

***New Community Opportunities Center at ILRU  
Presents...***



**Expanding CIL Capacity through Youth Transition Services:  
Collaborating with School Districts and Vocational Rehabilitation**

***How the 3 Centers are Involved with Vocational  
Rehabilitation and School Districts, cont'd.***

**August 12, 2014  
3:15 p.m.–4:30 p.m.**

***Presenters:***  
**David Hancox**  
**Abbie Wells-Herzog**

Vocational Rehabilitation Services and the Minnesota Association of Centers for Independent Living agreed to develop a substantial collaboration between Centers and VRS.

*To build local service capacity in mutual partnership to advance the employment and independent living of Minnesotans who require both vocational rehabilitation and independent living to achieve their goals for working and living in the community.*

- Statewide planning meeting occurred in 2007 between VRS staff and Center staff to identify statewide issues and unmet needs that could be addressed through collaboration
- Continued dialogue and exploration resulted in the submission of eight unique collaborative proposals
- Each collaborative proposal was defined by local needs and approved by both VRS and IL staff

# How it Works



- IL needs are assessed during intake process, simultaneous to the consumer's VR needs.
- Services occur simultaneously, in a parallel fashion.
- Progress and outcomes are reported in Workforce 1; an internal data base.
- Frequent and regular communication is critical between the IL Specialist and VR Counselor to ensure appropriate progress and reporting.
- Critical piece is the co-location, creating immediacy of availability. MCIL staff are embedded at the workforce centers—an integral part of that team.

# VR/IL Project – Funding



- Request for proposal process (RFP)
- VRS/Social Security Program Income
- Initially a three-year period
- Funding was defined by local needs, rather than a prescribed dollar amount

# First Three Years



- Time-limited demonstration project
- Future of the collaboration depends on the success of local projects and impact on employment
- Collaborators were given considerable latitude to define the scope of services
- A wide variety of services and service models were submitted

# Year 4 (Change and Challenge)



- Decline in program income
- Looming state budget crisis
- Refocusing the collaboration
- Funding for 9-month projects
- Targeting VRS consumers
- Emphasis on co-location

# Year 5 (Uncertainty to Stability)



- Funding becomes available to continue all eight collaborations
- Continued co-location model and services to VRS consumers
- Impact and effectiveness of collaboration becomes apparent in increased employment outcomes
- VRS and IL staff recognize collaboration as both helpful and essential
- Key legislators see positive impact on customer success and support continuing the collaboration

# Year 6 and Today



- Eight locally developed collaborations exist
- Co-location or alternative co-location models are part of every collaboration
- Tracking and reporting systems in place
- Data is collected on a quarterly basis
- Evaluation and monitoring is conducted annually

# Funding History



CIL Name	<u>2007-2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u> (9 Months)	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>
<b>FREEDOM</b>	\$64,630	\$64,630	\$64,630	\$37,500	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
<b>MCIL</b>	\$549,414	\$548,814	\$548,524	\$362,315	\$551,085	\$542,685	\$546,244
<b>OPTIONS</b>	\$25,377	\$25,377	\$25,377	\$13,820	\$25,377	\$25,377	\$26,475
<b>CILNM</b>	\$166,139	\$166,139	\$166,139	\$86,250	\$115,000	\$115,000	\$115,000
<b>ILICIL</b>	\$165,000	\$165,000	\$165,000	\$67,350	\$93,532	\$101,932	\$101,532
<b>SWCIL</b>	\$102,917	\$95,000	\$95,000	\$27,113	\$27,380	\$27,380	\$28,177
<b>SMILES</b>	\$145,754	\$134,542	\$134,542	\$40,722	\$53,985	\$53,985	\$53,985
<b>SEMCIL</b>	\$150,050	\$150,050	\$150,050	\$69,375	\$111,087	\$111,087	\$116,087
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,369,281</b>	<b>\$1,349,552</b>	<b>\$1,349,262</b>	<b>\$704,445</b>	<b>\$1,027,446</b>	<b>\$1,027,446</b>	<b>\$1,037,500</b>

Total Funding Committed from 12/1/07 to 9/30/14: **\$7,864,932**

# Tracking IL Services and Outcomes



- During demonstration phase (2008-2010) VRS and Centers did not share a common reporting system that could dependably track services and outcomes.
- Quarterly reports from Centers and the experience of VRS counselors suggested a positive impact on consumers – but no hard data.
- In 2011 VRS and Centers implemented a concurrent reporting system that showed potential impact of the collaboration on increasing employment outcomes.

# VR/IL Project – Example Services



- School-to-work transitions
- Pre-employment preparation
- Persons with MI, ASD, Veterans
- Employment-related ADA issues
- Non-vocational skills necessary for successful employment (soft-skills)
- Housing
- Bus Training
- Connecting to other resources: County, housing, SSA, health care, social services, applications for state ID, SS cards

# Success Story Jordan Feldick



# Consumers Exiting After Receiving VR and IL Services



FFY	Consumers with an IPE	Exiting With Employment Outcomes	Exiting Without Employment	Employment Rate	Employment Rate for all Other Consumers
2011	118	83	35	70.3%	61.0%
2012	443	276	167	62.3%	56.1%
2013	618	411	207	66.5%	58.5%
Totals	1,179	770	409	65.3%	58.8%

# VR/IL Collaboration Summary of Services (January 1, 2011 - September 30, 2013)



FFY	Number of VR Consumers Receiving Services						Hours of Service	
	Individual Advocacy	Information & Referral	IL Skills Training	Peer Counseling	Employment Soft Skills	Unduplicated Totals	Total Hours	Average Hours
2011	284	520	619	26	120	975	5,652	5.8
2012	331	459	539	27	555	1,349	8,734	6.5
2013	224	601	631	27	580	1,510	9,122	6.0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>681</b>	<b>1,273</b>	<b>1,419</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>1,083</b>	<b>2,810</b>	<b>23,508</b>	<b>8.4</b>

## **1. Responses to the survey of VRS staff are an accurate reflection of VRS staff perception.**

All field staff received the survey and a sufficient proportion responded to allow a generalization of all VRS staff. A moderate to high response proportion (76%) of VRS staff responded, with almost equal distribution across the different categories of staff positions.

## 2. VRS staff had a positive perception of the Collaboration.

Overall Success: About 90% of VRS staff indicated that they Strongly Agree or Agree that collaboration was 'successful'. This perception was reflected across all categories of VRS staff positions, & did not differ for direct (counselor, VR Tech) or indirect (manager, supervisor) involvement in the Collaboration by VRS staff.

Communication And Coordination: On the six survey items assessing communication and coordination in the collaboration, at least 70% of VRS staff responded that Almost Always or Often good communication or coordination occurred.

## 2. VRS staff had a positive perception of the Collaboration continued

Consumer/Staff Benefits: An average of 90% of VRS staff indicated that Almost Always or Often, their knowledge of IL increased and that consumers benefitted, including being better prepared to address vocational goals.

## **3. VRS staff who experienced co-location of CIL staff were more likely to have a positive perception of the collaboration.**

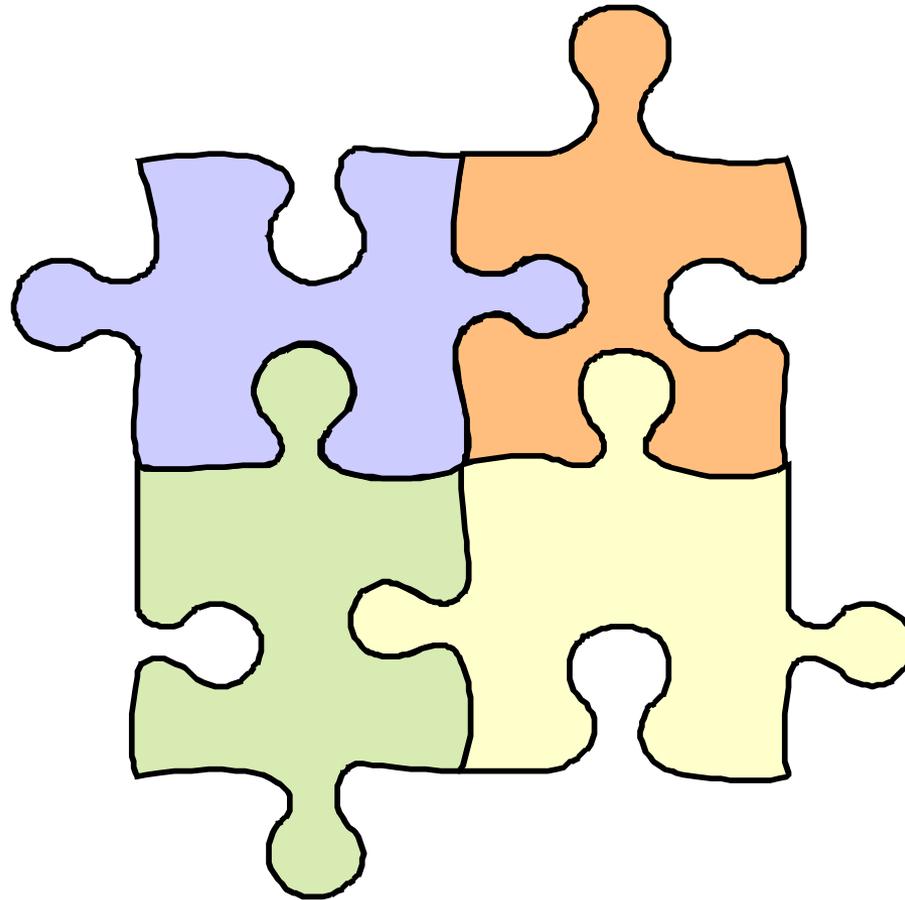
- Although high percentage of all VRS staff indicated satisfaction with collaboration and perceived it to be successful, comparison between those where there was co-location of CIL staff with those not experiencing co-location exposed meaningful differences.
- VRS staff experiencing co-location were almost unanimous (99%) that Almost Always or Often, they perceived that consumers and VRS staff benefitted from the Collaboration.
- VRS staff experiencing co-location felt that, Almost Always or Often: Consumers were more likely to discover services of which previously unaware.

- Purpose
  - Advance the employment and independent living of Minnesotans who require both VR and IL to achieve employment, independent living and community integration
- Funding
  - VRS program income funds
- Past efforts
  - Yes they have been tried and tried. We **learned**, and now we're back with a better collaborative and invested plan

- Service needs
  - Transition-age, pre-employment, ADA issues, soft skills
- Target population
  - DEED VRS consumers
- Service delivery
  - Staff co-located in VRS offices and/or readily available on a regular basis
  - From 2011 to 2013—2,810 VR consumers received IL services in the collaboration. A total of 23,508 hours of service was provided.

# A True Collaboration

This is collaboration, not a competition.



# Living into Vision of Rehab Act



Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. Sec. 2(a)(4) and Sec.2 (a)(6)

- *Congress finds that—increased employment of individuals with disabilities can be achieved through implementation of...activities carried out under the vocational rehabilitation program established under title I, and through the provision of independent living services, support services, and meaningful opportunities for employment in integrated work settings...*
- *Congress finds that—the goals of the Nation properly include the goal of providing individuals with disabilities with the tools necessary to—*
  - (A) make informed choices and decisions; and*
  - (B) achieve equality of opportunity, full inclusion and integration in society, employment, independent living, and economic and social self-sufficiency. . .*

# Success Story: Matthew Collins



# Contact



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# New Community Opportunities Attribution



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