to learn more about the diagnosis.



*Celebrate the Holiday Season with
your family and ours at*

THE BULLDOG IN MIDCITY

5135 Canal Boulevard
New Orleans, LA 70124



DECEMBER 19, 2013

6:00PM - 9:00PM

For FHF of SELA's End of the Year December Bash!
RSVP by emailing info@fhfsela.org or call 504-943-0343

P.S. Don't forget to bring your dog!

**Families Helping Families
Of Southeast Louisiana
Staff**

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SERVICES DISTRICT)

Ricki Ainey
LACAN LEADER

Carol's Corner

Where Did 2013 Go? A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR:

It has been a busy and very productive year at FHF of SELA. Last winter and spring we had our inaugural run of The Prism Project, an inclusive performing arts program for children ages 6-14. We also held the first Transition Academy and Career Symposium. Both of these programs are featured in this newsletter, so check it out! See if they fit your needs.

In November, we held our second annual Turkey Bowl, and are planning our very first end of the year recognition night at The Bulldog in Mid City on December 19th. We will take this time to honor individuals and companies/agencies that have donated in some way to FHF of SELA in the past year. We could not do what we do without their belief in our ability to provide information and referral, education and training and peer-to-peer support. Please come and join us. RSVP at 504-943-0343 or email us at info@fhfsela.org. A cash bar will be available. Light snacks will be served. And if you are a dog owner, your dog is always welcome at The Bulldog in Mid City.

Baton Rouge will be abuzz with efforts in 2014 to reform the way services are delivered to individuals with disabilities in Louisiana. Stakeholder meetings will discuss System Transformation, and will focus on the Request for Services Registry (known to most as "the waiting list"). On November 21st, individuals discussed how Louisiana plans to help eliminate names on the list who either do not want or do not need waiver services. Mark Thomas, OCDD Interim Assistant, encourages anyone who would like to be a part of these meetings to contact OCDD at OCDDSystemTransformation@la.gov. You can also access the Developmental Disabilities section of the website at www.dhh.louisiana.gov and navigating to the tab listed.

Finally, managed care for long term supports and services is changing. Medicaid services in Louisiana are already in a managed care environment, but we need to ensure individuals on waiver services or other forms of long term care who are not included in the initial switch are being served. We encourage you to make your voice heard and participate in all the stakeholder meetings!

From all of us here at FHF of SELA, may everyone have a very happy and safe holiday season and wishing everyone a Happy New Year!

Sincerely,
Carol F. Calix



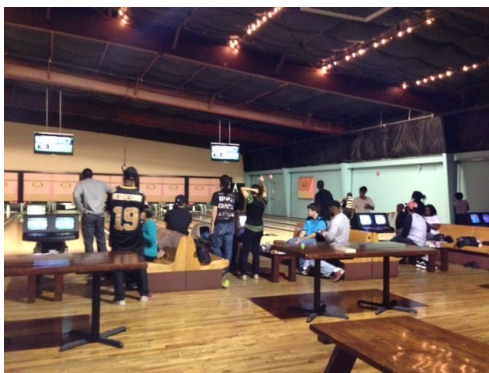
Families Helping Families of Southeast Louisiana receives partial funding from Metropolitan Human Services District, the State Department of Education, the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council, Family to Family Health Information Center, Amerigroup, Xerox Corporation, LSU Health Science Center and EarlySteps.

Board Bulletin

A LETTER FROM THE BOARD

Dear Families,

Families Helping Families would like to thank everyone for attending our second annual Turkey Bowl. There was great food, fun and most of all great people. The Turkey Bowl would not be anything without the wonderful self advocates, staff, families and generous sponsors. Know that the funds raised will go toward continuing our mission to advocate for you and your loved one, makes all the board members incredibly proud to be a member of this organization. See ya next year!



December 19th, Families Helping Families would like to welcome our community partners and families to a thank you celebration at the **Bulldog in Mid City** from **6pm-9pm**. We'd like to thank you, our community partners, for contributing to the successes of The Prism Project of Greater NOLA, Career Symposium and other wonderful informational workshops and conferences we've had throughout the year. We hope to see you there and look forward to a continued partnership.

With Warm Holiday Wishes,

Donnica Conway,

Families Helping Families of Southeast Louisiana
Board Member

Families Helping Families Of Southeast Louisiana Board of Directors

Molly Sullivan

Interim-Board Chairman

Claudia Smith, BSM

Secretary

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MS

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Willie Martin

If you are interested in serving on the FHF of SELA Board, please contact Carol Calix at (504) 943-0343 ext 204 or email her at ccalix@fhfsela.org.

*Our board meetings are open to the public, and are scheduled bi-monthly
on the third Monday of the month at 6pm.*

Board Meeting for 2013 is: December 16

Board Meetings for 2014 are: February 17, April 21, June 16, August 18, October 20 & December 15

Meetings are held at 7240 Crowder Blvd. New Orleans, LA 70127, third floor conference room.

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.

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, publications and disability-friendly apps.
- 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 resource, training and family-to-family support.

Programs

ALL AGES

- **Louisiana Deafblind Project**
Statewide technical assistance and dissemination project. Provides technical assistance, training and information to enhance services for children and youth 0 - 22 who have the diagnosis deafblindness.
- **LA Citizens for Action Now (LaCAN)** - A statewide grassroots network for individuals and families advocating for 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 directly to parents who have children who may exhibit developmental delay

4 - 14

- **Education Advocate** - Funded by the State Department of Education, advocates for all students 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 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 individuals with disabilities

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS...

FHF of SELA will provide the following workshops this winter.

All workshops by FHF of SELA are **free**.

Monday, December 16, 2013, 5:30pm–7:30pm

Housing Discrimination—Presented by Fair Housing Action Center and FHF of SELA. This training is free and open to the public, and will cover rights and responsibilities under federal and local fair housing law and landlord-tenant law of Louisiana with a specific focus on protections for individuals with a disability. There will also be specific information provided regarding fair housing issues often faced by persons who are deaf/hard of hearing. ASL interpreters will be present. Register here online (<https://ceaton.wufoo.com/forms/gherrx17xmh8g/>) or by calling 504-943-0343.

Rosa Keller Library—Mid City 4300 S. Broad Street, New Orleans, LA 70125

Every Monday, Wednesday & Friday! 10:00am - 11:30am

IEP From Beginning to End! - Be prepared for every aspect of the IEP and IEP Process. This small, intimate group setting will enable the Education Advocates to answer any and all of your specific questions! Register online today at: <https://iepbeginningtoend.eventbrite.com>. You must register at least 24 hours in advance of the class.

FHF of SELA Office, 7240 Crowder Blvd., Suite 202 New Orleans, LA 70127

January, February & March

First Responders Training - FHF of SELA and MHSD are working to better prepare our first responders to work with individuals with disabilities and behavioral health. Parents and Educators are welcome to attend! Sign up for our e-blasts, follow us on Facebook or Twitter to stay informed about registration and locations. The trainings will take place in all three parishes - Orleans, Plaquemines and St. Bernard. We thank Metropolitan Human Services District, New Orleans Police Department, Plaquemines Parish Sheriffs Office and St. Bernard Parish Sheriffs Office for their cooperation.

Call FHF of SELA to register for any of the above workshops: 504-943-0343

Register online for the reoccurring Education Advocacy Workshops at:
<https://iepbeginningtoend.eventbrite.com>

Ask The Advocate!

Dear *Advocate*,

I talked to one of my friends who was telling me about a woman who filed a state complaint when the school did not help her child. What is this and can I use it anytime?

Sincerely,

I Don't Want To Complain

Dear I Don't Want To Complain,

You have a great question, one I was hoping to address soon. Before we talk about what a state complaint is and why it would be necessary, I'd like to state that we at FHF of SELA believe that this is a step we hope you **never** have to take. State complaints are a serious business and should not be taken lightly. We prefer to work out the problems between the school and parent only as it fosters better parent and school partnerships. Additionally, these meetings between just the school and parent (and student with the disability) tend to resolve the problems quickly. However, there are times in which even after addressing the problem with the school directly, **the school has violated some portion of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) in regards to your child.** At this point a state complaint *may* be the way to go. Ask the Advocate wishes you never have to file a Louisiana Department of Education (LDE) Administrative/State Complaint, but in the event that you do below are some helpful tips,

*The importance
of knowing your
IEP rights.*

Who can file a state complaint: a parent, organization, adult student or individual

What you will need: all documents pertaining to the incident in which the school has violated the law (IDEA)

How to send it: US mail, email, fax, & TDD to LDE (keep a sent receipt!) But call FHF of SELA (504-943-0343) or LDE (877-453-2721) first!

What's the process: formal complaints must be written and signed unless parties involved went through an informal resolution on the same

situation at which point it will go to the school district for resolution before investigation of the complaint. The person filing the complaint will send a copy of the complaint form to the school district that serves the student at the same time that the person files the complaint with LDE.

What's the time frame: the violation must have occurred within one year of when LDE receives the complaint form. LDE will allow the school district an opportunity to respond and resolve the complaint through mediation or Early Resolution Process. After the 15-day resolution period, the complaint goes to review and the school district is required to give a response with supporting documentation and information to the investigator. Depending on the type of complaint, LDE may conduct a site visit. The person filing the complaint has an opportunity to provide LDE with additional information - written or verbally - during the period of the investigation. The information is reviewed to find out if the school district did in fact violate the statutes, regulations or standards. LDE has 45 days from the end of the early resolution process or 60 days from receipt of the complaint to issue a written decision to all parties involved.

Advocating For You,

Advocate

Have more questions? Ask The Advocate on FHF of SELA's Facebook or Twitter pages, or E-mail or call us!

The LaCAN Adventures

The LaCAN Adventures chronicles advocacy efforts of individuals with disabilities and their families for a service system supporting individuals with disabilities to live in their own homes rather than a facility.



SAVE THE DATE



Regions 1/10 : Tuesday, January 28th, 10am-1pm



RSVP by contacting LaCAN leader (Rickii Ainey at laicanregions1and10@yahoo.com) or LaTEACH leader (Ranatta Harris at ranatta.harris@lateach.org) or 504-943-0343 today!

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2013

10AM-1PM

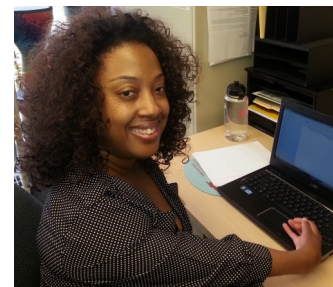
KIPP CENTRAL CITY ACADEMY

2514 Third Street

New Orleans, LA 70113

Legislative Roundtables offer LaCAN and LaTEACH members a chance to:

- ✓ Meet with legislators and other policymakers for your area
- ✓ Get current information on state issues
- ✓ Increase your ability to be an effective advocate
- ✓ Learn techniques for sharing your personal story to encourage positive change



Let your voice be heard. Together we can make a difference.



Teaching Louisiana the LaTEACH

LaTEACH Coordinator: Ranatta Harris,
ranatta.harris@lateach.org.

Put on Your Purple and Advocate!

Attend a Minimum Foundation Proposal (MFP) Task Force Meeting and receive a Purple Prize on December 13, 10am - 4pm

Attend a BESE Meeting and Advocate!

All meetings are held at the Claiborne Building (1201 N. 3rd Street) in Baton Rouge, Louisiana

January 14 & 15 and March 6 & 7 from 8am until you're done advocating!

What can BESE and Legislators do? Ensure diploma pathways for all students, make education funding equitable to all students based on student needs, and be accountable based on maximizing student potential.

LaTEACH (Louisiana Together Educating ALL Children) is a statewide grassroots advocacy network created for the purpose of affecting systems change. **LaTEACH** promotes appropriate, inclusive education for all students.



Thank you to everyone for their support and participation in FHF of SELA's 2nd Annual Turkey Bowl Party!

With your help and support we raised

\$5,262.73



And congratulations to Al Jones - the winner of the Two Nights Stay at Harrah's Hotel and the Dinner for Two at Besh Steak!

Let's continue to celebrate!



THE BULLDOG IN MIDCITY

5135 Canal Boulevard
New Orleans, LA 70124



DECEMBER 19, 2013

6:00PM - 9:00PM

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RSVP by emailing info@fhfsela.org or call 504-943-0343

P.S. Don't forget to bring your dog!





CAREER SYMPOSIUM

Thank you to all who participated in the first ever FHF of SELA Career Symposium. It was such an amazing success and just wonderful to see students with disabilities empowered to find meaningful careers after high school.



If you were unable to attend or would like to see how the event went, please visit our website for the Career Symposium Video!

Now that Career Symposium is over it's time for



TRANSITION ACADEMY!

Transition Academy is back for a second year to help parents and educators understand the process of transition in regard to their child/student's education. We will be educating parents on transportation, meaningful employment, Social Security and more. Teachers will undergo exceptional training on how to write an Individualized Transition Plan and how to incorporate transition into day-to-day lesson plans! You will be able to receive Professional Development credit for this training if you are an educator.



Come join us for Transition Academy on

SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 2014

10:00AM - 2:00PM



SIGN UP FOR OUR EMAIL BLASTS, LIKE US ON FACEBOOK AND FOLLOW US ON TWITTER FOR THE LOCATION AND INFORMATION!



AN IDEAL JOB
SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT



Defining, Educating and Empowering Individuals with Deafblindness

Deafblind and LA-DBP

Did you know that, in the United States alone, deafblindness affects *more* than 10,000 children between birth and 22 years of age? Did you also know that deafblindness has more than 70 known causes? Do you know what the term deafblindness means?

Welcome to the Louisiana Deafblind Project for Children and Youth (LA-DBP). Deafblindness is a condition in which both hearing and vision loss are present at the same time. The combined effect of these losses, even if both are mild, creates unique challenges for the individual.

Deafblindness is considered a low incidence disability with great variability. Many children who are deafblind have some usable vision and/or hearing. The majority of children who are deafblind may have additional physical, medical and/or cognitive problems. These combination loss challenges require unique adaptations in the child's educational programs that cannot be addressed solely within a special education program for the deaf or solely in a special education program for the blind. The educational opportunities for children with deafblindness must address the combination of losses present in the individual.

Because of the unique challenges that deafblindness can create, each state has a federally funded deafblind project through the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). Until recently, Louisiana's Deafblind Project was housed at the Louisiana Department of Education. A new era has emerged, though, as the project moved to the LSU Health Sciences Center's Human Development Center (HDC). The LA-DBP will continue offering resources, training and technical assistance statewide to families, administrators, educators, and service providers of children who have both a vision and hearing impairment at the same time.

Services are confidential and are at no cost. Project staff maintains a registry of individuals (birth to 22 years of age)

who have or are suspected to have a combination hearing and vision loss. The registry is used to shape the types and location of the

technical assistance provided around the state.

The children and youth eligible for the LA-DBP must be between the ages of birth and 22 years of age, with varying degrees of both hearing and vision losses. Very few of the children who qualify are totally deaf and blind. Qualified individuals may have additional disabilities, such as cognitive or motor disabilities or medical conditions.

Any family member, educator or service provider of a child that meets the LA-DBP requirements can request services. The services provided include dissemination of information on best practices related to deafblindness and a website linking to other resources, training and technical assistance. At LA-DBP, we provide training on topics such as, communication, early

identification and assessment, active engagement, transition planning, DB 101 and other related topics. We also have a Family Training Program, and Project SPARKLE: where parents have access to information, training and resources pertaining to deafblindness. Finally, we conduct an annual needs assessment in order to maintain quality, up-to-date services.

Meet Cassondra Glausier

Cassondra is the new Project Coordinator for the **Louisiana Deafblind Project for Children and Youth** at the LSU Human Development Center in New Orleans. Prior to moving to Louisiana she lived in Mississippi and was the Program Coordinator for Deafblind Services at the Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation (MDRS). Cassondra served in this position for six years. She was founder and facilitator of the Mississippi Statewide Deafblind Task Force and Southern Regional Deafblind Task Force. Cassondra assisted in starting the statewide consumer group for persons with deafblindness and participated in the group as well. She was responsible for overseeing ten statewide deafblind district teams and supervised the Deafblind Specialist.



Story continued on Page 14.

What's Happening Around Town?



CARD treats autism using ABA therapy, which increases appropriate skills and decreases challenging behaviors. Some services include:

Diagnostic Services, Assessments, One-on-One Therapy (in the home), Trainings for educators, parents, schools and direct support workers, Sibling Programs and Behavior Management Services.

To contact CARD and see how they can help you call 1-855-345-CARD (2273) or visit www.centerforautism.com to view their services.

CARD is in network for Medicaid and takes other insurance.

Want More Help?

Check Out These Other Groups!

FHF of Jefferson LaPTIC

LaPTIC is a statewide Parent Center providing training and assistance to families who have children ages 0 - 26.

www.laptic.org

504-888-9111

Pyramid Community Parent Resource Center

Providing support, information and training on special education and disability legislation through workshops, newsletters, referrals and one-to-one assistance

www.pyramidparentcenter.org

(504) 899-1505

Family To Family Health Information Center

Serving LA Families of Children and Youth with Special Health Needs ages 0 - 26.

<http://www.blfhf.org/f2fhic/index.php>

1-800-331-5570



Supported Independent Living Advocacy Project

Advocacy, Protection and Empowerment for people in supported independent living settings to express their choices, enhance their quality of life and increase their involvement in the community.

Staff are trained to assist people in understanding their legal and human rights and will take action to insure that those rights are realized.

Call 504-522-2337 ext 120

www.advocacyla.org



Laissez Les Bons Temps Rouler!

Let The Good Times Roll!

Crescent Vans offers assistance to individuals with disabilities to gain the mobility freedom they deserve. If you would like to see how Crescent Vans can help you and your family member become more mobile through accessible vans and equipment contact Crescent Vans.

504 - 738 - 2634

www.crescentvans.com

Thank You To Our Supporters

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.

MAJOR DONORS

Alvin Jones		Luzy Steinmetz
Autism Society of GNO	Dr. Janice Janz	Michael Einhorn
Brenda Valteau	Ed Cabrita	Michael Melesurgo
Claudia Smith	Everett Henderson	Remo Inc.
Crescent Vans	Harrah's Casino	Rocky & Carlo's Restaurant
Diagnostic Radiology Associates of Edison, NJ	Izzy Bornstein	Salads Galore
Donnica Conway	Jeanne Fourroux	The New Orleans Music Exchange
	Julio Calix	

GRANTS

Amerigroup
The Davis-Molony Fund
The Frost Foundation
The Louisiana Bar Foundation
The New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival and Foundation, Inc.
Xerox Corporation

Make a Donation Today!

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

For Example:

\$5 connects families without internet to accurate resources

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

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

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

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

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: _____



Defining, Educating and Empowering Individuals (continued)

Cassandra was a Deafblind Specialist herself for three years before taking a job as the Deafblind Project Coordinator at the University of Southern Mississippi. She served in this position for three years before taking the position as the Program

opportunity to work as a Speech Pathologist in a rehabilitation hospital setting, nursing home, children's clinic and community outreach. Working in the children's clinic is what lead Cassandra to pursue a career in the field of deafblindness. She was fortunate to have completed an internship at the Pediatric View Clinic in Pittsburgh, PA and work with Dr. Christine Roman-Lantzy, world renowned Cortical Visual Impairment Specialist. While in Mississippi, Cassandra worked with the HKNC National Training Team to develop protocols for working with individuals with deafblindness. She has presented on

Coordinator for MDRS.

Cassandra's other experiences include working as a Speech Pathologist, Director of a Home and Community Based Waiver service and working as Project Coordinator for the Customized Employment Project through the Louisiana School for the Deaf and Visually Impaired. In addition to her work experiences Cassandra was named a 2012 Helen Keller National Center Fellow (HKNC) and has had the opportunity to train intensively with staff at HKNC.

Working in the children's clinic is what lead Cassandra to pursue a career in the field of deafblindness.

various topics at the state and national level. Cassandra assisted in writing a white paper focusing on Customized Employment strategies to use with individuals with deafblindness. She has also been involved in overseas humanitarian efforts to help children and adults with deafblindness. She loves what she does and is excited to start a new opportunity with the Louisiana Deafblind Project.

Why Deafblind?

Cassandra began her career in the field of deafblindness going through the Orientation to Deafness Program at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville and the Interpreter Training Program at Hinds Community College. She has a Masters in Special Education with an Emphasis in Dual Sensory Impairment and a Masters in Communicative Disorders. Throughout her career Cassandra has had the

If you are interested in learning more about LA-DBP or would like to register your child for the program please contact Cassandra Glausier, LA-DBP Project Coordinator, at 601-259-2575 or cglaus@lsuhsc.edu. LA-DBP is a statewide program. Families Helping Families of Southeast Louisiana is pleased to be working with LSU Health Sciences Center's Human Development Center on this extraordinary program for children and youth with the diagnosis of deafblindness.

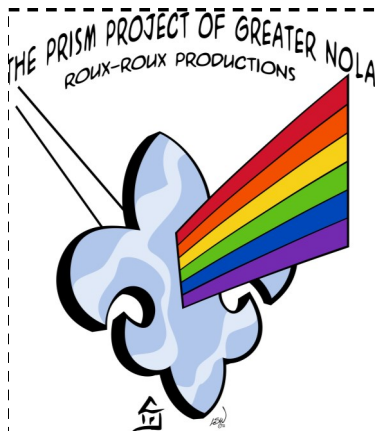


We are seeking a **parent** to participate in our State Interagency Coordinating Council. The mission of the State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC) is to work in collaboration with the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, in an advisory capacity, to design and oversee the implementation of a family-centered, community-based, comprehensive, interagency service delivery system for infants and toddlers (birth through two) who are eligible for Part C services, and their families. Also, to advise and assist the Lead Agency in the monitoring and evaluation of this system to ensure that families are supported and the potential of each child is maximized. Parent members of the SICC must have a child with a disability ages birth through 12 years and at least one parent member must have a child under age six. We would like the selected parent to participate **as a voice for the families in Region 1 and 10**. We understand that there are costs involved so there will be **mileage reimbursement** for the participating parent. All EarlySteps parents are welcomed but please let Shay Hunter, Community Outreach Specialist, know if you would like to participate as our selected family advocate for Region 1 and 10 by contacting her at 504-943-0343. Your participation is much appreciated.

SICC Dates and Location:

January 8, April 9, July 9 and October 8

Baton Rouge, LA



The Prism Project of Greater NOLA is a performing arts program for children with and without special needs in the Greater New Orleans region. The program teaches dance, music and theater and produces an original performance by the performers. TPP of GNO requires an application & \$30 fee. The program is run through FHF of SELA with the generous support of The New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival and Foundation, Inc., The Davis Molony Fund, MHSD and individual donors.



If you would like to find out more information, make a donation or purchase the 2013 Performance DVD, please fill out the below questions and mail it to FHF of SELA. DVDs cost \$10.00 and will be mailed to the address provided once payment is received. All donations are tax-deductible. Please make checks out to Families Helping Families of Southeast Louisiana. Thank you!

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____ Address: _____

Child's Name: _____ Age: _____

Why are you interested in TPP of GNO? _____

I would like: Information /Application _____ To Make a Donation of _____ A DVD _____



Stipends Financial Assistance for Conferences In Louisiana



Financial assistance is available to parents of children with developmental disabilities and to individuals with developmental disabilities who would like to attend workshops and conferences. Please visit the websites and/or call the agencies that are hosting the event if you are interested in attending or to see if this is something you would benefit from. If you want to attend and need help with the cost of the 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 • www.fhfsela.org/dd-council

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 up 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 third Tuesday of the Month at 4:30pm
December 17, February 18, March 18
New Orleans Healing Center
2372 St. Claude Ave
New Orleans, LA 70117





ADDRESS SERVICES REQUESTED

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FHF of SELA
7240 Crowder Blvd.
Suite 202
New Orleans, LA 70127

Office: 504-943-0343

1-877-243-7352

Fax: 504-940-3242


E-mail: info@fhfsela.org

Website: www.fhfsela.org

Help us **Go Green** today! Opt out of a paper newsletter and receive our education and trainings faster!

LIKE us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/FHFofSELA follow us on Twitter [@FHFofSELA](https://twitter.com/FHFofSELA) & Pinterest [FHFSela](https://www.pinterest.com/FHFSela/) to stay up-to-date on all exciting events, articles of interest, links to other advocacy groups, information on trainings and more!





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 to 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!



Louisiana Together Educating All Children (LaTEACH) is a grass root 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 they still need **YOU** to help make a difference in improving education for our children with disabilities.

Ranatta Harris
LaTEACH Region 1 Area Coordinator
Louisiana Together Educating ALL Children
7240 Crowder Blvd, Suite 202
New Orleans, LA 70127
504-943-0343
1-877-243-7352



What is LaDisAbility Talk?

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

What's a talk list?

It is a way for e-mail users to be in a group with others who have similar interests.

Who should join?

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

How do I join? Just send an e-mail to: fhhprompter@yahoo.com or LaDisabilityTalk-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

FREE—FREE—FREE