# Item 9: SSD Report – Orientation Center for the Blind

**Orientation Center for the Blind Program Report**

**July 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 July 5, 2022, the participants for the Summer Session began their 12-week on-site training program. The OCB Team continued the delivery of direct, in-person services to 15 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

* 15 participants are enrolled and receiving on site services in the OCB program in the month of July.
* OCB is currently serving 2 participants between the ages of 18 and 21.
* Four DOR students with disabilities are participating in paid work experience.
* One work-related skills assessment in July.

## 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 launched the one-week mini-immersion experience and 4 Qualified Rehabilitation Professionals (QRP’s) and one Office Technician (OT) participated in May and June. Blindfolds were issued to the DOR Staff and the staff members were given a class schedule and participated in hands on training experience which entailed:

* residing in the dormitory;
* eating in the cafeteria;
* taking part in all training classes; and,
* attending small group meetings.

## Administrative and Personnel Updates

OCB is pleased to announce Mr. Kerry Stamps Senior Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (SVRC) QRP has joined the OCB team and started on May 9, 2022.

Sue Pelbath promoted to Deputy Director, Specialized Service Division.

The OCB Acting Administrator is Eric Mazariegos.

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:

* Boundaries in the Workplace;
* Safety While Out in the Community; and
* Sexual Health and Education Seminar.
  + The above seminars all include the topics of healthy relationships, consent, and healthy boundaries.
* OCB continues to be a paid work experience site for DOR students 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 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.

## Gymnasium

In response to participants’ requests, the gymnasium continues to be available for use.

## 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.