

TITLE IV-VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION (VR) PROGRAM

-General quarterly update for Q4 2023:

The Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation and the Bureau of Services to the Blind and Visually Impaired as combined, has had a busy Q4 2023. Q4 2023 brought a routine audit of the program and fiscal operations. The Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) was on site in Carson City and performed the monitoring on June 13-15th. Nevada had not been monitored by RSA since 2018. The monitoring went well, and reporting is expected sometime in the next 9 months.

Legislature: Nevada VR had a relatively quiet 82nd Nevada Legislative Session. Nevada VR did not have any bills that it put forward, but we closely watched others. AB 79 which was about the 700 Hour Program did not pass. SB 315 hailed as the Bill of Rights for people with disabilities did pass and SB 431 which would have reorganized workforce services under DETR did not pass.

The www.VRNEVADA.org website, which we launched in Q1 has been up for 7 months and is proving very effective. As it is available in 5 languages (English, Spanish, Tagalog, Korean & Chinese) with a link to real-time ASL interpretation assistance we are finding many more potential consumers coming to our site. In calendar year 2023, we have already had over 42,000 visitors to our site, and we are rolling out targeted campaigns monthly to attract more minority and marginalized populations to seek VR services.

In April 2023, Administrator Elez and Deputy Martinez attended the Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR) Conference, where they were invited to share their fiscal expertise with other state VR agencies. Topics included IPE committee, BEN program and using BEN set-aside funds as a source for federal match dollars. They also spoke about ways to increase the quality and quantity of employment outcomes and maximize available resources.

May 2023 was Mental Health Awareness Month, and VR recognized it with employer and public outreach efforts to highlight the prevalence and importance of recognizing accommodation in the workplace and hiring people with mental health disabilities.

Q4 saw the delivery of the first Pre-ETS camp for Deaf/Hard of Hearing high school students in Nevada. Called Camp SignShine was held on the campus of UNLV June 26-30th. It served Deaf/Hard of Hearing and Deaf/Blind students ages 14-22 who are clients of VRNevada from across the state. The camp, which focused on careers and college while restoring Nevadan Deaf Heritage in the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Communities was a huge success and we plan to offer the same camp next year.

SFY 2023 (7/1/22-6/30/23) Totals:

of successful closures (people with disabilities who achieved competitive and integrated employment, sustained for at least 90 days before successful case closure): 521

of cases that were opened:

Ending June SFY2022: 2,980

Ending June SFY2023: 3,077

change, + or – over the prior year: +3.3%

of new VR applications for services in SFY23: 3,066