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| Members Present | Melissa Bayham, Yakima Black, Stephen Carrier, Warren Chauvin, Jamar Ennis, Mary Hornsby, Suzanne Lentz, Laura Nata, Dina Perkins, Karen Roy, Marvin Rush, Laura Stazio, Lynn Stevens, Megan Thompson, Ashley Voilon, Brian Wood, Alexis Young, Gay Young | |  |
| Members Absent | Paul Genco, Tarj Hamilton, Michelle Ned, Susan Nelson | |  |
| Liaison | Nicole Miller | |  |
| Guests Present | Patrick Holmes, Annie Cummers, Lynsey Hebert (captionist), Lynn Blanchard, Sarah Barnes, Stacy Marbs | |  |
| Call to Order | The general meeting was called to order by Chair Gay Young at 9:07 a.m. with a quorum. | |  |
| Motivational Minute | None | |  |
| Minutes | Motion to approve minutes from July was made by Karen Roy and seconded by Marvin Rush. Motion passed without abstention or objection. | |  |
| Old  Business  Public Comment  Presentation | Job Shadowing/Mentorship  Board Chair Young made a clarification around pre-ETS for adults. The term to describe this type of program is Job Shadowing not Adult Apprenticeships.  LRC Annual Goals and Objectives  Board Chair Young wants to continue our focus on transition as follow-up to guests from Alabama that presented on summer transition programs at January October meeting. Warren Chauvin and Laura Nata discussed why these services are important. Laura Nata will connect Megan Thompson, Department of Education, with contact from the Office for Citizens with Disabilities to create more points of intersection between the agencies. Laura and Megan will connect to figure out how to get pre-ETS added to the IEP form.  Membership – There are 4 vacancies on the council: Business/ Industry/Labor, advocates for the disabled, Section 121, and someone representing their self. If you know of anyone please send names to Board Chair Young, Marvin Rush or Nicole Miller.  Annie Comer, who is new to teaching pre-ETS at a rural high school explained the challenges of introducing services when there’s a high turnover rate of faculty.  No presentation | |  |
| LRS Director’s Report | HR  LRS has hired a new regional manager for Shreveport, Teresa Hefner, to replace Chuck who retired early January. Still working to recruit rehabilitation counselors in almost all the regions due to the lack of qualified applicants.  The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) has added new business administration to the minimum qualifications for the role. Director Bayham is working with civil service to add this and also implement a new pay scale that will increase minimum pay based on extraordinary qualifications.  A total of 7 staff from the state office and other district supervisors are rotating to the Shreveport office for a couple of days a week to be sure there’s a supervisor in the region while working to fill 8 counselor positions.  Jump Start Convention  Director Melissa Bayham attended and collected great ideas for Pre-ETS that she will be working with Stacey Marbs to implement.  Disability Innovation Fund Grant  In partnership with Southern University, this project will assist individuals in marginalized populations with obtaining, maintaining, or advancing careers in STEM. Contracting and planning is in progress. There will be an advisory board, informational sessions and focus groups. LRC will also participate so additional information is forthcoming.  State Plan | |  |
|  | It’s time to update the LRS portion of the combined state plan.  There is a draft in progress with a Feburary 4th target date for completion. The full plan will be available on LA Works or the Louisiana Workforce Commission’s website.  Please review and share any comments with Melissa.  Director entertained several questions from the council.  Director was agreeable to Board Chair Young’s request that next meeting that we’ll have an in-depth conversation about transition and LRS, performance of the different school districts, and where help is needed to improve knowledge and awareness so the council can be more effective. | |  |
| Chair’s Report | Discussed the Ability One Program, the commission that oversees two central nonprofits, Source America and the National Industries for the Blind, that partner with agencies to make and sell items to the federal government. Also shared perspectives on competitive vs. integrated employment and the intent of the guidelines published in related technical assistance circular. | |  |
| New Business | Board Chair Young reminded the council that if they intended to serve another term they should let Nicole know so the proper procedures can be followed.  Motion to approve candidates for impartial hearing officers and mediators (Mark Meyers, Paul Breaux and Jarvis) was made by Marvin Rush and seconded by Warren Chauvin. Motion passed without abstention or objection.  Board Chair Young opened the floor for discussions and nominations for the following positions: Board Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Member-at-Large and (3) standing committee chair. Alexis Young would like to remain chair of the Eligibility and Planning Committee. Lynn Stevens is interested in chairing the Employment Committee. Gay Young and Marvin rush are both agreeable to serving another term as Chair and Vice-Chair. Megan Thompson would like to serve as Secretary. Jamar Ennis would like to serve as Member-at-Large. Voting will take place at the April meeting. | |  |
| Standing Committee Reports | Transition – Laura Nata  Discussed the process to get students connected to vendors that provide Pre-ETS, number and types of classes, and how they’re connecting with employers to request job exploration and work-based learning experiences. Will form an ad hoc committee to address the issues between LRS and local agencies/vendors and how to make Pre-ETS work with the option of providing services in the summer. Laura Stazio, Alexis Young and Megan Thompson expressed an interest.  Eligibility & Planning – Alexis Young  Discussed how to increase LRS’ visibility and accessibility for current and future clients. Director Bayham will follow-up with Jamar Ennis/SILC, Rosemary Morales/Office of Citizens with Developmental Disability (OCDD) and Megan Thompson/IDEA to explore how to fund driver’s education for students who need transportation to work; a particular barrier in rural areas. Recommendation made to quantify the volume of students impacted by region. Also discussed possibility of separate LRS website and redesign to make it more user friendly. Alexis will review websites for the states of Michigan, Texas and Tennessee.  Employment – Lynn Stevens  In July, the committee agreed to work on preparing written materials to use with engaging employers. Board Chair Young requested for someone from LRS to present to the council on the financial benefits for employers that hire someone with a disability. Director Bayham was agreeable. Committee will explore how to connect with and promote best practices for employers that are great at hiring people with disabilities. | |  |
| Member Reports | CAP – Ashley Volion  See attached    IDEA report – Megan Thompson  The Jump Start Convention had about 600 attendees. Focused effort to showcase school systems that are doing great things for students with disabilities. The Teacher Leader Summit is planned for May 31 – June 2 in New Orleans. ESSER2 and ESSER3 funding has allowed school districts to receive funding for a mobile community service app that will help students with tracking the 80 hours needed to receive a special seal on their diploma.  SILC – Jamar Ennis  Securing funding from a portion of the sports betting revenue to go toward disability integration services and emergency management. Completed annual federal reporting which is primarily performance indicators that go to the ACLU. Continuing to meet via Zoom and supports legislative to keep Zoom in play for open meetings beyond the pandemic.  WIC report – No report as they still do not have a representative to replace Bob Lobos. | |  |
| Future Meeting  Dates | | Upcoming General Board Meetings will be on April 28, 2022 and July 28, 2022. |  |
| Adjourn | | Marvin Rush motioned to adjourn, seconded by Laura Nata and the Council adjourned at 2:21 p.m. without objection. |  |