

Disability Right Michigan (DRM) Quarter 1 (October- December 2023)

Employment Team Report

- Staff met with MRS Policy director and division directors to discuss their release of information policy, transportation policy, transitions & pre-ETS cases, higher level education clients who are requiring additional services, and small business cases which continue to be challenging.
- Staff met with MRS deputy director and Policy Unit manager to discuss the challenge of small business cases that MRS staff and clients are facing.
- 0000.Staff attended an MRS policy cadre meeting and reviewed two training policies currently being developed (Training Apprenticeship and Training Vocational & Technical Training).
- Staff attended MSU center to support transition and employment, STRIDE (Services, Training and Research for Independent and Employment). The center will support those with physical, mental, neurological, intellectual, and developmental disabilities, as well as other populations with disabilities including individuals with criminal backgrounds and veterans from underserved communities.
- Staff participated in STEMM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Medicine, and Math) focus group meeting to gather data from several stakeholder groups about the Technology and accommodation at the workplace. DRM's ideas will help shape policy recommendations and pedagogy interventions that are intended to foster sustainable careers in the STEMM fields for individuals with disabilities from marginalized backgrounds.
- Participated in two outreach activities this quarter: Staff met with families, students, and professionals to provide information at the Ingham County ISD Transition Expo. Staff also provided 20 parents and students with disabilities information in Genesee County at an event with Michigan Alliance for Families.
- Staff continue attending Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) meetings.
- Staff continue attending Michigan Association of Higher Education and Disability (MI-AHEAD) meetings to strengthen the professionalism, expertise, competency, and effectiveness of personnel working with students with disabilities and promote equity and opportunities for students in higher education.
- Staff continue attending Michigan Inter-agency Transition Team (MITT) meetings to facilitate with all the state agencies to develop state model for secondary transition that is supported by all state agencies.

Case Statistics Quarter 1 (October-December 2023)

Objective A: Improve access and rights to services within vocational rehabilitation and centers for independent living.

Case Consideration Criteria:

Calls regarding an agency receiving vocational rehabilitation dollars including but not limited to MRS, BSBP, CIL.

Information & Referral Closed = 18

Case Closed = 18

Case currently open= 21

Objective B: Individuals with disabilities will have employment options in the competitive and integrated workforce.

Case Consideration Criteria:

Calls regarding an individual with a disability who needs advocacy assistance in order to gain competitive, integrated employment. This includes individuals in sheltered workshops and individuals who need accommodations for work.

Information & Referral Closed = 30

Case Closed = 2

Case currently open = 2

Objective C: Individuals with disabilities will have access to social security work incentives.

Case Consideration Criteria

Calls from beneficiaries of social security who are experiencing any issue with a vocational rehab agency (MRS, BSBP) or a Disability Network, lack of accommodation at work or in a post-secondary education setting resulting in a barrier to employment, housing accessibility that causes a barrier to employment and work-related overpayments creating a barrier to employment,

Information & Referral Closed = 5

Case Closed = 9

Case currently open = 18

Objective D: Transition needs from post education to integrated, community employment will be identified and addressed.

Case Consideration Criteria

Calls regarding a student age 16 or older who need transition services from MRS, student who has a current IEP, is enrolled in school who is not receiving appropriate transition services from MRS.

Information & Referral closed= 2

Case Closed = 1

Case currently open = 5