

# SRC-DBVI Questions to Karen Fraser

**To:** Karen Fraser, Director, Bureau of Rehabilitation Services  
**From:** State Rehabilitation Council- Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired  
**Date:** September 11, 2015  
**Re:** Recent Financial Concerns

## Historical:

1. When were issues with budget discovered?
2. How were the budget issues discovered?
3. Can you please give us a timeline of events leading up to the current situation?
4. To what extent has RSA been informed of the DBVI situation?

## Presenting Issue:

1. What is the status of the clients who were affected by the FFS provider reduction in July?
2. Have services been restored?
3. What will services look like moving forward, could you speak to the “homemaker” clients and the “competitive” clients?

## Procedural:

1. Please explain the role of the various positions in looking at DBVI annual budget:
  - DOL Commissioner
  - BRS Director
  - SIQA Director
  - RSA
  - DOL Finance office
2. Given these recent budget issues what will BRS/DOL be doing differently in the future?

## Re-allotment:

1. How long has the practice of using “re-allotment funds” for case services been practiced by DBVI?
2. What was different in FY 15 which brought the current issues to light?

## Central Office:

1. What is timeframe for John McMahon return?
2. Will there be an “Acting Director” appointed?

### Consolidation:

1. Is DOL in the process of looking at consolidating DBVI and DVR into one DSU?
  - If yes, where is DOL in the process of consolidation?
  - Has RSA been consulted, as of yet, about a consolidated program?
  - What would a consolidated program look like for the current clients of DBVI?

### Contracts:

1. Describe how funds are allocated to contracts?
2. How does DBVI determine what funds go to contracted services verses direct case service?
3. Has a cost analysis been done for similar services (i.e. VRT, O&M, etc.) whether the services are being provided under a contract, a fee for service provider, a state employee, or at the Immersion Center, etc.?
  - If available please provide the cost analysis data.

### Iris Network: Immersion Center

1. How much money has been contracted to Iris Network for FY 2016?
2. Please provide a breakdown of the Iris Contract for FY 2016?
3. What percent of the contract with Iris is dedicated to the Immersion Center?
4. How many case services dollars were diverted from direct client services to the Immersion Center in FY 2015?
5. How many case services dollars are expected to be diverted from direct client services to the Immersion Center in FY 2016?

### Client Choice:

1. Does the DSU have concerns that with the budget issues clients are going to be funneled into contracted services and not given a choice of service providers?
2. What processes are in place to assure client choice?

### SRC:

1. Why wasn't SRC notified of the current budget issues?
2. As the mandated partner, how do you see DOL/BRS and the SRC moving forward together to resolve these issues?