



Louisiana Rehabilitation Council

Meeting Minutes July 24 and 25, 2014

Thursday, July 24, 2014

Present	<p><i>Members:</i> Pam Allen, Cassidy Byles, Tommy Carnline, Pranab Choudhury, Karla Cummings, Lanor Curole, David Gallegos, Ronald Key, Billie Ruth Kvaternik, Bob Lobos, Pat Mascarella, Libby Murphy, Laura Nata, Kay Wilson, Derek White</p> <p><i>Ex officio:</i> Mark Martin, LRS Director</p> <p><i>Non-member staff:</i> Paige Kelly (Liaison), Teresa Milner, Judy Trahan, Rosemary Yesso, Eddie Givens</p>
Absent	<p><i>Members:</i> Gayla Guidry, Larry Dale, Laura Meaux</p> <p><i>Ex officio:</i> Jean Hansen</p>
Guests	Lynn Blanchard, Brandy Garison, Carrie Hicks, Shelly Taylor, Renee Vidrine, Maxine Creel, Celina Newman, Trevor Barber, Crystal Harper
Meeting Location	Wingate by Wyndham, 228 Blanchard Drive, West Monroe, LA
Call to Order	The meeting was called to order at 12:40 p.m., and a quorum established.
Minutes	Motion to approve April 3-4, 2014, meeting minutes made by Derek White, seconded by Pranab Choudhury, and approved without abstention or objection.
Presentation	On behalf of the LRC, the Chair presented Derek White with a plaque in appreciation of his two years of service as Chair.
Liaison Report	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. FY2015 budget is \$27,000. FY2014 budget was \$27,000, of which approximately \$17,000 was expended. Unexpended funds are returned to client services. Karla Cummings motioned for approval of the budget; Derek White seconded; motion carried without abstention or opposition.2. The LRC had five vacancies. Two applicants have been approved and are awaiting appointment; therefore, three vacancies remain.
Chair Report	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The October 2014 meeting will include a presentation about the Disability Employment Initiative, a project of the Social Security Administration in which Louisiana is a Phase 3

participant.

2. Bob Lobos is leading the effort to develop a strong relationship between the Workforce Investment Council (WIC) and LRC.
3. The Chair thanked the members for their successful efforts to have the LRS FY2015 budget cut restored.

Executive Committee Recommendations (EC)

1. Motion made by Derek White to base the 2015 legislative advocacy agenda on achieving full funding for LRS, including pursuing information to develop a fully focused agenda; seconded by Lanor Curole; passed without abstention or objection. The LRC concurred with the EC without abstention or objection.
2. Motion made by Derek White that the LRC Federal agenda for 2015 will focus on development of regulations for the WIOA; seconded by Lanor Curole; passed without abstention or objection. The LRC concurred with the EC without abstention or objection.

LRS Director's Report

1. The deadline for final rules for WIOA implementation is January 2016. VR is job-focused in areas where there is labor demand, requiring use of occupational forecasts.
2. Emphasized the \$762,000 restored to the LRS FY2015 budget means level funding, not additional funds; additional funds are needed.
3. Effective July 1, 2014, opened Orders of Selection 2 and 3. Updating economic need statement to allow more people to qualify for services. Goal is to establish a sliding scale of economic need.
4. LRS received a \$50,000 grant for the supported employment program.
5. Requested that any LRC member contacted about the Randolph Sheppard Vendors Program should include the LRS Director in the conversation. Bob Lobos motioned, seconded by Karla Cummings, that all media inquiries should be referred to Mark Martin. Motion passed without abstention or objection.
6. Concerns about negative impact on VR by RSA doing away with regional TACE centers to consolidate into one entity. Derek White motioned LRC recommend RSA continue providing technical assistance for significant disability issues and continuing education through regional centers through state VR offices; Lanor Curole seconded; passed without abstention or objection. Derek White will write a letter on LRC's behalf to RSA.
7. At the Director's request, the Council approved without objection that funds may be expended for the Chair to attend the NCSRC and CSAVR.

8. Effective January 1, 2014, every master counselor now has independent approval status; given them autonomy, can do their own eligibilities, expediting services and reducing redundancies.
9. AWARE is the agency's case management system is several upgrades behind, causing major problems such as being unable to complete federal reports. The maintenance contract was not approved. The Director requested a letter of support from the Council. Derek White motioned the Chair is authorized to write a letter on behalf of the Council, if needed by the Director, in support of maintaining and continuing the AWARE case management system; Karla Cummings seconded; motion passed without abstention or objection.

Client Assistance
Program (CAP) Report

David Gallegos reported with opening of additional orders of selection, seeing a spike in clients being unhappy with their counselors, primarily in the Baton Rouge and New Orleans area, and related to employment goals. Director Martin will look into the matter.

Training Presentation

LRS representatives Teresa Milner and Judy Trahan discussed federal regulations pertaining to orders of selection.

Consumer Presentation

LRS consumer shared how he became disabled and his experiences with LRS.

Member Reports

1. AIVRP – Lanor Curole reported there are several issues on a national scale. There has been a long standing issue about who is eligible to be served. RSA has proposed language that will allow current programs to continue to serve. Public comment is being taken until August 22, 2014, on two RSA alternatives pertaining to eligibility; Alternative A retains historical eligibility, Alternative B narrows the definition. AIVRP supports Alternative A. Council members are invited to attend the 6th Annual Powwow; this year the focus is on diabetes.
2. IDEA – Kay Wilson reported 291 waivers were approved this year for students with disabilities. The program received the most applications ever. Derek White mentioned Act 833 of the 2014 Regular Legislative Session provides for determinations for grade level promotion of certain students with disabilities regarding performance on state tests and provides for calculations of school performance scores for these students; the act goes into effect August 1, 2014. School districts are scrambling to implement for the beginning of the school year in two weeks.
3. LAPTIC – Laura Nata reported LAPTIC cannot inform the public about Act 833 other than it is the law. LAPTIC is receiving calls now about the act. They are awaiting a response from the Department of Education. The law may be inconsistent

with federal requirements.

4. WIC – Bob Lobos reported the Chair of the WIC, Charles Moniotte, is a champion of the workforce, and is bringing together employers and educators. LRC is in dialogues with the WIC to include people with disabilities becoming gainfully employed and participating in the current economic development boon.
5. SILC – no report was given in the absence of the SILC representative.

Recess to Committees Recessed to Committees at 4:17 p.m.

Friday, July 25, 2014

Call to Order The meeting was called to order at 8:33 a.m. and a quorum was established.

Training Presentation Derek White discussed the history of VR, the mandate and procedures for state rehabilitation councils, and parliamentary procedure. Out of the presentation a discussion arose and a motion was made by Bob Lobos that LRC reports will be submitted in writing two weeks prior to the next meeting for dissemination to the Council, and verbal reports at the meeting will focus on the highlights of the report; seconded by Cassidy Byles; the motion passed with no abstentions or objections.

- Standing Committee Reports**
1. Eligibility and Planning – Committee Chair Lanor Curole reported discussion about development of recommendations on the concerns about services, requesting the LRS Director to send proposed changes so the Committee can provide feedback. The Committee will look at specific areas and do research, including recommendations about order of selection, recommendations for consumers with substance abuse, and how criminal backgrounds are identified. Mark Martin agreed to provide the relevant information to the Committee. Ronald Key has previously provided substance abuse considerations.
 2. Education – Committee Chair Derek White reported discussion about data and ways to dig further into specific information. The Committee also discussed transition, monitoring third party agreements, and looking at better ways to do things, including replicating what is working (e.g., the transition program at Bossier Parish Community College, the transition program in Texas).
 3. Outreach – Committee Chair Pam Allen reported the Committee agreed that the top priority will be making the LRS portion of the LWC website richer in content with improved accessibility. Social media presence is on the long range agenda.

- Consumer Presentation** Dillon Wayne Brown shared his story about how he became disabled after suffering a traumatic brain injury. He is currently not an LRS consumer and shared his story to learn about how LRS can possibly help him return to work.
- New Business**
1. Next meeting October 30-31, 2014, in Metairie.
 2. Future meetings
 - January 29-30, 2015, Houma-Thibodeaux
 - April 23-24, 2015, Baton Rouge
 - July 23-24, 2015, Alexandria
 3. Paige will get clarification about Council member requirements for ethics reporting and share the information at the next meeting.
- Adjourn** Derek White motioned to adjourn, seconded by ???, the Council adjourned at 11:51 a.m. without objection.

Summary of Motions

1. Minutes of April 3-4, 2014 meeting approved. Derek White motioned; Pranab Choudhury seconded; passed without abstention or objection.
2. The FY15 LRC budget is approved at \$27,000. Karla Cummings motioned; Derek White seconded; passed without abstention or objection.
3. The 2015 legislative advocacy agenda will focus on achieving full funding for LRS, including pursuing information to develop a fully focused agenda. Derek White motioned; Lanor Curole seconded; passed EC without abstention or objection; LRC concurred without abstention or objection.
4. The LRC Federal agenda for 2015 will focus on development of regulations for the WIOA. Derek White motioned; Lanor Curole seconded; passed EC without abstention or objection; LRC concurred without abstention or objection.
5. LRC recommends RSA continue providing technical assistance for significant disability issues and continuing education through regional centers through state VR offices. Derek White motioned; Lanor Curole seconded; passed without abstention or objection.
6. All media inquiries received by Council members should be referred to the LRS Director; this procedure will be included in the LRC Operations Manual. Bob Lobos motioned; Karla Cummings seconded; passed without abstention or objection.
7. LRC reports will be submitted in writing two weeks prior to the next meeting for dissemination to the Council, and verbal reports at the meeting will focus on the highlights of the report. Bob Lobos motioned; Cassidy Byles seconded; passed without abstention or objection.

Glossary of Abbreviations

AIVRP American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation Program

CAP Client Assistance Program
CSAVR Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation
EC Executive Committee of the Louisiana Rehabilitation Council
IDEA Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
LAPTIC Louisiana Parent Training and Information Center
LRC Louisiana Rehabilitation Council
LRS Louisiana Rehabilitation Services
LWC Louisiana Workforce Commission
NCSRC National Coalition of State Rehabilitation Councils
RSA Rehabilitation Services Administration
TACE Technical Assistance and Continuing Education
VR Vocational Rehabilitation
WIC Workforce Investment Council
WIOA Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014