

DIVISION OF REHAB SERVICES



IWIB Summer Quarterly Meeting Partner Update

Accomplishments		
Project	Objectives	Outcomes
Fiscal – Cassie L	The Governor’s FY24 Engrossed Budget \$SB0250eng 103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY (ilga.gov)	
Contracts - Kristin W	The addition of staff in our unit will continue to present opportunities for improvements to our internal systems.	Continue to review current practices and look for ways to improve.
BCCFS – Erik H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DRS BCCFS staff have successfully placed 4,055 in competitive, integrated employment so far in SFY2023. Our goal for SFY2023 is 4,500! BCCFS currently serves 29,705 VR customers. So far, in SFY2023, counselors have approved services for 8,331 new HSP customers, an increase of 4.21% vs. the same time last fiscal year. BCCFS currently serves 41,874 HSP customers. DRS BCCFS VR staff have outreached to 3,482 Williams/Colbert class members to offer VR services. DRS Field Offices continue to be open on a limited basis, providing front desk/reception services. Appointments are still being managed remotely. DRS BCCFS continues to engage with the Illinois State Board of Education with the goal of strengthening partnerships and revising the MOU developed between the two agencies during COVID. DRS and ISBE have engaged the National Technical Assistance Center on Transition at UNC Charlotte to facilitate. The completion target date is September 1st. DRS is working with the Illinois Center for Transition to Work at the University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign, and with several representatives from the Illinois State Board of Education and local education agencies to develop a transition guide. The guide will 	Continued progress towards goals outlined above.

Accomplishments		
	<p>provide a roadmap for customers, parents/guardians, and others providing transition services, outlining resources, processes, roles, and responsibilities. This guide will be disseminated widely throughout the state.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DRS is engaged with Equip for Equality in identifying ways to expand VR services to justice-involved customers throughout the state. Several presentations to community providers have already taken place. 	
BESS- Francisco A	<p>The Bureau has developed a QR code to be utilized at Job Fairs – to improve communication with employers.</p> <p>Use of QR Codes – will link employers to Agency/Workforce Development Unit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities • Brochures • Employer Referrals <p>2. Webpage – www.drs.illinois.gov/Employers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edited and operational <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ updates to be addressed: ○ Activation ○ Monitoring of attached mailbox – employer referrals <p>3. Review and update of Workforce Development Unit - Media Material</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Newsletters - develop Workforce Development Unit Newsletter ▪ Brochures – update <p>4. Job Leads –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Job Board – Internal Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing of Jobs leads from community providers/agencies/job listing ▪ Active Job Leads – Emails to offices ▪ Establish a protocol for sharing “Active” job leads with VR offices 	

Accomplishments		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DRS/ BESS targeted populations: Established financial support for deaf customers who wish to attend the National Technical Center for the Deaf (NTID). NTID is in Rochester, New York, and provides deaf students with an accessible learning environment where sign language and other services are available. Illinois was one of the states across the U.S. chosen to be on an NTID/VR task force. We discussed our respective needs and how we can better collaborate with each other. This was held in April on the NTID campus. • DRS/ BESS is working with a national task force known as the Apprenticeship Learning Community. This is hosted by the University of Illinois in Chicago. We are working to develop tools that can be used by VR agencies throughout the country that would increase apprenticeship opportunities. 	
Training – Michelle ST	<p>- John worked with Region 1 N/S, CPS, Rehab Tech, and DDD on the development of a pilot tool and guidance on AT and Augmented Communication Devices for CPS students transitioning from High School. These coordinated efforts will help ensure a seamless transition for students needing devices and technology beyond high school.</p>	<p>-Lots and lots of training opportunities coming up between our standard intensive counselor training, Ancillary training, VRTAC-QE partnership training, and UIUC partnership training – please continue to reference OneNet for updates and information</p> <p>-Continue to encourage staff to complete the IDHS mandatory training!</p>