

## **Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS) LRS Director's Quarterly Report March 2018**

**Social Security/Ticket to Work:** Social Security TTW is ongoing and it appears we will make our projected goal for this SFY. LRS State Office continues to stay in contact with the regional offices asking them to check their list of open cases monthly to ensure we don't have any TTW open cases that need to be closed. The TTW Program Coordinator will also be traveling to Region 6 in March 2017 to do an in-service on TTW and how to avoid untimely closures.

A VR call to SS was held in January 2018. The next one is scheduled for April 10, 2018.

**Employment Initiative:** Meeting employers through SHRMS and various job fairs 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 involved in the re-entry job fair for newly released inmates held in Baton Rouge and attended one of their coalition meetings. The Program Coordinator also attended a job fair for Veterans that was held in the Superdome. Furthermore, the Assistant Secretary of State Parks reached out to LRS and informed us about the seasonal positions that become available every spring throughout Louisiana State Parks. The Program Coordinator reached out to all the managers of all the State parks in Louisiana and expressed our commitment in distributing the information regarding the seasonal positions to the clients that we serve.

The following is a partial list of the Employment Development/Community Activities that the REDS participate in:

- Veterans Job Fair Committee Meeting
- Women's and Northwest Re-entry meetings
- Veterans Employment Council meetings
- Acadian SHRMS

## Results of Successful closures for REDS since July 1, 2017

Region	Number of placements	Number of Successful placements (stayed employed for at least 90 days)
Region 4	20	13
Region 5	10	8
Region 7	33	12
Totals	63	33

**Pre-Employment Transition Services:** Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS) provides Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) to students with disabilities between the ages of 16 and 21 with an active Individualized Education Plan (IEP), meeting the definition of a student with a disability as covered under Section 504, or students who have a documented disability. Pre-ETS include Job Exploration Counseling, Work-Based Learning Experiences, Counseling on Post-Secondary Opportunities, Workplace Readiness Training and Training on Self Advocacy. LRS is currently serving over 3,800 students statewide.

LRS currently has active Third Party Cooperative Agreements (TPCA) with ten (10) local or state education providers to provide Pre-ETS. LRS has been approached and sent TPCA templates and instructions to four (4) new interested Local Education Associations in the months of January and February of 2018.

LRS is continuing to work with the Louisiana Department of Education to provide Pre-ETS to students in the Jobs for America Graduates (JAG) program. LRS is currently providing those services in 27 parishes, one (1) virtual school (University View Academy), one (1) community college (SLCC) and three (3) Jefferson Parish Chamber sites. LRS has provided Pre-ETS to almost 500 JAG participants. LRS is in the process of updating the State-Level Agreement between Louisiana Department of Education and Louisiana Workforce Commission/Office of Workforce Development/LRS.

**Training:** Statewide training was completed in December 2017. Each region was presented with updates and commended on accomplishments met. Future trainings were discussed and outlined. Each region will receive another visit from the AWARE team to train on new updates and changes to the AWARE program to better align with the 911 data requirements.

**Contracts:** Currently 10 TPCA's are providing Pre-ETS services around in the State. The latest approved are the Virtual Academy of Lafourche and Bossier Parish School Board.

**Independent Living:** LRS assisted the SILC to complete their annual 704 Report to the Administration for Community Living (ACL) that included the progress made on the IL State Plan for goals.

**Louisiana Rehabilitation Council:**

- Meeting on April 26, 2018 at L'Auberge Hotel Meeting Center in Baton Rouge from 9am to 4pm
- Next meeting dates are July 26, 2018 and October 25, 2018.
- The Council has 24 members with 2 openings remaining. One opening is for Business, Industry and Labor and one representative is needed from the Parent Training and Information Center

**State Plan:** The 2018 State Plan updates were completed in January and February. The draft can be found at LWC website below and was open for public comment until March 15<sup>th</sup>.

[http://www.laworks.net/PublicRelations/WIOA\\_StatePlan.asp](http://www.laworks.net/PublicRelations/WIOA_StatePlan.asp)