**Orientation Center for the Blind Program Report**

**February 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 January 3, 2022, the participant cohort for the Winter began their 12-week on-site training program. The OCB Team continued the delivery of direct, in-person services to 16 current consumers as follows:

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

## OCB Program Census Results Year-to-Date State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2021/2022

* 16 participants are enrolled and receiving on site services in the OCB program in the month of February.
* OCB is currently serving 4 participants between the ages of 18 and 21.
* OCB completed a two-week Work-Related Behaviors and Skills Assessment for one BFS consumer.

## 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.

## Administrative and Personnel Updates

Active job postings and interviewing as of this report include:

* Qualified Rehabilitation Professional Senior Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (QRP SVRC);
* Vocational Instructor Computers and Related Technologies;
* Associate Government Program Analyst (AGPA);
* Building Maintenance Worker;
* Food Service Technician; and,
* Staff Services Assistant-General.

## Curriculum Enhancement/Development/Strategic Planning

seminars featuring:

* 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 continues.
* OCB is able to serve day-students.

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

## Family Integration Program

The OCB Program 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. Oftentimes, families encounter various challenges and may find it difficult to support their loved ones’ independence during this transitional period. For instance, providing appropriate assistance for participants often creates unique challenges for family/guardians who may not understand how and when to provide help, and what type of assistance to provide.

FIP gives family/guardians the opportunity to discuss their loved one’s progress with OCB’s onsite rehabilitation counselor and teachers. Due to COVID-19, on-campus observations are not currently offered. Therefore, during zoom conference meetings, family/guardians will instead view a pre-recorded video of their loved one independently performing tasks learned in classes. The videos can help provide some context as well as give rise to an exchange of observations, ideas, and feedback. 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 is now available for use.

## OCB Facility Improvement Projects

* Campus-wide lighting replacement complete.
* Roof repairs ongoing.
* Painting Project of Administration Building Interior in planning stage.
* New Gymnasium sport court flooring in procurement stage.