



Reinventing Performance in Michigan



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The Bureau of Services for Blind Persons Training Center has reduced the number of students waiting to begin training by 20%

The Bureau of Services for Blind Persons Training Center is a 24/7 residential facility that provides individualized tailored training services to help blind and low vision students reach their maximum potential and achieve their highest aspirations. Training and services include travel skills, adaptive kitchen skills, Braille, communication, technology and computers, personal management, industrial arts occupational therapy/leisure time skills, recreation, career planning and counseling. The Training Center has 27 rooms and two training apartments providing accommodations and training for as many as 29 individuals at any given time.

Reduced Backlog: The Training Center has reduced the backlog of students waiting for training by 20%.

Faster Start Time: 20% of applicants can begin training 10 weeks earlier.

Efficiencies

The goal of the Training Center is to provide comprehensive training to as many of Michigan's blind citizens as possible. The purpose of this training is to get students employed and/or allow them to live independently in their homes. During the last two years, the waiting list to attend the Training Center has been reduced from 45 to just 9 individuals. This has been accomplished by utilizing all existing accommodations and working with consumers to make the most efficient use of their time while at the center. This has resulted in improved goal setting and allows for plans to be put in place to achieve those goals in a timely fashion.

Restructuring

The Training Center management has restructured the team of teachers, counselors and consumers to best utilize available resources. The average length of training is approximately eight weeks with the ultimate end goal of employment and/or better independence.

Collaboration

The Training Center works in tandem with other BSBP programs to provide training for its business enterprise operators by providing a facility and space for that training. In addition, the Training Center staff works closely with counselors in the

field to ensure that each client has a seamless individualized plan of employment, greater independence; and achieves their goals.

The newest state-of-the-art training implemented at the Training Center is the Adaptive Technology and Computer (ATAC) program that assists individuals in learning adaptive technology skills needed to use screen reading and large print programs to be competitive and thus prepare them to enter into employment.

The Training Center is also available for staff meetings and provides a location where BSBP staff can engage in education and training to enhance their skills. This allows the Bureau of Services for Blind Persons to fully utilize the functionality of its center and maximize its capacity.

