

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



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

***The View from VR***

**August 13, 2014  
1:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.**

***Panel Members:***

**Lisa Hatz**

**Rick Walters**

**Abbie Wells-Herzog**



***Richard Walters***  
***District Administrator***  
***Pennsylvania Department of Vocational Rehabilitation***

# About OVR

- PA Department of Labor and Industry
  - A Combined State Agency
- Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation
  - 15 district offices
- Bureau of Blindness and Visual Services
  - 6 combined location district offices
- Partnerships
  - Education
  - Medical
  - Therapy providers
  - Community based rehabilitation service providers

# Breadth and Scope of Agency in 2013

- New Applicants for Services
  - 21,696
- Applicants Found Eligible
  - 17,248
  - 39.1% are Youth and Young Adults
- Individuals Served
  - 83,022
- Individuals Entering or Staying in Competitive Jobs
  - 9,475
- Students Transitioning from High School to Employment
  - 3,822 or 38.4% of all Successful Outcomes

# Preconceived Notions – Circa Mid-80's

- Mysterious
- By individuals with physical disabilities
  - For individuals with physical disabilities
- Pre – Vocational services
  - Accessible housing
  - Advocacy
  - Information

# Notions to Knowledge

- Mutual needs lead to productive partnerships
  - Get in the same room with VR folks
    - Consumer advisory committee
    - VR state plan public meeting
  - Low risk partnership
    - Customer Achievement Day collaboration (no funding)
  - Higher risk partnership
    - Summer Career Camp (innovation grant funding)
  - High reward continuous partnership
    - Sign Language Interpreter Referral Service (grant to fee-for-service)
- The transition connection
  - Career Path (innovation grant to fee-for-service)

# Why Seek Transition Services From IL

- Proven record over time
- Consistent positive results
- A sound, do-able, *innovative* proposal
  - Specifically created for transition age youth and young adults

# Problems Will Happen

- Patience will be required
  - New services require funding availability
  - Be ready to write a proposal
  - Flexibility is key when an opportunity arises
- Transitioning from grant funding to fee-for-service
  - How many customers can VR provide
  - How much cost per unit can VR sustain
  - How much cost per unit does the IL need to provide quality services
- Trust and transparency
  - Keys to any successful partnership

## Recommendations

- Share quarterly or annual reports that show you have met or exceeded goals
- Show that you are ready and able to accommodate new staff
- Be ready to provide detailed accounting of overhead, payroll and other costs as well as the operating budget

# Questions?



# Contact



Lisa Hatz

New Hampshire BVR, State Director

VR Field Service Administrator

[Lisa.Hatz@doe.nh.gov](mailto:Lisa.Hatz@doe.nh.gov)

Rick Walters

Pennsylvania BVR Services, District Administrator

[riwalters@pa.gov](mailto:riwalters@pa.gov)

Abbie Wells Herzog

Minnesota VR Services, Autism Specialist

[abbie.wells.herzog@state.mn.us](mailto:abbie.wells.herzog@state.mn.us)

# New Community Opportunities Attribution



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