

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

PROGRAM PLANNING/RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

STATE PLAN

- State Plan was approved by RSA October for the upcoming year.

IN SERVICE AND CSPD INITIATIVES

- State Office training staff will be providing Guidance and Counseling training to staff statewide in January.

Deaf Services

- Program Coordinator Gary Montgomery has been named to the Louisiana Commission for the Deaf, replacing Ken York, Assistant Director. Mr. York was serving as the designee for LRS. As Mr. Montgomery is providing technical assistance to the specialist with caseload serving the Deaf

COMMUNITY REHABILITATION PROGRAMS (CRP'S)/EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT

EMPLOYMENT/SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT

- LRS again participated in the nine (9) statewide JOB FAIRS that was anchored by the Louisiana Workforce Commission Disability Program Navigators. LRS personnel chaired the Job Fairs in the cities of Houma and Lafayette, while other LRS personnel worked at each of the nine Job Fairs held statewide. The Job Fairs were held throughout the month of October 2012. Final results for the October 2012 Job Fairs were as follows: 190 businesses participated in the 2012 Job Fairs. There were 246 visitors, 1, 682 job seekers, 181 interviews conducted, 105 HIRES, and 1, 695 available positions for consumers. The October 2012 Job Fair was a tremendous success, and LRS looks forward to partnering with other agencies in future Job Fairs.
- In October 2011, LSU Health Sciences Center/New Orleans conducted one day (1) Supported Employment training for LRS State Office as a preview of the SE training that will be conducted throughout the state by LSU HSC/New Orleans. The focus will cover working with vendors, job

coaching, on site training, etc. Additionally, LSU HSC/New Orleans will also be conducting core 40 hour training classes for prospective supported employment vendors, and 15 hour refresher courses.

- In October 2011, LRS staff and an invited guest began meeting monthly to discuss ways to improve the outcome of cases that LRS counselors work with. The team consists of state office program coordinators, a bureau administrator, regional managers, a counselor, and a representative of LSU HSC/New Orleans. Progress is being made and recommendations will soon be forthcoming.

MINORITY OUTREACH

- Program Coordinator attended the Annual Consortia of Administrators for Native American Rehabilitation Conference (CANAR) October 24-26, 2011. This conference provided substantial information on issues related to Native American persons with disabilities.

PERFORMANCE PLANNING AND PROGRAM SERVICES

INDEPENDENT LIVING

- The 704 Report will be submitted to RSA by December 31, 2011.

LOUISIANA REHABILITATION COUNCIL

- Louisiana Rehabilitation Council held meetings in Alexandria on September 29-30, 2011 and Lafayette on November 17-18, 2011.
- The Council has 25 members to date with one vacancy.

TICKET TO WORK PROGRAM

- TTW Program Coordinator provided TTW/Partnership Plus (+) trainings to each of the eight (8) regional LRS offices in October.
- December 7, 2011, TTW Coordinator facilitated a teleconference with MAXIMUS Senior Account Managers to provide clarity and answer additional questions from field offices regarding TTW/Partnership Plus.
- MOU has been written and approved with Goodwill Industries to pilot Louisiana's Partnership Plus (+).

TRANSITION

- Transition Coordinator attended the TASH Conference Employment for Youth Conference in Atlanta, GA November 30-December 3, 2011.
- Proposal was accepted for Transition Coordinator and Transition Learning Collaborative member, Peggy Hale, to present during the Texas Transition Conference held in Austin, TX February 20-21, 2011. "Barriers to Self-Empowerment Faced by Transition Students: How We Can Provide a Helping Hand Over These Barriers" is the title.