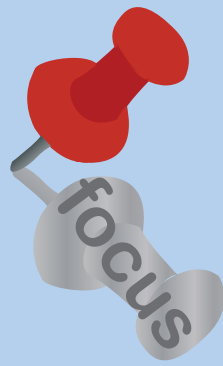


WEEKLY



Ohio

Rehabilitation Services
Commission

March 30, 2012

Kevin L. Miller
Executive Director

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.

RSC Budget Testimony

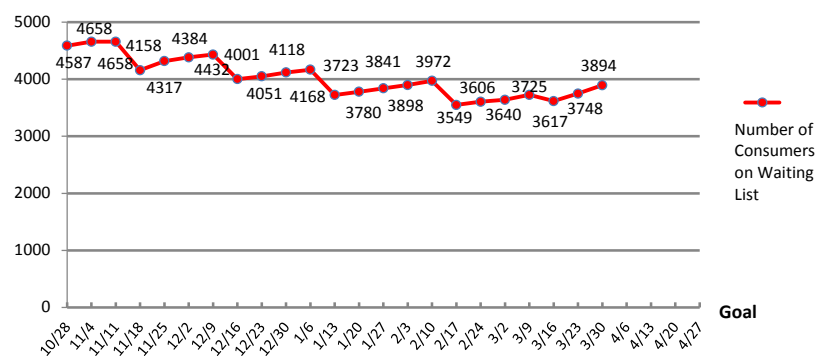
The Mid-Biennium Review of RSC's budget was on the agenda of the Ohio House Health and Human Services Subcommittee this week. The Kasich Administration proposals are part of House Bill 487 (HB 487) and the proposed bill includes items to align RSC operations with existing Ohio law.

For RSC, the biggest change of law in HB 487 gives us the ability to establish a Fee Schedule for service providers under the guidelines of federal law. The Ohio law would stipulate that the Fee Schedule is rolled out under the administrative rule process. The Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (JCARR) and RSC have already met several times in anticipation of the change in law authorizing a Fee Schedule.

The proposed law clarifies the management responsibilities of RSC to match the intent of Ohio Revised Code Section 3304.14, which made the Administrator a direct appointee of the Governor. HB 487 clarifies the division of duties between the Administrator and the RSC Board of Commissioners, establishing the responsibility of the Administrator for the day-to-day operations of RSC.



Number of Consumers on Waiting List



Matching Service Needs to Third-Party Agreements

HB 487 balances the need to maximize third-party agreements to draw available Federal Vocational Rehabilitation funds, with the corresponding need to provide service on an equitable basis to individuals with disabilities. The change in law establishing this balance will allow us to align third-party agreements with the needs around Ohio and prevent RSC from basing service agreements solely on funding ability. The current system has produced an imbalance in service across the geography of Ohio because of local financial conditions.

RSC Contracts Standardized

The final aspect of HB 487 impacting RSC operations would change the terms of third-party agreements to bring them into compliance with Ohio law. Current RSC contracts with local public and private agencies cannot be for less than six months and cannot be discontinued without 90 days notices.

Ohio Revised Code Section 109.96 (ORC 109.96) calls for contracts to be terminable with 30 days notice, without need for cause. Current RSC contracts also require "just cause" for termination. We don't foresee any change in operations with current partners but it's important that RSC contracts are structured in compliance with the practices of the rest of state government agencies as called for under ORC 109.96.

Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment Unveiled for Feedback

Months of research touching nearly every aspect of RSC, under the direction of expert consultants from The Ohio State University, will form the basis of Ohio's Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment (CSNA). This document is a requirement of our federal partnership, updated every three years, to provide the basis for data driven management that tells policy makers what and where the needs are in Ohio and how well those needs are being met.

The first look at the data was presented to RSC this week for feedback from staff. On April 9, the wide variety of stakeholders who were surveyed as part of this research project are invited to RSC to gather their input on the initial findings. In addition to wide ranging survey research from RSC consumers, partners and vendors, the CSNA incorporates data from state agencies covering aging, alcohol and drug addiction, development, developmental disabilities, education, mental health, job and family services, rehabilitation and corrections, veterans services, youth services and worker's compensation. This data will be used to formulate policy recommendations for the VR program.

Reminder to Participate

Our survey to partners regarding the Fee Schedule was sent electronically on Wednesday, March 21. Community Rehabilitation Programs (CRP) have until April 4 to return the survey for use by the Public Consulting Group in determining the new RSC Fee Schedule. CRPs with questions or issues with the survey can contact PCG at:

Toll-Free Support Line: 1-866-912-2971

Email Support: ohvocrehab@pcgus.com

RSC Executive Staff Visits Dayton

We have shaved \$1.2 million from annual operating costs at RSC by downsizing some of our field offices and embedding some of our counselors into other government buildings. Dayton is a good example as we have moved from nearly 15,000 square feet of office space to under 12,000 square feet, saving us \$30,720 per year. Our executive team visited the new Dayton office to see how our colleagues are adjusting to their new space. Some of us were also able to attend the Dayton office open house last week, where the new Cincinnati Street location was shown to consumers and partners.



RSC's new Dayton office

While in Dayton we also had a great visit with Bonnie Parish and her team at the Community Services for the Deaf (CSD). This is the first of many visits with Community Centers for the Deaf (CCD) that the executive team plans to make this year. We saw a showcase of the work that CSD performs and had a great discussion. It is always a highlight when the executive team is able to visit our community partners and gain insight into the experience that our consumers have when referred for services.

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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