

MCRS Quarterly Report - Quarter 3 (April-June 2023)
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:

- Handled all calls related to agencies receiving vocational rehabilitation funding (e.g., MRS, CIL, BSBP, SILC).

This quarter we closed 23 cases and 37 I&Rs (Information & Referral).

Challenge Cases:

- MRS Small business cases.
- Vehicle modification cases.
- Eligibility status cases.

Employment Team Activities - Objective 3A:

- Met with MRS policy director and division directors to address concerns about MRS Pre-ETS (Pre-Employment Transition Services) availability for students. Clarified the individual basis decision for in-person meetings.
- Attended an MRS policy cadre meeting to review self-employment program, Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE), and VR services eligibility determination.
- Continued participation in Michigan Council for Rehab Services (MCRS).
- Provided virtual training to various organizations, including Park West Foundation, Lighthouse Academy, MRS First Friday event, Disability Network West Michigan, MRS new counselors and Upbound Staffing.

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

Case Consideration Criteria:

- Assisted individuals with disabilities needing advocacy to gain Competitive Integrated Employment, including those in sheltered workshops and individuals who requiring work accommodations.

This quarter we closed 2 cases and 65 I&Rs.

Challenge Cases:

- Addressed challenges related to requesting and receiving work accommodations.
- Ending the use of subminimum wage.

Objective 3C: Individuals with disabilities will have access to Social Security Work Incentives

Case Consideration Criteria:

- Handled calls from social security beneficiaries regarding work-related overpayments as a barrier to employment.
- Assisted beneficiaries experiencing issues with vocational rehab agencies (MRS, BSBP) or Disability Networks.
- Addressed 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.
- Assisted caller with housing accessibility issues affecting employment.

This Quarter we Closed 9 cases and 9 I&Rs.

Challenge Cases:

- Addressed work-related overpayment cases.

Employment Team Activities - Objective 3C:

- Continued quarterly meetings with WIPA staff. This quarter we received housing and voucher information from Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA).

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

Case Consideration Criteria:

- Handled calls regarding students aged 14 or older needing transition services from MRS & BSBP.
- Assisted students with IEPs enrolled in school not receiving appropriate transition services.

This quarter we closed 1 case and 8 I&Rs.

Challenge Cases:

- Addressed challenges related to the lack of Pre-ETS services and MOUs between schools and MRS.
- Focused on improving the quality of competitive integrated employment and postsecondary education transition supports.

Employment Team Activities - Objective 3D:

- Participated in the Transition Services Association (TSA) Conference, providing information about DRM services, CAP & PABSS programs, and transition services for youth and adults with disabilities.
- Continued attending Michigan Association of Higher Education and Disability (MI-AHEAD) meetings to discuss disability-related issues in universities and colleges around Michigan.
- Continued participating in Michigan Inter-agency Transition Team (MITT) meetings, working on developing a state model for secondary transition and a Youth Advisory Council.

