**2018 Annual Report**

**State Rehabilitation Council**

**In Partnership with MDRS**

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation

and

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation

for the Blind

**Revised February 14, 2019**

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**MISSISSIPPI REHABILITATION COUNCIL**

**CHAIR LETTER**

Dear Governor Bryant and Members of the Mississippi Legislature:

On behalf of the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC), I am happy to share the annual report of the Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services’ Office of Vocational Rehabilitation and Office of Vocational Rehabilitation for the Blind (OVR/OVRB).

The State Rehabilitation Council is a body mandated by The Rehabilitation Act and its resulting regulations at CFR 361.16. Members, described in these regulations, represent a broad range of individuals with disabilities across the state.

Our mandated functions include:

* Reviewing, analyzing, and advising OVR/OVRB on the performance of their responsibilities related to eligibility and order of selection; the extent, scope, and

Continued, MISSISSIPPI REHABILITATION COUNCIL CHAIR LETTER

* effectiveness of vocational rehabilitation services; and functions that affect the ability of individuals with disabilities in achieving employment outcomes
* Partnering with OVR/OVRB in developing goals and priorities; and evaluating the effectiveness in obtaining these goals
* Advising OVR/OVRB in the vocational rehabilitation portion of the Unified State Plan
* Conducting a review and analysis of consumer satisfaction
* Submitting this report and making it available to the public
* Coordinating activities with other named Councils within the state, to include the Statewide Independent Living Council

Continued, MISSISSIPPI REHABILITATION COUNCIL CHAIR LETTER

* Performing other relevant functions the SRC determines appropriate consistent with the purpose of OVR/OVRB

This year, the Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services’ OVR/ OVRB has supported thousands of Mississippians who experience disability to achieve their career goals. This is good news for both those individuals’ quality of life, and their ability to be self-supporting individuals. As well, their career success is good news for all of us in the state of Mississippi! With these needed services, these individuals are able to add their skills and abilities to our workforce for the betterment of us all.

The State Rehabilitation Council is happy to continue to advise the agency in regards to the individual stakeholder groups we represent.

Sincerely,

Mary Lundy Meruvia, Chairperson

State Rehabilitation Council

**MISSISSIPPI REHABILITATION**

**COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP**

**January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018**

Mary Meruvia, Chairman

Northeast Mississippi Area

American Indian VR Program

Josh Bower, Member

Central Mississippi Area

Business, Industry and Labor

Donald Brown, Member

West Central Mississippi Area

Advocacy Group

Lee Cole, Member

Central Mississippi Area

Advocacy Group

Former VRB Client

Pam Dollar, Member

Southeast Mississippi Area

Parent Training Program

Parent of Child with Disabilities

Shannon Hillman, Member

Business, Industry and Labor

Central Mississippi Area

**Continued, MISSISSIPPI REHABILITATION**

**COUNCIL MEMBERS - STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP**

**(January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018)**

John McGinn, Member

CAP, Former VR Client

Central Mississippi Area

Chris Howard, Member

Central Mississippi Area

Ex-Officio, Director, MDRS

Presley Posey, Member - Past Chairman

Central Mississippi Area

Former VR Client

Cassandra Singleton, Member

East Central Mississippi

Business, Industry and Labor

Augusta Smith, Member

State Independent Living Council,

Parent of Child with Disabilities

Central Mississippi Area

Jean Walley, Member

OVR Counselor

Southwest Mississippi

Current Member list as of 10/01/2017 – 9/30/2018

ABOUT THE COUNCIL

Partnership and Purpose

Mission and Responsibilities

In July 2014, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), or Public Law 113-128, was passed to reauthorize the former public law known as the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). The Rehabilitation Act is part of WIOA with Title IV of WIOA amending the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Under WIOA, the Statewide Rehabilitation Council (SRC) is required to participate in the following activities related to OVR and OVRB’s provision of vocational rehabilitation services:

* To review, analyze, and advise the OVR unit regarding performance in areas that impact the ability of individuals with disabilities to achieve employment outcomes using services under this program,
* Advise and assist OVR in the preparation of the state plan based on the needs assessment, reports and evaluations,
* Work in Partnership with the OVR unit to develop, agree to and review State Goals and Priorities,

Continued, ABOUT THE COUNCIL Partnership and Purpose - Mission and Responsibilities

* Work jointly with OVR to prepare and submit an annual progress report to the Governor and Rehabilitation Services Administration(RSA) Commissioner on the status of the vocational rehabilitation programs operated within the state,
* Coordinate the work of the SRC with the activities of other disability-related councils.

OVR and the SRC work collaboratively to ensure that all new requirements under WIOA are met while continuing to maintain high quality services for people with disabilities in Mississippi.

SRC members are appointment by the Governor and members include:

* Individuals with physical, cognitive, sensory and mental disabilities
* Parents, family members, guardians, advocates, or authorized representatives of people with disabilities who have difficulty representing themselves or are unable to represent themselves due to their disabilities

Continued, ABOUT THE COUNCIL Partnership and Purpose - Mission and Responsibilities

* Current or former applicants for, or recipients of, vocational rehabilitation services
* Business, industry and labor representatives

The SRC meets quarterly (4 times per year) and performs several functions as outlined in the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, amendments under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) of 2014, and the SRC by-laws.

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF REHABILITATION SERVICES

Welcome from the Executive Director, Chris Howard

Dear Governor Bryant, Members of the Mississippi Legislature and Fellow Mississippians:

Thank you for the opportunity through this report to share a few of the many accomplishments of the Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services and the State Rehabilitation Council during Fiscal Federal Year 2018.

The partnership this agency has with each of you and the State Rehabilitation Council is vital to carrying out our mission of providing quality services to individuals with disabilities in a timely and effective manner. Thank you to each and every one of you for your service, guidance and valuable input to this agency’s work to assist Mississippians with disabilities to become successfully employed.

In Federal Fiscal Year 2018, the MDRS Offices of Vocational Rehabilitation and Vocational Rehabilitation for the Blind served

Continued, MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF REHABILITATION SERVICES (Welcome letter from Executive Director)

13,335 job seekers with disabilities while at the same time achieving outstanding ratings in client satisfaction surveys. We successfully helped 2,616 individuals with disabilities enter the workforce and become successfully employed, leading them to greater economic self-sufficiency.

The key to any success we experience as an agency is to be credited to our outstanding staff at MDRS who consult with the

members of the State Rehabilitation Council and the consumers we serve.

We look forward to this continued partnership and another year of successful outcomes.

Sincerely,

Chris M. Howard

Executive Director

**OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION**

**PROGRAM FUNDING**

Funding Sources

The Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services receives approximately 78.7 percent of its funding from the U.S. Department of Education and a required 21.3 percent of match from the State of Mississippi for the Vocational Rehabilitation program. In federal fiscal year 2018, MDRS for Vocational Rehabilitation received $43,540,850 in federal funding and an additional $11,784,245 state match dollars.

In addition, Mississippi has the ability to apply for Social Security Cost Reimbursement dollars. These funds are earned when VR services have helped to place a consumer in a job that pays a high enough wage that the consumer no longer qualifies for Social Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Income (SSDI). When this occurs, the Social Security Administration (SSA) reimburses OVR for the cost of case services provided to the consumer.

**Continued, OVR - Program Funding**

Federal $43,540,850

State Match $11,784,245

Total $55,325,095

OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

Message from LaVonda Hart

Director of Vocational Rehabilitation

In 2018, the Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) managed over 11,700 active consumer cases during the federal fiscal year.

OVR continued to implement and provide extensive training to staff to provide, collect and document new information as required by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

Staff training is a continuous process and we will continue to ensure that OVR staff, specifically Counselors who provide direct services, possess a 21st century knowledge of the labor market. Therefore, quality competitive employment outcomes will be achieved by the consumers we serve.

OVR has increased its percentage of new IPEs developed for the first time since 2013. Counselors have been placed on new performance development appraisals that are designed to ensure

Continued, Welcome Letter OVR Director

consumers are moving through the process for the first time in 15 years. Our consumers are provided quality services that direct them to developing skills to be able to compete in today’s competitive labor market. The focus on outreach efforts ensure individuals in the state are aware of where and how to apply for the services offered by VR.

OVR has increased the focus on students with disabilities to concur with the WIOA requirements. Counselors are continuing to establish relationships with schools throughout the state. School personnel are assisted in understanding the nature and scope of the Pre-Employment Transition Services, how these services are designed to assist student with disabilities to understand careers, make career decisions, and explore opportunities. Students are then ready to make an informed decision regarding post-secondary training and employment opportunities.

We will continue to create awareness of the OVR program. With continued outreach in our communities we will assist individuals

Continued, Welcome Letter OVR Director

with disabilities attain their career goals thereby increasing their ability to live a self-sufficient life.

We are pleased to have the Mississippi State Rehabilitation Council as an important partner in the success of the OVR program and the consumers we serve. We appreciate the continued support of our MDRS Executive Director as we continue our mission to provide vocational rehabilitation services. We look forward to the continued partnership and support to provide Mississippi job seekers with disabilities with the highest quality employment and training services.

LaVonda C. Hart, MS, CRC

Director, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation

Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services

OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

OVERVIEW

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) serves:

* Eligible individuals with disabilities, except those who have blindness and visual impairment, by assisting individuals discover and develop their skills to compete in today’s labor market and maximize their opportunities for competitive integrated employment.

OVR’s primary services for individuals with disabilities include, but are not limited to:

* Career counseling and guidance
* Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) for students with disabilities in high school
* Time-limited physical restoration/medical services
* Job Preparation, Job Search and Job Placement Services
  + Supported Employment services
  + OVR training services which include college/university training, on-the-job training, work based learning experiences, internships and apprenticeships

Continued, OVR – Overview

* OVR Employment support services which includes: time-limited on the job supports, Assistive Technology, Occupational licenses, tools and other equipment

In 2018, OVR Served Mississippi Job-Seekers with Disabilities.

* More than 11,700 individuals with disabilities were

referred to and/or applied for and received VR

Pre-ETS, VR Career Services and/or VR Training

Services.

* 2,281 individuals with disabilities successfully reached

their job goal and entered the workforce.

* More than 3,800 individuals with disabilities developed a new Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE)
* designed to reach a competitive employment

outcome.

Continued, OVR – Overview

* 1,738 individuals with disabilities who were receiving services at a Sheltered Workshop were provided VR Career Counseling Information and Referral Services.
* 705 potentially eligible students with disabilities ages 14-21 were provided Pre-ETS and 3,181 were provided OVR career and training services. 326 students with disabilities obtained competitive integrated employment upon transitioning from high school.
* To meet the needs of students, OVR/OVRB collaborates with education and workforce programs to assist students with disabilities with making the transition from school to career goals.
* 2,629 individuals who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing were served resulting in 1,078 being successfully employed.
* 1,659 clients received assessments and/or Work Adjustment Services.

OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

Districts Served

District I - Kenisha Black, District Manager

(Calhoun, Coahoma, Desoto, Lafayette, Marshall, Panola, Tate, Tunica, Quitman, Yalobusha)

51 County Road 166

Oxford, MS 38655

(662) 234-3171

District II - Keely Green, District Manager

(Alcorn, Benton, Itawamba, Lee, Pontotoc, Prentiss, Tippah, Tishomingo, Union)

2620 Traceland Drive

Tupelo, MS 38801

(662) 842-1010

District III - Gaylin Matthews, District Manager

(Bolivar, Carroll, Grenada, Holmes, Humphreys, Issaquena, Leflore, Sharkey, Sunflower, Tallahatchie, Washington, Yazoo)

104 Professional Plaza

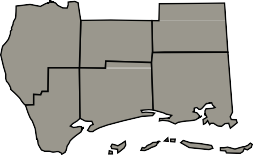
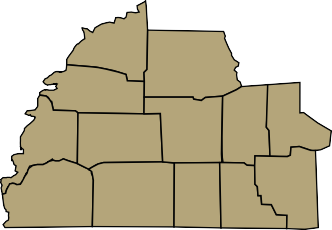
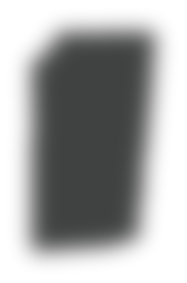
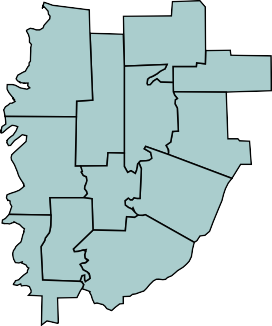
Greenwood, MS 38930

(662) 453-6172

Continued, OVR - Districts Served

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| District IV - Shondra Gathings, District Manager  (Clay, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Lowndes, Monroe, Montgomery, Oktibbeha, Webster)  207 Industrial Park Road  Starkville, MS 39759  (662) 323-9594 | |
| District V - Janet Darden, District Manager  (Hinds, Warren)  3895 Beasley Road  Jackson, MS 39213  (601) 898-7004 | |
| District VI - Donny Frazier, District Manager  (Attala, Leake, Madison, Rankin, Scott, Simpson, Smith)  1032 Center Pointe Blvd.  Pearl, MS 39208  (601) 706-5600  District VII - Sandra Sanders, District Manager  (Clarke, Jasper, Kemper, Lauderdale, Neshoba, Newton, Noxubee, Winston)  1003 College Drive  Meridian, MS 39304  (601) 483-3881  Continued, OVR - Districts Served  District VIII - Jeanette Yates, District Manager  (Adams, Amite, Claiborne, Copiah, Franklin, Jefferson, Jefferson Davis, Lincoln, Lawrence, Marion, Pike, Walthall, Wilkinson)  1221 Parklane Road, NE McComb, MS 39648  (601) 249-2498  District IX - Shelia Mills, District Manager  (Covington, Forrest, Greene, Jones, Lamar, Perry, Wayne)  17 J.M. Tatum Industrial Drive, Suite 130  Hattiesburg, MS 39401  (601) 545-5619  District X - Kathy Woodard, District Manager  (George, Hancock, Harrison, Jackson, Pearl River, Stone)  13486 Fastway Lane  Gulfport, MS 39503  (228) 575-3789 |

Continued, OVR - Districts Served (Map)



**District I**

**District II**

**District III**

**District IV**

**District V District VI District VII**

**District VIII**

**District IX**

**District X**

MDRS COMMUNITY

REHABILITATION PROGRAM

AbilityWorks

MDRS operates a statewide system of 15 Community Rehabilitation Programs (CRPs) known as AbilityWorks, Inc. These CRP’s are located throughout the state to provide individualized Vocational Assessment and Work Adjustment Services to individuals.

All services at the CRPs are individualized to meet the needs of the clients and assist in preparing for entry into competitive integrated employment. Vocational assessment services are designed to assess the abilities, assets, interests, and needs of the clients. Work Adjustment services is to promote the development of physical, mental, social and work skills; as well as appropriate work habits required by the clients to be successful in the competitive labor markets.

Continued, MDRS COMMUNITY REHABILITATION PROGRAM (AbilityWorks)

All of the CRP’s referrals are received from Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors. During FFY 2018, AbilityWorks served a total of 1,657 OVR clients.

Valpar Pro 3000

**Career Scope**

**Transferrable Skills Assessment**

Community Based Work Experience

**MECA Work Samples**

**Envision Your Career**

OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING SERVICES

DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING PROGRAM

In FFY 2018, OVR services were provided to 2,629 Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Late-Deafened, or Deaf-Blind resulting in 1,078 individuals becoming successfully employed.

The Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program provides quality services to individuals who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Late-Deafened or Deaf-Blind. These services are provided by professionals who are trained in the unique communication issues, technology, and culture of this population.

Any Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Late-Deafened, or Deaf-Blind individual who has a substantial barrier to employment and needs assistance in preparing for a job, getting a job, and/or keeping a job is eligible for services.

Continued – OVR Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services

REHABILITATION COUNSELORS FOR THE DEAF (RCDs)

Rehabilitation Counselors for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (RCDs) provide a wide range of vocational rehabilitation services to persons who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing or Late-Deafened.

The Deaf Services Program continues to promote excellence by striving to assist new Rehabilitation Counselors for the Deaf (RCDs) to reach the required communication skills level on the Signed Communication Proficiency Interview (SCPI), an American Sign Language (ASL) assessment developed by the Rochester Institute of Technology. Adequate communication skills are a pre-requisite to meaningful counseling and guidance with people who are Deaf and use manual communication. The RCDs are qualified as being proficient in ASL to ensure direct communication access with consumers who use ASL as their primary mode of communication. This skill, along with other specialized training, is a vital factor in the successful rehabilitation of individuals with Deafness or significant hearing loss.

Continued – OVR Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services

OFFICE ON DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING SERVICES (ODHH)

Office on Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ODHH) is a division of Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services (MDRS). ODHH’s purpose is to provide a wide variety of services to Deaf/Hard of Hearing people, organizations, state agencies, and private and public businesses.

There are four fundamental missions that ODHH provides to public and private settings:

* Community Outreach
* Public Awareness
* Communication Services
* Advocacy

ODHH’S objectives focus on educating, training, partnering, sponsoring, and participating in issues that relate to Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals.

Continued – OVR Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services

ODHH is mandated by Mississippi’s legislation to authorize certified interpreters to perform services in the state. Approximately 200 interpreters in the state are currently with the Office on Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

Services Statistics

* Over 800 hours of interpreting services provided
* Advised over 200 individuals
* Participated in over 30 community outreach activities
* Provided communication that included:
* 500+ Voice Calls
* 300+ Videophone Calls
* 3,000+ Emails
* ODHH provides services to individuals who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing in all 82 counties in the state of Mississippi.

SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT

AND

CAREER COUNSELING INFORMATION AND REFERRAL SERVICES (CCIR)

SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT

The Supported Employment Program is a specialized placement and training program to assist those individuals with the most significant disabilities in training for, obtaining and maintaining employment. Working together, Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors and Vocational Training Instructors provide job skills training and support services. During 2018, 379 individuals received Supported Employment services and 29 obtained competitive integrated employments. MDRS received $150,000 from RSA for the Supported Employment Program.

Continued, SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT AND

CAREER COUNSELING INFORMATION AND REFERRAL SERVICES (CCIR)

SECTION 511 - CCIR PROGRAM

Section 511 of WIOA requires that individuals engaged in or seeking to engage in subminimum wage employment receive Career Counseling Information and Referral (CCIR) services.

OVR is identified in the law as the agency responsible for administering the delivery of CCIR services and assuring such services are available to employers approved to offer subminimum wage employment. Individuals employed in subminimum wage must receive CCIR services two times during their first year and at least annually thereafter.

A key component of CCIR services is to inspire individuals to think about, pursue, and obtain competitive integrated employment. During CCIR, individuals should come to understand that there are competitive integrated employment opportunities available throughout their community.

In fiscal year 2018, 1,738 individuals received CCIR services. These services are ongoing and available throughout Mississippi.

OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

TRANSITION AND YOUTH SERVICES

SERVING STUDENTS AND YOUTH:

PRE-EMPLOYMENT TRANSITION SERVICES

Students with disabilities ages 14-21 receive the Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) listed below, as needed, to help prepare for post-secondary education and employment opportunities:

1. Vocational counseling, including counseling in job exploration and post-secondary training opportunities
2. Counseling on opportunities for post-secondary education such as college, vocational schools, etc.
3. Work-Based learning experiences, including internships and On-the-Job Training
4. Training in workplace and employer expectations
5. Training in self advocacy and social skills

Continued, OVR - TRANSITION AND YOUTH SERVICES (SERVING STUDENTS AND YOUTH: PRE-EMPLOYMENT TRANSITION SERVICES)

In 2018, 705 potentially eligible students with disabilities were provided Pre-Employment Transition Services and 3,181 were provided OVR career and training services. 326 students with disabilities obtained competitive integrated employment upon transitioning from high school.

OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

SOCIAL SECURITY PROGRAMS

The Employment Network (EN) Program of the Ticket to Work Program provides beneficiaries choices for receiving employment services while increasing the providers to serve these individuals. The Social Security Administration provides disability beneficiaries with a “ticket” that may be used to obtain Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) services and/or support from an Employment Network of their choice. In FFY 2018, 181 were assigned to MDRS’ OVR Employment Network Program.

The Social Security Administration reimburses the Cost Reimbursement Program to Vocational Rehabilitation Agencies for the cost of services provided to eligible SSI/SSDI recipients. The services must result in the individuals return to work for at least (9) nine continuous months at a substantial earnings level, which is referred to as substantial gainful activity (SGA). The Social Security beneficiary must have their ticket assigned to Vocational Rehabilitation.

Continued, SOCIAL SECURITY PROGRAMS

|  |
| --- |
| 2018 |
| Amount collected in  Cost Reimbursement |
| $1,851,238 |

This fiscal year, 101 Mississippi residents with disabilities earned enough income to no longer qualify or reduce the amount of Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and/or Social Security Disability Income (SSDI). This demonstrates the positive economic impact that the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation and the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation for the Blind has had not only on these individual consumers, but also on the State of Mississippi as a whole.

OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

PRIMARY DISABILITY

IMPAIRMENT AND CAUSE FFY2018

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| DISABILITY IMPAIRMENT | COUNT |
| TOTAL - OTHER PHYSICAL IMPAIRMENTS NOT LISTED ELSEWHERE | 2,511 |
| TOTAL - HEARING LOSS, COMMUNICATION AUDITORY | 2,327 |
| TOTAL - OTHER MENTAL IMPAIRMENTS | 1,876 |
| TOTAL - COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENTS | 1,698 |
| TOTAL - OTHER ORTHOPEDIC IMPAIRMENTS | 591 |
| TOTAL - PSYCHOSOCIAL IMPAIRMENTS | 568 |
| TOTAL - MOBILITY ORTHOPEDIC / NEUROLOGICAL IMPAIRMENTS | 555 |
| TOTAL - DEAFNESS, COMMUNICATION VISUAL | 305 |
| TOTAL - COMBINATION OF ORTHOPEDIC/NEUROLOGICAL IMPAIRMENTS | 170 |
| TOTAL - MANIPULATION ORTHOPEDIC/NEUROLOGICAL IMPAIRMENTS | 144 |
| TOTAL - GENERAL PHYSICAL DEBILITATION | 103 |
| TOTAL - OTHER HEARING IMPAIRMENTS | 90 |
| TOTAL - RESPIRATORY IMPAIRMENTS | 58 |
| TOTAL - HEARING LOSS, COMMUNICATION VISUAL | 34 |
| TOTAL - COMMUNICATIVE IMPAIRMENTS (EXPRESSIVE/RECEPTIVE) | 33 |
| TOTAL - DEXTERITY ORTHOPEDIC / NEUROLOGICAL IMPAIRMENTS | 20 |
| TOTAL - OTHER VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS | 15 |
| TOTAL – BLINDNESS | 4 |
| TOTAL - LEGALLY BLIND (EXCLUDING TOTALLY BLIND) | 3 |
| TOTAL - DEAF-BLINDNESS | 1 |
| TOTAL – VR | 11,106 |

OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

EMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES

The success of a VR Program is in direct relation to the number of individuals with disabilities who leave the program having achieved their employment goal. The employment categories below use the terms found in the federal reporting on outcomes.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Employment without Supports in  Integrated Setting | 2,072 |
| Employment with Supports in Integrated Setting (Supported Employment) | 208 |
| Self-Employment  (includes BEP-Randolph Sheppard) | 1 |

Reporting Data: October 1, 2017 – September 30, 2018

Continued, OVR - EMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES

GRAPH

* Employment without supports refers to traditional employment where a consumer is hired by a business
* Employment with supports refers to consumers who are hired by a business and receive some supports, such as job

coaching funded by a source other than the busines or VR.

* Integrated setting refers to competitive jobs in the community. VR services must be directed toward obtaining competitive jobs in the community.
* Self-employment involves starting one’s own business or receiving help to accommodate the disability so a business owner can continue to operate their business.

OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

JOB TYPES OBTAINED BY OVR CONSUMERS:

2018 TOP 10 OCCUPATIONS IN INTEGRATED SETTING

Job Table below shows the ‘Top 10 Occupations’ obtained by the 2,281 OVR Consumers who successfully achieved their employment goal in Federal Fiscal Year 2018.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| OCCUPATION | NUMBER OF CLIENTS |
| OFFICE WORKER | 251 |
| TRANSPORTATION & MATERIAL MOVING | 132 |
| SKILLED CRAFT | 131 |
| MANAGEMENT | 122 |
| SALES & RELATED OCCUPATIONS | 115 |
| FOOD PREPARATION & FOOD SERVICES | 105 |
| SERVICE WORKER | 101 |
| PERSONAL CARE | 88 |
| PRODUCTION OCCUPATIONS | 88 |
| BUILDING/GROUNDS CLEANING & MAINTENANCE | 85 |

Continued, OVR - JOB TYPES OBTAINED BY OVR

CONSUMERS: 2018 TOP 10 OCCUPATIONS IN INTEGRATED SETTING

GRAPH

OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

DEMOGRAPHICS OF CLIENTS SERVED 2018

AGE RANGE

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| AGE RANGE | CLIENTS | % |
| 20 & Under | 2297 | 20.68 % |
| 21-30 | 1765 | 15.89 % |
| 31-40 | 1728 | 15.56 % |
| 41-50 | 1766 | 15.90 % |
| 51-60 | 1819 | 16.38 % |
| 61-70 | 1209 | 10.89 % |
| 71-80 | 432 | 3.89 % |
| 81-90 | 90 | .81 % |
| TOTAL | 11,106 | |

Continued, OVR - DEMOGRAPHICS OF CLIENTS SERVED 2018 – AGE RANGE

GRAPH

OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

DEMOGRAPHICS OF CLIENTS SERVED 2018

GENDER

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| GENDER | CLIENTS | % |
| Male | 5,979 | 53.84 |
| Female | 5,126 | 46.16 |
| Does not identify as male or female | 1 | .01 |
| TOTAL | 11,106 | |

GRAPH

OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

DEMOGRAPHICS OF CLIENTS SERVED 2018

ETHNICITY / RACE

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ETHNICITY/RACE | CLIENTS | % |
| White | 6,094 | 54.87% |
| Black or African American | 4,677 | 42.11% |
| Multi-Racial | 261 | 2.35% |
| Asian | 29 | 0.26% |
| American Indian or Alaskan Native | 24 | 0.22% |
| Does not wish to self-identify | 8 | 0.07% |
| Not Completed | 7 | 0.06% |
| Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander | 6 | 0.05% |

Note: Can have more than one ethnicity.

Continued, OVR – DEMOGRAPHICS OF CLIENTS SERVED 2018 - ETHNICITY/RACE

GRAPH

OVR AND OVRB - CLIENTS SERVED 2018

EDUCATIONAL LEVEL AT APPLICATION (IPE)

Reporting: October 1, 2017 to September 30, 2018

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Bachelor’s Degree/Master’s Degree, Degree above Masters | 2.91% |
| Elementary Education (grad 1-8) | 2.10% |
| High School Graduate or GED | 42.85% |
| No Formal Schooling | .44% |
| Post-Secondary Education, Academic/Associates Degree | 16.94% |
| Special Education (completion or in attendance) | 4.02% |
| Technical or Occupation Skills Program (not provided by employer) | .13% |
| Adult Secondary Ed Program (non-State Program) | .13% |
| Adult Secondary Ed Program (State Program) | 1.58% |
| Career/Tech Training Program: (Leading to a recognized  Post-Secondary Credential) | 2.65% |
| Career/Tech Training Program: (Not leading to a recognized  Post-Secondary Credential) | .69% |
| Employer Training Program | .01% |
| Education not listed | .40% |
| IPE Has not been developed as of 9/30/18 | 25.15% |
| TOTAL | 100% |

Continued, OVR AND OVRB - CLIENTS SERVED 2018

EDUCATIONAL LEVEL AT APPLICATION (IPE)

(Reporting: October 1, 2017 to September 30, 2018)

**GRAPH**

OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION FOR THE BLIND

CONSUMER SATISFACTION SURVEY

*Annual FY 2018 Results for the Closed Ended Questions*

*The ratings for the various services consumers received are presented below using the average (mean) score given to each item by all respondents interviewed. If an item did not apply to a particular respondent or if the consumer did not know or refused to rate an item the consumer’s response is not included in calculating the average score for that item. The seven items rated are in Table 1 (for verbiage, reference questionnaire.) Chart 1 is included for an easy visual comparison. The respondents were asked to rate the items (Questions Q1 to Q4 and questions Q7 to Q9) on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being poor and 5 being very good. Thus, a high score indicates that the service was good and a low score that it was poor.*

*Table 1*

*Service ratings by consumer*

*Rate the following items on a scale of ‘1 to 5’, with ‘1’ being poor and ‘5’ being very good.*

Continued, OVR AND OVRB

CONSUMER SATISFACTION SURVEY

# of Consumers

Average Rating Mean

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Q1 The help the OVR staff provided at the time  you applied for VR services | 1,000 | 4.76 |
| Q2 The help from the OVR staff during the  planning of your services | 999 | 4.74 |
| Q3 The help from the OVR staff when you  were receiving your VR Services | 996 | 4.74 |
| Q4 The help you received from other agencies  or service providers | 259 | 4.49 |
| Q7 Your employment outcome | 876 | 4.52 |
| Q8 Employment benefits provided by your  new employer | 480 | 4.03 |
| Q9 Overall, how do you rate the services  you received? | 994 | 4.72 |

**Chart 1 - Average Consumer Ratings 2018**

AVERAGE RATING

Q1 Q2 Q3 Q4 Q7 Q8 Q9

SRC 2017-2018

COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Comments and Recommendations regarding Service Delivery

* Informing school systems of available services. Marketing to Businesses.
* The quarterly reports provided by VR and VRB indicate success outcomes for those served, those closed after employments, as well as, new IPEs written to initiate services.
* Congratulations for the outcome as well as the new ventures planned.
* I am very grateful this service exists.
* I like the back to basics training described. Please invite the SRC members
* New approaches are always introduced to the SRC for input. Each new approach seems to be beneficial to the consumers.
* Help the client understand the difference between VR and AW Counselors better. Also, sometimes clients think they are “fired” from AW.

Continued, SRC 2017-2018, COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Comments and Recommendations regarding Consumer

Satisfaction Survey

* The only issue that concerns me are reports of inability to contact VR Counselors in 2 districts because of phone issues. Also, addressing the issues of unprofessionalism would recommend customer service training both internal and external and reminders to Professional Standards.
* It seems from the survey results that consumers are satisfied with services. This is extremely encouraging.
* The surveys indicate that those served are overall satisfied. CAP report was received, with staff voicing intent to delve into areas of concern.
* Consumer satisfaction is high. Any past concerns regarding timely contact appears to have been corrected per this quarter’s results.
* Agree with Kevin and Mary – looking into the low numbers of benefits – provided by the employer. May need to break that section to review. FT/PT employees
* Maybe surveys should not be completed or turned in at the facility it concerns.

Continued, SRC 2017-2018, COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

* I suggest to use the same questions and scale for the interim and final satisfaction questionnaires.
* All reports are positive. Employer benefits remains the lowest (while still good). Consumers may be seeking part-time employment (without benefits) due to SSA benefits.

1. Comments and Recommendations regarding potential service

providers or discussions on the performance of service

providers

* Marketing to Physicians offices possibly by leaving brochures in Administration and Patient Advocacy offices with other facilities.
* Satisfaction surveys indicate that current providers are effective. The grant discussed for new and innovative providers for pre-employment transition services in exciting.
* Satisfaction with current ones is high per the consumer surveys. The DSU is developing new relationships with providers as the need arises.

1. Comments and Recommendations regarding potential service providers or discussions on the performance of service providers

Continued, SRC 2017-2018, COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

* Marketing to Physicians offices possibly by leaving brochures in Administration and Patient Advocacy offices with other facilities.
* Satisfaction surveys indicate that current providers are effective. The grant discussed for new and innovative providers for pre-employment transition services in exciting.
* Satisfaction with current ones is high per the consumer surveys. The DSU is developing new relationships with providers as the need arises.
* Deaf Camp – I look forward to hearing more about it. Good information.
* By the consumer satisfaction surveys, it appears that service providers are satisfactory with consumers.
* OVR & OVRB provides most services themselves but the ones contracted to seem to do a good job per the consumer satisfaction surveys.

Continued, SRC 2017-2018, COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **Comments and Recommendations regarding presentation of information on policy**
2. **Peer Mentoring?**

* Informing Student Services and Student Body Relations to get the word out. Introducing program to Education/Special Education Majors.
* Great presentation! This is an exciting new program.
* I like how you define peer as like age or having a shared disability. It would be great to extend to high school juniors and seniors to increase the number of students with disabilities. Who progresses to post-secondary education?

1. **OVR/OVRB Practicum and Internship Program?**

* Skilled staff is the most important indicator of success. I think your practices of having students to practicums and internships is an excellent practice.

1. Comments and Recommendations regarding presentative of information on Combined State Plan?

* Please invite the SRC to view the RSA Evaluation agenda
* The staff training described in the state plan sounds great.
* The use of a statewide needs assessment is good.
* Would like for it to be put on the NFB line.

Continued, SRC 2017-2018, COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Comments and Recommendations regarding State Goals and Priorities?

* SRC appointments are necessary to fill vacant positions. Could MDRS Advocate with the Governor’s office for timely appointments to be made?
* Council Member questions:

1. About how many “new” cases are opened every

year (VR,VRB)?

2) Same as above but all branches of MDRS?

OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION FOR THE BLIND

CLIENTS SERVED BY COUNTY - FFY 2018 10/1/17 – 9/30/18

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Adams | 182 | | Harrison | | 768 | Marion | | | 137 |
| Alcorn | 154 | | Hinds | | 1,117 | Marshall | | | 74 |
| Amite | 69 | | Holmes | | 88 | Monroe | | | 81 |
| Attala | 176 | | Humphreys | | 61 | Montgomery | | | 58 |
| Benton | 29 | | Issaquena | | 7 | Neshoba | | | 92 |
| Bolivar | 160 | | Itawamba | | 79 | Newton | | | 108 |
| Calhoun | 70 | | Jackson | | 417 | Noxubee | | 52 | |
| Carroll | 82 | | Jasper | | 79 | Oktibbeha | | 270 | |
| Chickasaw | 52 | | Jefferson | | 36 | Panola | | 124 | |
| Choctaw | 64 | | Jefferson Davis | | 68 | Pearl River | | 168 | |
| Claiborne | 32 | | Jones | | 396 | Perry | | 45 | |
| Clarke | 66 | | Kemper | | 46 | Pike | | 232 | |
| Clay | 90 | | Lafayette | | 243 | Pontotoc | | 77 | |
| Coahoma | 65 | | Lamar | | 245 | Prentiss | | 90 | |
| Copiah | 123 | | Lauderdale | | 363 | Quitman | | 32 | |
| Covington | 75 | | Lawrence | | 64 | Rankin | | 674 | |
| Desoto | 269 | | Leake | | 59 | Scott | | 91 | |
| Forrest | 449 | | Lee | | 355 | Sharkey | | 30 | |
| Franklin | 74 | | Leflore | | 323 | Simpson | | 105 | |
| George | 80 | | Lincoln | | 150 | Smith | | 62 | |
| Greene | 30 | | Lowndes | | 291 | Stone | | 65 | |
| Grenada | 105 | | Madison | | 418 | Sunflower | 109 | | |
| Continued, OVR and OVRB –  CLIENTS SERVED BY COUNTY FFY 2018 10/1/17 – 9/30/18 | | | | | | | | | |
|  | |  | |
| Tallahatchie | | 113 | |
| Tate | | 60 | |
| Tippah | | 78 | |
| Tishomingo | | 69 | |
| Tunica | | 11 | |
| Union | | 104 | |
| Walthall | | 61 | |
| Warren | | 248 | |
| Washington | | 239 | |
| Wayne | | 80 | |
| Webster | | 95 | |
| Wilkinson | | 43 | |
| Winston | | 109 | |
| Yalobusha | | 59 | |
| Yazoo | | 156 | |
|  | |  | |
|  | |  | |

Continued, OVR and OVRB –

CLIENTS SERVED BY COUNTY –

FFY 2018 10/1/17 – 9/30/18

**TOTAL CLIENTS SERVED BY COUNTY (IN-STATE) 12,578**

**OUT-OF-STATE SERVED: 52**

**TOTAL 12,630**

****

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION FOR THE BLIND

Message from Dorothy Young

Director of Office of Vocational Rehabilitation for the Blind

Dear Friends,

Thank you for making 2018 another remarkable year for MDRS Office of Vocational Rehabilitation for the Blind (OVRB)! I would like to personally thank MDRS Executive Director Mr. Chris Howard, the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) and the General Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Program for working in a joint effort to maintain the same agency mission, goals, and vision for our fellow Mississippians with disabilities.

OVRB’s main focus is to continue to assist our fellow Mississippians who are Blind, Deaf-Blind, and Visually Impaired be prepared to secure, retain, advance in, or regain competitive integrated employment. Their unique strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities, interests, and informed choice will be considered.

**Continued, Welcome Letter from**

**Dorothy Young, OVRB Director**

OVRB’s primary services for Mississippians who are Blind, Deaf-Blind, and Visually Impaired are:

* Vocational and adjustment counseling
* Vocational Assessment
* Vocational and Personal Adjustment Training
* Pre-Employment Transition Services
* Post-secondary school or vocational training
* Adaptive equipment for training or employment
* Rehabilitation engineering services to modify training and or job sites
* Customized and supported employment services
* Job placement and follow up services
* Orientation and Mobility

We thank you for taking a few minutes to review the 2018 SRC OVRB annual report produced by the State Rehabilitation Council. Hopefully after reading the array of services, client success stories and successful employment outcomes, you will understand the endeavors of the OVRB mission in ensuring that every eligible

**Continued, Welcome Letter from**

**Dorothy Young, OVRB Director**

persons who is Blind, Deafblind, or Visually Impaired succeeds. I am proud of the work and service OVRB provides on a daily basis in making a difference in our great state.

Best Regards,

Dorothy L. Young, M.S.

VRB Director

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation for the Blind

Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services

OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

FOR THE BLIND

OVERVIEW

Of the 2,616 successful employment outcomes by MDRS, 335 were achieved through Office of Vocational Rehabilitation for the Blind (OVRB). OVRB provides necessary services for eligible individuals who are Blind, Deaf-Blind, and Visually Impaired who want to achieve success in employment with their strengths, abilities, and capabilities. Our counselors, instructors, and managers directly travel to the consumers to their homes, jobs, and schools in providing individualized services. Each client works with their own VR Counselor to develop their own Individualized Plan of Services (IPE) that matches their strengths, abilities, and capabilities for a successful employment outcome. OVRB offers clients further support through our Addie McBryde Center, Older Blind Program, Randolph Sheppard Program, Assistive Technology Services, counseling and guidance, vocational exploration, orientation and mobility training, and job training.

Continued, OVRB – Overview

Northern/Southern Region:

OVRB is divided in to two region located north and South. Each region is staffed with qualified professionals who provide vocational rehabilitation counseling, education, independent living skills, orientation and mobility training, low vision rehabilitation technology and Deaf-Blind services.

Below are some of the key program highlights of FFY 2018:

* OVRB implemented Mississippi 1st National Federation of the Blind (NFB) and OVRB Career Mentoring program: The goal is to match students who Blind ages 14-21 with successful, committed, and caring Blind mentors. Peer mentors work with the students to expand and practice their blindness and self-advocacy skills, provide work readiness training, engage in career exploration, and participate in a wide variety of activities to prepare them to pursue educational opportunities and find fulfilling employment. Outcome: By the end of FFY18, eight (8) more students between the ages 14-21 participated for the first time with

Continued, OVRB – Overview

successful Blind role models matched with their career goal. There have been 2 retreats, the 1st retreat was held in Florida and the 2nd was held in Pearl, MS, focusing on the five federally requirements from the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act

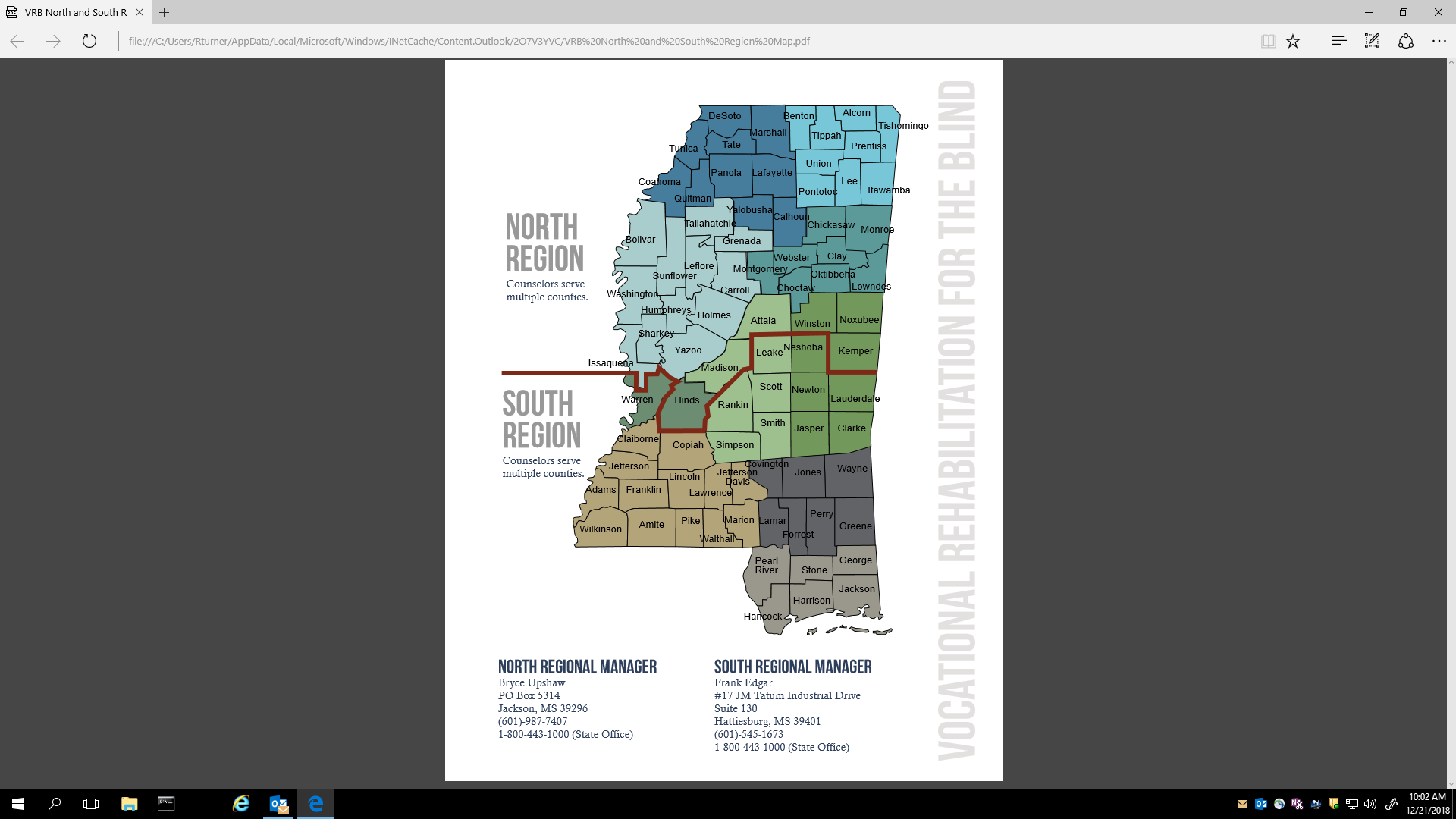
* Twenty-three (23) individuals who are Blind or who have visual impairments participated in OVRB 5th Summer Internship Program
* 913 individuals with disabilities received benefits counseling which promotes employment and financial stability of Social Security Beneficiaries with Disabilities. This service is an additional pre-employment transition service

OVRB partners with the MS General Vocational Rehabilitation Program in meeting the requirements of the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) of 2014. Our partnership works to increase access to opportunities for employment, education, and supports services for eligible Mississippians who have disabilities.

OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

FOR THE BLIND

REGIONAL OFFICES



**Stacie Stinson**

**1221 Parklane Rd.**

**McComb, MS 39648**

**(601) 249-4644**

OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION FOR THE BLIND

DISTRICTS SERVED

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **1** | **Calhoun, Desoto, Lafayette, Marshall, Panola, Tate, Tunica, Quitman, Yalobusha** |
| **2** | **Alcorn, Benton, Itawamba, Lee, Pontotoc, Prentiss, Tippah, Tishomingo, Union** |
| **3** | **Bolivar, Carroll, Grenada, Holmes, Humphreys, Issaquena, Leflore, Sharkey, Sunflower, Tallahatchie, Washington, Yazoo** |
| **4** | **Clay Chickasaw, Choctaw, Lowndes, Monroe, Montgomery, Oktibbeha, Webster** |
| **5** | **Hinds, Warren** |
| **6** | **Attala, Leake, Madison, Rankin, Scott, Simpson, Smith** |
| **7** | **Clarke, Jasper, Kemper, Lauderdale, Neshoba, Newton, Noxubee, Winston** |
| **8** | **Adams, Amite, Claiborne, Copiah, Franklin, Jefferson Davis, Lincoln, Lawrence, Marion, Pike, Walthall, Wilkinson** |
| **9** | **Covington, Forrest, Greene, Jones, Lamar, Perry, Wayne** |
| **10** | **George, Hancock, Harrison, Jackson, Pearl River, Stone** |

Continued, OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

FOR THE BLIND - DISTRICTS SERVED

1,524 Mississippians

who are Blind, Deaf-Blind, and Visually Impaired

received services throughout

OVRB –

ADDIE MCBRYDE REHABILITATION CENTER

FOR THE BLIND

Established in 1972, the Addie McBryde Rehabilitation Center for the Blind is located in Jackson, Mississippi on the campus of the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC). The Addie McBryde Center provides traditional intensive evaluation, training, and adjustment services on the campus of UMMC. In 2018, Addie McBryde Center provided training to 116 consumers.

The facility has a dormitory capacity for 28 clients, a gymnasium, a client library and classrooms equipped with specialized technology for the blind and Visually Impaired. Certified instructors provide individualize training to meet a client’s needs during the class day from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Clients participate in additional activities in the Achieving Milestones class focusing on adjustment to vision loss, confidence building, resume writing, interviewing and utilizing resources in the community.

Continued, VRB – ADDIE MCBRYDE REHABILITATION CENTER

FOR THE BLIND

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SNAPSHOT OF SERVICES:** | | | | | | |
| * **O & M** | | 32 | | | | | | |
| * **Job-Ready** | | 2 Classes  (1st class one attendee; 2nd class 4 attendees) | | | | | | |
| * **Braille** | | 33 | | | | | | |
| * **VRB Client Ages Served** | | **Ages** |  | | |  | | |
|  | | 16-21 | 31 | | |  | | |
|  | | 22-28 | 13 | | |  | | |
|  | | 29-35 | 12 | | |  | | |
|  | | 36-55 | 32 | | |  | | |
|  | | 56+ | 23 | | |  | | |
|  | | **TOTAL** | **116** | | |  | | |
| * **College Services** | |  | | |  | |  | |
| * **Summer Program** | | June Total | | | 12 | | | |
|  | | July Total | | | 10 | | | |
| * **Mobile Technology Class** | |  | | | 22 | |  | |
| * **Summer College Fairs *(how many colleges and resources available)*** | | 1 College Fair (July) | | * Jackson State   University   * University of Southern   Mississippi   * Hinds Community   College   * Mississippi State   University | | | | |

Continued, OVRB - ADDIE MCBRYDE REHABILITATION CENTER FOR THE BLIND

**Classes offered include:**

* Orientation and Mobility - training in use of the long white mobility cane, residential and business travel, use of public transportation, sighted guide and protective techniques
* Communication/Advanced Communication - training in Braille, adaptive equipment, handwriting, keyboarding, use of the personal computer utilizing both magnification and screen readers
* Personal Management - meal planning and preparation, nutrition, shopping, storing and labeling, including organization and safety in the kitchen
* Techniques of Daily Living - laundry and housekeeping, grooming, hand sewing
* Recreation and Leisure Education - physical conditioning, arts and crafts, community activities

Continued, OVRB - ADDIE MCBRYDE REHABILITATION CENTER FOR THE BLIND

In 2018, The Addie McBryde Center served 116 OVRB clients and provided career services & college services such as:

* Braille Courses serving 33 clients
* Orientation and Mobility training for 22 clients
* Mobile Technology Courses for 22 clients
* One successful college fair with multiple accredited college and/or universities
* Summer Program for 22 Mississippi Mentor students

Additional services provided include GED Preparation, Vocational Evaluation, Low Vision Assessment, Diabetic and Medical Management, and Vocational Training in Emergency Dispatch. This training is offered in collaboration with the Health Care Institute in Jackson.

OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION FOR THE BLIND

INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES

FOR THE BLIND (ILB)

The VRB/Independent Living for the Blind Program provides services to assist legally Blind individuals adjust to their Blindness. Older Blind Program eligibility requirements are age 55+ and legal blindness. The Part B eligibility requirements are legal Blindness and significant secondary disability. For both programs, gainful employment may not be feasible but independent living goals are feasible.

The Itinerant Teacher Program began in 1994 to provide services to consumers served by VRB who could not attend the community rehabilitation program (Addie McBryde Center) or who did attend and needed follow-up services in the home or on the job site. Itinerant teachers provide services in the consumer’s home, community or work environment. Teachers work closely with the VRB counselors to coordinate services, evaluate client needs, develop living-needs plans, and provide instructional materials and on-site training.

Some services include:

• low vision assessments – evaluations for magnifiers, portable CCTVs, and other optical devices;

Continued, OVRB - INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES FOR THE BLIND (ILB)

• marking office equipment or home appliances;

• non-optical adaptive devices – check and signature guides, talking clocks, money identifiers, cooking items, large button phones, etc;

• orientation and mobility services or travel training – sighted guide and protective techniques and training in the use of a cane; and/or

• follow-up training after services have been provided.

Independent Living Services for the Blind (ILB) enables eligible consumers to receive peer group counseling, assistive technology evaluation, adjustment services, orientation and mobility training, personal adjustment instruction and training in techniques for daily living. In 2018, ILB served over 821 seniors through indirect services such as health fairs, vision screening, peer groups, and outreach. Furthermore, ILB provided direct services to 1,094 consumers who are legally blind and either over the age of 55 or have a significant secondary disability by providing a variety of independent living services.

Continued, OVRB - INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES FOR THE BLIND (ILB)

*Progress Made by the Clients Who Received ILB Services*

**Total Progress No Progress**

Daily Living Skills 609 41 197

Orientation & Mobility 66 43 23

Assistive Technology 774 774 0

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY FOR OLDER PERSONS** | | |
| Assistive Tech: Devices | $16,261 | 36 consumers served |
| Assistive Tech: Hardware/Software | $318 | 1 consumer served |
| Home Appliances | $293 | 2 consumers served |
| Low Vision Aids | $54,925 | 259 consumers served |
| Other Goods and Services | $1,461 | 2 consumers served |
| Phy/Men Rest | $29 | 2 consumers served |
| **TOTAL** | **$73,287** | ***302 Consumers Served*** |

# Continued, OVRB - ILB

# *A Day in the Work Life of an Older Blind Instructor*

Each day, MDRS Instructors teach new ways to accomplish daily routine task that enable our fellow older Blind Mississippians to live more independent lives. It is because of the Older Blind Services individuals have an opportunity to learn ways to live and minimize the need for more costly in-home or nursing home care.

Training Rehabilitation Instructors teach the following skills that are vital keys to older person’s independence:

* Independent living skills – using specialized adaptive devices and techniques for personal and household management.
* Communication skills – using large print, writing guides, time-telling devices and using braille for reading or labeling and making notes.
* Mobility skills – using specific orientation and mobility techniques, long canes, and other mobility tools for safe and independent travel.
* Low-vision devices – using special low-vision optical and adaptive devices.

Continued, OVRB - ILB

# 821 SENIORS SERVED

* 291 New Applications submitted
* 291 Seniors started services for the first time
* 530 Carry over from previous year(s)

# Providing Services that Promote Independent Living

Private Residence 784

Senior Community 6

Assisted Living 25

Nursing Home 6

“Serving Seniors Across the State”

OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

FOR THE BLIND

MISSISSIPPI PARTNERS FOR INFORMED CHOICE (M-PIC)

The Mississippi Partners for Informed Choice (M-PIC) program provides Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) services funded by the Social Security Administration (SSA) under the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999.

Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA)

The purpose of M-PIC/WIPA is to enable and serve all SSA beneficiaries with disabilities (including transition-to-work aged youth) to make informed choices about work and provide ‘benefits planning’ and assistance services on request or as resources permit. There are more than 100 WIPA grantees in the United States. The programs employ certified Community Work Incentive Coordinators (CWICs) and each serve a specific region of the state.

**Continued, OVRB**

Community Work Incentives Coordinators (CWIC)

If you receive Social Security benefits and you have a job or are looking for a job, there are specially trained professionals known as Community Work Incentive Coordinators (CWIC) to help you make sense of complex employment and benefit-related issues. CWICs provide confidential services to people with disabilities who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and/or Social Security Disability Income (SSDI.) CWICs educate beneficiaries on how employment will affect their public benefits such as SSI, SSDI, Medicare, Medicaid, subsidized housing and food stamps. CWICs provide individual counseling to beneficiaries seeking employment and intensive follow-up services to ensure that they are using the work incentives appropriately.

For FFY 2018, 913 individuals with disabilities received benefits counseling which promotes employment and financial stability of Social Security beneficiaries with disabilities. This serves is an additional Pre-Employment Transition Service (Pre-ETS).

**Continued, OVRB**

SNAPSHOT OF SERVICES:

Goal

500 (July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018)

Information/Referral Services:

876 (July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018)

WIPA Services:

362 (July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018)

Referrals:

557 (July 1, 2018 – November 30, 2018)

Achievements:

* 362 Consumers with an employment goal received individualized WIPA services
* CWICs provided WIPA presentations at 42 Career Counseling Information and Referral Services (CCIR) trainings throughout the state with 915 consumers receiving information

OVRB

THE BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PROGRAM (BEP)

The Business Enterprise Program (BEP) provides support for self-employment opportunities in the food service industry for Mississippians who are legally Blind. These BEP entrepreneurs operate a variety of businesses including vending machine routes, snack bars and military base cafeterias.

In 2018, 38 Blind Entrepreneurs operated successful businesses as BEP vendors:

* 45 individuals employed supported by BEP operators
* 133 sites in 33 cities across the state
* 3 BEP students graduated and became a licensed BEP operator
* 3 Military dining facilities supported by 95 employees with

total sales of $11,000,000

Continued, OVRB –

THE BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PROGRAM (BEP)

Contributed More than $1 Million to Mississippi Economy

$1,111,171

Sales Tax Paid

$13,889,632

Total Sales

$8,522,622

Wages Paid

Business Enterprise Program Introduces…

**Patrina Pendarvis, BEP Vendor/Manager**

Patrina Pendarvis, BEP Vendor/Manager at the MDRS Café, has been busy catering lunches and providing coffee service for several training events at the MDRS State Office Complex. Erica McClellan, BEP Counselor, and Patrina work closely with MDRS Office Directors and the Training Department to coordinate menus from full service luncheons to breakfast biscuits to hot coffee. Patrina focuses on providing choices to make the training more welcoming and relaxing for the participants.

OVRB

OVRB WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT -

SERVING MISSISSIPPI

OVRB Workforce Development by the Numbers Serving Mississippi

Blind and Visually Impaired Job Seekers

* 1, 524 Mississippians who are Blind and Visually Impaired were served
* 731 new applications submitted
* 589 individuals who are Blind and Visually Impaired started a new Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) designed to reach a competitive employment outcome for the first time
* 335 individuals who are Blind, Visually Impaired, and Deaf-Blind reached their career goal and entered the Mississippi workforce

By the end of FFY 2018, OVRB had an increase in services for our youth ages 14-21 for Pre-Employment Transition Services. Result: 95 new first time recipients had an opportunity to learn about services for employment.

OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION FOR THE BLIND PRIMARY DISABILITY

IMPAIRMENT AND CAUSE FFY 2018

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| DISABILITY IMPAIRMENT | Count |
| TOTAL - OTHER VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS | 1,304 |
| TOTAL - LEGALLY BLIND (EXCLUDING TOTALLY BLIND) | 116 |
| TOTAL - BLINDNESS | 86 |
| TOTAL - OTHER PHYSICAL IMPAIRMENTS NOT LISTED | 8 |
| TOTAL - PSYCHOSOCIAL IMPAIRMENTS | 3 |
| TOTAL - DEAF-BLINDNESS | 2 |
| TOTAL - COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENTS | 1 |
| TOTAL - HEARING LOSS, COMMUNICATION AUDITORY | 1 |
| TOTAL - OTHER HEARING IMPAIRMENTS | 1 |
| TOTAL - OTHER MENTAL IMPAIRMENTS | 1 |
| TOTAL - OTHER ORTHOPEDIC IMPAIRMENTS | 1 |
| **TOTAL - VRB** | **1,524** |

OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION FOR THE BLIND

EMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES

The success of a OVRB Program is the job seekers with disabilities who leave the program having achieved their employment goal. The employment categories below use the term found in the federal reporting on outcomes.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Employment without Supports in  Integrated Setting | 294 |
| Employment with Supports in  Integrated Setting  (Supported Employment) | 40 |
| Self-Employment  (includes BEP-Randolph Sheppard) | 1 |

***Reporting Data: October 1, 2017 – September 30, 2018***

Continued, OVRB - EMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES (GRAPH)

* Employment without supports refers to traditional employment where a consumer is hired by a business
* Employment with supports refers to consumers who are hired by a business and receive some supports, such as job

coaching funded by a source other than the busines or VR.

* Integrated setting refers to competitive jobs in the community. VR services must be directed toward obtaining

competitive jobs in the community.

* Self-employment involves starting one’s own business or receiving help to accommodate the disability so a

business owner can continue to operate their business.

OVRB - JOB TYPES OBTAINED BY

OVRB CONSUMERS:

2018 TOP 10 OCCUPATIONS

IN INTEGRATED SETTINGS

Job Table below shows the ‘Top 10 Occupations’ obtained by the OVRB 327 Consumers who successfully achieved their employment goal in Federal Fiscal Year 2018.

**Occupations Number**

**of Clients**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| OFFICE WORKER | 30 |
| SERVICE WORKER | 29 |
| SKILLED CRAFT | 23 |
| PERSONAL CARE | 19 |
| SALES & RELATED OCCUPATIONS | 15 |
| PRODUCTION OCCUPATIONS | 14 |
| BUILDING/GROUNDS CLEANING & MAINTENANCE | 13 |
| FOOD PREPARATION & FOOD SERVICES | 13 |
| SALES | 13 |
| HEALTHCARE SUPPORT, OFFICE CLERICAL, &  MGMT | 11 |

Continued, OVRB - JOB TYPES OBTAINED BY

OVRB CONSUMERS: 2018 TOP 10 OCCUPATIONS

IN INTEGRATED SETTINGS

GRAPH

OVRB - DEMOGRAPHICS OF CLIENTS SERVED 2018 - AGE RANGE

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| AGE RANGE | CLIENTS | % |
| 20 & Under | 133 | 8.7 % |
| 21-30 | 126 | 8.3 % |
| 31-40 | 166 | 10.9 % |
| 41-50 | 288 | 18.9 % |
| 51-60 | 507 | 33.3 % |
| 61-70 | 290 | 19.0 % |
| 71-80 | 11 | .7 % |
| 81-90 | 3 | .2 % |
| TOTAL | 1,524 | |

OVRB – DEMOGRAPHICS OF

CLIENTS SERVED 2018 - GENDER

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **GENDER** | **CLIENTS** | **%** |
| Female | 786 | 51.57 % |
| Male | 737 | 48.36 % |
| Does not identify  as male or female | 1 | .07 % |
| **TOTAL** | **1,524** | |

OVRB -

DEMOGRAPHICS OF CLIENTS SERVED 2018

ETHNICITY/RACE

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **ETHNICITY/RACE** | **CLIENTS** | **%** |
| Black or African American | 782 | 51.31% |
| White | 691 | 45.34% |
| Multi-Racial | 41 | 2.69% |
| Asian | 6 | 0.39% |
| American Indian or Alaskan Native | 2 | 0.13% |
| Not Completed | 1 | 0.07% |
| Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander | 1 | 0.07% |

***Note: Can have more than one ethnicity.***

OVRB - SUCCESS STORIES

OVRB Southern Region

Mr. Day, a referral from Dr. Fontenot, came to the Gautier OVRB with Community Services for Vision Rehabilitation. He is a current customer sales representative at Lowe’s in D’Iberville, Mississippi. Even though he was a retired Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, he wanted to continue working through his older age. Mr. Day was diagnosed with macular degeneration and was having difficulty assisting customers with locating items to purchase, especially due to the small print on price stickers. He came to OVRB believing that he may have to quit his job in which he treasured. Thankfully, Mr. Day was referred to CSVR and had gained some working knowledge of vocational rehabilitation from his previous occupation. The agency was able to assist Mr. Day with services through low vision aids that helped him to complete the job requirements successfully and more efficiently. Mr. Day was able to retain his employment and maintain the additional income to supplement his retirement. He shared his MDRS’ experience and testified to a fellow coworker who was struggling with vision complications. Mr. Day was able to benefit from MDRS’ services as well as spread the word of the opportunities that MDRS can afford those who are dealing with a disability and in need of occupational assistance.

Continued, OVRB - SUCCESS STORIES

Addie McBryde Center

Glen Brown, a former client of the Addie McBryde Center for the Blind, gained the confidence to move forward after losing his eyesight. Glen stated, “There I was fresh out of prison, blind and without any real skills to make a living for myself.” He recalled being destitute and bewildered. All he could do was pray and then the answer came to him. He remembered the Addie McBryde Center for the Blind providing assistance for him in the past so he decided to give them a call. “It was one of the wisest decisions I ever made,” Brown said. “After meeting with my Counselor, he assured me that together we would come up with a cohesive strategy that would work for me. I started with mobility training, which gave me the confidence and independence to maneuver around any obstacle by utilizing the cane methods: touch and drag, two-point touch and other techniques.” Glen said, “Advanced Communications (AC) took me on a journey that I had never conceived such as the JAWS software, which talks when the desired key is pressed and where you combine different key strokes so the computer will react accordingly, just as sighted

Continued, OVRB - SUCCESS STORIES

Continued (Addie McBryde)

people do with the mouse.” Glen accredits these skills, as well as learning Braille, reading and writing, and assisted-living as the basis for regaining his confidence. Glen is now a second year student at Hinds Community College and currently participating in an internship program at Hinds Behavioral Health Center. He will receive his Associate’s Degree in Sociology and plans to attend Jackson State University to pursue a Bachelor’s Degree in Sociology. Glen shared that without the skills he received at Addie McBryde Center it would not have been possible for him to pursue his education.

Your perspective is extremely valuable,

and we greatly appreciate any and all feedback!

(A digital copy of this report can be found at [www.mdrs.ms.gov](http://www.mdrs.ms.gov/))

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Please send direct comments or questions to:

Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services

Attn: Betsy Simoneaux, VR Program Specialist-SRC Liaison

Post Office Box 1698

Jackson, Mississippi 39215-1698

1.800.443.1000

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