

**Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS)**  
**DSU Update**  
**Michigan Council for Rehabilitation Services (MCRS)**  
**Thursday, October 12, 2023**

1. Budget Update:

<b>Federal Grants:</b>				
<i>Vocational Rehabilitation:</i>				
FFY24				\$ 115,522,157
<i>Assistive Technology:</i>				
FFY24				Not rec'd yet
<i>Independent Living - Title VIIB</i>				
FFY24				Not rec'd yet
<i>Disability Innovation Funds: FFY22-FFY26</i>				\$ 15,825,520
<b>Pre-Employment Transition Services:</b>				
FFY24				\$ 17,328,324

2. Performance Update:

- PowerPoint attached.
- Performance Chart by FY Quarters:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>FY 2023 Quarter 3 (April-June)</b></li> </ul>	
PTA New Referrals	460
Application	3,792
Eligibility	3,600
Service (IPE)	3,079
Exit Employed	1,400
Total Cases	19,325

3. Bureau Updates:

- Staffing summary
  - As of 10/02/23 there are:
    - 503 active staff
    - 103 positions in process

4. SIGRID

- Any updates, as applicable

5. Business Network Division (BND) Services Updates:

- BND team of Occupational Therapists attended and presented at the upcoming Annual Michigan Occupational Therapy Association Conference on Mackinac Island, Oct. 5-7<sup>th</sup>. **Amy Hayes, MRS-BND Consultant Manager** and occupational therapist by trade co-presented on the opportunities of the OT profession in state vocational rehabilitation to help educate the OT industry on the value of the OT discipline in a VR setting and the employment opportunities in state employment with both the VR agencies, MRS/BSBP including review of case study examples.
- GM approached MRS a year ago to help develop an ongoing forum of panel experts to provide feedback and consultation to the design engineers on various concepts and design ideas. The forum was called the GM Zero Barriers Accessibility, we have been meeting every other month for the entire year.

This panel consisted of experts from both the public and private sectors with ranges of expertise in assistive technology, rehab transportation, occupational therapy, education, deaf and hard of hearing, low vision and blindness, vocational rehabilitation, neurodiversity, and healthcare to provide insight on real-time challenges and solutions for individuals with disabilities when it comes to transportation in general including public transit. In return GM shared their ongoing efforts including marketing and research for accessibility in the automotive industry.

This among many internal programs and the efforts of General Motors to embrace diversity, equity, inclusion, and ACCESS within their company culture is why we want to recognize and highlight Carrie Morton and her team. **And why they received the CSAVR-NET AAA Rating Award for Achievement and Advancement in Accessibility on September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023 in Washington D.C.**

Congratulations **General Motors-Accessibility Center of Excellence**, Carrie Morton for your dedication to serving our communities

and moving the needle on accessible transportation, and winner of the CSAVR NET-AAA Rating Award for Achievement & Advancement in Accessibility. We were honored to accept on your behalf at the CSAVR-National Employment Team Summit with Kathleen West-Evans and Nacsha Ealy.



- The entire MRS- Business Services Team and management, and MCTI Director attended the in-person **NET Summit, Sept. 18-19<sup>th</sup> in Washington D.C.** There were over **170 attendees** from various State VR agencies across the country, primarily business services teams and the VR Tech Training Centers. We heard from both our federal partners and NET business partners over the two days to acknowledge awards of achievement and hear about hiring opportunities across the country including Schedule A process for federal employment. Some of those partners included, CVS, Hyatt, Microsoft, Pfizer, Walmart, McLane, Sodexo, UHG, National Parks, Dept of Transportation, US Access Board, State Department, Dept of Transportation Federal Aviation to name a few. There was also a robust day of tabletop discussion on various hot topics for the VR agencies and delivering business services including WIOA – Indicator 6.



- Michigan State University hosted its first inaugural **Abilities, Opportunities and Future of Work Conference**. The two-day conference took place at the Minskoff Pavilion in MSU's Eli Broad College of Business on Aug. 17 and Aug. 18. Speakers from MSU, and the public and private sectors of the workforce came together to discuss topics centered on creating actionable solutions for enhancing employment and career opportunities for individuals with disabilities. There were over 100 attendees engaged in conversation surrounding disability employment, the dual customer, the business reason for inclusion and access of individuals with disability in the workforce. MSU's College of Business - Center for Ethically and Socially Responsible Leadership and the MSU Center for Services, Training and Research for Independence and Desired Employment (STRIDE) have partnered with LEO-E&T Michigan Rehabilitation Services, and Peckham, Inc. to put together the conference.

A HUGE shout out to **Carol Bergquist, MCRS** for traveling and participating in the **MCTI-Commercial Printing Program Students and Instructor, Adam Reynolds** for creating the T-shirts for the conference (pictured below), including the program, notepads, and buttons

Conference volunteers below:

