

MCRS Quarterly Report- Quarter 2 (January-March2023)

Disability Right Michigan (DRM)/ Employment Team (CAP & PABSS programs)

Objective 3A: Improve Access and rights to services within vocational rehabilitation and centers for independent Living.

Case Consideration Criteria

- All calls regarding an agency receiving vocational rehabilitation dollars (including but not limited to MRS, CIL, BSBP, SILC).

Closed 22 cases and 27 I&Rs. 26 cases currently open.

Challenge Cases

- MRS Small business cases
- MRS &BSBP College cases

Employment Team Activities - Objective 3A

- Staff meet with MRS Policy director and division directors to discuss transition services, financial participation limits for services, lack of training for managers, lack of communication among offices and coordination, College Support Program (CSP) at Eastern Michigan University and Release of Information for Interpreter Services.
- Staff meet with MRS Policy Unit director to continue discuss the challenge of small business cases. MRS needs to consider how to approach supported small business to their clients.
- Staff attended Mason Moves Forward event and provided information to students, parents, teachers, administrators, and community members.
- Staff attended an MRS policy cadre meeting and reviewed Michigan Career & Technical Institute (MCTI).
- CAP director continues attending Michigan Council for Rehab Services (MCRS).

Objective 3B: Individuals with disabilities will have employment options in the competitive and integrated workforce.

Case Consideration Criteria

- All 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.

Closed 3 cases and 46 I&Rs. 3 cases currently open.

Challenge Cases:

- Accommodations for work cases, including those who have gone through the interview process and been told "I'd hire you, but we don't know how to accommodate you".

Employment Team Activities -Objective 3B

- Employment team met with Connie Sung and Marisa Fisher from MSU STRIDE Center (Services, Training and Research for Independent and Employment) and Callie Merkel

from Eastern Michigan University CSP (College Support program for students with autism spectrum disorders). We discussed the opportunity to collaborate between STRIDE and CSP. CSP will have their students seek support from STRIDE Center and they will continue working together to provide resources and training for employment and community independence.

Objective 3C: Individuals with disabilities will have access to Social Security Work Incentives Project Educating Policy Makers Collaboration Activities.

Case Consideration Criteria

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

Closed 18 cases and 12 I&Rs. 11 cases currently open.

Challenge Cases

- Work related overpayment cases. As a result of advocacy on behalf of 4 beneficiaries of social security, Employment team staff have advocated to eliminate \$45,798 work-related overpayments.

Employment Team Activities on Objective 3C

- Staff continue to meet quarterly with Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA). This quarter we received information about Food Assistance from Economic Stability Administration, Michigan Department of Health & Human Services.

Objective 3D: Transition Needs from Post Education to Integrated, Community Employment will be Identified and Addressed

Case Consideration Criteria

- All calls regarding a student from age 14 or older who need transition services from MRS & BSBP
- All calls regarding a student who has a current IEP, is enrolled in school who is not receiving appropriate transition services from school.

Closed 7 cases and 2 I&Rs.

Challenge Cases:

- Lack of Pre-ETS services.

Employment Team Activities - Objective 3D

- Transition Services Association (TSA) Conference- Staff met with families, students, and professionals to provide information about DRM services, CAP & PABSS programs and

transition services to improve access and rights to services for youth and adults with disabilities.

- Michigan Association of Higher Education and Disability (MI-AHEAD). Staff continued to attend MI-AHEAD meetings where members discuss disability related issues that students are having at universities and colleges around Michigan.
- Michigan Inter-agency Transition Team (MITT). Staff continued to attend monthly MITT meetings where they discuss MITT guiding principles and to continue and technical assistance cross- agency to develop a state model for secondary transition supported by all state agencies The team is working on developing a document to share with families that will outline the guiding principles and share what the participating agencies provide in these categories.