



## Louisiana Rehabilitation Council

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

### General Meeting Minutes

April 27, 2017

Embassy Suites

Constitution Blvd. Baton Rouge LA

Page 1 of 6

#### Thursday, April 27, 2017

Members Present	Bob Lobos, Libby Murphy, Mark Martin, Ronald Key, Tommy Carnline, Nicole Walker, Warren Chauvin, Cathy Lazarus, Jean Hansen, Derek White, Father Pat Mascarella, Jessica Lewis, Rebecca Hanberry, Jonathan Trunnell, Paul Genco, Krista Scurria, and Cliff Owens
Members Absent	Sue Killiam, Lanor Curole, Laura Nata, Nan Magness, Roxanne Homstad, and Pamela Allen
Liaison	Kandy Baker
Guests Present	Melissa Bayham, Lynn Blanchard, Chris Anthony, Brenda Bohrer, Bambi Polotzola, Susan Reed, Amy Houston, April Dunn, Bernice Thompson, Brian Woods, Kenneth York, Houston Moss and Rhea Mertz
Call to Order	The general meeting was called to order at 9:19 a.m. with a quorum.
Minutes	Motion to approve January 26, 2017 LRC General Meeting Minutes with one correction was made by Libby Murphy, seconded by Warren Chauvin. <b>Motion Passed</b> without abstention or objection.
LRS Director's Report	Mark Martin discussed efforts underway to secure a waiver of state match to draw down all of Louisiana's federal VR funds due to the state's historical 2016 flood event. This requires Congressional action and has occurred once before, after Hurricane Katrina. Advocates provided public testimony on HB 1 to the legislature earlier this month to restore the 2% cut in SGF to LRS. Currently, all OOS categories are closed. LRS is serving Pre-ETS and only those VR clients who have current IPE's. Applications are still taken and approximately 3,000 are on the waiting list. With the current proposed 2018 budget, all OOS categories would likely remain closed. An explanation of LRS' 2017 budget and 35% funding reduction to VR services was provided. 15% of VR funding is allocated to Pre-ETS as required by WIOA. 1.6M in SGF was replaced by an interagency transfer from LCTCS to provide training to VR eligible prisoners nearing release in the DOC. In the coming weeks, LRS State Office staff will move to the 3 <sup>rd</sup> floor of the LWC Annex Building with other OWD staff.

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Page 2 of 6

#### The LRC recessed to Standing Committees at 10:29 a.m.

##### Standing Committee Reports

Eligibility and Planning – Request additional members. Intake and eligibility determination continues, even with OOS closed, as is federally mandated. Legislative advocacy is needed. Important to increase understanding and connecting information/advocacy services, the educational system, the transition and employment providers to better communicate how their respective areas connect to the next level and promote seamless outcomes for individuals with disabilities.

Employment Committee - Recommend LRS put together a vendor informational sheet to support informed choice based on information gathered through the vendor registration process that can be given to clients once OOS is opened again. Legislative advocacy for increased funding is needed and encouraged.

Transition Committee – Will research the startup cost to develop the Pre-ETS Professional Development Program. Discussed the division of funding between WIOA and IDEA and ways to promote accountability for outcomes.

##### Old Business

Consumer satisfaction survey was e-mailed to 5,116 consumers on Thursday, April 13, 2017. Consumers surveyed were "Open Cases in Service Status and Beyond" and "Closed Cases From Service Status and After" during FFY 2016 with e-mail addresses. 100% of those consumers were e-mailed the survey. 391 were returned undeliverable. As of 4/25 we had 589 surveys completed with a 77% satisfaction rate. 133 respondents requested to be contacted by a LRC member.

#### The LRC recessed for lunch at 12:00pm

##### Liaison Report

Kandy Baker provided a membership update. There are 21 members of which 3 are new and 2 are ex officio. The additional seat representing the area of rehab technology was filled by Krista Scurria. In June additional members will roll off due to term limits.

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---

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Embassy Suites

Constitution Blvd. Baton Rouge LA

Page 3 of 6

Need members from north and southwest LA. To date the LRC has spent \$9,537. The proposed 2018 LRC budget is \$30,000 and includes travel to key conferences. The Executive Committee passed a motion to reduce the budget request proportional to any budget reduction LRS has in their 2018 budget. Ethics training is required annually and a link to the training will be sent via e-mail.

**Chair Report** Executive committee met from 8:04 am – 9:10 am

Open meeting law handout prepared by Rob Roux, LWC Attorney

Consumer Satisfaction Survey preliminary results will be finalized and LRC members will contact the respondents requesting phone contact.

Ad Hoc Nominations Committee: Ronald Key presented the Executive Committee nominations: Chairperson – Bob Lobos, Vice Chairperson – Tommy Carnline, Secretary – Sue Killiam, Member-at-large – Libby Murphy, Employment Committee Chairperson – Jessica Lewis, Transition Committee Chairperson – Warren Chauvin, and Eligibility and Planning Committee Chairperson – Cathy Lazarus. No other nominations from the floor. **Motion passed** to accept the nominations was made by Warren Chauvin and seconded by Nicole Walker and approved without abstention or objection.

Executive Committee passed a motion to reduce the budget request proportional to any budget reduction LRS has in their 2018 budget. Plan to send members to key conferences.

Ad Hoc Legislative Committee: Libby Murphy is preparing a fact sheet showing the return on investment for members to educate legislators based on a study completed by the LSU Public Policy Research Program which found that for every \$1 spent in VR, the return over a 5 year period is \$16.99. Advocate for restoring the 20% cut from 2017 budget and impact to services.

Office of  
Workforce  
Development  
Director

Director of the Office of Workforce Development, Ms. Shannon Joseph, addressed the LRC. Focus is on re-planning and integration in the organization, making sure the One Stop Centers are fully educated about LRS and providing quality services.

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---

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Page 4 of 6

#### Member Reports

Jonathan Trunnell provided the CAP report  
Rebecca Hanberry provided the IDEA report  
Jessica Lewis reported on the SILC  
Bob Lobos reported on the WIC

#### New Business

Bob Lobos, Chair, discussed the LRC Member Roles and Responsibilities handout/document as approved at the last meeting. The activities are not mandatory, but encouraged. You will be invited to share information learned and give feedback to the Council.

Future meeting dates: July 27, October 26, 2017, January 25, 2018 and April 26, 2018.

Much appreciation to Jean Hansen, Ronald Key and Father Pat Mascarella for their many years of valuable input and service to the LRC.

#### Adjourn

Tommy Carnline motioned to adjourn, seconded by Libby Murphy and the Council adjourned at 4:02 p.m., without objection

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---

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Embassy Suites

Constitution Blvd. Baton Rouge LA

Page 5 of 6

#### APPENDIX A

#### Summary of Decisions Made

1. The LRC will have interpreters available at every LRC meeting for at least the two hour minimum and on call for the rest of the meeting.
2. The Chair referred discussions on the following topics to the Transition Committee to deliver recommendations to the full body on providing input to the Director:
  1. Edits to proposed requirements to become a PETS provider
4. The Chair referred discussions on increasing access to Social Security employment programs in Louisiana to the Eligibility and Planning Committee to deliver recommendations to the full body.
5. LRC will develop and adopt a format of roles and responsibilities for its members and have the Executive Committee report recommendations to the council at the next meeting.
6. Elected Officers SFY 2017: Chair, Bob Lobos; Vice-Chair, Tommy Carnline; Secretary, Sue Killiam; Eligibility and Planning Committee Chair, Cathy Lazarus; Employment Committee Chair, Nicole Walker; Transition Committee Chair, Warren Chauvin; Member-at-large, Libby Murphy (immediate past Chair).
7. The LRC requests a status report from the Director to keep the LRC apprised of the current situation of how cuts will be applied and that LRC be involved to the extent necessary or helpful.
8. The LRC requests field personnel be asked to make recommendations (e.g. what's working well, where cuts should be, tightening eligibility for VR, spending limits, shared cost, eligibility criteria for specific services, etc.).
9. Elected Officers SFY 2018: Chair, Bob Lobos; Vice-Chair, Tommy Carnline; Secretary, Sue Killiam; Eligibility and Planning Committee Chair, Cathy Lazarus; Employment Committee Chair, Jessica Lewis; Transition Committee Chair, Warren Chauvin; Member-at-large, Libby Murphy (immediate past Chair).

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---

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Page 6 of 6

#### APPENDIX B

##### Glossary of Abbreviations

AIVRP	American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation Program
CAP	Client Assistance Program
CSAVR	Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation
DOC	Department of Corrections
EC	Executive Committee of the Louisiana Rehabilitation Council
IDEA	Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
IPE	Individual Plan for Employment
LAPTIC	Louisiana Parent Training and Information Center
LCTCS	Louisiana Community and Technical College System
LRC	Louisiana Rehabilitation Council
LRS	Louisiana Rehabilitation Services
LWC	Louisiana Workforce Commission
NCSRC	National Coalition of State Rehabilitation Councils
OOS	Order of Selection
OWD	Office of Workforce Development
Pre-ETS	Pre-Employment Transition Services
RSA	Rehabilitation Services Administration
SGF	State General Fund
TACE	Technical Assistance and Continuing Education
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation
WIC	Workforce Investment Council
WIOA	Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014

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