

Louisiana Rehabilitation Council  
General Committee Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 9:00 AM CT  
Hampton Inn & Suites  
11271 Reiger Road  
Baton Rouge, LA 70809

Members Present: Yakima Black, Stephen Carrier, Warren Chauvin, Laura Nata, Michelle Ned, Brian Patchett, Donna Reno, Marvin Rush, Laura Stazio, Megan Thompson, Ashley Volion, Lauren Womack, Roszella Viltz, and Alexis Young

Members Absent: Rikki David, Jamar Ennis (sent proxy), Suzanne Lentz, Susan Nelson, Lynn Stevens, Brian Wood, Nicole Poiencot, and Melissa Bayham.

Guests Present: Fred Pape (LRC Liaison), Lynsey Hebert (Captionist), Kelsey Campbell, Kelly Monroe, Sandra Manuel, Patrick Holmes

#### Call to Order

9:17am We have quorum. Brian moves to begin the meeting and Alexis second the motion. Council Introductions. Brian motions to accept the June 2023 minutes and Nicole seconds the motions.

#### Presentation

Fred will be doing a presentation on Pre-ETS. Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) are activities designed for students with disabilities. Pre-ETS support the career development process to increase the success of students with disabilities in obtaining employment after graduation from high school. These services can start at 16 years of age and up to age twenty-two. The VR Counselor provides counseling and guidance throughout the process. They also work together with educators and other people supporting the student in the schools. To be eligible for Pre-ETS you have to have an IEP, and IAP, or a note from the doctor. Now students can get 96 units of work readiness training. A unit is considered 45 minutes.

A VR case can be opened at the age of 16. Employers can hire students in these programs, the cost is covered through VR or Pre-ETS. Pre-ETS can provide IT. 3,000 students in LA with active services. 3 parishes provide Pre-ETS Services. Currently have 26 Pre-ETS vendors in LA. Most students are interested in guidance, counseling, job development, employment services, etc.

#### Old Business

##### LRC Membership Updates:

There were no new applications received. Two new members are present today, Lauren and Roszella. Several new members start next month. The vacancy we have is for federal section 121.

#### Consumer Satisfaction Survey:

The survey has been complete. Feedback was taken and what could be done was. In the future the survey can be reviewed again. Fred now has a list of all email addresses for clients from LRS Aware and will send out the update survey to them. He will put the survey in Survey Monkey by next month. After the survey is done, someone from the Committee will need to call those who asked to talk more to the survey takers about additional concerns. Donna said she was interested in helping there.

#### Vendor Coalition Update:

We will not talk about this since Lynn is not here.

#### Bylaw Review-LRS Director Term Exemption:

The LRS Director is now officially exempt from term limits. She is still not a voting member.

#### Public Comment

None

#### New Business

##### Ethics Training Requirement:

Every Board Member must do an ethics training by December 31, 2023. It takes about 30-40 minutes. Fred will resend the link. Warren, Laura S, and Michelle have submitted their certificates.

##### Establish Orientation Training Date:

October 25 (orientation)-The room for the LWC will be used. The LRC Meeting date is on the 26th, probably starting at 9am for about 4 hours.

##### October Meeting Date Reminder: (photo will be taken)

October 26 (meeting)- Take a group shot picture to put on the LWC website in the LRC section.

##### Bylaw Review-Virtual Meetings Law Change:

Act 393-effective 8/1/2023-The chair still needs to be at a specific place instead of being virtual. Only 1 of the meetings can be totally virtual. More conversation will need to be had here. Things within the law are not clear. We will ask Jamar or hold an Ad Hoc Meeting to discuss. Brian will lead the committee along with Ashley, Lauren, and Laura Stazio. He will set up a Zoom.

#### Update:

Fred's role will be changing. Courtney Ryland will be the next Liaison.

#### Public Comment

None

LRS Director's Report      Melissa is absent. The report was shared. Fred read the report. There are 8,593 open VR cases. 2,940 open Pre-ETS cases. The Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) monitoring is underway. LRS currently has 32 vacant positions, which includes 22 rehab counselors. They conducted a statewide virtual training for Pre-ETS vendors. They are conducting a virtual job fair.

#### Standing Committee Meetings/ Reports

Moving forward we may begin meeting prior and make it public and then just report out at these meetings.

- Transition (Donna, Laura, Warren, Megan, Susan, Nicole)  
(N/A)
- Eligibility (Yakima, Suzanne, Alexis, Brian W, Brian P, Lauren, Roszella)  
(N/A)
- Employment (Ashley, Laura, Lynn, Marvin, Stephen, Patrick, Michelle)  
(N/A)

Brian moves to wait to have the standing committees until the Ad Hoc Meeting. Megan offers a second. No one is opposed. Brian will share the information with the chair of each Committee.

#### Reports

Client Assistance Program (CAP): Patrick

Working on an outreach plan for 2024 to get their name out. They are still looking for someone to take the federal 121 spot. Lauren has someone who might fill the federal spot. He will be officially joining next month's meeting. Currently, there are 27 open CAP cases. They meet with people virtually or in person.

Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA): Megan

Use the Educational Progress and Investment Chart that reflects the LDOE's three major commitments (priority-based, investments make a collective impact, and are accountable).

Statewide student outcomes by system and student group

Progress monitoring of LDOE's key objectives and indicators

School System ESSER investments and student outcomes

Family Summer Support Toolkit

Scholarship Programs (Office of School Choice) [studentscholarships@la.gov](mailto:studentscholarships@la.gov)

State Independent Living Council (SILC):

SILC and the three centers for Independent Living are currently working on the federally mandated Three Year State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL). SILC is no longer in the Office of the Governor. They are working on their own website to create awareness. They are looking into conducting job fairs. Fundraising is now a necessity since they are no longer a part of the Governor's Office. The next meeting is August 2-3, 2023.

Workforce Investment Council (WIC):

(N/A)

State ADA Coordinator's Report:  
(N/A)

Chair's Report: The LRC recruiting flyer has been updated.

Laura S, Brian P, Donna R, and Lynn participated in the RSA offsite review of LRS. They talked about funding and what was done with funds. They asked challenges in the state regarding service delivery. They also asked about strengths. They said other states were having the same issue.

Lynn worked with Fred to finalize the consumer survey.

What happened to the college program where people could get their Master's for free if they would then become a counselor? Also, why isn't something done for the states that have to continuously return funds? The RSA facilitator offered to join a meeting virtually. We think we should invite him to the next meeting.

Yakima moves to discuss the funding as it related to vendors, marketing, staffing historically during the next Eligibility and Planning Meeting. Brian P seconds the motion.

Laura N shared a flyer and information about an upcoming training.

Adjourn - 12:21 p.m. Brian P. moves to end the meeting and Warren seconded the motion. No one is opposed. The meeting ended.