

Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS)

LRS Director's Quarterly Report

September 2017

- **Social Security/Ticket to Work:** Social Security TTW has now converted to a Portal System and they are still several months behind in processing claims. It takes approximately 4 months for a reimbursement claim to be processed. If we ask for reconsideration on a claim that has been denied, then we are looking at another 3-4 months to receive payment, if warranted.
- **Employment Initiative:** Meeting employers through SHRMS and the LA Diversity Council continues. A Job Fair was attended in the Lake Charles area which presented a wonderful opportunity to meet with several employers and inform them of LWC services. We were also invited to a Wal-Mart HR annual meeting in August of 2017 in which we had the opportunity to boost of the talents that our clients have as well as have some one on one introductions with the HR managers in the Wal-Mart stores for the bottom half of the state. It was a day that was full of networking and many connections were made with HR representatives.
- **CRPs-** No Significant changes or events related to CRP's. However it should be mentioned that a Wal-Mart Human Resource Manager in Lafayette was so appreciative of the relationship that he's established with a CRP and the LRS REDS in that Region that he wanted to introduce other HR Managers to LRS and the VR process. He invited LRS and some of our vendors in the Lafayette, Pineville and Baton Rouge Regions to meet with Wal-Mart HR reps from around the state at a Wal-Mart HR Conference. The success of the partnership with LRS, its vendors and Wal-Mart in the Lafayette Region is noteworthy.
- **Supported Employment**-Bureau is continuously working to enhance the clarity and precision of LRS policy and procedures implementing WIOA regulations involving employment services so as to ensure the skillful delivery of those services by field staff.
- **Assistive Technology** - The AT coordinator plans to conduct training and presentations with a goal of increasing access to the LSUHSD services, and state-wide access to fee-for-services ATS state-wide. Training(s) for the Counselors and staff on the new procedures to acquire AT/RT assessments, evaluations, and other services are planned be conducted, via ZOOM™ presentations, telephonic and computer-based consultations with the AT Coordinator, and on-site training as feasible with current budget constraints.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Order of Selection:

- Two thousand consumers have been released from the waiting list since July 2017. Staff are meeting with consumers to develop IPE's.

Training:

- Statewide training dates have been confirmed and staff notified of mandatory training. All staff will receive training and guidance on contracts, customer service, quality assurance, vocational guidance and counseling, dealing with difficult people and WIOA updates.

Second Injury Fund:

- Since July, 2011, Louisiana law provides for up to 1% of the Second Injury Funds (SIF) to be spent by LRS counselors on VR consumers.
- Thus far in 2017 (7/1/2017-9/1/2017) two hundred twenty three (223) consumers have been served, resulting in seventy-five (75) successful closures (employed), with one-hundred-forty-eight (148) cases in service status. SIF+LRS funds expended during this period were \$85,777.64. At the August SIF Board meeting, LRS Director Mark Martin presented an overview of the collaboration between LRS and the SIF programs. A request was made to the Board to allocate the full 1% of the funds in order for LRS to draw down the RSA matching formula. The request was tabled, for a vote at the September board meeting.

Louisiana Diversity Council:

- A meeting was held for the Louisiana Diversity Council in Baton Rouge on August 2017.

Contracts:

- Have 7 TPCA's for Pre-ETS with Local Education Agencies around in the State. Most recently one was approved with Orleans Parish School Board. Working on one with Virtual Academy of Lafourche and Bossier Parish School Board

Independent Living:

- Concerned about the impact of the request by the DHHS in the FY 18 Federal Budget to fund a new grant program, Partnership for Innovation, Inclusion, and Independence, by combining State Councils on Developmental Disabilities, Independent Living State Grants that support SILCs and State Advisory Boards on TBI Partnership Grants.

Louisiana Rehabilitation Council:

- Meeting on October 26, 2017 at Embassy Suites Hotel in Baton Rouge from 9am to 4pm