

**Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS)
LRS Director's Quarterly Report
March 2019**

PROGRAM SERVICES

Social Security/Ticket to Work: Social Security TTW is ongoing and we are on course to reach our projected goal for SFY 2018-19. At the present time, we have received \$519,967.22.

Pre-Employment Transition Services:

The following information is an update of the number of students LRS has participating in Pre-ETS services including authorizations and payments for this current quarter.

- Total # of Pre-ETS cases – 2,558
- Total Authorized for Pre-ETS - \$5,783,308.43
- Total Paid for Pre-ETS - \$2,424,352.71

Customized Employment:

The Customized Employment Pilot is progressing. To date, the vendors and their learning partners who are LRS consumers have completed Discovery. Some have completed the customized employment plan, and are working on customizing employment opportunities. Vendors have been certified in Discovery and are completing Job Development Certification. In February, the LA DD Council sponsored a second Gateway for Discovery in Lafayette for vendors in the central on northern regions, however, there were some from the southern regions of the state who also attended. Vendors who attended the Discovery Gateway in Lafayette have until the end of March to register for the performance based certification.

Earlier this month, the Council also sponsored a Systematic Instruction Gateway presented by Mike Callahan of Marc Gold & Associates. Vendors were provided strategies to use when teaching individuals with severe disabilities to complete work tasks. They were given the opportunity to practice the skills and strategies learned by teaching 3 different individuals with developmental disabilities how to assemble bicycle brakes. In addition to being able to critique one another, they were provided feedback from Mr. Callahan and one of his associates. The vendors responded very positively about what they learned with many indicating that they wish they had received this kind of training years ago. The vendors had the opportunity to see how if the strategies that they had been taught were applied, individuals with severe disabilities could learn to complete complex tasks.

Rehabilitation Employment Development Specialist (REDS):

LRS has three REDS housed in Lafayette, Lake Charles and Shreveport Regional Offices. A meeting with LRS REDS held on 3/8/19 focused on learning better placement tips for those with a legal history.

- Lafayette placements from July 2018 to present –21
- Lafayette closures from July 2018 to present – 8

- Lake Charles placements from July 2018 to present –19
- Lake Charles closures from July 2018 to present - 12

- Shreveport placements from July 2018 to present –56
- Shreveport closures from July 2018-to present – 28

Consumer Statistics (for current quarter):

Number of Applications	1,178
Number of Eligibility/Delayed	1,106
Number of New IPEs	856
Number of Closed Rehab (Successful Closures)	297
Total Open VR cases as of March 8	8,218
Total Open Pre-ETS cases as of March 8	2,651

There are **0 cases** in Delayed Status as of March 8, 2019

DD Open Cases:

Case Status	Case Type	Disability Cause	
Service	VR	Autism	320
		Cerebral Palsy	122
		Intellectual Disabilities	341
		Specific Learning Disabilities	484

DD Closed Cases:

Case Status	Case Type	Disability Cause	
Closed-Rehab	VR	Autism	15
		Cerebral Palsy	4
		Intellectual Disabilities	18
		Specific Learning Disabilities	13

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Employment Initiative:

In March 2018, Louisiana set a goal to serve as a Model Employer for business by a commitment to improve hiring, recruitment, and retention of people with disabilities through an Executive order signed by Governor John Bel Edwards. The National Conference of State Legislatures stresses that “Individuals with disabilities represent an underrepresented and largely untapped segment of the labor pool for consideration in state government employment”. Subsequently, the SAME (State as a Model Employer) Task Force convened and sought ways to improve employment among those with disabilities in state civil service. LRS’s Employment Coordinator is the point of contact that most state department HR Directors correspond with. Brenda Bohrer, as the point of contact, also worked with Civil Service in providing names and contact information for those state workers with disabilities that were wanting to participate in the training video that will be produced by Louisiana Civil Service that will be bringing awareness of how to better interact with your colleagues in the workplace that have a disability.

As part of the Employment First State Leadership Mentoring Program (EFSLMP) Vision Quest grant, LRS is collaborating with the La Department of Health, Office of Behavioral Health, to improve the employment outcomes of individuals with serious mental illness.

Louisiana Rehabilitation Council (LRC):

The Louisiana Rehabilitation Council will meet on April 25, 2019, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Courtyard by Marriott hotel off of Siegen Lane. The July LRC meeting will be coordinated with the Governor’s Office of Disability Affairs Annual Conference on July 26, 2019.

Training:

The 2019 Counselor Academy has been successfully completed with 23 participants. Emphasis was placed on training staff on changes to procedures as a result of WIOA and 911 reporting. Staff were trained on Customized Employment, Subminimum Wage, Measurable Skill Gains, Credentials, Supported Employment with extended follow along, working with other agencies and various other topics. Staff were encouraged to provide individualized services to meet each individual’s specific needs. Staff were also encouraged to seek wrap around services for consumers to ensure all needs are met to support and sustain successful outcomes.

New District Supervisors attended a training through the University of Arkansas Currents. The training provided essential skills to new supervisors begin taking on more challenges and responsibilities.

In February, nine LRS employees had completed the Windmills Training Course to become certified Windmills Trainers. Additional employees are anticipating attending the next session.