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| *Thursday, April 25, 2019* | | | |  | |
| Members Present | | Tommy Carnline, Warren Chauvin, Sue Killam, Jessica Lewis, Brian Wood, Paul Genco, Melissa Bayham, Eleanor Murrell, Dina Perkins, Marvin Rush, Megan Thompson, Gay Young, Cathy Lazarus, Suzanne Lentz, Krista Scurria | |  | |
| Members Absent | | Glyn Butler, Tarj Hamilton, Robert Lobos, Libby Murphy, Cliff Owens, Dina Perkins, Nicole Walker, Alexis Young | |  | |
| Liaison | | Kandy Baker | |  | |
| Guests Present | | Stephen Johnston, Nicole Miller, Ginger Rush, April Rollins, Lynn Blanchard, Mary Glass, T. Bobbye A. | |  | |
| Motivational Minute | | Pledge of allegiance, motivational moment and introductions. | |  | |
| Call to Order | | The general meeting was called to order by Chair Carnline at 9:01 a.m. with a quorum. | |  | |
| Minutes | | Motion to approve January 2019 LRC General Meeting Minutes was made by Sue Killan, seconded by Warren Chauvin. Motion Passed without abstention or objection**.** | |  | |
| Public Comment | | None | |  | |
| LRS Director’s Reports | | Melissa Bayham, LRS Director, reported that on February 14, 2019, LRS opened the Order of Selection (OOS) through OOS 4 and took the waiting list off the Order of Selection Group 5. There is currently one person on the waiting list in OOS 5. LRS is looking at a $223,179 general fund budget cut which is over a million dollar cut to the LRS budget. LRS anticipates a carry forward from SFY 2019 that will lessen the impact of the cut in SFY 2020. Over the last several years, there has been a decrease in the amount of consumers applying for services as a result of the OOS being closed. However, consumers are starting to apply again and just in the last two months about 500 new consumers have applied. Currently LRS has under 100 counselors and there is also a shortage of Rehabilitation Counselor Associates in some regions. The average caseload size is around 125 consumers, including Pre-ETS students.  The DD Council is funding training through Marc Gold and Associates for customized employment vendors through the remainder of the fiscal year. The vendors do not seem eager to provide customized employment as was anticipated. LRS is looking into different ways to train the vendors for customized employment since the DD Council will not be able to fund this every year. Also, LRS is discussing ways to improve vendor services, particularly for supported employment.  WIOA requires LRS to provide services to eligible VR and potentially eligible VR, at least 15% of the VR federal budget. In other words, we have to service students with disabilities regardless of funds or OOS being closed. However, we are in the process of reviewing Pre-ETS procedures to make some changes to the manual for next school year, as well as looking at rates from other states and reducing the service length for Pre-ETS to control expenditures. LRS has approved work based learning experiences for the Summer 2019. In 2018, LRS spent $6.3 million on Pre-ETS, in 2019 $6.1 million and LRS’ revenue estimation for next year is 5.4 million. There has been a significant decline nationwide in the Rehabilitation Rate which could be attributed to Pre-ETS. National VR trends were discussed at the CSAVR conference in March 2019. Other guidance manual updates were emailed to members in early April 2019. | |  | |
| Old Business  Presentation | | Sue Killam provided the Ad Hoc Committee 2020 Slate of Nominees: Chairperson – Warren Chauvin, Vice Chairperson – Gay Young, Secretary – Tarj Hamilton, Member-at-large – Nicole Walker, Employment Committee Chairperson – Krista Scurria, Transition Committee Chairperson – Sue Killam, and Eligibility and Planning Committee Chairperson – Alexis Young. No other nominations from the floor. Motion to accept the nominations was made by Sue Killam and seconded by Jessica Lewis. Motion passedwithout abstention or objection.  Gay Young represented LRC at the NCSRC conference in Bethesda, MD. She reports that it was a wonderful networking tool as she was able to meet the SRC chairperson for California as well as Rose, the representative from RSA, who was able to answer a lot of questions regarding individual state problems/issues. She also learned that there is a new procedures manual for SRCs that will be published in the coming weeks.  Paul Genco represented LRC at the Louisiana Rehabilitation Association Conference in February 2019. He recommends the conference to individuals that do not understand how LRS works and wants to learn more about the VR system and resources. He also reported that it was very good for networking with different VR counselors from across the state.  Sue Killam attended the Labor Summit in New Orleans in March 2019. There was a lot of information on innovation and what other states are doing in regards to employment. | |  | |
| Consumer Presentation | | Steve Mahafney, LRS client from the Baton Rouge Region. | |  | |
| Standing Committee Reports | | Eligibility and Planning –Young reported that the committee is still researching if other state VR programs have an order of selection that allows their VRS to grant preference to consumers who are currently employed to receive services to maintain their employment. They are estimating to have findings to report to the council at the July 2019 meeting.  Employment Committee – Motion to research the recommendation to require certification for LRS’ vendors was made by Gay Young and seconded by Paul Genco. Motion passedwithout abstention or objection. | |  | |
| Chair’s Report | | Executive Committee recommended changing the date of the July 25, 2019 meeting in order to coordinate with the Governor’s Office of Disability Affairs conference. Motion made to change the LRC meeting date from July 25, 2019 to July 26 by Cathy Lazarus and seconded by Brian Wood. Motion passedwithout abstention or objection.  Tommy Carnline reported the LRC will expend approximately $12,000 for SFY 2019. Recommend the LRC budget for SFY 2020 remain at $30,000 to cover requests for members to attend conferences. Motion made by Cathy Lazarus to request $30,000 budget for SFY 2020 and seconded by Megan Thompson. Motion passes without abstention or objection. | |  | |
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| Member Reports | | CAP report- see attached report.    IDEA report- Thompson discussed how Department of Education is trying to address the behavior challenges that students with disabilities have; however, the RFA (request for applications) has not started yet to identify contractors who can offer technical assistance and support throughout the state. In 2013, 36.7 % of students with disabilities graduated in four years. Now in 2017, 52.5% graduated in four years.  SILC report- see attached report.  WIC report- N/A | |  | |
| New Business | | | None |  | |
| Future meeting dates | | | July 26, 2019, October 24, 2019, January 23, 2020. Meeting date added to the schedule: April 23, 2020. |  | |
| Adjourn | | | Jessica Lewis motioned to adjourn, seconded by Brian Wood and the Council adjourned without objection. |  | |
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