**Louisiana Rehabilitation Council Board Meeting Minutes**

**For November 17-18, 2011**

The Louisiana Rehabilitation Council (LRC) met at the Lafayette Regional Vocational Rehabilitation Office, 825 Kaliste Saloom Road, Lafayette, LA.

Present: Prahab Choudhury, Derek White, Jason Weill, Jennifer Bollinger, Marla Reissland-Dorsey, Patrick Mascarella, Warren Hebert, Ronald Key, Laura Nata, Karla Cummings, Jean Hansen, and Mark Martin.

Excused Absent: Pam Allen, Joseph Kelley, Larry Dale, John Yent and Billie Ruth Kvaternik.

Other Absent: Kay Wilson, Angelle Driggs, David Young, Laura Breaux, Amanda Vinson, Edward Rispone, and Gayla Guidry.

Guests: Paige Kelly, Rosemary Yesso, Stephanie Mire, Stacy Charles and Lynn Blanchard.

**Thursday, November 17, 2011**

Warren Hebert called the meeting to order. Introductions were made by all meeting participants. The Lafayette VR Regional Manager, Deborah Aymond spoke about services being provided in the region and welcomed everyone to Lafayette.

Mark Martin, LRS Director discussed the following:

* VR transportation formula for consumers which increased
* Collaboration with the Department of Corrections
* Progress of 2nd Injury Trust Fund
* VR Consumer Services budget and the current waiting list.

The next item on the agenda was the consumer success story. Dennis May spoke to council about how he opened a small business with the assistance of LRS.

At the completion of the consumer story, the Council requested that at future meetings they would like to here from consumers who have been successful and consumers who have not been successful.

Ronald Key, Vice Chair, shared the following regarding his attendance at the CSAVR conference:

* RSA Commission stated that the main thing LRC can do to help Vocational Rehabilitation is through PR, advocating and marketing.
* Informative Website NCSRC (National Coalition of State Rehabilitation Councils).

The next item on the agenda, the public forum, had one participant, Duane Roy. He discussed being a new vendor with Louisiana Rehabilitation Services.

Chairperson, Warren Hebert, recessed the meeting.

**Friday, November 18, 2011**

Chairperson, Warren Hebert called the meeting to order.

Staff Report

* LRC Budget $27,000; expenditures $8,553; remaining balance $18,446
* There is one vacancy on the council and one member who does not wish to renew their second term.

The Council suggested that a committee be formed to discuss the number of LRC meetings, locations and the expenses of the meetings to determine if quarterly meetings would suffice. The committee members are: Derek White, Karla Cummings and Marla Dorsey.

Next, Derek White led the discussion on LRC Bylaw revisions. The following was discussed:

* LRC will have three committees – Outreach, VR Policies and Public Policies, and Legislative
* The Executive Committee (EC) Composition will change if these three committees are formed. The new composition of the EC will be LRC Chair, LRC Vice Chair, Chair for each of the three committees and one member at large.

The Council felt some additional edits and further discussion was needed before voting on Bylaw approval. This will be reviewed and presented at the next meeting.

The Council will have a strategic planning meeting in January. Carey Foy will serve as facilitator.

Action items for January, 2012 meeting:

* Discuss filling two vacancies
* Strategic Planning meeting for January
* Consumer story – if time permits

Council requested that VR Counselor, Jean Hansen, provide information and address questions on the order of selection and how the counselor determines eligibility.

Derek White provided handouts on Advancing People in Supported Employment (APSE) which is a national organization.

The meeting was adjourned.