

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

Update/progress on agency initiatives

Trainings/ Conference:

In-Service & CSPD Initiatives – Regions continue to provide monthly in-service trainings to their staff. Regionals Managers are being closely monitored and encouraged to seek trainings that will qualify for CRC's as well as professional development.

LRS staff attended the LRA conference in November. Several employees attended an APSE Conference in December, and Management Staff will attend a WIC Conference in December.

LRS Program Manager attended the OWD Conference in September. This conference was focused on WIOA, the core partners, and how the partners can work together to implement the new requirements set forth in this new law. Program Manager continues to attend regular meetings at LWC on WIOA implementation. LRS has submitted a draft of the VR portion of the combined state plan to be reviewed by LWC so that it can be presented to the WIC on December 15. Information has been submitted to OTS, including the draft Reporting Manual for our Case Service Record Report (RSA-911). OTS is working on a system to collect the new required data elements from all required partners.

Collaboration continues with OCDD and OBH to finalize a new state level MOU. We are in the final stages of developing a draft to be submitted to our respective legal departments.

Supported Employment:

A new CRP/SE Program Coordinator has been hired. Angela Montgomery has been trained and began site reviews.

Employment Initiative:

The REDS completed the year strong! Below are the total number of placements and Successful placements (employed status for 90 days) for the REDS for SFY 2014-2015.

| REDS Totals | Number of Placements for FY 2014-2015 | Successful Placements for FY 2014-2015 | Percentage Of Placements That Turned Into Successful Placements |
|--------------------|--|---|--|
| Totals | 264 | 204 | 77% |

REDS are now participating in monthly training where the REDS have an opportunity to present challenging cases to the other REDS whose background comes from various disciplines, (HR management, teacher, counselor, employer representative) for feedback and review.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this training is designed to ensure that the REDS approach these cases correctly so that they can further assist their LRS consumer in making progress towards their stated vocational goals. After each presentation of the case, the REDS team members' offers guidance and recommendations that hopefully will move their consumer into closure.

LRS Second Injury Program Partnership Results:

In July, the Governor signed HB 502, into law providing for up to 1% of the Second Injury Funds (SIF) to be spent by LRS counselors on VR consumers. On August, 2013, Act 314 reauthorized the SIF and rescinded the "sunset" wording of the original Act. In July, 2015 the Louisiana Legislature in Regular Session passed SLS 15RS-306 Senate Bill No. 107 which extended the current arrangement until 2020. Since the SIF revenues come from private insurance income, these funds can be matched with Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) funds for direct services.

In 2014, \$2,475,507 from the SIF program was spent by LRS on 827 consumers who were successfully employed in that year. In the past four years this program, with matching funds from RSA, has generated over \$10 million dollars in direct services money with no additional overhead or costs allocation. This has contributed to approximately 3,000 successful closures during the four year

program. In 2015, (7/1/2015- 11/30/2015) two-hundred-fifty- seven (257) consumers have successfully been employed, with one-hundred-eighty-six cases in service status, with \$1,082,311.14 spent to date.

Randolph Sheppard:

September, training was conducted in Lafayette for all blind services staff and counselors who handle a predominately blind caseload, as well as their supervisors. This training was held in Lafayette, and included training in the provision of services to individuals who are deaf-blind, a technology update, as well as a presentation by the VA on services available to blinded veterans.

Codification of Act 761 of the 2014 legislative session, which made changes to the state's Randolph-Sheppard law is scheduled to be completed by October 20.

Veterans Program:

The MOU with Louisiana Rehabilitation Services and the Regional Department of Veterans Affairs VR and Employment Division was distributed among the LRS Regional Offices. Currently meetings have transpired with the New Orleans VR office and the Regional VA offices and Regional VR contacts are being chosen to ensure veterans are receiving services from the VR and VA offices, as appropriate.

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

Transition:

- Transition Coordinator continues to meet with local school districts/charter school to negotiate new third party cooperative arrangements to increase the number of Transition Specialist across the state.
- Transition Coordinator continues to provide technical assistance and support to staff at the regional office and vendor involved in the delivery of Pre-Employment Transition Service to student with disabilities in school.

Status of Council recommendations to agency (if applicable)

The Director has approved the following manual & form revisions:

| CHAPTER | PART/SECTION | SYNOPSIS | EFFECTIVE DATE |
|----------------|--|--|-----------------------|
| Chapter 7 | Part 103 Enabling Legislation | Updated Louisiana Revised Statutes, (Page 1) | 9/20/2015 |
| Chapter 7 | Part 105 Confidentiality | Review item C. Release of Confidential Information, (Pages 1 & 2) | 9/20/2015 |
| Chapter 7 | Part 115, Financial | Removed BLR Chart and added the use of U.S. Poverty Guidelines, (Page 5) | 9/20/2015 |
| Chapter 7 | Part 119, Transition Process for Individuals in Secondary Education Programs | Review entire section – specifically item E. 1. and 2., (Page 1) | 9/20/2015 |
| Chapter 4 | Part 412.08, Motor Vehicle Modification | Review item H. Additional Criteria, (Page 5) | 9/21/2015 |
| Chapter 4 | Part 412.15 Transition from School to Work | No updates to this Section -- Reflects Chapter 7, Part 119 Policy change | 9/21/2015 |
| Chapter 4 | Part 412.24, Child Care Services | Review entire section - updated section and increased cost of child care payments, (Pages 1 - 5) | 9/21/2015 |
| Chapter 4 | Part 420, Confidentiality of Client Records and Information | Review Entire Section, reflects Chapter 7, Part 105 Policy revision (Pages 1 & 2) | 9/21/2015 |
| Omniforms | RS-14 | Chart updated to reflect Chapter 7, Part 115 Financial Policy revision | 9/21/2015 |