



State Rehabilitation Council



“Finding Your Path to Success in West Virginia”

2017 – 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

Hello ~

Path to Success is our Annual Report theme this year, and my personal path to success began in 1975 when I first became involved with DRS as a client. Through multiple services from the agency, I became independent in activities of daily living, got my driver's license, and a bachelor's degree. After working in the private sector for several years, I was employed by DRS, earned my master's degree through a program offered by RSA, and retired after 23 years of service. I now serve as the Chairperson of the Statewide Rehabilitation Council.

Serving on the SRC allows me to continue to have an impact on others' paths to success. The Council is involved in assisting the agency in developing their part of the Unified State Plan. Any major policy changes are brought before the Council for input before they are implemented, and the Council handles the Customer Satisfaction Surveys that are so important in improving service delivery to the agency's customers.

The path to success at times can be straight and direct, other times it can be winding, rocky, and frustrating. Either way, the relationship between the Council and the agency remains strong, with the success of the folks served by the agency always the main goal.



Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cindy Tucker".

Cindy Tucker
SRC Chairperson





Greetings,

Defining what “Your Path to Success” means can be difficult since the term will be different for each of us. To distinguish success, we first need to take an in depth look at our own personal goals, interests, and passions. Once those are realized, we can determine what is personally meaningful and be inspired to seek our dreams.

As adults or transitioning youth, we need to make informed choices and assure the path we have selected will give unlimited satisfaction and motivation to be the best we can be. With a strong emphasis on our younger citizens, we strive to support our youth as they transition into adulthood by giving them the services and tools to live, work and set career goals to help them flourish in life. The direction each of us takes and how we move forward is our own individual strength ~ the power is ours.

Even though we set goals and have varying interests, our paths will continue to change over the course of time. Life should be viewed as an infinite journey rather than a series of goals. Remember to periodically re-examine yourself and your priorities. In doing so, you will have designed a legacy of having made a difference for your family, co-workers, your community and, most importantly, for yourself.

The staff of the WV Division of Rehabilitation Services is a vital link in helping individuals choose their path. The WV SRC is proud to be a contributing partner with the Agency and their renown achievements. The staff, as well as those we serve, should take pride and ownership of their innovation, accomplishments and the careers that were chosen. Remember to share your vision with others and believe in yourself along “Your Path to Success.”



Best Wishes on Your Journey,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sherry A. Taylor".

Sherry A. Taylor,
Executive Director



WEST VIRGINIA DIVISION OF REHABILITATION SERVICES

Dear Friends of the State Rehabilitation Council:

On behalf of the West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS), I appreciate the strong partnership between DRS and the State Rehabilitation Council. The vocational rehabilitation program is an investment in people with disabilities who want to go to work. Through the joint efforts of DRS and the State Rehabilitation Council, we remain steadfastly committed to meeting the employment needs of West Virginians with disabilities.

During fiscal year 2018, DRS provided essential services to 9,913 West Virginians with disabilities. This assistance enabled 1,211 of these individuals to enter employment or maintain their current vocation.

I appreciate each Council member's investment of your precious time to help in furthering this very important mission. It is your dedication to service, and the unique experiences you each bring to this collaborative partnership that ultimately benefits individuals with disabilities by helping to remove employment-related barriers in the workforce.

The State Rehabilitation Council diligently performs its mandated responsibilities of helping to establish essential goals and monitor ongoing performance. Through cooperative efforts, DRS and the Council continue to empower DRS consumers 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 & 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).

In compliance with the guidelines of the 1998 amendments to the Rehabilitation Act, the WV 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.

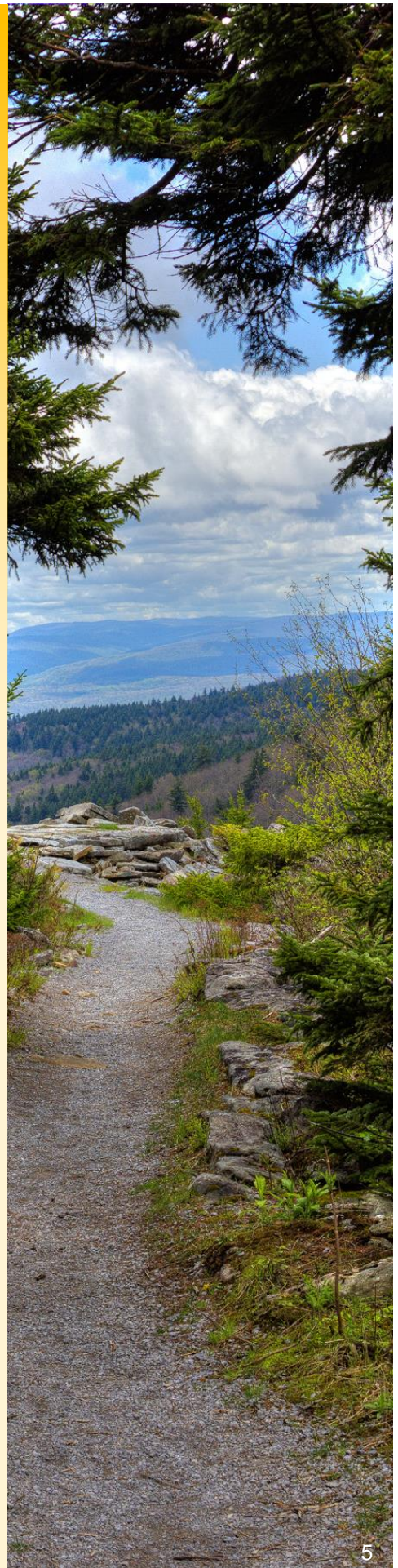
The Council assists in the preparation of the State Plan for Vocational Rehabilitation, amendments to the plan, applications, reports, needs assessments and evaluations, including those necessary for WV DRS to satisfy the requirements of developing a “comprehensive system of personal development” and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

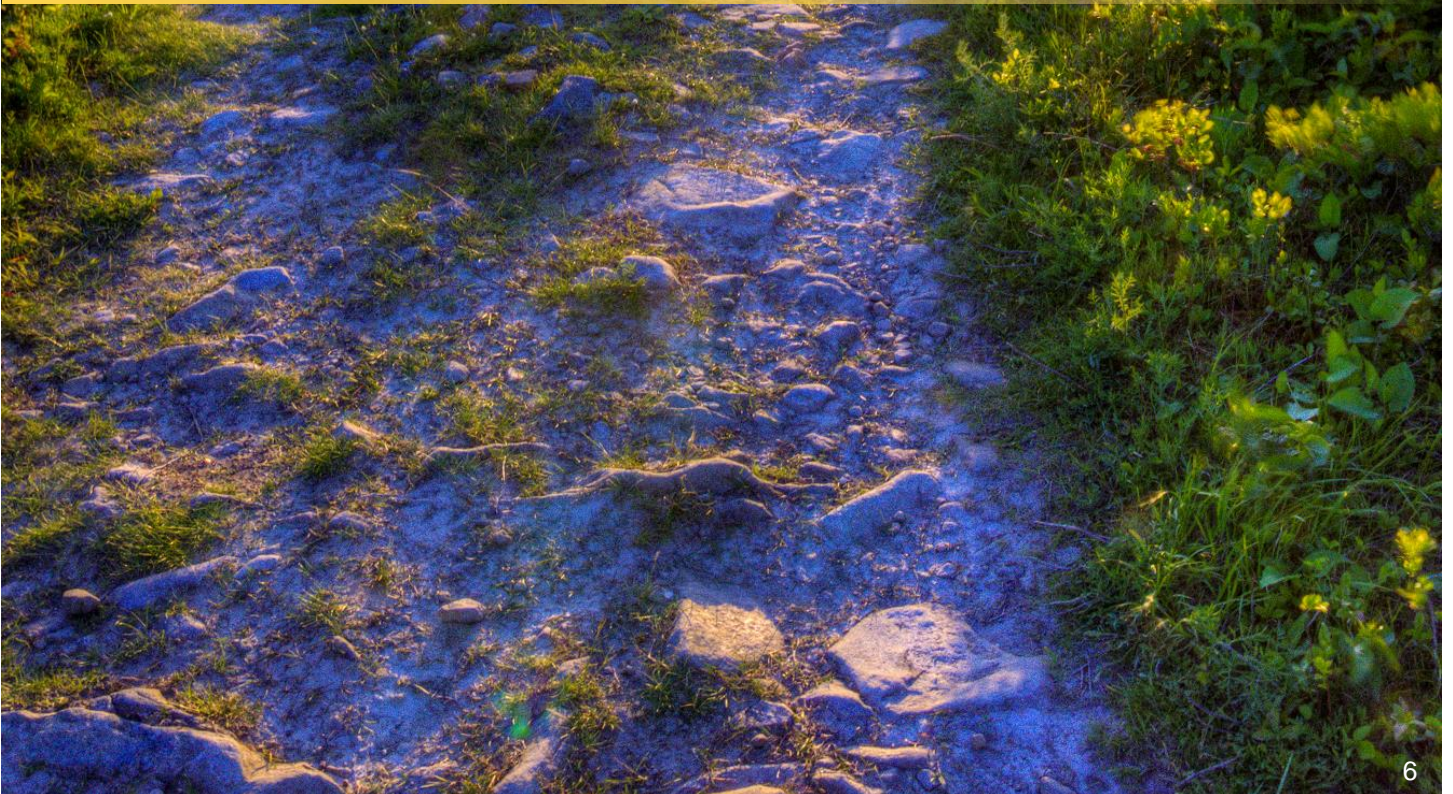
The WV SRC coordinates various activities with other partners to assist in educating the public on pertinent issues. The Council strives to enrich and maintain the working relationships between WV DRS, the WVSILC and the centers for independent living.

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



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 anonymously annually. The report is available on the WV DRS & WV SRC websites or upon request from the WV SRC office.

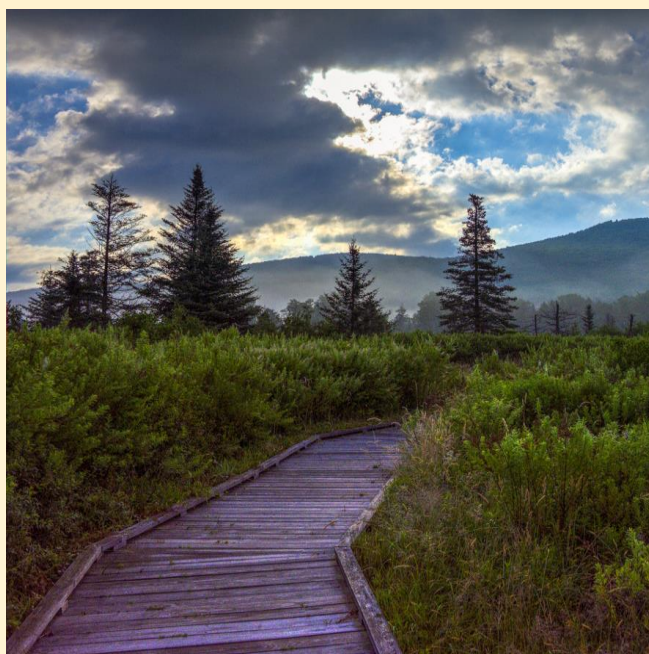
The WV SRC prepares an Annual Report highlighting the Council's past fiscal year's activities and accomplishments. This functions as a status report from the WV SRC of the vocational rehabilitation programs across our state that is submitted to the Governor, Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services 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.

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.



Our Accomplishments this Fiscal Year

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 Jim Justice

Executive Director participated 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 benchmarks & RSA regulations by VR staff

The Council is continually educated on the WIOA changes and the impact on the agency

Council served as the Policy Consultation Committee for the Agency to assist in drafting, reviewing and amending Agency policy

Agency presented any policy changes to Council in person and via conference calls with detailed explanations as needed

Council made recommendations in writing for the WV DRS Unified 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

Executive Director continues to work with CSAVR CEO Steve Wooderson on the SRCs' role on the Vision 2020 project

Collaborated with WV DRS on the 2018 Diversifying Perspectives Art Contest and Exhibition

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

Have Council representation on the WVSILC

Council members attended the Ability Works program in October, 2018

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 Long Beach, California respectively

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, trainings & conferences held in the spring and fall for all states and territories

As Treasurer of NCSRC, the Executive Director handles all money transactions for registrations & hotels, coordinating hotel accommodations and meeting details for spring & fall conferences working with CSAVR, hotel staff and any outside speakers

Executive Director assisted in the designing and launching of the national website for the NCSRC

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 the WV SRC, WV DRS and NCSRC websites for viewing

Updated and mailed the Consumer Satisfaction Survey to all closed VR cases

The 2017 - 2018 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

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

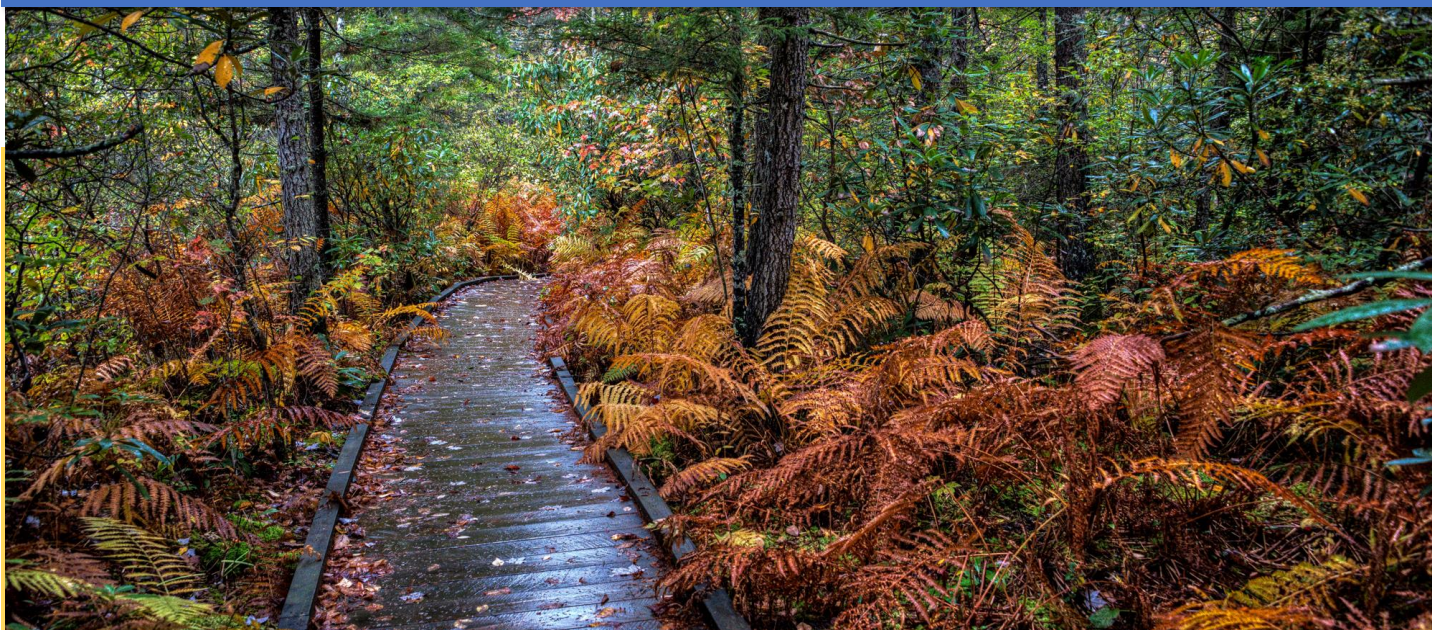
Set up WV SRC display and participated in annual Disability Advocacy Day in February, 2018 at State Capitol

Council Chairperson is a member of the Greenbrier Valley Disability Awareness Committee

Council Chairperson participates in the Monroe County WIOA Partnership

Council Chairperson is Co-ambassador to the Greenbrier County Health Alliance representing the disability community

Council Chairperson made a presentation on Customized Employment to families during a conference hosted by DHHR



COUNCIL GOALS AND OBJECTIVES 2017-2018

- 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;
- Will continue 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;
- Be continually educated and knowledgeable about services and programs within WVDRS;
- Serve as the Committee for WVDRS Policy;
- Receive detailed information & understanding on purpose of new or revised policies;
- Maintain an active role in the National Coalition of the State Rehabilitation Council (NCSRC) participating on the national steering committee, attending spring & fall national conferences to obtain information for 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, followed by posting on the WV DRS and WV SRC websites;
- Conduct combined public forums with WVDRS and the West Virginia Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) to education of the general public about WVDRS and the role(s) of the Council(s), as needed;
- Provide continuing education to the general public on the WV SRC and the role of the Council;
- 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 to meeting schedules & location, SRC documents, website data and public awareness events; and,
- Attend WV DRS State Conferences and other pertinent state and/or federal trainings and meetings.



WEST VIRGINIA

DIVISION OF REHABILITATION SERVICES

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 approximately 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, and/ or,
- assistive technology

DRS will continue to collect data that will evaluate the success of the agency's programs and services to assure performance measures are achieved. Benchmarks are being established by the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) and will be used to gage the agency's outcomes in the future.



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's 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 WV SRC proudly commends the WV DRS on the exemplary manner in which they have historically exceeded the requirements of the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA).

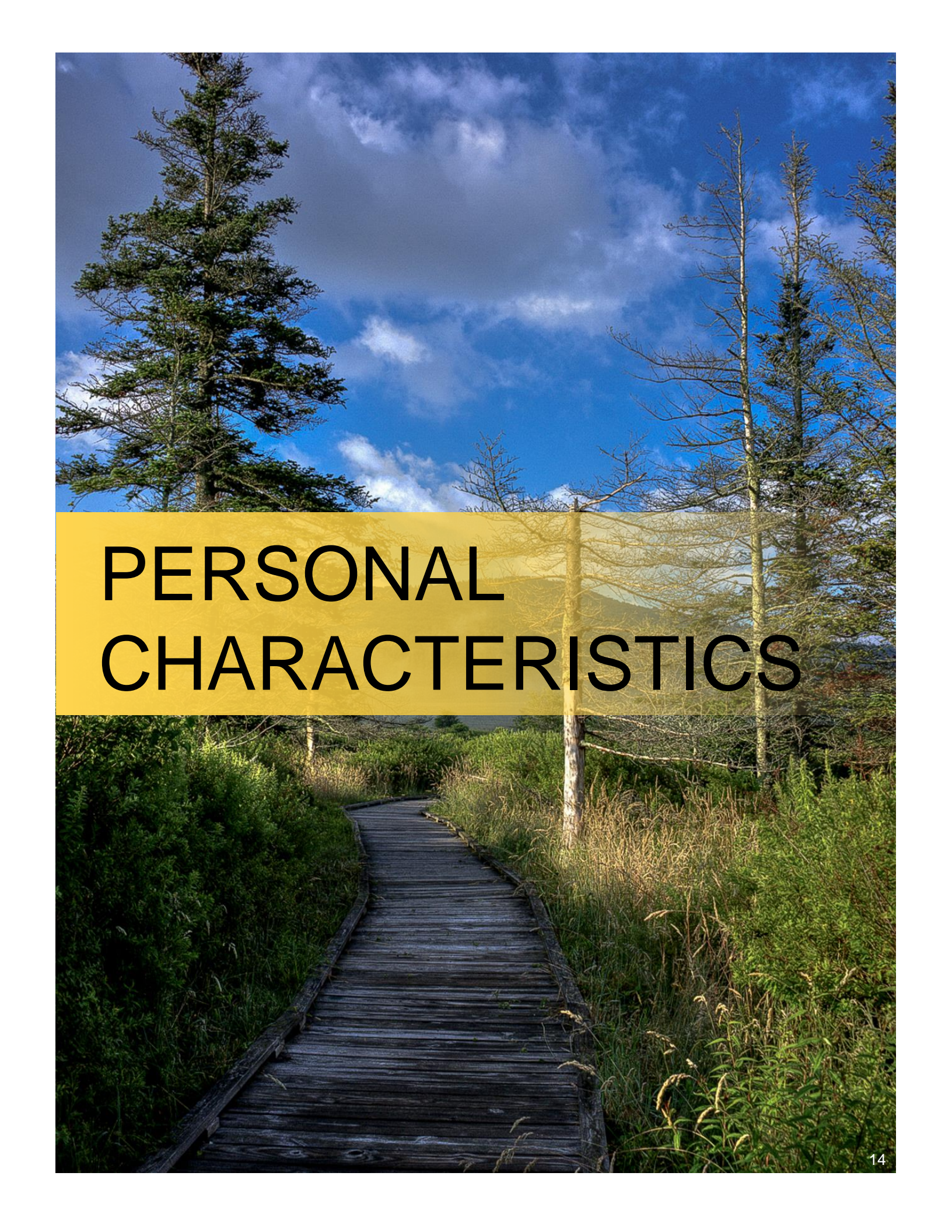
The WV SRC is proud to be a supportive partner and advocate of the WV DRS. The agency continues to receive national recognition for their achievements gained for their unique programs, creative innovation and diverse services helping to ensure that people in West Virginia with disabilities identify and 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) and other services providers, Vocational Rehabilitation counselors, Workforce Investment Board, WV Department of Education, consumers and consumer advocates. The WV SRC is proud 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 provides informative education when making presentations to our membership during each meeting or as needed. We greatly appreciate the WV DRS liaisons to our Council, Michael Meadows (recently retired) and our newly appointed liaison Rich Ward, who are considered valuable assets, informed resources and contributors by our members, as well as the WV DRS Counselor Representative member Alyce Almond for their expertise and voices for their peers.

The WV SRC understands the agency's obligation in achieving the benchmarks set by the RSA. West Virginia historically maintained high performance on RSA's Standards and Indicators of performance prior to the passing of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). WVDRS anticipates continued success in meeting the WIOA-based performance measure benchmarks established by RSA in the future. Senior Manager of Unified State Plan and Program The agency assures that all Council members have a clear understanding of what is expected of the staff, what this means for the agency, sharing of statistics and allowing time for members to ask questions during their regularly scheduled 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.



PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS



PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS

OF STATE REHABILITATION CLIENTS IN FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2018

DISTRICT	NUMBER OF CLIENTS	PERCENTAGE
District 1	1,718	17.33
District 2	1,308	13.19
District 3	1,478	14.91
District 4	2,030	20.48
District 5	2,236	22.56
District 6	1,143	11.53
TOTAL / STATE	9,913	100.00

PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS

Education at time of individualized plan for employment (IPE) of individuals vocationally rehabilitated.

EDUCATION LEVEL	NUMBER	%
High School Diploma, Equivalency, or Special Education Certificate	656	54.17%
Enrolled in High School	103	8.51%
One or more years of post secondary education	193	15.94%
Attained post secondary certification, license, or educational certificate (non-degree)	63	5.20%
Associate's Degree	30	2.48%
Bachelor's degree	64	5.28%
Degree beyond a Bachelor's Degree	29	2.39%
Less than High School Diploma, not attending at time of IPE	73	6.03%
Total	1,211	100%





PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS

Age at application of individuals vocationally rehabilitated:

AGE	INDIVIDUALS	PERCENT
Less than 20	500	41.29
20 through 34	297	24.53
35 through 44	154	12.72
45 through 64	243	20.07
65 and over	17	1.40
Total	1,211	100.00

Race of individuals vocationally rehabilitated:

RACE	INDIVIDUALS	PERCENT
American Indian or Alaska Native	2	0.17
Asian	4	0.33
Black or African American	62	5.12
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	0.00
White	1,125	92.90
More Than One Race	17	1.40
No Response	1	0.08
Total	1,211	100.00

Gender of individuals vocationally rehabilitated:

GENDER	INDIVIDUALS	PERCENT
Male	633	52.27
Female	578	47.73
Total	1,211	100.00

PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS

Referral source of individuals vocationally rehabilitated:

SOURCE	INDIVIDUALS	PERCENT
American Indian VR Services Program	1	0.08
Centers for Independent Living	3	0.25
Community Rehabilitation Programs	41	3.39
Consumer Organizations or Advocacy Groups	1	0.08
Educational Institutions (elementary/secondary)	351	28.98
Educational Institutions (post secondary)	74	6.11
Employers	7	0.58
Faith Based Organizations	1	0.08
Family/Friends	109	9.00
Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Providers	2	0.17
Medical Health Provider (Public or Private)	89	7.35
Mental Health Provider (Public or Private)	53	4.38
Other One-stop Partner	16	1.32
Other Sources	53	4.38
Other State Agencies	12	0.99
Other VR State Agencies	5	0.41
Self-referral	364	30.06
Social Security Administration (Disability Determination Service or District office)	10	0.83
State Department of Correction/Juvenile Justice	4	0.33
Veteran's Health Administration (the VA hospital system, as well as the VA transitional living, transitional employment, and compensated work therapy programs)	2	0.17
Wagner-Peyser Employment Service Program	5	0.41
Welfare Agency (State or local government)	8	0.66
Total	1,211	100.00

PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS

Primary disabling condition of individuals vocationally rehabilitated:

SENSORY / COMMUNICATION IMPAIRMENTS	INDIVIDUALS	PERCENT
Blindness	9	0.74%
Other visual impairment	34	2.81%
Deafness, Primary Communication Visual	15	1.24%
Deafness, Primary Communication Auditory	9	0.74%
Hearing Loss, Primary Communication Visual	4	0.33%
Hearing Loss, Primary Communication Auditory	81	6.69%
Other Hearing Impairments (Tinnitus, Menier's Disease, hyperacusis, etc.)	0	0.00%
Deaf-Blindness	2	0.17%
Communicative Impairments (expressive/receptive)	2	0.17%

PHYSICAL IMPAIRMENTS	INDIVIDUALS	PERCENT
Mobility Orthopedic/Neurological Impairments	80	6.61%
Manipulation/Dexterity Orthopedic/Neurological Impairments	18	1.49%
Both mobility and Manipulation/Dexterity Orthopedic/Neurological Impairments	13	1.07%
Other Orthopedic Impairments (e.g., limited range of motion)	47	3.88%
Respiratory Impairments	16	1.32%
General Physical Debilitation (fatigue, weakness, pain, etc.)	78	6.44%
Other Physical Impairments (not listed above)	109	9.00%

MENTAL IMPAIRMENTS	INDIVIDUALS	PERCENT
Cognitive Impairments (impairments involving learning, thinking, processing information and concentration)	374	30.88%
Psychosocial Impairments (interpersonal and behavioral impairments, difficulty coping)	300	24.77%
Other Mental Impairments	20	1.65%

TOTAL	1,211	100%
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PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS

West Virginians receiving rehabilitative services by county:

COUNTY	INDIVIDUALS	PERCENT
Barbour	7	0.58
Berkeley	31	2.56
Boone	11	0.91
Braxton	0	0.00
Brooke	27	2.23
Cabell	86	7.10
Calhoun	4	0.33
Clay	2	0.17
Doddridge	1	0.08
Fayette	31	2.56
Gilmer	1	0.08
Grant	13	1.07
Greenbrier	37	3.06
Hampshire	21	1.73
Hancock	31	2.56
Hardy	17	1.40
Harrison	21	1.73
Jackson	14	1.16
Jefferson	15	1.24
Kanawha	123	10.16
Lewis	2	0.17
Lincoln	19	1.57
Logan	31	2.56
Marion	43	3.55
Marshall	22	1.82
Mason	9	0.74
McDowell	33	2.73
Mercer	84	6.94

COUNTY	INDIVIDUALS	PERCENT
Mineral	24	1.98
Mingo	17	1.40
Monongalia	60	4.95
Monroe	11	0.91
Morgan	5	0.41
Nicholas	16	1.32
Ohio	28	2.31
Pendleton	9	0.74
Pleasants	1	0.08
Pocahontas	10	0.83
Preston	14	1.16
Putnam	21	1.73
Raleigh	68	5.62
Randolph	13	1.07
Ritchie	2	0.17
Roane	10	0.83
Summers	10	0.83
Taylor	4	0.33
Tucker	4	0.33
Tyler	1	0.08
Upshur	5	0.41
Wayne	17	1.40
Webster	2	0.17
Wetzel	9	0.74
Wirt	2	0.17
Wood	42	3.47
Wyoming	37	3.06
Out of State	33	2.73
TOTAL	1,211	100%

PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS

Occupation of individuals vocationally rehabilitated:

OCCUPATION	INDIVIDUALS	PERCENT
Management Occupations	34	2.81
Business and Financial Operations Occupations	19	1.57
Computer and Mathematical Occupations	21	1.73
Architecture and Engineering Occupations	15	1.24
Life, Physical, and Social Science Occupations	15	1.24
Community and Social Services Occupations	50	4.13
Legal Occupations	3	0.25
Education, Training, and Library Occupations	74	6.11
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media Occupations	22	1.82
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations	126	10.40
Healthcare Support Occupations	62	5.12
Protective Service Occupations	26	2.15
Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations	74	6.11
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occupations	100	8.26
Personal Care and Service Occupations	61	5.04
Sales and Related Occupations	63	5.20
Office and Administrative Support Occupations	128	10.57
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations	5	0.41
Construction and Extraction Occupations	48	3.96
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations	56	4.62
Production Occupations	116	9.58
Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	92	7.60
Military Specific Occupations	1	0.08
Randolph-Sheppard Vending Facility Clerk	0	0.00
Randolph-Sheppard Vending Facility Operator	0	0.00
Homemaker*	0	0.00
Unpaid Family Worker*	0	0.00
TOTAL	1,671	100%

*Occupation outside the competitive labor market

PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS

- Number of individuals rehabilitated (with an employment outcome): **1,211**
- Number (percent) of vocationally rehabilitated individuals placed in competitive employment: **1,211 / 100%**
- Number of individuals with significant disabilities served: **9,882**
- Total number of clients served: **9,913**

Total annual earnings of those receiving vocational rehabilitation services:

At Referral	\$6,864,416
After Rehabilitation	\$31,233,280
Percentage increase in annual earnings due to rehabilitation	355%





SATISFACTION SURVEY

Consumer Satisfaction Survey Report

SEPTEMBER 2017 – AUGUST 2018

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. A final section included open-ended items designed to determine the consumers' opinion about program changes or improvements that could be made.

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 2017 to August 2018 timeframe. The Council also wanted to examine the pattern of responses for transitioning youth and color coded the surveys so that youth could be identified. A total of 152 surveys were returned including 75 responses that were coded as being from transitioning youth. This report summarizes those responses and details the findings of the survey for the 2017-2018 program year.

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

The district and closure status were recorded on each survey in preparation for mailing. Each of the surveys was returned with district information. If there were equal numbers of responses from each district, you would expect to see about 17% of the responses to come from each of the six districts. In this sample, each District represents at least 13% of the responses, and no District represented more than 24%. The respondents were asked the county in which they live. There were 130 individuals who reported county information. There was at least one response from 39 of the 55 counties. District 1 had the highest level of representation in this sample (about 23%) and District 2 represented about 13% of the total responses.

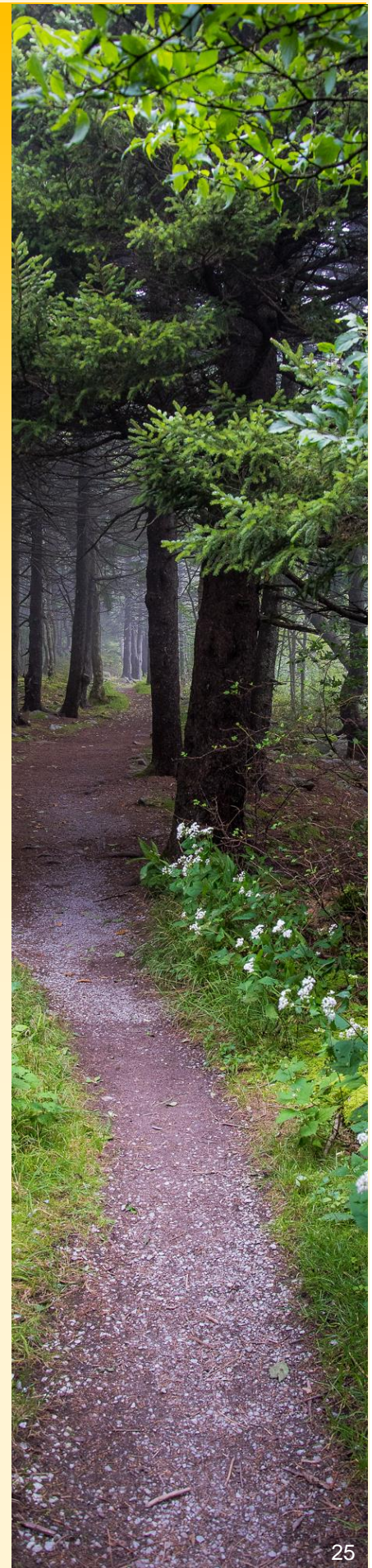
DISTRICT	NUMBER OF RESPONSES	% OF TOTAL RESPONSES RECEIVED
District 1	35	23.03%
District 2	21	13.82%
District 3	33	15.13%
District 4	28	18.42%
District 5	23	15.13%
District 6	22	14.47%

2018 SATISFACTION SURVEY (CONTINUED)

TYPE OF DISABILITY

The consumers were asked to indicate their disability. There were 121 people who listed a disabling condition (e.g., PDD-NOS- Autism) or a description of their disability (e.g., weakness on left side). There were 28 individuals who reported having a **Sensory** disability (23% of the sample). There were 21 people (17%) who reported having a **Motor-related** disability (e.g., arthritis in neck, hip replacement). Another 18 people (15%) reported having a **Cognitive**-related impairment (e.g., Down Syndrome, Working memory). A total of 14 individuals listed Bipolar disorder, anxiety, or other **Mental Health** disability (12% of the total). There were 10 people who indicated their disability was ADD and or ADHD (8%) and 7 people who listed Asperger's or Autism Spectrum Disorder (6% of the sample). There were 6 people who reported their disability as **Diabetes**. Four people listed heart surgery or other **Cardiac/Respiratory** disability (3%). The **Various/Other** category includes multiple impairments and/or responses such as cancer or Celiac Disease. This group included 13 people (11%) of the sample.

STATUS	RESPONDENTS	% OF TOTAL
Sensory	28	23%
Motor	21	17%
Cognitive	18	15%
Mental Health	14	12%
ADD / ADHD	10	8%
Autism Spectrum	7	6%
Diabetes	6	5%
Respiratory / Cardiac	4	3%
Other / Various	13	11%
TOTAL	121	100%



2018 SATISFACTION SURVEY (CONTINUED)

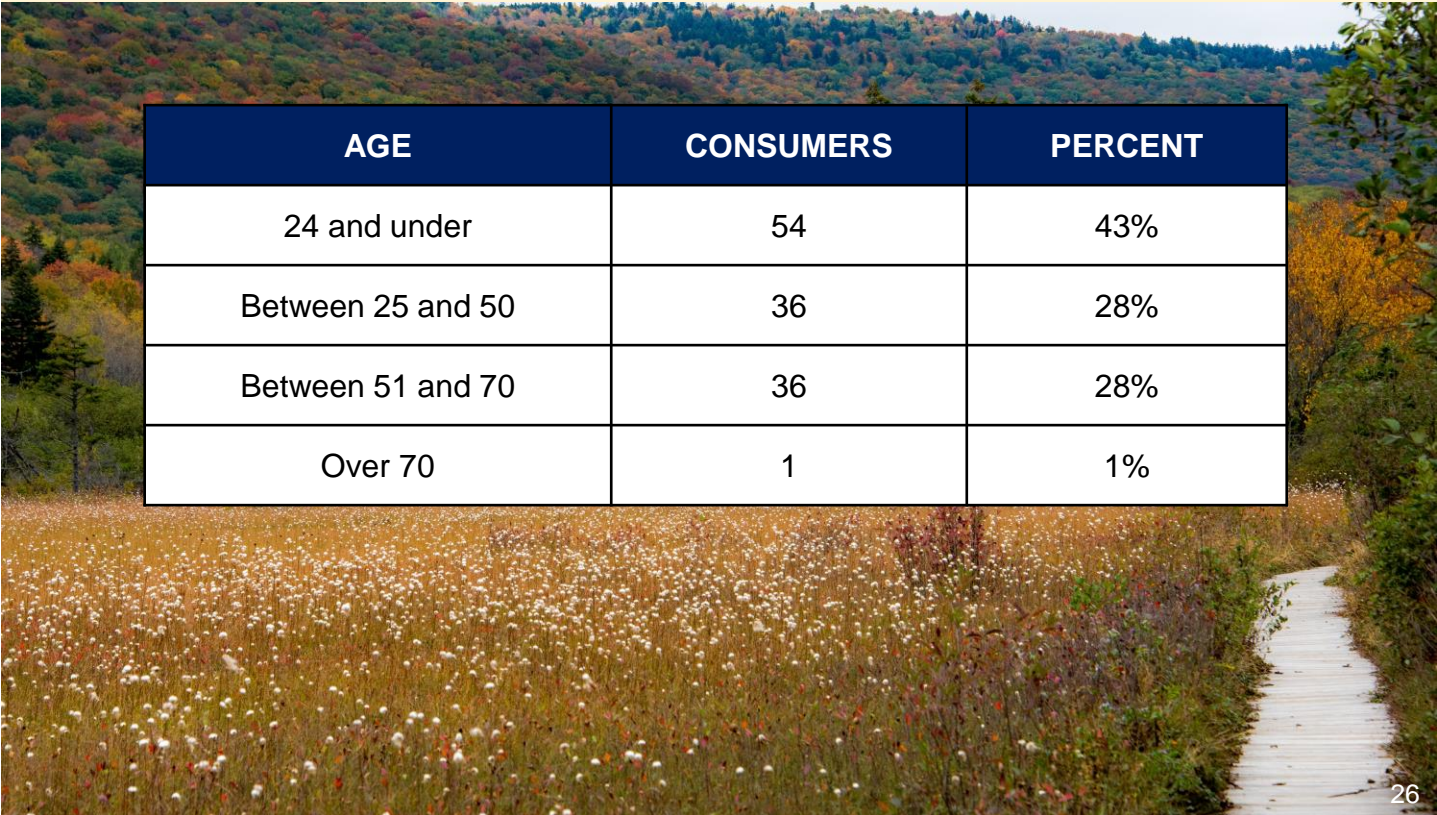
TYPE OF CLOSURE

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 surveys were sent to consumers whose cases were closed during the program year. About 61% of the respondents were in the Status 26 (successful closure) group and the remaining 39% were closed in Status 08, 28, or 30. This is the same proportion as was observed during the prior reporting period. There is a clear difference in the level of satisfaction of these 2 groups as evidenced by their response to the satisfaction items.

AGE OF RESPONDENTS

The respondents were asked to indicate the age group to which they belong. There were 127 responses to this question. Of these, 43% indicated their age as 24 years or younger. About 28% were in the 25 to 50 age group, 28% were between 51 to 70 old, and just 1% reported they were more than 70 years of age. This mean age for this sample is somewhat lower than the previous samples. Nearly three-quarters of the 127 people who included age information were under 51 years of age.



AGE	CONSUMERS	PERCENT
24 and under	54	43%
Between 25 and 50	36	28%
Between 51 and 70	36	28%
Over 70	1	1%



2018 SATISFACTION SURVEY (CONTINUED)

WORK STATUS OF RESPONDENTS

There were 133 responses to the item about work status. Of these, 71% reported that they were working at the time of the survey, 15% were looking for work, 6% were in school or training, 5% said they were unable to work, 3% reported that they were retired, and no one said that they don't want to work.

WORK STATUS	CONSUMERS	PERCENT
Working	94	71%
Looking for work	20	15%
In school / training	8	6%
Unable to work	7	5%
Retired	4	3%
Don't want to work	0	0%
TOTAL	133	100%

2018 SATISFACTION SURVEY (CONTINUED)

SATISFACTION ITEMS

The consumers were asked to rate their agreement with a series of 10 statements about their interactions with DRS, and about the office, their counselor, and the services received. They used a Likert-type scale to indicate whether they Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, or Strongly Disagree. There were also options to indicate that they were neutral or that the item was not applicable.

All consumers were asked to rate the accessibility of their DRS office, their counselor, and their experience with DRS as "excellent," "above average," "average," "below average," or "poor." Each item was rated as "excellent" or "above average" by 75% or more of the responders.

Overall, the responses in this sample generally indicate slightly increased satisfaction with services over the past few years and slightly less satisfaction with accessibility and overall experience

SATISFACTION ITEM (% who agree or strongly disagree)	2016-2017	2017-2028
1. The eligibility requirements and process for receiving services were clearly explained by DRS staff.	83%	85%
2. My questions were answered clearly by DRS staff.	82%	85%
3. My DRS counselor helped me identify appropriate employment opportunities.	70%	79%
4. My DRS counselor and I developed a plan for employment.	70%	73%
5. I was made aware of the steps and my responsibilities to achieve my employment goal.	76%	79%
6. My DRS counselor stayed in contact with me so I knew what was happening with my services.	76%	74%
7. I received the services needed to reach my employment goal.	70%	71%
8. I am satisfied with the services provided by DRS.	73%	73%
9. My counselor told me about job opportunities.	70%	85%
10. My counselor treated me with respect	85%	76%



2018 SATISFACTION SURVEY (CONTINUED)

SATISFACTION ITEMS

RATING ITEM (% who rate above average or excellent)	2016-2017	2017-2028
1. How would you rate the accessibility at your local DRS office?	85%	84%
2. How would you rate your counselor?	83%	80%
3. How would you rate your overall experience with DRS?	77%	75%

2018 SATISFACTION SURVEY (CONTINUED)

When the reactions to the satisfaction items are grouped according to the type of case closure, it is apparent that those whose cases were closed "successfully" are more satisfied with services than those who did not receive services or who did not complete their rehabilitation plans (Unsuccessful).

This year, 61% of the clients in the sample had cases that were closed successfully. The remaining 39% were unsuccessful. The percent of consumers who were from the "Successful" and "Unsuccessful" groups who agreed or strongly agreed with each item are displayed in the previous table. The differences are similar in this sample to previous years—ranging from 18% to 58% difference in satisfaction level for those whose cases were closed successfully versus those who were not successful.

PERCENT OF RESPONDERS WHO AGREE OR STRONGLY AGREE BY CLOSURE TYPE

Satisfaction Item	Successful	Unsuccessful	Difference
1. The eligibility requirements and process for receiving services were clearly explained by DRS staff.	94%	69%	25%
2. My questions were answered clearly by DRS staff.	91%	73%	18%
3. My DRS counselor helped me identify appropriate employment opportunities.	93%	56%	37%
4. My DRS counselor and I developed a plan for employment.	94%	36%	58%
5. I was made aware of the steps and my responsibilities to achieve my employment goal.	91%	56%	35%
6. My DRS counselor stayed in contact with me so I knew what was happening with my services.	90%	47%	43%
7. I received the services needed to reach my employment goal.	90%	34%	56%
8. I am satisfied with the services provided by DRS.	91%	40%	51%
9. My counselor told me about job opportunities.	92%	74%	18%
10. My counselor treated me with respect.	88%	52%	36%
Rating Item			
1. How would you rate the accessibility at your local DRS office?	95%	67%	28%
2. How would you rate your counselor?	92%	61%	31%
3. How would you rate your overall experience with DRS?	92%	46%	46%

2018 SATISFACTION SURVEY (CONTINUED)

SATISFACTION LEVEL FOR YOUTH RESPONDENTS

The surveys consumers received were color-coded to indicate whether the participant was a member of the “Transitioning Youth” group. Seventy-five of the returned surveys were coded as Transitioning Youth. Their responses are included as part of the previous Table. Generally, the Transitioning Youth report an elevated level of satisfaction.

PERCENT OF YOUTH RESPONDERS WHO AGREE OR STRONGLY AGREE			
Satisfaction Item	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
1. The eligibility requirements and process for receiving services were clearly explained by DRS staff.	77%	69%	86%
2. My questions were answered clearly by DRS staff.	75%	69%	88%
3. My DRS counselor helped me identify appropriate employment opportunities.	70%	62%	81%
4. My DRS counselor and I developed a plan for employment	69%	67%	78%
5. I was made aware of the steps and my responsibilities to achieve my employment goal.	69%	69%	81%
6. My DRS counselor stayed in contact with me so I knew what was happening with services.	68%	66%	73%
7. I received the services needed to reach my employment goal.	68%	59%	72%
8. I am satisfied with the services provided by DRS.	68%	59%	75%
9. My counselor told me about job opportunities.	67%	79%	88%
10. My counselor treated me with respect.	81%	62%	76%
Rating Item			
1. How would you rate the accessibility at your local DRS office?	81%	77%	74%
2. How would you rate your counselor?	77%	71%	82%
3. How would you rate your overall experience with DRS?	70%	65%	78%

2018 SATISFACTION SURVEY (CONTINUED)

CLIENT RIGHTS INFORMATION

Each consumer was asked to indicate which rights information had been explained to them. There were 128 individuals who responded that at least one right had been explained (84% of the sample). Of these, 39 people (30%) indicated that all rights were explained. Most individuals indicated that they had received several rights explanations. The total number of rights explained was 614. If each of these individuals had been given information about each of the rights listed, the total would have been 1,024 (128 individuals X 8 issues). The total responses indicate that consumers recalled having been told 60% of the possible rights information. Consumers reported that they were least often told about their rights to contact the Client Assistance Program for help in resolving differences (38%). These findings are similar to previous survey responses.

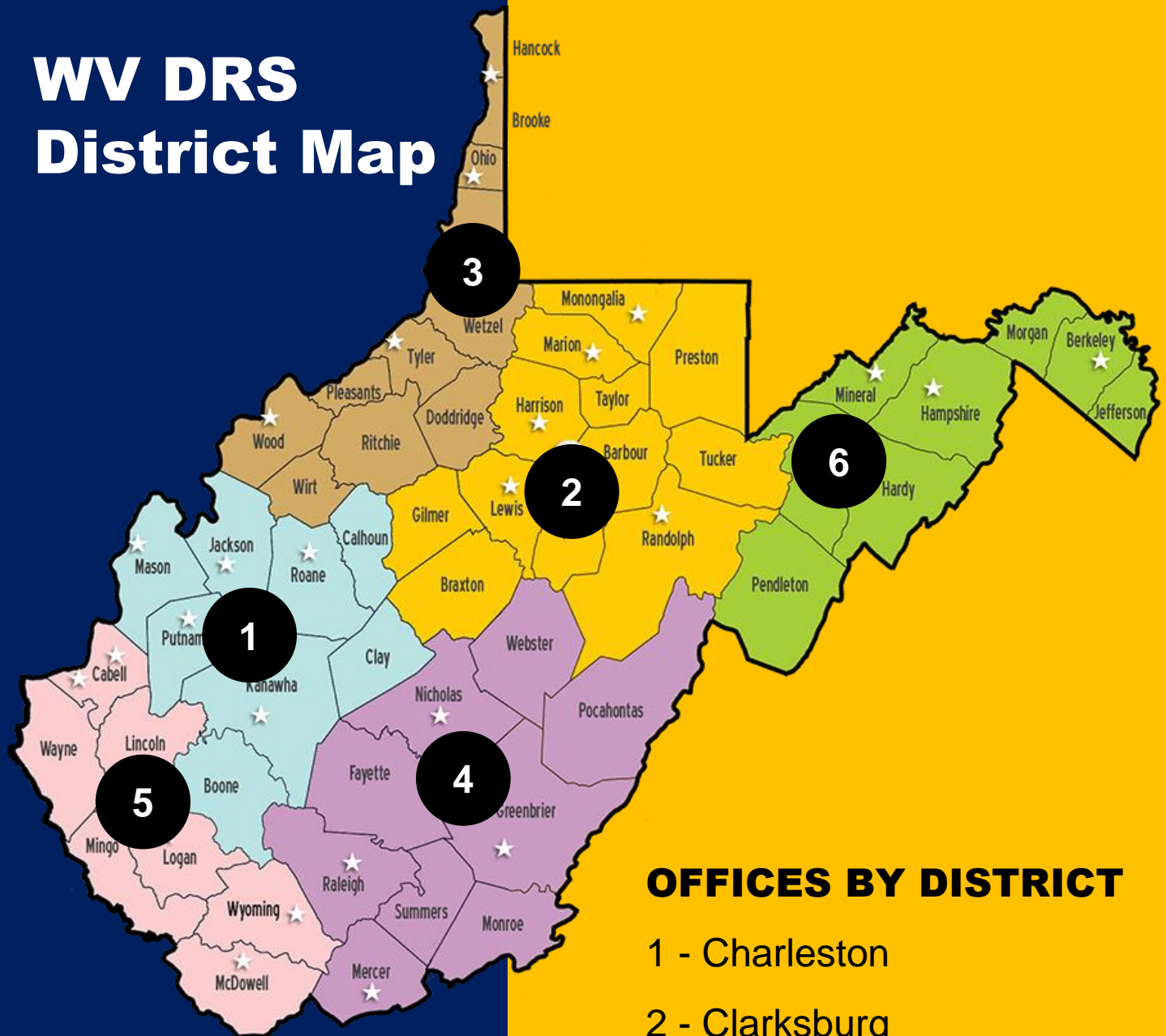
SURVEY SUMMARY

This year's responses, overall, are slightly higher than the reported satisfaction of the previous year. The mean rating across the ten satisfaction items is 78% for this year versus 76% mean rating last year.

Usually, the Transitioning Youth responses are generally lower than the responses from the whole sample. This year, the mean for that group was nearly 80%. This contrasts with a mean of 78% satisfaction across all the items for the whole group.



WV DRS District Map



OFFICES BY DISTRICT

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

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

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

Parkersburg South HS DRS 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

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

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

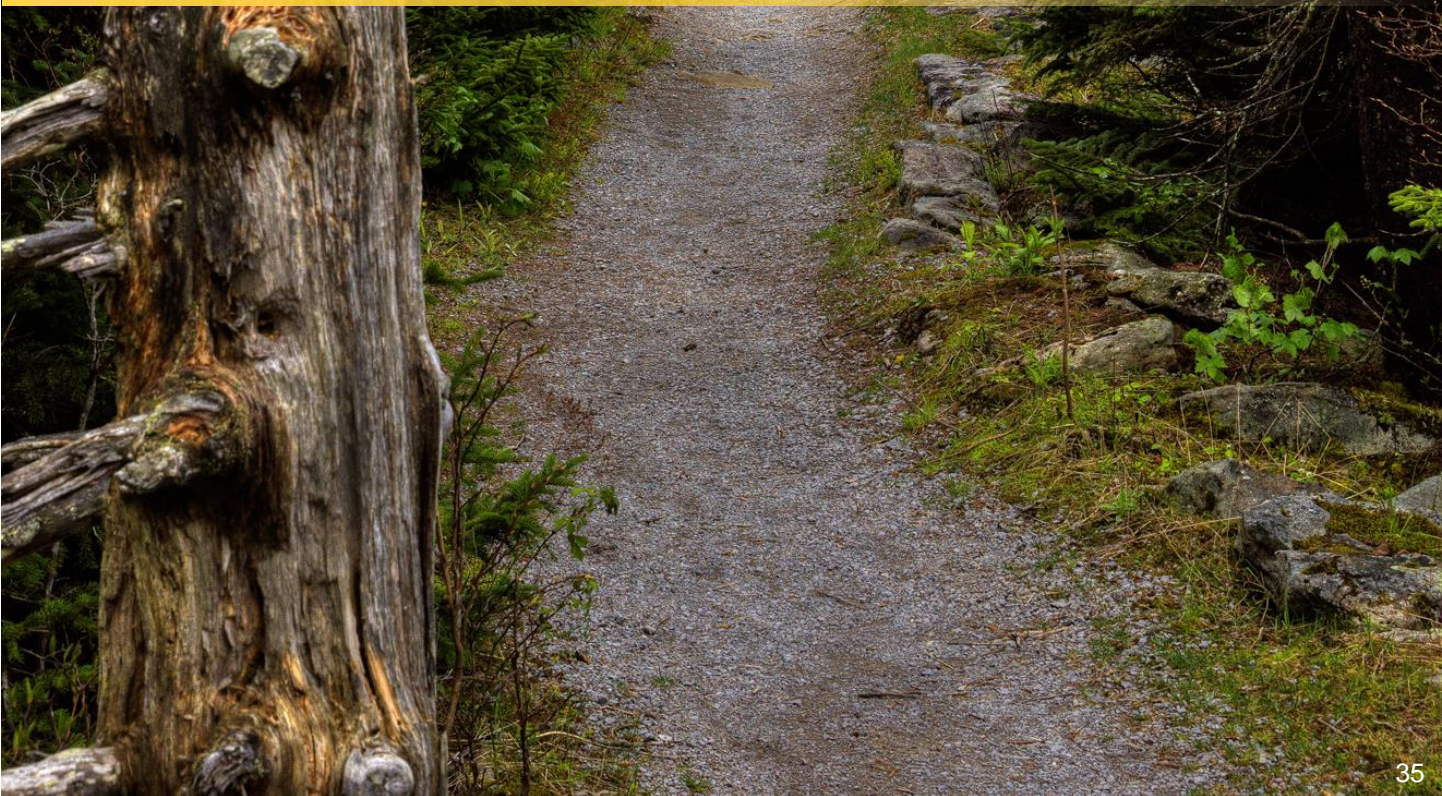
Welch Branch Office
 110 Park Avenue, Suite 200
 Welch, WV 24801
 304-436-3175

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



NCSRC





National Coalition of State Rehabilitation Councils, Inc.



National Coalition of State Rehabilitation Councils (NCSRC)

In November 2005, a handful of people affiliated with their State Rehabilitation Councils (SRC), including West Virginia, 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 focusing on topics members have requested to enhance their Councils. In addition, the Steering Committee meets on a regular basis to further the structure and development of the NCSRC. The Executive Director of the WV SRC serves as Vice President and Treasurer of 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 topic areas in which they would desire more training during conference calls and at each training. The conferences in 2018 were held in April at Bethesda, Maryland with Hill visits on Tuesday and in October in Long Beach, California.

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. The 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 been a much firmer foundation which positions SRCs to be more effective within their respective states & territories and as a national entity. Through these training 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.

One of the highlights for the NCSRC this year has been the redesign of the Coalition's website. The site is more user friendly and will be maintained by a consultant to assure all data is timely and accessible for our members. The goal of the NCSRC with the use of the website will be to provide a resource for Councils to find information they may need, request guidance from other states and territories and to feel connected in achieving their missions and visions.

The NCSRC encourages all states to sign the NCSRC Resolution to enrich their Council further. Currently 54 of the 79 states and territories have fulfilled this goal. 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 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.



Sherry A. Taylor, Executive Director
Hurricane, West Virginia

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Cindy Tucker, Chairperson
Lewisburg, West Virginia

Ray Woods, Vice Chairperson
Saint Albans, West Virginia

Janet Lintala, Secretary
Beckley, West Virginia

Scott Gossard, Treasurer
Petersburg, West Virginia

Robert Gray, Past Chairperson
Charleston, West Virginia

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Huntington, West Virginia

Alyce Almond
Daniels, West Virginia

Eric Arnold
Charleston, West Virginia

Cheri Bever
Hurricane, West Virginia

Sherry Breeden
Charleston, West Virginia

Michael Casey
Elkview, West Virginia

Sheryl Elkins
Oak Hill, West Virginia

Dawn Embrey-King
Charleston, West Virginia

Dr. Gregory Epps
Morgantown, West Virginia

Ginny Gattlieb
Charleston, West Virginia

Beverley Jones, SILC Chair
Hurricane, West Virginia

Brenda Lamkin
Buckhannon, West Virginia

Ray Morton
Beckley, West Virginia

Deborah Wanzer
White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia

Shawna White
Charleston, West Virginia

Rich Ward
WV DRS Liaison
Spencer, West Virginia

COUNCIL MEMBER QUOTES



Serving on the SRC is an important aspect for me, because I am able to deliver vital information regarding our counselors' work, help members better understand the responsibilities of our VR staff, and how our work impacts the lives of individuals with disabilities in the workforce.

ALYCE ALMOND, BECKLEY WV



As a long time advocate of DRS, serving on the WV SRC will provide a way for me to enrich some of the services and programs offered by the Agency.

ERIC ARNOLD, CHARLESTON WV



I am honored to serve with the Council toward creating more pathways for West Virginians with disabilities to participate in and benefit from rewarding careers.

CHERI BEVER, HURRICANE WV



It's personally fulfilling to serve on the West Virginia State Rehabilitation Council. Helping to make sure individuals with disabilities are given the help and hope they need to gain meaningful employment, touches my heart.

SHERRY BREEDEN, CHARLESTON WV



DRS excels in providing opportunities and resources for individuals to become full, contributing members of society. The agency has become a valuable resource for our State. Serving on the Council for such a respected agency is my pleasure.

MICHAEL CASEY, ELKVIEW WV



The reason I'm excited to serve on this committee is to be able to help me understand the services that are available to our children and adults with special needs.

SHERYL ELKINS, OAK HILL WV



Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much

DAWN EMBRY KING, CHARLESTON WV



The West Virginia State Rehabilitation Council consists of individuals who truly care about the well-being of all the people of our state. It has been a privilege for me to work this past year with the other members of the Council. They are a passionate group of individuals who, collectively as a team, make a difference in the lives of others.

GREGORY EPPS, MORGANTOWN WV



As a parent of a young man with disabilities, I understand firsthand the need for independence, employment and necessary supports. The VR staff strives to assure that individuals seeking services are truly heard and their personal plans are a reflection of their individual goals

GINNY GATTLIEB, CHARLESTON WV



Serving on the State Rehabilitation Council is an honor and a privilege. As a diversified team we work with DRS & other partners on behalf of persons with disabilities to enrich our communities and our citizens at large.

SCOTT GOSSARD, PETERSBURG WV

COUNCIL MEMBER QUOTES



The SRC serves an important advisory role to the Division of Rehabilitation Services. Serving in this capacity has allowed me to be a voice for and give back to a population that does not or adequately speak for themselves.

ROBERT GRAY, SO. CHARLESTON WV



I am honored to be the WVSILC Chair this past year and to be the WVSILC representative for the SRC. I have been reelected to be WVSILC Chair again for the coming year and I look forward to being the WVSILC representative for the SRC.

BEVERLY JONES, HURRICANE WV



As a member of the SRC and representing the West Virginia Parent Training & Information, it is an honor for the Council to support the WVDRS with our input and recommendations. The SRC is a diversity of members who ensure individuals with disabilities are being recognized and supported in WV.

BRENDA LAMKIN, BUCKANNON WV



Serving on a diverse, dynamic Council helping to eliminate barriers to employment for individuals with disabilities is one of my passions as a professional and as a parent. We have a responsibility to help enrich and enlighten our citizens to become the best they can be.

JANET LINTALA, BECKLEY WV



The work of the State Rehabilitation Council is invaluable to WV Department of Rehabilitation because it synthesizes feedback from many of the stakeholders to direct WVDRS efforts to its clients.

RAY MORTON, BECKLEY WV



Serving on the SRC has been an honor. I continue to enjoy participating in the improvement of services for West Virginians with disabilities.

DEBORAH WANZER, WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS WV



It is a privilege for me to serve as the Division of Rehabilitation Services liaison to the State Rehabilitation Council and to be a part of the important work we do.

RICHARD WARD, SPENCER WV



As the Client Assistance Program representative on SRC, I have the unique opportunity to bring client concerns directly to the members of the SRC and DRS administrators. I am always pleased to see that concerns are always given sincere consideration and are almost always addressed in a timely manner.

SHAWNA WHITE, CHARLESTON WV



It has been a rewarding experience for me to serve on the SRC. I have met so many dedicated people committed to providing services to enrich the lives of West Virginians with disabilities.

RAY WOODS, ST. ALBANS WV





STUDENT ESSAY STATE WINNER

Alexandria Nicole Rundle

“How the disability movement has shaped the world“

Being an individual with a significant disability at an early age, my first computation was that only the small percentage of people with a disability had any knowledge or even cared about the disability movement. A movement that has shaped our society and opened many doors to promote access to services and supports in our great country for all individuals with disabilities.

I spent many weeks in the children's hospital receiving treatments for my illness. At the age of two my ordeal began. Yes it is true that during this period, I could not grasp much of what was going on around me or how it affected my entire family. I could recall my brother, mother, father, grandparents and relatives gathered around me trying to comfort me every minute. As I got older, I learned more and more about advocacy skills, disability rights and the disability movement that began many years ago. A movement that surely made my young life easier related to accessing health care and my educational needs. I also learned that over time more and more individuals have made a positive commitment to change.

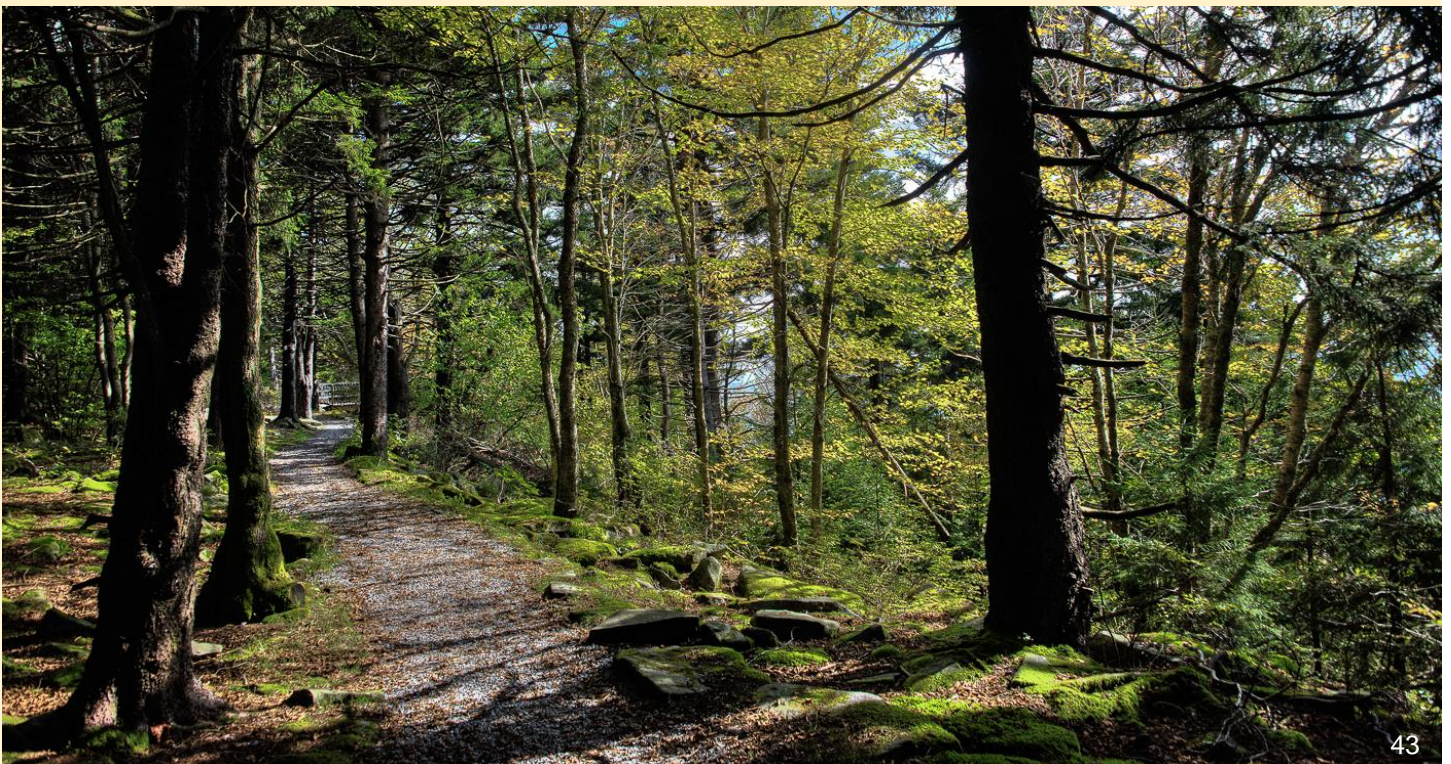
It has now been over 20 years since the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Through the determination and drive of families and individuals with a passion for equality and independence, more and more people have learned about the challenges and tributes of those that have fought the fight and I continue to learn and live independently. At the time, I could not imagine a grown man, a man that just wanted to go to college like anybody else, fighting so hard for what he wanted. This man, Ed Roberts also had a dream. He had to leave his sole means of independence at the time, his wheelchair to be carried thru the doors of a college that he so desperately wanted to attend. Also facing other barriers, he agreed to live in a segregated section of the campus due to the use of his iron lung and became the first quadriplegic to go to college even earning his Masters Degree. His legacy made it possible for others to achieve their dreams. There was no accessible entrance at the time and barriers still existed; but for him and many others a larger door was opened. For many at the time, there was no equal respect, no access to services for whom many were called “handicapped”, but time will change and change it did.

I attribute most of my knowledge to my Father. He has spent most of his life and career helping others. He has worked as an Advocate in many systems of care. I recall him being away from home all the time. As time went on I understood why. He was attempting to teach others how to advocate for what they wanted, including myself, in an effort to make life a little better and a lot more independent for some. He taught me the same, so here I stand today expressing my feelings.

ESSAY (continued)

So, what is my continued impression of how the disability movement has shaped the world? I truly believe it started out with just a few that had big dreams, wishes, desires and that were tired of hearing "NO". Many individuals worked to build a foundation for others that also cared about the mission. The disability rights movement began in the 1960's encouraged by African Americans seeking equal civil rights and treatment as well as assistance from woman and the Women's Rights Movement. At this time, many individuals with different disabilities such as mental, physical, cognitive, visual and hearing impairments came together to fight for their cause. Much like the African American generation faced back in the 1960's when they decided to be silent no more.

The movement indicated that people with disabilities are indeed the experts of their needs. In 1968 the first federal disability rights legislation passed. The Architectural Barrier Act provided that all federally constructed buildings and facilities were accessible for individuals with physical disabilities. Another groundbreaking piece of legislation passed in 1973, the Rehabilitation Act. This was the first civil rights law requiring equal opportunity for people with disabilities. Primary this law prohibited any entity receiving federal funds to discriminate on the basis of disability. Other important laws during this time frame had a significant and positive impact on allowing individuals to gain employment, education and access to public buildings and services. The passing of the Education for Handicapped Children's Act helped provide access to education for children with disabilities. Before the passing of these initial laws, many people with disabilities were treated as sub-human. Individuals felt incompetent and pitied. In my opinion, the entire fight to this day was to gain independence through accommodations. Just to have an avenue to live, work, play, etc, just like anyone else.



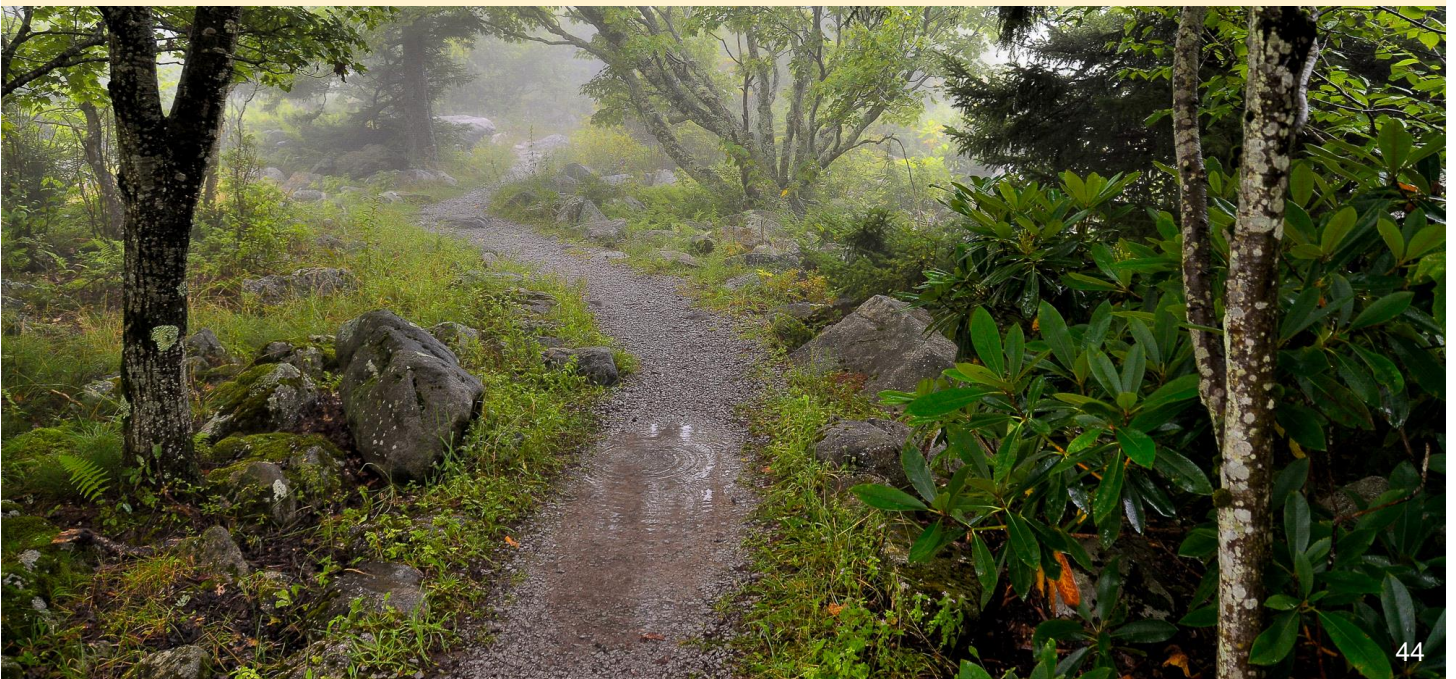
ESSAY (continued)

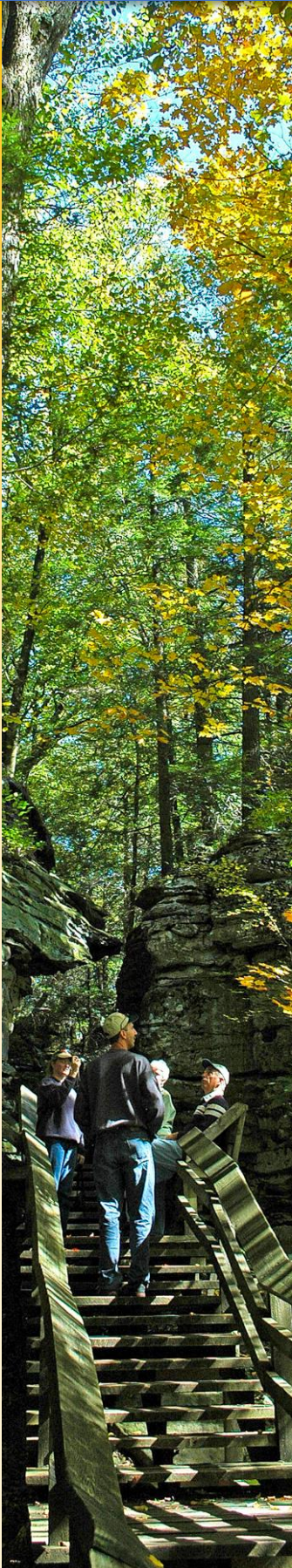
During this era of time, the largest federal or national protest (sit-in) related to the disability movement took place and section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act was enacted. This demonstrated how grass roots advocacy can be effective. Section 504 expanded significantly the laws regarding discrimination based on disability. An important individual whom put massive time and effort into the movement was Edward Roberts.

In 1990, a dramatic event occurred following many years of civil rights advocacy. Although the advocacy efforts and the actions of thousands ultimately resulted in the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Many called Justin Dart "the father of the ADA" and "the godfather of the disability rights movement" Justin Dart often stated that "the ADA was the civil rights act of the future". Indeed it was. I would encourage anyone reading this essay to take a few minutes and educate you about the foundation of these movements. The ADA enhanced the independence of all Americans with a disability. The law was comprehensive and addressed many needs including access to education, employment, public services and accessible entrances and parking.

The disability movement has made a major impact in my life and many Americans that have a disability. It has paved the way for future generations to excel with independence, provide accommodation instead of pity. To continue the growth of the movement, many fought as hard of a battle as those who fought our wars, thus leading to growth and freedom of our country.

Without the disability right movement thousands of individuals including myself would not have had the opportunity to live the lives we have today. The movement brought a sense of importance and respect, as well as independence and purpose to our lives. The movement has transformed our lives and our society. It is our time, my time to ensure the purpose continues.





Joining the SRC

The Council is made up of a minimum of fifteen (15) members and no more than twenty-six (26) 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 (2) consecutive three (3) year terms. Attendance at the meetings is expected. If a member has two (2) consecutive absences, a letter of explanation may be requested, and resignation may follow. The Council meets six (6) 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



State Rehabilitation Council

Front Row – Marijane Waldron, Cindy Tucker, Sherry Taylor,
Janet Lintala

Second Row – Brenda Lamkin, Rich Ward, Shawna White,
Alyce Almond, Bob Gray, Beverley Jones

Third Row – Cheri Bever, Ray Woods, Scott Gossard,
Ray Morton, Michael Casey, Sherri Breeden, Ginny Gattlieb

Office Location:
107 Capitol Street
Charleston, WV 25301

Mailing Address:
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