

Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired
Director's Report
November 19, 2014

I. Staffing:

a. Vacancies:

i. Orientation & Mobility Instructor in the Bangor office. This position became vacant in early November. Recruiting through contacting various university personnel preparation programs and professional O&M organizations continue.

b. VR Counselor position in Bangor became vacant on October 31 as William Fenn has retired. This position is currently posted and available for application.

II. Employability Skills Program (ESP):

The third offering of the DBVI ESP was completed in Bangor on November 7, 2014. Nine participants completed this program, and the week-long portion appeared to have been a tremendous success. The "Job Club" portion of this program began on Tuesday, November 18.

III. Budget:

DBVI put two funding initiatives for consideration into the 2016-2017 DOL budget. The initiative that seeks funding for adding two more Teacher of Visually Impaired Children (TVI) positions and related costs succeeded in being included in the department's request to the Governor. The other initiative, which sought funding for one more Blindness Rehab. Specialist did not get included in this round. As a reminder, the two TVI positions are being funded by DOE for this current fiscal year.

IV. Current VR Program Data:

At the end of the federal fiscal year for 2014, DBVI has recorded 45 individuals closed as successfully achieving competitive employment. This compares to 37 for FFY 2013.

Appendix A contains year-end information pertaining to the 45 competitive employment outcomes, including the type of job, hourly salary, and list of employers.

V. Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment:

Karen Wolffe, Ph. D., is in Maine this week conducting public forums, staff discussions, and RSA data review s part of our required Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment.

Once she leaves Maine, she will begin conducting a telephone survey of current DBVI clients, as well as those who were successfully and unsuccessfully closed from October 1, 2012 through September 30, 2014.

VI. Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act/Rehabilitation Act:

We are still learning exact details of the major changes in the reauthorization of the Rehab. Act (Chapter IV of WIOA). RSA has put on a couple of training webinars, and provided a multitude of information during the recent fall meetings of the Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR) and the National Council of State Agencies for the Blind (NCSAB). RSA is currently working on regulations where they will spell out just how to interpret certain aspects of the newly enacted legislation. The draft regulations are expected by the end of January.

VIII. Vocational Rehab. and Training Center:

DBVI Director will be meeting with Jim Phipps of the Iris Network to put together a steering committee to begin work on outlining the core components of what clients will need to gain from attending this center. The Steering Committee will consist of at least one VRT from Iris Network, one O&M and VRC from DBVI, and at least one consumer.

The Steering Committee will work for about six to eight weeks, at which time they will assemble a planning team to figure out how to build a program that will accomplish what the Steering Committee has created as a basic structure.

IX. Director Activities:

- A. Maine Special Education Directors Conference, October 31.
- B. American Council of the Blind of Maine, November 1.
- C. Pine Tree Dog Guide Users, November 8.
- D. CSAVR, November 11-12.
- E. NCSAB, November 12-14.

Respectfully Submitted by
John Mc Mahon, Ph.D.
DBVI Director

Appendix A

DBVI Vocational Rehabilitation Program

Listing of Successful Competitive Employment Outcomes for 2014

The following is a table of the 45 competitively employed individuals for DBVI for FFY14.

Occupation	Part-time Fulltime	Hourly Wage
Teacher	full	\$16.35
Food Service Worker	part	\$7.50
Social Worker/VRT	part	\$14.42
Manager	part	\$10.00
Office/Admin.	full	\$13.00
Customer Service Rep.	part	\$7.50
Office/Admin.	full	\$12.50
Dishwasher	part	\$8.00
Maintenance	part	\$8.25
Bill/Account Collector	full	\$15.38
Social Worker	part	\$13.50
Cook	part	\$13.05
Retail Sales	full	\$24.04
Library Worker	part	\$20.00
Engineering Manager	full	\$35.00
Dishwasher	part	\$9.00
Customer Service Rep.	part	\$8.00
Teacher	full	\$26.92
Exec Sec/Admin	full	\$14.70
Computer Programmer	full	\$42.79
Customer Service Rep.	part	\$10.00
Janitor/Cleaner	part	\$8.00
Computer Systems Analyst	full	\$19.57
General/Operations	part	\$10.00

Mngr.		
Fundraiser	full	\$23.08
Woodworker	part	\$15.00
Cashier	part	\$10.00
Accountant/Auditor	part	\$10.00
Nurse's aide	part	\$8.75
Agriculture worker	full	\$12.02
Merchandise Displayer	part	\$12.00
Farmer	full	\$8.00
Writer	part	\$9.00
Farm manager	full	\$8.00
Customer Service Rep.	part	\$7.75
Customer Service Rep.	full	\$19.62
Stock Clerk	part	\$8.00
Special Education Teacher	full	\$10.00
Janitor/Cleaner	part	\$8.00
Food Prep/Server	part	\$8.00
Computer Systems Analyst	full	\$43.25
Manager	part	\$34.84
Audio/Video Engr. Tech	full	\$15.00
Food Prep/Server	part	\$8.75
Nurse's aide	part	\$10.77

Eight of these individuals were closed with a plan that included self-employment. There were a myriad of employers to include: five different school systems (high school or below), The University of Southern Maine, HMS Host Corp, The Iris Network, Anthem Health Systems, TJ MAXX, Michele's Garden Café, Inc., Marshall's Inc., Maine Center for Health & Fitness, Eastern Area Agency on Aging, RICOH USA, Brixham Montessori Friends School, Bath Iron Works, Market Basket, Home Depot, UNUM Life Insurance, Wright Express Corp. Tyler Technologies, Inc., Maine Youth Alliance, Broadreach Family and Community, McDonald's, Blanchette's Upholstery, Madigan Home Health Care, Inc., Tractor Supply, Social Security Administration, Neighborhood Redemption & Discount Beverage, Maine General Medical Center, Longhorn Steakhouse, Insurance

Automation Group, NESCOM Inc./Husson College, Dunkin' Donuts, and Eastport Memorial Hospital.