

Evidence of Collaboration Regarding Supported Employment Services and Extended Services Attachment 4.8(b)(4)

Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS) will maintain cooperative agreements on file with the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of Mental Health (OMH) and Office of Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD), which ensure proper utilization of resources under the Title VI, Part C Program. These agreements are written to comply with the content requirements in 34 CFR 363.50(b) outlining each agency's responsibility in reference to the supported employment program.

A description of each agreement follows:

OFFICE OF MENTAL HEALTH

LRS and the OMH are jointly responsible for meeting the needs of consumers with mental illness for whom supported employment is the most appropriate service. LRS will fund the Job Coach Model, the Mobile Crew Model, the Enclave Model and Evidence-based Employment Service Models for the chronically mentally ill to provide supported work services. These services will be provided, either directly or through a service provider, as time-limited vocational services to these individuals and will include: (1) short-term evaluation (any evaluation must be supplementary to an evaluation of rehabilitation potential done under the regular program), (2) job development and job placement, (3) intensive training, (4) intensive follow-along, and (5) extended follow-along.

The OMH will provide extended services, which will include jobsite intervention, social skills training, and any other service available in the OMH system, which will ensure job retention. The extended services are provided after the consumer's progress plateaus with the job coach spending no more than twenty-five percent (25%) of the time at the jobsite for ninety (90) days and the consumer is stabilized at this level.

The OMH estimates that at least 150 consumers could be referred for supported employment services during each fiscal year. Once eligibility for supported employment services has been established, there shall be a conference between the LRS counselor, and the OMH representative, the service provider and the consumer to establish the specific responsibilities of each party and to assure the development of an Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) that includes that the provider has made arrangements for extended services or there is a reasonable expectation that the support will become available. Extended services can include natural supports.

The IPE shall specify the responsibilities of all parties involved in the supported employment program for the individual and shall include reporting requirements for both agencies.

During the operational phase, LRS is responsible for the provision of services as outlined in the agreement. The LRS vendor (service provider) is responsible for actual placement, training and supervision. Any problems, which might impact upon the ultimate success of the job placement, shall be immediately brought to the attention of LRS and the OMH. LRS shall maintain an open, active case on each consumer in accord with definitions and guidelines which have been accepted for each of the program models.

LRS agrees to re-open a consumer's case at any point where additional long-term intensive training is needed, (i.e. consumer loses job and must be retrained, consumer promoted or consumer assigned new responsibilities).

OFFICE OF CITIZENS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

LRS and the OCDD are jointly responsible for meeting the needs of consumers with developmental disabilities for whom supported employment is the most appropriate service. LRS will fund the Job Coach Model, the Mobile Crew Model and the Enclave Model to provide supported work services. These services will be provided, either directly or through a service provider, as time-limited vocational services to these individuals and will include: (1) short-term evaluation (any evaluation must be supplementary to an evaluation of rehabilitation potential done under the regular program), (2) job development and job placement, (3) intensive training, (4) intensive follow-along, and (5) limited follow-along. The OCDD will provide extended services for consumers whose services are funded through contractual agreement with private providers. For consumers whose services are funded through a residential facility, extended services shall be provided by or through that facility.

The OCDD will provide extended services, which will include jobsite intervention, social skills training, and any other services available in the OCDD system that will ensure job retention. The extended services are provided after the consumer's progress plateaus with the job coach spending no more than twenty-five percent (25%) of the time at the jobsite for ninety (90) days and the consumer is stabilized at this level.

The OCDD estimates that some one hundred (100) consumers could be referred for supported employment services during each year.

Once eligibility for supported employment services has been established,

there shall be a conference between the LRS counselor, an OCDD representative, the service provider, and the consumer to establish the specific responsibilities of each party and to assure the development of an IPE that includes extended services. If extended services are not confirmed, there must be a reasonable expectation that supports, including natural supports will become available. The IPE shall specify the responsibilities of all parties involved in the supported employment program for the individual and shall include reporting requirements for both agencies.

In the initial phase of a supported employment placement, the LRS counselor, the services provider, and the consumer are principal participants in initiating the services of the initial phase of activity. The OCDD is available for consultation, referral, etc.

During this phase, LRS is responsible for the provision of services as outlined in the agreement. The LRS vendor (service provider) is responsible for actual placement, training and supervision. The service provider shall immediately bring any problems, which might impact upon the ultimate success of the job placement, to the attention of LRS and OCDD. Funding for extended services for consumers residing in residential facilities is the responsibility of that facility.

LRS agrees to re-open a consumer's case at any point where additional intensive training is needed and justified in writing, subject to availability of funds.

MONITORING AND EXPANSION

1. LRS will monitor the services provided within the guidelines of the existing corporative agreements to evaluate if modifications will be needed in the present agreements when they are renegotiated. They will be evaluated and modified to coincide with Title VI of the Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1998.
2. Because there are disability groups who do not meet the eligibility criteria of the above-cited agencies, Louisiana Rehabilitation Services will endeavor to establish agreements with other private nonprofit organizations and/or other community or state resources to eliminate the exclusions of these individuals from the Supported Employment Program to include:
 - A.) Social Security Administration
 - B.) Workforce Development Commission
 - C.) Employment Network of Louisiana
 - D.) Associations for Citizens with Disabilities
 - E.) State Department of Education

- G) Title VII, Independent Living Centers
 - I) Any other volunteer organizations and/or resources.
3. LRS will work towards establishing relationships with employers through the National VR Business Network, Community Rehabilitation Program-Rehabilitation Continuing Education Program, Business Advisory Committees, Business Leadership Networks, other Networks, and Councils to establish collaboration with businesses and corporations in order to facilitate natural supports at the job site.