

**Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS)**  
**Quarterly Report to the DD Council**  
**June, 2015**

**Update/progress on agency initiatives**

Supported Employment:

The RTAC project is currently being wrapped up. By the end of the month, all regional staff will have participated in the Supported Employment webinar and face to face training. The goal of these trainings is to improve service delivery and employment outcomes for individuals in Supported Employment, as well as other job placement programs.

Staff and vendor training is underway for the revised procedures in Supported Employment, Time Limited Job Coaching, and Job Readiness/Placement, which will be in effect on July 1, 2015.

Employment Initiative:

LRS has been selected to host 3 events per region under the DEI Grant. The allowable events are

- Employer Workshops/Symposiums/ and/or Summits- which will allow for training and information to be presented to employers about the business case of hiring adult job seekers with disabilities. This event should be at a minimum of 3 hours. Do not call the Employer Summit an Appreciation Luncheon.
- Asset Development Summit- to increase outreach to people with disabilities and their families so that they are more aware of the existence of free tax preparation.
- One-Stop Career Center Open House events- to introduce employers, service providers, and adult job seekers with disabilities to the services that are available within the centers.
- Job and Service Fairs- fairs for employers and recruiters to meet with and provide information to prospective job seekers.

Region 1 hosted an Asset Development Summit event in May of 2015. The speakers included personnel from the Community Action Agency and WIPA planning. This event was attended by 51 people.

Region 2 hosted an Employer Symposium on May 21, 2015. They had 100 people in attendance. Guest speakers included Rob Roux, an attorney with LWC who spoke about the advantages of hiring diversely, and provided some clarity on reasonable accommodations. Krista Scurria, PT, also provided some information on Worksite Assessments and Assistive Technology followed by our REDS, Angela Montgomery, who provided information On the Job Training.

Region 3 hosted An Employer Symposium on May 27, 2015. Their speakers included their RM who focused his discussion on “Why hiring someone with a disability makes sense.” They also had a Human Resource Manager from South LA Bank talk about his positive experience in hiring someone who received services from LRS.

Region 4 hosted a medical job fair (high demand occupation) on June 9, 2015. This event was attended by 261 job seekers. They had 41 “medical” employers registered and had 34 employers attended.

Region 5 hosted an Asset Development Summit on May 15, 2015 and had approximately 50 people in attendance. Questions on checking/saving accounts, home ownership, mental/healthcare, employment and credit were answered.

Region 6 hosted an Asset Development Summit on May 27, 2015. They had several guest speakers, including personnel from the Cenla Community Action Agency, the Shepard Center, LSU Health Sciences, the Rapides Parish Library and the Salvation Army. Topics included information on Volunteer Income Tax Assistance, rent and utility assistance, and free computer classes.

Region 7 hosted a Pride Industries job fair. Pride Industries is one of the nation's largest nonprofit employers of people with disabilities, providing outsourcing solutions that meet the manufacturing and service needs of Fortune 500 companies and government agencies nationwide. Operating in 14 states and the nation's capital, Pride employs more than 5,100 people, including more than 2,800 people with disabilities. Pride is one of the contract vendors with Barksdale Air force Base here in Shreveport/Bossier. Four consumers were hired as a result of this event.

Region 8 hosted a rural job fair in Tallulah, LA on May 27, 2015. This job fair was attended by 155 job seekers and 11 employers were present.

LRS DEI committees are already planning the next set of events which will occur statewide in August 2015.

#### LRS Second Injury Program Partnership Results:

The current legislative session contains Senate Bill 107 which extends the SIF program until 2020.

In the first three years of the SIF Partnership, from July 1, 2011 through August 1, 2014 1,955 LRS customers were successfully employed. In the first nine months of the current year (July 1, 2014-June 1, 2015) seven hundred-thirty-two (732) cases have been closed, “successfully-rehabilitated” and employed, with two-hundred-seven (207) open-cases with expectations of success. \$2,475,507.13

(the complete budgeted amount) has been spent of the SIF-Vocational Rehabilitation budget.

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

Transition:

- Transition Coordinator, along with Program Manager met with regional staff for several training meetings this quarter discussing WIOA and implementation of Pre-Employment Transition Services in schools statewide.
- Transition Coordinator participated in DOE's SPDG Day Tuesday, April 21, 2015 held at LSU LOD Cook discussing LRS Transition Services implementation of Pre-Employment Transition Services.
- Transition Coordinator attended National Secondary Transition Technical Assistance Center's 2015 Capacity Building Institute as a member of the State Team with DOE's Kay Rone in Charlotte, NC May 5-7, 2015.
- Transition Coordinator and Program Manager conducted meeting with vendors to discuss PETS service pilot initiative at the LRS Baton Rouge Regional Office on Tuesday, May 19, 2015.
- Transition Coordinator presented with LRS Director at the DOE's Teacher Leaders' Summit in New Orleans June 3, 2015 for the Superintendents' Meeting to present on LRS Transition Services. It was held at the Ernest Morial Convention Center.

**Status of Council recommendations to agency (if applicable)**