

**Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS)
Quarterly Report to the DD Council
June, 2013**

Update/progress on agency initiatives

Employment Initiative:

- LRS continues to work toward improving employment services to consumers. The employment model initiative work group and 3 sub-groups continue to meet monthly and develop ideas to improve employment services. Recommendations have been presented to and approved by the director
- Program Coordinator maintains monthly conference call and receives frequent e-mail from the National Employment Team (NET) regarding local and national employment opportunities. This information is shared throughout the regional offices.
- The employment workgroup is gathering information on the possibility of a pilot program with an LRS vendor and the Walgreens Retail Employees with Disabilities Initiative (REDI) programming one of the LRS regions.

Minority Outreach

Program Coordinator is working with the National Association of Multicultural Rehabilitation *Concerns (NAMRC)* by serving on two committees for their 20th annual training conference. The conference (Building Communities of Cultural Inclusion in Rehabilitation) will be held July 25-27, 2013 in New Orleans

Assistive Technology:

Human Services Transit Coalition:

In July 2012, the Governor approved HR-187 establishing an inter-agency working group to determine the feasibility of a coordinating and networking organization to provide better consumer access, and more efficient use of the state-wide fleet of ADA-accessible vehicles that are provided for Medicare/Medicaid consumer use. These vehicles are located, and managed by local agencies such as the Councils on Aging, Independent Living Centers, Nursing Homes and other agencies that serve the elderly and disabled populations of our state. The AT Program Coordinator participated as the LRS representative at monthly meetings to develop a plan to be presented to the

future Louisiana Legislative session. A proposal was made to proceed with a comprehensive plan to network transportation proposals and increase public awareness and access to non-fixed-route transportation services. The AT Program Coordinator reported on progress made with the Louisiana Workforce Commission (LWC) state-wide audit of these vehicles that are accessible to job-seekers within the LRS caseload, as well as those being served at LWC Career Business Solutions Centers statewide. Additionally, the DOTD database was updated, and made available to the Regional Managers in LRS that allows searching by parish to find possible transportation services for our customers.

LRS Second Injury Program Partnership Results:

From October, 2011 through May, 2013 over 1,100 LRS customers were successfully employed; over 300 remained in active service programs with the expectation of success in the coming year; and over 1,500 customers were served at an average cost of less than \$2,500. These successes were reported by the Second Injury Fund Director, and LWC leadership to the Louisiana State Legislative Review in the 2013 Regular Session. Partly as a result of these successes, the HB-410 was amended to repeal the need for the “sunset law” (in LA-799) and was passed by both the House and the Senate to be signed by the Governor. This effectively secures the partnership between LRS and Second Injury Fund for the foreseeable future.

Status of agency’s activities/participation on DDC plan initiatives and impact (if applicable)

Transition:

LRS has met with several Special Education Directors/Supervisor to request Department of Education’s involvement in a Third Party Cooperative Agreement for Transition Services to increase success and improve post-secondary outcomes for students with disabilities.

Transition Coordinator presented a training component of the Counselor Academy detailing the policies and procedures for delivery of Transition Services on . June 6, 2013.

Career Connect is scheduling upcoming Teen Employment Workshops for Blind and Visually Impaired students.

Status of Council recommendations to agency (if applicable)