**Members Present:**

Pam Allen David Gallegos Jean Hansen

Warren Hebert Ronald Key Bob Lobos

Pat Mascarella Laura Nata Amanda Vinson

Derek White Kay Rone Wilson

**Members Absent:**

Pranab Choudhury Karla Cummings Larry Dale

Gayla Guidry Billie Ruth Kvaternik Shawn E. Murphy

**Staff Present:** Paige Kelly (Liaison), Teresa Milner, Rosemary Yesso, Ken York and Judy Trahan

**Guests Present:** Cassondra Glausier, Lisa Richard, Lynn Blanchard, Amelia Bison, LaSwanake Robertson and Cassidy Byles

**Call to Order**

LRC Chairperson Derek White called the meeting to order Thursday, April 4, at 1:00 p.m. A quorum was not achieved.

**Chairperson’s Report**

Chairperson White reported on approved letters that went to the Commissioner of Administration, regarding the state appropriation to the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) program and Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS) Director, Mark Martin, regarding the LRS website. Also, Client Assistance Program (CAP) Director, David Gallegos reiterated previously mentioned problems with the CAP brochure. White stated legislative liaisons were not in attendance so that report could not be given. The Outreach Committee was still working on a recommendation for adding embossed/Braille letters on the logo. White discussed next steps for developing the duties of new standing committees and development of the data request to LRS.

White also appointed two ad hoc committees. The Planning ad hoc Committee will establish a draft plan for the Council to review, amend, and approve in its July meeting and will consist of the following members: White (chair), Laura Nata, David Gallegos, Pam Allen, and Kay Wilson. The Officer Nominations ad hoc Committee will establish a slate to be considered in July by the Council per the Bylaws: members will be Warren Hebert (chair), Ronald Key, and Karla Cummings.

**Public Forum**

A current recipient of services from the Shreveport area, Cassidy Byles spoke to council.

**LRS Director’s Report**

Assistant Director, Ken York reported on the following: Small Business procedural revisions addressing consumer contributions, OCDD Employment First Initiative and impacts on LRS’s referrals and cost of this increase and Transition employment model. Mark Martin joined the meeting via phone and addressed LRS’s policy being posted on the LWC Internet, VR staff attending the CSAVR (Council of State Administrators Vocational Rehabilitation) conference and LRS funding.

**Liaison Report**

Liaison Kelly discussed membership vacancies and changes in state travel rules, the LRC’s budget (expended $6,810 out of $27,000). The budget allows for personal drivers to be reimbursed for hotel accommodations.

**Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment - Consumer Survey**

Teresa Milner and Judy Trahan provided the information from the Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment – Consumer Survey. In February, LRS sent out 2,810 surveys to cross section of LRS consumers and also posted surveys on the LWC website. A press release was sent out by LWC communications and also several of the state wide newspapers picked them up in different areas. 220 LRS consumers responded, 97 LRS counselors -162 other staff. 84 responded to the survey that was posted on the website. 21 workforce partners responded. A written report will be forthcoming.

**Standing Committee Meetings**

Committees met to discuss business and suggestions for the Plan.

**Consumer Story**

LRC heard a story from a current recipient of services from the Houma area and receiving services in the Baton Rouge area.

**Special Address**

David Legendre if Louisiana Assistive Technology Access Network (LATAN) discussed the AT program.

**Recess**

Meeting recessed at Thursday, April 4, at 6:30 p.m.

**Call to Order**

Chairperson White called the meeting to order Friday, April 5, at 8:00 a.m. A quorum was not achieved.

**Council Planning Process**

Chairperson White reviewed and the Council discussed input from each group from the previous day. Input will be aggregated for the Planning ad hoc Committee meeting to be arranged.

**New Business**

Council members’ present requested LWC leadership be invited to the July meeting to address certain concerns such as the website.

**Adjourn**

White adjourned the meeting Friday April 5, at 12:00 p.m.