

**SOUTH DAKOTA
STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL**

**BOARD OF
VOCATIONAL
REHABILITATION**

**ANNUAL REPORT
OF ACTIVITIES FOR
FISCAL YEAR
2013**

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

December 27, 2013

Governor Dennis Daugaard
State Capitol Building
500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Governor Daugaard:

On behalf of the Board of Vocational Rehabilitation (South Dakota's State Rehabilitation Council), we are pleased to provide you with a copy of our annual report. The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, specifies that a report be submitted to you and the Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration on an annual basis.

The following pages reflect the activity of the Board and Division of Rehabilitation Services (Division) this past year. Activities reflect a wide range of services designed to assist individuals with disabilities prepare for and engage in gainful employment, all of which has had a tremendous impact on the lives of South Dakotans with disabilities. One outcome is that 861 individuals with disabilities accomplished their employment goals in careers of their choice as a result of services received from the Division. Another outcome is 390 students with disabilities had a paid work experience during their high school transition process.

The Board and Division will continue working cooperatively to provide services to citizens with disabilities seeking employment, and we thank you for your support of our efforts.

Respectfully,

Elaine Roberts, Chairperson

Cc: Board Members
Janet LaBreck, RSA Commissioner
Julya Doyle, RSA Liaison

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

December 27, 2013

RSA Commissioner Janet LaBreck
Potomac Center Plaza
550 12th Street, SW,
Washington, DC 20202

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The following pages reflect the activity of the Board and Division of Rehabilitation Services (Division) this past year. Activities reflect a wide range of services designed to assist individuals with disabilities prepare for and engage in gainful employment, all of which has had a tremendous impact on the lives of South Dakotans with disabilities. One outcome is that 861 individuals with disabilities accomplished their employment goals in careers of their choice as a result of services received from the Division. Another outcome is 390 students with disabilities had a paid work experience during their high school transition process.

The Board and Division will continue working cooperatively to provide services to citizens with disabilities seeking employment, and we thank you for your support of our efforts.

Respectfully,

Elaine Roberts, Chairperson

Cc: Board Members
Julya Doyle, RSA Liaison

South Dakota's State Rehabilitation Council Board of Vocational Rehabilitation

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The **State Rehabilitation Council** – is established in Section 105 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (Act) and 34 CFR 361.16-361.17 of its implementing regulations.

The State Rehabilitation Council - known in South Dakota as the **Board of Vocational Rehabilitation** (BVR or Board) – gives advice to and works in partnership with the general vocational rehabilitation agency in South Dakota - **Division of Rehabilitation Services**.

The **Board of Vocational Rehabilitation** plays a significant role in ensuring that the vocational rehabilitation program operates effectively and remains responsive to the needs of those served.

The **Board of Vocational Rehabilitation** works in partnership with the **Division of Rehabilitation Services** in developing policies, planning activities, evaluating program effectiveness and carrying out other functions related to the vocational rehabilitation program.

The working relationship between the **Board of Vocational Rehabilitation** and the **Division of Rehabilitation Services** is a partnership focused on ensuring that individuals with disabilities receive appropriate, timely, and effective vocational rehabilitation services.

BOARD OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION MEMBERSHIP

The State Rehabilitation Council - Board of Vocational Rehabilitation (Board) - is appointed by the Governor to assist the Division of Rehabilitation Services (Division) to develop and evaluate employment services for South Dakotans with disabilities.

The Board's fifteen members are a cross-section of South Dakotans who have a stake in vocational rehabilitation services. They are selected based on personal qualifications and the needs of the Board. Members serve three year terms.

The Board works jointly with the Division to develop and annually review vocational rehabilitation goals and priorities. In addition, the Board contributes to the study of consumer satisfaction and customer service needs.

Elaine Roberts
Sioux Falls
Chairperson

Craig Eschenbaum
Aberdeen
Vice Chairperson

Brett Glirbas
Sioux Falls
Member-At-Large

Melissa Flor
Pierre

Colleen Moran
Hartford

Lyle Cook
Eagle Butte

Chad Maxon
Rapid City

Carol Kirchgesler
Aberdeen

Robert Kean
Pierre

Leo Hallan
Yankton

Eric Weiss
Pierre

Matt Cain
Sioux Falls

Darla McGuire
Ethan

Joe Rehurek
Yankton

Patricia Kuglitsch
Sioux Falls

Staff:
Faith Korkow
Colette Wagoner

ABOUT THE BOARD

Meetings

All meetings are announced, open and accessible to the public. The Board also holds hearings and forums, as they deem necessary. Special meetings may be called by the Chairperson, in cooperation with Division and Board staff, as stipulated in the bylaws.

Committees

Three standing committees assist the Board in its work. Committees use conference calls, video conferencing and face-to-face meetings to conduct business. The work of the committees is reported at each quarterly Board meeting for consideration and action. The committees are noted below with their assigned activities.

Executive Committee: This committee may act on behalf of the Board to perform necessary business matters between regular meetings, provided their actions receive concurrence of the full Board. They bring recommendations to the full Board on the following: annual report, state plan, staff support agreement, new member orientation, legislative agenda and meeting agendas.

Consumer Services Committee: This committee is involved with the consumer satisfaction survey, review of the Division's goals and strategies, recommendation of systems change priorities, collaborating with the Division's Futures Initiative workgroup, policy review and recommendations, and public meeting topics and process.

Public Awareness Committee: This committee focuses on National Disability Employment Awareness Month activities and the annual Governor's Awards ceremony.

Meetings

December 13-14,
2012
Oacoma

March 25-26
2013
Sioux Falls

June 6-7
2013
Aberdeen

September 12-13
2013
Mitchell

BOARD ACTIVITIES

State Plan/Public Meetings/Public Input

The Board and Division are committed to gathering, reviewing and analyzing information through various means i.e., meeting with consumers and family members, conversations with other boards, councils, associations, and activities with employers and human resource managers. Board meetings have been scheduled to coincide with other groups in an effort to learn from one another and identify ways to enhance collaboration.

The information is considered when reviewing and updating the Division's State Plan. This document sets the course of how to best serve South Dakotans with disabilities with employment goals. The State Plan is a "plan in progress" which is evaluated on an ongoing basis. Board members and Division staff utilize comments to best gauge progress towards meeting agency goals.

Over the years, the chairpersons of the Board of Vocational Rehabilitation, Board of Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired and Statewide Independent Living Council have met periodically. The chairpersons act as liaisons to their respective groups. Discussions have involved collaborative efforts such as disseminating a joint solicitation for nominations for respective boards/councils, a review committee of the Governor's Awards and National Disability Employment Awareness Month activities, and collaboration on the Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment (CSNA). The two boards and their staff are developing an agenda for a joint meeting to be held in December 2013. This meeting will also include a new member orientation for members of both boards.

The two Boards and the Divisions of Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired and Rehabilitation Services have a contract with the University of Northern Colorado/Center for Technical Assistance and Training (CTAT), and Technical Assistance and Continuing Education (TACE) Region 8, and Robert Jahner to conduct the Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment for South Dakota.

BOARD ACTIVITIES CONTINUED

State Plan/Public Meetings/Public Input — Continued

Robert Jahner was involved with conducting the statewide needs assessment study three years ago and will be the point of contact for our state. The Chairpersons will serve on the CSNA Executive Committee, along with Division staff, to oversee the information gathering, make recommendations regarding goals and communicate with the full boards and stakeholders. Robert Jahner will attend the December 2013 meeting to brief both boards. The information gathered by the CSNA will attempt to determine the vocational rehabilitation needs of people with disabilities in the state to guide the development of future state plans.

Information obtained through other activities is utilized in the development of future state plans. Members attend various functions throughout the reporting period to listen and learn (i.e., Partners in Policymaking listening sessions, regional transition forums, Catch the Wave, Chamber of Commerce Business after Hours gatherings, Project SEARCH open house, National Disability Employment Awareness Month activities).

Board meetings are moved around the state to provide an opportunity for individuals to attend and address the Board, either through the ‘public comment’ period of each meeting, or during additional time set aside to meet with a specific group. This rotation of meeting sites provides an opportunity to hear from individuals of what is working, what could be improved, and brainstorm ideas of how to better serve individuals with disabilities across the state.

During this reporting period the Board developed a “Public Comment” outline which accompanies each meeting agenda to demonstrate that time is set aside each meeting for “Public Comment”. The outline defines how a person can provide comment i.e., in person, written, oral, or electronic communication. The information provides staff contact information if an individual(s) has other comments or questions.

ACTIVITIES...

December 2012 Meeting

SD Disability Employment Initiative Presentation: Staff from the Department of Labor and Regulation and Black Hills Special Services Cooperative provided an overview of grant goals: improved coordination and collaboration among the numerous available employment and training programs; build effective community partnerships to better leverage resources; and better serve individuals with disabilities with positive employment outcomes. Objectives in South Dakota included recruit/enroll 200 participants ages 18-24, over a 3 year period, in a seven county area. An “integrated team approach” is utilized to meet each participants needs i.e., family members, natural supports, teachers, case managers, VR counselors, benefit specialist, job coach, Project Skills coordinator, WIA representative. A “How To” guide will be created to allow for replication in other parts of the state. The Board offered its support for the continuation of this grant and its methodology in offering targeted services.

Survey of Parents of Children with Hearing Loss: This survey was requested by the Governor’s Office and was a collaborative effort between the Board of Regents, SD School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, SD School for the Deaf and the Department of Human Services. When available, a full report complete with survey results and recommendations will be provided to the Board.

Department of Human Services Strategic Plan: A draft of long term and short term goals were developed for the Department of Human Services following a Legislative Sunset Review conducted on the agency and changes within the Department’s structure the previous year (two divisions heavily funded by Medicaid were moved to the Department of Social Services). The Department Secretary solicited feedback on the strategic plan from different entities. The Board spent time reviewing and discussing the document and provided the Department Secretary with several recommendations. Many of the Board’s recommendations were incorporated into the final document.

ACTIVITIES...

Futures Initiative: Several years ago the Division started “Futures” - a project designed for vocational rehabilitation staff who are interested in moving into a new, different, or expanded role with the agency. Futures members are given the opportunity to expand their knowledge, skills, and abilities by taking leadership roles in project development and participating in quality training to become exemplary leaders. Division staff provides updates at various meetings during the reporting period, and the Board supports this initiative and its vision for succession planning.

Provider Survey Instrument: The Consumer Services Committee reviewed a draft provider survey instrument developed by Division staff. The survey was designed to identify the training needs of providers the Division works with, to learn more about barriers that hinder attendance, and suggestions to increase provider participation. The committee reviewed the recommendations and solicited input from the Board which included training need areas i.e., employment, disability, and disability aspects. The results were shared at the March meeting.

Due Process Guide: The guidelines for the due process procedures were revised, providing better clarification on instructions and implementation of due process. A sample letter to a consumer was added to the materials. This guide was shared with Board of Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired and general public for additional feedback, as well as posted on the Division’s website.

Examination of Public Comment Period during Board Meetings: The Consumer Services Committee drafted an outline for the public comment period during board meetings which was addressed on page 8. The Board reviewed the outline and recommended that it be attached with each meeting agenda. All meeting agendas are posted on the Department’s website as well as posted at their business offices.

Liz Fabiano Training Updates: The Board was kept apprised of staff training in using cognitive motivational tools to negotiate behavior change in consumers. Counselors are learning to assess a client’s situation and learning to be more effective with time and resources. These new methods have had an impact on VR numbers which reflect improved outcomes and success for individuals with disabilities.

ACTIVITIES...

March 2013 Meeting

Meeting with Sioux Falls Business Resource Network (BRN) Director and Board: The Board met with BRN Board members and staff for an update on activities and to hear of issues that businesses are bringing forward. BRN is a liaison linking employers, general public, people with disabilities who are job hunting and service providers. There was discussion about activities completed which address public education, inclusion, accessibility and the promotion of employment of people with disabilities. Employers/human resource managers/businesses are bringing forth issues pertaining to accommodation requests, disability etiquette training, and various questions about hiring people with disabilities. Dialogue continued about ways that the Board and Division can better partner with BRN.

Application for Funding Requests: The Board revisited their funding application guidelines to clarify the process. The Chairperson appointed an ad hoc committee to review the application forms/process, and encouraged all members to provide ideas regarding the documents. Original documents were forwarded to the full board seeking input, in addition to re-drafted items prior to the June meeting. Action was delayed on approving the funding application forms until the September meeting.

Disability Summit/Public Gathering in Mobridge: The Board and Division were invited to co-sponsor a public gathering in May along with the following partners: Standing Rock Vocational Rehabilitation Program, Board of Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired, Statewide Independent Living Council, SD Advocacy Services, SD Parent Connection, and SD Council on Developmental Disabilities. In working with the Standing Rock Vocational Rehabilitation Program, it was determined that the best approach would be “summit style” with agencies and staff sharing materials and information in a casual atmosphere. The Board awarded funding in support of this event.

ACTIVITIES...

National Disability Employment Awareness Month: The Board approved financial support to eleven communities as recommended by the review committee, which had representation of Board of Vocational Rehabilitation, Board of Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired and Statewide Independent Living Council (additional financial support was also provided by the Board of SBVI and Council). These events provide information and education to the public regarding the strengths and talents that people with disabilities bring to the workforce. An event was also held in Eagle Butte hosted by the Oun'yekiyapi Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program having local, tribal, state and federal programs present.

Department of Veterans Affairs—VR and Employment Program (VR &E): The VR & E staff attended and shared information about their program with the Board. Services provided to eligible veterans were outlined: accommodations, assistive technology, specialized training and independent living skills training. A veteran/consumer shared his story of returning from the war front, working with the VA, types of services he received, living independently, and becoming successfully employed.

June 2013 Meeting

Youth Leadership Forum: The June meeting was scheduled to coincide with the Youth Leadership Forum held at Northern State University in Aberdeen. Several members were involved with planning and participating in activities working with students. Members had the opportunity to attend activities and to witness students in action during this unique career and leadership training and to visit with students, parents, and others.

Avera St. Luke's Hospital—Drive Smart - Driver Evaluation Program: Staff from Avera St. Luke's Hospital shared information with members about the driving rehabilitation program. It was explained that this program evaluates a person's driving skills and provides rehabilitation as needed. The clinical evaluation, driving rehabilitation therapy and behind the wheel assessment were discussed. One of the challenges for South Dakota is the limited driver rehabilitation programs in the state, this being the only one of its kind. Members were encouraged to spread the word about this available service.

ACTIVITIES...

Disability Summit/Public Gathering in Mobridge: This item was reported on page 11, but additional dialogue continued during the June meeting. The Board noted the importance of having personal connections with different programs and people to host a successful event. The Board representative of the American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation Program was instrumental in spearheading this event. Attendees were from the surrounding area and schools. The topic of North Dakota purchasing services from South Dakota providers was raised, knowing the Standing Rock Reservation covers an area within both states - indicative of a more seamless service delivery system - requiring more conversation with the North Dakota VR Director.

State Plan Submission: March is the typical timeframe when the Division presents the required annual updates to the State Plan. Board members receive draft copies of items to review. In addition, the Consumer Services Committee met in May and reviewed the attachments requiring updates. It was during this meeting that the committee reported to the full board their review and outlined their recommendations. Members were provided further opportunity to provide input, as well as the documents being posted on the Division's website for additional comment. The Committee also reported their initial discussion on the Statewide Needs Assessment, regarding the contract, consultant, and information gathering phase.

Time for Brainstorming: The Department Secretary suggested that time be allotted on each agenda for "brainstorming" during her visit a year ago. During the June meeting, dialogue continued on hosting public gatherings/ listening sessions or disability summits. The need was expressed of identifying a tribal reservation without an American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation Program to disseminate information on available services and programs. It was emphasized that these types of meetings help build relationships among state, tribal partners and community members. Returning to areas will also help build trust and people will become acquainted, comfortable with faces, names, and titles of programs. This will remain a topic of discussion for the Board, as there are five reservations without an American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation Program and there is a need to share disability related information.

ACTIVITIES...

September 2013 Meeting

New Members and New Director: Three new members were welcomed at the September meeting, in addition to a new Division Director. Time was spent becoming acquainted with one another and learning how to better support one another in their role as a board member. It was noted that a new member orientation would be held in conjunction with a future meeting. There was also conversation about hosting a joint meeting and orientation with the Board of Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired.

Promise Grant: Division staff reported that South Dakota was among a consortium of six states which received a federal initiative “Promoting Readiness of Minors in Supplemental Security Income” (PROMISE) grant which will design and implement interventions for youth ages 14-16 who receive SSI and their families. The overall goal is to identify interventions to impact youth’s education and employment, and reduce a household’s dependence upon public benefits.

Vocational Rehabilitation and Provider Relationships: VR staff from the Mitchell office provided information to members about the role of VR, assisting individuals with disabilities in obtaining/maintaining employment, provider and school referrals, and working with mobile work crews, enclave placements and other employment settings. Information was exchanged about working with transition age youth, the Project Skills program, and participating in IEP meetings. Staff from Career Connections/LifeQuest spoke to the role of the employment specialist, job specialist, service coordinator, and residential services coordinator and how they partner with vocational rehabilitation services. Consumer choice was highlighted by all, referring to the person’s employment plan and speaking to the importance of partnerships between agencies and programs. A person with a disability spoke to the services he received through LifeQuest, Career Connections and Vocational Rehabilitation Services. He talked about his choice to work part-time, because of not wanting to lose services provided through the Home and Community Based Services waiver. His story also included living independently and his options for transportation.

ACTIVITIES...

RSA National State Rehabilitation Council Forum: The Chairperson reported on her attendance at the forum highlighting the following objectives: empowering Councils, partnerships with State Vocational Rehabilitation Agencies and advocacy for improvements in the public VR program. Sessions she attended: Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment; Effective State Goals and Priorities; Participation in Policy Development; SRC Empowerment; SRC Membership Issues; SRC Roles and Responsibilities; State Plan Development; and Program Financial Management. The information was made available to members.

Eagle Butte Catch the Wave Event: Two members reported on a “Catch the Wave” event scheduled to be held in Eagle Butte for the first time. Both members were involved with scheduling and planning. This is a one-day event for students with disabilities in high school who are considering post-secondary education. Attendees will hear about college life and from presenters i.e., disability service coordinators, SD Parent Connection, Job Corps, VR, Transition Services and college students. It was noted this type of event shares information with those living in the most rural areas of the state. (The Boards of VR and SBVI and Statewide Independent Living Council provided financial support of this event.)

Miscellaneous Items:

Proposed Slate of Officers: The election of officers was delayed until the September meeting due to a lack of quorum at the June meeting. There was discussion of succession planning, term limits, etc. and as a result, two additional members were nominated to serve on the Executive Committee as additional officers.

Appointments: The Board consults with the Board of Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired and Statewide Independent Living Council about the need to fulfill vacancies and soliciting nominations statewide. Nominations were sought for vacancies during the March/April timeframe and appointments and reappointments were made in July.

ACTIVITIES...

Fall Conference 2013: The Fall Conference is a collaboration of agencies providing presentations in the areas of vocational rehabilitation services, community employment services and transition services for students with disabilities. With the theme “Beyond the Yellow Ribbon,” the 2013 conference focused on working with veterans with disabilities when they return home as well as working with students with disabilities as they transition to employment or adult services. About 200 people from across South Dakota registered for the conference, which was sponsored by the South Dakota RehabACTion Network. The network focuses exclusively on the programs established and funded under the federal Rehabilitation Act to assist people with disabilities to become employed and live independently. This is one of many types of conferences that the Board encourages its members to attend - to learn from presenters and attendees (what is happening in different parts of our state, and what the needs are).

Employment Initiatives: The Board and Division realize the importance of linkages with the business community and employers. Division staff and Board members have been identified to work with different projects and reports are provided at meetings to keep members informed. Initiatives include: Project Skills, Employer Resource Network, Project SEARCH, and Business Resource Network. The Board acknowledges that work in this area needs to continue to address employer needs, labor force issues and training needs.

Governor’s Awards Ceremony: The Board of Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired, Statewide Independent Living, and Board of Vocational Rehabilitation as well as the Department of Human Services hosted the Governor’s Awards ceremony. This annual event recognizes the efforts of individuals, employers, and organizations for their contributions to the employment of persons with disabilities in South Dakota.

Board Staff Support: The Division of Rehabilitation Services has an agreement with the South Dakota Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities to provide staff support to the Board of Vocational Rehabilitation and the Statewide Independent Living Council. This is a vendor agreement for the procurement of goods and services, effective June 2013 through May 2014.

Vocational Rehabilitation at a Glance

The Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Program is a comprehensive program designed to assist individuals with significant disabilities in making career decisions and reaching their employment goals.

Who We Serve

- The Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Program served 5,264 South Dakotans with disabilities.
- There were 2,288 new applicants this last year.
- The average age of the applicant was 36.3 years of age.
- 37% of eligible VR participants had two or more serious functional limitations.
- 32% of Vocational Rehabilitation's participants were transition age (16 to 24 years of age at application).
- 32% of Vocational Rehabilitation's participants reported a serious mental illness as their primary disability.
- 34.9% of VR participants received either Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI).

Vocational Rehabilitation's Outcomes

- 861 Vocational Rehabilitation participants obtained employment.
- Upon completion of the VR program, participants will be working an average of 28.6 hours per week.
- Participants successful with their employment will generate \$12,750,618 combined annual earnings.
- Of those obtaining employment, 170 (19.7%) utilized formal supports with an average wage of \$8.59/hr.
- The average hourly wage of individuals employed was \$9.96 after receiving vocational rehabilitation services.

Vocational Rehabilitation at a Glance



Samuel's Story

Samuel and his family were unaware of the resources in the community, until he met a vocational rehabilitation counselor in high school. He has autism and learning disabilities.

Prior to this, Samuel had no work experience, but he had a love for computers! In high school there was a computer programming contest in Vermillion (Java). This was a team contest; however Samuel entered it on his own. To the disappointment of the other teams, Samuel won and took the grand prize - a laptop computer.

While working with his vocational rehabilitation counselor during high school, Samuel learned of Project Skills. He participated in three different work experience opportunities with Killian College, City of Sioux Falls and Best Buy. He received life skills training through the Sioux Falls Community Campus where he learned cooking, budgeting, doing laundry and using the bus. He also participated in the summer transition program offered through Independent Living Choices.

Had Samuel not learned of the available supports and services, he would have been one who fell through the cracks. He was initially denied eligibility for services from SD Achieve due to his high IQ. However, South Dakota Advocacy Services and the Sioux Falls School District appealed this decision, and they were instrumental in assisting Samuel in obtaining services through the Division of Developmental Disabilities.

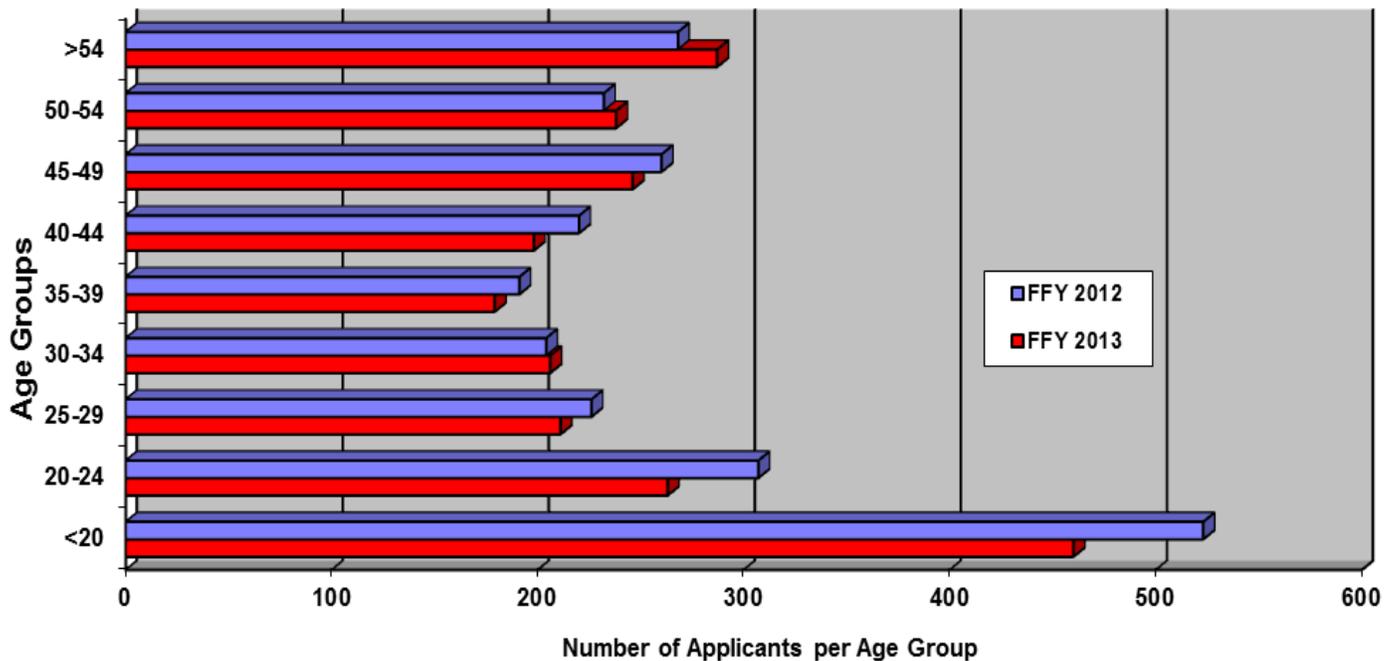
A number of people who knew Samuel recognized his interest with computers. His vocational rehabilitation counselor and job developer worked on getting Samuel into a computer training offered through New Horizons. The training was provided free of charge – an in-kind donation of \$2,500. When it came time for Samuel to test for certification, Vocational Rehabilitation Services paid for this testing and he received the A+ Certification. (A+ Certification proves competency in configuring and troubleshooting PC hardware and software).

Samuel is now 23 years old and works 35 hours a week at Heartland Computers. At some point in the future his Social Security benefits will switch from SSI to SSDI. Samuel has been with Heartland Computers since August 2012. He is working closely with his case manager, job developer, employer and a benefit specialist to ensure that as his earnings increase, he continues to have access to needed supports.

Vocational Rehabilitation at a Glance

The Division had a total of 2,288 individuals apply for vocational rehabilitation services in fiscal year 2013. The following chart depicts the number of applicants served per age group.

Number of Applicants Per Age Group



(10/01/2012 to 9/30/2013)

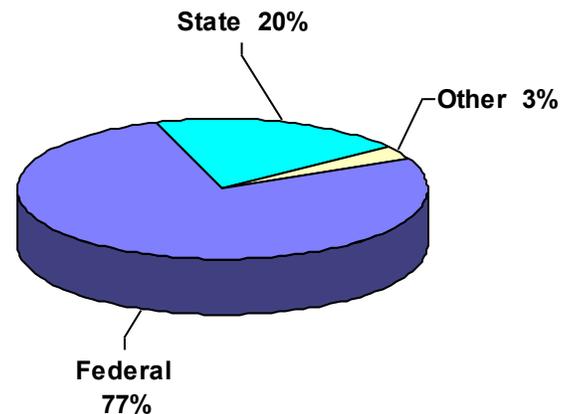
Vocational Rehabilitation Services at a Glance...

Vocational Rehabilitation provided vocational rehabilitation counseling, training and job placement services to 4,697 South Dakotans with disabilities.

Vocational Rehabilitation Services Serving a Diverse Population

Caucasian Only	77.2%
American Indian	14.6%
African American	4.6%
Asian	<1.6%
Pacific/Hawaiian	<1%

Vocational Rehabilitation Funding Sources in 2013



In fiscal year 2013, the average annual income of consumers rehabilitated was \$14,801.00.

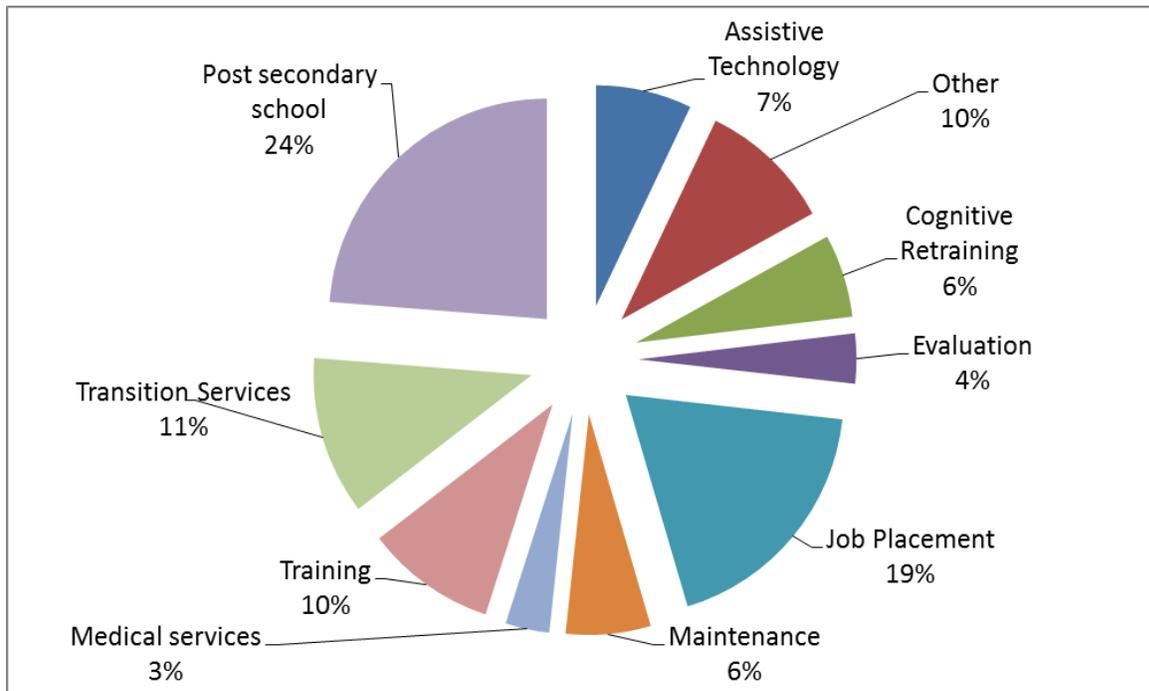
Prior to rehabilitation, the average income was \$2,489.76.

Vocational Rehabilitation Participants Receiving SSI/SSDI at Application

SSI	SSDI	SSI & SSDI	Total	Percent of Total VR Applicants
377	517	118	1012	44.2%

Vocational Rehabilitation Services at a Glance...

Vocational Rehabilitation Expenditures

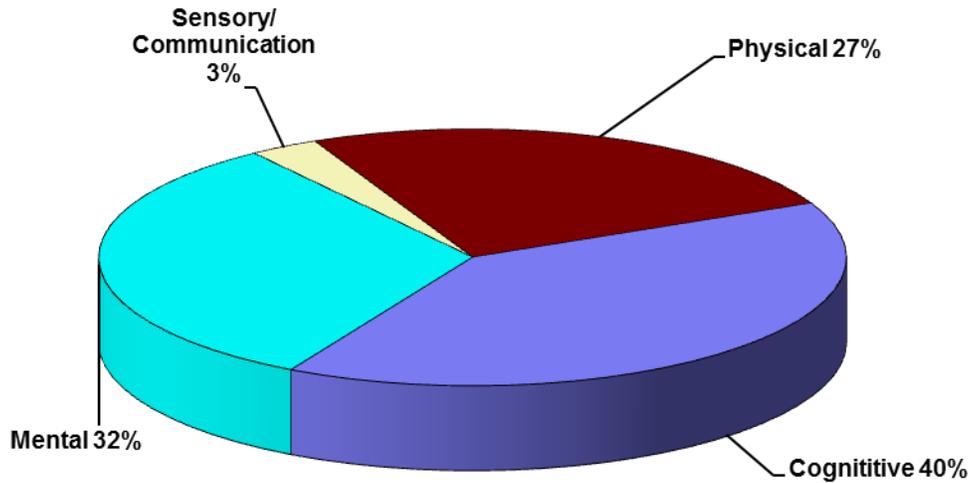


Fiscal Year 2013 Performance Outcomes

Performance Description	At Application	At Closure	Percent of Improvement
Increase in individuals obtaining medical insurance through employment	36	130	261%
Increase in individuals where wages are primary source of support	158	668	316%
Increase of weekly wages	\$47.88	\$284.79	495%

Vocational Rehabilitation Services at a Glance...

Primary Impairment for Eligible Consumers



The largest referral source for applicants is the individual themselves (self-referral); all categories include:

Referral Source	Percentage
Self	28%
Post & Secondary Education	17%
Mental Health Center	12%
Friends/Family	9%
Other	9%
Department of Labor	9%
Community Rehabilitation Programs	8%
Medical Agencies	3%
SSA	1%
Welfare	1%
Corrections/Lawyer	2%
Centers for Independent Living	<1%

Project Skills

Many students with significant disabilities do not have an opportunity to gain paid employment experience while in high school. This is an important learning, maturing and socializing experience. Although willing, most employers cannot afford the supports these students frequently require on their first job. The Divisions of Rehabilitation Services and Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired (SBVI) fund a program entitled "Project Skills" to address this need.

Project Skills is a cooperative arrangement between VR Agencies and local school systems. The State VR Agencies fund the wages, worker's compensation and FICA while the schools provide job development, job coaching and follow-along services for the student at the job site. A total of 390 students participated in the program this past year.

Vocational Rehabilitation Services at a Glance...

Natacha was living life - going to work on a daily basis – doing everyday activities – planning a wedding - just like you and me. She was working two jobs - one in a call center, and one as a security officer.



One day everything changed. She was riding on a motorcycle with her fiancé when they were hit by a drunk driver. In a blink of an eye she sustained a Traumatic Brain Injury – bilateral fractures of both upper extremities, a fractured left elbow and began experiencing major depression as a result of the accident and her major injuries.

Natacha was unable to meet the demands of employment at both the call center and as a security guard. It was time to think about different possibilities. She was engaged to be married, lived by herself, and after the accident, her mother moved in to help provide personal assistance to Natacha.

Natacha sought out Vocational Rehabilitation Services. Other providers assisting Natacha included the Department of Labor and Regulation Workforce Investment Act representative, Disability Employment Initiative representative, Benefit Specialist and an Employment Specialist/Consultant. This group became known as “Team Natacha”.

VR provided guidance and career counseling, and Natacha affirmed that her career interests remained in the law enforcement area. She received benefit analysis which included looking at the Medical Assistance for Workers with Disabilities (MAWD). MAWD is a program that provides medical coverage through Medicaid for individuals with disabilities who want to return to work and do not qualify for standard health insurance.

Natacha received assistance in writing a Plan to Achieve Self-Support (PASS) and used this to purchase her home. She also received computer training and assistive technology to help her return to the competitive labor market. Natacha also received employment skills training through the Workforce Investment Act from the Department of Labor and Regulation (DOLR), and follow along services through DOLR’s Disability Employment Initiative (operated through Black Hills Special Services Cooperative). She received job coaching to re-learn administrative duties and employee scheduling. Natacha was also approved for SSDI benefits during this time.

Natacha is currently working 20-25 hours a week as a Breakfast Bar Attendant/ Supervisor at the Holiday Inn. She also works for the Black Hills Patrol on an as needed basis. In a moment’s notice, Natacha’s life was changed. She persevered and moved forward. She has returned to the world of work, figured out how to continue in her area of interest and keeps looking for new opportunities to grow in her career and life.

Vocational Rehabilitation Services at a Glance...

Other Services

In addition to vocational rehabilitation services, consumers receive other types of assistance. The following reflects a broad array of entities that the Division works with to fulfill the consumer's employment goals.

Programs	Number of Consumers
Social Services	281
Department of Labor	279
Mental Health Centers	271
Supported Employment	170
Drug/Alcohol Treatment	89
Community Support	76
Probation/Parole	62
Career Learning Center	36
Treatment Facility (Residential)	22
Honorably Discharged Veterans	20
Work Force Investment Act	12
Center for Independent	11
Other VR Agencies	10

Public Input...

Ways to let the Board and Division know your thoughts.

You can call:

- Voice/TTY: 605.945.2207
- Toll Free: 800.210.0143

You can fax:

- 605.945.2242

You can write:

- Chairperson, Board of Vocational Rehabilitation;
221 S Central Ave., Ste 34A,
Pierre, South Dakota, 57501

You can attend a meeting:

All Board meetings are open to the public. Copies of the meeting agendas can be obtained by calling:

- 605.945.2207 (Voice or TTY)
- 800.210.0143

You can become a member:

If you are interested in becoming a member of the State Rehabilitation Council, an application can be obtained by calling:

- 605.945.2207 (Voice or TTY)
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