



Louisiana Rehabilitation Council

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

General Meeting Minutes

July 27, 2017

Embassy Suites

4914 Constitution Blvd. Baton Rouge LA 70808

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Thursday, July 27, 2017

Members Present	Tommy Carnline, Nicole Walker, Warren Chauvin, Sue Killam, Cathy Lazarus, Glyn Butler, Tarj Hamilton, Cliff Owens, Gay Young, Paul Genco, Krista Scurria
Members Absent	Mark Martin, Cassidy Byles, Lanor Curole, Nan Magness, Dina Perkins, Rebecca Hanberry, Jessica Lewis, Bob Lobos & Libby Murphy
Liaison	Kandy Baker
Guests Present	Teresa Milner, Ken York, Melissa Bayham, Chris Anthony, Bambi Polotzola, David Gallegos, Lynn Blanchard, Derek White, Laura Jumonville, Sarah Gardner, James Dosey, Scott Hoffman, Clair Shahi, Miyako Lee, Daniel Burch, Rhea Mertz
Call to Order	The general meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m. with a quorum.
Minutes	Motion Passed to approve April 2017 minutes LRC General Meeting Minutes was made by Warren Chauvin, seconded by Nicole Walker and approved without abstention or objection.
LRS Director's Report	Ken York presented the LRS report in the absence of Mark Martin. Ken discussed the LRS budget and services and thanked the LRC for all the advocacy and education efforts to raise awareness for the need for LRS funding. Ken discussed the 1.6 million dollar budget cut and impact to "traditional" VR services. All Orders of Selection (OOS) Groups are still closed. Early in July 1,000 individuals in OOS Group 1 were pulled from the waiting list by date of application. Plan to pull more off the waiting list as can be successfully managed due our staff capacity. Provided information related to the LRS budget figures and expenditures. Teresa Miler also provided information on the Statewide Comprehensive Needs Assessment and requested feedback by August 15, 2017.

The LRC recessed to Committees at 10:05 a.m.

Approved 1/25/2018



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Standing Committee Reports

Committee reports discussed and included as addenda.

Eligibility and Planning – Cathy Lazarus

Employment Committee - Nicole Walker

Motion Passed: Have LRC form a group to meet with LRS to include strategies and receivable services for individuals with disabilities at One Stops. Increase access to individuals with disabilities at the One Stops. Sue Killam made the motion and Warren Chauvin seconded it. Approved without objection or abstention.

Tommy Carnline reminded members that part of their role is to visit at least one Business and Career Solution Center in their area each year to become familiar with their services and report back to the Council.

Transition Committee – Warren Chauvin

Liaison Report

Membership report: 20 seats filled and 6 vacancies. 6 new members. Majority of membership are individuals with disabilities. 2 LRS recipients who completed the LRC satisfaction survey and spoke to an LRC member, completed LRC applications. They are from areas of the state we were seeking representation on the Council.

Chair's Report

Tommy Carnline discussed the follow up calls made by LRC members to those LRS consumers requesting telephone contact from the consumer satisfaction survey. All follow up calls were completed. The By Laws will be updated and Kandy will e-mail the revised document for your review. It will be reviewed at the next Executive Committee meeting and once approved, voted on at the next LRC meeting.

Speaker

Lauren Jumonville with Baton Rouge Area Foundation presented a new free, easy to use, online interactive



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disability resource guide called Exceptional Lives Louisiana. The website will be launched in August 2017.

Consumer
Presentation

Mr. Scott Hoffman, LRS client

Member
Reports

Member Reports discussed and included as addenda.

SILC report - provided in advance and attached

CAP report – provided in advance and attached

WIC report – provided in advance and attached. Tommy Carnline presented WIC report and referenced the transcript of Robert Lobos' comments at the WIC meeting (attached).

New
Business

Future meeting dates: October 26, 2017, January 25, 2018 & April 26, 2018

Public
Comment

None

Adjourn

Sue Killam motioned to adjourn, seconded by Paul Genco and the Council adjourned at 4:03 p.m., without objection.

N.B. The contact person to send out all information or requests, etc. to VR staff is the LRC State Office Liaison



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APPENDIX A

Summary of Decisions Made

1. The LRC will have interpreters available at every LRC meeting for at least the two hour minimum and on call for the rest of the meeting.
2. The Chair referred discussions on the following topics to the Transition Committee to deliver recommendations to the full body on providing input to the Director.
 1. Edits to proposed requirements to become a PETS provider
4. The Chair referred discussions on increasing access to Social Security employment programs in Louisiana to the Eligibility and Planning Committee to deliver recommendations to the full body.
5. LRC will develop and adopt a format of roles and responsibilities for its members and have the Executive Committee report recommendations to the council at the next meeting.
6. Elected Officers: Chair, Bob Lobos; Vice-Chair, Tommy Carnline; Secretary, Sue Killam; Eligibility and Planning Committee Chair, Cathy Lazarus; Employment Committee Chair, Nicole Walker; Transition Committee Chair, Warren Hebert, Member-at-large, Libby Murphy (immediate past Chair).
7. The LRC requests a status report from the Director to keep the LRC apprised of the current situation of how cuts will be applied and that LRC be involved to the extent necessary or helpful.
8. The LRC requests field personnel be asked to make recommendations (e.g. what's working well, where cuts should be, tightening eligibility for VR, spending limits, shared cost, eligibility criteria for specific services, etc.).



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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
IL	Independent Living
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
Pre-ETS	Pre-Employment Transition Services (formerly called "PETS")
RSA	Rehabilitation Services Administration
SILC	Statewide Independent Living Council
TACE	Technical Assistance and Continuing Education
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation
WIC	Workforce Investment Council
WIOA	Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014

LRC Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

July 27, 2017 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Embassy Suites Hotel, Baton Rouge, LA

Present: Tommy Carnline, Warren Chauvin, Cathy Lazarus, Sue Killam

Absent: Jessica Lewis, Bob Lobos, Libby Murphy Guest(s): Kandy Baker, Derek White

Minutes: The meeting was called to order and a quorum established at 8:05 a.m.

Old Business

1. April 2017 Executive Committee minutes were reviewed. The minutes were unanimously approved with one correction.– Lazarus (1st) and Killam (2nd)
2. LRS Membership - Kandy provided information on the LRS members and Boards and Commissions. 4 new members were appointed to the LRC since the last meeting. The Council has 20 seats filled and 6 vacancies. The LRC is in compliance with federal regulations with a majority of members being individuals with disabilities. Member recruitment from the areas of the state lacking representation on the Council resulted in two applicants from Regions 5 and 7. After discussion, the committee recommended that the individuals proceed with the application process and apply on the Boards and Commissions website. Kandy will notify the applicants.
3. LRC Budget – In SFY 2017 the LRC spent approximately \$12,000. Expenditures for past 3 state fiscal years are: SFY 2015 \$21,938, SFY 2016 \$25,186. Since SFY 2016 the Council has sought to improve efficiencies and now has one day meetings in Baton Rouge instead of two day meetings around the state. Significant savings were achieved in state travel. Budget request for SFY 2018 is \$30,000. In state (4 one day meetings): \$20,000; out of state (conferences): \$6,000, interpreter/PCA: \$4,000. Will request member attend the CSAVR Fall 2017 conference in Greenville, SC on Nov. 11-15 or just the NCSRC (National Coalition of State Rehab Councils) National Leadership and Training Sessions on Nov. 11-12, 2017.
4. Legislative Update – The Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) voted to advocate for LRS funding to the state legislature. They want to organize their effort at their October meeting. The committee suggests that Libby Murphy, LRC Legislative Liaison and Legislative Ad-Hoc Committee Chairperson possibly speak at a SILC meeting. The SILC also requests a joint meeting with the LRC.
5. LRC Consumer Satisfaction Survey – Attempts were made to contact the 133 individuals requesting to be contacted by a LRC member. Warren Chauvin contacted individuals in New Orleans and Houma Regions; Nicole Walker contacted individuals in Baton Rouge Region; Tommy Carnline contacted individuals in Lafayette, Lake Charles and Alexandria Regions; and Jessica Lewis contacted individuals in Shreveport and Monroe Regions. The comments are being compiled. Sue Killam and Kandy Baker will work on completing the Consumer Satisfaction Survey Report.

New Business

1. LRC Bylaws – Kandy reviewed the updates needed to the bylaws to be consistent with the WIOA law related to council composition and authority. Derek noted that the committee section in the laws were amended by vote to include the Transition Committee and will forward the amended bylaws to Kandy. Kandy will put together the latest bylaws with amendments and provide to the Council with at least a 30 day notice for review.

Other Business

Adjourn

With no other business to discuss, Chauvin motioned to adjourn, seconded by Lazarus and the Committee adjourned at 8:55 a.m. without objection.

Eligibility and Planning meeting July 27, 2017

Paul Genco
Krista Scurra
Gay Young
Cathy Lazarus (chair)
Kandy Baker (staff)
Teresa Milner (VR staff)

Teresa reviewed process for determining order of selection. Feds mandate a process exists but does not tell states how to do it. LA has had 3 in the past but went to 5 to improve accuracy. Federal mandate to serve the most severe first. Counselors gather information in initial interview, considering all possible limitations that impact employment specifically. For eligibility consider 8 functional capacity areas. Individuals who have limitations in 4 or more quality for order of selection 1 (significant and severe). Can present additional information that could impact order of selection. It is in reality a heterogeneous category and dependent on counselor judgment. Currently service is by date of application.

Old Business

Recommendation from last meeting was to collaborate with other organizations: at today's meeting some one from the Baton Rouge area Foundation is coming to present a new website.

Requested more detail on who is and who is not being served. Kandy ran some reports that we will review and bring to the next meeting. We requested that we look at by region, by educational level at time of application, and by disability category.

New Recommendations:

Partner with transition committee to enhance collaboration with the Pre-ETS initiative.

Continue to pursue third party agreements to the extent possible.

Request overview of third party agreement process and limitations at a future council meeting.

Pursue grant partnership arrangements with other federal agencies.

Consider partnering with grant writers at other agencies.

How can members reach out in their professional and other communities to develop potential partnerships?

**Louisiana Rehabilitation Council
Employment Committee Meeting Minutes
July 27,2017**

Embassy Suites,4914 Constitution Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70808

Members Present: Nicole Walker, Derek White and Tommy Carnline, Cliff Owens, David Gallegos, Bambi Polozola

Member Absent: Natasha Aymani, David Gallegos, Jessica Lewis

LRS Staff Present: Chris Anthony and Brenda Bohrer

- The meeting was called to order by Nicole Walker.
- Motion was Passed to approve the April 27,2017 minutes as presented. Motion by Tommy Carnline and seconded by Chris Anthony, approved without objection or abstention.
- Monitoring of CRP's. This has been put on hold until budgeting for the new FISCAL year is known.
- Action Item: It is suggested that LRS consider what is going on with the eligibility process with One Stops.
- Motion: Have LRC form a group to meet with LRS to include strategies and receivable services for individuals with disabilities at One Stops. Increase access to individuals with disabilities at the One Stops. Sue Killam made the motion and Warren Chauvin seconded it. Approved without objection or abstention.
- There is no new business and the meeting was adjourned upon a motion by Nicole Walker and second by Tommy Carnline.

LRC Transition Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 27, 2017

Embassy Suites Hotel, 4914 Constitution Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70808

In attendance: Tarj Hamilton, Melissa Bayham, Glyn Butler, Sue Killam, and Warren Chauvin

The Transition Subcommittee discussed 2 questions that were posed to them.

1. What is the number of students with disabilities that are in the Jump Start Program?

We were informed by Rebecca Hanberry that the numbers involving Jump Start would not be released until mid to late August 2017 because it is a massive report with lots of data.

2. How will the LSU Health - Human Development Center plan to cover the startup costs for the LA Pre-ETS Professional Development Certificate Program?

They have existing curriculums that would take development and specialization and would be able to use facility to complete that process. This of course would cost and they always try to find alternative funding since the CORE federal funding they receive does not nearly cover ALL that they need to build capacity in the state of Louisiana. Some of the costs will be recouped through the delivery of training and per person fees for the certification.

The Transition Subcommittee would consider holding a symposium for Pre-ETS Providers and 3rd Party Agreement Providers through LSU Health - Human Development Center. The cost of holding the symposium would basically be covered by the fees charged to the participants attending it.

Warren J. Chauvin
Chairperson, LRC Transition Subcommittee

SILC Director's Report

April 1- June 30 Council Meeting

Membership update

- Gale Dean term will end in July and we will then bring Mitch Granger on to fill the spot of director of a Center for IL chosen by directors of centers in the state.
- Jay and Sharron term ends on 4/10 but will be reappointed for a second term.
- Will bring on two new people to the council. One will be Keira Beverly as a youth component and one other from applicants.
- Still looking for someone in the Alexandra region.
- Make sure you give me your hotel receipts at meeting.

Other-

1. Now the chair of Employment committee on LRC and executive committee
 2. Events ,meetings and conference calls I have been at
 - a. Autism walk April 22
 - b. Disability rights day April 26th
 - c. LRS MEETING APRIL 27TH
 - d. Employment First Workgroup
 - e. Behavior health rally
 3. SILC congress planning meeting
 - a. Will be held in Orlando Feb 19-23 in Orlando, Florida
 4. SICKLE CELL FUNDRAISER
 5. EMDAC conference call
 6. Dr. James Ball at BRCC
 7. EMDAC conference call - June 20, 2017 @ 3:30 PM
 8. IAT was sent over with all signature and now in process
 9. Moved to 1051. 3rde street Capitol annex on June 16
 10. Participated in 6 webinars
 11. Dallas planning committee for regional conference
 12. LRS CONF CALLS regarding services provided by LRS
 13. Tracked HB1,162 AND 337
- Website-
 - Up and live
 - Upcoming
 - NCIL Conference-everything is booked and squared away for me and Steven to go to NCIL

Client Assistance Program
July 2017
LRC Report

Updates:

- Jonathan Trunnel resigned as the CAP representative on the LRC. He is working in a different legal program within the Advocacy Center.
- Mrs. Glyn Butler will take Jonathan's place as the CAP representative once Boards and Commissions approve her. David Gallegos/CAP Director will continue to attend LRC meetings along with Ms. Butler.

Client Concerns:

- CAP received requests for assistance as a result of LRS order of selection closure.
- Concerns by clients regarding approved items on IPE. Several clients voiced concern that LRS Counselor's told them that due to lack of funding, LRS could not pay for approved IPE services.
- CAP represented one client during a fair hearing to dispute LRS' denial to pay for summer school. The fair hearing officer ruled in favor of the client.
- CAP assisted a client to get college training approved for the upcoming fall semester. Initially, LRS declined to fund the pre-approved college training listed on the IPE due to lack of funding. LRS reconsidered its decision and agreed to fund college training. The client will attend graduate school.

Other:

- CAP will hire an advocate to work in the Shreveport/Monroe area.
- CAP informed Mr. Mark Martin that there are only two fair hearing officers available to conduct hearings. LRS agreed to inform the LRC when the number of fair hearing officers goes below three. CAP recommends that LRS seek out and approve a third fair hearing officer.
- Referrals from LRS to WIPA have reduced significantly. CAP recommends that LRS Counselors refer all clients on SSI/SSDI who are considering work, seeking employment or employed to WIPA.

To: LRC Members

From: Bob Lobos – WIC Representative

Re: WIC Meeting June 27, 2017 Report

The WIC's main focus and support continues to be toward the development of a demand-driven workforce development system, based on occupational forecasts in which training, education and services for **ALL** job seekers prepare Louisiana residents for high-wage, high demand career opportunities in Louisiana.

The Long and Short-term occupational forecasts were presented to the WIC for approval and were approved.

The WIC chair, Charles Moniotte read a brief tribute to Curt Eysink, the LWC Executive Director who died suddenly this past Spring.

Two additional Industry Based Certifications were approved.

I was allowed and encouraged to make a presentation about the LRC to the WIC. (See attached report). Fortunately, was sitting among four legislators. Received supportive comments from two of them after the presentation.

The chair announced that the WIC continues to restructure and additional committees are being formed to better meet the needs of the council. More information will be available at the September 2017 meeting.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 A.M.

T

The LOUISIANA REHABILITATION COUNCIL at a glance Thank you Charles.

The Intent of this short recap is to inform, explain and report to you, the members of the WIC the workings, successes and challenges of the LRC and the LRS and encourage members to consider first to hire persons with disabilities.

Background on the LRC:

The Louisiana Rehabilitation Council (LRC) was formed in 1993 and continues to work in partnership with Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS) to deliver quality services to persons with disabilities in Louisiana. The LRC is currently operating and authorized under Executive Order No. 2016-45 issued by Governor John Bel Edwards. This order establishes the LRC to consist of 26 members and mandates that the council convene a minimum of four (4) meetings a year. There are currently 8 vacancies on the council to represent various parts of the state.

The Council is a voice for all Louisiana citizens with disabilities and works with the LRS director and staff to provide input in the initial stages of planning and policy development by LRS and other disability and employment service providers. At each meeting, the Council receives an agency report from the LRS Director. The members along with consumers and other attendees have the opportunity to ask questions and provide comments. The Council continues to seek committed members from all geographic areas of the state and it recruits businesses and LRS consumers to serve on the council.

LRC and the LRS enjoy a great partnership of mutual respect and collaboration with a single goal in mind: That goal is to IMPROVE OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOUISIANA CITIZENS WITH DISABILITIES TO ACHIEVE THEIR INDEPENDENCE THROUGH VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION THAT LEADS TO MEANINGFUL EMPLOYMENT.

The LRC and LRS are jointly aware of, measure, and focus on successful positive employment outcomes. Here are Some Basic FACTS about people with disabilities which you may or may not be aware of: According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the overall estimated rate of disability in the U.S. population in 2014 was 12.6%, which continues the upward trend since 2010. Over half (51.6%) of these individuals are of "working age", from 18 -64. Bringing that number closer to home here in Louisiana, according to the May 2017 Governor's Office of Disability Affairs newsletter there are 372,144 Louisiana citizens of working age with disabilities. Only 33% are employed and 67% are unemployed. Sadly, Louisiana is among the 12 states in the nation with the highest percentage of civilians with disabilities as a percent of the total population. In addition Louisiana ranks among those states where 30-40% of the population with disabilities lives at or below the poverty level. As a full partner with LRS, the LRC promotes on behalf of all Louisiana citizens with disabilities for full access to the range of employment outcomes realized by citizens with NO disabilities.

A major obstacle to helping our residents with disabilities pursue their employment goals is the fact that Louisiana lacks the additional state funds to match more federal dollars for the Vocational Rehabilitation Program. For every \$1 dollar of state general funds, LRS receives \$3.69 dollars in Federal matching funds. From 2009 -2016, the matching funds available for

vocational rehabilitation services was \$54.5 million per year. Louisiana only leveraged \$34.2 million per year. Total federal funds of \$162.3 million originally allocated to Louisiana from 2009- 2016 years, was reallocated to other states due to Louisiana's failure to appropriate matching funds. Our neighboring states love us.

In 2010 LRS served over 29,000 clients through the vocational rehabilitation program. Due to the constant budget cuts that number dwindled to 17,000. No new clients received services since February 2017. There is a waiting list of over 4100 clients in 2017. Due to the budget cuts, the LRS staff has decreased from 326 in 2010 to 213 in 2017. By June 2018 staffing levels may be in the 175 range.

Some SUCCESSES – the good news:

There truly is a great Return on Investment:

For every \$1 dollar spent on vocational rehabilitation services the return on investment is \$16.99 calculated over 5 years. Over a 5 year period the LRS consumer cases closed in employment generated an estimated \$65 Million dollars in state and local taxes. It is a “win-win” situation.

The LRC is committed to continue its advocacy efforts in support of increasing state funding for LRS and will continue to provide information to public policy makers on the impact of funding the Vocational Rehabilitation Program. Due to the recent advocacy efforts by LRC and other groups, the legislature, according to the LRS Director Mark Martin, approved an additional \$1.0 million dollars to bring the current LRS VR budget to \$7.4million dollars for this upcoming fiscal year. (which is 91.4% of the SFY 2016 budget). This will allow LRS to start working with individuals on the waiting list and ultimately opening the order of selection. It should be noted that Louisiana is still not taking full advantage of the Federal Allocation. Also, it should be noted that according to the LRS Director, the latest 2017 performance analysis shows that 68% of the clients exiting the VR program in employment, do enter high demand occupations.

The 2017 LRC customer satisfaction survey, which is done every three years, was sent electronically to 5113 consumers with a 12.00% (613) return. There was a 76.5% satisfaction rate, up from 3 years ago. Accolades to the LRS leadership and staff for great results achieved with fewer employees. “Continuing to do more with less”!

Please consider serving on the LRC as we have a number of current vacancies and, also consider hiring people with disabilities. They are great employees who want to work, show up every day, are engaged and well trained.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this report. Questions?

Submitted to the WIC by: Robert J. (Bob) Lobos,
Chairperson 2017-18

Louisiana Rehabilitation Council

June 27, 2017