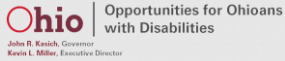
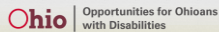


Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD)



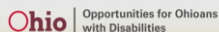
Voc Rehab 101

- ☞ Early roots: Soldiers returning from World War I (some early efforts in Civil War)
- ☞ Could not what used to do mentally, emotionally, or physically; but were young would-be workers and family providers.
- ☞ Rehabilitation Act of 1973 started the modern age of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR).
- ☞ Each state required by federal law to have VR services.



What is Vocational Rehabilitation?

- ☞ Assist people with disabilities increase independence and self-sufficiency and achieve quality employment
- ☞ Make decisions about the type of job that is most suitable
- ☞ Preparing for employment
- ☞ Obtaining Employment
- ☞ Retaining Employment
- ☞ Ideal: get people as close to their previous level of functioning as possible before onset of disability



Many types of disabilities



- ☞ Blindness or low vision
- ☞ Brain injury
- ☞ Mental Health
- ☞ Deafness
- ☞ Limb loss
- ☞ Cognitive Disabilities
- ☞ Developmental Disabilities
- ☞ And many more/ combinations

Role of the VR Counselor



- ☞ Supply information about different employment opportunities and careers.
- ☞ Assist the consumer to identify an appropriate vocational goal and the vocational rehabilitation (VR) services needed to reach this goal.
- ☞ Work with the consumer to determine an employment goal and develop an Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) with the consumer.
- ☞ Collaborate with other involved agencies

Potential VR Services

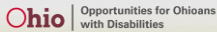


- ☞ Vocational Evaluation
- ☞ Work Adjustment
- ☞ Personal adjustment
- ☞ Job Placement
- ☞ Job Coaching
- ☞ Community Based Assessment
- ☞ Orientation and Mobility
- ☞ Rehabilitation Technology and Accommodations

Other Services



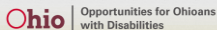
- ☞ Summer Youth
- ☞ Travel and Skills Training
- ☞ Evaluations (medical and psychological)
- ☞ Rehabilitation Technology
- ☞ Restoration Services (treatment, hearing aids, etc.)
- ☞ Other services deemed necessary in order to obtain or maintain employment that are not covered by another entity.
- ☞ OOD contracts services with many providers and CCBDD is one of these providers.



OOD Process



- ☞ Referral: In the Cleveland area, call **216-227-3250**
- ☞ Application
- ☞ Eligibility/OOS Determination
- ☞ Vocational Exploration
- ☞ Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE)
- ☞ Employment
- ☞ Retention (90 days of employment)
- ☞ Successful Closure

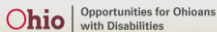


Ready to Work?



Questions to consider before applying/referring

- ☞ Does the individual want to work?
- ☞ Do you believe that after receiving VR services the individual will be able to benefit towards an employment outcome?
- ☞ Is the individual at least 14 years old?
- ☞ Has the individual been released to work by his/her treating professional?
- ☞ For questions please contact OOD to discuss



Eligibility Criteria



- I. The Applicant must have a physical or mental impairment, which constitutes or results in a substantial impediment to employment,
- II. The Applicant must demonstrate the ability to benefit from VR services in terms of an employment outcome, and
- III. The Applicant requires VR services to prepare for, secure, retain, or regain employment.

I'm Eligible, What's Next?



- Assess current skills, education, work history. What does consumer bring to table?
- We have ability to assess cognitive and physical abilities in various assessments if unclear.
- Assess emotional stability, interpersonal skills, behavior in work assessments in a rehab facility or community
Paper / pencil tests, Job try-outs, Informational interviewing, job shadowing
- Generally these services are contracted out to local vendors we call Community Rehabilitation Partners

Choose Job Goal, Many Factors



- ☞ Full or part time? Locations, transportation, hours, environment, social world of that workplace?
- ☞ What job makes sense for you? Have skills or need skills? Transferable skills?
- ☞ Are there jobs locally in that field? Competitive applicant pool?
- ☞ Effect on benefits? Want to keep benefits/work part time? Or ease into work?
- ☞ Other disability concerns? Pain, stress, stamina. Bad influences in job? Risk of injury? Criminal background problems?

The Plan



- ☞ **Goal of a plan is to find/keep work**... not just training or education although those services might be part of the plan.
- ☞ Individualized Plan for Employment is developed in collaboration with the consumers.
- ☞ If the consumer does not want to do the work the plan will not work long term --- if counselor feels job is not appropriate, usually will not work long term.

The Job Search



- ☞ Work with a job developer. Get tips, leads.
- ☞ Resume development.
- ☞ Practice interviews
- ☞ "Pound the pavement" in addition to online. Personal network, church, community, etc.
- ☞ Follow-up on the job
- ☞ Teach consumer how to do job search to best of their ability

Consumer Responsibilities



- ☞ Strong emphasis on consumer commitment
- ☞ Consumer needs to be engaged to the best of his/her ability for VR process to succeed
- ☞ For transition youth, family or guardian supports need to be committed
- ☞ Good attendance, provide current medical information, in close contact
- ☞ Supportive and flexible, but not hand-holding

Who Succeeds?



- ☞ - Maintain treatment.
 - Person must work as hard as counselor. Job search on own, network
 - Be self starter or *become* one. Don't rely on counselor or vendor to hold hand.
 - Be realistic about your abilities and barriers
 - Follow tips and advice.
 - Understand it will be hard work and may take time

Competitive Employment



- ☞ Full-time or part-time work in the competitive labor market in an integrated setting, and for which payment is at or above the minimum wage, but not less than the customary wage and level of benefits paid by the employer for the same or similar work performed by persons who are not disabled.

VR Supervisor Contact Information



- ☞ Referral: In the Cleveland area, call **216-227-3250**
- ☞ Brandon Wray: 216-227-2023
Email: Brandon.Wray@ood.ohio.gov
- ☞ Camille Ali: 216-227-3251
Email: Camille.Ali@ood.ohio.gov
- ☞ Carolyn O'Connor: 216-227-3266
Email: Carolyn.Oconnor@ood.ohio.gov
- ☞ Nick McDowell: 216-227-3264
Email: Nicholas.McDowell@ood.ohio.gov



Q & A

Wrap Up

Ohio | Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities
