



**MSDE DORS 2019 Public Meetings Updates  
July 10 & 11, 2019**

**Maryland Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) General Updates:**

- **Budget**
  - The FY 2020 budget for DORS includes \$14,867,083 in State General Funds. Once the General Funds deductions for the Independent Living Programs are taken into account, the remaining amount allows the Division to meet its federal requirement for Match and Maintenance of Effort.
  - Based on proposed Federal FY2020 budget, DORS is expected to receive approximately 45,568,000 in federal funds once the deduction for the mandated sequestration cut is made. This will provide a slight increase in the DORS federal funds for the up coming Federal fiscal year.
- **DORS Wait List**
  - DORS wait list numbers are holding steady when compared to July 2018 to 2019. In 2018 DORS wait list was at 2,719 and in 19 it is at 2,738. Time frame remains about the same of three years. It will be difficult to reduce the wait list and time frame due to changes in the VR Act, which created the Pre-Employment Transitioning Services for students with a disability. By law this program does not have a wait list, so the DORS is shifting staffing resources to meet the demand for services
- **90<sup>th</sup> Celebration**
  - DORS has been in existence for 90 years. The legislation was introduced in February 1929 to create the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation as part of the Maryland State Department of Education. The legislation was passed and the first State Director and staff were hired in October 1929. To celebrate this accomplishment DORS will holding its 90<sup>th</sup> Celebration as part of the Workforce and Technology Center's October graduation on Wednesday Oct 30. Other events will be planned as well.
- **Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment**

- The Rehabilitation Act requires that every three-years that the State’s Vocational Rehabilitation program conduct a Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment. As such the Division is currently working through that process, with a number of teams who are reviewing trend data, sending out questionnaires, and conducting focus groups with clients, providers, employers and other governmental organizations. The draft report will be completed by early August, preliminary results will be shared with the State Rehabilitation Council, with the final report due to the Rehabilitation Services Administration before the end of September 2019.
- **Customer Satisfaction Survey**
  - In conjunction with the State Rehabilitation Council, DORS has been conducting quarterly Customer Satisfaction Surveys. The Division is sending out surveys to consumers at various stages of the case process to determine if issues exist and address them.

**Office for Blindness and Vision Services (OBVS)**

Includes: ILOB, VR, BEP

Currently serving 512 people in the ILOB program

Currently serving 947 people in the VR program

Transitioning programs:

MSB = 12 transitioning youth in summer program

CLB = 5 students in the summer program

BISM= Cancelled summer program

WTC = 1 student in the summer program

Out of state = 2 students

+ One student in a creative work experience in partnership with the LBPH

Year round transitioning services

Mentoring through NFB approximately 9 students

BISM GLIDE approximately 8 students

BEP: In 2019 training program: 5 students enrolled: 2 provisional license, 1 approaching provisional license, 1 on medical leave, 1 did not successfully complete the program

Update:

Approved new program: Independent Employment Specialist

Created a Transition Coalition of providers, schools, MSDE, and DORS to work together to plan transition activities, coordinate schedules and avoid duplication.

Looking at a College Mentoring program for the Fall 2019 semester through MSB

BISM: New Job Ready assessment through BISM to help individuals assess their readiness for job seeking and employment and identify areas that might benefit from additional training

CLB: Pilot program to provide internships for individuals completing the Metier intensive computer skill program, to practice skills and gain work experience.

### **Office of Field Services**

OFS is currently providing VR services to 15,968 consumers and pre-employment transitioning services to 4,325 students with disabilities. 76% of the VR consumers are categorized as most significantly disabled and 24% are categorized as significantly disabled.

We currently have 130 counselors and a total of 225 staff serving consumers in 23 locations throughout the State. Some of our counselors are co-located with our WIOA partners at an American Job Center.

We currently have about 1,000 students with disabilities participating in a summer youth work-based learning experience throughout the state; this is the highest number of students to ever participate.

Referrals for Pre-employment Transitioning Services are consistently increasing, especially in the Washington and Baltimore metro areas. In response to this increase, we are in the process of developing a dedicated TY unit in Montgomery County to meet the needs of transitioning youth and students with disabilities in this area. There is also an existing dedicated TY unit in Baltimore City. In addition, many of our VR counselors who traditionally served only adults are now serving transitioning youth.

OFS staff are currently focused on amending IPEs or completing technical edits to IPEs to align the estimated Agency costs with actual expenditures plus future anticipated expenditures.

OFS staff are also focused on addressing open referrals throughout the state in preparation for a new streamlined on-line referral system.

A Request for Proposal for RISE (Reaching Independence through Self Employment) services is nearly complete; it is anticipated that we will have a contractor in place by January 1, 2020.

## **Pre-Employment Transition Services (PreETS) Updates**

DORS continues to increase the amount of programs available throughout the state to reach ALL students with disabilities. As of last week:

- Region 1 has 26 CRPs, 1 secondary school, 2 colleges, 4 workforce partners, and 11 other partners (to include centers for independent living, CWICS, and out-of-state programs for students who are deaf)
- Region 2 has 28 CRPs, 6 secondary schools, 3 colleges, 1 workforce partner, and 13 other partners (to include centers for independent living, CWICS, and out-of-state programs for students who are deaf)
- Region 3 has 14 CRPs, 2 secondary schools, 1 college, 2 workforce partners, and 11 other partners (to include centers for independent living, CWICS, and out-of-state programs for students who are deaf)
- Region 5 has 25 CRPs, 3 secondary schools, 2 colleges, 2 workforce partners, and 12 other partners (to include centers for independent living, CWICS, and out-of-state programs for students who are deaf)
- Region 6 has 23 CRPs, 2 secondary schools, no colleges, 2 workforce partners, and 10 other partners (to include centers for independent living, CWICS, and out-of-state programs for students who are deaf)

DORS also continues to collaborate with the University of Maryland on a 5-year grant to look at the impact of multiple work experiences for students on their post school outcomes. We are in year 3 and are working with 8 local school systems throughout the state.

DORS is continuing to look at any gaps in the provision of PreETS to ensure that we are able to serve all disability populations amongst students as well as ensuring that we have an adequate amount of services in our rural areas.

### **DDA Partnership Update**

- Have had an updated working MOU since June 2018. It addresses current federal regulations.
- Common trainings have been hosted between DDA and DORS to provide staff from both agencies the tools they need to assist individuals in accessing both systems (includes in person meetings and webinars)
- Quarterly leadership meetings are being held between DORS Assistant State Superintendent and DDA's Deputy Director.
- There has been an increase in the alignment of systems, one example being the adoption of WIOA's definition of competitive integrated employment by both DDA and DORS.
- DORS and DDA host an ongoing workgroup, comprised of DORS staff, DDA staff, and providers, to address gaps in employment services for individuals with IDD.
- There has been a reported increase in local collaboration and communication between both agencies.
- DDA and DORS are working together (along with other partners such as MDOD) on putting together the Employment first summit for this October.