

Allen ~ Beauregard ~ Calcasieu ~ Cameron ~ Jeff Davis ~ Vernon Parishes

Chair—Ms. Barbara Disnuka ~ Vice-Chair—Mr. Toby Leger ~ Secretary—Ms. Sarita Scheufens

Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA)

Calcasieu Business & Career Solutions Center

Local Workforce Development Area 51

2424 3rd Street

Thursday, April 28, 2016

We Put People to Work!

Elcie Guillory Room

11:30 a.m. Lunch, Meeting 12:00 Noon

Lake Charles, LA 70601

DRAFT MINUTES

1. Call to Order, Roll Call Vice-Chair, Mr. Toby Leger

Mr. Toby Leger called the meeting to order at 12:00 noon. Ms. Poland called roll.

Private Sector Members present=6: Mr. Brad Nelson, Ms. Sarita Scheufens, Mr. Toby Leger, Ms. Donna Bailey, Mr. Boyd Sockrider, and Ms. Debra Jones

Public Sector Members present =11 : Ms. Tommeka Semien, Mr. Robert Fontenot, Mr. Carlos Perez, Mr. Matthew Hennings, Ms. Juana Felton, Ms. Crystal Scott, Ms. Carol Thibodeaux, Mr. R.B. Smith, Ms. Karen Clapp, Mr. Keith Cooley, Ms. Tami Culbreath

Private Sector Members absent =11 :Ms. Barbara Disnuka, Mr. Darrell Henagan, Mr. Richard Boenig, Ms. Nicole Moncrief, Ms. Ginger Consigney, Ms. Michelle Nicholson, Mr. Kyle Clawson, Mr. Joseph Duhon, Mr. Dick Myers, Mr. Troy Auzenne, and Ms. Ranelle Birmingham

Public Sector Members absent= 3: Dr. Neil Aspinwall, Ms. Cassie Henry and Ms. Tracie Fontenot

Louisiana Workforce Commission Staff present: Mr. Greg DeClouet and Ms. Deidre Jackson (Guest Speaker)

Calcasieu Parish Police Jury President present: Mr. Chris E. Landry

Calcasieu Parish Police Jury Liaison present: Ms. Shelly Mayo

Calcasieu Parish Police Jury Liaison absent: Mr. Shalon Latour

Calcasieu Parish Police Jury Department of Human Services staff present: Mr. Tarek Polite, Ms. Jazelle Jones, Ms. Kara Leger and Ms. Charmagne Turpeau

Calcasieu Parish Police Jury Department of Communications & Media staff present: Mr. Tom Hoefler

WDB Staff Present: Ms. Stephanie Seemion, Ms. Betty Washington and Ms. Juanita Poland

Business & Career Solutions Center Staff Present: Ms. Marty Stevens and Ms. Catherine Thomas

LWDA 41 Directors/Staff present: Ms. Cortney Boutte-Breaux—LWDB#41 Executive Director and Ms. Erica Burgess-Project Coordinator from Lafayette (41)

Youth Providers:

Calcasieu Parish School Board – Dr. Betty Washington, Ms. Donica Thomas, Ms. Cynthia Pitre, and Ms. Sheree Thierry

Calcasieu Workforce Center – Ms. Myra DeLaCroix, Mr. Kendrick Celestine and Ms. Elaine Brister

(1) Announcement regarding quorum A quorum of 17 of the 31 members was present.

(2) State Ethics Training for 2016 is now underway. Please access the Internet address at

<https://eap.ethic.la.gov/EthicsTraining/Training/Courselist.aspx>

Certificates must be forwarded to me so that I can forward them to the Calcasieu Parish Police Jury. This is an annual Requirement.

Mr. Leger reminded members that the Ethics training is an annual requirement and certificates should be forwarded to Ms. Juanita Poland who must forward them to the Calcasieu Parish Police Jury.

(3) Welcome new WDB member Ms. Carol Thibodeaux who fills the unexpired term of Ms. Romona Guillory

Mr. Leger introduced and welcomed Ms. Carol Thibodeaux who will be filling the unexpired term of Ms. Romona Guillory.

(4) Financial Disclosure Due May 15, 2016. If you served on the WIB or WDB for any part of 2015,

YOU MUST FILE WITH THE STATE ETHICS BOARD & SEND JUANITA A COPY. If you do not file, you WILL hear from the State Ethics Board. Forms are attached.....Attached

Mr. Leger went over the documents for the Financial Disclosure. The document can be filled out online and printed, however , you cannot submit them online, they must be mailed, delivered, or faxed.

Contact Ms. Juanita if you need assistance. Be sure that if a page does not apply to you, check the box at the top of the page for “not applicable” and include the form when you send it to the State.

(5) WDB Members whose terms expire June 30, 2016

Dr. Neil Aspinwall, Mr. Matt Hennings, Ms. Juana Felton, Ms. Carol Thibodeaux, Mr. R.B. Smith, Ms. Karen Clapp, Mr. Keith Cooley, Ms. Cassie Henry, Ms. Tami Culbreath and Ms. Tracie Fontenot. This is the first of the WDB members to be either reappointed or replaced (based on Nominating agency). The new term of this group will be for 3 years, 2016 to 2019.

Mr. Leger said that WDB Staff will send the information to the nominating agencies to reappoint or replace the member. Mr. Leger encouraged the members to contact their nominating agency to express their desire to continue to serve on the Workforce Development Board.

2. Consideration Regarding Add-on Agenda Items

This item was moved up since there was only one "add on" agenda item. Another letter of resignation was received from Ms. Michelle Nicholson. Ms. Sarita Scheufens moved to add the agenda item. Mr. Carlos Perez seconded. Mr. Leger called twice for any public comment regarding the add-on agenda item. There was none. Carried.

- (6) Consideration on action to replace Mr. Troy Auzenne who has submitted a letter of resignation from the Workforce Development Board Attached
- 6A Consideration on action to replace Ms. Michelle Nicholson who has submitted a letter of resignation From the Workforce Development Board.....Emailed
Ms. Karen Clapp moved to accept the resignation of Mr. Troy Auzenne and Ms. Michelle Nicholson and to move forward with replacing the two members. Mr. Carlos Perez seconded. Carried.
- (7) Report on State CEO/Board Chair meeting in Baton RougeMs. Barbara Disnue & Ms. Donna Bailey
Mr. Chris Landry asked to say a few words. He encouraged the Board to "think outside the box." At the CEO/Board Chair meeting in Baton Rouge, the word was "If it does not say you can't do it, you CAN do it." We must put our funds to the best use. All of the Board members are needed in this endeavor.

Ms. Donna Bailey reported that the Vision for the Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) is "To achieve and maintain an integrated, job-driven workforce system that links our diverse, talented workforce to our nation's businesses and improves the quality of life for our citizens." Information was provided on Local Board Responsibilities, Local Plan Development, One Stop Operator, Taking the Lead at Meetings, Promoting Industry Partners, What Is a Strategic Board – taking the lead in what our region needs, put things on the agenda and understanding other regions. Governor Edwards said that we needed to find out who is in our region and service their needs. Ms. Bailey is from Allen Parish and hardly knows anyone. She said that get-togethers and surveys could provide a framework to follow to send emails to find out what is needed.

3. Consideration on Approval of Minutes of the January 28, 2016 Meeting Attached

Mr. R.B. Smith moved to approve the minutes of the January meeting. Mr. Brad Nelson seconded. One correction was noted. Agenda Item #2: Consideration Regarding Add-on Agenda items. The motion states "Mr. R.B. Smith moved to approve the 3 additional items..." The motion should state "Mr. R.B. Smith moved to approve the additional item." Carried.

4. Consideration Approval of Fiscal Matters

- (1) Corrected Amendment #1 to the LWC Contract to add unexpended balances of PY2015 and FY2016 allocations from LWIA50 and in the amount of \$592,044.66 as a result of the Merger of LWDA51 with LWDA50 and receipt of funds from DOLAttached

Ms. Betty Washington said that the Amendment was to add funds from LWIA50 for Program year 2015/Fiscal year 2016 and the new allocation received in July.

- (2) Expenditure Report through March 31, 2015 (HANDOUTS) Ms. Betty Washington
The Expenditure reports were emailed to everyone on the list to receive the Agenda Packet.
Ms. Betty Washington reported as follows:
Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) Adult Funds: Total available--\$808,975.93; Spent--\$394,007.00; Balance--\$414,968.93

WIOA Dislocated Worker Funds: Total available--\$731,536.81; Spent--\$213,666.00; Balance--\$517,870.81

WIOA Youth Funds: Total available--\$726,337.02; Spent--\$283,536.00; Balance--\$442,801.02

Job Driven National Emergency Grant (JD NEG) Funds: Total Available--\$1,550,000; Spent--\$225,561.00; Balance--\$1,324,439.00. Funds expire 9/30/16 but State is seeking an extension

Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF)/Strategies to Empower People (STEP) Funds: Total Available--\$113,892.009; Spent--\$46,889.90; Balance--\$67,003.00. Funds expire June 30, 2016.

Ms. Debra Jones asked if any of these funds could be spent to pay for printing some notices that say "We Hire the Disabled" to distribute to businesses. She asked about providing funds for special testing or the disabled. Ms. Washington responded that the WIOA funds cannot be used to provide such items to the schools or businesses. Each school would have to produce their own notices and post them. Another comment was made that we cannot legally ask if a person is disabled on an application. After discussion, Mr. Leger recommended that Ms. Jones use the comment card so that the staff can look into the matter.

Ms. Sarita Scheufens moved to approve both the Amendment to the Contract with the Louisiana Workforce Commission for funds added to the Local Workforce Development Area (LWDA) 51 as well as to accept Ms. Betty Washington's Expenditure Report through March 15, 3016. Mr. Carlos Perez seconded. Carried.

5. Consideration on Approval of Memorandum of Understanding to provide Training to Dislocated Workers from Local Workforce Development Areas 40 (St. Landry) and 41 (Lafayette).....Attached

Ms. Stephanie Seemion said that there is still over \$1 million to spend in the Job Driven National Emergency Grant (JDNEG) funding. These funds were received in 2014. Many of the individuals who are eligible are not willing to enter into training. They prefer to wait on another job. Therefore, the neighboring partners from Lafayette area have numerous individuals who want, and need to go to work. In determining how our Local Workforce Development Area could help them, this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was drafted. Training may take place in various locations, but the jobs are in the Lake Charles area/Region V. Great efforts are being made to collaborate on the crafts. The goal is to spend the funds that were awarded to this area and NOT have to send them back. If the extension is granted, the new sunset date on the Grant will be August of 2017.

Ms. Tami Culbreath asked about the underemployed military. Ms. Seemion said that they had discussed the transitioning soldiers. These funds may be able to help them. Lamar Salter is currently charging the soldiers. When they go back to class the cost is \$1800 for a class that begins May 20.

Mr. R.B. Smith moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to partner with LWDA 41/40 to provide services through the JDNEG funds. Mr. Robert Fontenot seconded. Carried.

6. Report on B&CSC Activities--Ms. Myra DeLaCroix Attached

Ms. Myra Delacroix provided a report as follows:

Unless otherwise noted, the numbers in (red) represent January/February/March of 2015.

Membership Team

Category	January 2016	January 2015	February 2016	February 2015	March 2016	March 2015
New Customers	493	580	320	211	302	390
Return Customers	705	1054	697	597	744	857
Plant Applications	261	148	182	119	110	136
Veterans	136	141	151	71	64	106
Youth	155	214	40	9	221	22

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Customers utilized the Skills Development Lab for a variety of services. Listed below are the services provided and the number of members that utilized each service:

JANUARY 2016

Effective January 4, 2016, the Business & Career Solutions Center has remained open through the lunch hour with no interruption of services to better serve our customers. As a result, traffic between the hours of 12:00 noon to 1:00pm was eight-four (84) for the month. The office was closed on January 1st and 18th due to a scheduled Holiday.

There were **136 (141)** Veterans assisted in Career Services. As you can see the Veterans traffic continues to increase each month. Currently our Center is without a Veterans Representative; therefore ALL Veterans are being assisted by center staff.

Services	January 2016	January 2015	February 2016	February 2015	March 2016	March 2015
Quiz Pre-Employment Testing	0	0	0	0	0	0
On-line Assessment	11	7	0	0	1	0
Job Search	876	1125	810	489	741	502
Resumes	140	98	70	103	70	80
Phones/Copier/Fax	88	126	61	97	51	130
UI Claims (Computer)	107	107	76	75	60	101
Literacy Council/GED Referrals Computer Class	0	1	1	1	0	0
TABE/SAGE Assessment	2	0	3	0	10	0
Job Readiness/J-Core Workshops	2	8	1	9	7	7
WIA Orientations	24	10	4	0	7	0
Disability Employment Initiative	0	2	0	2	0	2
Louisiana Rehabilitations Services	1	0	2	1	0	1
Resource Guide Orientations	0	0	0	2	0	0
Password Re-Sets	49	25	13	21	16	14
JD-NEG Information Meetings	0	4	1	6	7	0
Ticket to Work Orientation	0	6	0	2	0	2
CSBG	0	0	0	1	0	0
Special Employer Events	515	24	282	44	272	282
Quarterly Job Fair/Hiring Events	485	693	32	0	200	74

During January 2016, two (1) placements were recorded for WIOA participants that received classroom training scholarships:

- Lake Charles Memorial Hospital – Certified Nurse Assistant ~ 1 @ \$9.65 hourly.
- Cheniere LNG– Process Operator ~ 1 @ \$29.86 hourly.

One individual was enrolled into the Welding curriculum at Sowela (Workforce Development Department) through the JDNEG grant.

Staff attended the Spring 2016 Welcome Back Wednesday gathering at McNeese State University on January 20, 2016. This gathering allowed staff the opportunity to provide information to new and returning students of the opportunities available through WIOA for financial assistance should they qualify. Staff will begin scheduling appointments to determine eligibility on students for Spring 2016 enrollments. Since school has already begun, this is an opportunity for students to receive support services through WIOA should they qualify.

Staff is currently collaborating with Sowela Technical Community College to provide services to eligible individuals who will be attending the Rod Buster training which is scheduled to begin February 2016. After successful completion of the training individuals will be provided the option to enroll in on job training with CBI as Rod Buster at a rate of \$21.00 an hour.

Staff has been conducting informational meetings to advise and educate individuals of the opportunities being offered through the Job Driven-National Emergency Grant. Meetings are conducted on an as needed basis and the number of individual who participated in January informational meeting was one.

After reviewing Customer Satisfaction surveys it was determined that Customers were very satisfied with the services received here at the Center.

The next Quarterly Job Fair will be held at the Lake Charles Civic Center on Wednesday, April 13, 2016.

FEBRUARY 2016

There were **151 (71)** Veterans assisted in Career Services. As you can see the Veterans traffic continues to increase each month. Currently our Center is without a Veterans Representative; therefore ALL Veterans are being assisted by center staff.

During February 2016, two **(7)** placements were recorded for WIOA participants that received classroom training scholarships:

- Direct Care, Inc. – Patient Care Attendant ~ 1 @ \$8.65 hourly.
- Evergreen Ministries – Direct Service Worker ~ 1 @ \$9.00 hourly.

Staff is currently collaborating with Sowela Technical Community College to provide services to eligible individuals who will be attending the Rod Buster training which is scheduled to begin March 2016. After successful completion of the training individuals will be provided the option to enroll in on job training with CBI as Rod Buster at a rate of \$21.00 an hour.

Staff has been conducting informational meetings to advise and educate individuals of the opportunities being offered through the Job Driven-National Emergency Grant. Meetings are conducted on an as needed basis and the number of individual who participated in February informational meeting was none.

After reviewing Customer Satisfaction surveys it was determined that Customers were very satisfied with the services received here at the Center.

The next Quarterly Job Fair will be held at the Lake Charles Civic Center on Wednesday, April 13, 2016.

MARCH 2016

There were **64 (106)** Veterans assisted in Career Services. As you can see the Veterans traffic continues to increase each month. Currently our Center is without a Veterans Representative; therefore ALL Veterans are being assisted by center staff.

During March 2016, zero **(4)** placements were recorded for WIOA participants that received classroom training scholarships.

Staff traveled to the Lafayette Business & Career Solutions Center on Wednesday, March 23, 2016 to meet with individuals who have been displaced as a result of the decline in the Oil & Gas Industry. Staff met with six individuals and three were enrolled to participate in the Rod Buster training at Sowela. Upon completion of the 8 week training, individuals will be NCCER certified and have the option to participate in the on the job training (Utilizing JDNEG dollars) with CBI as Rod Busters at a rate of \$21.00 an hour. Staff were also on site at Sowela the first day of the Rod Buster class to speak with all students regarding the on the job training opportunity. At this time staff has identified possibly three who may be eligible as JDNEG participants.

Staff has been conducting informational meetings to advise and educate individuals of the opportunities being offered through the Job Driven-National Emergency Grant. Meetings are conducted on an as needed basis and the number of individual who participated in March informational meeting was seven.

After reviewing Customer Satisfaction surveys it was determined that Customers were very satisfied with the services received here at the Center.

STRATEGIES TO EMPOWER PEOPLE (STEP)

The purpose of the Strategies to Empower People (STEP) Program is to provide opportunities for work-eligible recipients of FITAP to receive job preparation, work and supportive services to enable them to leave the program and become self-sufficient.

To accomplish this STEP will:

- Encourage, assist and require work-eligible recipients of FITAP to fulfill their responsibilities to support their children by preparing for, accepting, and retaining employment.
- Provide individuals with the opportunity to acquire the skills necessary to qualify for employment.
- Provide the necessary supportive services, including child care and medical assistance, so that individuals can participate and accept employment.
- Promote coordination of services at all levels of government and in the business community in order to make a wide range of services available and to maximize the use of existing resources.
- Emphasize accountability for both participants and service providers.

Noted below are the current numbers and status of STEP participants assigned to Business and Career Solutions Center staff:

JANAURY 2016

Parish	No. Enrolled	No. Sanctioned	Work Experience Program (WEP)	Active	No Activity Required
Allen (02)	8	0	1	8	3
Beauregard (06)	8	2	0	6	2
Calcasieu (10)	44	4	1	40	5
Cameron (12)	0	0	0	0	0
Jefferson Davis (27)	5	1	0	4	1
Vernon (28)	12	0	0	12	3

(STEP)Tiffany Success Story

This success story is about one of the many young women in Calcasieu Parish who is faced with raising and providing for their family all along. Tiffany a determined and self motivated 28 year old single mother of five children; 9 year old Elani, 8 year old Robert, 6 year old Sakayla, 3year old Aaliylah and 4 month old Robyn. Tiffany and her children live in Lake Charles, La.

Tiffany filed for FITAP on October 2015 and was referred to the STEP program. During this process Tiffany gave birth to her youngest daughter Robyn on 11/2/15.

A few weeks later Tiffany came into the Business and Career Solution Center for her scheduled face to face appointment. The STEP case manger administers a Family Success Agreement & Family Assessment with Tiffany. During the interview Tiffany display a strong attitude of confidents and she did not want to waste any time she was very eager to become employed. Tiffany communicated with STEP case manager her short term goals

within six months were to find immediate employment, to get her GED and go back to school to become a Nurse.

The STEP case manager and Tiffany set objectives for her to meet her goals. One of the steps was to complete a four week Job Search contact anywhere and to enroll into a GED program. Tiffany stated that she would need child care assistance. The STEP case manager made a request to the (LDE) La. Department of Education for child care assistance and the STEP program provided Tiffany with a \$100.00 travel stipend.

As soon as Tiffany received her postnatal care release from her doctor on 12/14/2015 she became employed on 12/21/2015 at Wal-Mart Super Center as an Automotive Technician.

Tiffany statement: "Hello my name is Tiffany the STEP program has really been helpful. It helped me to set goals to further my education and look for a better job. I'm about to look into going back to school to get further in life. Thanks to Mrs. King, she is a big help as far as helping me and I thank her. I now work for Wal-Mart super Center, but I'm also looking to go back to school for Nursing my number one goal. ("I'm going to reach"!) Thanks again." Tiffany

Tiffany has overcome some of her barriers and have achieved one of her immediate short term goals of becoming employed, with the support of the STEP program, case manager and Human Services staff Tiffany is not all along.

February 2016

Parish	No. Enrolled	No. Sanctioned	Work Experience Program (WEP)	Active	No Activity Required
Allen (02)	8	3	1	6	2
Beauregard (06)	7	1	0	7	0
Calcasieu (10)	43	0	1	34	9
Cameron (12)	0	0	0	0	0
Jefferson Davis (27)	5	0	0	5	1
Vernon (28)	15	5	0	12	3

(STEP) Tosha Success Story

Home can be a place where we go to find peace and safety, but for *Tosha, it was where she feared for her life. Tosha Brown a pregnant 33 year old single woman escapes her abusive environment and took residency at Oasis, a safe haven for survivors of domestic and sexual violence. At the shelter, Tosha and her unborn child now had a safe space to live. She was supplied with food, clothes, toiletries, and other day-to-day essentials. Tosha was assigned a case manager and they began meeting regularly to develop a plan of action to help Tosha recover and rebuild her life.

While residing in the shelter Tosha gave birth to a beautiful baby boy Anthony Iverson Brown on 10/05/2015 @ 8:18am.

Tosha filed for FITAP assistance and was referred to the STEP program. On October 21, 2015 Tosaha came into the Business and Career Solution Center for her scheduled face to face appointment. The STEP case manger administers a Family Success Agreement & Family Assessment with Tosha. During the interview Tosha display a strong attitude of distrust, protective and often defensive. Tosha communicated with STEP case manager her short term goals within six months were to find immediate employment and to move out of the shelter into her own home.

The STEP case manager and Tosha set objectives for her to meet her goals. One of the steps was to complete a four week Job Search contact anywhere and a Job Readiness Workshop with Mrs. Gwen Guillory at the Business & Career Center for two sections, another step was to apply for low income housing or section 8 certificates, also to complete Parenting skills training with AgCenter. The STEP program provided \$100.00 transportation stipend to aide Tosha with her required STEP work activities. Although Tosha was faced with great challenges; homeless living in a woman's shelter in hiding from domestic abuse and a new born baby. By the end of the interview Tosha demeanor began to change her attitude became open, a little more trusting and less defensive. She was determined to get a job and to move out of the shelter into her own home with perseverance, the help of the STEP case manger and Business Services staff.

Tosha was able to overcome her barriers and successfully obtain her goals. Tosha received a certificate of completion for Job Readiness Workshop, completed her Job Search contacts and she received a certificate of completion for Nurturing Parenting from Southern University and A & M College, AgCenter. Tosha is employed at Idora Inc., as a first line cook, in Lake Charles, La. and for her ultimate goal she has moved out of the shelter and is now living in her own home with her baby boy Anthony in peace and safety.

Tosha Brown statement: *“I’m so grateful to God, Mrs. King, Mrs. Guillory and everyone that helped me along the way.”*

March 2016

Parish	No. Enrolled	No. Sanctioned	Work Experience Program (WEP)	Active	No Activity Required
Allen (02)	6	1	1	4	2
Beauregard (06)	6	1	0	6	0
Calcasieu (10)	40	0	1	32	8
Cameron (12)	0	0	0	0	0
Jefferson Davis (27)	6	0	0	5	1
Vernon (28)	13	1	0	10	3

(STEP)Jacqueline Success Story

“Filipino immigrants constitute one of the largest foreign-born groups in the United States. Since 1990, the Philippines has been consistently among the top five countries of origin, and was the fourth largest in 2013, accounting for 4.5 percent of the 41.3 million total immigrant population in the United States.

The second wave of Filipino immigration began in the aftermath of World War II. Many more than 100 Filipinos arrived annually outside the quota, primarily as “war brides” to U.S. servicemen.

American man looking for a mate “I don’t remember specifically when it first occurred to me to look elsewhere for a mate, but one night I impulsively Googled “Asian women” and up popped filipinaheart.com. Aimed at fostering long-term relationships between Western men and Filipino women, the site allowed any man willing to pay a modest fee to advertise, respond to women’s ads, or engage in live video chats. I changed from an invisible older man into a rock star. Of course that appealed to my ego, but on a deeper level it appealed to my need for stability in a world in which the love I wanted seemed impossible to find. These women seemed to have traditional values, were open to matrimony, and dreamed of blissful lives in American suburbs. These Filipino women were looking for something I could provide—a better life in the U.S.”

The Philippines has long been sources of 2,000 women are sponsored each year as wives or fiancées and from 15,000 to 20,000 men have sponsors from that country. But within these figures lies the harrowing story of serial sponsors - men who make a habit of wooing, abusing, then discarding, Filipino women. Some women have survived to recount their experiences; others bear silent witness.”...

Jacqueline, born in the Philippines is a married mother who has escaped from her abusive husband and is now living legally separated in Moss Bluff, La., with a friend who has provided a safe haven for her and her children; Xyzen 8 and Narada Moll 3 years old.

Jacqueline statement: *“I came in U.S May 12, 2014 through fiancé VISA of my soon to be ex husband. My soon to be ex-husband is different to get along with. Most of the time he have a bad temper, the only way he could calm himself is when he smoke his joint. He runs his own painting business. He’s on the road 2 weeks go back home and leave for 2 weeks again. He doesn’t leave me any money. His mom buys grocery for me and children. She asked me for a list sometimes not. I and the kids just eat and cook whatever she buys. Sometimes she leaves it on my doorstep. I get bored staying in the house, I can’t go anywhere I have no driving license and never enrolled to any driving school so I asked my husband if my mother in law can sometimes take me to the grocery store and let pick my own food and stuff. But it never happened so I asked him again that it gets to the point he’s fed up of me asking and maybe he told his mom to let me go with her. She let me go with her but every time I try to pick up laundry soap or food or meat she stop me from getting it and said what she got is cheaper. So at the end of the day she’s still the boss. I ask my ex husband if I can get*

my own groceries or let me open a bank account but it never happen. He always tell me I'm not a U.S Citizen yet, I asked for ESL school last 2014 but he never let me, I asked to help me get SS but never let me. So I was staying in the house waiting for him or mom.

Jacqueline stated that she has experience harmful and painful sexual abuse that is not detail because it doesn't edify the reader and she was told that this is the American way and culture.

I thought it's a modern culture here in U.S.A. Anyway I know I have to see a therapist because I am feeling so down and one of my new friend at church has to drive me 1 hour to my therapist and I told her what's happening because she's wondering why she's giving me a ride to a therapist office. Then I started to received help and emotional support while I'm working with my faith and relationship to God, she and another friend at Church help me and I finally hire a new immigration lawyer to help me with my pending Adjustment of Status case. Then I got the Prima Facie which my lawyer state in her email I can get Medicaid, food stamp and other government assistance. After I get approved with FITAP I got a task to cooperate with STEP. At first I felt like how I can possibly do it when I don't even have a car or friend to give me a ride but we found solution anyway. I met Ms. Deidra King and she was so nice and sweet. She explained me what things I need to do. She gave me job search report and day care address list. I cooperate with her. She hooks me up in ESL and let me attend seminar. Ms. Deidra is so helpful and never a chance saw her or heard her out of patience or losing her temper. I know SNAP and FITAP recipient only in state of Louisiana is so much that I understand if they get out of patience to those stubborn or short temper and impatient recipient but people in STEP especially Ms. Deidra is so nice and sweet and so hands on! Also Ms. Gwen, Usually people work in government assistant has no patience with the client that don't understand the systems, that don't cooperate or don't follow rules and laws but Ms. Deidra is so humble and so patience in helping me. To think she is not just working with U.S citizen client but also people from different countries that lives here and needed help. Without STEP I will never know that there's so much free agency that offers help such as free school, trainings, rides, etc. STEPS opens door to everybody that willing to change their lives and step up! I can even tell that not all U.S citizen knows about all this opportunity and about the programs on STEPS

Jacqueline filed for FITAP assistance and was referred to the STEP program. On December 21, 2015 Jacqueline came into the Business and Career Solution Center for her scheduled face to face appointment. The STEP case manger administers a Family Success Agreement & Family Assessment with Jacqueline.

The STEP case manager and Jacqueline set objectives for her to meet her goals. One of the steps was to enroll into (ESL) English as a Second Language classes at the Literacy Council, so she can learn how to become highly skilled in the reading, writing and understanding of the English language. Jacqueline express that she needed to work a small job, so another step to assist her with gaining employment was for her to complete a four week Job Search contact anywhere and a Job Readiness Workshop with Mrs. Gwen Guillory at the Business & Career Center for two sections, The STEP program provided \$100.00 transportation stipend to aide Jacqueline with her required STEP work activities.

Although Jacqueline is faced with great challenges; to overcome language barriers so she can understand and interpret her legal rights and privileges as a US Citizen, homeless living and depending on her friend to provide shelter and a safe environment, hiding from a abusive husband waiting on the legal system to grant her a divorce from him. In spite of the challenges that were ahead of her. Jacqueline was determined. Jacqueline did not waste any time she enrolled into the ESL classes at the Literacy Council and she is enjoying it thoroughly she has met other friends just like her. Jacqueline instructor stated that she is doing very well in the classes. Jacqueline is overcoming her barriers one at a time and has been successful with obtaining some of her goals. She is learning how to become highly skilled in the understanding and use of the English Language, she has received her Employment Authorization Card (I-766) Jacqueline received a certificate of completion for Job Readiness Workshop, completed her Job Search contacts. Jacqueline attended **seminar on Improving Economic Opportunities for the Unemployed and Underemployed Woman** she received information in the following: Resume Review - Dayna Hoffpauir, Job Readiness Tips - Gwen Guillory, Labor Market Information - Stephanie Morris, You're Beautiful, Inside and Out! - Catherine Thomas, Mary Kay Consultant - Sherry Smith and Jacqueline received free clothing and prizes. The Step Applicants successfully completed part (2) of the Workshop. Soon after the seminar Jacqueline became employed at Plant Kinetics as a Plant Care Specialist located in Wal-Mart of Lake Charles, La.

After the consecutive days looking for a job I finally got hired in a company called Plant Kinetics as a Plant Care Specialist. They send and deliver plants and flowers at Wal-Mart. And my job is to arrange those plants according to price and size and just move some dead leaves. It's not a hard job. I can finish my job in 2-3 hours but I try to expand it and do more work so I don't get bored. I worked 8am to 2:30 pm Tuesday to Saturday with the hourly rate of \$9. And I'm still going to school for ESL class every Monday. I'm excited to add this experience on my work history for my resume. I don't have working experience here in U.S.A I am so thankful to Ms. Deidre, Ms. Gwen and staff for this new experience and opportunity for a new beginning."

America is built on immigration. America has traditionally been referred to as a "melting pot," welcoming people from many different countries, races, and religions, all hoping to find freedom, new opportunities, and a better way of life; through the STEP program, LWC-Business and Career Center staff and other referred agencies Jacqueline is now able to experience that America.

(STEP)Amber Edmunds Success Story

Amber Edmunds is a single 26 year old mother of two. Amber enrolled in the STEP program in November of 2015, shortly after the birth of her daughter. Amber resides in Allen Parish, Oakdale, La.

Amber's initial STEP activity was to complete Parenting Skills Training, PST. Her long term goal was to move back to Lake Charles and work for O'Rielly Auto Parts and become a lead driver. Amber had lived in Lake Charles and had previously worked at a local O'Rielly. Amber had to take maternity leave from her position with O'Rielly and later relocate to Oakdale, La. While attending PST classes, Amber continued to seek employment opportunities. Amber found part time employment with O'Rielly Auto Parts in Oakdale. Her employment start date was 12/28/15. She was originally scheduled to work 20 hrs. a week at \$7.25 per hr. Amber's new employer was so impressed with her work ethics and disposition that they offered her a full time position at \$8.50 an hr.

Amber's statement: *"I am doing so well that I have requested closure of my FITAP case effective February 2016. I am no longer in need of cash assistance. I am so thrilled that I am now able to provide for my children."*

Amber was able to achieve her goal without having to move back to Lake Charles and is on her way to self sufficiency.

RECRUITMENT AND PLACEMENT TEAM

JANUARY 2016

HIRING EVENTS

- **Cameron LNG** – Business & Career Solutions Center held a testing event on January 5 and 13, 2016. One (1) Cameron LNG representative was present during each event. The company was hiring for Operators, Installation Techs, Mechanics and Electricians. Twenty (20) jobseekers attended the testing events. Hiring decisions are pending.
- **Labor Ready** – Business & Career Solutions Center held a hiring event on January 12, 2016. Two (2) Labor Ready representatives were present. The company was hiring for Clerks, Checkers, Ship Crane Operators, Maritime Dock Workers and Forklift Operators. Seventeen (17) jobseekers attended the hiring event. Hiring decisions are pending.
- **Firestone** – Business & Career Solutions Center held an interview event on January 15, 2016. Two (2) Firestone representatives were present. The company was hiring for Service Person Skilled. Two (2) jobseekers attended the interview event. Hiring decisions are pending.
- **SGS** – Business & Career Solutions Center held a hiring event January 27, 2016. Two (2) SGS representatives were present. The company was hiring for a Loader. Three (3) jobseekers attended the hiring event. Hiring decisions are pending.
- **Sasol** – Business & Career Solutions Center held testing events at the Center and Sowela on January 5, 6, 12, 13, 19, 20, 26 and 27, 2016. Interviews and hiring decisions are pending.

There were **19 (26)** hires for the month of January 2016

- **Sasol** – 10 Operators @ wages ranging from \$26.00 to \$39.55 per hour; 2 Planner/Scheduler @ \$46.15 per hour; 2 Senior Maintenance Supervisors at \$50.48 per hour; 1 Industrial Hygienist @ \$95000 per year; 1

Instrumentation 2nd Apprentice @ \$28.99 per hour; 1 Electrician 2nd Apprentice @ \$35.90 per hour; 1 Maintenance Technician @ \$39.55 per hour

- Cheniere LNG – 1 Operator @ \$29.86 per hour
- Lake Charles Memorial Hospital – 1 Certified Nursing Assistant @ \$9.65 per hour

Veterans Hired

There was 1 veterans hired out of the 19 hires for the month of January.

- Joseph Billeaudeau – Sasol – Operator @ \$39.55 per hour

Registered Employers

Total number of new employers registered from January 1, 2016 to January 31, 2016 - eight (8) (10). One (1) (2) was staff registered.

Job Orders

Staff entered nineteen (19) (89) of the total two hundred forty-one (241) (723) job orders entered from January 1, 2016 to January 31, 2016.

Hires Resulting from Staff Referrals

Total number of hires resulting from staff referrals from January 1, 2016 to January 31, 2016- twelve (12) (21)

Services provided to employers

Direct staff assisted services were provided to fifty-eight (58) (43) employers from January 1, 2016 – January 31, 2016 resulting in seventy one (71) (53) services.

Some of the services included: Job Fair Services, Job Order Assistance, Website Navigation, Recruitment Services, Refer Qualified Applicant to Employer Job Vacancies, Reviewed Resumes and Recommended Individuals, Provided Customized/Mass recruitment Services, Hosting Hiring Events, Hosting Interview Events, Hosting testing events, Notification to employer of potential applicant, Intensive Candidate Pre-Screening, Employer Based/Customized Training Consultation.

February 2016

HIRING EVENTS

- **Anytime Nanny** – Business & Career Solutions Center held a hiring event on February 3, 2016. One (1) Anytime Nanny representative was present during the event. The company was hiring for Nannies, Housekeepers, Private Caregivers and Babysitters. Five (5) jobseekers attended the hiring event. Hiring decisions are pending.
- **Firestone** – Business & Career Solutions Center held an interview event on February 4, 2016. Two (2) Firestone representatives were present. The company was hiring for Forklift Operators. Two (2) jobseekers attended the interview event. Hiring decisions are pending.
- **Advantage Resource** – Business & Career Solutions Center held a hiring event on February 24, 2016. One (1) Advantage Resource representative was present. The company was hiring for Housekeepers/Guest Room Attendants, Stewards/Kitchen Utility Associates and Construction Laborers. Fourteen (14) jobseekers attended the hiring event. Hiring decisions are pending.
- **IberiaBank** – Business & Career Solutions Center held a hiring event February 25, 2016. Six (6) IberiaBank representatives were present. The company was hiring for Tellers. Eight (8) jobseekers attended the hiring event. Hiring decisions are pending.
- **Sasol** – Business & Career Solutions Center held testing events at the Center and Sowela on February 2, 3, 9, 10, 16, 17, 23 and 24, 2016. The company is currently hiring for hourly positions such as Operations, Lab, Instrument Technicians, Electricians and Machinists. Interviews and hiring decisions are pending.

There were 22 (29) hires for the month of February 2016

- **Sasol** – 3 Operators @ \$22.53 per hour; 7 Maintenance Technicians @ \$39.55 per hour; 1 Senior Instrument and Control Specialist @ \$105,000 per year; 3 Temporary Utility Helper @ \$22.52 per hour; 1 Senior Maintenance Supervisor @ \$100,000 per year; 1 Principal Engineer @ \$120,000 per year; 1 Accounts Payable @ \$48,500 per year; 1 Senior Engineer @ \$105,000 per year; 1 Processor @ \$39.00 per hour; 1 Process Control Engineer @ \$76,200 per year
- **Firestone** – 2 Service Person Skilled @ \$16.41 per hour; 1 Boilermaker @ \$33.32 per hour
- **Advantage Staffing** – 1 Dishwasher @ \$8.00 per hour; 1 Housekeeper @ \$8.50 per hour
- **Habitat for Humanity** – 1 Sales Representative @ \$13.00 per hour
- **Evergreen Ministries** – 1 Direct Service Attendant @ \$9.00 per hour
- **Direct Care** – 1 Personal Care Attendant @ \$8.65 per hour

Veterans Hired

There was 1 veteran hired out of the 22 hires for the month of February.

- Richard Hiney – **Sasol** – Operator

Registered Employers

Total number of new employers registered from February 1, 2016 to February 29, 2016 - four (4) (13). One (1) (2) was staff registered.

Job Orders

Staff entered sixteen (16) (31) of the total two hundred sixty-seven (267) (223) job orders entered from February 1, 2016 to February 29, 2016.

Hires Resulting from Staff Referrals

Total number of hires resulting from staff referrals from February 1, 2016 to February 29, 2016- three (3) (22).

Services provided to employers

Direct staff assisted services were provided to thirty-seven (37) (29) employers from February 1, 2016 – February 29, 2016 resulting in sixty-six (66) (49) services.

Some of the services included: Job Fair Services, Job Order Assistance, Website Navigation, Recruitment Services, Refer Qualified Applicant to Employer Job Vacancies, Reviewed Resumes and Recommended Individuals, Provided Customized/Mass recruitment Services, Hosting Hiring Events, Hosting Interview Events, Hosting testing events, Notification to employer of potential applicant, Intensive Candidate Pre-Screening, Employer Based/Customized Training Consultation.

MARCH 2016

HIRING EVENTS

- **Railcrew Express** – Business & Career Solutions Center held a hiring event on March 1, 2016. Two (2) company representatives were present during the event. The company was hiring for Van Drivers. Ten (10) jobseekers attended the hiring event. Hiring decisions are pending.
- **David Orsot Plumbing** – Business & Career Solutions Center held a hiring event on March 7, 2016. One (1) company representative was present. The company was hiring for Plumber Apprentices. Three (3) jobseekers attended the event. Hiring decisions are pending.
- **Firestone** – Business & Career Solutions Center held an interview event on March 18, 2016. Two (2) company representatives were present. The company was hiring Service Person Skilled. Six (6) jobseekers attended the event. Hiring decisions are pending.
- **Lowe's** – Business & Career Solutions Center held a hiring event on March 24, 2016. Three (3) company representatives were present. The company was hiring for Seasonal full-time and part-time positions. Seven (7) jobseekers attended the event. Hiring decisions are pending.
- **Sasol** – Business & Career Solutions Center held testing events at the Center and Sowela on March 5, 8, 10, 11, 15, 19, 22, and 29, 2016. Sixty-two (62) candidates were tested during the month of March. The

company is currently hiring for hourly positions such as Operations, Lab, Instrument Technicians, Electricians and Machinists. Interviews and hiring decisions are pending.

There were **26 (21)** hires for the month of March 2016

- **Sasol** – 6 Processors @ \$39.55 per hour; 3 Safety & Response @ salaries ranging from \$83000 - \$85000 per year; 7 Engineers @ salaries ranging from \$76200 - \$148000 per year; 3 Maintenance Technicians @ \$39.55 per hour; 1 Document Control Analyst @ \$27.88 per hour; 1 Safety & Emergency Coordinator @ \$45.19 per hour; 1 Environmental Specialist @ \$52.88 per hour; 1 Human Resources Administrator @ \$29.33 per hour
- **Firestone** – 2 Service Person Skilled @ \$16.41 per hour; 1 C-Operator @ \$30.40 per hour

Veterans Hired

There was **2 (1)** veteran hired out of the **26** hires for the month of March 2016.

- Dylan Perkins – **Sasol** – Maintenance Tech
- Patrick Porche – **Sasol** – Maintenance Tech

Registered Employers

Total number of new employers registered from March 1, 2016 to March 31, 2016 - ten (10) **(12)**. One (1) **(0)** was staff registered.

Job Orders

Staff entered nine (9) **(11)** of the total two hundred ninety-eight (298) **(267)** job orders entered from March 1, 2016 to March 31, 2016.

Hires Resulting from Staff Referrals

Total number of hires resulting from staff referrals from March 1, 2016 to March 31, 2016- three (3) **(10)**.

Services provided to employers

Direct staff assisted services were provided to fifty-seven (57) **(41)** employers from March 1, 2016 – March 31, 2016 resulting in seventy-six (76) **(61)** services.

Some of the services included: Job Fair Services, Job Order Assistance, Website Navigation, Recruitment Services, Refer Qualified Applicant to Employer Job Vacancies, Reviewed Resumes and Recommended Individuals, Provided Customized/Mass recruitment Services, Hosting Hiring Events, Hosting Interview Events, Hosting testing events, Notification to employer of potential applicant, Intensive Candidate Pre-Screening, Employer Based/Customized Training Consultation.

CALCASIEU WORKFORCE CENTER YOUTH PROGRAM

Categories	Calcasieu		Cameron		Jeff Davis	
	January 2016	January 2015	January 2016	January 2015	January 2016	January 2015
Total Enrolled	55	44	3	4	23	28
Active	38	31	1	3	14	14
Follow-up	12	8	2	1	4	9
Exits	5	5	0	0	5	5

Categories	Calcasieu		Cameron		Jeff Davis	
	February 2016	February 2015	February 2016	February 2015	February 2016	February 2015
Total Enrolled	55	44	3	4	23	28
Active	37	30	1	3	14	13
Follow-up	9	8	0	1	4	10
Exits	9	6	2	0	5	5

Categories	Calcasieu		Cameron		Jeff Davis	
	March 2016	March 2015	March 2016	March 2015	March 2016	March 2015
Total Enrolled	55	44	3	4	23	28
Active	37	28	1	3	14	13
Follow-up	8	10	2	1	3	8
Exits	10	6	0	0	6	7

January 2016

The Youth and Career Services staff assists youth in Membership and Skills on a daily basis. Job search assistance, resume preparation, and job referral information as needed was provided to all youth who came into our facility. The youth numbers for January were 155, which was a combination of Job Fair attendees and Career Services youth traffic.

One (1) Youth was administered TABE and SAGE in January.

The youth staff participated in several different outreach events this month, including:

- January 20th – McNeese State University: Howdy Rowdy Week
 ✓ *Twenty-four (24) youth inquired about our services offered*
- January 25th – Active Shooter Training: Police Jury Meeting Room
- January 29th – College Street T&I Vocational School: JAG Program
 ✓ *Twenty-four (24) youth were in attendance*

This month the Youth Department participated in a presentation at the SEED Center. The topic of discussion was “Generation Y-Millennials in the Workplace,” the presenter was Ms. Amelie Karam, “An American Millennial”. This webinar was held on January 21st.

February 2016

The Youth and Career Services staff assists youth in Membership and Skills on a daily basis. Job search assistance, resume preparation, and job referral information as needed was provided to all youth who came into our facility. Forty (40) youth received services during February 2016.

One (1) Youth was administered TABE in February.

The youth staff participated in several different outreach events this month, including:

- February 3rd – Principal’s Meeting: Providing Information about the 2016 Youth Summit and the CWC Youth Program
- February 11th – Counselor’s Meeting: Providing Information about the 2016 Youth Summit and the CWC Youth Program
- February 20th – New Light Missionary & Educational Baptist Association of Louisiana, Inc.: College and Career Fair
 ✓ *Twenty (20) youth attended this college & career fair. Two inquired about the CWC Youth Program.*

This month the Youth Department participated in an educational webinar. The topic of discussion was “HiRE 16.0,” the presenter was Ms. Lydia Crocket. This webinar was held on February 25th.

March 2016

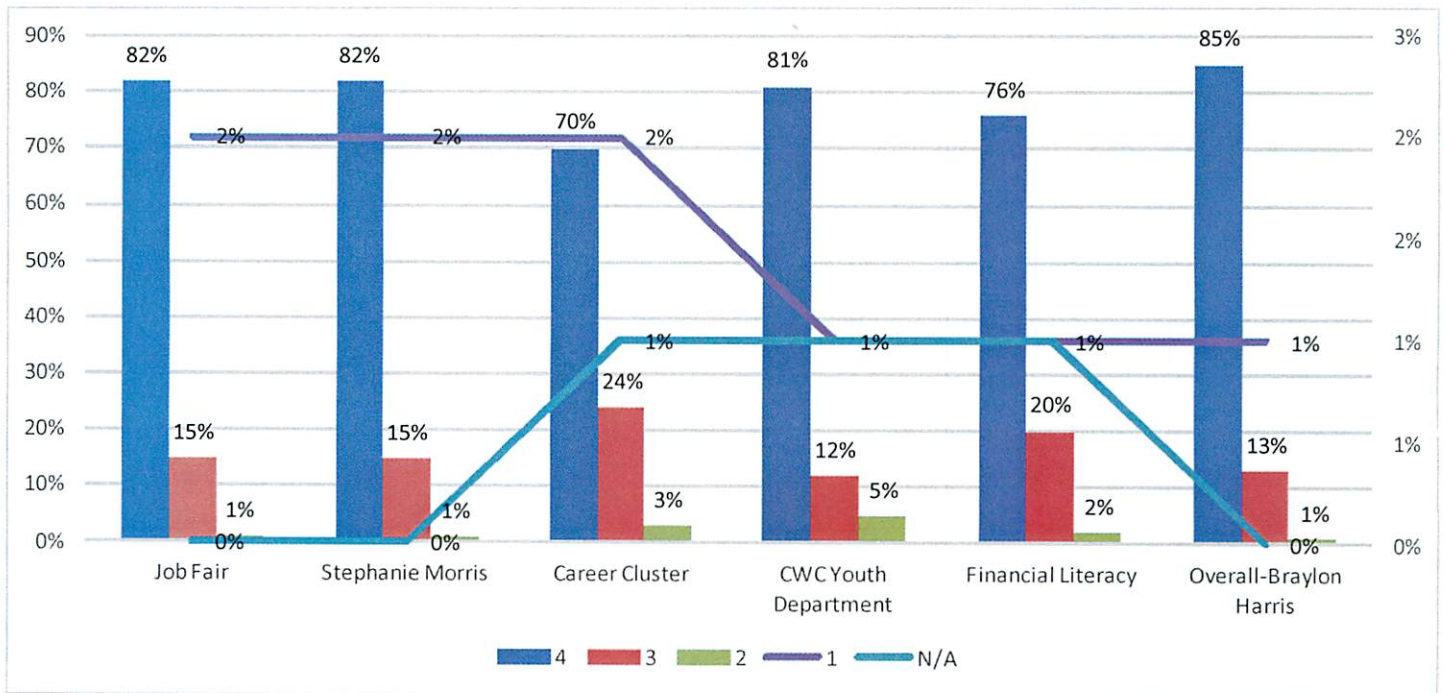
The Youth and Career Services staff assists youth in Membership and Skills on a daily basis. Job search assistance, resume preparation, and job referral information as needed was provided to all youth who came into our facility. Thirty-eight (38) youth received services during March 2016.

This year the Calcasieu Workforce Center Youth Department hosted their Annual Youth Summit on March 22nd at the Lake Charles Civic Center. In great success of the event, we were able to service 183 youth on that day.

Two (2) Youth were administered SAGE and one (1) youth was administered TABE in March. Listed below are charts showing the survey results from the 2016 Youth Summit.

**RE-EMPLOYMENT SERVICES & ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT (RESEA)
RE-EMPLOYMENT & ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT (REA)/
WORKER PROFILING & RE-EMPLOYMENT SERVICES (WPRS)**

	4	3	2	1	N/A
Job Fair	82%	15%	1%	2%	0%
Stephanie Morris	82%	15%	1%	2%	0%
Career Cluster	70%	24%	3%	2%	1%
CWC Youth Department	81%	12%	5%	1%	1%
Financial Literacy	76%	20%	2%	1%	1%
Overall-Braylon Harris	85%	13%	1%	1%	0%



Categories	January 2016	January 2015	February 2016	February 2015	March 2016	March 2015
Orientations	16	20	16	16	15	9
Case Management Appt.	26	100	37	27	38	113
Letters Mailed (LWC)	278	304	261	332	350	364
Profilers' Attendance	135	103	134	81	212	80

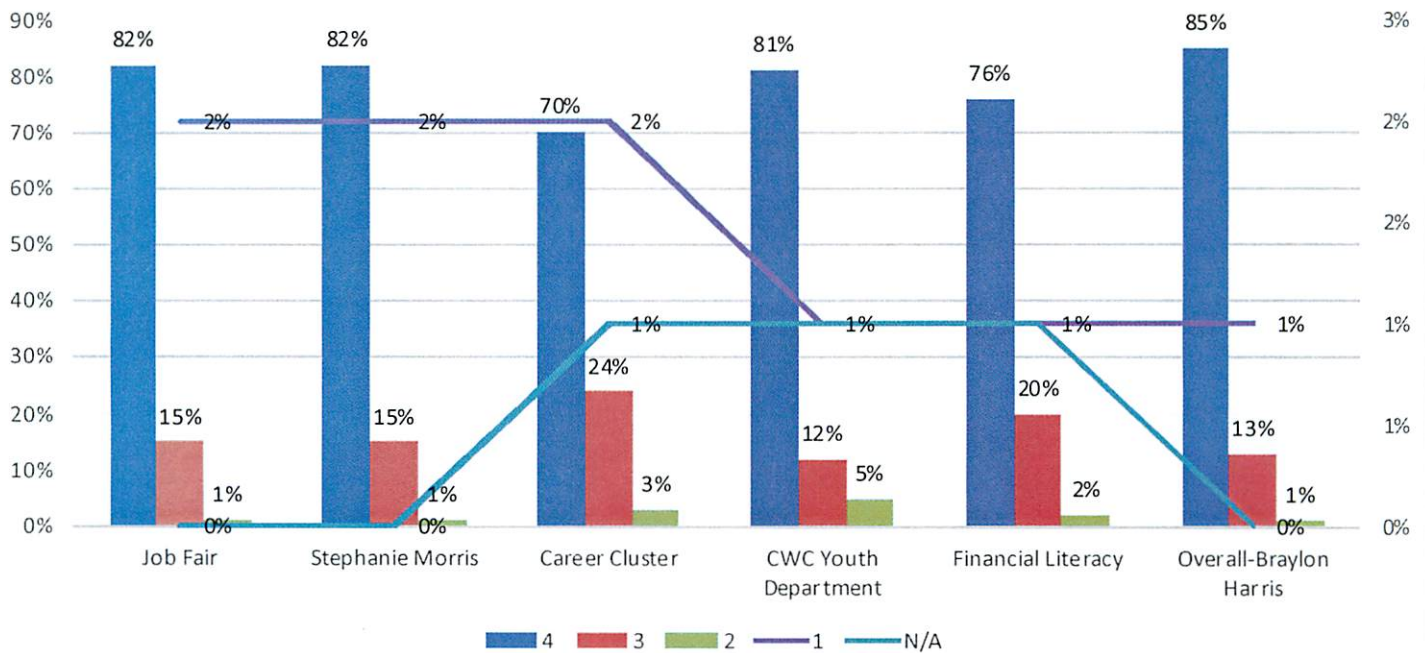
Effective September 10, 2015 the REA/WPRS program was changed to Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment Program (RESEA). RESEA targets claimants identified as likely to exhaust benefits and in need of reemployment services to transition to new work, as well as claimants receiving Unemployment Compensation for Ex-Service members (UCX). Orientations will continue to be held on Tuesday & Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. &

1:30 p.m. RESEA/UCX profilers will all have up to five services points to complete and satisfy program requirements.

The REA/WPRS process will run concurrently with the RESEA process until the claimant cycles out of their service point series.

All profiler, whether they have received REA/WPRS letters or RESEA letters will be provided with Career and Labor Market Information. Re-Employment Strategy Plans will be reviewed by staff and the Development of Individual Employment Plans which will provide the claimant with the appropriate services that will address each participant’s specific needs by setting goals and objectives. Comprehensive Assessments will be completed and all profilers will receive intensive services and case management to further assist them in becoming job ready and obtaining employment.

ALL profilers that fail to comply with service point letter instructions will be disqualified for UI until requirements are met.



UNEMPLOYMENT RATES:

	National	State	Calcasieu	Cameron	Jeff Davis
February 2016	5	5.9	4.7	4.3	5.7
February 2015	5.8	6.3	5.7	6.2	5.5

This data for February 2016/2015 was taken from “Louisiana Workforce at a Glance,” (release dates: March 28, 2016/ March 27, 2015) may be found at www.laworks.net.

JUDICIAL CORE OPPORTUNITY REFERRAL FOR EMPLOYMENT (J-Core)

The purpose of the J-Core Program is to assist Ex-Offenders that face many challenges after their release from prison. It also, provides career counseling, training and job placement services to ex-offenders, to help them secure meaningful and gainful employment that pays a decent wage. This component is intended to help curtail the revolving door of recidivism.

January 2016

The Business Services Specialist (BSS) scheduled two workshops for the month of January. There were (3) (4) attendants for the month of January for J-Core/Re-Entry Program for the Hard-To-Employ.

February 2016

The Business Services Specialist (BSS) scheduled two workshops for the month of January. There were (2) (4) attendants for the month of February for J-Core/Re-Entry Program for the Hard-To-Employ.

March 2016

The Business Services Specialist (BSS) scheduled two workshops for the month of March. There were (3) (4) attendants for the month of March for J-Core/Re-Entry Program for the Hard-To-Employ.

VETERAN ACTIVITIES

Categories	January 2016	January 2015	February 2016	February 2015	March 2016	March 2015
New Registrations	13	250	9	8	1	5
Enrollments Previous	109	44	121	72	94	42
Enrollments New	123	None Reported	93	53	115	123
Services Provided by Staff to Veterans	438	428	47	33	74	31
Veteran Referrals	8	5	2	3	6	4
Veterans Hired Thru HiRE Job Vacancies	1	0	1	4	2	1

The B&CSC staff provides “Veterans Priority of Service” to all veterans that seek employment and training services. Veteran job seekers services are available in Career Services and Business Services departments. Mr. Edward Kron and Robert Cummings have been assigned as the DVOPs for LWIA51. Both DVOPs are housed in CPPJ Human Services Department on Moeling Street and is scheduled in the Center every Thursday from 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Mr. Brian Teegardin is the assigned LVER and he is stationed in the Business and Career Solutions Center in DeRidder, LA.

January 2016

Veteran Outreach Efforts

DVOP Edward Kron and DVOP Robert Cummings went to City of Refuge to assist the office of Human Resources of Calcasieu Parish. DVOP Kron and Cummings assisted in the Point in Time count of Homeless veterans that were currently staying at City of Refuge.

Outreach to Veteran Resources

DVOP Edward Kron and DVOP Robert Cummings reached out to Open Door Biker Church. The Pastor Vince explained that the church provides daily meals to all homeless. The Open Door Biker Church also provides a pantry and clothes to those in need. Pastor Vince stated that if we found any veteran in need in the area to refer them to him and he would see how he could help them.

Success Stories/Best Practices

DVOP Robert Cummings began working with a veteran who had a barrier of service connected disability. DVOP Cummings conducted a comprehensive assessment and Individual Employment Plan on the veteran. DVOP Cummings assisted the veteran with targeting the veteran's resume, establishing a Virtual Recruiter in the HiRE system, and instructing the veteran to update his skills profile in the HiRE system. He was contacted for an interview with Securitas Security. The DVOP instructed the veteran on various interview techniques before his interview. The Veteran was offered a position with Securitas Security as a Security Guard making \$13.06 per hour with a guaranteed 40 + hours a week, benefits package, paid vacations, and entry into the retirement program.

Special Project

DVOP Edward Kron & DVOP Robert Cummings connected with Carla S. Sigler the Assistant District Attorney of Calcasieu. Mrs. Sigler asked DVOP Kron & DVOP Cummings to become involved with the Veterans Court initiative in Calcasieu Parish. The veterans' court is a program that will assist those veterans who have been incarcerated and provide them with the necessary resources to overcome the barrier of being previously incarcerated. DVOP Edward Kron & DVOP Robert Cummings will work in an advisory position which will lead to working with those veterans that are in the program.

February 2016**Veteran Outreach Efforts**

DVOP Edward Kron and DVOP Robert Cummings went to the Open Door Biker Church in Sulphur. DVOP Kron and DVOP Cummings met with Pastor Vince. Pastor Vince informed the DVOPs that they service a wide variety of people in their community and that on occasion veterans do stop by. DVOP Kron and DVOP Cummings suggested that if any veteran that needed assistance to call or stop by the Business and Career Solutions Center in Lake Charles.

DVOP Kron has been in attendance of Veterans Court out of the Calcasieu 14th Judicial Court in Lake Charles. Veterans Court assists veterans who have been incarcerated, is currently incarcerated, and those who are in danger of being incarcerated. The process provides various treatments and assistance to those veterans participating. One goal that is often proposed for the participants is employment. DVOP Kron is a consultant for those that need to work on gaining employment.

Outreach to Veteran Resources

DVOP Edward Kron reached out to Catholic Charities to refer a veteran to them for assistance. DVOP Kron spoke with Sister Mary Vianney of Catholic Charities. Catholic Charities provided an emergency food and hygiene basket to a veteran who is currently homeless. They also stated that if any of veterans needed assistance to be sure to call. Sister Mary Vianney also stated that she would like DVOP Edward Kron to represent veterans on a board of supportive services that will convene later in the year. This board will meet to see what kind of supportive services are lacking in the Lake Charles area and will work to address those needs.

Success Stories/Best Practices

DVOP Kron and DVOP Cummings participated in the Calcasieu Parish Point in Time survey in conjunction with the Calcasieu Parish Police Jury Human Services Office. Their participation assisted in locating veterans who are currently homeless and in need of assistance. DVOP Kron and DVOP Cummings located and assisted around a dozen of homeless veterans.

March 2016**Veteran Outreach Efforts**

DVOP Edward Kron and DVOP Robert Cummings conducted Veteran Profile Reviews on all eligible veterans that signed up on the Louisiana Works HiRE system. They contacted the eligible veterans to encourage them to go to the Business and Career Solutions Center. They would also contact them to provide assistance as needed.

Outreach to Veteran Resources

DVOP Edward Kron and DVOP Robert Cummings went to the Open Door Biker Church in Sulphur. DVOP Kron and DVOP Cummings met with Pastor Vince. Pastor Vince informed the DVOPs that they service a wide variety of people in their community and that on occasion veterans do stop by. DVOP Kron and DVOP Cummings suggested that if any veteran that needed assistance to call or stop by the Business and Career Solutions Center in Lake Charles.

Success Stories/Best Practices

DVOP Cummings worked with a low income veteran. He provided a Comprehensive Assessment on the veteran and found that he was low income. DVOP Cummings assisted the veteran with the development of an IEP with a goal of employment in the local service industry. The DVOP followed up with the veteran on several occasions to provide the veteran assistance with editing his resume. After the veteran had completed his objectives and felt that his resume was pretty solid, he referred the veteran to Recruitment and Placement team at the Calcasieu Business and Career Solutions Center. The veteran soon followed up with DVOP stating that he was offered a position with Starbucks Coffee house. He was offered \$8.70 an hour with a guarantee of 40 hours.

BUSINESS SERVICES OUTREACH**January 2016**

The Business Services Specialist (BSS) continues to provide outreach services informing community businesses, agencies, and residents of the services provided at the Business and Career Solutions Center. The BSS works in partnership with Catholic Services, CSBG, Head Start, etc. to provide BCSC clients the necessary support (Housing, TWIC/Safety Cards, Training, Uniforms, etc.) needed to become and/or retain gainful employment.

The BCSC provides a Job Readiness Workshop for BCSC members on the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month. There were (1) applicants in attendance the month of January. **The applicant was a WPRS attendant.**

Outreach/Job Fair/Hiring Events/Meetings/Workshops/Presentations

- 1/05/2016 – Business Service Staff facilitated the J-Core Job Readiness Workshop.
- 1/06/2016 – Business Service Staff attended a meeting at the DA's Office in reference to the Fresh Start Initiative Event Day.
- 1/12/2016 – Business Service Staff distributed Job Fair Flyers in the community in reference to the Job Fair. The Flyers were distributed to the recreations centers, libraries, department stores, homeless shelters, apartment complex.
- 1/12/2016 – Business Service Staff assisted Employer with Hiring Event. (Labor Ready/True Blue)
- 1/13/2016 – Business Service Staff set-up table for the quarterly job fair. The table was set-up with information in reference to the Twic Cards.
- 1/13/2016 – Business Service Staff assisted with the Fresh Start initiative Event Day. (261) individuals registered for the Fresh Start Initiative Event. (98) Was assisted with Expungement.
- 1/15/2016 – Business Service Staff attended the Literacy Council Workshop. The Workshop provided information about the services at the center. Business Service Staff provided information about the services at the Business and Career Solutions Center.
- 1/19/2016 – Business Service Staff facilitated the J-Core Job Readiness Workshop.
- 1/19/2016 – Business Service Staff assisted employer (Herman Brown Brick Co.) with Job Vacancy.
- 01/20/2016 – Business Service Staff submitted activity (E27) in HiRE in reference to Employer Based/Customized Training Consultation with Habitat for Humanity.
- 1/25/2016 – Business Service Staff attended a meeting in Deridder along with Crystal Scott. We met with the Business Team/Recruitment Placement Team. We went over the (SOP) Standards Operating Procedures for the BS/RPT. We also went over the information for JD/NEG and the forms required for training.
- 1/26/2016 – Business Service Staff assisted Cameron LNG with Job Fair at Holiday Inn in Sulphur. Cameron LNG is hiring for (60) positions. In attendance were over 1,000 individuals for the jobs available. Cameron LNG is a liquefied Natural Gas Terminal on the Calcasieu Channel in Hackberry.
- 1/27/2016 – Business Service Staff submitted exit forms for Sasol Hires into the MIS Department for the month of January.
- 01/28/2016 – Business Service Staff facilitated a Workshop at the OJJS Site with the Probation and Parole Officers. The Workshop provided information about the services provided at the Business and Career Solutions Center and how the center can partner with OJJS with referring applicants for services.
- 01/29/2016 – Business Service Staff assisted youth with services about HVAC Training at Sowela Technical Community College. Career Counseling was provided to Mr. Justin Woods.

Catholic Charity provided TWIC Card assistance to (8) applicants the month of January.

Human Services provided Twic Card assistance to (8) applicants the month of January. Out of the eight, (2) were veterans and (1) was rapid response. Human Services also provided (1) for safety card.

Human Services provided (1) applicant with assistance for Housing for the month of January.

Bethesda Housing assisted (1) applicant with Housing, which the applicant was Homeless.

Job Placement: Tosha Brown (STEP) – Secured employment with Idora Inc. as a Crew Member. Ms. Brown is earning \$7.25/Hour. Start date 1/25/2016. Ms. Brown successfully completed the Job Readiness Workshop and received a certificate of completion.

Mr. Randall W. Duncan (Homeless) is currently employed with Wal-Mart on MLK Highway. Mr. Duncan is earning \$9.00/Hour. Start date 1/12/2016. Mr. Duncan works in the Produce Department. After (3) days he received a .90/cent raise. He was living at the Salvation Army, but now has a place of his own to live. He has a trailer.

JD/NEG Contracts –One active applicant is currently on report. Following up with applicant for job placement. Applicant was terminated.

JD/NEG – Three (3) JD/NEG are in Pending Exit. They have successfully completed training.

JD/NEG – One applicant that has been processed for training with Habitat for Humanity. Ms. Guillory will start in training on 2/8/2016.

February 2016

The BCSC provides a Job Readiness Workshop for BCSC members on the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month. There were (1) applicants in attendance the month of February.

Outreach/Job Fair/Hiring Events/Meetings/Workshops/Presentations/BCSC Services

- 2/01/2016 – Business Service Staff conducted a Career Counseling with applicant Justin Woods. Mr. Woods was interested in the HVAC Training at Sowlea.
- 02/01/2016 – Business Service Staff made a Direct Employer visit at Sasol.
- 2/02/2016 – Business Service Staff provided Web Navigation services to employers.
- 02/02/2016 – Business Service Staff attended the Webinar “Upskill Your Resume” Using Alison.
- 2/04/2016 – Business Service Staff assisted employer with Website Navigation/Job Vacancy/JD/NEG Information/Job Fair/Other services at the Business and Career Solutions Center. Assisted David Orsot Plumbing & Heating Inc, with the service.
- 2/04/2016 – Business Service Staff attended the Counseling & EAP Workshop. The Workshop pertained to Team Building. Team Building Motivating at Work. The Workshop helps participants to take a step back and examine their part in the Workplace.
- 02/05/2016 – Business Service Staff/Catherine Thomas met with Ms. Renee Davis with Project Build A Future. Information of Services was provided to Ms. Davis. How we could partner with Project Build and make referrals for individuals according to their needs.
- 2/08/2016 – Business Service Staff made a Direct Employer Visit to Volunteer Pastille.
- 2/15/2016 – Business Service Staff attended a meeting at the City of Lake Charles. (Re-Entry Program for individuals with an unfavorable background).
- 2/16/2016 – Business Service Staff attended meeting at LRC. Met with Ms. Phyllis/Staff of LRC. In attendance also, was Ms. Stephanie Morris. The positions that they will be hiring for are as follows: Technicians, Field Bench Dispatcher, (5) Parish Wireless Communication, Southwest Calling Center Hiring Agent.
- 02/17/2016 – Business Service Staff assisted with the Sasol Forum at the Lake Charles Civic Center. A total of 1,050 applicants attended the Sasol Forum. The Forum was an informational of service to the applicants that attended. Information on job opportunities and training that would be required for future opportunities.
- 2/18/2016 – Business Outreach was administered to the following areas. Recreation Centers, Libraries, Homeless Shelters, Grocery Stores, Department Stores, Schools, Apartment Complexes. Business Service Staff presented information in reference to the Youth Summit. Registration forms was delivered to Businesses to confirm their presence at the Youth Summit. We have a total of (14) Businesses that has confirmed, waiting on other confirmation from employers.
- 2/24/2016 – Business Service Staff made Direct Employer Visit to Horizon Counseling Center. Business Service Staff presented information of services to the employer, due to the manager not being in the center at the time, a package was given in reference to the services provided at the Business and Career Solutions Center. The Manager called and asked if we could bring the information about the services provided. Will follow-up with employer.
- 02/25/2016 – Business Service Staff helped assist employer (Citgo) with new job order in HiRE. The Job Order (600454).

- 02/25/2016 – Business Service Staff provided information of service to the community. Business Outreach was provided to the Recreation Centers/Libraries/Homeless Shelters/Department Stores/Grocery Stores/Apartment Complexes.
- 02/26/2016 – Business Service Staff submitted activity (E28) in HiRE in reference to Employer Based Training/Contract with Habitat for Humanity.

Catholic Charity provided Twic Card assistance to (2) applicants the month of February.

Human Services provided Twic Card assistance to (12) applicants the month of February. Human Services also provided (2) for Safety Card.

Human Services provided (1) applicant with assistance for Housing for the month of February.

Bethesda Housing assisted (2) applicants the month of February with Housing.

Graduate: Marcus Sallier – Successfully Graduated from Sowela as a Structure Welder. Mr. Sallier was referred to the Community Scholarship Foundation by the Business and Career Solutions Center. He was one of the applicants selected for the Scholarship, which was paid 100%. He started training October 19, 2015 and has graduated March 26/2016. He has been made an employer offer with CB&I. Once he starts working, he will earn \$26.00/Hour. It was a (4) month course. Will continue to follow-up on applicant success. Business Service Staff has contacted CB&I in reference to the JD/NEG for On-the-Job Training.

JD/NEG Contracts – Two active applicants is currently on report. Following up with applicant for job placement.

JD/NEG – Three (3) JD/NEG are in Pending Exit. They have successfully completed training.

Business Service Staff is currently following up with the employers in reference to the JD/NEG:

Ammco

Insurance World

David Orsot Plumbing & Heating

CB&I

Health System 2000 and LRC

March 2016

The Business Services Specialist (BSS) continues to provide outreach services informing community businesses, agencies, and residents of the services provided at the Business and Career Solutions Center. The BSS works in partnership with Catholic Services, CSBG, Head Start, etc. to provide BCSC clients the necessary support (Housing, TWIC/Safety Cards, Training, Uniforms, etc.) needed to become and/or retain gainful employment.

The BCSC provides a Job Readiness Workshop for BCSC members on the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month. There were (5) applicants in attendance the month of March. The applicants were referred through the Step Program.

Outreach/Job Fair/Hiring Events/Meetings/Workshops/Presentations/BCSC Services/Monitoring

- 3/02/2016 – Business Service Staff attended the McNeese Career Fair.
- 3/03/2016 – Business Service Staff attended a meeting at McNeese State University. Met with McNeese Staff in reference to the IWTP/Incumbent Worker Training Program/JD-NEG.
- 3/07/2016 – Business Service Staff assisted employer (Insurance World) with enabling there account.
- 3/07/2016 – Business Service Staff worked with employer (Orsot Plumbing) for the Hiring Event at the Business and Career Solutions Center. Several WPRS candidates were referred to the Hiring Event.
- 3/09/2016 – Business Service Staff met with employer (AAMCO) in reference to JD/NEG. AAMCO wants to hire a Mechanic.
- 3/11/2016 – Business Service Staff conducted the Job Readiness Workshop held at the Business and Career Solutions Center. Four (4) applicants were in attendance. One of the applicants was a Youth.
- 3/15/2016 – Business Service Staff delivered Flyers in the community for the Youth Job Fair. Conducted Business Outreach to the following areas: Barber Shops/Beauticians/City of Lake Charles/ Libraries/Recreation Centers/Parole and Probation Officers/Abrahams Tent.

- 3/16/2016 – Business Service Staff visited Insurance World and presented information in reference to JD/NEG.
- 3/16/2016 – Business Service Staff met with Mr. Guzzino, who was laid-off from Alcoa and was interested in the TAA Program. Contact information to Ms. Nicole with the TAA Program was given to applicant, to start the application process. Applicant would be contacted after Ms. Nicole reviewed the application for process.
- 3/16/2016 – Business Service Staff documented activity (27) in reference to Employer Based Customized Training Consultation with LRC.
- 3/17/2016 – Business Service Staff delivered Flyers for the Youth Job Fair at the apartment complexes for the Job Fair that was held on 3/22/2016.
- 3/17/2016 – Business Service Staff documented (E01) activity/Direct Employment Visit to the following areas. Place Vendome/Bistro Cimemark Movie Theatre (New Business in Lake Charles)/Fifth Avenue Apartments.
- 3/19/2016 – Business Service Staff /Speaker at the Symposium that was held at the Business and Career Solutions Center. Business Service Specialist spoke on Job Readiness Tips. The Theme “Strong World/Strong Women”. Improving Economic Opportunities for the Unemployed and Underemployed Woman.
- 03/21/2016 – Business Service Staff met with Mr. Reado in reference to Training Opportunities. Mr. Reado was given an application for the Workforce Development Scholarship Opportunity through Alcoa/Southwest Louisiana Economic Development Alliance. The fundings are by Alcoa Foundation, for individuals interested in receiving training necessary to apply for craft skill jobs in support of the economic expansion in the Southwest Louisiana Region.
- 3/22/2016 – Business Service Staff assisted with the Youth Summit at the Lake Charles Civic Center. There were (23) Employers/(165) Students was in attendance.
- 3/30/2016 – Business Service Staff assisted with the monitoring at Habitat for Humanity for the JD/NEG.
- 3/31/2016 – Business Service Staff assisted with the monitoring at Sasol for the JD/NEG.

Catholic Charity provided Twic Card assistance to (1) applicants the month of March.

Human Services provided Twic Card assistance to (7) applicants the month of March.

Human Services provided (1) applicant with assistance for Housing for the month of March.

Bethesda Housing assisted (3) applicants the month of March with Housing.

Job Placements for the month of March.

*April Levine has secured employment with Mary Kay as a Consultant. She is in the STEP Program.

*Jacqueline Natividad has secured employment with Plant Kinetics as a Plant Care Specialist. Jacqueline will be working (30) hours per week, Saturday-Friday with Sundays and Mondays as typical off days. She will earn \$9.00/Hour at the Wal-Mart Site. Ms. Natividad is also in the STEP Program.

*Britton Calvin secured employment with Dollar Tree as a Stocker. He attended the J-Core Program.

*Kourey Shelton secured employment with All-Phase A/C as a Labor, earning \$10.00/Hour. He attended the J-Core Program.

JD/NEG Contracts –Two active applicants is currently on report. Following up with applicant for job placement.

JD/NEG – Three (3) JD/NEG are in Pending Exit. They have successfully completed training.

Business Service Staff is currently following up with employer in reference to the JD/NEG: Daigle Plumbing
INDUSTRY SECTOR COORDINATOR

January 2016

Workforce and Education Meeting

In mid January Stephanie Morris and Juanita Poland represented the Business and Career Solutions Center as Workforce Development and Education partners came together during the committee monthly scheduled meeting for a dynamic discussion, helping to better understand each other’s current priorities, and areas of

potential collaboration. Partners included education, human services, health care, banking, workforce, and economic development. R. B. Smith, Executive Director for the Chamber Foundation facilitated discussion and planning efforts designed to continue moving Region 5 toward economic success.

Business Services

Weekly presentations on the Job Driven National Emergency Grant are held twice on Tuesdays and Wednesdays during the Re-Employment Sessions at the Business and Career Solutions Center. Stephanie Morris, Workforce Specialist 5, facilitates the JD NEG presentations, providing information to dislocated workers on the training and employment opportunities available through the JD-NEG grant and how to best implement and complete the process.

Throughout the month of January, Stephanie Morris joined the staff at the Business and Career Solutions Center to provide one-on-one assistance to users of the Skills Lab for job searches, resume building, unemployment services, and other job development skills and offerings.

The Business and Career Solutions Center hosted the first quarter Job Fair for 2016 on Wednesday, January 13th at the Lake Charles Civic Center. Stephanie Morris was interviewed on KPLC TV to promote the activities associated with the event. In addition, Gwen Guillory and Morris implemented marketing outreach throughout the community at targeted sites. The Job Fair served 465 job seekers with 49 employers participating with a booth. The next Job Fair is set for Wednesday, April 13th.

Outreach and Engagement

On January 14th Stephanie Morris, Industry Sector Coordinator, was invited as a guest speaker to the Cal Cam Chamber of Commerce, January meeting. She partnered with Ryan Nelson, Owner of TRK HR Management Services, and Carl Herrick, Consultant for Sandler Training, and presented on the Incumbent Worker Training Program, the JD NEG, in addition, to offering details on the Employer Based Customized Training and Small Business Entrepreneurial Training. As a result, contact was established with Lena McArthur and Jody Barrilleaux, Chairman of Cal Cam Chamber, she requested assistance from the Business and Career Solutions Center to provide support for a future Job Fair sponsored by the Cal Cam Chamber. Crystal Scott and Stephanie Morris have begun with the initial planning.

Stephanie Morris, Industry Sector Coordinator, for region 5 attended the January meeting for ICHRMA held at the Family & Youth Counseling Center. The meeting provided for one-on-one networking with the representatives of Family & Youth and the organization members on ways the Business and Career Solutions Center is able to help their businesses through the many services, programs and initiatives available.

The Cameron LNG Job Fair was held on Monday January 25th and Tuesday January 26th in Sulphur, La. at the Holiday Inn. Stephanie Morris and Crystal Scott represented the Business and Career Solutions Center as partners to offer support and assistance on the second day of the event. Contact was established with Dan Callens, Vice President, and Terminal Operations for Cameron LNG and other key members of the team. As the Cameron LNG project move to the next phase the Business and Career Solutions Center is positioned to continue providing Employer Services in a variety of areas.

The Business and Career Solutions Center will host the Youth Summit on Tuesday, March 22nd at the Lake Charles Civic Center. Stephanie Morris, requested support during the Workforce and Education January committee meeting; from Beauregard, Calcasieu, and Jeff Davis school superintendents, to help increase the number of schools participating at the summit. Mr. Timothy Cooley, Mr. Karl Bruchhaus, and Mr. Brian LeJeune, superintendents for the three parishes, will receive follow-up correspondence initiated by Kendrick Celestine, the coordinator of the Youth Summit.

The following companies were engaged related to the services, programs, grants, and initiatives offered through the Business and Career Solutions Center:

Cameron LNG, Lake Area Sandler Training, Cal Cameron Chamber of Commerce, Calcasieu Refining, Amerisafe, Axail, Cajun Construction, Juniper, Fluor, Calcasieu Parish School Board, Turner Industries, TRK HR Management Services, Sasol and Polaris Engineering.

February 2016

Workforce Meeting

In late February Stephanie Morris and Gwen Guillory represented the Business and Career Solutions Center during discussions with the executive team of Louisiana Radio Communications, Inc. and Southwest Call Center, as it relates to the implementation of an On-the-Job Training Program, Incumbent Worker Program, and

customized hiring event. It was agreed to start the initial process for both OJT and IWTP. Future meetings are in the works that will enhance LRC's use of more services offered through the Business Career and Solutions Center.

Marketing and Outreach

Stephanie Morris, Industry Sector Coordinator, implemented contact with the following companies as it relates to implementation of the Job Driven National Emergency Grant, IWTP, OJT, Tax Credits, and other services and programs offered through the Business and Career Solutions Center: Sandler Training, West Calcasieu Chamber of Commerce, American Defense Services, Inc., Corporate Housing Associates, Lake Charles Memorial Hospital, Lake Area Medical Center, TRS, Global Management, Hixson Funeral Home, Turner Industries, Sasol, Lake Charles Police Department, Calcasieu Parish Sheriff Office, The Voice, Christus St. Patrick, Cameron LNG, CSRS, McNeese State University, Boyd Gaming, Mel Addison, Conoco Phillips, and Juniper.

Business Services

Weekly presentations on the Job Driven National Emergency Grant continue to be held twice on Tuesdays and Wednesdays during the Re-Employment Sessions at the Business and Career Solutions Center. Stephanie Morris, Workforce Specialist 5, facilitates the JD NEG presentations, providing information to dislocated workers on the training and employment opportunities available through the JD-NEG grant and how to best implement and complete the process.

Throughout the month February, Stephanie Morris joined the staff at the Business and Career Solutions Center to provide one-on-one assistance to users of the Skills Lab for job searches, resume building, unemployment services, and other job development skills and offerings.

Outreach and Engagement

The Business and Career Solutions Center supported the Sasol Job Forum on Wednesday, February 17th at the Lake Charles Civic Center. Stephanie Morris and other staff members played key roles in assisting attendees gain access to information related to available positions, securing contracts with the general contractors of the Sasol Project, and how the application process works. The event was also an opportunity for both Ms. Morris and Gwen Guillory to market the services and programs offered through the center to job seekers and business owners.

The Business and Career Solutions Center in conjunction with the Lake Charles Chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc., will sponsor the a back-to-work symposium titled Strong Women Strong World, Saturday, March 19th from 8:30 am to 12 noon at the Center. The event is targeted toward work opportunities for the unemployed and underemployed women in region 5. Stephanie Morris and Crystal Scott met this month with the group's chairperson to establish the agenda and the role provided by the Center. Featured topics are resume reviews, job readiness tips, labor market information, and a self-esteem segment. Four staff members were identified as presenters for the aforementioned topics.

March 2016

Marketing and Outreach

In the month of March Stephanie Morris represented the Business and Career Solutions Center through marketing outreach with various companies regarding potential OJT the following companies were approached: Superheat, SJB Group, LLC, Georgia-Pacific, Jacobs, Primoris Services Corporation, EXCEL, Woodson Incorporated, Westgate Electrical & Instrumentation, Indorama Ventures, Triad, CSRS, Turner Industries, Bechtel Global Corporation, IMTC, RES Contractors, Boh Bros., Petrin Corporation, Wasel Construction, and Scaffolding Rental. Three companies are being processed for OJT program they are Superheat, Wasel Construction, and SJB Group, LLC, SJB was turned over to the Sector Coordinator in Baton Rouge.

A partnership was formed with a local humanitarian organization Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc through connection with Stephanie Morris, Industry Sector Coordinator. The organization national initiative targets the same demographics that are served by the Business & Career Solutions Center as it relates to underemployed and unemployed women. The Strong Women Strong World Back-to-Work Symposium was held on Saturday, March 19th. Media coverage through television, newspaper and radio highlighted many of the services and programs available through the center. The event was facilitated by the business service manager, Industry Sector Coordinator and three other staff members. It was well attended. Individuals are responding with follow-up through the skills lab and other qualifying programs. The partnership will be ongoing throughout a two year period.

A follow-up meeting with the Polaris, Re Con, and Levingston Engineering firms relating to implementing an IWTP program was held since the OJT program proved to not be a doable options for the three engineering firms. The three entities and McNeese State University Engineering department head and grant writer participated in a phone conference with Shannon Chevalier and Stephanie Morris to overview plans for entering into an IWTP. Future plans will be handled by Shannon now that the initial planning has started.

Business Services

Weekly presentations on the Job Driven National Emergency Grant continue to be held twice on Tuesdays and Wednesdays during the Re-Employment Sessions at the Business and Career Solutions Center. Stephanie Morris, Workforce Specialist 5, facilitates the JD NEG presentations, providing information to dislocated workers on the training and employment opportunities available through the JD-NEG grant and how to best implement and complete the process.

Throughout the month of March, Stephanie Morris joined the staff at the Business and Career Solutions Center to provide one-on-one assistance to users of the Skills Lab for job searches, resume building, unemployment services, and other job development skills and offerings.

Outreach and Engagement

The Business and Career Solutions Center supported the Industrial Fair in Lafayette, La and CSRS and Sowela Technical and Community College during their outreach to small businesses and job seekers. Stephanie Morris and other staff members played key roles in assisting networking for future OJT contracts, IWPT and other services and programs.

The Teen Summit Job Fair was held with overwhelming support by the staff from the Business & Career Solutions Center. Stephanie Morris and key community leaders provided presentations on specific topics that proved beneficial to the attendee’s future goals, job searches, career choices and school plans.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Quarterly Job Fair – 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. – April 13, 2016 - Lake Charles Civic Center

Ms. Myra Delacroix stated that the report had been provided and asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Mr. Leger stated that he appreciated the presentation of the information in both current and previous time frames.

Ms. Sarita Scheufens moved to accept the report from the Business & Career Solutions Center. Mr. Boyd Sockrider seconded. Carried.

Report on the Jump Start Program..... Ms. Deidre Jackson

Mr. Greg Declouet introduced Ms. Deidre Jackson who currently works with the Jump Start Program. Ms. Jackson had a report regarding Enhancing Industry Engagement. This region is very entrenched in industry engagement. She and Mr. Declouet are going all around the State to talk about meshing Jump Start with the work of the Board.

Ms. Jackson provided handouts entitled “Jump Start Industry Engagement: Opportunities for More Effective Industry Engagement Statewide. Included in the Handouts was information as follows:

Situation Analysis: ●Industry engagement is uneven across the state. ●Partners are asked to attend numerous meetings and they want a more streamlined approach to providing their input. ●New Workforce Boards are being appointed. WDBs recognize that an important component of regional workforce planning is determining how jump Start can support students in gaining credentials for prominent industries in their region.

Industry Engagement Opportunity: ●WDBs are a source of industry input on regional Jump Start goals (pathways supported, credentials earned).

Industry Engagement Best Practices: ● Industry stakeholders help to set goals for high school Career & Technical Education (CTE) results. ●More targeted investments by industry in creating new programs, offering additional internships/externship & hiring credentialed graduates.

Next Steps: ●Collaborate with LWC & Regional WDB to include Jump Start on their list of mission-critical activities. ●Harmonize the 16 WDBs with the current 10 Jump Start regional teams in an opportunity to reduce the number of regional teams. ●Create “best practices” guidelines for each team. ●Create statewide reporting systems for Jump Start result.

Ms. Jackson asked for comments.

- Mr. Greg Declouet said that WDBs can appoint standing committees to include Board and non-Board members to report on the initiative and get input from the Business community as an opportunity to connect the Board and Jump Start.
- Ms. Donna Bailey said that she is very involved. There is a great reading program that is needed to help develop the workforce before the students drop out.
- Ms. Tommeka Semien said that she had approximately 100 15-17 year olds that need this program.
- Mr. R.B. Smith said that there is a very active employer group in place that serves a dual purpose. Ms. Sarita Scheufens is the vice-chair of that group.
- Ms. Donna Bailey said that the department of Education (DOE) partners with the Technical schools and asked a question regarding dual enrollment. Ms. Jackson said "Jump start IS dual enrollment. Funding can make that happen

7. Update on Federal Monitoring Review Conducted March 28-April 1. Final Report due in 60 days.

Ms. Seemion said that LWDA51 was monitored by the Federal Office in Dallas, Texas. The Monitoring team reviewed both Fiscal and Program activities. The final report has not yet been received. Staff will advise when the report arrives.

8. Update on Request for Proposal (RFP) for Comprehensive Youth Services

Ms. Juanita Poland reported that a legal notice was placed in the Official Journal in all 6 of the parishes in the region for the opportunity to provide a proposal for Comprehensive Youth Services. Fifty-seven bidders letters were mailed to agencies on the Bidder's List. Bidder's Conferences were held on April 12, one at 9 a.m. and a second at 2 p.m. One Agency, the Calcasieu Workforce Center came to the morning session and three agencies, the Calcasieu Parish School Board, the Jeff Davis Parish School Board and the Care Help Center from Sulphur. The Request for Proposals are due back Friday, May 13 at noon. We will know then how many providers will need to be considered.

9. Report on Youth Providers Activities

(a) Calcasieu Parish School Board, Dr. Betty Washington, Ms. Sheree Thierry

Documentation on Meeting Performance:	CPSB
B. Program Performance - Carryover 2015/2016	'11=1 '12=1 '13=5 '14=11 '15=2
(1) Number NEW Planned to enroll by 3/31/16	12
(2) Number NEW Actually enrolled by 3/31/16	5
Total # Served 7/1/14 - 12/31/15	21
(3) Number exited	7
(4) Number positive outcomes	5
(5) Number negative outcomes	2
(6) Number Received Diploma/GED	5
(7) Literacy/Numeracy Gains (OSY)	63%
(8) Number Employed/Military	3
(9) Number received credentials	3
(10) Elements being provided	5
(11) # In Each ELEMENT	

Documentation on Meeting Performance:	CPSB
1 Tutoring/Study Skills	7
2 Alternative School	2
3 Summer Work Opportunities	0
4 Work Experience/Internship	0
5 Occupational Skills Training	2
6 Leadership Development	11
7 Supportive Services	0
8 Adult Mentoring	0
9 Follow Up	3
10 Comp Guidance & Counseling	0
(12) Number in Post-Secondary	5

Success Story: WIOA April 2015 –Student Success Story – Ashtyn

It is a pleasure to share our student success story on a wonderful young lady that has fought against the odds to earn her high school diploma. Ashtyn, a 20 year old mother of two whom dropped from school during her sophomore year. Since being out of school, Ashtyn became of mother of two beautiful babies; daughter, Mc'Kennslyie and son, Kennedy. Adjusting to her new life as young mother, Ashtyn faced some challenging times. Realizing in order to gain better employment, she would need to finish school. Ashytn then made contact with her high school counselor to inquire of options to complete school. Gaining WIOA-CPSB contact information, Ashtyn was able schedule a time and sit with the program coordinator. During Ashtyn's initial interview, she was interested in earning her HiSet diploma not realizing she was closer to earning her high school diploma. Upon Ashtyn's enrollment, she was placed in tutoring services that allowed her to finish her remaining courses for graduation. Because of Ashtyn's hard work and dedication to her studies, she managed the responsibility of being a mother and student. It is with great pleasure to inform you that Ashtyn has completed her remaining courses and is scheduled to graduate May 23, 2016. I am extremely proud of Ashtyn's accomplishment and looking forward to assisting her with enrollment into Dental Assistant School here in Lake Charles.

(b) Calcasieu Workforce Center, Mr. Kendrick Celestine

Documentation on Meeting	Calcasieu	Cameron	Jeff Davis
A. Program Performance - Carryover 15/16	'08 = 1 '09 = 0 '10 = 0 '11 = 2 '12 = 3 '13 = 12 '14 = 17 '15 = 11 Total = 46	'08 = 0 '09 = 0 '10 = 0 '11 = 2 '12 = 0 '13 = 1 '14 = 0 '15 = 0 Total = 3	'08 = 0 '09 = 0 '10 = 1 '11 = 0 '12 = 3 '13 = 8 '14 = 3 '15 = 3 Total = 18
(1) Number NEW Planned to enroll by 03/31/16 from Contract	10	0	3
(2) Number NEW Actually enrolled by 03/31/16	10	0	3
Total # Served 7/1/14 - 03/31/16			
(3) Number exited	18	2	9
(4) Number positive outcomes	14	1	4
(5) Number negative outcomes	3	1	5
(6) Number Received Diploma/GED	0	0	0
(7) Literacy/Numeracy Gains (OSY)	100%	100%	92%

Documentation on Meeting	Calcasieu	Cameron	Jeff Davis
(8) Number Employed/Military	0	0	0
(9) Number received credentials	10	0	7
(10) Elements being provided	6	2	5
(11) # In Each ELEMENT			
1 Tutoring/Study Skills	0	0	0
2 Alternative School	0	0	0
3 Summer Work Opportunities	8	0	3
4 Work Experience/Internship	6	0	0
5 Occupational Skills Training	23	0	6
6 Leadership Development	46	3	18
7 Supportive Services	23	0	4
8 Adult Mentoring	0	0	0
9 Follow Up	11	3	5
10 Comp Guidance & Counseling	0	0	0
(12) Number in Post-Secondary	23	0	6

Success Story

The Youth Department would like to introduce you to one of its participants. She was a single parenting youth. Although she successfully completed Dental Assistant School and was awarded certificates of completion, she was unsuccessful in securing a job in that field. She was unemployed for 6 months. She and her daughter were living with her mother when a family friend told her about the Center. She then came to the Center to learn more about the program. After submitting required documentation, she was found eligible and began a Work Experience assignment with our center in October of 2015. She completed all tasks assigned and performed exceptionally well. So well in fact, that she applied for and secured a full time position with the Calcasieu Parish Police Jury as a Human Services Technician Assistant. Since securing this position she has been able to obtain her own home and currently considers herself to be more financially stable. She plans to continue her position with the Police Jury while learning and growing as much as she can.

(c) Allen, Beauregard, Vernon Youth Program, Ms. Elaine Brister

Documentation on Meeting Performance:	LWDA 51
B. Program Performance - Carryover 2015/2016	61
(1) Number NEW Planned to enroll by 3/31/16	0
(2) Number NEW Actually enrolled by 3/31/16	0
Total # Served 7/1/15 - 3/31/16	61
(3) Number exited	14
(4) Number positive outcomes	8
(5) Number negative outcomes	6
(6) Number Received Diploma/GED	6
(7) Literacy/Numeracy Gains (OSY)	0

Documentation on Meeting Performance:	LWDA 51
(8) Number Employed/Military	0
(9) Number received credentials	7
(10) Elements being provided	8
(11) # In Each ELEMENT	
1 Tutoring/Study Skills	0
2 Alternative School	2
3 Summer Work Opportunities	9
4 Work Experience/Internship	1
5 Occupational Skills Training	9
6 Leadership Development	18
7 Supportive Services	5
8 Adult Mentoring	12
9 Follow Up	2
10 Comp Guidance & Counseling	0
(12) Number in Post-Secondary	9

Success Story: A shy, quiet young lady and her mother visited the Beauregard center looking for help with finding summer employment. This Vernon Parish resident was a sophomore being home schooled and in need of the assistance that the youth program could provide. She was from a single parent household on public assistance with two younger siblings and was basic skills deficient in Reading. While in the program, she participated in summer youth employment, mentoring and in the Beauregard Adult Education program. She worked at the Beauregard center in the MIS department, answering the phone and assisting customers. She was always complimented by her supervisor as being detail oriented, accurate in her work and a quick learner. However, her quiet nature did not display the determination she had to attain her GED. She faced some challenges along the way, but with time and the support of her family and staff at the center, she married, had her first child and attained her GED. Because of the computer and customer service skills that she learned while working at the Beauregard center, she found employment at Lowe’s as the customer service desk sales associate and did very well in that position with her wages increasing. She has since moved to South Carolina and is attending college. She is very appreciative of the help she received from the program and is thankful for the support and opportunities provided to her.

Ms. Sarita Scheufens moved to accept the reports of the Youth Service Providers. Mr. Brad Nelson seconded. Carried.

10. Consideration on Drafting the 4-Year Workforce Plan (Will be due in May)

Need the Executive Committee, Youth Committee and Disability Committee as well as Partners

Mr. Greg Declouet said that the Local/Regional plans have to mimic the State Plan. Ms. Seemion said that we will do a combined plan utilizing the 6 core partners and several of the combined plan partners including Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), Sowela, and Temporary Aid to Needy Families.

Mr. R.B. smith moved to appoint the members to the Planning Committee as follows:

1. Core Partners: WIOA Adult & Dislocated Worker: Ms. Myra DeLaCroix

Youth Programs -Mr. Kendrick Celestine

Wagner Peyser - Ms. Crystal Scott

Adult Education & Literacy - Ms. Tommeka Semien

Rehabilitation Services - Ms. Carol Thibodeaux

2. Partners for a Combined Plan:

Career and Technical Education (Sowela) - Dr. Neil Aspinwall

Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF) part of the Department of Children and Family Services - Mr. Robert Fontenot

Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) - Ms. Juana Felton

3. Appropriate Board Committee Members:

Executive Committee (WDB Officers- Ms. Barbara Disnue, Chair; Mr. Toby Leger-Vice Chair & Ms. Sarita Scheufens-Secretary, Mr. R.B. Smith-Economic Development, Mr. Carlos Perez-Labor Representative)

Youth Committee (Mr. Toby Leger & Ms. Donna Bailey)

Disability Committee (Ms. Debra Jones, Ms. Ranelle Birmingham & Ms. Juana Felton)

4. WDB Staff: Ms. Stephanie Seemion-WDB Director and Ms. Juanita Poland-Planner

Ms. Sarita Scheufens seconded. The due date for the plan will be extended into June because of the required 30 day comment period. Mr. Greg Declouet said that the State Plan was due April 1 and it would be good for the planning committee to read through it. There is a section on Labor Market Information with a Vision and Strategies. The time it takes to complete the plan depends upon the Committee. A copy of the State Plan will be sent to the Planning Committee. Carried. [sent plan 4/29/16]

11. Upcoming Quarterly Meetings & Events

June 23, 2016 September 22, 2016 January 26, 2017 April 27, 2017

Upcoming Job Fair – Lake Charles Civic Center, July 13, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Mr. Leger reminded everyone of the upcoming Job Fair and encouraged their participation.

Ms. Seemion made an announcement that Ms. Barbara Disnue’s mother had passed away the morning of the WDB meeting.

12. Adjournment

Sign In Sheet

Mr. Leger asked that everyone be sure to sign in the sheet, as well as utilize the Comment Cards provided on the tables.

All business completed, Mr. Leger declared the meeting adjourned at 1:24 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,


Juanita Poland, Note Taker