

**Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS)
Quarterly Report to the DD Council
March, 2016**

Update/progress on agency initiatives

Order of Selection: As of March 1, 2016, all Order of Selection groups are closed due to budget projections, and remaining VR funds are reserved for Pre-Employment Transition Services due to federal unfunded mandate.

State Plan Updates

LRS continues to work with our WIOA partners to complete the Combined State Plan for submission April 1, 2016. LWC is in the final stages of draft completion.

In-Service & CSPD Initiatives

The RSA In-Service Training grant is no longer being offered nationwide; therefore, LRS no longer receives these funds for staff training. LRS is utilizing webinars, video conferencing, and on-site training that can be provided by staff or partners at low or no-cost as much as possible so that consumer service funding is not impacted by training expenses.

Upcoming Training or Conferences

February: PEPNET
February: Travel Training for Liaisons 2/24
March: TBI Conference 3/ 4-5
March: Southern Symposium 3/18
March: Deaf Counselor Training 3/10
March: RCA Training (online)
April: Tips for Case Management
May: AWARE VIS Training – on hold
March: IHO Training – Completed

Strategic Planning

LRS updated the 2015 – 2020 Strategic Plan in October of 2015.

Deaf Services

Counselors who are serving consumers who are deaf participated in training March 10, 2016.

Supported Employment:

Program Coordinator completed three (3) site visits with deficiencies noted and corrective action plans requested from all three CRPs. Program Coordinator attended the LA APSE Conference in December and more recently a meeting hosted by the ARC Baton Rouge in relation to the progress of their MARCket Project. The project will provide employment opportunities for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities through the establishment of a non-profit organization that will establish small businesses with the specific purpose of hiring such individuals. Furthermore, Program Coordinator and Program Manager attended a OCDD roundtable discussion hosted by Imperial Calcasieu Human Services in Lake Charles where Program Manager explained LRS' role as it relates to WIOA and PETS.

Employment Initiative:

Below are the number of placements and successful placements (employed status for 90 days) for the TEEM REDS **thus far** for SFY 2015-2016.

REDS Totals	Number of Placements for FY 2014-2015	Successful Placements for FY 2014-2015	Percentage Of Placements That Turned Into Successful Placements
Totals	95	58	61% (goal is 55.8%)

REDS are still 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.

The REDS and State Office Employment Liaison continues to participate in community events in an effort to build relationships with HR professionals and other key professionals in the business community. Some of the events and meetings that were attended include SHRMS meetings, Chamber of Commerce meetings, Urban League of Greater New Orleans Job Fair, Labor Law Seminar, Mayors Committee of Disability Annual Employer of the Year Award, Regional Industry meetings, Boomtown Casino meetings, Caddo Correctional Center Reentry meeting, DOW's Disability Employment Network meeting, Cargill Outreach with their HR team, Nicholls State University job fair, and the Louisiana Diversity council meeting

LRS Second Injury Program Partnership Results:

In 2016, (7/1/2015- 2/1/2016) four hundred forty-four (441) consumers have successfully been employed, with one-hundred-eighty-six cases in service status, with \$1,668,251.81 spent to date. On 02/24/2016, Director Mark Martin and the CRP Bureau Administrator, Chris Anthony, and AT Program Coordinator, John Schweitzer made a presentation to the new SIF Director, Daniel Lastrappes, reporting the successful results of this collaboration.

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

Transition:

- Transition Coordinator continues to provide technical assistance and support to staff at the regional offices and vendors involved in the delivery of Pre-Employment Transition Service to students with disabilities in school.
- Transition Coordinator has conducted monitoring at school sites to ensure services are being appropriately delivered.
- Regions are planning summer job programs to provide Work Based Learning Experiences during summer break. This includes collaboration with One Stop Business and Career Solution Centers.
- LRS staff continues to meet with school districts to ensure PETS are made available to students with disabilities.

Status of Council recommendations to agency (if applicable)