Rehab Services Commission

• The Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC) is the designated state agency for providing vocational rehabilitation and other services to people with disabilities.

• Over 50 field offices across Ohio
The mission of the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission, a state/federal program, is to partner with individuals with disabilities to achieve quality employment, independence, and disability determination outcomes.

RSC is a public agency. Funded through a state/federal match (22%/78%) under Title IV of the Workforce Investment Act (originally the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and its amendments)
VR Bureaus

• Individuals who want to work can receive help through one of RSC’s voc rehab bureaus:

  - Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation (BVR)
    • assists people with physical, mental, and emotional disabilities through vocational rehabilitation and other services

  - Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired (BSVI)
    • assists with vocational rehabilitation and other services for Ohioans who are blind or have a visual impairment.
• People served by RSC have many different types of disabilities such as

  Blindness and significant visual impairments
  Deafness and other hearing impairments
  Orthopedic conditions
  Congenital and acquired neurological conditions
  Respiratory Conditions
  Head Injuries
  Mental and emotional disorders
  Learning disorders
  Speech impairments
  Cardiac or other circulatory disorders
FFY08 Statistics

- 50,000 successful job outcomes since 2003
- 54,300 people were served by RSC in FFY08
  - average cost per consumer = $1,618*
- 9,370 Ohioans with disabilities obtained or maintained employment with help from RSC(+16%)
FFY08 Statistics

- RSC consumers invest in Ohio’s economy by paying taxes and phasing out of SSDI

- During FFY08, RSC’s successful consumers:
  - earned $212 million (+15% increase over 2007)
  - contributed more than $34 million in federal and state income taxes (+9% over three years)
  - these workers will repay the cost of their rehabilitation in 2 to 4 years.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disability Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blind</td>
<td>391</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visual impairment</td>
<td>828</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deaf</td>
<td>496</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hard of hearing</td>
<td>2,873</td>
<td>29.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deaf/blind</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communicative</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orthopedic/neurological</td>
<td>939</td>
<td>9.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amputations</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respiratory</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>General physical disability</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other physical disability</td>
<td>595</td>
<td>6.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cognitive</td>
<td>995</td>
<td>10.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychosocial</td>
<td>1,021</td>
<td>10.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other mental disability</td>
<td>462</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental development</td>
<td>731</td>
<td>7.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>9,656</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Vocational Rehabilitation

Direct, personalized services to help people with disabilities get jobs.

Consumer Choice

Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE)

No time limit

Amy Doll (May 2009)
Eligibility

- Eligibility for RSC services is based on consumer meeting three factors:
  - a physical or mental impairment which results in a substantial impediment to employment\(^{MSD}\);
  - can benefit from services in terms of an employment outcome; and
  - requires VR services to prepare for, secure, retain or regain employment.
Types of Services

• RSC helps people with disabilities prepare for careers based on their interests & abilities.

• Services may include:
  - evaluation
  - restoration
  - vocational training
  - occupational tools/equipment
  - assistive technology
  - job placement assistance
  - counseling and guidance
More accessibility:
Examples:

- Mental Health Issue Accommodations:
  - Talk with employer about job modifications, create win-win
  - Flexible schedule, unpaid leave days
  - Facilitate communication between worker, supervisor, coworkers
  - Written instructions
  - Tolerance of unique behaviors
Rehabilitation Technology

- Rehabilitation Technology: the systematic application of technologies, engineering methodologies, or scientific principles to meet the needs of, and address the barriers confronted by, individuals with disabilities (Rehab Act of 1973) in areas such as:
  
  - communication, education, employment, rehabilitation, transportation, independent living, and recreation

- the term includes rehabilitation engineering and assistive technology
Rehabilitation Technology

• BACKGROUND:
  - 1986 Re-Authorization of the Rehab Act of 1973 mandates provision of rehabilitation technology by voc rehab agencies
    • rehab tech exempt from comparable services
  - RSC Rehab Tech Support Unit established 1989
    • provides technical assistance to voc rehab counselors throughout the process
    • maintains expertise in specialty areas of assistive technology
    • develops agency rehab tech policies and procedures
    • information dissemination and training
    • AT loan closet
Rehabilitation Technology

- **Rehab tech services may include***:
  - **Evaluation/Assessment**
    - determine how disability limits the performance of job tasks
    - determine residual capabilities
    - recommend implementation of assistive technology to improve function level and facilitate employment
  - **Modification of the Task (if possible)**
  - **Provision of Assistive Technology Equipment**
  - **Modification of the Environment**
    - worksite modification
    - home modification
    - vehicle modification

*in increasing order of complexity*
Rehab Tech Specialty Areas

• Augmentative Communication
• Blind/Visually Impaired
• Computer Access
• Deaf/Hard of Hearing
• Ergonomics
• Home Modification
Rehab Tech Specialty Areas

- Jobsite Modifications
- Prosthetics
- Rural/Farming
- Vehicle Modifications
- Wheelchair/Scooter
- Other
Augmentative Communication

- Augmentative communication: an alternative method used by individuals with severe speech and language disabilities (CP, autism, ALS, stroke)

- AAC considerations (Kangas & Lloyd, 1998):
  - method to represent symbols
    - objects, words, drawings, symbols, photographs, line drawings
  - method to select symbols
    - point directly or use a scanning device such as a head pointer
  - method to transmit the message
    - visual or auditory output
Augmentative Communication

I can write with my WordCore.
Low Vision

• Closed-circuit televisions (video magnifier or CCTV)
  – magnify and project printed materials onto a TV screen

• Screen magnification computer software programs
  – magnify the information displayed on a computer monitor
Blindness

- **Screen reader**
  - software program that enables navigation within operating system (Windows), and applications (e.g. Word) through auditory feedback
    - examples: JAWS, Window-Eyes

- **Scan and read**
  - program that couples optical character recognition (OCR) of scanned text with text-to-speech
    - examples: OpenBook, Kurzweil 1000

- **Notetakers**

- **Braille**
Computer Access

- **Adaptive input devices**
  - Alternative keyboards and mice
  - Voice recognition software
  - Head pointer, eye gaze, tongue touch keypad

- **Adaptive output devices**
  - Communication – speech output
  - Low vision – screen magnification
  - Blindness – screen reader, Braille
• Ergonomics - the science of designing the job, equipment, and workplace around the person
  – human-centered design
  – addresses repetitive strain injuries
  – examples: seating, tool handlers
Home Modification

- Modification to a consumer’s home to enable preparation for work outside the home, or home-based employment
  - one entrance/exit
  - bathroom mod
  - accessible path of travel within home
  - accessible home office
Home Modification

Before

After

Photos courtesy of Sheri Peters, RSC RTSU - SW ATS
Home Modification

Vertical platform lift

Photos courtesy of Sheri Peters, RSC RTSU - SW ATS
Home Modification

Photos courtesy of Sheri Peters, RSC RTSU - SW ATS
Vehicle Modifications

• Modification of consumer’s vehicle to enable them to drive, or be transported, to/from work

• Minor mods: unoccupied wheelchair/scooter handling devices; pedal extensions; left-foot accelerators; mirrors; remote switches; manual hand/foot controls; spinner knobs

• High-tech driving systems
Vehicle Modifications

Amy Doll (May 2009)
Rehab Tech Process

EVALUATION

PURCHASE EQUIPMENT
(or custom design)

TRAINING

FOLLOW UP
Rehabilitation Technology

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