**Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired**

**OOD Council Briefing- May 6, 2020**

**Program Performance:** The following table summarizes Federal Fiscal Year 2020 performance for the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) program:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  | **Metric** | **3/31/2019** | **3/31/2020** | **Percent Change** |
|  | **Eligibility Decisions** | **522** | **555** | **6%** |
|  | **Plans Written** | **398** | **379** | **-5%** |
|  | **Eligible + Served** | **1,789** | **1,837** | **3%** |
|  | **Rehabilitations** | **171** | **180** | **5.3%** |
|  | **Average Wage** | **$14.11** | **$15.17** | **8%** |
|  | **Average Hours** | **28.4** | **29.2** | **2.8%** |

**Programmatic Updates**:

* OOD is working in partnership with The Ohio Channel to make transcripts from the Governor’s daily press conferences available to individuals who may not be able to access the information visually or auditorily, such as individuals who are deafblind. OOD staff receive the AI generated transcripts from The Ohio Channel late the same day, they are then edited to formatting and grammatical corrections. The transcripts are then sent out to the deafblind advocacy groups, the CCD’s, and posted on OOD’s Newsline channel.
* As ODJFS develops and implements their new unemployment applicant systems, OOD staff (Katie Frederick and Leonard Rojas) are working in collaboration with ODJFS staff to test the accessibility of the system to ensure that it is accessible for all Ohioans.
* New guidance was developed and released to the providers of Orientation and Mobility services, allowing for remote assessment and services under a limited scope. This might include instruction to family members in skills such as sighted guide and home organization/safety assessments.
* OOD is hosting weekly meetings for the CCD Directors to allow them to stay connected as a network and collectively problem solve similar issues such as remote interpreting and access to information.
* OOD staff have been collecting resources to share with consumers and community partners to help reduce isolation as individuals are required to stay in their homes. Resources have included national, state, and local resources to help individuals meet their basic needs.
* BSVI is partnering with the National Federation of the Blind of Ohio on May 5 to engage with the blind community through a teleconference. The purpose is to connect with this group of individuals with vision loss to provide updates on services, remote delivery and availability of services, as well as what to expect from OOD during this time.