

Talking Points

- 1) Lack of transparency at DOL/BRS
 - a. BVR/DOL continue to act in a non-transparent, unilateral, arbitrary manner, excluding DBVI as well as the SRC and others in the process, in implementing serious, far-reaching changes to DBVI in direct disregard of other professionals, consumers, and organizations – changes that are likely to have substantial, negative impacts on blind citizens who will need the agency and its services to attain employment and quality of life.
- 2) Refusal to include SRC-DBVI/DBVI staff/Blind and Visually Impaired consumers in decision-making
 - a. Current events are yet another example of pulling inward and excluding those who can speak to/are impacted by the actions - all in the interest of better "services." Even if realignment/re-organization were in order (in this or any of the other efforts being undertaken), prime inefficiency is created when acting in isolation of those directly involved.
- 3) Inconsistency in messaging regarding "supposed" budgetary issues
 - a. Lack of internal checks and balances in terms of budget oversight.
 - b. The financial crises being cited may not be nearly the crises it is being presented as, that there may well be alternative, far less drastic alternatives to any real issues that may be present –the current actions being undertaken are an over-reaction to an alarm that has been over-stated.
- 4) Need to maintain a continuum of services with consistency in service providers with specific knowledge and expertise in visual impairment for children through adulthood.
 - a. Rehabilitation Counsellors serving clients who are blind or visually impaired must have specific knowledge of the unique needs of clients with blindness and visual impairment who have not had the opportunity to receive primary rehabilitation services before seeking vocational rehabilitation services from DBVI.
 - b. VRC's at the Division of Voc. Rehab. Lack knowledge of the primary vision rehabilitation and educational needs of clients who are blind or visually impaired because DVR clients do not receive education, habilitation and primary vision rehabilitation through the Voc. Rehab. System.
- 5) Inherent conflict of having one person serve as 2 directors – both agencies suffer as a result, neither is properly or effectively then represented. It is very disturbing that apparently blind citizens are so disregarded by current VR/DOL leadership that an already acting director was appointed as some sort of part-time acting director, who isn't blind and has no training, education, or experience as a blindness service provider – someone within DBVI, who had those credentials, should be appointed as acting director.
 - a. The current acting director of VR & DBVI is stripping DBVI of this essential leadership/management who have the appropriate training and experience in the unique special problems and needs of blind people of all ages.