

Proposed

Attachment 4.8(b)(1) Cooperative Agreements with Agencies Not Carrying Out Activities Under the Statewide Workforce Investment System

In addition to collaborating with State Workforce partners, CBVH works with a number of community and national partners. Specific collaborations around employment include:

Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR)

CSAVR's National Employment Team (NET) provides a coordinated approach to serving business customers through employer development, business consulting and corporate relations. By establishing partnerships with businesses, VR can better match employer staffing needs with the skills and interests of consumers seeking employment, as well as help business to retain employees who experience disability. The NET provides:

- Businesses with direct access to qualified applicants and support services from the public VR system,
- VR consumers with access to national employment opportunities and career development resources, and
- VR agencies with a national system for sharing employment resources, best practices and business connections.

A designated point of contact serves as the primary contact for employers seeking to partner with CBVH. In the past year, through the NET partnership, CBVH has shared information about and job postings from Federal and corporate partners with CBVH staff and placement partners. In addition, CBVH has distributed NET shared information on a number of internship and skill camp opportunities for high school and college students.

The NET has brought two important partnerships to CBVH: The Walgreens Retail Employees Disability Initiative (REDI) has resulted in placement of seven individuals as customer service representatives in Walgreens drugstores; and the new CVS Distribution Center in Waverly, NY has hired one individual and will continue to offer the possibility of additional placements as they expand.

Working with Community Rehabilitation Programs (CRP)

CBVH is interested in improving the capacity of community rehabilitation partners to successfully place consumers who are legally blind. CBVH, the Region II Technical Assistance and Continuing Education program, and CRPs jointly plan training to address information and skill needs of both CBVH and CRP staff. A key component of these joint training efforts is the annual Vision Institute which focuses on issues related to employment.

The Metropolitan Placement Consortium, collaboration among placement providers in the NYC metro area, has been meeting regularly and continues to expand membership.

The Consortium's mission is to work cooperatively to expand job opportunities for individuals who are legally blind and seeking employment.

Chapter 515 Interagency Implementation Team

The Chapter 515 Interagency Implementation Team composed of mid-level managers from CBVH, Adult Career and Continuing Education Services-Vocational Rehabilitation (ACCES-VR, formerly VESID), Office of People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD, formerly OMRDD) and Office of Mental Health (OMH), continues to meet to discuss ongoing concerns with implementation of supported employment intensive and extended services in New York State. The primary focus of the team continues to be discussion of solutions to systemic barriers and revising the Supported Employment Memorandum of Understanding toward more effective planning and coordination of intensive and extended services.

Most Integrated Setting Coordinating Council (MISCC)

The Most Integrated Setting Coordinating Council, established by Chapter 551 of the Laws of 2002, which was responsible for developing a comprehensive statewide plan to provide that people of all ages with physical and mental disabilities receive care and services in the most integrated settings appropriate to their individual needs, is being replaced by an Executive Order. A new Cabinet has been charged with developing a plan to comply with *Olmstead v. L.C.*, 119 S.Ct. 2176 (1999), in the areas of housing, transportation and employment. OCFS is a member of the cabinet, which is charged to develop a plan by May 2013.

Medicaid Infrastructure Grant (MIG)

New York's Medicaid Infrastructure Grant ended September 30, 2012.. It funded the "New York Makes Work Pay" initiative which has taken a multi-pronged approach to improving employment outcomes. CBVH staff, providers and employers participated in many of the initiatives under this program and expect to continue many of the best practices resulting from this grant such as:

- Use of the Discovery Process as a means to gain a greater understanding of consumers' strengths, interests and abilities and the supports available to enable them to achieve employment through a customized approach;
- Collaboration to expand entrepreneurial employment opportunities; and
- Using skills of individuals trained in Benefits Advisement and Asset Development to help recipients of SSI and SSDI make better informed decisions about employment..

Meeting the Needs of Special Populations

CBVH continued to participate on the Interagency Council for Services to Persons who are Deaf, Deaf-Blind, or Hard of Hearing formed to coordinate the collection of information on population needs, engage in comprehensive strategic planning and prepare legislative and policy recommendations to the Governor and the State Legislature.

The Council has been unable to meet since it submitted to the Legislature a strategic plan addressing six priorities: interpreters/support service providers, assistive technology, children's education, community education, mental health services and future needs. The Council will be reconvening in 2013 with CBVH's continued participation.

Cooperation with Industries for the Blind of New York State

CBVH has designated National Industries for the Blind (NIB) as its designee for NYS Preferred-Source products to assume the role previously fulfilled by Industries for the Blind of NYS. In an initial interim designation agreement, set to expire on December 1, 2013, the creation of service sector jobs is highlighted as a priority for the year.

CBVH has encouraged NIB associated agencies to provide needed work experience and skill training to enable individuals who are interested, to move on to competitive employment in an integrated setting.

Cooperative Agreement with Recipients of Grants for Services to American Indians

In 2003, CBVH established an interagency agreement with the Seneca Nation of Indians Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation (SNI TVR) Program. CBVH will be working with the SNI TVR Program to renew the agreement which expires in 2013. The agreement represents both parties' commitment to mutual cooperation, coordination and collaboration to increase vocational opportunities for members of the Seneca Nation of Indians who are legally blind. It establishes shared values, outlines how services will be coordinated and how members of both organizations will participate in cross-training activities. The collaborative relationship between the CBVH Buffalo District Office and the Seneca Nation of Indians Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation Program has increased awareness, acceptance and utilization of CBVH services. CBVH maintains a relationship in which referrals are handled in a timely and culturally sensitive manner. CBVH staff conducts in-service training with agencies on the Cattaraugus Reservation, and works closely with staff of the Salamanca satellite of the Section 121 program and with the Area Office for the Aging on the reservation. CBVH staff serves on the Section 121 Project Advisory Board, which meets monthly.

CBVH further supports the activities of the Section 121 Tribal VR Program through the delivery of state-funded services to children and elderly individuals, allowing them to better focus resources on tribal members seeking employment.

Programs Carried Out by the Undersecretary for Rural Development

CBVH does not have programs carried out by the Undersecretary for Rural Development of the United States Department of Agriculture.

State Use Contracting Programs

CBVH does not have state use contracting programs.