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| *Thursday, January 28, 2021*  Approved | | | |  | |
| Members Present | | Jessica Lewis, Lynn Stevens, Elise Alexander, Yakima Black, Glyn Butler, Laura Nata, Dina Perkins, Suzanne Lentz, Karen Roy, Laura Stazio, Courtney Ryland, Warren Chauvin, Cathy Lazarus, Paul Genco, Gay Young, Marvin Rush, Alexis Young, Stephen Carrier | |  | |
| Members Absent | | Bob Lobos, Cliff Owens, Tarj Hamilton, Brian Wood, Melissa Bayham | |  | |
| Liaison | | Nicole Miller | |  | |
| Guests Present | | Kristin Powers, Pam Allen, Lynsey Hebert, Lynn Blanchard, Salonge Smith, Kathy Dillon, Raven Labiche | |  | |
| Call to Order | | The general meeting was called to order by Chair Warren Chauvin at 9:05 a.m. with a quorum. | |  | |
| Motivational Minute | | Introductions and moment of silence for those suffering from COVID. | |  | |
| Minutes | | Correction to November 2020 LRC General Meeting minutes on page 2: Laura Nata (not Stazio) recommended bilingual staff. Motion to approve with correction was made by Laura Stazio and seconded by Laura Nata. Motion passed without abstention or objection. | |  | |
| Old  Business  Public Comment  Presentation | | New Members Orientation went well. Lynn Stevens noted that it was helpful for explaining the role.  No public comment  Consumer story provided by new member Stephen Carrier | |  | |
| LRS Director’s Reports | | Read by Chair Warren Chauvin in Melissa Bayham’s absence. As of January 25, 2021 there are 8,682 participants for VR and 2,176 participants in pre-ETS. LRS continuing to work towards a paperless system and has received contract approval for a vendor portal to allow receipt of electronic invoices.  Offices remain open by appointment only to ensure COVID safety protocols.  LRS Director and other staff are participating in RSA Parent Training and Information Center (PTI) Independent Futures that Work. The first meeting was on 1/26 with a goal of building a linkage between agencies to improve service delivery for individuals with disabilities in transition. Project lead is Laura Nata. LRS will be participating in the Integrated Resource Team to improve the grading of resources and services with other partners to in turn improve employment outcomes for consumers.  LRS continuing efforts to provide pre-ETS in all school districts with 53-54 of the 64-total participating as of the beginning of the school year.  LRS is in the process of replacing computer equipment in all 8  regions so every employee has a laptop. | |  | |
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| Chair’s Report | | The following individuals have been approved as new board members: Stephen Carrier, Mary Hornsby, and Karen Roy | |  | |
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| New Business | | Reviewed the Annual Goals and Objectives selected during December 3rd Strategic Planning meeting.   1. Gateway Project (Transition Committee chaired by Laura Nata) – written materials that explain pre-ETS, also incorporates benefits planning 2. Vocational Exploration for Adults with Disabilities (Eligibility & Planning Committee chaired by Alexis Young) – work-based learning experiences to help consumers confirm interest in job roles being pursued 3. Employer Awareness of LRS (Employment Committee chaired by Courtney Ryland) – partnering with the Rehabilitation Employment Development Specialists (REDS)   Members reminded to select a committee to join via notification to Dina Perkins. Discussed how to handle virtual committee meetings. Will plan to use Zoom conferencing breakout rooms during the next general board meeting.  Discussed the need for nominations for the Executive Board Officers at next meeting in April. If anyone is interested in a position let Chair Warren Chauvin and Nicole know.  Discussed attorney interested in serving as impartial hearing officers and how many LRS would work with. In the recent past there have been 2 attorneys but can avoid potentials conflicts of interest by adding a third. Motion to approve Erika Green was made by Gay Young and seconded by Lynn Stevens. Motion passed without abstention or objection.  Courtney Ryland, interim Executive Director for Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC), discussed new initiative to conduct employment seminars with chambers of commerce throughout the state to inform employers how to recruit, hire and retain persons with disabilities. A contractor, O’Neal Communications from Atlanta, has been hired to conduct two sessions per month starting in March.  Gay reviewed position statement drafted in response to Director Melissa Bayham’s request for an opinion on the WIO Act. The statement is in support of the creation of a new category in the order of selection so that when there are budgetary constraints with LRS and categories are closed, consumers who are currently employed are able to receive the services they need to retain their employment. Motion to approve position statement made by Marvin Rush, seconded by Jessica Lewis. Motion passed without abstention or objection. | |  | |
| Standing Committee Reports | | None. Committees will convene next meeting. | |  | |
| Member Reports | | CAP report - attached    IDEA report – Recently released guidance to school districts on Jump Start implementation. Link to review will be shared after the meeting. Shared link to review the “Believe to Achieve” educational priority plan for the DOE. Shared link to survey created in partnership with Exceptional Lives Louisiana to understand what resources families need to understand the graduation pathways for children with disabilities.  SILC report – Many activities on hold due to the pandemic. Submitted 3-year plan for independent living to ACL on December 16th which was approved. 704 report, explaining what SILC and the Centers for Independent Living have been doing, due December 31st. Report entry and implementation of programs on hold by ACL pending new Biden administration. Decision made in November to separate SILC from the Governor’s office to become a more autonomous council. Working through autonomy goals at February and May meetings in preparation for a complete separation as of July 1st.  WIC report – No report as they still do not have a representative to replace Bob Lobos. | |  | |
| Future meeting  Dates | | | General Board Meetings will be April 29, 2021, July 29, 2021, October 28, 2021 and January 20, 2022. GACDA pushing for legislation to allow individuals with disabilities to attend meetings virtually beyond COVID. |  | |
| Adjourn | | | Gay Young motioned to adjourn, seconded by Yakima Black and the Council adjourned at 10:43am without objection. |  | |
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