

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

Update/progress on agency initiatives

Program Services:

Deaf Services:

Deaf Services has been moved under Kevin Monk, Executive Director of Blind Services. The next LCD meeting is scheduled for August.

Assistive Technology Program:

Currently, the AT Program Coordinator is working diligently with Fiscal and Planning, and the CRP Bureau Administrator to identify and enhance access to fee-for-services assessments and evaluations state-wide.

LATAN Collaboration:

LRS continues to collaborate with Louisiana Assistive Technology Network (LATAN) on an expanded program, funded by the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) under the AT Partnership Act to provide state-wide demonstration-learning, lending, and purchasing assistance of assistive technology. LATAN is an approved vendor for providing a device-rental service so consumers may have a more realistic trial use of an AT device before requesting that LRS provide them with said device.

Second Injury Fund:

The annual allocation from the SIF Board this year was capped at \$500,000. This plus the RSA match totaled \$2,347,000. These funds have been spent to date. In 2016, (7/1/2015-5/1/2016) six hundred two (602) consumers have successfully been employed, with one-hundred-sixty-seven (167) cases in service status.

Transportation Initiative:

The AT Program Coordinator continues to work as LWC/LRS liaison with agencies providing transportation-related services to increase accessibility and availability of transportation for individuals with disabilities in the state.

The AT Coordinator, as liaison with the La DOTD, is assisting the City of Hammond and Tangipahoa Parish, Council on Aging with an innovation grant proposal to the Transportation Research Board. The plans include a hub at the Louisiana Workforce Commission (LWC) Business and Career Solutions Center in Hammond, and the Southeast Louisiana University campus transit system.

Louisiana Rehabilitation Council (LRC):

The LRC held its last meeting in Baton Rouge on April 28-29, 2016. The Council elected new officers at this meeting. Chair, Bob Lobos, Vice Chair, Tommy Carnline,

Secretary, Sue Killam, Member at large, Libby Murphy. The Council has 22 members to date. There are 3 vacancies.

The schedule of meetings is:

- July 28-29, 2016, Baton Rouge
- October 27-28, 2016, Baton Rouge
- January 2017 – date and location to be announced
- April 2017 – date and location to be announced
- July 2017 – date and location to be announced

Independent Living:

Annual Site Reviews for New Horizons and @Southwest La. Independence Center are scheduled for August 16-19, 2016 and August 23-26, 2016, respectively. July 1, 2015 through March 31, 2016 – 3,134 consumers received IL services.

The three year State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) has been developed and upon approval will be effective on October 1, 2016

Community Rehabilitation Program:

CRPs:

Program Coordinator is reaching out to the regions to make sure that all of the Vendor information is correct in the manual. Program Coordinator continues to schedule site reviews with Vendors.

Supported Employment:

The CRP Bureau hosted the University of Arkansas CURRENTS and the Workforce Innovation Technical Assistance Center (WINTAC) as they lead a focus group on the provision of resources and strategies to help individuals with disabilities achieve competitive integrated employment, including customized employment and supported employment. The group consisted of LRS Administrators as well as Direct Service Providers.

Employment Initiative:

REDS - We are almost at the 75% mark for SFY 15-16. Below are the number of placements and successful placements:

REDS Totals	Number of Placements for FY 2015-2016	Successful Placements for FY 2014-2015	Percentage Of Placements That Turned Into Successful Placements
Totals	152	125	82% (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 SO 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.

During the month of May, the REDS participated in a Veterans /Business Services Training in Marksville, LA. The REDS re-familiarized themselves with several LWC programs such as the WOTC Program, and Apprenticeship Programs. This training resulted in the several regions scheduling re-occurring Business Service meetings with various colleagues in their regional area to improve collaboration within regions after hearing about the success that collaboration has brought in Regions 4 and Regions 8.

Program Planning/Resource Development:

State Plan Updates - RSA reviewed and requested a few minor updates. These were made and the LRS portion of the State Plan has been approved.

Strategic Planning - RSA reviewed and requested a few minor updates. These were made and LRS awaits final approval.

In-Service & CSPD Initiatives-Regions continue to provide monthly in-service training for staff. We currently have one employee applying to obtain her Master's Degree in Rehabilitation Counseling from the University of Kentucky.

Upcoming Training or Conferences

- SharePoint Training began in June
- AWARE Training is scheduled for June 27, 2016. AWARE will upgrade to v. 6.01 to comply with WIOA requirements.
- LRS will be participating in the NAMRC conference in July.