

Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS)
Quarterly Report to the DD Council
June, 2014

Update/progress on agency initiatives

Training or Conferences:

- The LRS' 2015 State Plan updates were presented to the Workforce Investment Council and have been uploaded into the RSA-MIS system, which is the federal system that we post it to. It is due July 1st and then RSA will review it for consideration of approval by October 1st.
- Statewide training is currently being conducted for LRS staff to include the training on Customer Service, Ticket-To-Work, Supported Employment, Transition and an overview of WIPA assistance available to consumers.

Supported Employment:

- LRS has received a grant from RTAC to participate in a Research Project on Improving VR Program Management. LRS' project will focus on the most effective structure for provision of Supported Employment services to consumers and assessing vendor performance.

Employment Initiative:

- Attended the LWC Business Engagement Initiative meeting on June 2-3. Purpose of the Agency Initiative is to utilize input from businesses to build a customized package of services to meet business needs today and into the future and to grow relationships with targeted industry sectors. Program Coordinator began meeting some of the newly hired Industry Coordinators.
- Attended the Business Service Representatives Focus group meeting on June 11, 2014 at the Acadiana Works Business and Career Solutions Center. The LRS Program Coordinator spoke to the group concerning the importance of dispelling myths surrounding the employment of individuals with disabilities as well as the various ways businesses can benefit from hiring individuals with disabilities. Program Coordinator also expressed LRS's eagerness to increase collaboration efforts with the regional BSR's and with the newly hired Industry Coordinators in various regions to help forge relationships with employers in the assigned area.

- LRS's Regional Employment Development Specialists are currently involved in the planning of the LWC Diversity job fairs in the following areas, New Orleans, Slidell, Lake Charles, Shreveport, and Monroe. Lafayette will also be having a disability job fair but it is independent from LWC's Diversity Job Fairs

LRS Second Injury Program Partnership Results:

- From July 1, 2013 through June 1, 2014 719 LRS customers were successfully employed; 233 are in active service programs with the expectation of success in the coming year; and 1020 customers have been served to date. This partnership between LRS and Second Injury Fund has spent \$2,196,779 (SIF+LRS match). This is 100% of the SIF allocation for 2014.

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

Transition:

- Transition Coordinator and Training Unit Manager along with LRS BR Regional Office staff participated in Southern University's Department of Rehabilitation and Disability Services Community Conversation held on April 24th, 2014 in the Cotillion Ballroom on the campus of Southern University along with other community stakeholders.
- Transition Coordinator provided training to each of the eight Regional Offices on service delivery of Transition Services in the month of June.

Status of Council recommendations to agency (if applicable)