**October 30, 2014**

**Members Present:** Tommy Carnline, Pranab Choudhury, David Gallegos, Jean Hansen (ex officio), Ronald Key, Sue Killam, Billie Ruth Kvaternik, Laura Nata, Rober Lobos, Nan Magness, Pat Mascarella, Laura Meaux, Libby Murphy, Cassidy Price, Nicole Walker, Derek White and Kay Wilson

**Members Absent:** Pam Allen, Karla Cummings, Lanor Curole, Larry Dale and Gayla Guidry, Exofficio, Mark Martin

**Guests:**  Danielle Boatner, Rosemary Yesso, Waymand Brothers, Beverly Phillippi, Brean Arnold, Ken York, David Tinson, Frieda Holland, Jenice Heck, Georgette Wallace, Yavonka Archaga

**Welcome and Introductions**

LRC Chairperson Libby Murphy called the meeting to order at 12:08 p.m. A quorum was established.

Motion to accept July 24-25 minutes was made by Derek White, seconded by Pranab Choudhury, and accepted unanimously.

**Liaison Report**

Survey taken on council members regarding format of meeting documents. Decision to email prior to meeting, put copy in files and include large print when requested. Of the total LRC budget of $27,000, $5,127 has been expended. Chair will be attending Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR). Members reminded to sign and date all travel expense forms. Membership vacancies five.

**Chairperson’s Report**

The Chair, Libby Murphy, thanked council members for their successful efforts to have the LRS FY 2015 budget restored. A recommendation from the Executive Committee meeting stated that Chair be authorized to compose a letter to the Governor and Commissioner of Administration, Kristie Nichols urging them to keep the executive budget level with no cuts to the LRS budget. The council members agreed with no objections.

Chair asked if all council members needed to take the ethics course, this will be researched by liaison.

Chair reported that the Executive Committee recommended LRC work with LRS to obtain aggregate demographics data to use in a report to legislators to show them possible gaps in VR services in the State.

**Executive Committee Report**

Recommendations:

1. LRC send letters to legislators in support of level funding and take action as needed with legislators on maintaining funding for FFY 2016.
2. Question was asked as to whether LRS can generate a report of individuals with disabilities by zip code to determine how many individuals are not being served due to lack of full funding.
3. LRC requested that they be directly involved in work groups for the “unified state plan”.
4. Derek White and Bob Lobos engage LWC/Curt Eysink in a discussion on what the State is doing on WIOA and the unified state plan.
5. Membership: Contact SHRM representatives and transition representatives as possible Council members.
6. Contact, by certified mail, LRC members who have not attended several meetings about their continued interest in remaining a member.
7. Collaborate and contact: Mental Health Planning Council, Governor’s Office of Disability Affairs, SILC.

**LRS Director’s Report**

Rosemary Yesso provided the following information in the absence of the LRS Director, Mark Martin. LRS will be attending the CSAVR conference and provide the Council with updates on WIOA.

The “return on investment” report completed by LSU will be provided at the next meeting.

Updates on leases in the New Orleans area was addressed.

LRS is working on an agreement with Office of Citizens with Developmental Disabilities.

Transition Program Coordinator and LRS Program Manager provided statewide training to VR Counselors in 2013. The Counselors continue establishing relationships with their local school districts. LRS is utilizing third party agreements to support and implement transition services.

**Client Assistance Program (CAP) Report**

David Gallegos stated that there were 32 cases between July and September 2014 which were all resolved. He requested that LRS counselors continue referring consumers to the Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) program.

**Member Reports**

Members representing mandated agencies/programs briefly described their respective programs and initiatives around employment.

IDEA Representative, Kay Wilson

Wilson gave a brief overview on Act 833. More trainings will be provided through webinars.

Statewide Independent Living Council Representative, Laura Meaux

Meaux stated there are four Independent Living Centers in Louisiana. Employment is addressed and services offered at the Centers. New officers were elected at the last meeting.

**Public Forum**

Yavonka Archaga introduced herself as the Director of Resources for Independent Living Center in New Orleans and gave a brief update on their services provided.

**RECESS: The meeting recessed to Committees.**

**Standing Committee Meetings**

Committees met to perform regular business.

**Call to Order Friday, October 31, 2014**

Chairperson called the meeting to order Friday, October 31, 2014. Representatives Moreno and Leger were introduced and spoke to Council about funding.

**Training Presentation**

Georgette Wallace spoke to council and gave updates on Louisiana Workforce Commissions Disability Employment Initiative (DEI) grant.

**Committee Reports**

The Outreach, Employment, and Eligibility and Planning Committees presented their reports/recommendations.

Outreach Committee Report on Activities:

1. Hire a Sociologist to conduct a survey on the number of clients per district and the number of services being provided by LRS in each district.

Employment Committee Report on Activities:

1. Tabled the discussion on order of selection until January meeting.

Recommendation:

LRS mandate that by January 1, 2016 all personnel hired by LRS approved supported employment providers must be certified by the CESP and that LRS will implement by March 1, 2015 a plan to assist providers to satisfy the new mandate.

Recommendation was approved by unanimous consent.

Eligibility and Planning Committee Report on Activities:

1. Recommendation made that LRS poll all eight regions regarding current policy on assisting clients with criminal background issues, paying for random drug test, and eligibility process for individuals with substance and drug abuse diagnosis. Information will be provided within 30 days.

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| **Summary of Motions** | |
|  | Sue Killam made a motion that: LRS include in their prioritization system consideration for individuals for whom competitive employment has not traditionally occurred or competitive employment has been interrupted as a result of a significant disability or multiple disabilities and who because of the nature and/or severity of the disability or multiple disabilities need intensive supported employment services for the initial period and extended services to perform such work and maintain employment.  Employment committee will meet and review and discuss this motion and report to Council. There were no objections to the amendment to move this discussion to the employment committee. |
|  | Derek made a motion and Nicole Walker seconded: LRC supports the development and implementation of a system of quality monitoring, measurement, and improvement for Louisiana's supported employment providers and urges LRS to continue development of the system in close and regular consultation with the LRC. The motion passes with no objections. |
|  | Derek White made a motion and Bob Lobos seconded: LRC send letters to legislators in support of level funding and take action as needed with officials and legislators on maintaining funding for FY 2016. The motion passes with no objections. |
|  | Bob Lobos made a motion and David Gallegos seconded: LRC will request from LRS aggregate data by zip code to research and identify services to communities with disabilities. The motion passes with no objections. |
|  | Bob Lobos made a motion and Pranab Choudhury seconded: LRS poll all eight regions regarding current policy on assisting clients with criminal background issues, paying for random drug test, and eligibility procedures for individuals with substance and drug abuse diagnosis and that this information be provided within 30 day. The motion passes with no objections. |
|  | Derek White made a motion and Sue Killam seconded:That LRS mandate by January 1, 2016 all personnel hired by LRS approved supported employment provider at the time of employment or within 12 months must be certified by the CESP and that LRS will implement by March 1, 2015 a plan to assist providers to satisfy the new mandate. Pranab Choudhury abstained. No objections. Motion passes.  Bob Lobos made a motion and Laura Nata seconded: LRC consider hiring a Sociologist to conduct a survey on the number of clients per district and the number of services being provided by LRS in each district. The motion passes with no objections. |
|  | Bob Lobos made a motion and Sue Killam seconded: That LRC Chair be allowed to move the meeting location if unable to find appropriate accommodations in accordance with travel regulations. The motion passes with no objections. |

**Consumer Story**

Karen Delery discussed her story of working with LRS and her gratefulness for the services.

**New Business**

There was no new business.

**Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn made by Derek White, seconded by David Gallegos. The council adjourned at 12: p.m.

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| **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 |