

**LOUISIANA REHABILITATION SERVICES
LOUISIANA DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES REPORT
December, 2010**

PROGRAM PLANNING/RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

STATE PLAN

- LRS has revised the sections of the state plan requiring revision due to the agency's transfer to the Office of Workforce Development within the Louisiana Workforce Commission. These sections were submitted to the Rehabilitation Services Administration and approved.

IN SERVICE & CSPD INITIATIVES

- LRS had another counselor to complete their Master's in rehabilitation counseling, making a total of 5 for 2010. Currently 65% of the Professional Staff has their Master's in Rehabilitation Counseling, or related fields. There are currently seven counselors enrolled in programs to complete their Masters.
- Counselor Training Academy: In October and early November, the New Counselor Training Academy was held in Baton Rouge. Ten new counselors were in attendance. This training exposed the group to resources and information on disabilities, assistive technology and other resources. A thorough review and explanation of the VR Process was provided during the two week academy.
- Deaf Services:

Program Coordinator attended the PepNet South meeting on Transition Services for Students who are Deaf. This was an opportunity to learn what other programs in the southeastern United States are doing for these consumers. Resources were gained and shared with the Counselors serving the Deaf and Hard of hearing.

COMMUNITY REHABILITATION PROGRAMS (CRP's)/EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT

MINORITY OUTREACH

- The CRP Program Coordinator continues to maintain a relationship with the Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation agency's in Louisiana.

CRPs

- LRS continues to annually monitor CRP's. This process is initiated at the regional level by requiring providers to meet certain quality indicators and submit documentation to verify the accuracy of reports. The CRP's are monitored at the state level through programmatic and fiscal reviews. The annual renewal process is completed via a facility site visit or a review of files. The CRP Program Coordinator provides technical assistance as areas of remediation are identified.

DRUG COURTS

- The Drug Courts and their Work Release programs continue to be monitored.

NEIGHBORHOOD PLACE

- LRS is a participating partner with the Neighborhood Place (NP) facilities located in Sabine Parish (Zwolle & Many).

EMPLOYMENT/SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT

- The LRS – Jefferson Parish Human Services Authority Pilot Projects is now up and running. LRS has begun referring consumers to JPHSA with the expectation that this joint state agency collaboration will be highly successful in the placement of LRS consumers in to good paying jobs.
- LRS continues to participate in WorkPays Consortium Meeting and the High Level Leadership Council meetings. LRS has participated in the development of the Medicare Infrastructure Grant's Strategic Plan, along with the Employment First initiative.
- LRS State Office continues to work closely with the VR Business Network and distributes job leads and other information to LRS' Employment Development Specialist on a weekly basis.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- LRS attends and participates in the monthly Work-Pays Consortium Meetings, the monthly Louisiana Workforce Investment Council Meetings, as well as participation in the High Level Leadership Council meetings.

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

AT Services Contract Progress

- Dr. Schweitzer is managing a multi-year contract with the Center for Rehabilitation Engineering, Science and Technology (CREST) at Louisiana Tech University, the Louisiana Workforce Commission (LWC), and Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS) to provide Engineering and/or Assistive Technology Assessments state-wide. Contract services include: computer assessment, activities-of-daily-living evaluations, home and job-modification evaluations, adaptive driving and transportation evaluations, vehicle modification reports, and seating and positioning assessments for wheelchairs and wheeled mobility systems.
- Our on-going contract with LA Tech represents a 3-year commitment to provide state-of-the-art assistive technology and rehabilitation engineering services to our 8 Regional offices, between 1 July, 2010 and 31 June, 2013.
- LWC, Office of Workforce Development, is currently completing renovations and modifications to the Acme Building, on their campus on the corner of 22nd St. North and Fuqua St. in Baton Rouge, LA. This office will house certain members of the LRS State Office professional staff, and shortly will be the home for the Assistive Technology Program Coordinator.
- Partnership with LATAN

LRS continues to coordinate with Louisiana Assistive Technology Access Network (LATAN) on an expanded program, funded by the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) to provide state-wide demonstration-learning, lending, and purchasing assistance of assistive technology.
- John Schweitzer is assisting the LATAN Board with developing the *Ramp Up Louisiana* consortium into a viable, sustainable business model. This will provide a much-needed home-improvement for accessibility service to home-owners with disabilities, or family members with accessibility issues. The business model will include direct services, and assistance with processing low-interest loans, and/or grants from such funding sources as the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) “single-family dwelling” program for providing ramps, doorway and interior accessibility modifications.
- Accessible/Affordable Housing

LRS participates with the Department of Health and Hospital (DHH) task force to increase consumer awareness and access to “affordable-accessible” housing. The AT Program Coordinator is a member of the

Capitol Area Consumer Housing Advocacy Network (CACHAN). The purpose of CACHAN is to assist persons with disabilities to exercise their rights under the Fair Housing Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

➤ **Boards and Commissions**

The AT Program Coordinator continues to provide review of ADA Accessibility Guidelines for new construction of business and organizations serving the public, in coordination with the State Fire Marshall's office.

The AT Program Coordinator has resigned as a voting board member on the Workforce Commission Second Injury Fund Board. He has been asked to serve as advisor on planning for implementation of vocational rehabilitation services under the LA 799 which passed this year.

PERFORMANCE PLANNING AND PROGRAM SERVICES

INDEPENDENT LIVING

- The Community and Family Support Program was transferred to the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of Aging and Adult Services effective July 1, 2010.
- Louisiana Rehabilitation Services Program Coordinator continues to provide technical assistance as needed.

LOUISIANA REHABILITATION COUNCIL

- Louisiana Rehabilitation Council held a meeting November 4-5, 2010 in Metairie, LA. This year the council has also held meetings in Thibodaux, Shreveport, and Baton Rouge.
- The next scheduled meeting is January 27-28, 2010 in Baton Rouge.
 - Meeting dates for SFY 2011 include:
 - ◆ March 24-25, 2010 in Monroe
 - ◆ May 26-27, 2010 in Baton RougeThe remainder of the 2010 meeting dates will be decided at the May meeting.
- The Council has 25 members to date. No vacancies.

OPERATIONAL PLAN

- State Fiscal Year 2011 First Quarter Performance Indicators were reported in November 2010.
- LRS Performance Indicators for State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2011 were integrated into the Louisiana Workforce Commission (LWC) Executive Budget Supporting Document as a result of the transfer of LRS to LWC at the start of SFY 2011.

TICKET TO WORK PROGRAM

- Revisions to Ticket to Work procedures for LRS to comply with the new regulations issued this year are in process. Transition Coordinator participated in TTW Conference Call provided by MAXIMUS.

TRANSITION

- The Transition Coordinator is a member of the Transition Learning Collaborative team. Regular conference calls are held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. Last conference call was held December 14, 2010. Transition Coordinator attended face-to-face meeting with TLC member in Little Rock, Arkansas November 3rd – 5th, receiving training on Motivational Interviewing. Discussed how this technique can be used with Transition population.
- Transition Coordinator facilitates monthly conference call on the 1st Monday of each month with Transition VR Counselors to discuss outreach efforts, best practice methods, and exchange information to maximize resources and discuss how to increase successful closure for transition students. Participation from all Regions makes this a very productive exchange of information.
- Program Coordinator continues to work with the Department of Education in developing Regional Core Teams in each of the regions.
- LRS and DOE are working on a Third Party Agreement for a Transition program to enhance Transition services across the state. Last Workgroup meeting was held November 22, 2010 at LRS.
- Transition Coordinator participated in TeleSeminar sponsored by the Department of Education entitled “Preparing Students with Disabilities for Success in Postsecondary Education” held December 7, 2010.

BLIND SERVICES/RANDOLPH SHEPPARD

RANDOLPH-SHEPPARD

- LRS's Randolph-Sheppard Program is working on a new location at the Marine Corps. Building at the Federal City in New Orleans. The location is scheduled to open in June, 2011, and is expected to be one of the best facilities in the state in terms of manager earnings.
- We are in the process of selecting a manager for the location. This selection should be completed by the middle of January, 2011.