

**Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS)
Quarterly Report to the DD Council
March, 2012**

Update/progress on agency initiatives

Boards and Commissions Actions

LRS Director, Mark Martin has assigned Dr Schweitzer to represent the agency at the Human Services Coordinated Transit Work Group, enacted by House concurrent Resolution No. 131. This program involved thirteen state agencies, and met monthly until February, 2012. The facilitator, JD Allen, and Phil Jones, Department of Transportation will present the recommendations of the Human Services Coordinated Transit Work Group to the current 2012 Legislative Session for review.

Second Injury Board Action (SIF)

Act 291 allowed 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 was matched at nearly 4-to-1 with federal funds from the Rehabilitation Services Administration. Since October, over \$1.5 million has been spent to provide 647 consumers with over 1,000 services resulting in over 420 successfully-employed. Two hundred-twenty-three cases are open with expected closures during 2012. LRS Director, Mark Martin, and Office of Workforce Commission, Wes Hattaway, and SIF Executive Director, Pauline Williams will report to the current Legislative Session later this spring.

Randolph-Sheppard

The Randolph-Sheppard program is continuing development of our new location at Federal City in New Orleans. Projections are that construction will be completed, and the location will be fully operational by the middle to end of May. We are also in the process of hiring a new Randolph-Sheppard program manager, as our previous manager, Joey Burton left the agency in January. This will hopefully be complete, and the new person actually working by the beginning of the second week in April.

Transition

Transition Coordinator, Avis Brown presented at the Texas Transition Conference as a member of the Transition Learning Collaborative (TLC) on February 20-21, 2012. The name of the breakout session, "Barriers to Self-Empowerment Faced by Transition Students: How We Can Provide a Helping Hand Over These Barriers ". TLC had their face-to-face meeting February 22, 2012 discussing best practice measures for transition students to reach

successful employment outcomes.

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

LRS and the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) are reaching out to all school districts in an effort to enter into a Third Party Agreement for the implementation of a Transition Project. The project will establish a system of school to work transition services for students with disabilities in high schools with a focus on LRS services being provided to students in their second to last year in school.

Louisiana Rehabilitation Council is developing a one page informational handout to educate and inform the legislators on how LRS can increase the number of individuals served by appropriating additional State General Funds to the LRS budget. These state general funds are matched 4 to 1. Currently LRS is unable to pull down 22.7 million federal dollars.

Status of Council recommendations to agency (if applicable)