

Board Orientation

Department of Human Services – DHS

- **Division of Rehabilitation Services – DRS**
 - Board of Vocational Rehabilitation (BVR)
- **Division of Service to the Blind & Visually Impaired – SBVI**
 - Board of Service to the Blind & Visually Impaired (BSBVI)





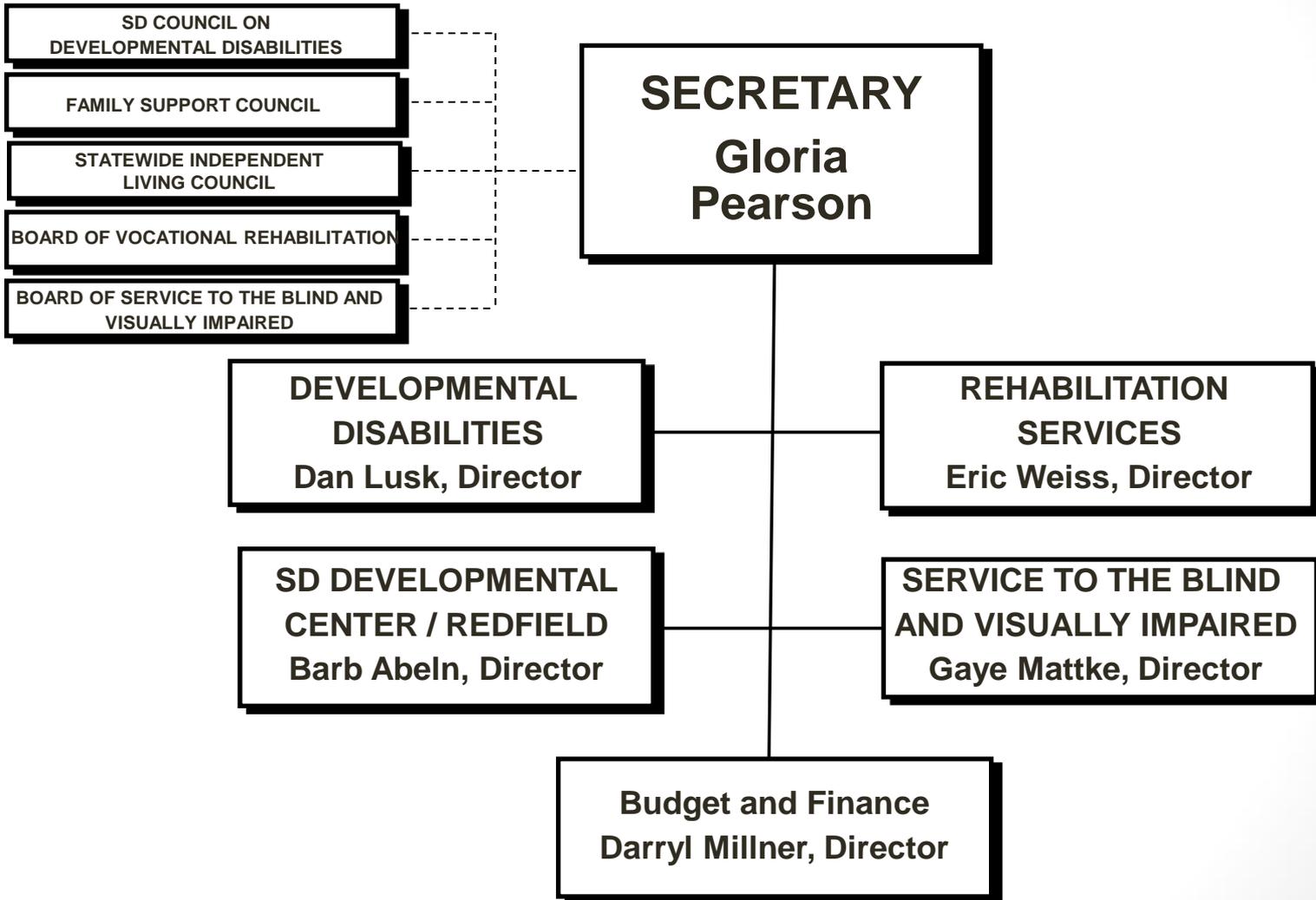
Gloria Pearson, Secretary of DHS

Designated State Agency

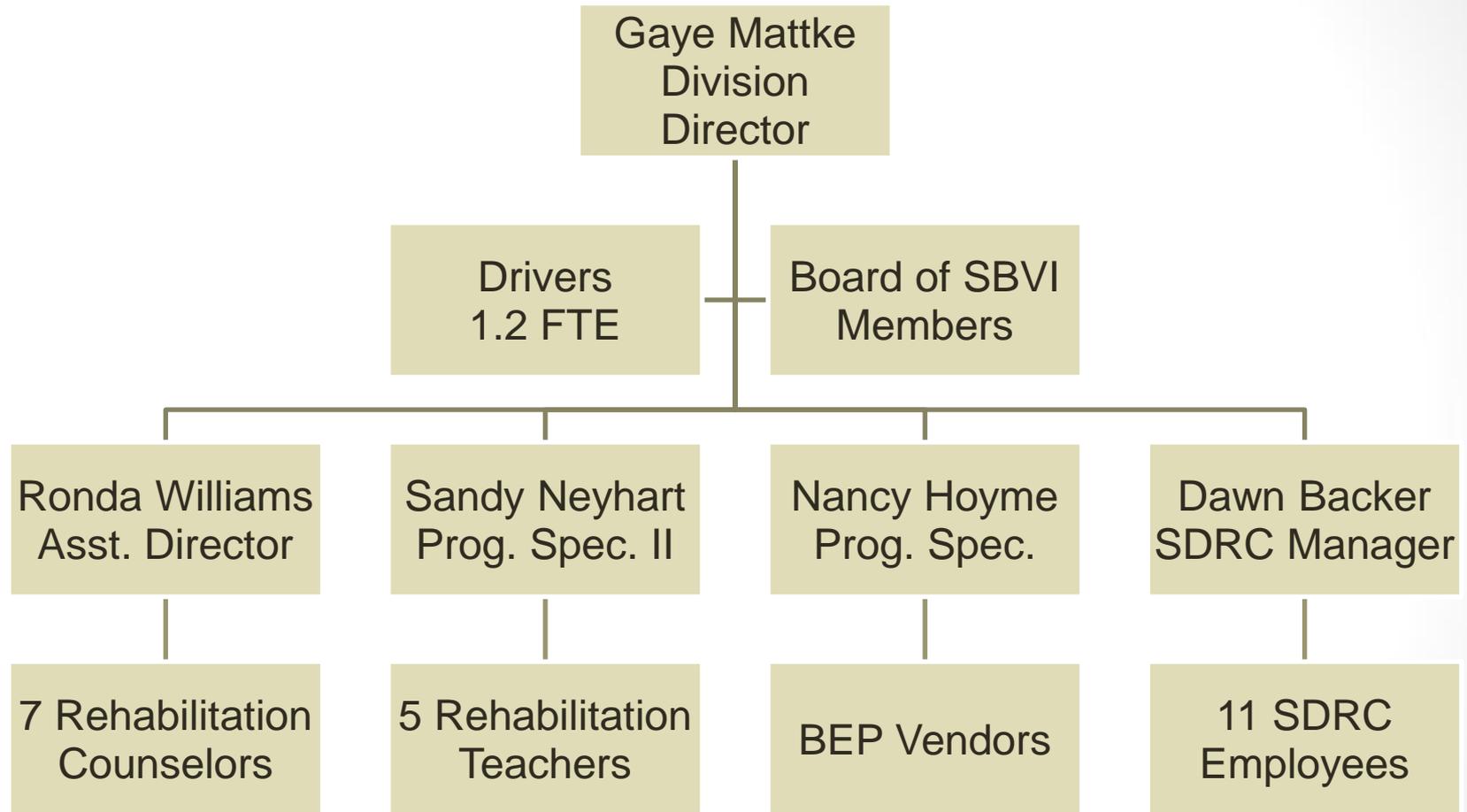
Divisions:

- Developmental Center
- Developmental Disabilities
- Rehabilitation Services
- Service to the Blind & Visually Impaired

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES



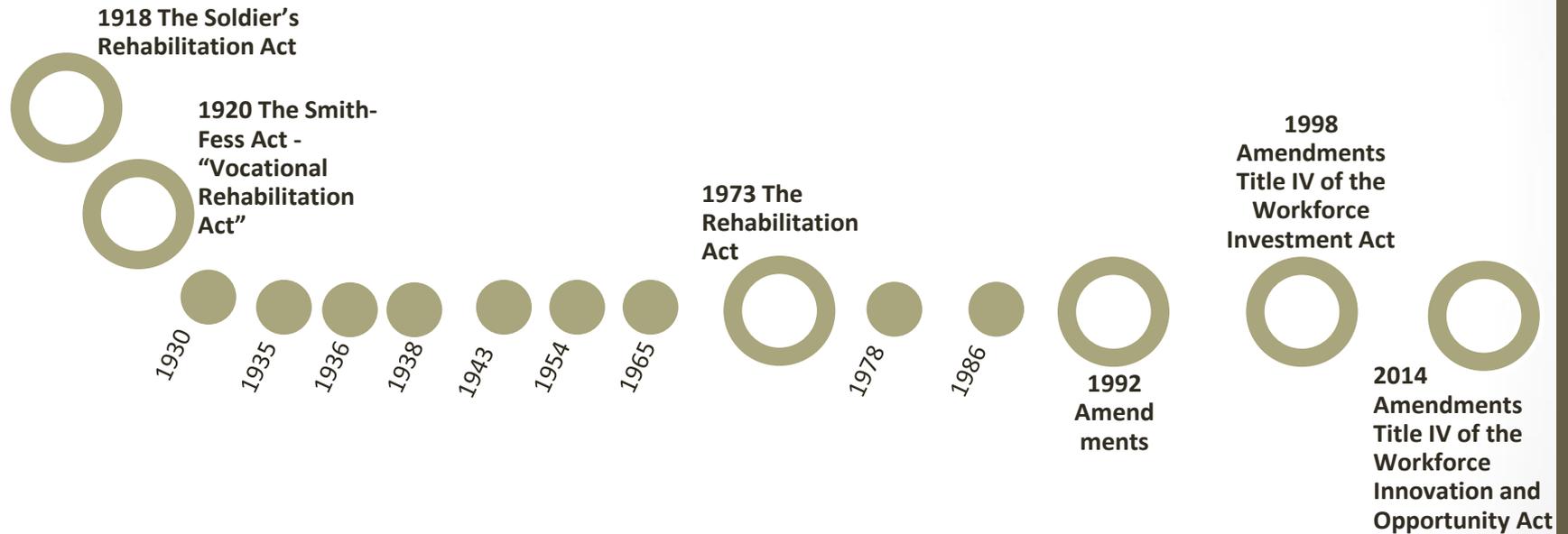
Division of SBVI



Division of Rehabilitation Services



History of the Rehabilitation Act



The Board's Role



1. Act as the voice for people with disabilities and other stakeholders in the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) system
2. Advocate for VR to the public
 - Educate legislators, do not lobby legislators
3. Advise the state agency (DHS) and designated state units (DRS & SBVI) on a variety of issues
4. Work in partnership with the divisions and department to maximize employment and independent living
5. Always ask: How will this affect the customer?

Board Benefits to the VR Program

- Provides local, external perspectives
- Provides the voice of people with disabilities
- Reaches out to other service providers, community groups and state agencies



Responsibilities of the Board

Functions

The Council must (after consulting with the Workforce Development Council):

1. Review, analyze and advise the Division;
2. Develop, agree to, and review State goals and priorities;
3. Advise and assist in the preparation of the State Plan;
4. Review consumer satisfaction;
5. Prepare an annual report to the Governor;
6. Coordinate activities with other councils in the State;
7. Coordinate relationship between DSA and Statewide Independent Living Council and Centers for Independent Living; and
8. Perform other functions as appropriate.



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Responsibilities of the Board

The Unified State Plan

- Public meetings for input on the State Plan
- Summary of input from the Board – State Plan Attachment
- Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment
- Consumer Satisfaction



Evaluating VR Program Effectiveness



IMPORTANT!

The Board conducts a review and analysis of the effectiveness of and consumer satisfaction with:

1. Functions performed by VR;
2. VR services provided to individuals with disabilities; and
3. Employment outcomes achieved by eligible individuals.

Program Evaluation Includes...

1. Input and review of the State Plan
2. Completing consumer satisfaction surveys
3. Completing Board annual reports
4. Collaborating in the comprehensive statewide needs assessment process
5. Being aware of and contributing to RSA monitoring reports



The Board Role



- Recruitment and Retention - Most members are volunteers
- Term Limits - Most members may serve no more than two consecutive full terms – there are some exceptions
- Expertise - Most members do not have an in depth knowledge of the Rehabilitation Act or VR program
- Time Commitment - Most councils meet only quarterly
- Mandates - Councils have MANY responsibilities



Definitions

- **Designated State Agency - DSA**
 - Department of Human Services – DHS
- **Designated State Units – DSU**
 - Division of Rehabilitation Services
 - Division of Service to the Blind & Visually Impaired
- **State Rehabilitation Council – SRC**
 - Board of Vocational Rehabilitation
 - Board of Service to the Blind Visually Impaired

Next Steps...

