

Cooperation and Coordination with Other Agencies and Other Entities

Cooperation with Agencies that Are Not in the Statewide Workforce Investment System and Other Entities

The Divisions of Rehabilitation Services (DRS or Division) and Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired (SBVI) have an excellent working relationship with the Workforce Investment System in South Dakota. The cooperation between our agencies is done by formal written agreements and informal arrangements. South Dakota has chosen not to do an early implementation as an option in the Work Force Investment Act for Unified State Plans with the Department of Labor by July 1, 1999. The Division of Rehabilitation Services became an official partner in the Unified State Plan implemented on July 1st, 2000.

Formal Memorandum of Understanding with Statewide Workforce Investment

The Division of Rehabilitation Services has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding on 7/1/2000 with the South Dakota Department of Labor. South Dakota is considered as a “Single State Local Area” in the Workforce Development Act. There is only one statewide Memorandum of Understanding with the State Workforce Development Council. The Memorandum of Understanding with the Workforce Development Council encompasses all local areas. This agreement addresses:

- Agency Financial Responsibility;
- Conditions, Terms, and procedures of Reimbursement;
- Interagency Disputes;
- Coordination of Services Procedures;
- Cost Allocation Plan; and
- Referral Procedures.

Participation in Councils

The State of South Dakota has selected the option to continue with the current council composition. This option to continue with the current composition is allowed in the WIA for councils that were in place on December 31st, 1997. The Workforce Development Council currently has a member from the Division or Rehabilitation Services.

Career Centers

The South Dakota Department of Labor certifies local Career Centers in South Dakota. South Dakota Department of Labor has 14 Career Centers Districts. In addition to these 14 locations, four other locations are sub offices of the Career Centers. Each local Career Center has a local council established. The public Vocational Rehabilitation program is represented on each of these local councils. The Department of Human Services has Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors in twelve communities throughout the state. In nine of these communities, the Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors are co-located with the Department of Labor. Co-location of the remaining three offices has not yet occurred as a result of the availability of office space. In offices where agencies are co-located, our agencies share computer systems, office machines, and equipment. Collaboration of services between agencies is continually occurring at these office locations.

Federal, State and Local Agencies and Programs

Formal Agreement for Access to the Unsanitized Job Service Listings

In January of 1997, a Cooperative Agreement was developed between the Department of Human Services (DHS) and the Department of Labor (DOL). The purpose of this agreement was to develop arrangements for staff from the Department of Human Services to have access to the Job Service Listings in DOL's computer system. The Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors benefit from having access to this information in assisting consumers to obtain employment. Having access to this system helps identify employment openings close to the consumer's home and employers who have historically been more open to hiring individuals with disabilities.

Memorandum of Understanding for Migrant Seasonal Worker Program

In April of 1999, a Memorandum of Understanding was developed between the Department of Human Services (DHS) and the Black Hills Special Services Cooperative for the provision of coordinating services and expenses for individuals who were being served by the Migrant Seasonal Worker Program.

Formal Agreement for Information Follow-up Project

Since 1997, the Division of Rehabilitation Services has been participating in the Department of Labor's Information Follow-up Project. This project combines electronic data from the Department of Human Services, Department of Labor, Department of Education and Cultural Affairs, Technical Institutes, Board of Regents, Public Universities, Department of Corrections, Department of Social Services, and the Department of Commerce and Regulations. This project provides information on the number of consumers involved with other agencies. This program is also able to provide a summary report on individuals who were rehabilitated in previous years by the Vocational Rehabilitation program.

Project Skills

The Division of Rehabilitation Services has cooperative agreements with local school districts through out South Dakota for the provision of transition services. This program provides paid work experiences in student's career areas to help them prepare for adulthood and the world of work.

Vocational Adjustment Counseling Program

The Division of Rehabilitation Services has a cooperative agreement with the Sioux Falls School District to fund half of a vocational rehabilitation counselor's position. This vocational rehabilitation counselor participates in the school's vocational adjustment counseling program.

Memorandum of Understanding with Department of Corrections and the Department of Health

In January of 2005, the Department of Human Services entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Corrections (DOC) and the Department of Health (DOH) in order to define administrative responsibilities and fiscal accountabilities for the following programs: (1) substance abuse services for adults and juveniles in DOC institutions; (2) mental health services for adults and juveniles in DOC institutions; (3) guardianship and placement of juveniles in DOC in relation to the provision of services at the Human Services Center (HSC) and the South Dakota Developmental Center (SDDC); (4) physical health services provided by DOH for adults and juveniles in DOC institutions, dental services provided to patients and inmates at HSC and SDDC; and (5) minimum utilization at HSC and SDDC.

Interagency cooperation with, and utilization of the services and facilities of the Federal, State, and local agencies and programs, including programs carried out by the Under Secretary for Rural Development of the United States Department of Agriculture

The State VR Agencies do not have any agreements under the Secretary for Rural Development of the US Department of Agricultural. DRS and SBVI have the following formal cooperative agreements with agencies who do not carry out activities through the statewide workforce investment system.

State Use Law

The State of South Dakota does have a “State Use Law” as described in South Dakota Codified Law §5-20-4. The Department of Human Services has prepared a list of products and custodial/maintenance services offered by qualified agencies. The Department updated this list and furnished a copy to the Bureau of Administration on September 2nd, 1998.