**Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired**

**OOD Council Briefing- August 18, 2021**

**Program Performance:** The following table summarizes Federal Fiscal Year 2021 performance for the Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired:

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| Metric | 6/30/2020 | 6/30/2021 | Percent Change |
| **Eligibility Decisions**  | 748 | 677 | -9.5% |
| **Plans Written**  | 576 | 504 | -12.5% |
| **Eligible + Served**  | 2,035 | 2,044 | .4% |
| **Rehabilitations**  | 260 | 266 | 2.3% |
| **Average Wage**  | $15.56 | $15.15 | -2.6% |
| **Average Hours**  | 29.3 | 28.2 | -3.8% |

During reporting period 6/30/2020 through 6/30/2021, eligibility decisions decreased by 9.5%, plans written decreased by 12.5%, the combined eligible and served increased by .4%, rehabilitations increased by 2.3%, the average wage decreased by 2.6% and the average hours decreased by 1.1 hours per week.

**Programmatic Updates**:

* BSVI will be adding a new position to the division, a Deaf Services Coordinator. The new position will oversee our partnership with the CCD’s, provide technical assistance to the Rehabilitation Counselors for the Deaf (RCD), oversee the monthly RCD meetings and manage the Personal Care Assistance Program. This position is being added based on feedback from past needs assessments and Ohio is one of the only states that does not have a a similar position.
* Through a partnership with Ohio School for the Deaf (OSD), Ohio State School for the Blind (OSSB) and the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID), completed the first ACT Test Prep boot camp for Deaf and deafblind students in Ohio. All students increased their scores by several points.
* In partnership with the Community Centers for the Deaf (CCDs), created videos in American Sign Language (ASL) for the Ohio Department of Health’s Coronavirus website.
* Actively developing a list of Teachers for the Visually Impaired (TVIs) for field staff to increase connections with education professionals.
* Independent Living Older Blind (ILOB) field staff have resumed in person meetings. The option of phone or virtual meetings are still available