**Bureau of Services for Blind Services**

**March 8, 2024**

**Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) Quarterly Report**

During the reporting quarter 10/1-12/31, 2024 the following metrics reflect our work with BSBP VR customers including youth and students.

* Participants Served (10/1/23 – 12/31/23)  - **1173**
* Youth Served (10/1/23 – 12/31/23) – **447**
* Postsecondary Credentials Received (10/1/23 – 12/31/23) – **0**
* HS Diplomas or Equivalents Received (10/1/23 – 12/31/23) – **0**
* Percent Employed 2nd Quarter After Exit (PY23 YTD (7/1/23 – 12/31/23 Reporting Period)). – This should use the PY23 reporting time periods and should include the program-year-to-date percentage if you are able to do that. **41%**

BSBP submitted their 2024-2027 Combined State Plan into the WIOA portal on March 1st. The deadline date was March 4th, which we met and exceeded. VR represents Title IV of the Work Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014, which is the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. Six goals represented in the Combined State Plan for BSBP are as follows and will be reported upon in the Mid-cycle Review in 2025.

**Goal 1:** BSBP will utilize the expertise of technology service to ensure that staff and customers are familiar with emerging adaptive technologies and their applications.

**Goal 2:** BSBP will increase the number of students served in each PY 2024 to 2027 by 5 percent. Prior to the pandemic, BSBP had experienced increases in Students with a Disability (SWD) served. For example, in Quarter 4 of PY 2019 (June 30, 2020), 911 data indicated BSBP served a total of 400 SWD, of which 227 received a Pre-ETS service (150 VR and 77 Potentially Eligible [PE]). The same period for PY 2022, indicated 326 SWD, of which 177 received a Pre-ETS service (150 VR and 27 PE). The pandemic school closures and turnover of Local Education Agency (LEA) staff have resulted in Pre-ETS delivery challenges. BSBP estimates serving at least 360 students by the end of PY 2023. Accordingly, the PY 2027 goal is approximately 440 students served.

**Goal 3:** BSBP, in coordination with the LEAs, will identify unmet needs as related to provision of Pre-ETS on a local and Statewide level using available 911 Quarterly data and annual Center for Educational Performance and Information reports.

**Goal 4:** BSBPTC will maintain and improve the facility as necessary to operate in the most efficient and cost-effective manner possible, bringing the facility to 21st century standards.

**Goal 5:** Enter into a Technical Assistance Agreement with the University of Massachusetts Boston Institute for Community Inclusion to provide technical assistance for effective VR services.

**Goal 6:** Implement technical assistance and Association of Community Rehabilitation Educators, Association of Community Rehabilitation Educators (ACRE) training provided to BSBP by the VRTAC-QE on using the SE Grant/Program. To review caseloads to more effectively identify customers that can benefit from SE.

Examples of collaboration with local CIL’s:

Superior Alliance for Independent Living (SAIL) has been working with BSBP’s Upper Peninsula’s Vision Rehabilitation Therapist on cases where the person is low vision and not eligible for BSBP’s programs.  They frequently reach out to BSBP for advice on magnifiers and other ADL ideas. BSBP VRT’s have presented to their staff on magnification tools and how to instruct on using them – a crash course.  They frequently refer to BSBP if they think the person might qualify for BSBP services.  BSBP is interested in increasing our presence with them for working with customers that BSBP is unable to serve and to provide services to enhance what BSBP is providing particularly outside of the Marquette County area. BSBP believes that there is the potential of an even stronger partnership.

BSBP is also engaged in partnerships with Disability Network Lakeshore and Disability Advocates of Kent County where we partner to provide services to transition students. The CILs are doing resource mapping to identify gaps in transition services in their service delivery areas, allowing BSBP and the ISD to identify opportunities to build programs and services to mitigate service gaps and enhancing the educational experience for students in the identified catchment areas of the CIL’s. This is the third year of partnerships and examples of long-term positive relationships with these CIL’s. BSBP is also working in our Central Region to partner with Disability Network Northern Michigan to provide services via the Interagency Cash Transfer Agreement (ICTA) with Northwest Education Services and cultivating additional relationships to assist with providing one of our Star Pre-ETS programs at Great Wolf Lodge (GWL).

As always, we continue work with Disability Network Southwest Michigan relating to benefits planning which supports financial literacy.

These are some examples of the great work that BSBP is doing with our local CIL’s. These are also examples of efforts to promote BSBP’s commitment to state plan Goals 2 and 3 and the overall dedication to promoting independence and inclusion for BSBP’s customers.