

Good Earth State Park
(Photo courtesy of SD Tourism)

2018

South Dakota Board of Vocational Rehabilitation Annual Report

December 10, 2018

Governor Dennis Daugaard
State Capitol
500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, South Dakota 57501

Dear Governor Daugaard:

On behalf of the Board of Vocational Rehabilitation, South Dakota's State Rehabilitation Council, I am pleased to submit to you our 2018 Annual Report. It shares highlights from the vocational rehabilitation (VR) program for individuals with disabilities in South Dakota on which we partner with the Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS).

This report reflects a sample of the multitude of services in South Dakota designed to support individuals with disabilities as they prepare for and engage in gainful employment. These services have also supported your efforts to make employment the first priority and preferred outcome for South Dakotans with disabilities.

Under your leadership, employers and the public have led South Dakota to new heights in creating and promoting opportunities for all citizens to experience full participation in competitive, integrated employment. We thank you for your continuing belief and support of a statewide workforce inclusive of people with disabilities.

As you conclude your service as Governor, we wish you every success in the next phase of your journey. We thank you for the opportunity to serve you.

Respectfully,



Patty Kuglitsch, Chairperson

Cc: Board Members
Carol Dobak, RSA Acting Deputy Commissioner
Christyne Cavataio, RSA Liaison

December 10, 2018

Carol Dobak, RSA Acting Deputy Commissioner
Potomac Center Plaza
550 12th Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Acting Deputy Commissioner Dobak:

On behalf of the Board of Vocational Rehabilitation, South Dakota's State Rehabilitation Council, I am pleased to provide you with a copy of our 2018 Annual Report. The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, specifies that a report be submitted to you and the Governor on an annual basis. This report is being sent in response to that requirement.

Activities in this report reflect a sample of the wide range of services available to assist individuals with disabilities in South Dakota prepare for and engage in gainful employment – services on which we partner with the Division of Rehabilitation Services in the administration of under the vocational rehabilitation (VR) program.

We continually evaluate the effectiveness of the DRS vocational rehabilitation program. We are pleased to report that in 2018, DRS assisted 693 individuals with disabilities accomplish their employment goals in careers of their choice through the provision of VR services. In addition, 439 students with disabilities experienced paid work prior to completing high school.

We look forward to continuing our work with DRS to ensure services are provided to citizens with disabilities that support them in living a life of independence and economic self-sufficiency. We thank you for your continued support of our efforts to further develop and expand employment opportunities for all.

Respectfully,



Cc: Board Members
Christyne Cavataio, RSA Liaison

State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) FY 2018

The State Rehabilitation Council is established and meets the criteria set forth in the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

South Dakota's SRC is known as the **Board of Vocational Rehabilitation (Board)**. The Board:

- Provides guidance to and works in Partnership with South Dakota's general Vocational Rehabilitation agency – DRS.
- Plays a significant role in ensuring that the VR program remains responsive to the needs of those served by it and operates effectively.
- Works with DRS to develop policies, plan activities, evaluate program effectiveness and carry out other functions related to the vocational rehabilitation program.

The relationship between the Board of Vocational Rehabilitation and the Division of Rehabilitation Services is a partnership. The partnership is focused on ensuring that eligible individuals receive appropriate, timely and effective vocational rehabilitation services. The provided services are designed to support the individuals served reaching their career goals in successful integrated employment within communities of all sizes throughout South Dakota.

Federally mandated membership requirements include a broad range of stakeholders to ensure various constituencies have a voice in the conduct of the vocational rehabilitation agency.

The SRC must be composed of at least 15 members – regulations specify requirements.

Board of Vocational Rehabilitation Membership



**STATE REHABILITATION COUNCILS ARE THE
CONSUMER VOICE FOR THE VOCATIONAL
REHABILITATION PROGRAM!**

Patty Kuglitsch, Chairperson
Sioux Falls

Lisa Sanderson, Vice Chairperson
Sioux Falls

Jolleen Laverdure, Member at Large
Lower Brule

Joe Vetch
Summerset

Colleen Moran
Hartford

Cole Uecker
Pierre

Kim Ludwig
Aberdeen

Kendra Gottsleben
Sioux Falls

Kristina Allen
Sioux Falls

Brad Konechne
Brookings

Bill McEntaffer
Pierre

Kristi Eisenbraun
Sioux Falls

Kevin Barber
Sioux Falls

Beth Schiltz
Pierre

Eric Weiss
Pierre

Peter Bullene
Watertown

Board of Vocational Rehabilitation Meeting Dates and Locations - Committees

Quarterly Meetings

December 11, 2017
Via video conference

March 28 – 29, 2018
Ft. Pierre

June 6 – 7, 2018
Aberdeen

September 12 – 13, 2018
Ft. Pierre



South Dakota Children's Museum - Brookings
Photo courtesy of SD Tourism

Executive Committee

Acts on behalf of the Board to perform necessary business matters between regular meetings. Their actions must receive concurrence of the full board (e.g., annual reports, state plan, meeting agendas) at the next meeting.

Consumer Services Committee

Works on activities such as consumer satisfaction survey, DRS goals and strategies, policy recommendations and public meeting topics.

Public Awareness Committee

Coordinates National Disability Awareness Month activities, annual Governor's Awards ceremony and other public outreach activities.

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Reauthorization of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 Enacted July 22, 2014

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), which includes Reauthorization of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, is designed to strengthen the nation's workforce system, and help Americans with significant barriers to employment, including people with disabilities, obtain high quality jobs and careers and help employers hire and retain skilled workers.

Changes to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 under Title IV of WIOA have had a profound impact on individuals with disabilities, especially students and youth with disabilities, transitioning from education to employment. These provisions have strengthened and increased opportunities for individuals with disabilities to acquire skills and supports necessary to maximize their potential and enter competitive integrated employment in communities throughout this state and country.

The final implementing regulations for the VR program under WIOA strongly adhere to three goals:

- 1) Align the VR program with the workforce development system;
- 2) Strengthen VR's focus on competitive employment; and
- 3) Expand VR services to students and youth with disabilities.

New opportunities and innovations under WIOA have emphasized competitive integrated employment. They have also strengthened an emphasis on transition services, including pre-employment transition services. Innovations have focused on greater employer engagement and partnering across the workforce development system.


Each state must submit a Unified or Combined State Plan to the U.S. Secretary of Labor outlining a four-year workforce development strategy for their workforce development system, which includes these core programs: Adult Program, Dislocated Worker Program, Youth Program, Adult Education and Family Literacy Act Program, Wagner-Peyser Act Program and Vocational Rehabilitation Program. An approved Unified or Combined State Plan must be in place to receive federal funding for these programs.

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act

Board of Vocational Rehabilitation

Division of Rehabilitation Services

Section 676.125 requires States to submit a VR services portion as part of the Unified State Plan that complies with all State Plan requirements set forth in sec. 101(a) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended by Title IV of WIOA. All submission requirements of the VR services portion of the Unified State Plan are in addition to the jointly developed strategic and operational content requirements prescribed by sec. 102(b) of WIOA.



The relationship between the Board and DRS is a partnership focused on ensuring that eligible individuals with disabilities receive appropriate, timely, and effective vocational rehabilitation services resulting in successful employment outcomes for those served.

Goals of the VR Section of the Unified State Plan

Goal 1: Students will enter their adult lives capable of self-advocacy with sufficient experience to make choices about work and career, and being appropriately supported and living as independently as possible.

Goal 2: A strong statewide community with DRS presence and partnerships with business, community service providers, schools, state government, workforce systems and service organizations.

Goal 3: DRS participants will have greater access to transportation services required to obtain and maintain employment.

Goal 4: A VR services delivery system that results in enhanced earnings, employee benefits, retention and career advancement for individuals with the most significant disabilities.

Goal 5: DRS participants will have the skills, motivation and supports necessary to make informed choices about successful daily living, employment, money management, personal and work relationships.

Board of Vocational Rehabilitation Quarterly Meeting Highlights

The Board's commitment to represent consumers and stakeholders statewide is partially supported by hosting their meetings in communities throughout the state. It is also supported by ensuring that all meetings are held in accessible locations and made accessible to people needing effective communication to fully participate.

Public participants are invited to provide input during the "public comment" period of each meeting. Time is also set aside at some meetings to meet with identified groups. These are opportunities to hear about what is working well and what can be improved upon. They also provide time for brainstorming on how individuals with disabilities across the state can be better served through vocational rehabilitation services. When possible, meetings are also scheduled to coincide with meetings of other groups so they may learn from and enhance collaboration with one another.

Each meeting contains standing agenda items e.g., Director's Report, Vocational Rehabilitation Initiatives, Business Specialist Report, SILC Report, Board Staff Report. The comments below are specific items taken out of these standing reports that were beyond the "usual" reporting and other agenda items occurring at each meeting.

December 11, 2017

This meeting was held via video-conference with sites in Aberdeen, Chamberlain, Mitchell, Pierre, Rapid City, Sioux Falls and Watertown. A phone number was also provided for access from other areas of the state.

Annual Report: This meeting is when the Board finalizes and acts upon their annual report, which is then sent to the Governor and RSA Commissioner. Minor changes were made to the draft, and staff was directed to complete those changes, secure the chairperson's signature and mail them to the respective recipient yet this week, with a copy sent to all Board members.

Governor's Awards: A final report on this year's event was presented, and Board members commented positively on the event. There was dialogue on the reality that in future years it will not be held in conjunction with a conference. Thus, it most likely will return to being held at the Capitol Rotunda, with a reception at a nearby location. All were encouraged to submit nominations for the 2018 awards.

NDEAM Activities: Staff was not able to provide a full report, as some evaluations and expenses had not yet been received. She reported anticipating that expenses would be considerably less than expected. Early in the coming year, staff will be contacting the Board of Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired and the Statewide Independent Living Council about representatives to serve on a joint committee to work on the 2018 solicitation of NDEAM proposals and recommendations for funding.

Staff Development: DRS is working closely with the Master of VR program at South Dakota State University. Students of the program complete a practicum and a full semester internship. DRS has been offering a paid internship during the spring, summer and fall semesters. These internships have typically been in the Watertown, Sioux Falls and Brookings office locations. Some of the students have completed their Master degree and been hired by DRS. Several DRS existing staff are also working on their Master degrees through this program.

Training: DRS continued its collaboration with the University of South Dakota Center for Disabilities in the provision of employment specialist training. Currently 106 people have passed the competency-based exam administered by the Association of People Supporting Employment First. DRS also continued work on a Fall Conference to be held in early October of 2018 focusing on the 100th Anniversary of the Rehabilitation Act. Finally, several staff training opportunities were held using video conferencing and webinar platforms. Topics for these sessions included: Medical Assistance for Workers with Disabilities and ABLE Accounts; Assistive Technology; Deaf Services; SBVI services; and DHS waiver programs.

Best Practices for Business Engagement: As WIOA prioritized how VR is to directly engage employers to make employment and training initiatives more job-driven, and to employ practices to improve overall business engagement accountability, the DRS business specialist developed a guidance document for DRS and DSBVI staff on this matter. The Board had an opportunity to provide input into the document, and at this time they received an update on its implementation. Consensus was that it will be quite helpful in bringing both worlds – rehabilitation and business – to a better understanding of one another. The end result is that people with disabilities seeking gainful, competitive, integrated employment will have more opportunities to do so.

Statewide Independent Living Council Report: A significant change reported from the independent living services arena was that Native American Advocacy

Program is no longer operating as a center for independent living. They have relinquished their funding. The SILC, remaining CILs and DRS have been and continue to explore with the Administration on Community Living how eligible people of the nine Tribal Nations will be served through independent living services. They have been and continue to be an underserved group, and it is expected the State Plan for Independent Living will need to be revised at some point in the future.

March 28 – 29, 2018

This meeting was held at the AmericInn of Ft. Pierre.

Post-Secondary Indicator 14 Survey Report: The report included survey history, an overview of information available on the SD Post High School Survey website and information specifically on Indicator 14 from 2015-2016. Indicator 14 examines the percent of youth who are no longer in secondary school, had Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) in effect at the time they left school, and were enrolled in:

- A) Higher education
- B) Higher education or competitively employed
- C) Higher education or in some other postsecondary education or training program; or competitively employed or in some other employment within one year of leaving high school.

Summary points reported from the 2015-2016 data were:

- In 2015-2016, South Dakota had the highest percentage (20.5%) of students enroll in post-secondary school since data has been collected for indicator 14 in baseline year (2008-2009).
- The average percentage of exiters disengaged over the first four years of data collection was 23.5%. In 2015-2016, that percentage was significantly lower at 17%.
- South Dakota's response rate for 2015-2016 was 56%. National engagement rates typically average 50%.
- South Dakota's total engagement rate has increased from baseline year (2008-2009) of 78.6% to 82.7%, or an increase of 4.1% this year.

Transition Activities: DRS entered into a one-year contract with the Aberdeen School District to assist them in re-establishing the "Transition Learning Campus".

The program is for students with disabilities ages 18 – 21; due to start in the Fall of 2018 on the campus of Northern State University. Funding will support pre-employment services with most of DRS expenditures supporting one-time equipment purchases. Funding for services will be provided through Project Skills. Examples of other transition activities involving DRS and/or the Board are the Youth Leadership Forum, Catch the Wave Events, Employment and SSA Benefits training, Let's Talk about Work Events, and the SD Educator's Institute.

Project SEARCH: This program is now available in Sioux Falls, Brookings, Rapid City and Aberdeen. A total of 156 students have participated in these opportunities. There has been an average success rate of 92% for participants obtaining employment within one year of completion of the program.

Employment Training: DRS provided a webinar for providers and VR staff on competitive, integrated employment; customized employment; and supported employment. Over 100 individuals participated, and it was also recorded and is being made available via the DRS website.

Strategic Planning Funds: The Board received and approved two requests for funding utilizing their strategic planning funds. The first resulted in collaborating with SD Parent Connection – SD's Parent Information and Training Center – to sponsor the 2018 "Lighting the Way – Autism Spectrum Disorders in Our Communities" Conference. The second continued support for continuing development of Project SEARCH efforts in the state by supporting staff from Teachwell to participate in the 2018 International Project SEARCH Conference.

Consumer Satisfaction Report: Upon completion of the report, significant dialogue followed on topics surrounding (a) who is surveyed; (b) when they are surveyed; (c) comparisons that might be beneficial e.g., college graduates vs. others seeking employment; (d) time between case closure and survey being sent out; (e) communication modes used between VR staff and those served e.g., text, email, face-to-face. Consensus was that it may be time to review this process and explore ways it might be changed, ensuring it remains accessible to all served and garners the best level of response, while providing useful data to DRS and the Board.

State Plan Revision: Every four years the State Plan must be submitted (it was in 2016) and then updated every two years, which meant this year (2018). The six areas needing revision were: (1) Input of the State Rehabilitation Council; (2) Comprehensive System for Personnel Development; (3) Annual Estimates of People Served and Costs to Serve; (4) Order of Selection; (5) State Strategies;

and (6) Evaluation and Reports of Progress. The appropriate public notice and public forum opportunities were held; due to a very short turn-around for submission, the level of consumer input was low.

ASPIRE: This project falls under the PROMISE Grant – Promoting the Readiness of Minors on Supplemental Security Income – and it is a consortium of six states, including South Dakota. There are six such projects in the country. ASPIRE is the only one that includes mostly rural and tribal populations. It is a research project, thus there is a control group and another group that receives additional interventions and supports. Sixty-five youth and families in 27 towns have been enrolled in ASPIRE. Of those, 38 (58.46%) have been employed since enrollment. This is the highest of the six states within the consortium. Due to a “no-cost extension” the end date for this project is in 2019.

June 6 – 7, 2018

This meeting was held at the Best Western Ramkota in Aberdeen.

Youth Leadership Forum: This meeting was held in Aberdeen so Board members would be able to participate in the luncheon held on the final day of the event. This year marked the 20th anniversary of YLF in South Dakota, and a presentation was provided which covered its history and evolution to today. In its first year there were 26 delegates. This year there were 90 applicants and 42 delegates are participating. Three current Board members are past YLF participants, demonstrating a desired outcome of implementing this model in SD.

WINTAC Training: The Workforce Innovation Technical Assistance Center (WINTAC) provided training in the state related to new performance measures and “customized employment” to assist DRS and DSBVI meet WIOA requirements. There was a basic definition shared of “customized employment” and an explanation given that this is the very beginning of dialogue and action as South Dakota explores how it will work to implement customized employment into the delivery of services and who will benefit from this approach to reaching employment goals.

Case File Review: This process occurs annually, and it has a two-fold purpose – ensuring case file documentation compliance statewide and utilizing it as a training opportunity to ensure consistency of practice statewide. Recommendations resulting from the review were some changes to the case file review instrument and the VRFACES system and some clarification and training on topics such as maintenance services, postsecondary, eligibility extensions and

the importance of correctly indicating SSI/SSDI statuses. Some of this training had taken place prior to the review being completed.

Draft Program Guide – Financial Participation Requirements for Secondary and Post-Secondary Training Programs: Case service expenditures for these services are significant for vocational rehabilitation agencies in South Dakota and nationwide. The program guide was updated to provide further guidance to staff on how to determine the extent of an individual's participation in the costs of secondary and post-secondary education services. Robust dialogue was held on this document, resulting in any decision being held off until the next day to allow Board members more time to review it. When dialogue continued, language was added addressing additional and advanced degrees and the Board voted to adopt the policy with 4 Yeas and 2 Nays vote.

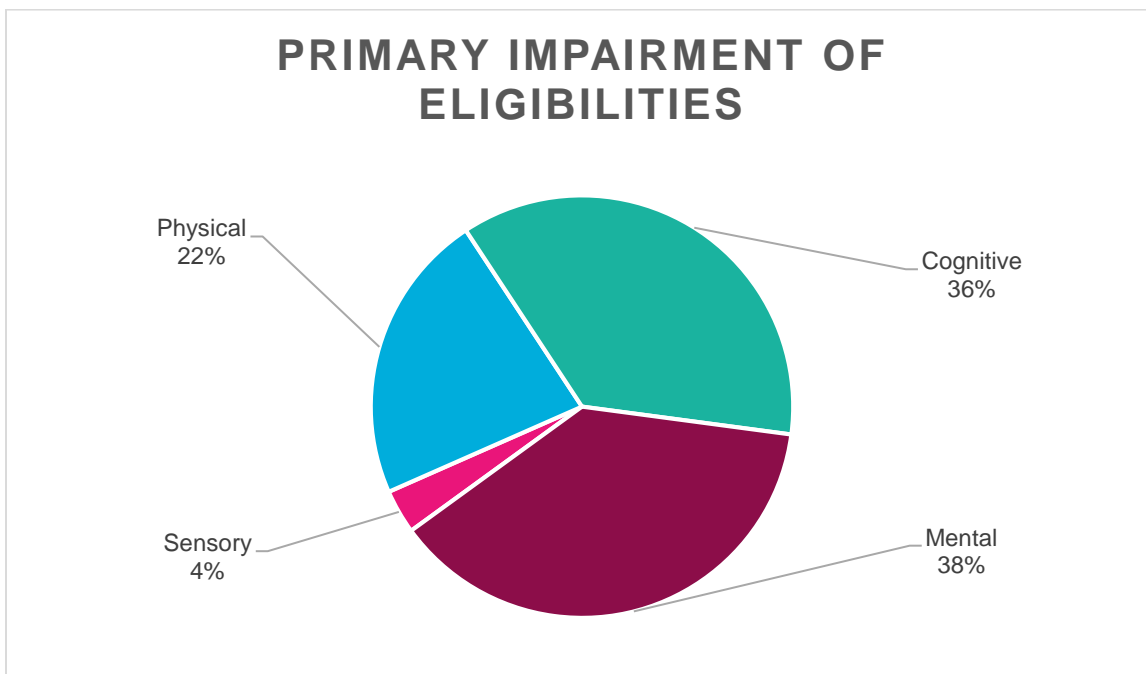
Election of Officers: This takes place on an annual basis, and it traditionally occurs at the spring meeting. A slate of officer nominations was brought forward, followed by a call for further nominations from the floor. Following the completion of this process – motions to close nominations and elect the slate of nominees was made, seconded and passed.

Project SEARCH: It has been in Aberdeen for eight or nine years. It is a project between the Aberdeen School District, DRS, DSBVI, and Avera St. Luke's Hospital. This project has a capacity of six students. This year they will have four students. The project also has a couple of internships sites outside of Avera St. Luke's – one at Kesslers and another at the Barnett Center on the NSU campus.

Project Skills: This program is in the process of transitioning to a new director/ coordinator. Last year, there were a total of 20 students who participated in Project Skills. This project is a collaborative effort between the school district, DRS, DSBVI, Office of Special Education, and employers. Of the 20 students who participated last year, 16 were placed into jobs. Four attempted work but for various reasons were not successful in those attempts.

Transition Learning Campus: This program started on the campus of Presentation College, but recently it has moved to the Northern State University campus. There will be nine students this year. None of them will live on campus. They will be provided services on campus. Students can participate in this program for a total of two years. If they participate for two years, the second year is primarily focused on employment related experiences. Students often receive their first taste of employment while in school through Project Skills. Following that time, they move into the program of the Transition Learning

Campus to learn more independent living skills. The final step for some, seeking to delve deeper into employment options, may be Project SEARCH. For others, it may be actual job seeking time.



September 12 – 13, 2018

This meeting was held at the AmericInn in Ft. Pierre.

New Member Orientation: The Governor made appointments to the Board at the end of July. Consequently, new member orientation occurred at this meeting. Current members were invited to participate in this portion of the meeting. Key elements of the orientation were: an overview of the Department of Human Services and the Division of Rehabilitation Services, an explanation of the five main DRS program areas, history of the Rehabilitation Act, the Board's role, and the benefits the Board brings to the VR program, as well as an overview of their responsibilities, including evaluating the VR program effectiveness.

Prior Approval and Re-Allotment: Both of these items originated at the federal level. The need for prior approval of certain expenditures was explained, as well as the steps DRS has taken in response to this requirement. In terms of re-allotment, it was explained that once a year, states inform the federal agency if they are not going to be able to fully spend all of their allotted federal funds. At that time, those funds become available to other states that have need for additional funds. DRS typically has requested and received some of these funds. They have never relinquished funds.

Application Packet: DRS is working with a marketing firm to revise the information provided to individuals when they apply for VR services. The expectation is that these new materials will be available for the Board's review at their next meeting.

New Transportation Support Options: DRS is presently exploring ways it may purchase needed transportation services for those served by using available providers e.g., Lyft vs. cab service. They are presently piloting a project making use of this resource and will provide an update at a future meeting.

Division of Developmental Disabilities – Update on Employment Services: Recent changes to the Division's CHOICES waiver are "based on the belief that all individuals with developmental disabilities can work, have positive social relationships, and be supported..." The major service areas under the waiver are: (1) individual supported employment; (2) group supported employment; (3) career exploration (formerly pre-vocational); and (4) day services. These changes were just implemented in June, and it was agreed that it would be beneficial to continue dialogue between the Board and the Division as more time passes.



Board of Vocational Rehabilitation Governor's Awards Ceremony



Outstanding Citizens with a Disability Recipients
Catherine Greseth



Enma Lemus Arriaga



Outstanding Employee
with a Disability
Recipient
Ryan Bartz



GOVERNOR
DENNIS
DAUGAARD
PRESENTING
2018
GOVERNOR'S
AWARDS



Outstanding Transition
Services Recipient
Dave Halverson



Outstanding Employer
(Small Employer Category)
Recipient
Burger King #1181 - Mobridge



Outstanding Employer
(Large Employer Category)
Recipient
Global Polymer - Madison



Outstanding Employer
(Other Category)
Recipient
Outdoor Campus West
South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks -
Rapid City

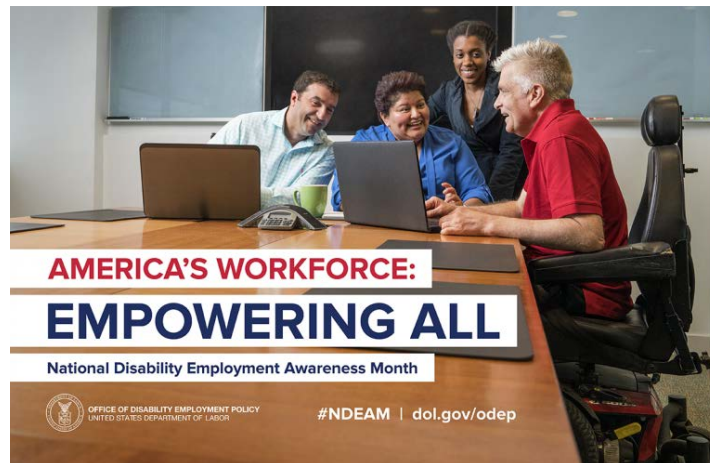
Board of Vocational Rehabilitation Quarterly Meeting Highlights

Changes to Graduation Requirements: The last changes, previous to these, were in 2009. An explanation comparing the old and new requirements was presented, and as of this week, the Department of Education is distributing materials relating to the changes. The flexibility the new standards provides does not mean there are lowered expectations for some students. High expectations continue to be held for all students, and the flexibility is seen as a way to support all students in reaching their goals.

Client Satisfaction Survey Process: In response to earlier conversations the Board has had on this topic, DRS is discussing how to increase the response rate, and how to gather information from individuals whose cases are closed as unsuccessful. Their first priority is to increase the response rate, and they are open to ideas as to how this may be accomplished. One suggestion made was that the survey come from the Board Chairperson rather than the Division. In terms of the second item, gathering information from cases closed unsuccessfully – there continues to be uncertainty about what questions to ask and what process to use to gather this information. DRS will provide the Board with a sample of the current survey instrument, as well as an outline of the current survey process. This will be an agenda item for the December meeting.

Post-Secondary Supports for Youth and Students with Disabilities: DRS has seen a significant portion of case service expenditures directed towards post-secondary supports for participants of all ages. In the past couple of years, between 300 – 400 individuals received post-secondary supports. Over \$1 million of case service funds supported these services. Under WIOA, 15% of the VR grant must be used for Pre-Employment Transition services for students with disabilities. There are programs in Aberdeen, Sioux Falls and Mitchell specifically designed to provide such services, and an overview of these programs was provided to the Board. This was followed by some examples of the individualized nature of students served and the variables involved with each that impact what services are provided to them. Considerable dialogue followed which concluded with two Board members volunteering to draft a document from the Board to consider concerning policy impacts on students with ID in post-secondary education. This will be an agenda item for the December meeting.

Board of Vocational Rehabilitation National Disability Employment Awareness Month Activities



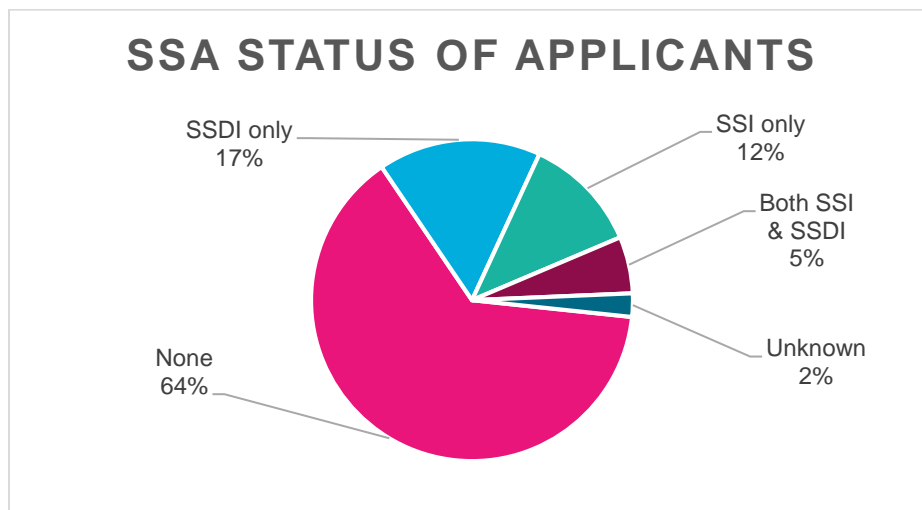
Annually, October is declared National Disability Employment Awareness Month. The Board, collaborates with the Board of Service to the Blind and the Statewide Independent Living Council to support activities throughout the state recognizing the contributions of people with disabilities within our communities' workforces. This year was no different. Governor Dugaard joined by declaring October as Disability Employment Awareness Month in South Dakota.

Events were held in thirteen communities across the state – Aberdeen, Brookings, Volga, Madison, Mitchell, Mobridge, Pierre, Rapid City, Sioux Falls, Sisseton, Vermillion, Watertown, and Yankton.

Over 2,200 individuals participated in these events. Participants included people of all ages – fifth grade and older. They included a diverse cross-section of each community: self-advocates, family members, service providers, public and private employers – large and small, educators, and many other components of each community.

Division of Rehabilitation Services 2018 Outcomes

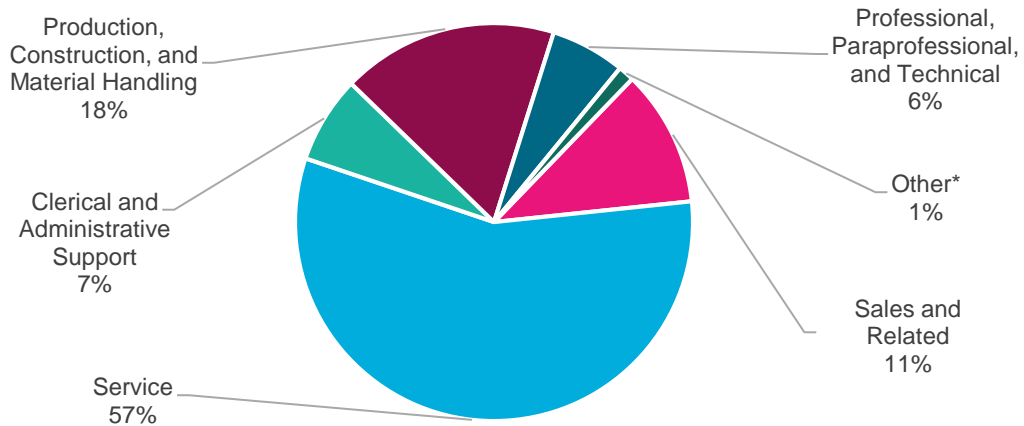
The Board's responsibilities include: reviewing, analyzing and advising the agency; developing, agreeing to, and reviewing State goals and priorities; advising and assisting in the preparation of the State Plan; reviewing and analyzing the effectiveness of consumer satisfaction; preparing an annual report to the Governor; coordinating activities with other councils in the State; coordinating relations between the Designated State Agency and SILC/ CILs; and performing other functions are appropriate. Below are outcomes the Board wishes to highlight from their reviews of the past year.



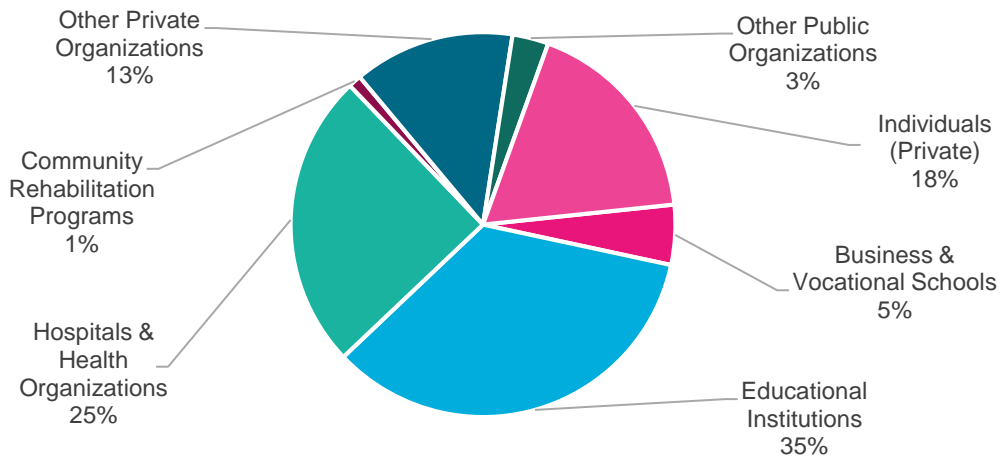
AVERAGE EMPLOYMENT DATA BY TYPE OF EMPLOYMENT

Employment Type	Total Cases	Weekly Hours at IPE	Weekly Wage at IPE	Weekly Hours at Closure	Weekly Wage at Closure
Competitive Integrated Employment*	560	5.9	\$62.95	28.6	\$336.44
Supported Employment	119	4.7	\$39.13	19.4	\$197.82
Self-Employment	14	6.1	\$157.35	25.0	\$450.53
All Employment Types	693	5.7	\$60.76	26.9	\$314.94

EMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES BY CATEGORY



PAYMENTS BY VENDOR TYPE



THE DRS VR PROGRAM, BY THE NUMBERS:

693: SUCCESSFUL CLOSURES
439: PROJECT SKILLS STUDENTS
4,973: TOTAL # SERVED
2,284: TOTAL # SERVED YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES
2,174: TOTAL # OF APPLICANTS
35: AVERAGE AGE OF APPLICANTS
51.6%: SOUTH DAKOTA'S EMPLOYMENT RATE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES – 2ND HIGHEST IN THE NATION

Board of Vocational Rehabilitation Seeks Public Input

The Board is committed to hearing from the public on matters relating to the provision of vocational rehabilitation services in South Dakota under the Division of Rehabilitation Services. Consequently, all regular and special Board meetings are announced in advance, open and accessible to the public.

The Board also holds public hearings and forums as they deem them necessary. These, too, are announced in advance, open and accessible to the public.

All meetings are called by the Board Chairperson, in cooperation with DRS and Board staff, as stipulated in the bylaws.

If you wish to let the Board know your thoughts on the provision of vocational rehabilitation services, you may reach them in the following ways:

Phone: 605.945.2207 or toll-free 1.800.210.0143

Write: Board of Vocational Rehabilitation
221 South Central Avenue, Suite 34A
Pierre, South Dakota 57501

Attend: Meetings – copies of agendas can be obtained by contacting Board staff at the above phone numbers or by going to the State of South Dakota Boards and Commissions portal at

<http://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/>

At this site you may also access additional Board information such as member listing and past meeting minutes. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Board, a nomination form is also available or you may request it from Board staff or DRS.

