

Proposed

Attachment 4.11(c)(4) Goals and Plans for Distribution of Title VI, Part B Funds

The purpose of CBVH's supported employment program is to enable individuals with the most significant disabilities to achieve and maintain competitive employment in their communities. CBVH continues to serve all eligible individuals that need supported employment services with a goal of placing as many individuals as possible in employment.

In FFY 2012, 66 individuals received supported employment services. A total of 20 consumers were successfully placed in supported competitive employment and transitioned to extended supported employment services (an increase of 8 from FFY 2011). The average hourly wage rose from \$8.02/hr. to \$8.26/hr., and the average number of hours worked per week increased from 20.25 to 21.2. A review of referral patterns reveals that referrals for supported employment have steadily decreased over the past four years from a high of 81 to a low of 32. However, in 2012 CBVH referrals to Supported Employment programs did increase somewhat to 37. CBVH has three primary goals for FY 2014. The first is to increase the number of individuals placed in supportive employment by 10% to 22 or greater; the second is to increase hourly wages to at least \$8.50/hr.; the third is to maintain the average number of hours worked at a minimum of 21 hrs. /week.

In New York State, the administrative responsibility for supported employment programs is consolidated in the Office of Adult Career and Continuing Education Services (ACCES-VR, formerly VESID), as established in accordance with Section 3, Chapter 515 of the Laws of New York of 1992. ACCES-VR will be incorporating supported employment into its new Core Rehabilitation Services Contract, and will be switching to a new outcome-funded model for supported employment. CBVH anticipates continuing to work cooperatively with ACCES-VR to provide opportunities for supported employment across the State.

Because blindness is a low incidence disability, CBVH continues to be challenged in anticipating service needs and distributing the limited funds available. The lack of extended services funds further limits the number of individuals who can enter intensive supported employment services. CBVH plans to work more closely with ACCES-VR in the future to determine the distribution of funds available for intensive and extended services, while providing information and training to enable staff to better access extended services through the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) or Office of Mental Health (OMH), as appropriate.

CBVH continues to maintain case management, program monitoring and oversight responsibilities for the supported employment services provided to CBVH consumers. Service providers regularly provide CBVH with individual consumer reports, and CBVH staff meets regularly with providers and consumers.

CBVH will continue to work with ACCES-VR to assess performance on an ongoing basis, participate in on-site reviews, and provide technical assistance or recommend adjustments to contracts as needed.

CBVH, with ACCES-VR, continues to take a close look at supported employment caseloads to assure that Title VI-C funds are applied in the most effective manner to assist individuals with most significant disabilities in obtaining competitive employment.

Counselors have been instructed to:

- Conduct comprehensive assessments, including situational assessments, prior to referral for supported employment services in order to limit referrals to only those individuals who will benefit from a supported employment program. This also allows intensive service dollars to be focused more on job development, placement and training and should allow individuals to complete the intensive phase more quickly.
- Consider the use of natural supports following employment and start to establish eligibility for extended services at the beginning of the planning process. This will maximize the use of limited ACCES-VR funding for extended services.
- More closely monitor monthly training reports, especially for individuals who have been in training for more than 18 months, and to consider closing cases where the individual does not appear to be making progress toward employment.

In 2013, CBVH will be revising its Supported Employment policy to more closely mirror changes made by ACCES-VR with input from an advisory group, including a CBVH representative.

Provider agencies have been instructed to regularly review cases to determine which consumers no longer require extended services due to their increased experience and confidence, and the availability of natural supports.

During the past year, CBVH has worked with other members of the Chapter 515 Implementation Team to improve the delivery of supported employment services. Specifically, the team has:

- Drafted revisions to the existing Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen partner agencies' commitment to the provision of supported employment services, and better planning and coordination of service delivery.
- Shared information about program revisions within each agency's service delivery system
- Reviewed data to monitor the effectiveness of supported employment services.