



MARYLAND STATE
REHABILITATION COUNCIL

December 16, 2019

As Chair of the Maryland State Rehabilitation Council (MSRC), it is an honor to serve the people of Maryland. The MSRC is the people's champion for employment of Marylanders with disabilities, for enhanced awareness of the capabilities of students, youths, and adults with disabilities, and for promotion of State and national policies that support those goals.

The MSRC is appointed by the Governor of Maryland, in compliance with federal law, to monitor, advise and oversee the Maryland State Department of Education's Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS). Established in the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Council reports its findings annually to the U.S. Department of Education's Rehabilitation Services Administration, the Governor of Maryland and, most importantly, the people of Maryland.

For the fiscal year 2019:

- **State Education Agreement**

DORS leadership worked closely with the Maryland State Department of Education's Division of Early Intervention/Special Education Services (DEISES) to craft a new agreement that is reflective of the changes that are articulated in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (2014). The agreement focuses on transitioning services for students and the services that each organization will be providing. In addition, the leadership of each organization meets on a quarterly basis to discuss issues and do joint planning. Both DORS and DEISES will be working together with the local school systems to develop the local educational agreements.

- **Quality Assurance**

Quality case management is something that both DORS and MSRC want to see with every client's case. DORS has developed and implemented an in-line case management tool that is used to ascertain the quality of services being delivered by the agency. The Quality Review team reviews cases at different stages in the rehabilitation process to look at the timeliness and the services being provided to the consumers. Trends are reviewed both from a local office and a Statewide perspective to determine if there are training needs or policy changes that are needed.

- **Waitlist**

The primary driver in the growth of the waitlist is the increase in the number of Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) students who applied to DORS during the year. WIOA requires that a minimum of 15% of each state's VR grant be allocated to Pre-ETS, and that providing Pre-ETS is prioritized. At the end of FY18, DORS had 3,773 Pre-ETS Students. By the end of FY19 that number had grown to 5,737, an increase of nearly 2,000 over the previous fiscal year. Pre-ETS will continue to be a factor in the DORS waitlist in the coming year, as the Pre-ETS program will continue to grow and expand as more parents and transitioning students become aware of this new opportunity.

In closing, I would like to commend DORS for its commitment to the employment needs of people living with disabilities and also for its transparency to the people of Maryland through its partnership with the MSRC.

Sincerely,



Anil Lewis, Chair, Maryland State Rehabilitation Council

By The Numbers

In 2019, the Division of Rehabilitation Services:

- Provided services to 23,121 individuals with significant disabilities.
- Prepared 7,479 students with disabilities to move from high school to employment, higher education or career training through vocational rehabilitation (VR) services. The agency's Pre-Employment Transition Services program has an additional 5,737 students. Forty-two percent of the individuals served by DORS are between the ages of 14 and 24.
- Personnel and programs helped 1,256 Marylanders with significant disabilities to become successfully employed in competitive integrated environments. This number reflects changes related to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.
- DORS Business Services staff provided 3,598 direct services to Maryland businesses, including recruitment assistance, disability training, and information and technical assistance on hiring and tax incentives.