**Orientation Center for the Blind Program Report**

**January 2023**

The Orientation Center for the Blind (OCB) is a Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) owned and operated residential immersion training facility that helps individuals with visual impairments adjust to blindness and prepare for competitive integrated employment.

In concurrence with the Blind Field Services (BFS) vision, the OCB vision is that every blind and visually impaired Californian who wants to work should be working; and every blind and visually impaired Californian who may not believe they can work, is provided the requisite counseling to overcome their barriers to employment.

## Training Status

On January 9, 2023, participants for the Winter Session began their 12-week on-site training program. The OCB Team continued the delivery of direct, in-person services to 14 current consumers as follows:

* Computers and Related Technology training;
* One-on-One Daily Living Skills & Cooking instruction;
* Individual Orientation & Mobility instruction;
* Individual Braille instruction;
* Individual Vocational Counseling; and,
* Job Readiness and College Preparation classes.

## OCB Program Census Results Year-to-Date State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2022/2023

* 14 participants are enrolled and receiving on site services in the OCB program in the month of January.
* OCB is currently serving 2 participants between the ages of 18 and 21.
* One consumer for Orientation and Mobility two-week, 40 hour-Bootcamp
* One DOR Adult with disabilities will begin a paid work experience.
* One DOR student with disabilities completed paid work experience and was hired by OCB in December 2022 as a Food Service Technician working in the cafeteria.

## Outreach Efforts

As a means for advancing awareness about OCB, BFS/DOR, and promoting involvement and inclusion in the local community, outreach efforts continue to be a focus for staff. Additionally, maintaining regular communication by meeting with BFS counselors individually, attending BFS unit meetings, and participating in bimonthly BFS managers’ meetings will continue.

OCB will be the host site for the SB 105 Meeting. Dates have been announced for July 13 – 14, 2023. This upcoming meeting will celebrate the 20th anniversary of the passage of SB 105. More details will come!

## Administrative and Personnel Updates

Eric Mazariegos is continuing as the OCB Acting Administrator

Active job postings and interviewing as of this report include:

* Office Technician (Typing);
* Vocational Instructor Computers and Related Technologies;
* Building Maintenance Worker;
* Emanuel Marin Ortiz hired on 12/12/2022 as a Food Service Technician; and,
* Martha Vidrios-Baltazar hired on 11/21/2022 as a Support Services Assistant (General).

## Curriculum Enhancement/Development/Strategic Planning

The following program enhancement activities and curriculum modifications have continued since the last BAC report:

* OCB participants attend the following seminars on the topics of healthy relationships, consent, and healthy boundaries: Boundaries in the Workplace; Safety While Out in the Community; and, Sexual Health and Education.
* OCB continues to be a paid work experience site for DOR students with disabilities.
* OCB has become a paid work experience site for DOR Adults with disabilities.
* Orientation and Mobility two-week, 40 hour-Bootcamp continues.
* Work-Related and Skills Assessments continue.
* OCB is able to serve day-students.

## The Family Integration Program

OCB continued the Family Integration Program (FIP). The FIP’s goal is to support participants with the transition back to their homes and communities after training at OCB. FIP gives family/guardians the opportunity to discuss their loved one’s progress with OCB’s onsite rehabilitation counselor and teachers. Most of all, the collaboration and integration of family/guardians will assist in the smooth transition home so that the participants’ skills of independence will continue to be encouraged.

## **Gymnasium**

In response to participants’ requests, the gymnasium continues to be available for use.

## OCB Facility Improvement Projects

* Roof repairs ongoing.
* Painting Project of Administration Building Interior in planning stage.
* New Gymnasium sport court flooring installation completed.
* Two electric vehicles in final phase and sent to Agency waiting for approval.
* Working on the scope of work phase for the entire OCB campus fence replacement.
* Working on the scope of work phase for enhancing and replacing all existing campus security cameras.