**Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired**

**OOD Council Briefing- August 12, 2020**

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

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | |  |  | |  | |  | |
| **Metric** | | | **6/30/2019** | | **6/30/2020** | | **Percent Change** | |
| **Eligibility Decisions** | | | **747** | | **748** | | **0%** | |
| **Plans Written** | | | **561** | | **576** | | **3%** | |
| **Eligible + Served** | | | **2,047** | | **2,035** | | **-1%** | |
| **Rehabilitations** | | | **258** | | **260** | | **0.8%** | |
| **Average Wage** | | | **$13.97** | | **$15.56** | | **11%** | |
| **Average Hours** | | | **28.8** | | **29.3** | | **1.7%** | |

During reporting period 6/30/2019 through 6/30/2020, eligibility decisions increased by 0%, plans written increased by 3%, the combined eligible and served decreased by 1%, rehabilitations increased by 0.8%, the average wage increased by 11%, and the average hours increased by 1.7%.

**Programmatic Updates**:

* OOD BSVI and the Provider Management and Contracts Unit have worked together with Helen Keller National Center to review and approve their Comprehensive Vocational Rehabilitation Program and the M-Power programs for support by OOD. This brings a new level of service options to Ohio’s deafblind population.
  + The comprehensive vocational rehabilitation program is for adult consumers 18 years of age and older who have a combined vision and hearing loss and want to gain independence and employability skills. The program provides individualized training that is tailored to meet the unique cultural and communication needs of each student. HKNC’s person-centered training approach includes five major areas: orientation and mobility, technology, independent living, communication, and vocational exploration and training.
  + The M-power program is a two-week summer program for young adults, ages 16 to 23. This training is conducted by a team of experts – including deaf-blind facilitators and mentors. The program is designed to assist young adults who are deaf-blind to explore their vocational and educational interests and encourages them to take a more active role in planning their future. This program has integrated activities that promote self-determination and self- advocacy skills.
* The Personal Care Assistance program has developed and implemented a policy and procedure package that went in to effect 8/3/2020. The program has previously had no policy and procedures to govern the program, relying on the Ohio Administrative Code to provide program guidance.
* BSVI staff (Katie Frederick and Sarah Kelly) presented at the State of Ohio Office of Disability Inclusion ADA symposium on 8/6/2020 on accessibility in the workplace for employers related to blindness and low vision.
* Katie Scheetz and Jessica Folsom presented to the OOD transition community of practice on sensory impairments to better prepare staff working with transition students to work with students with sensory impairments.
* Deputy Greg Dormer will be participating in an interview with VoiceCorps on August 20.

* The ILOB program re-opened the option for in-person services, with an emphasis on remote/virtual services remaining as the preferred option whenever possible. Feedback has been positive, and providers are working in partnership with the VRC’s and the consumers to ensure the safety of our consumers and our providers.