

**LOUISIANA REHABILITATION SERVICES
LOUISIANA DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES REPORT
MARCH, 2011**

PROGRAM PLANNING/RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

STATE PLAN

- The draft 2012 LRS State Plan was submitted electronically through the RSA MIS system in June. RSA has until October 1st to request any changes and approve. Once approved a copy will be distributed.

IN SERVICE AND CSPD INITIATIVES

CSPD

- Travel restrictions have delayed recruiting visits to the Regional Offices. It is hoped that after July 1 these trips can be scheduled and more counselors enrolled in the Master's Programs. Currently eight counselors are enrolled, all of whom are using RSA Scholarships to cover the cost.

Deaf Services

- During the past quarter, the following activities have taken place:
In mid-May a new counselor was appointed to the Deaf Specialist position in the Thibodaux Office, Fred Pape. Fred has been a Placement Specialist for the agency. He is being provided training to develop skills to serve the consumers in this caseload. In the Baton Rouge Office, Counselor Brynn Millet, has been approved to attend the Western Oregon training on Deaf Orientation. She will be out of the office from June 20 through mid-July. Also in the Baton Rouge Office, Sarah Tullier has resigned from the agency. She will be providing assistance to her husband Tate (who is also deaf) in his photography business. The business has grown and Tate is in high demand, so we wish Sarah well in the continued success of the business. Efforts will be made to fill her vacant position as soon as possible. All counselors serving deaf and hard of hearing consumers continue to be provided resource information and information on training opportunities in order to better serve their consumers.

COMMUNITY REHABILITATION PROGRAMS (CRP'S)/EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT

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 Program Coordinator provides technical assistance as areas of remediation are identified.

A total of 250 randomly selected LRS consumers were selected and sent a consumer satisfaction survey of services provided by CRP's.

MINORITY OUTREACH

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

DRUG COURTS

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

NEIGHBORHOOD PLACE

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

SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT

- The LRS/Jefferson Parish Human Service Authority Pilot Project is off to a good start. The joint state agency collaboration began in November 2010. To date, a total of nine (9) individuals have been referred to JPHSA by LRS with five (5) of the individuals currently employed, while placement is still being sought for the other four. If this joint state agency proves to be successful in the placement of LRS consumers into jobs, LRS will look into possibly expanding this joint collaboration throughout the state. So far, this joint LRS/JPHSA collaboration seems promising and may be expanding depending on the future success of the collaboration.

- LRS will once again be participating in the JOB FAIRS for 2011 sponsored by MPP and led by the Disability Program Navigators/Louisiana Workforce Commission. LRS will have a presence at each of the Job Fair sites with full participation by LRS staff. LRS continues to meet with the Work Pays consortium to work on future funding for the MPP grant and distributes information and leads from the VR Business Network throughout to Counselors statewide.
- The University of North Texas will be conducting Supported Employment Workshops on July 27,28, and 29 in Baton Rouge, LA. Information on upcoming Supported Employment workshops conducted by the University of North Texas has been distributed to vendors throughout the state. In addition to site workshops, vendors also have the choice of accessing a continuing education course online.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- LRS attends and participates in the monthly Work-Pays Consortium Meetings, the monthly Louisiana Workforce Investment Council Meetings, as well as well as participate in High Level Leadership Council Meetings.
- LRS Program Coordinator, Avis Brown, is a member of the Medicaid Infrastructure Grant Advisory Council, and attend the first quarterly meeting of the year held in New Orleans on June 8th -9th, 2011 at the Windham Riverfront New Orleans.

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

AT Services Contract

- The 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) has completed the third quarter of the first year. This provides Engineering and/or Assistive Technology Assessments state-wide. 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.*** Services include state-of-the-art assistive technology and rehabilitation engineering support to our 8 Regional offices

respectively. Our contract is within the budget and exceeding the contract performance indicators and deliverables.

Partnership with LATAN

- LRS is partnered with Louisiana Assistive Technology Access Network (LATAN) under the 2004 AT Act, funded by the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) to provide state-wide demonstration-learning, lending, and purchasing assistance of assistive technology.
- LATAN, as a Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD) has worked with LRS in planning for emergency response for persons with disabilities. LATAN, the Red Cross, the Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) have conducted training to assist individuals with their personal planning for evacuations. The training is for volunteers, personal care attendants and other shelter personnel who may assist persons who require assistive technology in the Critical Transit-Needs Shelters (CTNS) and Red Cross Shelters (ARCS). LATAN acquired wheelchairs, shower-chairs, walkers, vision-aids and other devices to pre-position within the CTNS facilities prior to the declaration of an emergency. This equipment is on-loan to the Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS).

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.
- Dr. Schweitzer represented LRS, providing technical assistance and guidance to a focus group, (Office of Workers' Compensation (OWC), the 2nd Injury Board, and the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry (LABI), insurance specialists, vocational rehabilitation professionals, judges, attorneys, and medical professionals to find ways to improve the employment of disabled individuals. This has led to HB 502 by Rep. Erich Ponti, allowing the 2nd Injury Board to allocate up to 1 percent of the board's annual budget to Louisiana Rehabilitation Services to be used to

help people with disabilities get jobs. The board's allocation would be matched at nearly 4-to-1 with federal funds. (HB 502 passed the House unanimously and is in the Senate as of 06/16/11.)

PERFORMANCE PLANNING AND PROGRAM SERVICES

INDEPENDENT LIVING

- The annual programmatic site reviews with New Horizons Independent Living Center and Southwest Louisiana Independence Center was completed on May 18-20, 2011 and April 11-13, 2011, respectively. Consumer cases were reviewed for compliance with IL Part B Policy and contract agreement.
- The annual programmatic site review for the Statewide Independent Living Council's Interagency Agreement has been scheduled for the week of July 11-15, 2011.

LOUISIANA REHABILITATION COUNCIL

- Louisiana Rehabilitation Council held a meeting March 24-25, 2011 in Monroe, LA. This State Fiscal Year (SFY) the council has also held meetings in Metairie, Shreveport, and Baton Rouge.

Meeting dates for the remainder of SFY 2012 include:

- ◆ July 21-22, 2011 in Baton Rouge; Joint meeting with the Statewide Independent Living Council
- ◆ September 29-30, 2011 in Alexandria
- ◆ November 17-18, 2011 in Lafayette
- ◆ January 26-27, 2012 in Baton Rouge
- ◆ March 29-30, 2012 in Thibodaux
- ◆ May 10-11, 2012 in Baton Rouge

The Council has 25 members to date. No vacancies.

OPERATIONAL PLAN

- SFY 2011 Third Quarter Performance Indicators were reported in May 2011.
- LRS Performance Indicators for 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

- TTW Program Coordinator continues to participate in VR/EN conference call and webinars presented by SSA and MAXIMUS to stay abreast of updates, resources and issues associated with services delivery and consumer care.
- MAXIMUS has begun requesting from VR/EN's Timely Progress Review status for Beneficiaries with Tickets assigned for service who have not reported their information to MAXIMUS. TTW Program Coordinator has provided status reports for list of Beneficiaries by gathering this information from field staff and reporting it to MAXIMUS/Social Security Administration.

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 June 14, 2011.
- Transition Coordinator facilitates conference calls 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.
- 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.

Blind Services/Randolph Sheppard

- LRS is still working toward the establishment of a new Randolph-Sheppard facility at the Federal City installation for the United States Marine Corps. At this point, staff are moving into the building, and all vending machines have been installed, and we are awaiting bids for minor modifications to the area which has been designated to be a kitchen. We anticipate that this location will be fully operational around the end of this summer.