State Rehabilitation Council for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Annual Report, October 2001 - September 2002

Maine Department of Labor
Maine Rehabilitation Council

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalmaine.com/rehab_docs

Recommended Citation
http://digitalmaine.com/rehab_docs/67

This Text is brought to you for free and open access by the Labor at Maine State Documents. It has been accepted for inclusion in Rehabilitation Services/Disability Services Documents by an authorized administrator of Maine State Documents. For more information, please contact statedocs@maine.gov.
STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL
FOR THE
BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

ANNUAL REPORT
October 2001 – September 2002
MISSION:

The mission of the State Rehabilitation Council for the Blind and Visually Impaired is to provide leadership and diverse viewpoints in partnership with the Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired to develop and evaluate programs and services; to identify priorities that help create opportunities, increase independence and broaden access to the workplace for citizens of all ages who are blind or visually impaired.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the Council is to work in conjunction with the Director of the Division concerning policy and program issues, including the delivery of services. The Council provides a formal means to influence the direction of services to the blind and visually impaired population of Maine at the systemic and policy level.
ACCOMPLISHMENTS
AND ACTIVITIES

- Accomplished 202 successful vocational rehabilitation closures, the 8th consecutive year of increases.
- Participated in Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation conference in Washington, D.C.
- Advocated with congressional delegation for rehabilitation needs of people with disabilities.
- Convinced Maine Department of Education to support accessibility of laptop computers for blind students.
- Analyzed results of the Comprehensive Needs Assessment.
- Reviewed client satisfaction survey results noting an extremely high rate of satisfaction with services provided. Compiled survey results for the past 5 years for comparison.
• Advocated for consumer choice to be ensured in the selection and provision of services provided.
• Updated the 2003 State Plan, which received approval by the Rehabilitation Services Administration.
• Participated in updating of state rules.
• Provided strong advocacy for Vocational Rehabilitation employment issues.
• Advocated improved outreach regarding Jobline.
• Advocated with Department of Labor and Governor regarding impact on direct client services of CRP accreditation and moratorium
• Participated in the 5th annual "Eye Opener" Golf Challenge with the Visual Impairment Program at the Togus VA Hospital, The Iris Network, the Blinded Veterans Association and the Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired.
• Provided annual training for Council members regarding SRC roles.
• Celebrated White Cane Awareness Day with public events in Augusta, Bangor and Portland.

GOALS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2003

• Hear and respond to the concerns and issues raised by blind and visually impaired Maine persons to ensure that the work of the Council is as effective as possible.
• Advocate for resources to meet the needs of persons with vision impairments in Maine.
• Continue to build partnerships with visually impaired persons, employers, providers of services and advocacy groups.
PLANNED INITIATIVES:

- Make recommendations to Congress and RSA regarding reauthorization of the Rehab Act.
- Participate in system of mentoring for blind citizens seeking employment or higher education.
- Recruit additional Council members from under-represented groups especially business and labor, and clarify status and process of gubernatorial appointments.
- Continue to measure consumer satisfaction.
- Conduct Legislative awareness day to raise visibility of services to people who are blind and of their unmet needs.
- Monitor Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired performance on standards and indicators.
- Participate in revision of VR rules.
- Improve informed choice performance and public awareness.
CONSUMER SATISFACTION SURVEY SUMMARY 2002

“How would you rate our staff on courtesy and helpfulness?”

Excellent/Very Good 95%
Good/Poor 5%

“How would you rate the promptness with which we responded?”

Excellent/Very Good 87%
Good/Fair/Poor 13%

“How did we do in treating you as an individual?”

Excellent/Very Good 90%
Good/Fair/Poor 10%

How do you rate:

- Mobility Instruction?

Excellent/Very Good 89%
Good/Fair 11%
- Rehabilitation Teaching?

Excellent/Very Good 85%
Good 15%

- Low Vision Services?

Excellent/Very Good 85%
Good/Fair/Poor 15%

- Personal Adjustment Counseling?

Excellent/Very Good 92%
Good/Fair 8%

- Computer Skills?

Excellent/Very Good 72%
Good 28%

- Job Placement?

Excellent/Very Good 63%
Good/Fair 37%
“Did you help choose your goal and services?”

Yes  65%
Somewhat  30%

“Did you achieve your goals with the help of this program?”

Yes  67%
Somewhat  27%

“Were you informed of your right to appeal decisions, and of the services available from the Client Assistance Program?”

Yes  93%

“Overall how satisfied are you with services received from the Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired?”

Delighted/Very Satisfied  84%
Satisfied/Somewhat Satisfied  13%

Additional detailed information is available on request
COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP:

Daniel T. Bence, Chair - Augusta
Representing Blind Veterans

Dale Morgan, Vice-Chair - Gardiner
Representing Maine Parent Federation

Tony Ackerman - Windham
Representing Consumers

Marjorie Awalt - Augusta
Representing Consumers

Andrea Bickford - Bangor
Representing Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors

Jane Boutilier - Sangerville
Representing Parents

Anisio Correia - Portland
Representing Consumers and CRP

Senator Beverly Daggett - Augusta
Representing the Legislature
Benita Davis - Augusta
Representing State Library Services

Jack Desjardins - Lewiston
Representing Consumers and Business

Patricia Ellis - Augusta
Representing Consumers

Debbie Fillyaw - Augusta
Representing Consumers

Diane Frigon - Augusta
Representing Client Assistance Program

Susan Hall - Bangor
Representing Parents

Leona McKenna - Augusta
Representing Consumers

Steven Obremski - Portland
Representing Consumers and CRP
James Phipps, Esquire – Portland
Representing Consumers and Business

Patricia Sarchi – Bangor
Representing Deaf-Blind Consumers

Jean Small – Bangor
Representing Education Services

For more information
contact Daniel Bence (207) 621-7307