

KENTUCKY OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

STATEWIDE COUNCIL FOR VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

2014 ANNUAL REPORT



2014 ANNUAL REPORT

STATEWIDE COUNCIL FOR VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

Philosophy

We recognize and respect the contribution of all individuals as a necessary and vital part of a productive society.

Mission

To assist Kentuckians with disabilities to achieve suitable employment and independence.

Values

We value the rights, merit and dignity of all persons with disabilities and the opportunity to pursue employment as an important aspect of a full and meaningful life.

We value all staff, their individual talents, unique abilities and contributions to the agency's mission.

We value collaborative efforts and partnerships which support the agency's mission.



Message from Executive Director and Statewide Council for Vocational Rehabilitation Chairman

The year 2014 again showed the strength and professionalism of the KYOVR staff, as our outcomes and performance continue to improve, even during a time of labor market instability and stagnant funding. In another successful campaign, KYOVR assisted 3,957 individuals with disability find gainful employment, an increase in PEOs of 7% when compared to 2013 and an 11.6% increase since FY 2010. These numbers continue to provide evidence of the skills and abilities of agency staff in rising to the challenge in terms of the employment landscape for persons with disabilities, and continuously improve VR services to Kentuckians with Disabilities.

In terms of the major developments of the year, most notable was the reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act, entitled the Workforce Investment and Opportunities Act (WIOA), which included amendment to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 in Title IV of the Act. WIOA revolutionizes the delivery of workforce services in an effort to improve access and coordination among the various workforce partners and improve customer outcomes. To allow better system accountability, Title I of WIOA included performance measures consistent among all workforce partners. WIOA also includes requirements for unified or combined planning among partners on a statewide level, which is intended to ensure maximum cooperation and efficiencies within the Workforce System.

In terms of changes to the



Executive Director Dr. David Beach

Rehabilitation Act, the law clearly increased expectations of the VR program to increase and improve services to transition age students with disabilities, with an increased expectation of improved employment outcomes. The reauthorization now requires VR agencies to set aside 15% of federal funds to provide Pre Employment Transition Services to students with disabilities. WIOA also requires state agencies to increase its interaction with employers to ensure a career pathway for individuals with disabilities into quality employment opportunities. Another notable change, which is an effort to expedite services to eligible individuals with disabilities, is a 90 day limit on development of the Individualized Plan for Employment.

One challenge with WIOA is the changes in the Rehabilitation Act were immediately enacted, which is a difficult task because the agency is attempting to implement the new law without accompanying regulatory

guidance that brings more specificity for policy direction. OVR continues to work with our federal partner, the Rehabilitation Services Administration to effectively implement WIOA to full intent of the law. We will continue to work with our partners and stakeholders to inform them of our policy changes and seek guidance with future implementation opportunities.

As this annual report will attest, KYOVR continues to maintain its national reputation as an agency of innovation and excellent. KYOVR has implemented several new programs which are considered novel and cutting edge among our peers. Not a group to be resting on our laurels, the agency will be participating in three research projects related to improvement of VR counselor training in rural areas, return on investment of the VR program and improving services to SSDI recipients.

KYOVR enters 2015 with a challenge before us. We must continue to provide and improve services to Kentuckians with disabilities while transforming our program to meet the requirements of the changes enacted in Title I and IV of WIOA. While this is a daunting task, we feel the resources of our invested state rehabilitation council and rehabilitation professionals across the state are more than up to the task.

*Dr. David Beach – Executive Director
Office of Vocational Rehabilitation*

*Joe Cowan – Chairperson
Statewide Council for Vocational
Rehabilitation*

FINANCIAL REPORT

Purchased Services FFY2014

Expenditure Service Type	Authorization Amount
Assessment	\$3,810,776.22
Diagnosis & Treatment	\$1,132,287
Training	\$7,902,428.63
Maintenance	\$277,150.96
Transportation	\$218,634.77
Rehabilitation Technology	\$7,100,326.95
Job Placement	\$5,933,695.12
Other Services	\$508,719.38
Self Employment	\$38,966.29
TOTAL	\$26,922,985.59



TeleTech was one of 18 local employers recognized by the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation during the Paducah Area Chamber of Commerce Business Education Partnership (BEP) meeting during OVR Job Placement Month in October. Pictured above, Cindy Ragland, job placement specialist with the Kentucky Career Center, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, presents a certificate of appreciation to TeleTech representatives Mea Fitzpatrick, Karen Flowers and Tiffany Gartley.

PROGRAM SERVICES REPORT



Demographics of Individuals Served

Gender

Male	50.7%
Female	49.3%

Ethnicity

Caucasian	84.0%
African-American	14.3%
All other ethnicities	1.7%

Disability

Sensory Impairments	10.9%
Mental Health Impairments	37.2%
Cognitive Impairments	28.4%
Neuro/Orthopedic Impairments	13.6%
Other Health Impairments	9.9%

Age

Under 25	33.4%
25-34	20.0%
35-44	16.2%
45-54	16.0%
55 and over	14.1%

Positive Employment Outcome Data

33,957 individuals with disabilities obtained or maintained employment after receiving services from the Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation in fiscal year 2014.

Some facts about these individuals:

- Their average weekly earnings went from \$159.96 at application to \$418.67 closure. This is an increase of \$258.71 in weekly income.
- At application, 1200 (30%) reported that their primary source of support was through their personal income. At closure, 3,532 (89%) had personal income as their primary source of support.
- They work an average of 32 hours per week with an average hourly wage of \$12.34.
- As a group, they increased their federal income tax payments by an estimated \$8 million, their state income tax payments by an estimated \$3.1 million, and their Social Security tax payments by an estimated \$8.1 million (including employer contributions).



Each year, OVR recognizes an extraordinary case from each district. A group of counselors review the cases and award one of the district winners the distinction as case of the year for the entire state. Pictured is the presentation during OVR's annual awards ceremony each December (left to right) Director of Program Services Jane Smith, CDPVTC Director Barb Pugh, 2014 Statewide Case of the Year Winner Mark Poston (RCD District), Acting RCD Manager Lori Bishop, and Executive Director Dr. David Beach.

PROGRAM UPDATES

CDPVTC – Carl D. Perkins Vocational Training Center

The Perkins Center, in its 41st year of serving Kentuckians with disabilities, had a very successful FY 2013-2014! The Perkins Center implemented new services, continued development of existing services, and upgraded equipment to assist Kentuckians with disabilities to meet their rehabilitation goals and become employed. The Perkins Center served 768 during the fiscal year.

A major initiative undertaken this year was continuation of efforts to implement the grant-funded Coordinating and Assisting the Reuse of Assistive Technology (CARAT) project. The project collects, refurbishes, and redistributes assistive technology devices to persons who need the equipment to become or remain as independent as possible. The Perkins Center is one of the remote sites for collection of donations and distribution of equipment. A new feature of the project at the Perkins Center was the installation of a “Hub Scrub” which cleans and disinfects equipment such as wheelchairs. There were approximately 250 persons served through CARAT from the Perkins Center project site during the year. Additional information about CARAT can be found on the project website at www.ProjectCARAT.org

The activities performed as part of the CARAT project have also been instrumental in providing job-related activities for consumers enrolled in the Work Adjustment Program at the



Perkins Center students participating in a team-work activity during Job Placement month.

Perkins Center. Consumers, under the supervision of their instructor, Wes Rose, began in October, 2013 to learn practical job skills by cleaning and restoring the assistive technology devices donated to the CARAT project such as wheelchairs, walkers, canes, hospital beds, and various other types of equipment.

The year saw the addition of on-site Job Placement services to consumers enrolled at the Perkins Center. Ms. Shawna Kelly began employment as a Job Placement Specialist assigned to the Perkins Center in June, 2014. Ms. Kelly and the Vocational Services Branch staff members have already implemented several ideas to assist consumers to successfully transition from the Perkins Center to a competitive employment. For example, a closed Facebook page has been developed to enable consumers to stay in touch with Ms. Kelly upon discharge from the Perkins Center and update her on the progress with their job search. Consumers can also utilize the page to seek additional assistance from Ms. Kelly with their job search. Space and

clothing donations were obtained for an “interview closet” for consumers who may not have appropriate clothes to wear to a job interview. New off-site practicum opportunities were developed for consumers enrolled in the Grounds Keeping and Office Technology occupational skill training programs. This allows consumers to get hands-on work experience outside the classroom. Additional practicum locations are being developed for the facility’s skill training programs.

Improvements in equipment to assist persons with physical disabilities were made during the year. The facility’s aquatic therapy pool was renovated and a new treadmill was installed in the pool. Aquatic therapy is utilized extensively at the Perkins Center as part of the facility’s Physical Therapy services. Consumers can receive physical medicine services on a residential or non-residential basis.

Additional personnel and equipment were dedicated to the facility’s Driver Education program in order to increase opportunities for consumers



to earn their operator's license. Driver Education has traditionally been one of the most requested services by OVR counselors and consumers. The Driver Education program includes both a permit class and on-the-road instruction provided by Perkins Center staff members, primarily by the facility's Occupational Therapists.

The program added a new driving simulator to enable more consumers to learn driving skills. The simulator will augment the training provided through two vehicles used for on-the-road instruction. The simulator utilizes computer-generated images to provide a realistic driving experience and can be programmed to a variety of driving conditions such as driving at night, in heavy traffic, or in various weather conditions.

Ms. Joyeal Hunter joined the Perkins Center staff as an instructor the Driver Education program in May, 2014. Ms. Hunter has been working with consumers enrolled in a class designed to help them pass their permit test. She's currently taking the required classes to earn the certification needed to provide on-the-road instruction. This will allow the program to serve additional consumers.

The Perkins Center held its annual graduation on June 13, 2014. There were over 100 students and several hundred guests who were on hand for the cap and gown commencement services conducted on campus. Secretary of Education and Workforce Development Zawacki, Deputy Secretary Brinly, and OVR Executive Director David Beach were among the dignitaries who attended the ceremony.

The Student Government Association (SGA) at the Perkins Center sponsored its Fourth Annual Golf Scramble at the Paintsville Golf Course in July, 2014. Several teams participated in the event and student volunteers assisted with operating the scramble. The scramble raised approximately \$ 4,000 which will be used for student activities and events.

The Perkins Center had two of the Occupational Therapists on staff, Sue Miller and Alisa Gound, receive certification as Certified Driver Rehabilitation Specialists in 2014. Additionally, two staff members assigned to the Assisted Living Branch, Joanna Conley (Chief Psychologist) and Sherry Prater (Speech Pathologist II), served on an intra-agency team which developed new procedures for assisting OVR consumers with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

Community Rehabilitation Programs

During FY14, \$2,623,493.90 was spent on services provided to 1455 OVR Consumers by Community Rehabilitation Programs (CRPs). The great bulk of this (\$2.2 million) was spent on individualized services. This includes any service that was needed by the consumer obtain and maintain employment, such as, work adjustment, job search, job placement and job retention services. The employment and retention services provided by CRP produced 395 positive employment outcomes. The CRP s completed evaluations/assessment on 710 consumers at a cost of \$358,025.

During FY14 four new CRPs were approved to provide services for consumers.

Supported Employment (SE)

In FY 2014 781 Individualized Plans for Employment were developed by the OVR Counselors and Consumers who needed Supported Employment Services. Three consumers were identified as needing Supported Employment services, but had none available in their areas. More than 90 Supported Employment vendors affiliated with the agency, delivered services for 1525 individuals, resulting in 554 Positive Employment Outcomes.

The Dartmouth SE Initiative serving OVR consumers in all 14 Community Mental Health Centers throughout the state had another successful year with 263 job starts and 128 Positive Employment outcomes. This project is a collaborative venture with the KY Division of Behavioral Health and the University of Kentucky, Human Development institute.

The SE staff has continued to work with the Division of Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities (DDID) on the implementation of Supported Employment in the new SCL 2 Medicaid waiver that will enhance Supported Employment Services to consumers. OVR continues to partner with DDID to create funding mechanisms which will allow the shifting of funds from OVR to Medicaid Waiver funding to be as seamless as possible.

PROGRAM UPDATES

Transition

A total of 8,295 consumers on counselor caseloads in FY 2014 were referred from secondary schools, or 22.8% of the 36,379 consumers. Of the agency's 3,957 PEO's, 599 (15.1%) had been referred by secondary schools..

In FY 2014 OVR continued to provide quality services to transition aged youth with disabilities in all 174 school districts in the Commonwealth. According to the Kentucky Post School Outcomes Study, OVR once again ranked as the agency that most often provided services to youth with disabilities covered by an Individualized Education Program. Much of our efforts are enhanced through partnerships with 54 school districts in the Community Based Work Transition Program. The CBWT program

celebrated our 30th year in 2014, assisting youth with the most significant disabilities obtain employment prior to exiting high school. Our collaborative efforts were also visible at the state level through our involvement in the Kentucky Department of Education's College and Career Readiness Initiative for the 1%, the Kentucky Interagency Transition Council, the Kentucky Post School Outcomes Project Advisory Committee, the State Advisory Panel for Exceptional Children, the University of Kentucky's Human Development Institute's Post-Secondary Inclusion Project Committee, the Kentucky Partners in Youth Transition Team, as well as the Kentucky Workforce Investment Board Strategic Planning High School Outreach Committee, the Commission for Children with Special Health Care Needs-Autism Subcommittee,

the Department of Behavioral Health Healthy Transitions TAYLRD (Transition Aged Youth Learning to Realize Dreams) five year grant, and the PepNet2 Capacity Building Transition Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing grant.

Training and Development

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation continues to focus on the maintaining and developing qualified professionals to meet the federal requirements for the comprehensive system of personnel development. This includes providing new employee orientation opportunities, addressing required state government training mandates, increasing knowledge and skills regarding working with individuals with disabilities and providing secondary education opportunities through college and universities in the field of rehabilitation counseling. The agency defines a qualified vocational rehabilitation counselor as one that meets the educational requirements to sit for the Certified Rehabilitation Counselor examination and our current percentage for counselors that meet this requirement is 77% though our goal is always to reach 100% achievement.

The agency once again provided paid and unpaid internship opportunities for individuals throughout the state. The main goal of these internship opportunities is to provide upcoming vocational rehabilitation counselors with experience within a state agency and encourage their application to state jobs when positions appropriate for their expertise become available.



Madisonville Job Placement Staff honor White Staffing during OVR Job Placement Month in October. Above Pictured From Left: OVR Staff Members Dana Utley, Rachel Allen & Tony Simming, 3rd District State Senator Whitney Westerfield, Larry Dean President of White Staffing Management, Jana Thomas Branch Manager White Staffing, Gerri Bowers Director of Operations White Staffing Management.



Developing leaders is extremely important as retirements take place and the Academy of Leadership Exploration and Preparedness (ALEAP) provides this opportunity to our employees. This program occurs in two phases and the first was offered during this year. The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation and the Office for the Blind worked together to administrate the first phase by identifying the pertinent leadership development topics offered through the Kentucky Governmental Services Center (GSC). This method of implementation allows the agencies to use existing leadership resources to meet the needs of agency leadership development. Upon completion of the required courses certificates were issued to participants. The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation had nineteen (19) employees successfully complete this program. In addition to the ALEAP program there are five (5) employees currently involved in the Supervisor Essentials training program being offered independently through GSC. Phase II of the ALEAP program has recently begun with OVR and OFB employees and there are a total of sixteen (16) participants. The phase II training components will focus predominately on agency specific topics.

Regional trainings were also held during this year and the agenda included specific information for counselors on eligibility, developing individualized plan for employment and caseload management. The assistants within the agency were also trained during the regional activities with their agenda topics focused on their role within the agency in providing supports to the counselors and the consumers.

The Carl D. Perkins Vocational Training Center has developed several online training initiatives that will allow them to provide and track training required as part of their Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) accreditation process. Online training is also utilized for portions of new employee orientation and the distribution of required trainings from the Personnel Cabinet and the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet.

The training during this year has included the specific training needs of the agency and working with our partners to share training opportunities as appropriate. Providing quality training opportunities to agency employees that lead to the provision of quality services to our consumers is the foundation upon which all training activities are based.

Social Security

For fiscal year 2014, a total of 787 Social Security recipients obtained employment after receiving services from the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation. Social Security reimbursed OVR for 324 claims totaling \$3,651,923.69. In addition, OVR received \$6,114.00 in Ticket to Work payments, making our total Social Security income \$3,658,037.69 for the year.

Rehabilitation Technology & Project CARAT

The Rehabilitation Technology Branch continues to assist consumers reach their vocational goal by assessing,

recommending and providing appropriate assistive technology solutions. A total of 1320 consumers received equipment and services that assisted them to prepare for, gain, or maintain employment. Of that number, 104 received modifications to their personal vehicles at a total cost of over \$1,006,173, 159 individuals received driver evaluations and 100 received driver's training, providing yet another step to successful employment. A total of about \$2,122,750 was spent on assistive technology equipment and services for Office of Vocational Rehabilitation consumers.



In May, 2014, the Rehabilitation Technology Branch received notice that our funding for Project CARAT was continued for its third and final year. In fiscal year 2014, this project has continued to grow and develop. We have two fully operational assistive technology and durable medical equipment refurbishing centers: one at the Carl D. Perkins Vocational Training Center (CDPVTC) and one at the UK Center for Excellence in Rural Health in Hazard, KY. As of 10/1/2014, 319 items had been donated, sanitized and refurbished, and redistributed to the community, resulting in a savings to individuals with disabilities of over \$175,000. The project remains well-stocked with manual and power wheelchairs, walkers, canes, hospital beds, shower chairs, and other items to be able to meet the needs of the community. Students in the Work Adjustment program at CDPVTC

PROGRAM UPDATES



Certificate of Appreciation being presented to Bluegrass Technology Center in the Lexington district for excellence in consumer training and customer service during National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

have the opportunity not only to work on the donated equipment, but also to help deliver the equipment to community members. There are two cohorts of students from the University of Kentucky Physical Therapy program at the Center for Excellence in Rural Health in Hazard, KY and CDPVTC participating in the project. In addition to collecting, sanitizing, and repairing the DME, the students are able to distribute the equipment through a free clinic they operate. They ran a very successful donation drive as well. The Program Coordinator continues to make contacts with DME dealers, hospitals, clinics, and non-profit organizations to find quality used equipment and individuals who are in need.

The Rehabilitation Technology Branch continues to work on the development of a KATS Network Center at the CDPVTC. A Program Coordinator is in place and has been

purchasing equipment that is available for loan and demonstration. He has also made contact with local school systems to begin a needs analysis to determine how this center can best serve the local community. Through the equipment purchased by the KATS Network, the Rehabilitation Technology Branch staff continue to reach out to individuals with disabilities in the most rural areas of the state.

The Rehabilitation Technology Branch also participates with the Kentucky AgrAbility project. Last year, in collaboration with AgrAbility, we provided services and equipment to 13 Kentucky farmers. Rehabilitation Technology Staff also assisted with the AgrAbility booth at the National Farm Machinery Show in February.

Throughout 2013, the rehabilitation technology staff has provided comprehensive trainings and technical assistances to external

customers, including the University of Kentucky Physical Therapy Program, Accommodate 2013 in Louisville, KY, the Kentucky AHEAD annual conference, the National Mobility Equipment Dealers Association annual conference, the Covington Kentucky Career Center Resource Fair, and a regional conference for ADED (Driver Rehabilitation Specialists). Several staff members also presented at the National AgrAbility Training Workshop, which was held in Lexington, KY in 2014. The branch also hosted the 11th annual "Summer AT Workshop," a two day training on assistive technology that was held in conjunction with the Kentucky Congress on Spinal Cord Injury. It was attended by over 100 individuals this year.

Counselor Mentoring Program

The Rehabilitation Counselor Mentoring Program is comprised of 26 Mentors located across the state, and a Mentor Leadership Team. This year, the Mentoring Leadership Team focused on recruiting new mentors to the program with a recruitment campaign including presentations to field Branch Managers, agency-wide distribution of a Mentoring Fact Sheet, and personal invitations to potential mentors. Our mentors elevate the agency, and the profession. The current Mentor Leadership team includes: Jodi Harris-Team Leader, Carol Leonhart-Branch Manager Liaison, Julie Patty-MOTY 2009, Lisa Medley-MOTY 2010, Scott Daniels-MOTY 2011, Keith Brown MOTY 2013, Susie Edwards-Training Consultant, Erin Hopper-Central Office Administrator, and Nancy Soard-Central Office Support.



KATLC - Kentucky Assistive Technology Loan Corporation

The Kentucky Assistive Technology Loan Corporation (KATLC) had another good year in FFY 2014. It processed 110 applications for assistive technology approving 57 applications for a total of \$431,963.33. Hearing aids and vehicles with modifications remained the most requested items.

The program enables qualified applicants to borrow funds for the purchase of assistive technology. The impact it has on an individual's life is reflected in this comment received from one borrower: "I purchased a vehicle with modifications. I can now travel freely without depending upon theirs to get me there or for the bus to come. I now have some additional time in my day to do 'me things' – whatever I want and when I want to do it. I feel like I am no longer wasting my life away waiting for those to take me places. I can do it on my own."

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services

The DHHS Branch of KY OVR includes the Branch Manager who oversees the branch; also functions as the Statewide Coordinator for Hard of Hearing and Late Deafened Services. The DHHS is a unique branch and has a Statewide DeafBlind Coordinator who also functions as a Rehabilitation Counselor for the Deaf (RCD) and administers the National DeafBlind Equipment Distribution Program (NDBEDP).

This branch has an Administrative Assistant who works in Central Office with the Branch Manager. The Branch has 8 full-time Rehabilitation Counselors for the Deaf (7 of whom are Deaf and communicate in American Sign Language), who work under the supervision of the Branch Manager and serve consumers for whom sign language is their primary mode of communication.

The Branch has 6 staff interpreters who work with the RCD's to coordinate assignments for consumers. The staff interpreters work as a team with the RCDs to coordinate and provide interpreting services to assist OVR consumers in becoming successfully employed. Staff interpreters also provide for meetings and conferences for staff.

KY OVR and Eastern Kentucky University (EKU) has an MOA agreement that allows OVR to have positions to assist OVR to meet the needs consumers. One of the positions is a Career Counselor. The Career Counselor focuses on job placement, consumer job readiness, administrative functions to the RCD, and provides field support and guidance related to placement services for the deaf to the other RCDs as needed.

There are 48 Communication Specialists statewide who work under the Branch Managers in their field office and have received extensive training in working with individuals who are Hard of Hearing, Late-Deafened.

The RCDs and Communication Specialists served a total of 3,677 Individuals who were DeafBlind, Deaf,

Hard of Hearing and Late-Deafened and closed 967 successfully.

Other data:

Expenditures related to Deaf/Hard of Hearing:

- Telecommunication Devices - \$34,649.33
- Assistive Listening Devices - \$434,560.45
- Alerting Devices - \$89,576.33
- Hearing Aids - \$3,003,394.48
- Hearing Aid Accessories - \$100,724.06

Car Individual Development Account

In 2014, the Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (KYOVR) started a pilot Car Individual Development Account (IDA) Program. Under this program, ten individuals would be selected to open a saving account for the purchase of an automobile. These individuals would need to save \$2,000 on their own. When the savings goal was achieved, they would receive a match of \$2,000, giving them a total of \$4,000 to use for the purchase of a vehicle or for a down payment on a purchase. To be eligible for the program, individuals must earn less than 200% of the federal poverty level and have a disability. Monthly financial education and a car maintenance training session would be required of all participants.

KYOVR's partners in this pilot are the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC), two Centers for

PROGRAM UPDATES

Independent Living (CIL), and the Kentucky Coalition Against Domestic Violence (KCADV). The program was piloted in two rural areas in FFY 2014, Murray in far Western Kentucky and Ashland in Northeastern Kentucky. The Center for Accessible Living, a CIL satellite, provided assistance with recruiting participants in that area and has aided staff with case management. Independence Place in Ashland, a CIL satellite in Northeastern Kentucky, provided identical services in that area as well. The individual development accounts are managed by KCADV, which operates a similar program for domestic violence survivors. KYOVR's Car IDA program is modeled after the one at KCADV.

The program's coordinator, Sarah Richardson, reports being very gratified by the impact of the financial education component on improving financial habits and economic well-being of participants. As of September 30, 2014, there were six participants in Ashland, one in Morehead, two in Murray, and one in Paducah. Early in federal fiscal year 2015, the first participant is expected to achieve their savings goal and be able to purchase an automobile. KYOVR expects to open ten more accounts in the coming year.

Asset Development

KYOVR continued to emphasize asset development and financial education in all its programs in 2014. Here are a couple of notable examples.

Asset Development Pilot Project

In October of 2013, TACE and KYOVR embarked on a yearlong Asset Development Pilot Project with the vocational rehabilitation counselors



Pictured are Bluegrass District Job Placement Staff (from left to right): Rachael Bower, Amber Barnes, and Suzanne Isaacs.

from the KYOVR Fort Wright and Bluegrass Districts. As part of the pilot project, counselors received training and technical assistance on asset development and financial education. Counselors were to incorporate asset development goals into the Individual Employment Plans (IEP) of two to three consumers on their caseloads. The pilot kicked off with a two-day training on October 29th and 30th of 2013 in Georgetown. After that training, Abby Cooper from TACE provided technical assistance to the KYOVR counselors in the two districts on working with particular consumers to develop appropriate financial goals. On May 22nd and 23rd of 2014, focus groups were conducted with each district separately to gauge the success of the project. Results will be shared soon and discussions are on-going on how to extend the project elsewhere.

Regional Asset Development Summits

In collaboration with the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC), the Kentucky Coalition Against Domestic Violence (KCADV), and the Commonwealth Council on Developmental Disabilities (CCDD), KYOVR conducted two regional Asset Development Summits in 2014. The Summits were designed to bring together local members of the asset building community and the disability community to build a framework for working together to develop programs that stimulate economic self-sufficiency for individuals with disabilities. The Summits explored how to increase access to asset building tools. Those tools include financial literacy training, credit counseling, individual development accounts, tax preparation assistance, low interest loan programs, among others services.

The first regional Asset Development Summit was conducted in Owensboro on December 3rd of 2013. Local co-sponsors of this event were Bank On Owensboro, Bank On Henderson and the Green River Asset Building Coalition. Fifty people attended the summit. A second regional asset development summit was held on May 15th, 2014, in Bowling Green with Community Action of Southern Kentucky and the Disability Resource Initiative, a center for independent living, as local partners in the effort. About 50 individuals also attended this summit. A third regional summit was planned for October 29th in Ashland. Local partners in planning for this event included Safe Harbor, Independence Place of Ashland, Bank On of Northeast Kentucky, and the Northeastern Kentucky Asset Building Coalition.

MORE ABOUT PEOs



Positive Employment Outcomes by County

COUNTY	PEOs	COUNTY	PEOs	COUNTY	PEOs
ADAIR	5	GRANT	14	MEADE	18
ALLEN	19	GRAVES	32	MENIFEE	7
ANDERSON	30	GRAYSON	16	MERCER	21
BALLARD	6	GREEN	8	METCALFE	7
BARREN	33	GREENUP	46	MONROE	7
BATH	11	HANCOCK	2	MONTGOMERY	28
BELL	18	HARDIN	87	MORGAN	21
BOONE	105	HARLAN	31	MUHLENBERG	18
BOURBON	22	HARRISON	24	NELSON	42
BOYD	72	HART	19	NICHOLAS	7
BOYLE	37	HENDERSON	62	OHIO	9
BRACKEN	7	HENRY	12	OLDHAM	27
BREATHITT	5	HICKMAN	2	OWEN	11
BRECKINRIDGE	3	HOPKINS	43	OWSLEY	2
BULLITT	30	JACKSON	4	PENDLETON	10
BUTLER	11	JEFFERSON	544	PERRY	33
CALDWELL	5	JESSAMINE	61	PIKE	99
CALLOWAY	30	JOHNSON	30	POWELL	11
CAMPBELL	81	KENTON	156	PULASKI	59
CARLISLE	2	KNOTT	16	ROBERTSON	1
CARROLL	9	KNOX	26	ROCKCASTLE	4
CARTER	35	LARUE	13	ROWAN	26
CASEY	9	LAUREL	37	RUSSELL	11
CHRISTIAN	42	LAWRENCE	10	SCOTT	77
CLARK	27	LEE	5	SHELBY	25
CLAY	3	LESLIE	6	SIMPSON	10
CLINTON	10	LETCHER	23	SPENCER	15
CRITTENDEN	4	LEWIS	11	TAYLOR	31
CUMBERLAND	1	LINCOLN	22	TODD	4
DAVISS	112	LIVINGSTON	2	TRIGG	11
EDMONSON	10	LOGAN	15	TRIMBLE	9
ELLIOTT	5	LYON	1	UNION	16
ESTILL	13	MADISON	74	WARREN	136
FAYETTE	439	MAGOFFIN	12	WASHINGTON	18
FLEMING	23	MARION	20	WAYNE	4
FLOYD	65	MARSHALL	9	WEBSTER	15
FRANKLIN	80	MARTIN	11	WHITLEY	40
FULTON	2	MASON	23	WOLFE	6
GALLATIN	6	MCCRACKEN	48	WOODFORD	22
GARRARD	10	MCLEAN	6	Out of State	19

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STATEWIDE COUNCIL FOR VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

SCVR MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Roberta Alston, Louisville (Kentucky Special Parent Involvement Network)

Michelle Bazeley, Louisville

Dr. David Beach, Frankfort (Executive Director of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation)

Marty Boman, Bowling Green

Roger Braden, Taylor Mill

Lisa Carrico, Mayfield

Kelly Colvin, Prestonsburg

Joe Cowan, Monticello, Chairperson

Lonnie Cowan, Lexington

Barbara Davis, Louisville

Irene Dervin, Winchester

Connie Dotson, Lexington

Christine Edwards, Walton

Kathy Eversole, London

Mark Jackson, Louisa

Vanessa Jones, Frankfort

Tyler Levy, Louisville

Tony Lobianco, Lexington

John Mathias, Robards

Jeff Merrill, Nortonville

Karen Rossi, Auburn, AL

Elsie Speed, Lexington

Meg Steinman, Lexington

Zella Wells, Paintsville



SCVR ACCOMPLISHMENTS



The 2014 Statewide Council for Vocational Rehabilitation works on an issue during one of its quarterly meetings.

In federal fiscal year 2014, the Statewide Council for Vocational Rehabilitation (SCVR):

- Met with the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) in December of 2013, the third annual joint meeting of the two councils. The two councils discussed the upcoming legislative session and received updates on asset development initiatives, the state's assistive technology project (the KATS Network), and Project CARAT, an assistive technology reuse grant for Appalachian Kentucky. Coordinating with other councils was discussed at the joint meeting.
- The SCVR reviewed and approved the agency's proposed changes in agency service fee memoranda on: support for post-secondary education, purchasing accessible textbooks, inclusion of vehicle purchases in consumer cost sharing, and the

Community-Based Work Transition Program (CBWTP).

- Reviewed and approved the agency's proposed changes in policies and procedures on counselor credentials, presumptive eligibility and limiting the number of physical restoration services before obtaining a higher level of approval;
- Conducted a consumer satisfaction survey of individuals whose cases were closed in the previous fiscal year in conjunction with the Human Development Institute at the University of Kentucky.
- Reviewed and approved a scorecard that rates the comparative performance of supported employment programs in providing services to OVR consumers.
- Recommended the agency send e-mail blasts to consumers when input to the state plan is needed. It also provided several ideas related to the email blast

that might increase the response rate.

- Recommended the agency conduct a public forum with live video links in Lexington, Louisville, Northern Kentucky, Murray, and Thelma (at the Carl D. Perkins Vocational Training Center) to gather input for the state plan. The SCVR also reviewed all input received from the public on the state plan.
- In June, SCVR selected six employers to receive its annual Employer Recognition Awards for doing exemplary work in the hiring of individuals with disabilities. The employers were selected from nominations made by agency field staff. The employers recognized in 2014 were Houchen's IDA#1 of Glasgow, Calvary Child Care Center of Danville, Arby's of Fort Mitchell, Lowe's Home Improvement of Somerset, United Parcel Service Worldport of Louisville, and Brown Forman of Louisville. The employers were to be presented the awards individually during Job Placement Month in October of 2014.
- Continued to monitor progress on revitalizing the Kentucky Business Leadership Network (KYBLN).
- Collaborated with KYOVR to produce an annual report on services. In addition, one Council member served on a grant-writing team that developed a proposal in response to the Rehabilitation Services Administration's PROMISE grant competition. The team included representatives from various state agencies and other entities and met several times over the summer and the Council member made significant contributions to the writing process.

DISTRICT OFFICES

STATEWIDE COUNCIL FOR VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

Central Office

Frankfort

(502) 564-4440
(800) 372-7172 (Toll free)

Carl D. Perkins Vocational Training Center

Thelma

(606) 788-7080
(800) 443-2187 (Toll free)

Ashland

(606) 920-2238

Bluegrass

(859) 246-2537
(888) 211-7276 (Toll free)

Bowling Green

(270) 746-7489
(800) 443-6055 (Toll free)

Covington

(859) 292-6513
(866) 380-3450 (Toll free)

Danville

(859) 239-7885
(800) 795-8481 (Toll free)

Elizabethtown

(270) 766-5121
(866) 883-0001 (Toll free)

Florence

(859) 371-9450
(877) 371-9451 (Toll free)

Lexington

(859) 246-2185
(888) 246-2185 (Toll free)

Louisville

(502) 595-4173
(800) 456-3334 (Toll free)

Madisonville

(270) 824-7549
(888) 640-2713 (Toll free)

Middletown

(502) 254-3195
(866) 304-1958 (Toll free)

Owensboro

(270) 687-7308
(888) 640-2811 (Toll free)

Paducah

(270) 575-7304

West Liberty

(606) 743-7978
(800) 440-2530

Whitesburg

(606) 633-2568



Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
275 East Main Street
Mail Drop 2EK
Frankfort, KY 40621