



West Virginia

SRC

State Rehabilitation Council

“Clients are Blossoming in West Virginia”

2015 - 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

2015 – 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Dear Friends,

For the past year I have had the privilege of serving as the chairperson of the WV SRC. This is an exciting time for vocational rehabilitation and for our VR agency to be resourceful, as well as, a trailblazer for people not only in our State, but throughout our great nation. Having attended my first national meetings this year, my pride in the work and accolades that the WV DRS staff and WV SRC accomplished was beyond my greatest expectations.

Knowing the work of the WV SRC has contributed toward this recognition makes what we do worthwhile and gratifying. The WV DRS is constantly striving to develop new programs and services to be a pacesetter for our citizens while offering ongoing training and support for the staff. The Council is continuously educated and informed at every meeting to keep us aware of all aspects of the agency.

Our relationship with WV DRS is unique. We are a true, trusted partner in every sense of the word. I am proud to know that our work is valued, recognized and effective, not only within West Virginia, but nationally. My thanks to the leadership of WV DRS and its staff for their invaluable presence and the enrichment of West Virginians.

As we forge into a new year, change is always imminent. The WV SRC is excited to be a part of that venture which brings to mind a quote by Walt Disney that “All our dreams can come true ~ if we have the courage to pursue them.”

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Gray".

Robert Gray

Bob Gray, Chairperson





A Message from the Executive Director ~

Most of us have the same basic goals in life – learn all we possibly can, communicate with others to the best of our abilities, concentrate on becoming the best we can become, feel as deeply for others as we do for ourselves and to act wisely to become respected citizens while we gather and retain information which will help us to achieve our hopes and aspirations.

Sharing in this belief that we are as unique as the wildflowers found in our great state, disabilities are like each bloom ~ unique in their shape, needs, design and personality. Individual differences in people, like the beauty of nature's blooms, add wonder, creativity and a zest for living. Casting away what is familiar and entering into the unknown is difficult, but each of us has been given the responsibility to challenge, the ability to change and the gift to become pacesetters for tomorrow.

West Virginia is recognized as a trendsetter for our ingenuity, impressive programs, service delivery and return on investment in Vocational Rehabilitation. The West Virginia State Rehabilitation Council (WV SRC) continues to be a strong partner and advocate playing an integral part in the lives of West Virginians with disabilities. Our Council is eager to deliver the message sent forth by the West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services (WV DRS) in achieving awareness that people with disabilities *are* positive, contributing members in our communities.

United, we strive to provide and ensure the best programs, services and training for those reaching out for our assistance. We are dedicated to helping people find a new outlook on life, encouraging choice, self-confidence and vitality. We are empowered and dedicated to helping WV DRS seek the tools needed to assist in finding each individual's needs to achieve their desire for independence and a renewed outlook on life. Together, as we are uncovering opportunities that blossom around us, we will strive to enhance the lives of those we serve.



Sincerely,

Sherry A. Taylor, Executive Director



WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND THE ARTS
DIVISION OF REHABILITATION SERVICES

Dear Friends of the State Rehabilitation Council:

As I embark on my new role as Director of the West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS), I look forward to working with the State Rehabilitation Council to continue the strong partnership between DRS and SRC. I'm grateful for the SRC's strong commitment to working with the DRS administration to jointly meet the employment needs of West Virginians with disabilities.

With dedication to service, each Council member brings unique experiences to the collaborative partnership that ultimately benefit individuals with disabilities by helping to remove barriers to employment.

During fiscal year 2016, the DRS provided essential services to 12,553 West Virginians with disabilities. This assistance enabled 1,803 of these individuals to enter employment or maintain their current location.

With a vigilant commitment to establishing essential goals and monitoring ongoing performance, the partnership between the DRS and the SRC continues to empower those individuals served by promoting self-sufficiency and maximizing employment potential to ensure a smooth transition into the work environment.

Thank you for your continued dedication to enabling and empowering individuals with disabilities to work and to live independently!

Sincerely,

Marijane K. Waldron
Director



Our Mission Statement

The West Virginia State Rehabilitation Council is to review, analyze and advise the West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services regarding its program eligibility, performance and effectiveness in empowering individuals with disabilities to achieve their employment goals.

Our Vision Statement

The West Virginia SRC's vision is to ensure that all people with disabilities are provided with an equal opportunity to receive the vocational rehabilitation services for which they are eligible.

Our Council Composition

The West Virginia State Rehabilitation Council is composed of a maximum of twenty-six (26) members and no less than fifteen (15) members. These appointments are made by the Governor for three (3) year terms and individuals may only serve two (2) consecutive terms. The majority of the members (51%) must be individuals with disabilities or represent a person with a disability and not be employed by WV DRS.

The Council must have members representing the following:

- Business, Industry and Labor (at least four (4) representatives);
- Client Assistance Program (CAP);
- Community Rehabilitation Program (CRP);
- Current or former WV DRS Applicants or Recipients;
- Parent Training & Information Centers (PTI);
- State Education Department Representative;
- State Workforce Investment Board Representative (WIB);
- Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC ~ standing member);
- Director of WV DRS (ex-officio member); and
- Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (ex-officio member).

The knowledge and expertise of the Council members is a valuable asset in carrying out the mission and goals of the SRC. Members take their responsibilities seriously spending a great deal of time and effort to fulfill their duties. Monitoring and advising WV DRS on the issues services, programs and policies which impact the lives of West Virginians with disabilities is essential.

COUNCIL RESPONSIBILITIES AND PURPOSE

The West Virginia State Rehabilitation Council (WV SRC) 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 WV SRC gives advice to and works in partnership with the West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services (WV DRS).

The Rehabilitation Act, as amended by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act 2014 (WIOA), states the SRC must perform the following functions, after consulting with the State Workforce Investment Board:

In partnership with WV DRS, the Council:

- Develops, agrees to, and reviews WV DRS goals and priorities;
- Evaluates the effectiveness of their program and submit annual progress reports to the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) Commissioner;
- Conducts a statewide needs assessment of individuals with disabilities living in the State every three (3) years;
- Advises WV DRS regarding vocational rehabilitation activities;
- Serves as the Policy Consultation Committee for the Agency; and,
- Attends Agency functions, training events & national conferences.

The Council assists in the preparation of the State Plan for Vocational Rehabilitation, amendments to the plan, applications, reports, needs assessments and evaluations, including those necessary for WV DRS to satisfy the requirements of developing a “comprehensive system of personal development” and establishing an “order of selection.”

Responsibilities include reviewing and analyzing the effectiveness of and the consumer satisfaction with WV DRS agency functions, vocational rehabilitation provided by WV DRS and other entities and the employment outcomes achieved by eligible individuals. This information is compiled by an independent consultant and provided to the agency and posted on the Agency and WV SRC’s websites.

An annual report is prepared and submitted to the Governor and RSA on the status of Vocational Rehabilitation services. This report is disseminated to all SRC’s throughout the U.S. and territories and other state representatives. This is available on the Agency and WV SRC websites, as well as the general public.

The WV SRC coordinates various activities with other partners to assist in educating the public on pertinent issues. The Council strives to enrich and maintain the working relationships between WV DRS, the WVSILC and the centers for independent living.

Members of the Council and WV SRC staff perform other functions that are determined appropriate and comparable to other required functions, provided they are consistent with the purpose of Title I of the ACT and its implementing regulations.



WHAT WE DO

One of the most important responsibilities of the State Rehabilitation Councils is to advise, make recommendations and assist the WV Division of Rehabilitation Services (WV DRS) in preparing their State Plan for Vocational Services. The overall purpose of the State Plan is to assure that State and Federal governments play a leadership role in promoting employment for persons with disabilities and to ensure a link between citizen participation and the legislative process.

The Council is responsible for reviewing and analyzing the effectiveness and satisfaction of rehabilitation services provided by WV DRS from information gathered from the clients. The Council does not assist in the resolution of any individual case issues. Consumer Satisfaction Surveys are mailed by the WV SRC to all clients statewide whose case has been closed. The collected data is returned with only the client's district and category for the information to be compiled by an independent contractor annually. The report is available on the WV DRS & WV SRC websites or upon request from the WV SRC office.

The WV SRC prepares an Annual Report highlighting the Council's past fiscal year's activities and accomplishments. This functions as a status report from the WV SRC of the vocational rehabilitation programs across our state that is submitted to the Governor, Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), State legislators and State members of Congress, various state officials, WV DRS staff and other SRCs throughout the United States and its territories. This report is also available on the WV SRC, WV DRS and NCSRC websites.

WHAT WE DO

The WVSRC Executive Director serves as an active member of the WV DRS Executive Management Group and on various agency, statewide & national committees and task forces.

The Council is directly involved in the development, revision and implementation of policies for the agency. The agency staff presents new or amended policies to the Council, along with clear descriptions of why the policies were written or changed. The Council participates in strategic planning for the agency. In keeping with this role, the Council supports the agency's legislative strides within the state and nationally, educating leaders on vocational rehabilitation needs accomplishments and its future.

Keeping abreast of national trends, trainings, legislative agendas and innovative networking is vital to the success of the Council. To assure this aspect is met, the WV SRC participates in the continuing education provided through the National Coalition of State Rehabilitation Councils (NCSRC), Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR) and any other requested or mandated meetings.

Our goal is to ensure that people with disabilities are provided with an equal opportunity to receive the programs, services and supports needed. We work diligently in our pursuit for consumer satisfaction and endless ways in which services can be improved or developed.



COUNCIL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- WV SRC met six times during this past fiscal year
- Members reviewed and amended Mission, Vision & Bylaws
- Nominated and received new member appointments from Governor Earl Ray Tomblin
- Executive Director participates on the Agency's Executive Management Group
- WV SRC website updated and active
- Received State of the Agency presentations by WV DRS Director or her representative at each WV SRC meeting
- Council was provided up-to-date information at each Council meeting regarding Agency financial status, performance and standards & indicators by VR staff
- Council serves as the Policy Consultation Committee for the Agency to assist in drafting, reviewing and amending Agency policy
- Council made recommendations in writing for the WV DRS State Plan and received their plan of action for SRC recommendations
- WV DRS staff made numerous presentations to Council for education of programs & services offered by the Agency
- Continued partnering with the WV Statewide Independent Living Council (WV SILC) and WV DRS for the Essay Contest focusing on the impact of the Disability Movement for all WV high school seniors
- Council members attended the Ability Works program in October, 2015
- Members received written annual financial compilation report by an independent contracted auditor
- Council members and WV SRC staff along with WVDRS staff attended the spring and fall Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR) conferences in Bethesda, Maryland and San Diego, California respectively

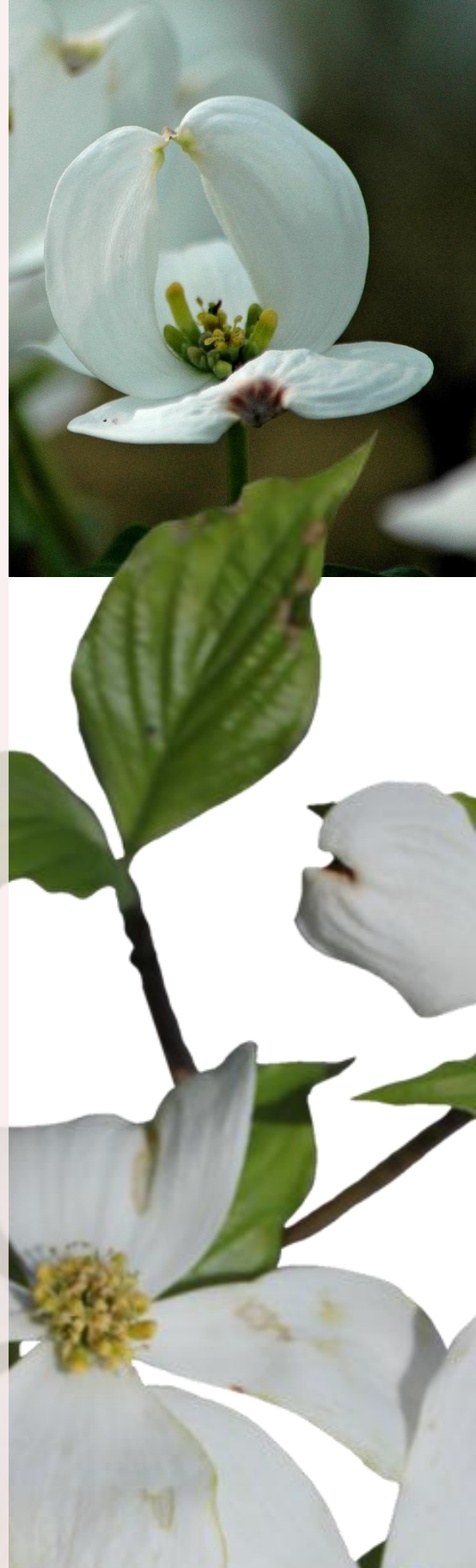


COUNCIL ACCOMPLISHMENTS (continued)

- Executive Director serves on the National Steering Committee of the National Coalition of State Rehabilitation Councils (NCSRC) representing Region 3
- Executive Director serves as Vice President & Treasurer of the NCSRC
- As Vice President of NCSRC, the Executive Director assists, facilitates, plans, provides training and participates in NCSRC nationally scheduled conference calls, Board of Director meetings, and the NCSRC trainings & conferences held in the spring and fall
- As Treasurer of NCSRC, the Executive Director handles all money transactions for registrations & hotels, coordinating hotels accommodations and meeting details for spring & fall conferences working with CSAVR, hotel staff and any outside speakers
- The Annual Report Committee developed and disseminated the Annual Report
- The Annual Report to Governor, Secretary of State, Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), State legislature, members of Congress, all US states & territories and other required individuals
- Posted Annual Reports on both the WV SRC and NCSRC websites for viewing
- Updated and mailed the Consumer Satisfaction Survey to all closed VR cases
- The 2015 - 2016 Consumer Satisfaction Survey summary presented orally and in writing to Council members & DRS staff by consultant Dr. Denetta Dowler
- Pertinent information from the surveys was documented in the Annual Report
- Consumer Satisfaction Report posted on WV SRC and WV DRS websites
- Chairperson Bob Gray and the Executive Director attended the RSA Regional Meeting in August on Program-Specific Requirements under the Rehabilitation Act along with several of the administrative staff of WVDRS in Washington, DC
- Council has representation on the Community Rehabilitation Programs (CRP) Advisory Committee
- Council member facilitated communication between WV DRS and Construction Trades Apprenticeship Programs across WV
- Set up WV SRC display and participated in annual Disability Advocacy Day in February at State Capitol

COUNCIL GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Comply with the functions of the Council as stated in the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended to ensure the Council is meeting the federal requirements;
- WV SRC continues to be a member of the West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services (WVDRS) Executive Management Team;
- Continue our strong partnership with WVDRS management staff and personnel acting as an advocate, confidant and agency ambassador;
- Receive regular updates from agency Director on WVDRS' efforts to increase public awareness of services and programs;
- Council shall be educated and knowledgeable about services and programs within WVDRS;
- Serve as the Committee for WVDRS Policy;
- Maintain an active role in the National Coalition of the State Rehabilitation Council (NCSRC) participating on the national steering committee, attending state and national conferences to bring the information gained to the enrichment of the Council;
- Participate in the Council for State Vocational Rehabilitation Administrators (CSAVR);
- Disseminate consumer satisfaction surveys to all closed WVDRS cases and have independently prepared compilation report given electronically and verbally to Council members and designated VR staff;
- Conduct combined public forums with WVDRS and the West Virginia Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) to educate the general public about WVDRS and the role(s) of the Council(s);
- Encourage Council members to become an active member of their local CAC;
- Keep WV SRC website updated with current data and information;
- Use social media to link the WV SRC to other partners giving access on the internet to the Annual Report, website and during public awareness events; and,
- Plan and collaborate a joint annual meeting with WVDRS and WV SILC.





West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services (WV DRS)

The West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) is the state agency responsible for the operation of West Virginia's state and federal vocational rehabilitation program that was originally established through the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. DRS specializes in helping people with disabilities who want to find a job or maintain their current employment in an integrated and competitive setting.

The starting points for services are the 30 field offices the agency has throughout the state. The district offices are located in Beckley, Charleston, Clarksburg, Huntington, Martinsburg and Wheeling. Rehabilitation counselors at the field offices help with the application process. Once eligibility is determined, counselors and clients work as a team to develop a plan to meet the individual's employment goals. Services are tailored to meet the individual needs of the client. DRS services may include:

- pre-employment transition services
- evaluation and assessment,
- counseling and guidance,
- job development and placement assistance,
- vocational training and college assistance,
- physical or mental restoration,
- assistive technology; and/or,

Evaluation standards and performance indicators, established by the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), annually measure the success of DRS. The collective data for federal fiscal year 2015 – 2016 indicates that DRS met requirements for the federal (employment and equal access to services) evaluation standards and performance indicators.



West Virginia
SRC
State Rehabilitation Council

A photograph of a butterfly with black, blue, and yellow wings perched on a cluster of purple flowers. To the right, there are pink flowers. The background is a soft-focus green.

UNIFIED STATE PLAN

For Vocational Rehabilitation and Supported Employment Services Programs

The Council makes recommendations to be included in the WV Division of Rehabilitation Services (WV DRS) Unified State Plan for Vocational Services. These recommendations are based on reports provided during regular Council meetings, memorandums and other communication offered by the agency director and/or the staff of the WV DRS. These reports guarantee the WV SRC is receiving factual updates and pertinent information to make accurate observations, decisions, policies and recommendations.

This task is taken very seriously by the Council knowing that the acceptance and monitoring of the Unified State Plan assures the Federal government that WV DRS will operate its vocational rehabilitation (VR) programs in accordance with the provisions of this Plan, as well as meeting federal statutory, regulatory and policy requirements. The WVSRC proudly commends the WV DRS on their exemplary manner in which they have demonstrated in exceeding the requirements of the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA).

The WV SRC is proud to be a supportive partner and advocate of the WV DRS. The agency continues to receive national recognition for their achievements gained for their unique programs, creative innovation and diverse services helping to ensure that people in West Virginia with disabilities identify and achieve their employment goals.

Our Council maintains a diverse group of individuals comprised of West Virginians who represents many backgrounds, including business, labor & industry, Client Assistant Program (CAP), Community Rehabilitation Programs (CRPs), other services providers, Vocational Rehabilitation counselors, Workforce Investment Board, WV Department of Education, consumers and consumer advocates. The WV SRC is proud

STATE PLAN Continued

to have these valued partners, as well as our unique working relationship with the West Virginia Statewide Independent Living Council (WV SILC). These steadfast partnerships remain the core of our mission and vision allowing the Council insight of consumer needs.

Sharing agency data regarding programs, services, policy, fiscal status or other pertinent issues is invaluable to the success of the agency and Council. WV DRS continues to provide beneficial updates when making presentations to our membership during meetings or as needed. We greatly appreciate the WV DRS liaison to our Council, Michael Meadows, who is considered a valuable asset, informed resource and contributor by our members, as well as the WV DRS Counselor Representatives ~ former member Jennifer Gillenwater Lockhart and current member Alyce Almond for their expertise and voice for their peers.

The WV SRC understands the agency's obligation in achieving the highest standards that were set by the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA). West Virginia continues to be one of the few states to have consistently maintained being in the top states for their performance. Senior Manager of Unified State Plan and Program Evaluation Pisnu Bua-lam and his team have assured that all Council members have a clear understanding of what this means to the agency and allows time for members to ask questions during their regular presentations. With the new changes in the law, his team continues to educate the Council members so that WV DRS exceeds other states in this realm.

The WV SRC is indebted to the open communication and continuous support received from the agency director and her staff. Serving as a pacesetter to other states who are eager to replicate the relationship, accomplishments and structure of the WV DRS and WV SRC is without question humbling. The Council will continue to strive to maintain this collaboration and embraces the opportunity to serve as a partner and trusted confidant of the WV DRS. The Council congratulates the WV DRS staff for their achievements, recognition and determination to provide ultimate services and programs while meeting the standards set by RSA.



Occupation of Individuals Vocationally Rehabilitated

	FFY 2016	Percent
• Management Occupations	108	6.0
• Business and Financial Operations Occupations	27	1.5
• Computer and Mathematical Occupations	21	1.2
• Architecture and Engineering Occupations	27	1.5
• Life, Physical and Social Science Occupations	23	1.3
• Community and Social Services Occupations	67	3.7
• Legal Occupations	13	0.7
• Education, Training and Library Occupations	93	5.2
• Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports and Media Occupations	20	1.1
• Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations	155	8.6
• Healthcare Support Occupations	121	6.7
• Protective Service Occupations	35	1.9
• Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations	119	6.6
• Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occupations	109	6.0
• Personal Care and Service Occupations	107	5.9
• Sales and Related Occupations	152	8.4
• Office and Administrative Support Occupations	211	11.7
• Farming, Fishing and Forestry Occupations	5	0.3
• Construction and Extraction Occupations	43	2.4
• Installation, Maintenance and Repair Occupations	59	3.3
• Production Occupations	158	8.8
• Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	127	7.0
• Military Specific Occupations	2	0.1
• Randolph-Sheppard Vending Facility Clerk	1	0.1
• Randolph-Sheppard Vending Facility Operator	0	0.0
• Homemaker*	0	0.0
• Unpaid Family Worker	0	0.0
Total	1,803	100%

*Occupation outside the competitive labor market

Personal Characteristics – State Rehabilitation Clients Federal Fiscal Year 2016

TOTAL ESTIMATED ANNUAL EARNINGS OF THOSE RECEIVING VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES

• At Referral	\$14,239,316
• After Rehabilitation	\$43,267,237
• Percentage increase in annual earnings due to rehabilitation	204%

	FFY 2016	Percent
• Number of individuals rehabilitated (with an employment outcome)	1,803	
• Number (percent) of vocationally rehabilitated individuals placed in competitive employment	1,803	100.0
• Number of individuals with significant disabilities served	11,902	94.8
Total number of clients served	12,553	

EDUCATION AT CLOSURE OF INDIVIDUALS VOCATIONALLY REHABILITATED

• No formal schooling	0	0.0
• Elementary education (grades 1 – 6)	15	0.8
• Secondary educations, no high school diploma (grades 9 – 12)	60	3.3
• Special education certificate of completion/attendance	53	2.9
• High school graduate or equivalency certificate (regular education students)	514	28.5
• Post secondary education, no degree	229	12.7
• Associate degree or Vocational/Technical Certificate	200	11.1
• Bachelor's degree	358	19.9
• Master's degree or higher	73	4.0
• Any degree above a Master's – e.g. PhD., EdD., J.D.	18	1.0
• Vocational / Technical Certificate or License	279	15.5
• Occupational credential beyond undergraduate degree work	3	0.2
• Occupational credential beyond graduate degree work	1	0.1
Total	1,803	100%

Personal Characteristics

State Rehabilitation Clients Federal Fiscal Year 2016

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS FROM EACH DISTRICT SERVED

	FFY 2016	Percent
• District 1	2,209	17.6
• District 2	1,541	12.3
• District 3	1,831	14.6
• District 4	2,657	21.2
• District 5	2,764	22.0
• District 6	1,551	12.4
Total/State	12,553	100%

EDUCATION AT APPLICATION OF INDIVIDUALS VOCATIONALLY REHABILITATED

• No formal schooling	0	0.0
• Elementary education (grades 1-8)	19	1.7
• Secondary education, no HS diploma (grades 9-12)	541	30.0
• Special Ed certificate of completion/attendance	90	5.0
• High school graduate or equivalency certificate (regular education students)	515	28.6
• Post-secondary education, no degree	275	15.3
• Associate degree or Vocational / Technical Certificate	117	6.5
• Bachelor's degree	113	6.3
• Master's degree or higher	45	2.5
• Any degree above a Master's e.g. Ph.D., Ed.D., J.D.	8	0.4
• Vocational / Technical Certificate or License	80	4.4
• Occupational credential beyond undergraduate degree work	0	0.0
• Occupational credential beyond graduate degree work	0	0.0
Total	1,803	100%

AGE AT APPLICATION OF INDIVIDUALS VOCATIONALLY REHABILITATED

• Less than 20	642	35.6
• 20 through 34	405	22.5
• 35 through 44	222	12.3
• 45 through 64	455	25.2
• 65 and over	79	4.4
Total	1,803	100%

Personal Characteristics Continued

RACE OF INDIVIDUALS VOCATIONALLY REHABILITATED

	FFY 2016	Percent
• White	1,664	92.3
• Black or African American	102	5.7
• American Indian or Alaska Native	19	1.1
• Asian or Pacific Islander	11	0.6
• Hispanic or Latino	7	0.4
Total	1,803	100%

GENDER OF INDIVIDUALS VOCATIONALLY REHABILITATED

• Male		
• Female	910	50.5
Total	893	49.5
	1,803	100%

REFERRAL SOURCE OF INDIVIDUALS VOC. REHABILITATED

• Educational Institution (elementary/secondary)	496	27.5
• Educational Institution (post-secondary)	107	5.9
• Medical Health Provider (public or private)	232	12.9
• Welfare Agency (State or local government)	5	0.3
• Community Rehabilitation Program	47	2.6
• Social Security Administration (Disability Determination Service or District Office)	7	0.4
• One-stop Employment / Training Centers	26	1.4
• Self-referral	559	31.0
• Other sources	137	7.6
• American Indian VR Services Program	0	0.0
• Centers for Independent Living	0	0.0
• Child Protective Services	1	0.1
• Consumer Organizations or Advocacy Groups	4	0.2
• Employers	0	0.0
• Faith Based Organizations	0	0.0
• Family / Friends	102	5.7
• Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities Providers	3	0.2
• Mental Health Providers (Public or Private)	48	2.7
• Public Housing Authority	0	0.0
• State Dept. of Correction / Juvenile Justice	6	0.3
• State Employment Service Agency	10	0.6
• Veteran's Administration	0	0.0
• Worker's Compensation	0	0.0
• Other State Agencies	9	0.5
• Other VR Agencies	4	0.2
Total	1,803	100%



PRIMARY DISABLING CONDITION OF INDIVIDUALS VOCATIONALLY REHABILITATED

SENSORY COMMUNICATION IMPAIRMENTS

	FFY 2016	Percent
• Blindness	16	0.9
• Other visual impairment	38	2.1
• Deafness, primary communication visual	25	1.4
• Deafness, primary communication auditory	29	1.6
• Hearing loss, primary communication visual	7	0.4
• Hearing loss, primary communication auditory	341	18.9
• Other hearing impairments (Tinnitus, Menier's Disease, hyperacusis, etc.)	7	0.4
• Deaf – blindness	1	0.1
• Communicative impairments (expressive / receptive)	5	0.3

PHYSICAL IMPAIRMENTS

	FFY 2016	Percent
• Mobility orthopedic / neurological impairments	91	5.0
• Manipulation / dexterity orthopedic / neurological impairments	25	1.4
• Both mobility and manipulation / dexterity orthopedic / neurological impairments	25	1.4
• Other orthopedic impairments (e.g., limited range of motion)	60	3.3
• Respiratory impairments	30	1.7
• General physical debilitation (fatigue, weakness, pain, etc.)	106	5.9
• Other physical impairments (not listed above)	127	7.0

MENTAL IMPAIRMENTS

	FFY 2016	Percent
• Cognitive impairments (impairments involving learning, thinking, processing information and concentration)	464	25.7
• Psychosocial impairments (interpersonal and behavioral impairments, difficulty coping)	368	20.4
• Other mental impairments	38	2.1
Total	1,803	100%



West Virginians Receiving Rehabilitation Services by County

	FFY	%		FFY	%
Barbour	17	0.9	Mineral	28	1.6
Berkeley	49	2.7	Mingo	21	1.2
Boone	16	0.9	Monongalia	62	3.4
Braxton	7	0.4	Monroe	17	0.9
Brooke	57	3.2	Morgan	7	0.4
Cabell	138	7.7	Nicholas	21	1.2
Calhoun	1	0.1	Ohio	58	3.2
Clay	6	0.3	Pendleton	14	0.8
Doddridge	4	0.2	Pleasants	11	0.6
Fayette	48	2.7	Pocahontas	19	1.1
Gilmer	5	0.3	Preston	13	0.7
Grant	25	1.4	Putnam	59	3.3
Greenbrier	56	3.1	Raleigh	75	4.2
Hampshire	25	1.4	Randolph	35	1.9
Hancock	39	2.2	Ritchie	1	0.1
Hardy	34	1.9	Roane	9	0.5
Harrison	33	1.8	Summers	10	0.6
Jackson	19	1.1	Taylor	3	0.2
Jefferson	17	0.9	Tucker	7	0.4
Kanawha	194	10.8	Tyler	5	0.3
Lewis	19	1.1	Upshur	11	0.6
Lincoln	39	2.2	Wayne	30	1.7
Logan	44	2.4	Webster	3	0.2
Marion	44	2.4	Wetzel	13	0.7
Marshall	25	1.4	Wirt	2	0.1
Mason	24	1.3	Wood	81	4.5
McDowell	37	2.1	Wyoming	37	2.1
Mercer	129	7.2			
			TOTAL	1,803	100%



CONSUMER SATISFACTION SURVEY

The WV State Rehabilitation Council in conjunction with the WV Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) conducted a survey of consumer satisfaction with DRS services in West Virginia. The Council developed an instrument that asked consumers to rate their level of agreement with statements about the services they may have received through WV DRS. Consumers were also asked about specific information related to jobs and to their rights as a consumer.

The surveys were distributed during the year to consumers whose cases were closed in Status 26 (successful closure) or Status 08, 28, or 30 (unsuccessful) during the September 2015 to August 2016-timeframe. A total of 332 surveys were returned including 96 responses that were coded as being from transitioning youth. This report summarizes those responses and details the findings of the survey for the 2015-2016 program year.

Transitioning Youth

The number and percent of transitioning youth responses by West Virginia DRS District:

District	Number of Responses	% of Total Responses
District 1	12	12%
District 2	11	11%
District 3	15	16%
District 4	24	25%
District 5	17	18%
District 6	17	18%

Percent of transitioning youth by type of disability (74 responders):

Type of Disability	Respondents	Percent
Cognitive	40	54%
Motor	10	14%
Sensory	4	5%
Mental Health	11	15%
Various/Other	9	12%
Total	74	100%

CONSUMER SATISFACTION SURVEY

The surveys were sent to consumers from each closure status. Closure **Status 08** means that the case was closed after the application process because the individual was determined to be ineligible for services. Closure **Status 30** means that the consumer was determined to be eligible for services, but none were provided. Closure **Status 28** means that the case was closed after at least one service was provided, but the employment goal was not achieved. Closure **Status 26** means that the case was closed after the consumer met the objective(s) in their service plan.

The Closure Status was obtained for all transitioning individuals who responded. Closure Type 26 can be thought of as a “successful” closure and Statuses 08, 28, and 30 usually represent an “unsuccessful” closure. In this sample, 58% of the responses were received from consumers who successfully completed their rehabilitation program (Status 26) and 42% were closed as unsuccessful:

Status	Responders	% of Total
26 (successful)	56	58%
28 (unsuccessful)	15	16%
30 (unsuccessful)	19	20%
08 (unsuccessful)	6	6%

There were 84 transitioning youth responses to the item about work status. Of these, 62% indicated they are working, 10% are looking for work, 15% are in school/training, and 12% reported that they are unable to work, and 1% reported that they don't want to work.

Consumers reported by work status:

Work Status	Consumers	Percent
Working	52	62%
In school / training	13	15%
Unable to work	10	12%
Job seeking	8	10%
Don't want work	1	1%
Total	84	100%



CONSUMER SATISFACTION SURVEY

Non Transitioning Youth

The number and percent of non-transitioning consumers by West Virginia DRS District:

District	Number of Responses	% of Total Responses
District 1	51	15%
District 2	58	18%
District 3	54	16%
District 4	84	25%
District 5	47	14%
District 6	38	12%

The percentage of non-transitioning consumers were asked to indicate their disability:

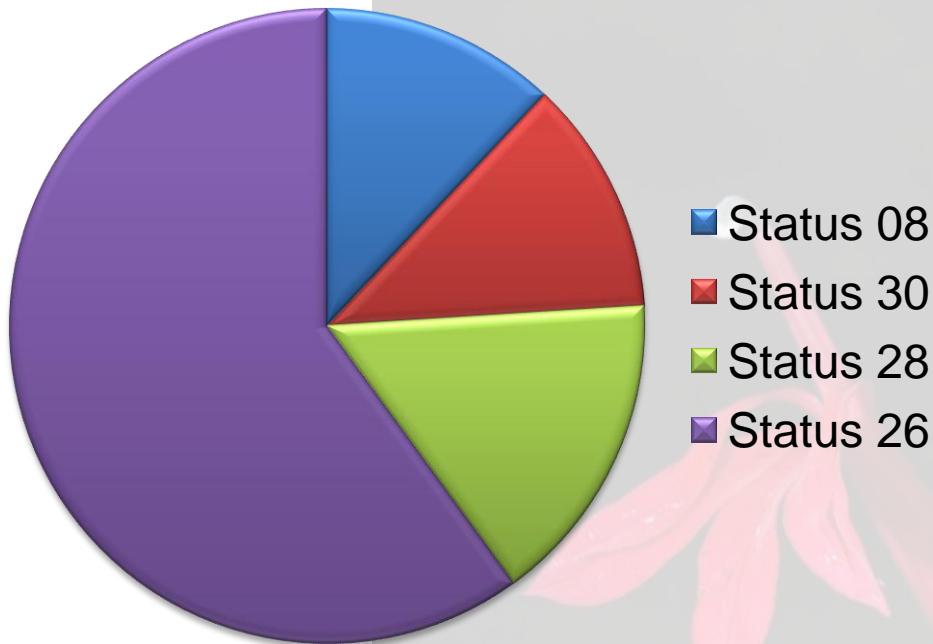
Type of Disability	Respondents	Percent
Sensory	89	37%
Cognitive	54	23%
Motor	39	16%
Mental Health	25	10%
Various/Other	20	8%
Cardiac/Respiratory	6	3%
Diabetes	6	3%
Total	239	100%

The Closure Status was obtained for each of the 332 surveys that were returned. Closure Type 26 can be thought of as a “successful” closure and the other categories represent “unsuccessful” closures.

In this sample, 60% (201) of the responses were received from consumers who successfully completed their rehabilitation plan (Status 26), 12% (39) were from those in Status 08, 16% (52) from those in Status 28, and 12% (40) from those in closure Status 30.

CONSUMER SATISFACTION SURVEY

Closure Statistics



About 60% of the respondents were in the Status 26 (successful closure) group and the remaining 40% were closed in Status 08, 28, or 30. There is a clear difference in the level of satisfaction of these 2 groups as evidenced by their response to the satisfaction items. In this sample, there was a 5% larger proportion of consumers who had their case closed as “unsuccessful.” It is typical that the responses are about 80% successful versus 20% unsuccessful. This year, the breakdown is 60% successful versus 40% unsuccessful. This larger proportion of unsuccessful closures may contribute to the lower satisfaction levels that were observed in this report.

The respondents were asked to indicate the age group to which they belong. There were 284 responses to this question. Of these, 26% indicated their age as less than 24 years old. About 28% were in the 25 to 50 age group, 40% were between 51 to 70 old, and 6% were more than 70 years of age. There were 96 consumers whose surveys were coded as “transitioning youth.” It seems plausible that several of those consumers entered the rehabilitation system as youth (age less than 24), but after several years in the program are now older than 24.



CONSUMER SATISFACTION SURVEY

Age	Consumers	Percent
Less than 24	73	26%
Between 25-50	81	28%
Between 51-70	114	40%
Over 71	16	6%

There were 257 responses to the item about work status. Of these, about 71% reported that they were working at the time of the survey, 11% were looking for work, about 9% said they were unable to work, 5% reported that they were retired, 4% were in school or training, and one person (less than 1% of the sample) said that they don't want to work.

Work Status	Consumers	Percent
Working	183	71%
In school / training	9	4%
Unable to work	24	9%
Job seeking	28	11%
Don't want work	1	0%
Retired	12	5%
Total	257	100%

Overall, this year, 332 people responded to this survey. They represented each of the six districts of West Virginia and 49 of the 55 counties in the state. Respondents were asked about their disabling condition. The type of disability most often reported was sensory (37%) with most reporting a hearing-related impairment. This year, reports of Cognitive impairments were the second most-often seen disability at 23% of the sample. Motor-related disabilities represented about 16% of the sample. Mental Health impairments were reported by 6% of the responders. People with Cardiac/Respiratory disabilities and Diabetes each comprised 3% of the sample. Various/Other disabilities represented 8% of the sample (for those who reported their disabling condition).



CONSUMER SATISFACTION SURVEY

This year's responses, overall, indicate a somewhat lower level of satisfaction than those from the previous two years. The pattern of lower satisfaction is becoming apparent across time. In the open-ended items, consumers note frustration with changing counselors (many report having several counselors over time), the long wait for hearing aids and other services, and a lack of meaningful and timely communication from counselors. Examining the comments may yield sources of dissatisfaction among different groups of consumers.

The Transitioning Youth responses were generally lower than the responses from the whole sample. This has been a trend for those in the Transitioning Youth group. It is also true that the responses indicate decreasing levels of satisfaction over time.



WV DRS District Map



OFFICES BY DISTRICT

- 1 - Charleston
- 2 - Clarksburg
- 3 - Wheeling
- 4 - Beckley
- 5 - Huntington
- 6 - Martinsburg

WV DRS OFFICES

Putnam County Branch Office
Work Force Building, Space #20
Putnam Village
Hurricane, WV 25526
304-767-0819

DRS Administrative Offices
107 Capitol Street
Charleston, WV 25301
304-356-2060 or 800-642-8207

Beckley District
800 New River Town Center
Beckley, WV 25801
304-256-6900

Cabell Midland HS DRS Office
2300 U.S. Route 60 East
Ona, WV 25545
304-743-7496

Charleston District
4701 MacCorkle Avenue, SE
Charleston, WV 25304
304-356-2371

Disability Determination-Charleston
500 Quarrier Street, Suite 500
Charleston, WV 25301
304-343-5055

Disability Determination-Clarksburg
320 West Pike Street, Suite 120
Clarksburg, WV 26301
304-624-0200

Clarksburg District
153 West Main Street, Suite F
Clarksburg, WV 26301-2963
304-625-6044

Elkins Branch Office
1025 North Randolph Avenue
Elkins, WV 26241
304-637-0205

Fairmont Branch Office
416 Adams Street, Suite 240
Fairmont, WV 26554-3106
304-367-2714

Huntington District
2699 Park Avenue, Suite 200
Huntington, WV 25704
304-528-5585

Huntington High School DRS Office
Highlander Way
Huntington, WV 25701
304-528-6511

Keyser Branch Office
67 North Tornado Way
Keyser, WV 26726
304-788-2313

Lewisburg Branch Office
3293 Jefferson Street N., Suite 105
Lewisburg, WV 24901-5733
304-647-7515

Logan Branch Office
P.O. Box 896
Logan, WV 25601
304-792-7060

Marshall University DRS Office
1 John Marshall Dr., 113 Prichard Hall
Huntington, WV 25755
304-696-2394

Martinsburg District
489 Mid Atlantic Parkway, Suite 2
Martinsburg, WV 25404
304-267-0005

Moorefield Branch Office
151 Robert C. Byrd Ind. Pk Rd, Suite 3
Moorefield, WV 26836
304-538-2701

Morgantown Branch Office
Sabraton Plaza, 1415 Earl Core Road
Morgantown, WV 26505
304-285-3155

Mullens Branch Office
316 Howard Avenue
Mullens, WV 25882
304-294-5653

Oak Hill Branch Office
549 Mall Road
Oak Hill, WV 25901
304-465-3025

Parkersburg Branch Office
State Office Building, 400 5th Street
Parkersburg, WV 26101
304-420-4580

Parkersburg South HS DRSI Office
1511 Blizzard Drive, Room 3108
Parkersburg, WV 26101
304-420-4916

Point Pleasant Branch Office
2807 Jackson Avenue, Suite 200
Point Pleasant, WV 25550
304-675-0867

Princeton Branch Office
195 Davis Street
Princeton, WV 24739
304-425-1256

Rehab Tech Department – North
5000 Greenbag Road F14 and F15
Morgantown, WV 26501
304-285-3163

Rehabilitation Programs
10 McJunkin Road
Nitro, WV 25143
304-760-7166

Ripley Branch Office
206 Stone Drive
Ripley, WV 25271
304-373-0313

Romney Branch Office
P.O. Box 943
Romney, WV 26757
304-822-3957

Sistersville Branch Office
714 Wells Street
Sistersville, WV 26175
304-652-2354

Spencer Branch Office
321 Market Street
Spencer, WV 25276
304-927-0954

Summersville Branch Office
830 Northside Drive, Suite 113
Summersville, WV 26651
304-872-0813

Teays Valley Branch Office
115 Liberty Square
Hurricane, WV 25526
304-760-7082

Weirton Branch Office
100 Municipal Plaza, Suite 200
Weirton, WV 26062
304-723-5311

Welch Branch Office
110 Park Avenue, Suite 200
Welch, WV 24801
304-436-3175

Weston Branch Office
306 Market Place Mall
Weston, WV 26452
304-269-0547

Wheeling District
1324 Chapline Street, Suite 200
Wheeling, WV 26003
304-238-1092



National Coalition of State Rehabilitation Councils (NCSRC)

In November 2005, a handful of people affiliated with their State Rehabilitation Councils (SRC) shared lunch during the Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR) Conference in San Diego, California. The group began considering the benefits and drawbacks of establishing a national organization. Those present were not elite, some were Governor-appointed volunteers serving on their respective Councils; others were staff with the sole responsibility of working for a Council while some were agency staff assigned to provide support to their respective SRC.

There was also diversity in the structure of those Councils – those who were well-resourced while others had no budget. The various states and territories included representation from agencies with Blind and general programs as well as those with combined programs. Despite the notable differences, there was a great deal in common.

That common ground and the power of the collective potential is what led a motivated core of individuals to move forward from brainstorming to organizing. A national Steering Committee was formed and with the support of the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) has convened regular national conference calls of the SRCs on a bi-monthly basis. In addition, the Steering Committee meets on a regular basis to further the structure and development of the NCSRC.

For the past several years prior to each CSAVR Conference in the spring and fall, the NCSRC has been providing two (2) full days of training for Council members to become more educated, opportunity to network with other states, given outlines of detailed responsibilities and the tools needed to have an effective Council. Attendees offer topics areas in which they would desire more training during conference calls and at each training.



National Coalition of State Rehabilitation Councils, Inc.

NCSRC continued

The Saturday SRC sessions are geared toward basic responsibilities of the Council and how to achieve the requirements as in the law. The sessions may focus on strategic planning that may include the drafting of the mission and vision statements, core values, policies and bylaws. Sunday sessions deal with organizational documents along with the strategic plan goals, understanding the differences in SRCs, forming intricate links for ongoing supports and activities. The day normally includes meeting with the RSA Commissioner and the CEO of CSAVR and/or their staff to give the SRCs up-to-date information about VR and the impact the SRCs should have.

The result has seen a much firmer foundation which positions SRCs to be more effective within their respective states & territories and as a national entity. Through these trainings opportunities, SRCs are instructed on their role, obligations and mandates. The people attending help to bridge relationships with other SRCs forming strong peer support, create a strong united voice and access to ongoing information pertinent to their Council.

The NCSRC is now a 501(c)(3). This allows additional training and opportunities for the Coalition. The NCSRC encourages all states to sign the NCSRC Resolution to enrich their Council further. For more information: National Coalition of State Rehabilitation Councils (NCSRC) or www.ncsrc.net.

NCSRC MISSION:

On behalf of people with disabilities, our national membership coalition will advocate for and work in partnership with the national public vocational rehabilitation system's continual quest for excellence.

NCSRC VISION:

NCSRC will be the premiere national organization of the consumer voice to enhance the employment opportunities of persons with disabilities through the public vocational rehabilitation system.



NCSRC continued

NCSRC CORE VALUES

INTEGRITY - We are honest and straightforward in all that we do. We treat everyone with dignity and respect. We act responsibly with resources entrusted to us. We are accountable and act in accordance with these values.

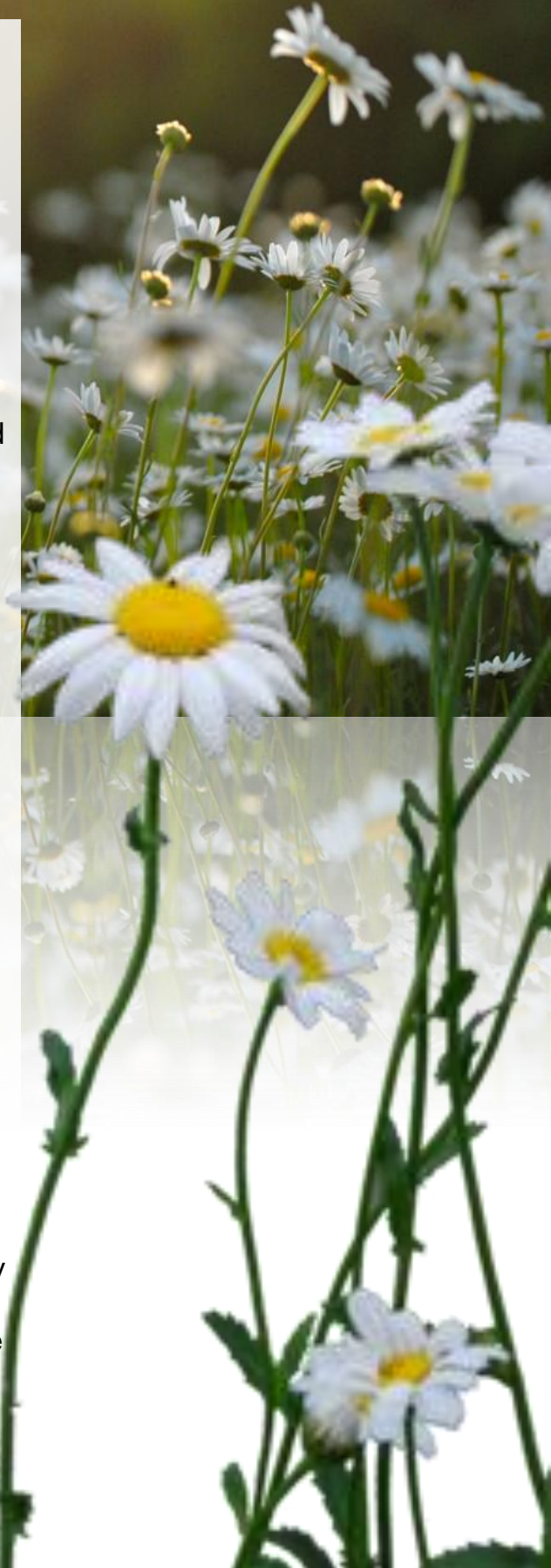
COMMITMENT – We support the full implementation and enforcement of disability non – discrimination laws, particularly the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended and the American with Disabilities Act of 1990.

EXCELLENCE – We trust that customers of public vocational rehabilitation will be empowered to make choices which lead to ultimate independence.

ADVOCACY – We will work to educate and inform the public and government policy makers regarding issues affecting people with disabilities

DIVERSITY – We will uphold a broad definition of diversity that honors and appreciates disability alongside race, ethnicity, gender, age, sexual orientation, and religion as an integral part of the human experience.

LEADERSHIP – We will foster leadership among people with disabilities that upholds excellence, quality and inclusive opportunities.





OUR COUNCIL MEMBERS

State Rehabilitation Council

ALYCE ALMOND
Beckley, WV



It is important for me to serve on the Council because I am passionate about working with Individuals who have disabilities and ensuring their employment goals are successful. My position on the Council allows me to extend their voice to a statewide platform, reaching areas outside of Southern WV.

ERIC ARNOLD
Charleston, WV



Being associated with the SRC and their efforts to partner with WV DRS as an advocate for educating, vocational training and employment of individuals with disabilities is an honor and a privilege.

CHERI BEAVER
Hurricane, WV



It is my privilege to work side by side with my esteemed colleagues to support continual improvement of vocational rehabilitation services available to West Virginians with disabilities. In these times of change, the State Rehabilitation Council's work will help ensure this priority remains constant.

SHERRY BREEDEN
Charleston, WV



It is an honor to serve on the WVSRC. During each Council meeting I learn more about the assistance offered, through our state's Division of Rehabilitation Services, to help individuals with disabilities or special needs find employment. I look forward to working with my colleagues to improve services, if needed, to this awesome program.

MICHAEL CASEY
Elkview, WV



As a former employee of the division, and an individual with a disability, it is my honor to serve on this council. Having dedicated my career to being of service to others, I consider it a privilege to be part of the movement of "empowering and enabling individuals with disabilities" to live the type of life they want to lead.

SHERYL ELKINS
Oak Hill, WV



I feel the being able to be on this committee will help me to help my son when he may need help from the Vocational Rehabilitation Services that are offered. I enjoy learning about what all is involved with the Vocational Rehabilitation.

GREG EPPS
Morgantown, WV



It is an honor to serve as a member of the West Virginia State Rehabilitation Council. It is a pleasure to be a part of such a passionate and dedicated group of individuals whose talent and devotion truly care about the citizens of this state and the opportunity for all to thrive and prosper. The council is focused on making a difference in the lives of others.

MARY PAT FARRELL
Charleston, WV



It has been an honor and an exciting time to serve on the Council. The collaboration and coordination among Education, Rehabilitation and Work Force has intensified as the Council moved forward in implementing WIOA. Transition services for youth with disabilities have been strengthened and will continue to do so.

GINNY GATTLIEB
Charleston, WV



It is an honor and pleasure to serve on this Council with such a wonderful group of people. I enjoy supporting the staff and consumers who are involved with our West Virginia rehabilitation community.

SCOTT GOSSARD
Petersburg, WV



There have been a couple of boards on which I've served over the years that once my term was up, I never looked back. However, not so with the SRC. Because I believe so much in what the Council does, I welcomed the opportunity to be reinstated after taking a mandatory hiatus.

OUR COUNCIL MEMBERS

State Rehabilitation Council

NANCY HOLLINGSWORTH
Martinsburg, WV



I feel privileged to be able to return to the SRC and to once again be able to participate in the process of ensuring optimal vocational and employment services are provided to our WV residents who have disabilities.

BRENDA LAMKIN
Buckannon, WV



Representing WV PTI, the federally funded Parent Training Center for WV, we are honored to be a collaborating member of the WV SRC. "It takes a village to raise a child" and the SRC is represented by various organizations to support the needs of individuals with disabilities.

JANET LINTALA
Beckley, WV



To be part of such a diverse and dynamic group is exciting. We continue our mission to enable those with disabilities to work and live independently. I share the vision that every person can be a happy productive member of their community.

DEBBIE LOVELY
South Charleston, WV



As a previous Director of WVDRS, I was always very proud of our State Council and of the excellent relationship between DRS and the Council. Now retired, I am honored and again proud to be a part of this very capable and caring group of people whose contributions help both DRS and individuals with disabilities in our state.

LINDA MANIAK
Charleston, WV



It is my honor and privilege of serving on the SRC, which strives to ensure that our mission statement is achieved. DRS works to assist people with disabilities achieve their goals, become more productive and achieve their fullest potential. Being a part of this partnership is rewarding.

RAY MORTON
Beckley, WV



I am pleased to work with this energetic group of very diverse qualified people to collaborate with and advise the Department of Rehabilitation Services.

MEGAN PIGOTT
Fairmont, WV



Serving on the SRC gives an excellent opportunity to gain insight into the administration of the WVDRS, networking with other professionals on the Council, and about resources available in the State. I enjoy being on the Council and having a voice regarding rehabilitation services in our State.

CINDY TUCKER
Lewisburg, WV



Serving on the WVSRC is an honor and a privilege. As a person with a disability, I value the opportunity to have input on policies and issues that directly affect the lives of West Virginians who also have disabilities.

DEB WANZER
White Sulphur Springs, WV



It is an honor to serve on the SRC to assist in the delivery and improvement of rehabilitation services to the West Virginia residents with disabilities.

RAY WOODS
St. Albans, WV



I have really enjoyed my time with the West Virginia State Rehabilitation Council. The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) has created a solid working relationship with our partners.



BLAKE HUFFMAN

How Have the First 25 Years of the Americans with Disabilities Act Changed America?

Imagine standing atop the stairs and overlooking the grounds of the US Capitol Building on a cool March day. The year is 1990, and 1,000 protestors have made their way to Washington to demand that the House of Representative pass the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Imagine watching as more than 60 activists laid down their wheelchairs, walkers, and crutches and began the ascent to the top of the 83 marble steps. The passing of this legislation would require equal rights for the disabled. The Capitol Crawl, as it is now known, is now seen as one of the most important events leading up to the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act passed into law on July 26, 1990. Now imagine walking down the streets of small town America earlier that same year. How different things would things have looked then as compared to the world today. Let's look at the changes in the world today due to The Americans with Disabilities Act. The Act was broken into 5 different titles with each title having a unique effect on the lives of the disabled. Let's look into each of those titles separately.

Title I - Employment

Prior to the ADA many employers would find ways to discriminate against those with disabilities. Accommodations in the workplace were not commonplace. This section of the law brought about positive changes.. Special equipment, scheduling alternatives, and a change in work assignments helped allow those with disabilities to enter the workforce. Special communication devices including blinking fire alarms and Braille markings were incorporated into structures to alert deaf and blind employees of an emergency. Entrances and bathrooms were also equipped with wheelchair access. The workplace is a different place.

Title II - Public Entities

With the ADA, every school district, city, county and state had to make all of their services available to the disabled. Whether special testing opportunities in schools for those with reading or developmental deficiencies, equipping school and public buses with wheelchair ramps, making public housing available to everyone, or modifying their streets and sidewalks, the ADA has made significant changes in the world of the disabled. Today, crosswalks are equipped with not only blinking lights, but beeping traffic indicators and voice street directions. Changes have also come to city and state parks. Trails and special parking access has been added to allow those with disabilities to enjoy the outdoors as never before. Our communities are a different place.

BLAKE HUFFMAN ESSAY, continued

Title III - Public Accommodations and Commercial Facilities

The ADA has required that all new construction and renovations make commercial buildings handicap accessible. Special parking, ramps, automatic doors, wider entry ways, Braille and audio instructions in elevators, and handicap accessible bathrooms were all enhancements to buildings made due to the provisions of the act. Today, you can walk into most restaurants and request a menu in Braille and be able to maneuver a wheelchair without assistance into most commercial establishments. The difference continues.

Title IV - Telecommunications

Prior to the ADA, those who were blind, deaf or dumb had major challenges with communication. Today services like text telephone (TTY/TDD) have opened up the world to the hearing impaired. The hard of hearing or speech impaired can use these services to communicate by typing messages which are then relayed and received back in a way they can understand. Closed captioned TV has allowed those with hearing disabilities to keep up with current events or watch their favorite shows without lip reading. Computer generated relay services also allow communication through the internet and even your smart phone will allow hands-free communication through both visual and audio means. Communication is different, much different.

Title V

The final provision of the ADA provided protection from retaliation or coercion. Those exercising their rights under the American Disabilities Act could now do so without the fear of negative backlash. This is a difference, especially to those who have faced retaliation in the past.

Let's now go back to that street in small town America. Twenty-five years have passed since that July day in 1990. A walk down the street does look and sound different today. The beeping cross walk, the Braille menu at Wendy's, a time extension to take standardized testing, or being able to gaze over the New River Gorge at Hawk's Nest, all of these are different as a result of this life changing act. The ADA has made a huge difference in the world and especially in the lives of the disabled. One has to wonder if those brave souls that climbed the Capitol steps that day had any glimpse into the changes seen in the world today. But, the job is not done. The changes are not over and improvements are happening daily. The disabled still face challenges in the world they navigate daily, but the ADA has had and will continue to have a dramatic effect on the lives of the disabled.

Blake is a senior at Winfield High School.

JOINING THE WVSRC

The Council is made up of a minimum of fifteen members and no more than twenty-six members, comprised of both voting and non-voting (ex-officio) status. The majority of our members must be persons who self-identify as having or represent someone with a disability. The membership *must* include representatives from the following:

- Disability and advocacy organizations
- Business, industry, and labor
- Community rehabilitation service providers
- Client Assistance Program
- Vocational Rehabilitation/Visual Services Counselors
- Current or former consumer of DRS Services
- Parent Training Information Center
- State Board of Education
- State Workforce Investment Board
- Statewide Independent Living Council
- Director of DRS

According to the law, there must be this balance to reflect our State's diversity. The Council continuously accepts applications for membership from interested citizens. Those applications which meet the specific areas required are reviewed by the Council and then forwarded to the Governor's Office for appointment. Members of the Council serve at the will and pleasure of the Governor of West Virginia. Members may not be employed by WV SRC or the State of West Virginia.

Members may serve no more than two consecutive three year terms. Attendance at the meetings is expected. If a member has two consecutive absences, a letter of explanation may be requested, and resignation may follow. The Council meets six times a year. The February meeting is a conference call because of the possibility of inclement weather. There are various committees of the Council which may require additional time spent on those specific functions.

Members will receive reimbursement for approved reasonable and necessary Council expenses as needed to support their active participation at business meetings and other related functions. This may include travel, meals, lodging, registration for meetings and personal assistance services.

Applications are due to the WV SRC by May 31st yearly. Anyone meeting the required areas for membership, may fill out the attached form or request an application by contacting the WV SRC office at (304) 356-2089 or (800) 642-6207 or email sherry.a.taylor@wv.gov for more information.

WEST VIRGINIA STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL

Section 105 (a) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1998, as amended

Nomination for Gubernatorial Appointment

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ County _____ State _____ Zip _____

Day Phone # _____ Evening Phone # _____ Cell Phone # _____

Fax # _____ Email Address _____

***My disability is:** _____ ***Sex** _____ ***Race** _____

****This information is voluntary and is requested only to assist the nominating committee in ensuring diversity on the Council.***

The Rehabilitation Act requires that individuals with disabilities who are not employees of the Division comprise at least a majority of the Council membership.

While the disclosure of a disability is not mandatory, it is very helpful in the selection process. Under the Rehabilitation Act, the following definition of “an individual with a disability” applies for purposes of disclosure ~ “any person who has a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more of such person’s major life activities, or has record of such impairment, or is regarded as having such an impairment.”

Members of Council mandated for appointment by the Governor that are subject to the nomination process are listed below. Please check all that apply:

____ Representative of a parent training and information center

____ Representative of a community rehabilitation service provider

____ Individual representing:

____ business

____ industry

____ labor

____ Representative of disability advocacy groups representing a cross-section of:

____ Individuals with physical, cognitive, sensory and mental disabilities

____ A representative of an individual who has difficulty in representing themselves or is unable due to their disability to represent themselves

____ Individual who is a current or former applicant of, or recipient of Vocational Rehabilitation

____ Representative of the State Workforce Investment Board

____ Other (please explain) _____

Experience & Qualifications (you may attach sheet with additional information):

I am interested in serving on the Council because:

References:

Name	Address/Organization	Daytime/Cell Phone
<hr/>		
<hr/>		
<hr/>		

APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MAY 31

Questions regarding the Council or the application process may be directed to:

WV State Rehabilitation Council
P. O. Box 445
Institute, West Virginia 25112-0445

You may contact us at:
Telephone: (304) 356-2089 or 1-800-642-8207
Fax: (681) 235-2162
Email: sherry.a.taylor@wv.gov

I certify that the information I have given in this application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge:

Signature

Date



Front row:

Cindy Tucker and Eric Arnold

Second row:

Ray Morton, Janet Lintala, Bob Gray,
Sherry Taylor, Scott Gossard, Deb Wanzer
and Ray Woods

On stairs:

Michael Meadows, Margie Diekmann Fiesler, Debbie Lovely, Mary Pat Farrell,
Jennifer Holland, Cheri Bever, Sherry Breeden and Michael Casey

Absent: Alyce Almond, Sheryl Elkins, Greg Epps, Ginny Gattlieb, Nancy Hollingsworth,
Cathy Hutchinson, Brenda Lamkin, Linda Maniak, Megan Pigott and Marijane Waldron





Special Thanks to
Donna Ashworth

The WV SRC would like to thank Donna Ashworth for her dedication, leadership and support during her five year tenure as the Director of the WV Division of Rehabilitations Services. We appreciate her candor regarding the Agency, in depth reports she provided to the Council and the inclusion she offered the Council Executive Director and members in the Agency's vast activities, services and programs. We wish her the very best as she ventures into her retirement and charts new horizons.

Congratulations on a job well done!



In Memory of
Cathy Hutchinson

West Virginia has truly lost a wonderful advocate, dedicated servant and loving friend. Cathy dedicated her life trying to ensure the lives she touched had the opportunity to live independently, work to enrich their lives with what-ever job they chose and be an informed voice for those around her. Over the years, Cathy became involved with boards, organizations and causes that have helped to bring many changes to our State. The *Memories* she has left behind will remind us of *The Way We Were* and *Somewhere* she will always know we are carrying on her legacy with compassion and love.





Office Location:
107 Capitol Street
Charleston, WV 25301

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 445
Institute, WV 25112-0445

Phone:
(304) 356-2089 • (800) 642-8207
Fax: (681) 235-2162

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www.WV-SRC.org



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