

Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services (GVRS) Board Meeting

Wednesday, January 11, 2023



GVRA





Chairman's Welcome

- Welcome and Remarks
- Roll Call and Agenda
- Previous Board Meeting Minutes Approval

Executive Director's Report

Chris Wells, Executive Director

Chris.wells@gvs.ga.gov



GVRA





Agency Spotlight

- Employee of The Month
 - Karen McClure, Counselor Assistant





Program Highlights

Retention and Recruitment

Key Recruitments

- Posting for 50 counselors statewide
- Three (3) Interns have been promoted to Counselor 1 as of January 1, 2023
- Eight (8) VR Supervisors have been hired
- Anticipates 20-25 new hires to start on February 1st (most are Adjudicators).

Key Vacancies

- VR Statewide Employment Coordinator
- Statewide Training and Development Manager
- Residential Director



Program Highlights

Key Initiatives

- Georgia Academy for the Blind
 - Interviewed and Selected a Dedicated Resource
- Certified Public Managers Training
 - 28 employees represented from each program
- Georgia Industries for the Blind
 - Level Three Face Mask Certification Approved
 - KN95 Mask Machine
 - Paper Sheeter Machine
- Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA)
Monitoring
 - **Five (5) of eight (8) findings resolved**
 - Business Enterprise Program still outstanding



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Administrative Highlights

Agency Expenditures

GVRA	Total Expenditures	Current Budget	Percent of Budget
300-Personal Services	\$30,080,501	\$88,086,981	34%
301-Operating Expenses	3,807,708	7,135,732	53%
303-Vehicle Purchases	0	0	
304-Equipment	12,991	62,854	21%
305-Computer Charges	1,209,546	6,214,445	19%
306-Real Estate Rentals	3,235,213	9,379,858	34%
307-Telecommunications	920,880	2,488,054	37%
309-Capital Outlay	59,123	0	
312-Contractual Services	12,733,452	13,839,076	92%
314-Transfers	32,500	207,500	16%
315-Grants and Benefits	3,829,715	5,082,101	75%
319-Other	427,594	480,032	89%
320-DAS CE/ME	7,753,112	21,066,212	37%
321-VR Case Services	5,530,686	32,072,386	17%
Total Expenditures	\$69,633,021	\$186,115,231	37%

Legislative Updates

Bethany Whetzel

Deputy Executive Director of Program

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Legislative Updates

- Georgia Pathways 1115 Waiver
- Study Committee for Individuals with Disabilities Report
- Senate Bill 108 (2022 Legislative Session)
- Public Affidavit Reminder

Supported Employment

Sharon DeMille, Supported Employment Statewide
Coordinator

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Supported Employment

Senate Study Committee on People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and Waiver Plan Access

- Active Employment First Council
- Add Supported Self Employment to policy as an offered service, and this is an initiative GVRA is actively working on
- GVRA & DBHDD Developmental Disability division currently collaborate around Supported Employment for this population and both embrace the philosophy, “Competitive, integrated employment is the first and preferred option in the provision of publicly funded services for all working age citizens with disabilities.”
- More ACRE certified providers are needed to increase the Supported Employment services that are offered



Supported Employment

Individual Placement and Supports (IPS)

- DBHDD MH collaboration around IPS Supported Employment
- 11 counselors
- Working with 23 DBHDD-approved providers across the state
- IPS serves only clients diagnosed with Severe and Persistent Mental Illness, embraces evidence-based procedures that have proven effective with this population
- DBHDD has approved 2,611 slots –which means the potential of working with that many clients



Supported Employment Developmental Disabilities

- DBHDD - DD collaboration around Supported Employment
- 10 counselors
- Working with Waiver approved clients-whether their waiver is fully funded, or they are on the planning list
- Utilize dually approved providers (by both GVRA and DBHDD) to provide consistency in care as they transfer from GVRA SE to Medicaid waiver services
- Follows the Employment First philosophy that “work is the first and preferred choice for all individuals with a disability” and also “that all individuals can work, with the right supports in place.”
- Utilizes both Traditional Supported Employment and Customized Supported Employment



Supported Employment

Traditional Supported Employment Model

- This service is open to any counselor, open to any caseload, open to any type of Most Significant Disability
- Still follows Place and Train Model
- Is only used for those who will benefit from extensive & ongoing supports
- Is a “Place and Train” model- no prerequisites required. Coaching takes place in real world situations



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Supported Employment

Traditional Supported Employment Model

- **SE cases during SFY 20-23**
 - SFY 20- 2,387
 - SFY 21- 1,448
 - SFY 22- 1,434
 - SFY 23- 1,784
- **Number of Cases closed Successfully through SE for SFY 20- SFY 23**
 - SFY 20- 552
 - SFY 21- 376
 - SFY 22- 493
 - SFY 23- 211
- **Total payment amount for SE services during SFY 20-23**
 - SFY 20- \$6,782,100
 - SFY 21- \$4,351,775
 - SFY 22- \$4,715,050
 - SFY 23- \$1,459,050



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Supported Employment

Subminimum Wage to Competitive Integrated Employment (SWTCIE)

- First year is set aside, by RSA, for planning
- Posted the internal jobs that are related to the grant
- Currently working to approve contract for the outside services (such as external evaluator and technical assistance)
- Working to bring together the core partners and developed MOUs for continued relationship
- First pilot site (for year two) will be Creative Enterprises in east Metro, along with the school systems in Gwinnett & Forsyth Counties.
- Second pilot site (year three) will be SunnyDale Services in Ocilla, GA, along with Irwin City school system.

Residential and Transition Services

Tamika Wright

Interim Director of Residential Services

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Transition Services

Potentially Eligible Students

State Fiscal Year	Number of New PTS Cases
2021	1,034
2022	3,030
2023	3,637

Pre-ETS Provided

State Fiscal year	In-House Delivered	Contracted Pre-ETS	Total
2022	4,806	11,484	16,290
2023	3,059	8,768	11,827



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Residential Services

Program Highlights

- Carl Hearn has been promoted to Chief of Police
- A candidate has been selected for our collaborative with Georgia Academy for the Blind and is scheduled to begin on January 16, 2023
- RWS will be hosting six weeks of summer GROW opportunities beginning in June. This will feature the unique ability for potentially eligible students to gain some independent living skills.
- Cave Spring Center will be hosting six weeks of summer GROW opportunities beginning in June. This will be a unique opportunity as it will focus on our Deaf population.
- RWS will be assisting field services by providing direct services to surrounding counties in PRE-ETS.



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Residential Services

Program Highlights

- Beginning in January RWS will begin to leverage the academic and assessment team by utilizing their skills to provide direct client services in Harris, Troup, Meriwether and Talbot counties.
- RWS and CSC have been granted accreditation by the Georgia Non-Public Post Secondary Education Commission. This accreditation gives the agency the ability to:
 - a. report pre-employment transition services being delivered to RSA
 - b. potentially be eligible to receive financial aid in the future
 - c. collaborate with local schools that may not have a career and vocational program and expand service delivery.
 - d. accredited degrees and certifications
- RWS is moving away from having an onsite psychology department, conversations with the students, their families and field counselors have been had in relationship to leveraging local mental health service providers and crisis intervention resources for students.
- In April, once students have left campus, RWS staff will beginning extensive campus wide training on best practices related to case management, documentation, AWARE, CPR, crisis intervention etc.



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Residential Services

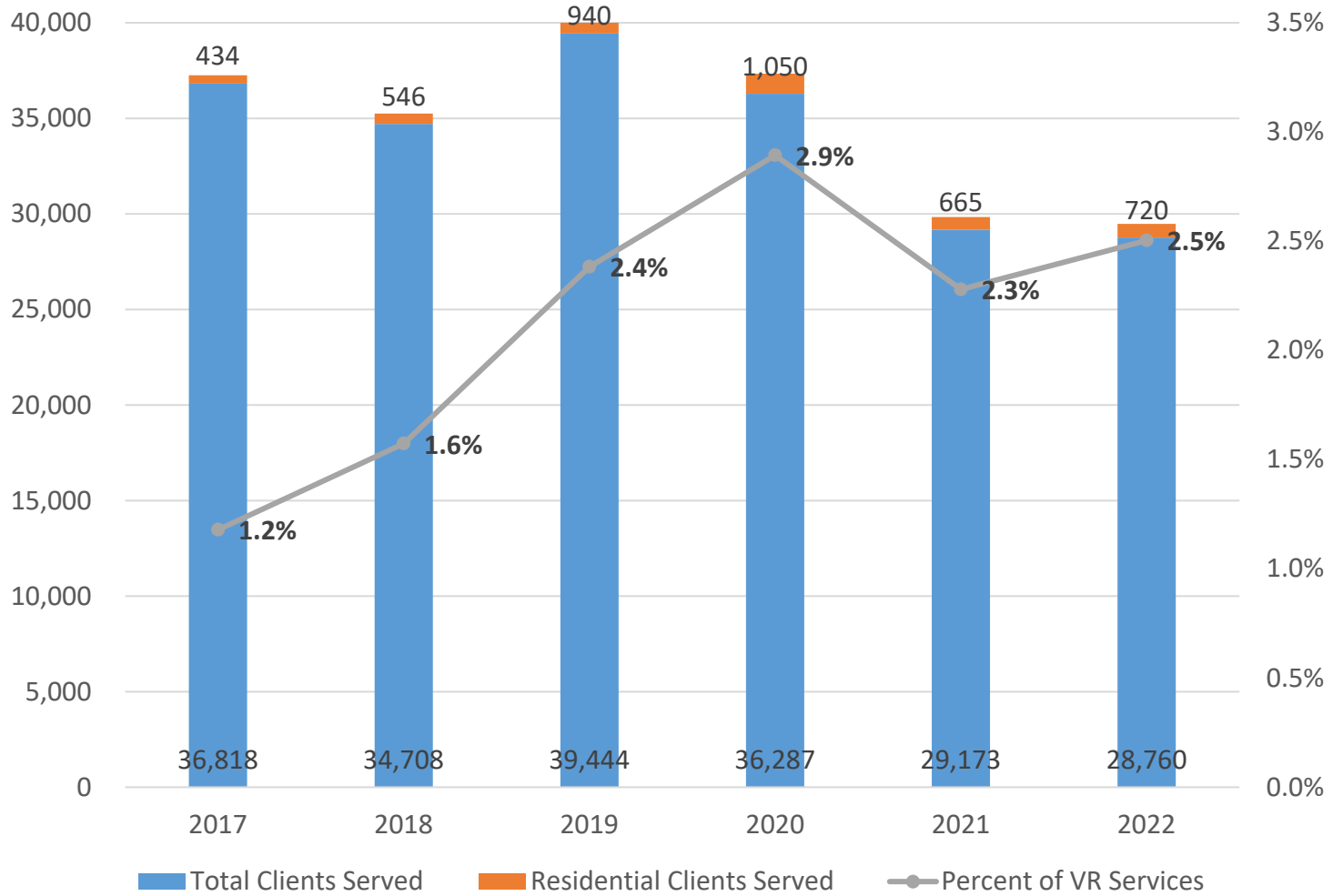
Important Dates and Highlights

- On December 15, 2022, Roosevelt Warm Springs held its Winter Commencement Ceremony
- 87 students graduated
- 467 certifications achieved
- 10 students have obtained or returned to employment

- RWS will begin accepting applications statewide for the summer GROW camp in February, with it's first camp beginning in June.
- August 2023 will begin RWS' first semester-based programming, utilizing the six (6) core vocational paths (Health Science, Commercial/Residential Infrastructure, Warehousing, Hospitality, Retail, and Self Employment)

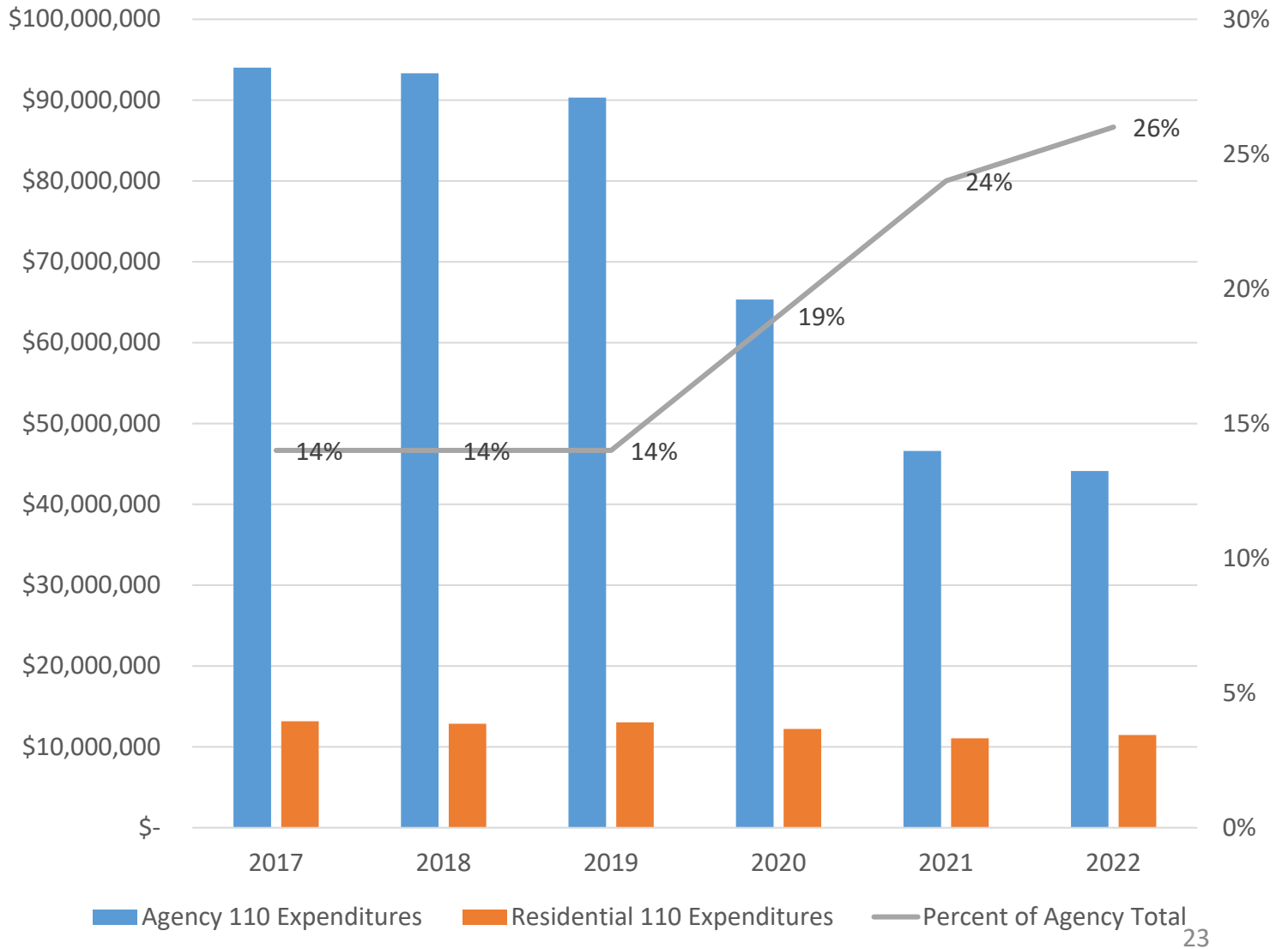


Residential Services Comparison Spending



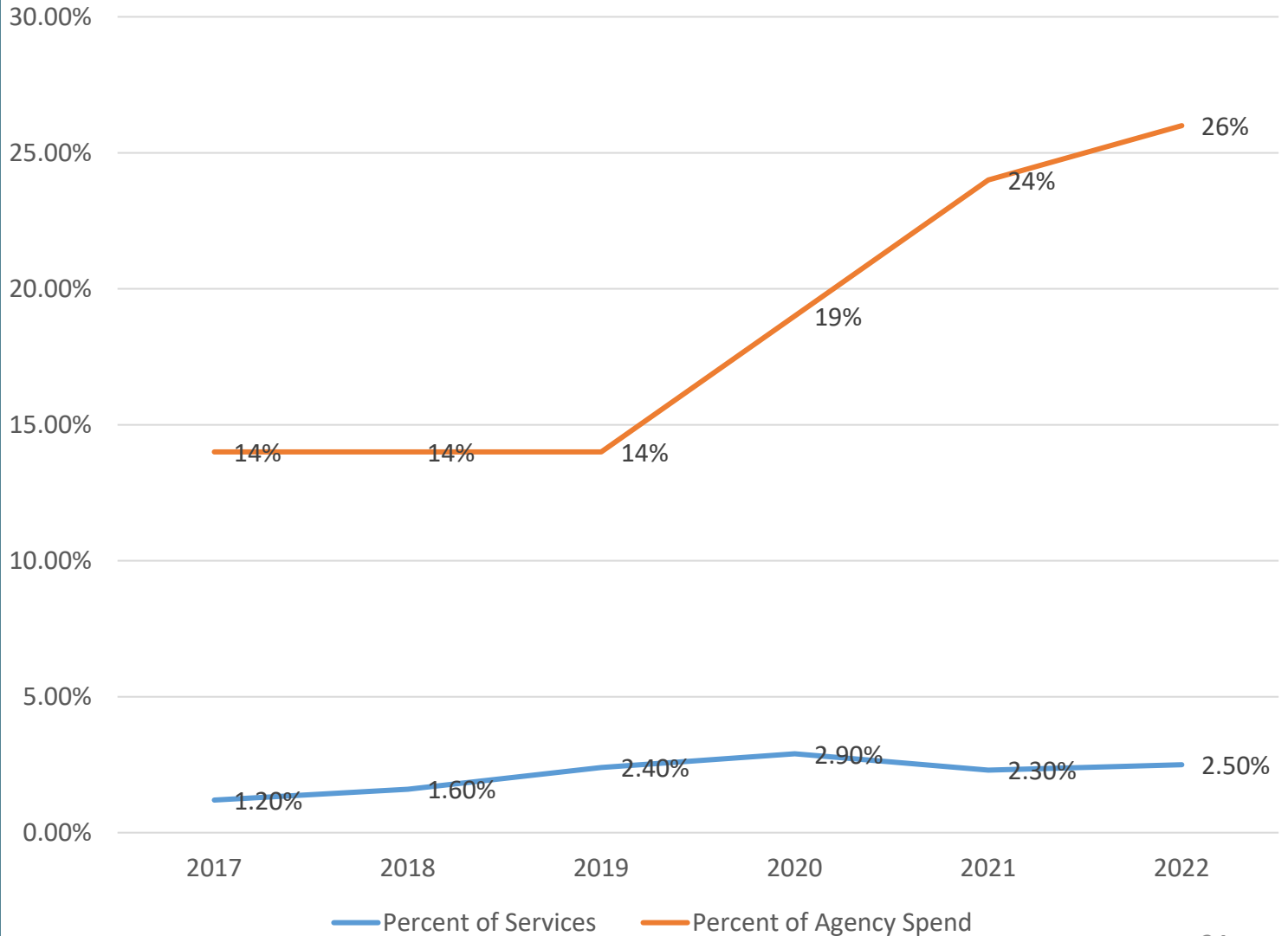


Residential Services Comparison Spending





Residential Services Comparison Spending



Comprehensive State Needs Assessment

Jeff Allen

Director of Policy and Compliance

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Comprehensive State Needs Assessment (CSNA)

- The CSNA is an assessment of the vocational rehabilitation needs of individuals with disabilities residing in the State of Georgia.
- It is intended to help inform the Unified State Plan developed by the core partners in Georgia's Workforce Development System.
- Required every three years
- The State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) and Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency (GVRA) are responsible for completing.
- For 2023, partnered with The Research and Evaluation Unit (REU) housed at the Institute on Human Development and Disability (IHDD) at the University of Georgia (UGA)



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Comprehensive State Needs Assessment (CSNA)

Requirements Covered:

- Individuals with the most significant disabilities, including their need for supported employment services;
- Individuals with disabilities who are minorities and individuals with disabilities who have been unserved or underserved by the vocational rehabilitation program carried out under this part;
- Individuals with disabilities served through other components of the statewide workforce development system as identified by those individuals and personnel assisting those individuals through the components of the system; and
- Youth with disabilities, and students with disabilities, including:
 - Their need for pre-employment transition services or other transition services; and
 - An assessment of the needs of individuals with disabilities for transition services and pre-employment transition services, and the extent to which such services provided under this part are coordinated with transition services provided under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.) in order to meet the needs of individuals with disabilities.



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Comprehensive State Needs Assessment (CSNA)

Concerns	What has been done to address
Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implemented “Is VR Right for Me?” • Transition Forum • Provider Summits • Client Services Informational
Transportation Barriers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in Statewide Planning • Fleet Vehicles • Online Referral
Access to services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online referral portal • Fleet Vehicles
Consistency of Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standardized Curriculum • Training Department • Policy Team • Provider Training • Contract Alignment
Timeliness of Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data Analytics Team • Increased Hiring • Case Alignment • Counselor v. PTS Duties



Board Announcements

- Old Business
- New Business

Public Comment and Adjourment



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