



The mission of the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission is to ensure individuals with disabilities achieve quality employment, independence and disability determination outcomes through integrated services, partnerships and innovation.

Fee Schedule Meeting Set

The much anticipated statewide VR Fee Schedule Final Report from the Public Consulting Group (PCG) has been released and is available on RSC's website.

Tuesday and Wednesday, August 7 and 8, from 9:00-12:00 and then again from 1:30 -4:30, we will be holding meetings to share these recommendations from PCG and RSC's plans and action steps for implementation.

Each of the headquarters' meetings will be open to on-site and off-site participation (e.g. WebEx). There is a signup page for all of these options on the RSC Internet site; and I hope that all concerned will join us in person, or electronically, for these important meetings.

<https://rsc.ohio.gov/docs/internet-documents/informational-meetings-with-the-public-consulting-group.pdf?sfvrsn=2>

Fee Schedule Overview

Ohio is currently the only VR program in the country with an open market setting for service providers, and there are *4,154 different fee combinations for the 29 services provided by contractors* which equates to an average of over 100 fees for each type of service. The lack of a statewide fee structure creates barriers for quality control and effective administrative oversight which is why national best practices for the purchase of services dictates a Fee Schedule be used.

The proposed Fee Schedule is based on a wide variety of factors including a review of the Ohio Community Rehabilitation Programs (CRP) market, industry standards, consulting with the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF), the National Disability Rights Network and the Training Advocacy Support Center, a comparison of Fee Schedules in other states and other State of Ohio agencies such as the Bureau of Workers Compensation, the Department of Developmental Disabilities and the Department of Jobs and Family Services. PCG surveyed RSC service providers, with three out of four responding to the survey.

The Fee Schedule Report includes:

- Recommended rates for services
- Standard definitions for services
- Recommended changes to billing procedures
- Recommendations for credentialing requirements and training for providers
- Implementation and evaluation plans

RSC plans to implement the new purchasing plan with the new federal fiscal year on October 1, 2012. This will require Administrative Rule changes to bring RSC's rules in line with Mid-Biennium Review (MBR) language that gives RSC the authority to set fees.

DisAbility Jobs Summit Registration Underway

The Ohio *DisAbility Jobs Summit* is attracting good response in the first week of registration for this first of a kind program. The September 17-18 event at the Columbus Convention Center is designed to strengthen our connections and build partnerships with consumers, employers, service providers and RSC professionals along with State of Ohio agency colleagues.



I am excited by the opportunity to work with so many of the other State agency Directors to show RSC consumers how we are working together to eliminate the silos of bureaucracy in government. Moreover, our partners in the Ohio Business Leadership Network (BLN) are rolling up their sleeves to provide RSC consumers with hands-on service. Instead of lectures on searching for a job, our consumers will have individualized coaching from top human resources officials of major Ohio corporations. Our consumers will emerge with resumes, interviewing skills and networking advice that can open the doors of opportunity.

Our counselors and service providers will have access to the latest in assistive technology and learn how inexpensive but effective accommodations can make RSC consumers viable for any position they have the skills to fill. Finally, we will hear from two of the top professionals in our field, Mary Beth Butler, a Human Resources executive with Lowe's and former President of the U.S. Business Leadership Network, and Kathy West Evans, the leader of the Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR) National Employment Team (NET).

In short, the Ohio *DisAbility Jobs Summit* is highly focused on actionable information that can help Ohioans with disabilities find or keep employment at a time when the quest for work is the global issue of our times.

Registration for the *Summit* can be made online using the following link:

http://www.garrisonevents.com/disability_jobs_summit.php

Business Leadership Network at Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce

Ohio BLN Board Members Mike Gartner of Procter & Gamble, Mitch Morgan of Fifth Third Bank, Chris Moranda of Ohio Health and RSC's James Clinkscale, Human Resources, Manager, Diversity and Inclusion, presented the business case for hiring Ohioans with disabilities to Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce members on Thursday.



Ohio BLN Members Mike Gartner, Procter & Gamble; Mitch Morgan, Fifth Third Bank; Chris Moranda, Ohio Health and James Clinkscale, RSC Human Resources, Manager, Diversity and Inclusion, present to the Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce.

The session on unlocking a competitive advantage by tapping different abilities prompted an excellent question and answer period on how companies can bring citizens with disabilities into their workforce and why they should make the effort. Buying power as

consumers is a key door opener with businesses who are interested in attracting the \$1 trillion in annual income and \$220 billion in discretionary spending of Americans with disabilities, or the \$39 billion of income and \$8.6 billion of discretionary spending of Ohioans with disabilities.

Many of the questions from Cincinnati Chamber members dealt with the issues confronted by the champions of hiring individuals with disabilities, and the BLN members made it clear they are willing to help mentor potential champions through the process if they are willing to take on the challenge inside their company.

Cincinnati Chamber members report that individuals with disabilities who come to them with hard to find job skills, especially information technology skills, not only find employment, they will likely discover wealth.

Consumer Support Advocates Training at RSC Headquarters

We are starting our second class of Consumer Support Advocates (CSA) this week with 24 new CSA's gathered for training on RSC services and the Ohio Benefits Bank. Our CSA program is funded by a \$200,000 interagency agreement with the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) and is a great example of how the Kasich Administration is working to break the barriers between state agencies to the benefit of Ohioans who are better served as a result.

There will be at least one CSA in every RSC office. They will help us bring information and referral services to the consumers who are on our waiting list and those consumers currently receiving services from the Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation (BVR) and the Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired (BSVI). Our CSA's will have training in customer service and the latest information on all community resources available to assist RSC consumers. Thereafter, they will serve as Benefits Bank counselors providing this important resource information to individuals receiving VR services.

Many of our first class of Consumer Support Advocates, comprised of 32 RSC consumers, have moved on to full time employment in the public sector, private sector and non-profit industries. These initial CSA's have gone on to work at RSC, the Ohio Department of Aging, ODJFS, Ohio Legal Rights Service, Target and the Cleveland Sight Center with an average hourly wage of \$15.74. Other CSA's have gone back to college for advanced degrees. One of the first CSA's, Scott Franklin, was featured in a story on our Ohio Ability Internet TV channel.

<http://www.ohiochannel.org/MediaLibrary/Media.aspx?fileId=134901>

We have high hopes for and high expectations of our new class of RSC CSA's.



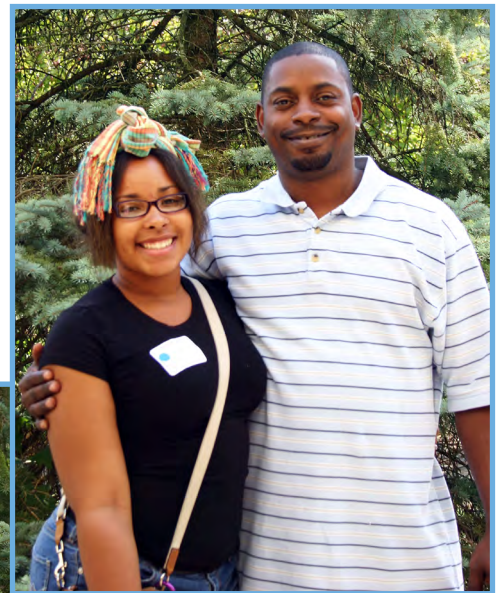
RSC's newest Consumer Support Advocates

Special Visitors at RSC!

RSC staff had a little extra help this week, thanks to Take Our Children to Work Day! Thursday, 84 children accompanied their parents/guardian to central office or field office to learn more about the work they do at RSC. After a welcome from Director Miller, children had a chance to participate in three program sessions designed to increase awareness of differing abilities. Thanks to the efforts of the planning team, our children learned about visual impairments, deafness and American Sign Language (ASL), as well as hearing firsthand what it is like to grow up with a disability.



Origami



Experiencing a Physical Disability



Registration



Origami Paper Airplane Race



Helping Gramps with his job.



DDD Training Center



Experiencing Blindness



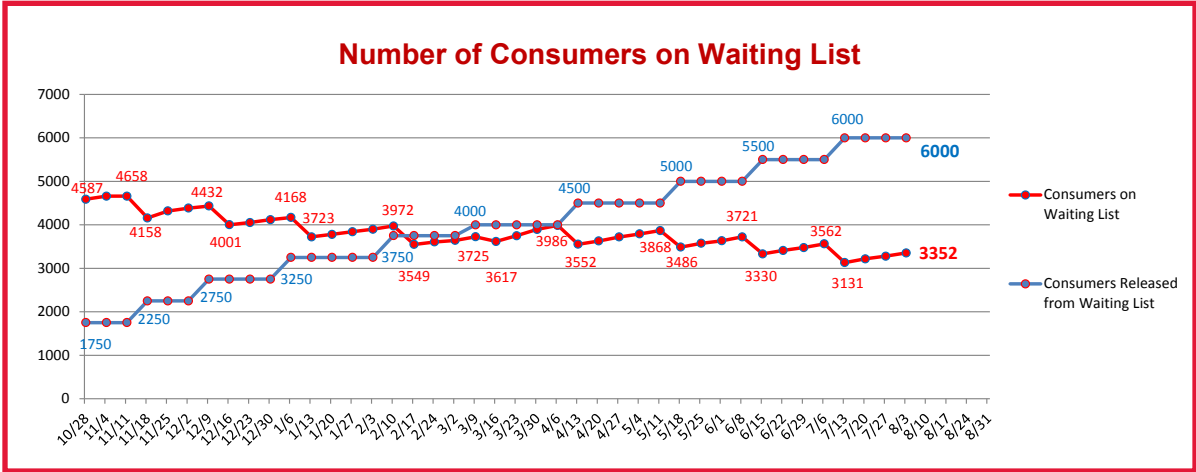
Experiencing a Physical Disability



Having their names typed in Braille



Sign Language



For more information or questions on stories in this publication please call Shirley Marchi, Community Relations Liaison, at 614.438.1477.

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