**Orientation Center for the Blind Program Report**

**October 2022**

The Orientation Center for the Blind (OCB) is a Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) owned and operated residential immersion training facility that helps individuals with visual impairments adjust to blindness and prepare for competitive integrated employment.

In concurrence with the Blind Field Services (BFS) vision, the OCB vision is that every blind and visually impaired Californian who wants to work should be working; and every blind and visually impaired Californian who may not believe they can work, is provided the requisite counseling to overcome their barriers to employment.

## Training Status

On September 26, 2022, the participants for the Fall Session began their 12-week on-site training program. The OCB Team continued the delivery of direct, in-person services to 14 current consumers as follows:

* Computers and Related Technology training;
* One-on-One Daily Living Skills & Cooking instruction;
* Individual Orientation & Mobility instruction;
* Individual Braille instruction;
* Individual Vocational Counseling; and,
* Job Readiness and College Preparation classes.

## OCB Program Census Results Year-to-Date State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2022/2023

* 14 participants are enrolled and receiving on site services in the OCB program in the month of October.
* OCB has provided training to 26 BFS consumers since SFY 2022/2023
* OCB is currently serving 5 participants between the ages of 18 and 21.
* One DOR student with disabilities is participating in paid work experience.
* One DOR student with disabilities completed paid work experience and transitioned into employment with the Internal Revenue Service.

## Outreach Efforts

As a means for advancing awareness about OCB, BFS/DOR, and promoting involvement and inclusion in the local community, outreach efforts continue to be a focus for staff in the new fiscal year. Additionally, maintaining regular communication by meeting with BFS counselors individually, attending BFS unit meetings, and participating in bimonthly BFS managers’ meetings will continue.

OCB will be the host site for the 20th year anniversary of SB 105. Meeting dates have been set as July 13 - 14, 2023. More details will come!

## Administrative and Personnel Updates

Eric Mazariegos continues as the OCB Acting Administrator.

Active job postings and interviewing as of this report include:

* Vocational Instructor Computers and Related Technologies;
* Building Maintenance Worker;
* Food Service Technician; and,
* Support Services Assistant (General).

## Curriculum Enhancement/Development/Strategic Planning

The following program enhancement activities and curriculum modifications have continued since the last BAC report:

* OCB continues to be a paid work experience site for DOR students with disabilities.
* OCB is becoming a paid work experience site for DOR adults with disabilities.
* Orientation and Mobility two-week, 40 hour-Bootcamp continues.
* Work-Related and Skills Assessments continue.
* OCB is able to serve day-students.

The following seminars that include the topics of healthy relationships, consent, and healthy boundaries continue:

* Boundaries in the Workplace;
* Safety While Out in the Community; and
* Sexual Health and Education Seminar.

## The Family Integration Program

OCB continued the Family Integration Program (FIP). The FIP’s goal is to support participants with the transition back to their homes and communities after training at OCB. FIP gives family/guardians the opportunity to discuss their loved one’s progress with OCB’s onsite rehabilitation counselor and teachers. Most of all, the collaboration and integration of family/guardians will assist in the smooth transition home so that the participants’ skills of independence will continue to be encouraged.

## OCB Facility Improvement Projects

* Roof repairs ongoing.
* Painting Project of Administration Building Interior in planning stage.
* New Gymnasium sport court flooring in procurement stage.
* Two electric vehicles in procurement stage.
* Exploratory phase of entire OCB campus fence replacement.
* Exploratory phase of enhancing and replacing all existing campus security cameras.