

**Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS)
LRS Director's Quarterly Report
March 2021**

PROGRAM SERVICES

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. 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 approximately 2,858 students statewide. This includes providing Pre-ETS in 53 of the 64 parishes and over 340 schools systems in the state.

Also, LRS currently has 13 active Third Party Cooperative Arrangements (TPCA) with local or state education providers to provide Pre-ETS and is continuing to pursue additional TPCA's.

Vocational Rehabilitation:

Vocational Rehabilitation Consumer Statistics (for current quarter):	
Number of Applications	926
Number of Eligibility/Delayed	819
Number of New IPEs	653
Number of Closed Rehab (Successful Closures)	343
Total Open VR cases as of March 31st	8,696
Total Open Pre-ETS cases as of March 31st	2,304

DD Open VR Cases: As of March 31, 2021

Disability Cause	New Orleans	Baton Rouge	Houma	Lafayette	Lake Charles	Alexandria	Shreveport	Monroe	Total
Autism	191	138	45	54	26	29	43	23	549
Cerebral Palsy	30	32	10	10	10	19	28	6	145
Intellectual Disabilities	195	54	28	28	34	41	67	39	486
Specific Learning Disabilities	304	230	63	19	7	95	105	184	1,007
Total	720	454	146	111	77	184	243	252	2,187

DD Closed Rehabilitated Cases: January 1, 2021 thru March 31, 2021

Case Status	Case Type	Disability Cause	Total
Closed-Rehab	VR	Autism	15
		Cerebral Palsy	8
		Intellectual Disabilities	22
		Specific Learning Disabilities	18
Total:			63

REDS Report, July 2020 – February 2021

Region	Number of Community Activities/ Employer Contacts	Number of OJT Contracts	Employment Placements	Successful Closures	The number of consumers currently assigned
Region 2 (New REDS)	26	0	2	0	6 (obtained first referral on November 23, 2020)
Region 4 (New REDS)	18	0	0	0	10 (3 referrals are employed, but they are working with our REDS to search for a better employment opportunity)
Region 5	48	0	4	1	Prior to the Hurricane Laura, this REDS was working with roughly 50 consumers. At the present time, she is working with 4 consumers that are looking for employment. The other referrals are not interested in looking for employment until they are back in their homes.
Region 7	21	67	58	29	Approximately 184 referrals
Region 8 (New REDS)	183	0	0	0	8 (had one referral in December, two in January, then 6 additional referrals in February)
Totals	296	67	64	30	

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Louisiana Rehabilitation Council (LRC):

The next LRC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 29th. The location is undetermined and is dependent on the Governor’s proclamation. Meeting information will be posted to the Boards and Commissions’ website.

Rehabilitation Employment Development Specialist (REDS):

LRS is in the process of hiring Rehabilitation Employment Development Specialist (REDS) for all regions. We are still seeking applicants in New Orleans, Houma, and Alexandria.

Training:

Staff have been engaged in numerous training opportunities during the last quarter. We are currently participating in Financial Capability Training to better prepare Counselors to assist Consumers with setting financial goals and working towards financial security. This training will include setting up a budget, current work incentives, Social Security information, improving credit rating, understanding debt, ways to protect your identity, and much more. Helping Consumers understand their finances and how to make wise financial decisions is one step closer to financial wellness.

Several Counselors are also involved in a pilot project with Southern University/WINTAC/E3 Grant to focus on Integrated Resource Teams. This project is designed to assist Counselors in bringing more resources to the table at one-time versus seeking individual resources. Many consumers need wrap-around services in order to be successful in employment and if all parties can come to the table at the same time, it's a more efficient way of addressing the services available from each resource.

LRS staff have had the opportunity to complete the training for Adult Mental Health First Aid. This training has been offered several times and numerous staff have taken this opportunity and successfully fulfilled the requirements. This training is a part of the E3 Grant through Southern University.

Our staff have become proficient in meeting consumers virtually. We are working our way to becoming a paperless system, and we are looking forward to adding electronic signature pads to our system in near future.

On March 31, 2021, Brenda Bohrer presented to SHRMS Civil Service on the topic "Working with your State Vocational Rehabilitation Agency Can Benefit You." This was a great collaboration to help better explain the benefits of vocational rehabilitation.