

# Weekly Focus

Kevin L. Miller  
Executive Director

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*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.*

## From IEP to IPE

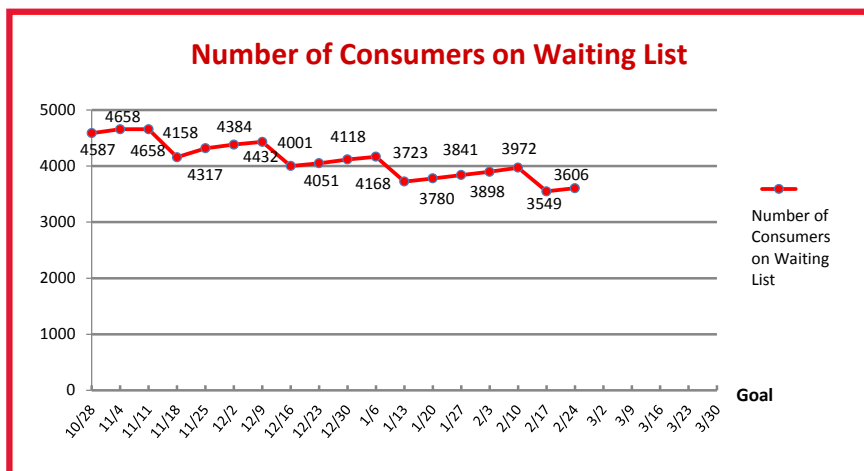
We have established a good working partnership with the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) based upon our mutual service to many of the same consumers. The students in Ohio schools with an Individual Education Plan (IEP) become RSC consumers who create an Individual Plan for Employment (IPE) with our vocational rehabilitation counselors.

We met with Stan Heffner, Ohio Department of Education State Superintendent of Public Instruction, to iron out a strategy to make this partnership much more effective. The non-federal funds spent by Ohio schools on IEP students who are 14 or older and are deemed eligible for IPE service from RSC qualifies for the \$3.69 federal match on each education dollar spent.



*ODE State Superintendent Stan Heffner and Director Miller discuss school to work transition*

Superintendent Heffner will help us capture these federal matching funds through access to the data on this spending that meets qualifications. RSC will help ODE establish more successful school to work transition programs like the Project SEARCH, LEAP and Bridges programs that currently provide internships and job



training across the state. RSC currently serves 2,929 consumers making the transition from school to work.



*IPE to IPE program partners including Project SEARCH*

RSC and ODE will not only work together to draw federal dollars for our IPE programs, we will help spread these high quality transition programs to as many schools as possible, working with Superintendent Heffner and the ODE Career Center schools.

Just as we have done in our work with the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services, the Ohio Department of Mental Health and the Ohio Department of Aging, RSC continues to reach out to integrate government services to provide better service at lower cost.

## Miles Traveled, Miles Ahead

RSC is teaming up with our Recovery-2-Work partners at the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities and the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services on another Opiate Summit to be held May 7 and 8. We've come a long way in miles traveled since our first Opiate Summit announcing the Recovery-2-Work program. We want the local officials battling the Opiate epidemic to get a good grasp on the efforts of the last year and the issues that are still to be solved as we all acknowledge there are many miles ahead in the battle against Opiate addictions.



*Opiate Summit - May 7-8, 2012*

Gil Kerlikowske, Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, will join us as the keynote speaker at the Hyatt Regency in Columbus to put our program into a wider perspective. RSC speakers will include BSVI Deputy Director Dan Connors and VR Manager of Contracts April Bagley. The two day program is designed to give every participant a greater understanding of the tools available for them to take back to their communities to fight the Opiate addiction epidemic.

## CAC Delivers on Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment

The Consumer Advisory Committee (CAC) has wrapped up work on an in-depth survey of unsuccessful closures at RSC as part of our Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment. Our research partners at Ohio State University report the work product of the CAC members doing this research for us was outstanding and will be very helpful in driving policy decisions that arise from the comprehensive data.

We knew from the start of this project that getting deep insight from consumers who have not been successful in their search for employment was a big challenge. Because CAC is a body made up of former RSC consumers, they sought out this mission of contacting peers with a less successful outcome. The empathy brought to this mission by our CAC team was the key to getting actionable insight from citizens.

## Meeting with the Alliance of CCD

We met with the Alliance of Community Centers for the Deaf (CCD) this week. In the meeting, we discussed how the changes initiated at RSC will affect partnerships in Ohio communities. Our fee schedule being developed with the Public Consulting Group is an issue of intense interest. The transition from unquestioned reimbursement to partners, to a deeply researched needs assessment matching true costs, is difficult to oppose when adequately explained; which is why I'm glad to be meeting frequently with our community partners to gain their input.

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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