

FACT SHEET

February 9, 2021 DVI Holdover Meeting



Joint Legislative Oversight
& Sunset Committee

Staff & Funding Updates

- ➔ Made several internal changes to improve communication and agency structure.
- ➔ Developed and filled a position to provide more assistive technology support, technical assistance and training to students and district personnel.
- ➔ Repurposed two Vocational Rehabilitation program positions to focus on areas in need of development
 - 1 filled, 1 in recruitment process.

New Community Partnership

- ➔ Georgetown Public Library; signed partnership agreement on Nov 1, 2020.
- ➔ Provides a solution for accessibility issues at DVI's Georgetown Training Center.
 - Provides DVI free space for a large magnifier, screen readers, Zoom Text on large television.
 - Location is 1 block from fixed bus route.
 - Building is fully accessible.

Boards Related to DVI Updates

- ➔ DVI is not a member of the Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens.
 - Membership on this council would be advantageous to both DVI, the council itself, and the many consumers it represents.
- ➔ Continuing work with approved plan from the federal Rehabilitation Services Administration to jointly develop goals and priorities with the Vocational Rehabilitation Advisory Council/State Rehabilitation Council ("VRAC/SRC").

Training & Policy Updates

- ➔ Hired a Training and Communications Director.
- ➔ Working with Division of Human Resources, Statewide Training, and the Delaware Learning Center.
- ➔ VR Program acquired a Learning Management System to enhance staff development.
- ➔ Reviewed service delivery policies for all programs, identified gaps, and created drafts for 6 new policies.
- ➔ Employee Manual completed.

Education Updates

- ➔ DVI is part of the Equitable Infrastructure Committee, a sub-committee of the Special Education Strategic Plan Advisory Council (SESPAC).
 - Developed a proposed plan for creating equitable education services and funding across the state for students served through Autism Spectrum Disorder, Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Deaf-Blind, and Visual Impairment programs.
- ➔ DVI and DOE have been meeting over the past several months to review the current Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") and identify areas that require revisions, clarity, or more information.
- ➔ DHSS in development of specialized Customer Relationship Management software with Salesforce, to construct a constituent inquiry database and will be compatible with the database in the Governor's Office.
- ➔ DVI is working with the Workforce Innovation Technical Assistance Center to meet the federal requirements related to transition and preemployment transition services and the partnership between education and Vocational Rehabilitation.
- ➔ DVI started an organizational development initiative to evaluate agency structure, identify needs, and develop comprehensive training and communication plans.

Staffing Updates: Then & Now

February 2020

- As of December 31, 2019:
 - 71 full time positions
 - 58 filled
 - 13 vacant
 - 4 casual seasonal positions

As of February 2020, Sandra Miller moved from acting director to DVI Director and Deborah Talley was appointed to acting Deputy Director.

- Ms. Miller previously served as DVI's Deputy Director and acting Director (November 2019).
- Ms. Talley previously served as DVI's Communications Director.

February 2021

- As of December 31, 2020:
 - 70 full time positions*
 - 59 filled
 - 11 vacant
 - 5 casual seasonal positions
 - 2 contractual positions

In August 2020, Deborah Talley moved from acting Deputy Director to DVI Deputy Director.

* One full time position was repurposed for DHSS staffing needs due to COVID-19 response efforts.