

Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS)
Quarterly Report to the DD Council
March, 2013

Update/progress on agency initiatives

Employment Initiative:

LRS' employment initiative is changing the philosophy of the agency from a service delivery model to an employment model. This will entail an organizational change as well as consumer expectations.

This initiative is led by a Steering Committee and has the following work groups:

- Intake/Application/Eligibility Work Group
- IPE/Planning/Service Provision Work Group
- Employment outcome Work Group

Some of the accomplishments:

Reduced need for Assessments saving the agency money

Eliminated Quotas on applications and eligibility

Counting only closed rehab toward the production quotas

The time for services will be 90 days and employment is considered a service

Supported Employment –Revised the milestone. The agency is also reviewing vendors for compliance through a federal website that lists any compliance issues

Eliminated on-site training

Revised payment process for job placement – pay \$1,500 total

Pilot Projects:

Employment Specialists – The pilot will be utilizing employment specialist through a contract for the Thibodaux /Lafayette regions and will utilize Temporary Appointments for employment specialist in the Shreveport /Monroe regions. LRS is in the process of setting up these pilots and hopes to have them in place by July 2013.

Orientation for interested referral/applicants – The Lafayette Regions began this pilot in March 2013. An orientation session is held at the regional office for individuals interested in applying for vocational rehabilitation services.

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

Randolph-Sheppard:

The Randolph-Sheppard program re-opened a cafeteria at the LWC main campus in December.

We opened a cafeteria at the LaSalle building on Wednesday, March 6. The Randolph-Sheppard program is scheduled to open another cafeteria at the Claiborne building, on Friday, March 8.

LRS settled a dispute with NASA for the provision of vending services at their Michoud Assembly Facility in New Orleans. This settlement has been executed, and allows for contributions from the vending machines to go into the Blind Vendors Trust Fund until the end of the current contract in early 2014. Following this, LRS will be awarded the permit for the vending machines, and will evaluate the location to determine if it should be assigned to a Randolph-Sheppard manager.

Transition:

LRS hosted the 2013 Transition Symposium on March 20, 2013 at the Louisiana Resource Center for Educators in Baton Rouge to hear best practices related to transition services and discuss ways to improve the transition from school to work for students with disabilities. In attendance were LRS staff, DOE Special Education staff, and agencies such as Families Helping Families, The Advocacy Center, among others.

Status of Council recommendations to agency (if applicable)