



Louisiana Rehabilitation Council

P.O. Box 91297
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-9297

General Meeting Minutes

October 25, 2018

Lod Cook Conference Center, 3838 W. Lakeshore Dr., Baton Rouge LA 70820

Thursday, October 25, 2018

Members Present Robert Lobos, Warren Chauvin, Sue Killam, Jessica Lewis, Brian Wood, Alexis Young, Paul Genco, Krista Scurria, Melissa Bayham, Tarj Hamilton, Nicole Walker, Eleanor Murrell, Suzanne Lentz, Dina Perkins, Marvin Rush, Megan Thompson, Gay Young

Members Absent Glyn Butler, Tommy Carnline, Nan Magness, Cliff Owens, Libby Murphy, Cathy Lazarus, Alexis Young

Liaison Kandy Baker

Guests Present Teresa Milner, Stephen Johnston, Bambi Polotzola, April Dunn, April Rollins, Lauren Womack, Courtney Ryland, Paul Rhorer, Wyclif Oguma, Kim Kennedy, Janae Burr

Motivational Minute Moment of reflection.

Call to Order The general meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Chauvin at 9:10 a.m. with a quorum.

Minutes Motion to approve July 2018 LRC General Meeting Minutes was made by Killam, seconded by Lobos. Motion Passed without abstention or objection.

Public Comment Wyclif Oguma, Occupational Therapist, from Kenya introduced himself and explained that he is in the U.S. for a 5-week fellowship program to learn about employment programs for youth with disabilities. His mentors are Sue Killam and Phil Wilson with the LSU Human Development Center.

LRS Director's Reports Melissa Bayham, new LRS Director, introduced herself to the Council. She and members of her executive team will travel to the Regional Offices to meet with staff. LRS is in the process of hiring new rehabilitation counselors and associates to increase service capacity. Order of Selection (OOS) Group 3 opened on October 1, 2018, as a result of receiving additional state general funds from the legislature. LRS was also able to restore rates for books and small business development. After receiving more guidance from RSA on Pre-employment



Louisiana Rehabilitation Council

P.O. Box 91297
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-9297

General Meeting Minutes

October 25, 2018

Lod Cook Conference Center, 3838 W. Lakeshore Dr., Baton Rouge LA 70820

transition services (Pre-ETS), third-party cooperative arrangements with school districts for Pre-ETS services will be evaluated individually for reasonableness of cost. Changes to these agreements may be necessary and/or terminations could occur.

- Chair Report LRC Executive Committee held a strategic planning session on October 11, 2018. Priorities for the year are: serving more consumers with the emphasis on quality; advocacy and education of the public as to what LRS does for the disabled citizens of LA; try to establish a plan on how to assist those consumers who do not fall into the "normal" course of assistance who may be falling through the cracks; and re-vamping of the assignments to the committees of the LRC. Assignments will be given to the subcommittees as the need arises.
- Presentation Bambi Polotzola, Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs, provided an update on the State as a Model Employer (SAME) Initiative
- Standing Committee The LRC recessed to Standing Committees
- Old Business None
- Liaison Report Membership: 23 seats filled; 3 vacancies: 1 Business, Industry and Labor and 1 Parent Training and Information Center and 1 Project 121.
- Standing Committee Reports Eligibility and Planning – see attached minutes
Employment Committee - see attached minutes
Transition Committee - see attached minutes
- Member Reports IDEA report- Thompson stated that DOE is working on updating the individual graduation plans and completing the annual performance report. The Special Education Dept. is creating a transition guide for high school students. BESE recently approved a strategic framework created by the special school districts to improve programs and services for children with special needs. Besse also adopted the Every Student



Louisiana Rehabilitation Council

P.O. Box 91297
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-9297

General Meeting Minutes

October 25, 2018

Lod Cook Conference Center, 3838 W. Lakeshore Dr., Baton Rouge LA 70820

Succeeds Act (ESSA) which is a new accountability measure for alternative schools. The LA DOE publishes current information in newsletters available on their website and by subscription.

SILC report- Lewis reported the SILC has 6 new members. The next SILC meeting will be the first week of the second month of the quarter. The SILC will hold 2 public hearings as part of the development of their next State Plan. The SILC is working collaboratively with stakeholders to accomplish SILC goals. Activities include a SILC/Rev Up Tour of the state to educate individuals with disabilities about independent living center services and voter registration. In October, National Disability Employment Awareness month, the SILC is putting together an Inclusion Job and resource fair in Baton Rouge on October 30.

WIC report- Lobos reported that the WIC will meet in December and a report will be provided at the January LRC meeting.

CAP report- Baker provided the report for Butler. CAP noted an increase in complaints that are misunderstandings between clients and LRS counselors and these can be easily resolved. CAP has seen an increase in clients wanting to pursue a college degree and told it is not a viable goal or clients are already gainfully employed. Also, an increase is noted in clients needing post-employment services. CAP has seen an increase in clients stating the vendors are not helping them to locate jobs as they should or matched to jobs that don't suit their abilities. CAP is addressing cases in which reasonable decisions have not been reached. CAP provided representation at one fair hearing and one administrative review. As part of outreach, CAP will have an information table at the SILC job fair. CAP is requesting to be included in LRS meetings regarding transition-related topics, issues, or planning.

New Business Scurria expressed concerns regarding accessibility, such as bus routes, parking, building access, and privacy concerns with the LRS Baton Rouge Regional Office when it moves to the LWC main campus.



Louisiana Rehabilitation Council

P.O. Box 91297
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-9297

General Meeting Minutes

October 25, 2018

Lod Cook Conference Center, 3838 W. Lakeshore Dr., Baton Rouge LA 70820

Future meeting dates January 24, 2019, April 25, 2019, and July 25, 2019.
Meeting date added to the schedule: October 24, 2019.

Adjourn Lobos motioned to adjourn, seconded by Walker and the Council adjourned without objection.

APPENDIX A

Summary of Decisions Made

1. SFY 2019 LRC Executive Committee elected:
 - Chairperson: Tommy Carnline
 - Vice Chairperson: Warren Chauvin
 - Secretary: Tarj Hamilton
 - Member at Large: Nicole Walker
 - Employment Committee Chairperson: Krista Scurria
 - Transition Committee Chairperson: Sue Killam
 - Eligibility and Planning Committee Chairperson: Gay Young

APPENDIX B

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

LRC Subcommittee Meeting Minutes, October 25, 2018

Planning & Eligibility Committee

Present: Eleanor Murrell, Paul Genco, Gay Young

Committee members present voiced their appreciation and excitement over Category 3 clients of LRS having been made eligible for services. Eleanor shared that there is a 90 day limit for having made clients eligible to having a completed plan for services. Eleanor agreed to share the guidelines LRS uses to establish eligibility for the different categories. Gay also mentioned that it might be possible for the committee to check with other states for best practices to make sure eligible individuals are aware that there are services available to them to help them gain meaningful employment.

Submitted by Gay Young, Chair, Planning and Eligibility Subcommittee

Employment Committee

Members Present: Jessica Lewis, Brian Wood, Krista Scurria, Marvin Rush, Dina Perkins, Nicole Walker

The meeting was called to order by Marvin Rush

Motion was passes to approve the July meeting minutes as presented. Motion by Brian approved by Marvin.

- List Vendors on website and have annual renewal
- Reach out to Angela Montgomery regarding mandatory vendor training
- Consider CEU credits for employers with training
- Are there background checks for employers?
- Arrange teleconference or in person meeting with Angela and committee regarding present process of choosing vendors and acquiring their current status with LRS
- Create testimonials for potential employers
- Meeting was adjourned by Marvin and seconded by Dina

Action: Get clarification on our directive

Submitted by Krista Scurria, Chair, Employment Subcommittee

Transition Committee Meeting

In attendance: Sue Killam (Chair), Warren Chauvin, Megan (DOE) Suzanne Lentz

Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE): Megan is the new LA DOE

representative to the LRC and will also serve on the Transition Committee.

Megan and the committee discussed;

1. the LA DOE graduation performance data,
2. issues with LRS going into some of the schools, and,
3. "Transition planning" and specifically, providing LRS with the data of transitioning students.

The committee also discussed two previously discussed topics;

- Asking LRS to post the complete list of CRP/vendors on their website by region (similar to the LDH OCDD Freedom of Choice listing),
- developing a vendor ranking/rating scale

Submitted by Sue Killam, Chair, Transition Subcommittee