

Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS) LRS Director's Quarterly Report December 2017

Social Security/Ticket to Work (TTW): Social Security TTW has now converted to a Portal System and the system has improved compared to the first seven months as claims are being processed in a more timely manner now.

Employment Initiative:

- Round table discussions were held throughout the state during the month of August including various agencies to discuss improving employment in the disability population. Disability /diversity job fairs were held in Lafayette, New Orleans, Shreveport, and in Baton Rouge. LRS continues to work with the Veterans program and presented at their quarterly training. LRS also attended the Veterans job fair in Lake Charles.
- LRS was notified that several temporary job appointments would become available for our clients at the State's parks, museums, and libraries in the spring of 2018. LRS is meeting with the Directors of those facilities during the month of December to obtain further details.

Community Rehabilitation Programs (CRPs) and Supported Employment: Community Rehabilitation Programs, including Supported Employment vendors across the state, are submitting documentation for LRS Vendorship renewal. Documentation received from vendors in the Shreveport, Lake Charles and Houma Regions are being reviewed at both the LRS Regional and State Office levels.

Order of Selection: Order of Selection Category I was opened on November 8th and all eligible individuals on OOS Category I waiting list were moved from the waiting list to enable them to be served. Counselors began contacting them to begin the planning process.

Training: Statewide mandatory training was conducted to provide training and guidance on contracts, customer service, quality assurance, vocational guidance and counseling, dealing with difficult people and WIOA updates.

Second Injury Fund: Thus far in 2017 (7/1/2017-12/1/2017) three hundred forty-nine (349) consumers have been served, resulting in one-hundred-sixty-nine (169) successful closures (employed), with one-hundred-eighty (180) cases in service status. SIF+LRS funds expended during this period were \$616,156.77. 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. At the October SIF Board Meeting the Board moved to allocate the fully 1% of the fund to LRS to authorize for qualified consumers.

Contracts: LRS currently has nine Third Party Cooperative Arrangements (TPCAs) for Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) with Local Education Agencies in the State. Most recently, one was approved with Virtual Academy of Lafourche. LRS is working on one with Bossier Parish School Board.

Independent Living:

- LRS is concerned about the impact of a request by the DHHS in the FY 18 Federal Budget to fund a new grant program, Partnership for Innovation, Inclusion, and Independence. This grant would combine State Councils on Developmental Disabilities, Independent Living State Grants (that support SILCs) and State Advisory Boards on TBI Partnership Grants.
- A Concurrent Resolution was passed in October and a portion of the Independent Living State Grant was released to continue services at the start of FFY 2018

Louisiana Rehabilitation Council:

- The LRC held a meeting on October 26, 2017 at Embassy Suites Hotel in Baton Rouge from 9am to 4pm. Meeting dates and other information about the LRC can be found on their webpage located at http://www.laworks.net/workforcedev/lrs/lrs_lrc.asp
- Next meeting of the LRC is January 25, 2018 from 9am to 4pm. Location TBD.

Randolph-Sheppard: Interviews were conducted and a recommendation for a Randolph Sheppard Manager has been made for the Randolph-Sheppard location at Federal City in New Orleans.