



Louisiana Rehabilitation Council

P.O. Box 91297
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

General Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 7, 2024 at 9:00 AM CT

Hampton Inn & Suites
11271 Reiger Road
Baton Rouge, LA 70809

Meeting Called to Order (9:13am)

Members Present: Melissa Bayham, Rikki David, Sherri Houin, Kelly Monroe, Michelle Ned, Amanda Nottingham, Brian Patchett, Nicole Poiencot, Donna Reno, Megan Thompson, Myron Wright

Absent: Stephen Carrier, Hope Day, Jeannie Doiron, Lynn Stevens

Guests: Stephen Johnston, Gabriel McGrew, Courtney Ryland (Liaison), Kylie Seamon

July Quarterly Meeting Minutes

Rikki moved to approve the July minutes and Myron seconded the motion. No opposition.

LRS Director Report

Brian requested a list of schools who do not have a Pre-ETS vendor. Now LRS has a centralized payment system so that vendors can get paid sooner. We usually can't draw down as much as we can because we do not have state match. By 2027, if the state cannot match we will be in a situation. LRS is consistently spending more money. Currently, there is not enough staff to cover the need and the needs are increasing. Since 2006, LRS has had to return \$409M since we did not have the State General Funds to match. LRS is now working towards doing more third party cooperative agreements, as you can generate match that way. They are going to possibly work alongside JAG in the future. In FY24, LRS served 18,000 participants. Positions for counselors have been reduced over the years. The new administration is supportive of LRS funds.

Melissa touched on a few slides of the presentation that Osmar Padilla was going to present, as he was unable to make it. Brian wants to make sure that when someone becomes part of LRS, that they immediately get assessed for the technology that they need. Donna agrees that AT is greatly needed. It was also said that follow-through in many situations is critical regarding services and supports. Now is the time to start advocating and getting those who need in front of legislators. Next Steps: create a fact sheet, get with legislators, connect with groups, message that we need funding to get people with disabilities to work, tweak what was used for Medicaid buy-in, make them aware that we left millions on the table because we could not match

Kelly said she is willing to bring this to the Arcs and will lead the group to create a fact sheet.

Brian moves to create an Ad Hoc Committee to create a fact sheet to begin advocating. Kelly seconded the motion. No opposition.

Old Business

- LRC Membership Updates
 - We have several new members. We have 10 vacancies. The Executive Council has found 3 members to recommend. The application is linked on the website. Applications



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are sent to Courtney and she shares it with the Executive Committee. We need 5 more people with disabilities to join the committee.

Brian moves to approve the 3 people to join the council. Megan seconded the motion with no opposition.

- 2024 LRS Needs and Satisfaction Survey
 - 1,358 people took the survey. The data will help guide goals and priorities for the future. 55% had “no complaints”. 26% said “no”. The chair will get a copy of the report. There were 372 comments specifically for LRS which included praise, requests for marketing, and requests for faster responses.
- Ethics Training Requirement
 - These people need to complete the training: Stephen, Hope, Jeanie, Sherry, Amanda, Brian, and Donna.
 - Courtney will send the training link out.

New Business

- Chair’s Report
 - Update from Bylaw Committee
 - It needs to be convened or reformed to make any necessary changes. Lynn asked that the standing committees be reformed. The Ad Hoc Committee could be one of the new committees. We just need to update the bylaws.
 - Nomination Committee
 - In April
 - Schedule of Future Meetings
 - Upcoming meetings include January 23, April 24, July 24, and October 23.

Brian moves to accept all of the future meeting dates. Megan seconded the motion and there was no opposition.

Reports

- State ADA Coordinator
 - Rikki has been working a lot on web accessibility. State Agencies have until 2026 to make the updates. An Executive Order will be issued and then a policy will be created. They will work with Civil Service to create training.
- Vendor Coalition (absent)
- Client Assistance Program (CAP)(absent-notes are in the packet)
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
- State Independent Living Council (SILC)(absent)
- Workforce Investment Council (WIC)(absent)

Announcements

No public comment. A moment of silence was held to remember Lauren Womack.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 10:36 a.m.