



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 Meetings Held

Our providers throughout Ohio gathered this week at headquarters, or utilized the Web-Ex remote meeting capability we offered, to hear a report from Public Consulting Group (PCG) regarding their recommendations for a Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Fee Schedule. Participants were able to ask questions and provide feedback. Approximately 200 people participated in one of the four 3 hour sessions held to discuss the recommendations.



Director Miller makes a point at the Fee Schedule Meeting.

Ohio is currently the only VR program in the nation paying rates set by providers. This had been an issue raised in past federal Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) audits, and PCG noted that difficulty in establishing quality control and administrative oversight because of the **4,154 different fee combinations for the 29 services provided.**



Participants at the Fee Schedule Meeting

The Ohio General Assembly directed RSC to establish service fees in the budget update bill passed in June to make RSC more accountable to individuals with disabilities.

Because there is currently such a wide discrepancy in service categories and pricing, we must first establish a Fee Schedule based on the current market including what other State of Ohio agencies pay for the same services and what other state VR programs pay. Once we have all Community Rehabilitation Programs' (CRP) billing in a uniform manner, we can begin to accumulate the data required to establish a cost-based Fee Schedule.



Liz Wiseman of Public Consulting Group (PCG) explains the Fee Schedule.

We will spend the next week processing the feedback from our CRPs and then create the final Fee Schedule for submission to the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review to take effect at the start of the new Federal Fiscal Year on October 1, 2012.

DisAbility Jobs Summit Adds Sessions

Our upcoming *DisAbility Jobs Summit: Connecting & Building Partnerships*, set for September 17-18 at the Columbus Convention Center, is rapidly approach-



ing. Mark Seifarth, Congressional Liaison for the National Council on Disability, will join us for two sessions on September 18. Mark will speak in the employment track and make a presentation for service providers. His talk for job seekers is entitled, *Seeking Employment-Aim High with a Backup Plan*. For service providers, Mark will discuss the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and possible upcoming reauthorization.

We have also added a session with Nicole Clevenger of the Center for Evidence-Based Practices at Case Western Reserve University, who will be speaking in the service providers track on supported employment for people with blindness and visual impairments.

The content we have put together for the *DisAbility Jobs Summit* is strong and licensure credits for the professionals in our field will be offered, so I hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to join us at the Columbus Convention Center on September 17-18.

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

VRP3 Mentoring Meeting Held Across Ohio

As the previous stories make clear, partnerships are in the DNA of the new RSC business model; and our Vocational Rehabilitation Public & Private Partnerships (VRP3) program has built a strong support system



Attendees of the VRP3 Mentoring Meeting

through bi-monthly mentoring meetings to provide direct communication, training and feedback. We had 246 VRP3 partners participate in the program this week, gathering at RSC Headquarters, the Butler County Developmental Disability office in Hamilton for the Southwest Ohio partners, Lott Industries in Toledo for our Northwest Ohio partners, the Ross County Service Center for our Southeast Ohio partners and the Cuyahoga ADAMH office for Northeast Ohio partners.

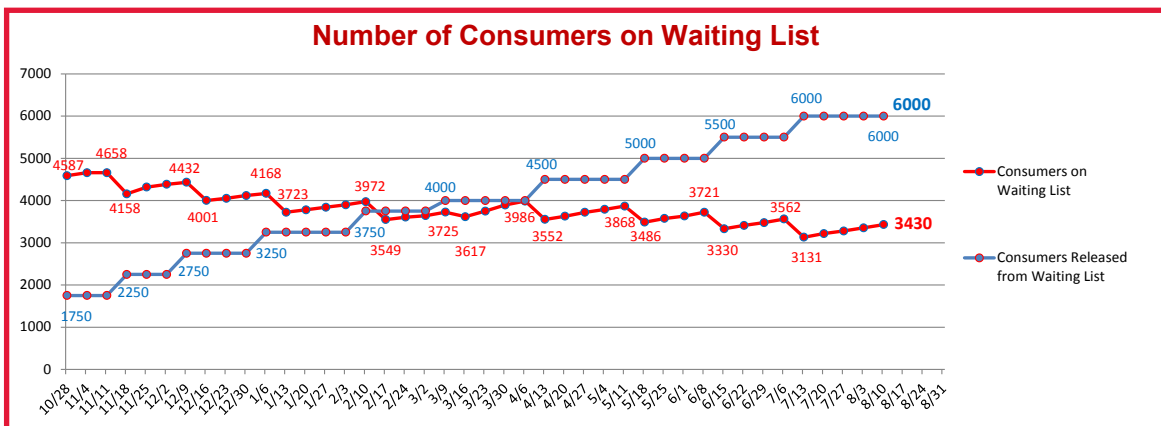
The Performance Innovation and Evaluation (PIE) staff at RSC provided an update on statewide trends and patterns they see from an in-depth study of the case files. Our VR Policy and Training team followed up with a detailed primer on issues associated with the close of the Federal Fiscal Year on September 30 and the issues necessary for progress on contract renewals for the 2013 fiscal year.

Search for New BSVI Deputy Director Underway

The Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired (BSVI) is losing Deputy Director Dan Connors to an exciting opportunity in the private sector. Dan will be leaving RSC at the end of next week after 12 years of service in a variety of roles, to become the Vice President of Programming at St. Joseph Home in Sharonville, a suburb of Cincinnati. Dan began his career in physical therapy settings in a rehabilitation hospital so this is a return to his origins with a dozen years of community employment service experience.

Dan's move to a residential care facility for individuals with developmental disabilities speaks well of our close working partnership with the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities and our shared belief in the vision of maximized community integration, personal choice on employment and residential options. Dan Connors has been instrumental to those we serve with low vision and blindness as well as the Recovery-2-Work program in addition to his work with the BSVI program. We will miss his presence at RSC but trust that Dan will continue to work on our goals of independence and self-sufficiency for Ohioans with disabilities, through the development of a statewide network of partners and providers offering innovative and integrated services.

Dan's move creates an exciting opportunity inside RSC as we seek his successor at BSVI.



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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