



## Louisiana Rehabilitation Council

P.O. Box 91297  
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-9297

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### General Committee Meeting Minutes Thursday, April 28, 2022 at 9:00 AM CT

**Courtyard by Marriott  
10307 North Mall Drive  
Baton Rouge, LA 70809  
Tigers Den Room**

#### Members Present

Yakima Black, Warren Chauvin, Jamar Ennis, Paul Genco, Laura Nata, Susan Nelson, Marvin Rush, Laura Stazio, Lynn Stevens, Megan Thompson, Brian Wood, Gay Young, Melissa Bayham, Alexis Young, Mary Hornsby

#### Members Absent

Stephen Carrier, Suzanne Lentz, Michelle Ned, Dina Perkins, Karen Roy

#### Liaison

Nicole Miller

#### Guests Present

Lynsey Hebert (captionist), Patrick Holmes, Stacey Marbs, Ginger Rush, Selena Trahan and Lynn Blanchard.

#### Call to Order

The general meeting was called to order by Chair Gay Young at 9:24 a.m. with a quorum.

#### Minutes

Motion to approve minutes from January was made by Paul Genco and seconded by Warren Chauvin. Motion passed without abstention or objection.

#### Old Business

Transition Opportunity Now did not get a chance to discuss next steps. Small committee with 4-6. Maybe connect in June. Possibly offer PreETS during holiday breaks or the summer. Opportunity Now has a great ability to get into the school system. A Zoom Meeting will be sent out for those who can attend, June 7th 9-10am. Megan will invite Joe Lewis from Opportunity Now (mission/who is eligible/student objectives).



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Alexis and Yakima sent out a survey regarding funding for Driver's Ed courses. Next time we will be talking about Driver's Ed. Megan will request a list of schools that offer a Driver's Ed Course.

Membership – There are 4 vacancies on the council: Business/ Industry/Labor, advocate 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. LRC will create a one-pager to outline what LRC is and the steps to become a member.

Public  
Comment

None

New  
Business

LRC 2022/2023 Budget- of \$30,000. Marvin Rush made a motion to accept the budget, seconded by Paul Genco. The motion was passed with no objections.

Officer Elections- Gay Young nominated by Laura Stazio for Chairperson. Alexis Young motioned to close the nominations, seconded by Susan Nelson. All in favor, motion carries. Marvin Rush nominated by Laura Stazio for Vice-Chair. Alexis Young motioned to close the nominations, seconded by Susan Nelson. All in favor, motion carries. Megan Thompson nominated by Laura Stazio for Secretary. Alexis Young motioned to close the nominations, seconded by Susan Nelson. All in favor, motion carries. Yakima Black nominated by Laura Stazio for Member at Large. Alexis Young motioned to close the nominations, seconded by Susan Nelson. All in favor, motion carries. Lynn Stevens nominated by Laura Stazio for Employment Committee Chairperson. Alexis Young motioned to close the nominations, seconded by Susan Nelson. All in favor, motion carries.

Presentation

Jamar talked about SILC: what it is, what they do, and who's eligible.



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#### LRS Director's Report

Mark's funeral is at 1:00 at St. Thomas Moore Catholic Church on Goodwood.

My new supervisor is the designated state agency director, Andrea Morrison. She's the new assistant secretary for the Office of Workforce Development.

We actually are in the process of our state plan modification. We are a combined state plan. Meaning that our state plan is not only vocational rehabilitation, but it's the Department of labor programs. All the programs under WIOA, Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act. So a couple weeks ago the plan was presented to the WIC, and it was reviewed and approved. So now it goes up for public comment. There's no major changes in the title four. Which is our section, the vocational rehabilitation section. Other than just some general updates.

We have 36 vacancies and a great need in the Shreveport area. We have a pilot in the Shreveport office with Team Academy for contract counselors. Team Academy is a vendor of ours. So essentially, they are the employer, but we supervise the staff. The reason why you're seeing more VR agencies doing this is because at the end of the day we are not getting applicants, but the work is still there.

We are streamlining our manual, looking into using Docusign, and discussing rapid engagement timelines. We are partnering with parks to boost employment opportunities.



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#### Standing Committee Reports

##### **Planning and Eligibility**

We had some conversation, but we kind of rolled it up into thinking through the presentation from your report today, Melissa, this morning, I guess that was this morning, relative to the modernization. So that's a really good option that's being flushed out and developed. There's still some concern about website compliance.

##### **Transition**

In transition we talked about adding preETS to the IT page. Which is your transition page that you do before you do the IEP. The individual's education plan. And so we're trying to add preETS, so people don't forget that that does exist. Options for the students. So Megan is going to check on that for us.

##### **Employment**

We talked a little bit about challenges of job shadowing and apprenticeships with adults and how to maybe possibly get that as a service for adults.

#### Member Reports

##### **IDEA report – Megan Thompson**

Fast Forward, SER updates, Achieve! Funding

##### **CAP – Patrick Holmes**

Right now current CAP caseload is 26 clients. New Orleans region one has eight clients being served. Baton Rouge area has six clients. We have two clients in St. Charles, one in Houma. Lafayette region four we have three clients. Lake Charles region five we're serving one client. And Shreveport region seven we have five clients there that we're serving.



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#### **SILC – Jamar Ennis**

We're going to be scheduling our committee to create our new state plan for independent living. So a lot of the efforts will be involving that. Cause it's essentially the meat and potatoes of what we do for the public. So they'll be an opportunity at some point for public input. I'll ensure that. So certainly I'll bring that to LRC at the appropriate time. And other things that we're doing we're looking to participate in our annual conference called the NCIL. It's the National Council of Independent Living. So we're looking to have some representation here that's in July.

#### **Adjourn**

Warren motions to end the meeting and Brian seconds the motion. All approve—(3:12pm)