**Members Present:**

Pam Allen, Cassidy Byles, Tommy Carnline, Pranab Choudhury, Karla Cummings, Gayla Guidry, Ronald Key, Billie Ruth Kvaternik,

Bob Lobos, Mark Martin (ex officio), Pat Mascarella, Libby Murphy, Laura Nata, and Derek White

**Members Absent:**

Lanor Curole, Larry Dale, David Gallegos, Jean Hansen (ex officio), Laura Meaux, and Kay Rone Wilson

**Non-member staff Present:** Paige Kelly (Liaison), Rosemary Yesso

**Guests:** Andrea Ballard-VR consumer speaker, Joe Kelley-121 Project, Gerald Dyess-LRS Shreveport Regional Office, Nelda Altimus- LWC Bossier City Regional Office, Nada Percival- Coordinating and Development Corporation, Norma Belton- Unemployment Office, Avis Brown- LRS State Office, Chris Freeman- Goodwill Industries, Kandy Baker- LRS State Office, Gale Dean- New Horizons IL Center, Pamela Jenkins- Boone- New Horizons IL Center, Mark Thomas- LRS Shreveport Regional Office.

**Call to Order**

LRC Chairperson Derek White called the meeting to order Thursday, July 25, at 1:00 p.m. A quorum was achieved and maintained through recess. January and April minutes were accepted unanimously without revision.

**Officer Nominations ad hoc committee report**

The slate was presented with a missing Eligibility and Planning committee chairperson as Pam Allen declined nomination. The slate was amended to replace Ms. Allen with Ronald Key. The slate as revised: Chairperson, Derek White; Vice-Chairperson, David Gallegos; Secretary, Karla Cummings; Outreach committee chairperson, Laura Nata; Eligibility and Planning committee chairperson, Ronald Key; Employment committee chairperson, Gayla Guidry; and Member-at-Large, Bob Lobos.

The new slate was amended approved by unanimous consent.

**Chairperson’s Report**

Chairperson White appointed Gayla Guidry to the Governor’s Advisory Council on Disability Affairs (GACDA).

Chairperson White appointed members to the standing committees.

* Outreach Committee (Laura Nata, Chair): Karla Cummings, Pat Mascarella, Laura Meaux, and Libby Murphy.
* Eligibility and Planning Committee (Ronald Key, Chair): Pam Allen, Cassidy Byles, Pranab Choudhury, David Gallegos, and Kay Rone Wilson.
* Employment Committee (Gayla Guidry, Chair): Lanor Curole, Tommy Carnline, Larry Dale, Billie Ruth Kvaternik, Bob Lobos.

The Executive Committee recommended revising the meeting schedule to meet on the North Shore October 24 and 25, 2013 and in Lake Charles January 30 and 31, 2014.

Motion was approved by unanimous consent.

**Presentation of U.S. Department of Education bulletin**

Joe Kelley presented information to the LRC regarding possible changes in the way US DOE interprets “reservation” in the law and possible impact on 121 Programs.

Motion was made by Gayla Guidry and seconded by Ron Key for the Chairperson to send a letter providing information of the impact to the DOE.

**LRS Director’s Report**

Director Mark Martin asked to the Council for input on accessing funds to support employees in obtaining a Master’s Degree in Rehabilitation Counseling. VR has 95 counselors and will be able to fill approximately 10 vacant counselor positions. VR has saved over a million dollars in assessment costs in the last year. The number of transition consumers has increased and contracts are being completed between LRS and the school systems to have a transition specialist at the schools being a liaison between the student and the school and the VR counselor.

**Liaison Report**

Appointments to the council were announced: Lanor Curole, Cassidy Byles and Laura Meaux. Members were encouraged to inform Liaison, Paige Kelly of any address or phone number changes. Vacancies were discussed and Liaison stated that she would be contacting Boards and Commissions to ensure that all applications submitted were received and find out where these applications were in the approval process.

**Standing Committee Meetings**

Committees met to perform its regular business and to discuss revisions to data reports and Plan.

**Consumer Story**

LRC heard a story from a former consumer of LRS, Andrea Ballard from the Shreveport area. She received resources and information from New Horizons Independent Living Center. She is working with LRS and the Louisiana Association for the Blind. She received some training and has the JAWS program on her computer. She is not working but is job ready and wants to work with people directly.

**Public Forum**

There were no attendees for the public forum.

**Recess**

Meeting recessed at Thursday, July 25, at 6:30 p.m.

**Call to Order**

Chairperson White called the meeting to order Friday, July 26, at 8:00 a.m. A quorum was achieved and maintained through adjournment.

**Committee Reports**

The Outreach Committee, Eligibility and Planning Committee, and Employment Committee presented their recommendations.

Consumer Satisfaction Survey: will send out to 20% of the total number of consumers whose cases are in an open status and 20% of all closures from the last six months. Add to the survey: Public Forums are available at all Louisiana Rehabilitation Council meetings. Include a cover letter on each of the surveys signed by the LRC Chairperson.

The Council agreed to request the following changes to the reports:

* Only a single statewide number of consumers by gender.
* Transition information be excluded from Question 1 and be on a separate report.
* Provide a key for disabilities list. Provide breakdown by severity of cognitive impairment.
* For counselors report include only number counselors per region, average caseload size, number of REDS, special population counselors and master counselors per region.
* Average time it takes to move through the various steps.

**Council Planning Process**

The Council discussed the committee recommendations and finalized a data report request and LRC Plan. See Appendix A and B.

**New Business**

In a priority order, the committee would like to research the intake to job placement timeline for consumers and vendor requirements along with changing order of selection from 5 groups to possibly 3 groups.

**Adjourn**

White adjourned the meeting Friday July 26th, at 12:00 p.m.