

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

Update/progress on agency initiatives

State Plan Updates:

The State Plan Updates were approved by Rehabilitation Service Administration (RSA).

Partnership with LATAN:

LRS is in the second decade of a partnership 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 has partnered with the Client Advocacy Program, and other stakeholders (including Red Cross, LRS, DHH and others) to develop the Emergency Disabled-Elderly Adult Management Coalition (EDMAC) training program. This training is for anyone who will assist this population in the event of a declared emergency evacuation and sheltering event. It has received national recognition and attention.

Partnership with Second Injury Fund (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. \$2.19 million were spent to provide 888 consumers with over 1,600 services resulting in over 600 successfully-employed. Over 200 cases are open with expected closures during the remainder of 2012. LRS Director, Mark Martin reported on these results to the SIF Board, which voted to provide continued funding for the program in 2012-2013.

Partnership with Disabilities Employment Initiative (DEI)

LWC Executive Director, Curt Eysink recently announced the receipt of a \$2.3 million grant from the Federal Department of Labor. This grant was developed by the Office of Workforce Commission in partnership with LRS to provide better networking of services to persons with disabilities who seek, or wish to retain employment.

Randolph-Sheppard:

The Randolph-Sheppard location at the Marine Corps Installation at Federal City in New Orleans officially opened on July 2012.

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

Transition:

LRS in collaboration with DOE plans to host a one day training in February 2013 for Transition Counselors, Special Education Coordinators, including others to discuss the VR process, the relationship between the IEP and IPE, how to work with students, among other topic that impact the transition from school to work for students. The conference will consist of presentations from VR and DOE representatives who facilitate the transition process and include a guest speaker from either Alabama or Mississippi VR to share best practices from their agencies.

LRS, Department of Education (DOE), Families Helping Families (FHF) of Jefferson, and The Advocacy Center New Orleans will conduct a series of four informational webinars for student and families focusing on Education/Training, Employment, and Independent Living scheduled May 2013, June 2013, August 2013, and September 2013.

Supported Employment:

Changes have been recommended and approved to supported employment services. These changes will be in effect starting October 1, 2012.

LRS continues to work toward improving employment services to consumers. The employment model initiative work group and sub-groups continue to meet and develop ideas to improve employment services.

The Louisiana Workforce Commission / Louisiana Rehabilitation Services '12 statewide job fairs will begin in October. There are 9 scheduled statewide.

Establishment Project:

This year, LRS entered into an Establishment Project with UpLIFTD to provide vocational rehabilitation services and employment opportunities for significantly disabled, homeless Louisiana Rehabilitation Services clients coming through the Capital Area Alliance for the Homeless One Stop Homeless Services Center, North 17th St. in Baton Rouge. The outcome of this project is to transition significantly disabled, homeless persons from unemployment and poverty to the highest level of self-sufficiency possible.

CAAH built a One Stop Homeless Services Center to house and coordinate the work of homeless service providers. The Center provides for primary health care provided by the St. Martin de Porres Homeless Medical Clinic and the Volunteers of America Drop In Center's services including the Outreach Case Management Program. Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Baton Rouge provides Behavioral Health Services on site. CAAH has also secured legal services that specialize in disability determination. This combination of agency collaboration allows individuals who are homeless to get medical, psychological, diagnostic, legal, and vocational rehabilitation services at one location.

Since its inception, LRS has taken 41 applications for services and 18 IPE's have been developed. UpLIFTD is providing assessment, job quest and placement services for these individuals.

Status of Council recommendations to agency (if applicable)