**Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired**

**OOD Council Briefing- November 18, 2020**

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

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| Metric | | | 9/30/2019 | | 9/30/2020 | | Percent Change | |
| **Eligibility Decisions** | | | 1,006 | | 920 | | -9% | |
| **Plans Written** | | | 750 | | 729 | | -3% | |
| **Eligible + Served** | | | 2,316 | | 2,234 | | -4% | |
| **Rehabilitations** | | | 359 | | 329 | | -8.4% | |
| **Average Wage** | | | $13.73 | | $15.31 | | 12% | |
| **Average Hours** | | | 28 | | 28.9 | | 3.2% | |

During reporting period 9/30/2019 through 9/30/2020, eligibility decisions decreased by 9%, plans written decreased by 3%, the combined eligible and served decreased by 4%, rehabilitations decreased by 8.4%, the average wage increased by 12%, and the average hours increased by 3.2%.

While the overall program numbers for the year were down, BSVI experienced a smaller decrease in performance numbers than many other states and saw a double digit increase in average hourly wages. BSVI also did a better job of moving eligible individuals into plan in 2020 vs. 2019. The program saw a 5.5% increase in the area.

Looking forward into 2021, applications for BSVI services increased each month from July through September, which is an encouraging trend.

**Programmatic Updates**:

* Berna King has moved into the BSVI Program Manager role previously held by Sarah Kelly. Berna has been with OOD for 20 plus years, most recently as a Vocational Rehabilitation Supervisor. Since taking over she has been meeting with partners and providers over the last few weeks and has begun reviewing the BSVI Multi Point Plan to update and help craft the direction of the division.
* Director Miller, Erik Williamson, Greg Dormer and Berna King presented an update on the program at the National Federation of the Blind Ohio Statewide Convention.
* BSVI Staff held meetings in each of the 5 regions in August and September for all BSVI/ILOB counselors and their supervisors. These meetings were done in lieu of the annual BSVI Statewide Meeting this year.
* Katie Frederick is presenting at OCALI-Con on Thursday Nov. 12 as part of a panel on “Travel Guide for Navigating Systems for Children with Deafness and Blindness”.