

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

Update/progress on agency initiatives

State Plan Update:

- The 2014 LRS State Plan has been approved by the Rehabilitation Services Administration and can be viewed on the RSA website at <http://rsa.ed.gov> by selecting the state of Louisiana, then selecting “Reports” and “VR State Plan for Louisiana Rehabilitation Services – Louisiana Workforce Commission”

Upcoming Training or Conferences:

- Louisiana Rehabilitation Association/Southwest Region National Rehabilitation & Louisiana Rehabilitation Services will be jointly hosting a conference on November 13 – 15th at the Crown Plaza in Baton Rouge. In addition, the Vocational Evaluation and Work Adjustment Association will be holding a pre-conference training on November 12th.

Employment Initiative:

- In observance of the 2013 National Disability Employment Awareness month, the Louisiana Workforce Commission is preparing for statewide job fairs to begin in October. There are only 3 scheduled statewide (Lake Charles on Oct. 22nd, Monroe on Oct. 29th and Shreveport on Oct. 30th).

LRS Second Injury Program Partnership Results:

- As in the first two years of this program, the 2013 Louisiana Legislative Session re-authorized the Second Injury Fund (SIF) and rescinded “sunset laws” that would have phased out the SIF program by 2017. In August, 2013, the SIF Board approved the allocation of 1% of the 2nd Injury funds to be spent by LRS counselors on Vocational Rehabilitation consumers. With matching funds from RSA, this results in \$2.2 million increased funding for VR services during the current year. From July 1st through September 19, 2013 132 LRS customers were successfully employed; 254 remained in active service programs with the expectation of success in the coming year; and 428 customers have been served to date. This effectively secures the partnership between LRS and Second Injury Fund

for the foreseeable future.

Randolph-Sheppard Program

- The Randolph-Sheppard program has a new location at Delgado College in New Orleans. This location includes a coffee shop, a cafeteria, and an Einstein's Bagel. This location opened in August, and we are very proud of this, as the program does not have priority at these locations, and they came to us due to our reputation for providing excellent service.

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

Transition:

LRS is awaiting contract approval on two Third Party Agreement focusing on services to Transition students. LRS is awaiting approval from DOA on a contract with Bossier Parish Community College for a program called Program for Successful Employment (PSE). PSE will be designed to increase the number of LRS consumers obtaining competitive employment by providing vocational and job readiness training; job placement and follow up services. LRS has developed a contract with Grant Parish School Board for a Transition Specialist for Grant Parish Schools awaiting approval. LRS continues outreach efforts to meet with other potential school districts who may be interested and have funding to enter into a Third Party Agreement to provide a Transition Specialist in their area to increase success and improve post-secondary outcomes for students with disabilities.

Status of Council recommendations to agency (if applicable)