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

Update/progress on agency initiatives

Trainings/ Conference:

In early September, training was conducted in Lafayette for all Blind Services staff and VR 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.

Counselor Academy was held in Lafayette during the week of August 24, 2014

Supported Employment:

We are currently in the process of hiring a new CRP/SE Program Coordinator. This individual will be trained to begin monitoring activities and will work on updating the state provider list.

We are in the final stages of updating the MOU between LRS and OCDD. The Program Manager has been attending and plans to attend as available the OCDD Roundtables that are occurring across the state.

Employment Initiative:

TEEM has completed the 2nd year of their 3 year contract.

TEEM Overall Final Numbers (comparison between SFY 2013/2014—2014/2015)

SFY	Total	Total Number	Total	%age of	%age of
	Number of	of Placements	Number of	referrals	placements
	Referrals		Closures	into	turned into

				placements Goal is 33%	successful placements Goal is 55.8%
2013- 2014	292	97	43	33%	44%
2014- 2015	290	132	107	45.5	81.8

LRS completed hosting the DEI events—a total of 24 events were held; 3 events were held in each region from January 2015-August 2015.

<u>Region</u> 1. Hosted 2 job fairs, one in the River Parishes and the other for the New Orleans Region consumers. The River Parishes job fair was attended by 12 employers and 48 job seekers whereas the New Orleans Region Job Fair was attended by 40 employers and 185 job seekers.

<u>Region 2</u> hosted an Open House at the One Stop Career Centers in both Livingston and Tangipahoa Parishes. Approximately 60 individuals attended the event.

<u>Region 3</u> hosted an Asset Development Summit and was attended by 28 people. The presentation was centered on the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program.

<u>Region 4</u> hosted a Diversity job fair that was attended by 680 job seekers and 66 Employers. The employers that participated in the job fair stated that there was a 94% chance of hiring someone from this job fair.

<u>Region 5</u> hosted a Rural Job Fair that was attended by 47 employers and 235 job seekers.

<u>Region 6</u> hosted an Ability –One job fair in Vernon Parish. This event was attended by 44 job seekers and 6 Employers.

<u>Region 7</u> hosted a job fair that was attended by 25 employers and 154 job seekers. 92.2% of the job seekers stated from there surveys they do plan on following up

<u>Region 8</u> hosted an Asset Development Summit that was attended by 50 consumers.

LRS Second Injury Program Partnership Results:

A program to leverage funding to LRS has been successful for the past four years. This initiative allows the state's Second Injury Fund Board (SIF) to allocate up to one percent of the board's annual budget to Louisiana Rehabilitation Services to be used to help people with disabilities to obtain or maintain jobs. The allocation is eligible for a 4-to-1 match of federal funds. Between July 1, 2012 and July 1, 2015 two thousand seven-hundred-eighty-five (2,785) customers were successfully employed or returned-to-work during the period. Over \$9,000,000 in state and federal money were spent, with an average cost per customer of less than \$3,000 per consumer. At the end of the fiscal period, there were 228 open cases forecasted for successful closure. Types of services provided included assistive technology, orthotics/prosthetics, physical restoration, assessment, transportation, education/training, supported employment and/or job development/placement. In the 2015 legislative session the Louisiana State Legislature passed a bill extending the SIF program through 2020

Randolph Sheppard:

Randolph-Sheppard has a new Program Manager. Janell Bosarge retired, and Mr. Steven DeBruhl has been hired to replace her.

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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.

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

Transition:

- Transition Coordinator, presented on LRS and Transition Services for parent attending an in-service facilitated by Families Helping Families August 26, 2015
- Transition Coordinator, conducted a training for the VR Counselors on LRS Transition Services for the Counselor Academy held in Lafayette August 27, 2015
- 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)