

**LOUISIANA REHABILITATION SERVICES**  
**LOUISIANA DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES REPORT**  
**December, 2008**

**IN-SERVICE TRAINING/ COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM OF PERSONNEL DEVELOPMENT (CSPD)**

- The agency currently has 12 Counselors who are enrolled in a Master's Degree program in an effort to meet the CSPD requirements. LRS currently has 62% of our professional staff who meet the CSPD requirements. The Program Coordinator for CSPD is required to make an annual visit to each individual in the state that is on the list of "high priority" for retraining which will take place in each LRS region in January and February 2009.
- The Training Unit assisted in the state-wide AWARE Case Management training to staff for the AWARE upgrade which was effective November, 2008. In addition, delivery of the WS-110 Recorder, Transcription Kit, Questionnaire, and training for use of the recorder with the Microsoft Word "Voice to Text" Software training was provided for counseling staff state-wide to use digital recorders to increase their efficiency. A follow-up training will be provided to the counseling staff state-wide in January and February, 2009.

**BLIND SERVICES/RANDOLPH SHEPPARD**

- From November 5-7, training for all blind services staff was held at the Affiliated Blind of Louisiana Training Center in Lafayette. This training included the counselors who work the blind caseloads, their supervisors, as well as the staff of the Randolph-Sheppard program. As we have many new staff in blind services, this training was intended to expose them to issues they will encounter when dealing with their blind consumers. Presentations included the following topics:
  - Orientation and Mobility – What is it and Who needs it?
  - Demonstration of the KNFB reader mobile unit, along with other cutting edge technology
  - How to read eye report
- Working to develop a new Randolph-Sheppard location at NASA's Michoud Assembly facility in New Orleans. This location could possibly be large enough to warrant two managers.
- In December, 2008, we will award our first vending route for the Randolph-Sheppard program. This route was previously a pilot program; however, as it was found to be a viable location, it will be awarded to a manager as a permanent location. This route services locations between Metairie and LaPlace.

## TICKET TO WORK PROGRAM AND DEAF SERVICES

- The Program Coordinator position for Ticket to Work and Deaf Services is now vacant. We are currently revising Ticket to Work procedures for LRS to comply with the new regulations issued this year. Partnership Plus is being visited so that we can establish relationships with the various Employment Networks throughout the state. This should assist many consumers with much needed supports after the LRS case has been closed.

## TRANSITION

- Transition Services has a new Program Coordinator, Avis Kado. Avis started with LRS on December 8, 2008. She is being given orientation into the Transition process and has already made contacts with other state agencies to continue our collaborative process. She will have many other duties as well and is scheduled to attend several meetings and conferences in the next couple of months to learn more about Transition and other duties within her area of responsibility.
- Program Coordinator continues to participate on the State Transition Core Team. The Louisiana Transition Summit will be held Wednesday, January 28, 2008 in Lafayette.
- Program Coordinator continues to work with Department of Education in developing Regional Core Teams in each of the regions.
- Program Coordinator continues to serve as member of the Special Education Advisory Council. The next meeting is scheduled Monday, January 5, 2009.

## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- Program Coordinator for Work Force Development continues to participate in the quarterly Medicaid Infrastructure Grant Advisory Council Meetings. The last quarterly meeting was held on December 4-5, 2008 in Lake Charles, LA. The next quarterly meeting is scheduled for March.

## LOUISIANA COMMISSION FOR THE DEAF

- **Equipment:** LCD has purchased thousands of telecommunication items in the past few months including a shipment being received this date for 192 text telephones. We also have a large shipment of visual alerting devices on backorder which will be arriving in early January. We have also submitted requests to State Purchasing to develop a state contract with Audio Visual Mart to prepare for the purchase of the Deaf-Blind Communicator – new technology from HumanWare which will replace the outdated Braillephone.
- **Board Membership:** At the last board meeting in November, we were unable to conduct business as several board members were unable to attend and we did not

- make quorum. As a result, LCD staff is working on board representative, deaf representative, parent of a deaf representative, and professional in the field of deaf services. The VR Program Manager for the Deaf will be named once that position is filled. LCD staff presented several outgoing representatives with a certificate of recognition for their years of service and advocacy.
- **CapTel:** LCD is working with the Public Commission to bring CapTel services to Louisiana. A demonstration on CapTel and Web CapTel were presented at the November 'information' meeting. These services are anticipated to be available at the beginning of FY 2010.
  - **New Server:** LCD staff is working with the Regional Service Centers on transitioning to the new JBoss server. This is a much-needed replacement of the WebSphere server.
  - **Contractor training:** Diane Anticich provided a one-day training session to new staff from the Lake Charles and New Orleans Regional Services Centers.
  - **Deaf-Blind Emergency Preparedness:** ID badges have been developed for the deaf-blind and are being printed and distributed to those persons.
  - **DSS EP Team:** Staff is also working with the DSS Emergency Preparedness Management Team developing a plan for shelter services to meet the special, non-medical needs (i.e. interpreting, captioning, etc) of the elderly and disabled.

### **COMMUNITY REHABILITATION PROGRAMS (CRPs)**

- Employment and CRP Initiative has a new Program Coordinator, Arthur Williams, who began this new position on December 1, 2008.
- The Program Coordinator for Quality Assurance, Monitoring, and Diversity, Stacy Marbs, has been on board for 3 months.
- All site reviews for the 4 REAPs run by LRS have been completed.
- Working with the Program Services Bureau on the Ticket to Work Plus Initiative.
- Monitoring the effectiveness of the Drug Courts and their Work Release Program.
- Working with CARF on possible CRP certification.
- Continuing to monitor the LSUHDC and UNO contracts.

### **MINORITY OUTREACH**

- Program Coordinator attended National Association of Multicultural Rehabilitation Concerns (NAMRC)/National Rehabilitation Association's Conference "Enriching the Gateway through Diversity in Rehabilitation" on October 23-26 held in St. Louis, MO. and "Sowing Seeds for Success" Conference facilitated by Consortia of Administrator for Native American Rehabilitation (CANAR) in Phoenix, AR on November 16-19.

## **SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT**

- This program has a new Program Coordinator, Arthur Williams. Arthur began his new position on December 1, 2008.

## **TBI/SCI TRUST FUND**

- The Trust Fund has 625 open cases with 224 on the waiting list.
- Case Management contracts are in the process of being reduced by \$533, 000 to provide more consumer services funds.
- Program Manager, Jan D'Spain, will begin visiting the different regions throughout the state training managers.

## **ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY**

- John Schweitzer, Program Coordinator, is serving on 2 DSS Intra Agency Committees for IT Systems Integration. One involved modernization of case management systems and the other involved a paperless process.
- Program Coordinator is working on a web-based sharing of information between LRS and OFS especially as it relates to eligibility.
- Program Coordinator continues to monitor the LA Tech contract.
- Program Coordinator is working with Emergency Preparedness long term planning task force to review ADA requirements for emergency operations and shelters.

## **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**

- DSS has initiated several task forces that reflect the overview of ESF-6 activities. Each task force is responsible for identifying issues that will improve the DSS emergency response plan. An Operational Plan will be developed which will include written procedures and protocol for each activity.

## **INDEPENDENT LIVING**

- The Independent Living programs continue to provide services under the contractual agreement with LRS. PCA contracts have been amended to reflect additional funding that was received this state fiscal year.

## **LOUISIANA REHABILITATION COUNCIL**

- Louisiana Rehabilitation Council (LRC) met in Monroe, Louisiana, for the November 20-21, 2008 meeting. The meeting was held at the LRS Region 8 Office in Monroe.
- The next LRC meeting is scheduled for January 15-16, 2009 at the LRS Baton Rouge Region 2 Office.
- Three new members were appointed to LRC by Governor Jindal.

## **OPERATIONAL PLAN**

- The Division of Administration has charged each department with the development of new performance indicators by January 15, 2009. LRS is currently reviewing all indicators and will be identifying indicators that will be aligned with the Governor's Priorities and measure the outcomes of the programs. These performance indicators will be utilized for the SFY 2010 budget process.