**Blind Field Services Program Report**

**First Quarter 2023-24**

**July 1, 2023 – September 30, 2023**

It is the vision of BFS to increase the number of successful employment outcomes for consumers seeking competitive employment and ensure that every blind and visually impaired Californian who wants to work, obtains employment; and every blind and visually impaired Californian who may not believe they can work, is provided the necessary counseling and guidance to overcome their individual barriers to employment.

Unless otherwise stated, all data in this report is from 7/1/2023 through 9/30/2023. Data was gathered from Aware and the DOR Dashboard.

**BFS Statistics for State Fiscal Year to Date (SFYTD) 2023 – 2024 as of 9/30/2023**

Applications this SFYTD; 296

Applications as of the same date in 2022; 373

Applications as of the same date in 2021; 224

Applications as of the same date in 2020; 161

Applications as of the same date in 2019; 237

**Services to Students with a Disability (SWD)**

The Term "Student with a Disability" – means, in general, an individual with a disability in a secondary, postsecondary, or other recognized education program who is aged 16-21.

Apps for current SFYTD; 48 or 16% of total apps.

Apps from the same date in 2022;49 or 13% of total apps.

Apps from the same date in 2021; 197 or 43 % of total apps.

Apps from the same date in 2020; 122 or 76% of total apps.

Apps from the same date in 2019; 39 or 16 % of total apps.

As of 10/22/2023, BFS has 4,173 open cases. Of that number 655 individuals are SWD. This is 16% of the total population currently served by BFS. WIOA requires that the DOR spend 15% of its funds on Student Services.

**Successful Closures and Wage Information**

Successful closures current SFYTD; 61

Successful closures as of the same date in 2023; 62

Successful closures as of the same date in 2021; 69

Successful closures as of the same date in 2020; 50

Successful closures as of the same date in 2019; 75

Hourly wage range; $14 - $108

Average hourly earnings; $28.29

Median hourly earnings; $20.67

Working 30 or more hours a week 40 individuals

Working 20 - 39 hours a week 16 individuals

**Staff Updates**

* Jennilee Ruggirello has been promoted to a QRP position in Yuba City effective 11/1/2023. She replaces Bonnie O’Leary who passed away unexpectedly earlier this year.
* Ed Crespin retired in October 2023. The process to replace Mr. Crespin is moving forward quickly. This position will be moved from the San Bernardino office to the Victorville office due to growth and demand in the High Desert area.

**Training**

The next SB 105 training is tentatively scheduled for late September 2024 at the Hilton Arden West Hotel in Sacramento. This will once again be a mandatory in-person training for all permanent BFS staff and not limited to counselors and Team Managers. After the hotel contract is finalized, a save the date email will be sent out to all BFS staff and community partners.

BFS has been provided with the following training this quarter:

DOR Mobility Evaluation Program (MEP)

This program provides adaptive driver training. BFS occasionally provides assessment and driver training for individuals using bioptic glasses.

BFS staff were also trained on updates and changes to the Business Enterprises Program (BEP), the Older Individuals who are Blind (OIB) program and AB 2480. Certain BFS staff have continued to be trained and a part of the “Ready Willing and Able” (RWA) apprenticeship program in the Orange County and Los Angeles areas in an effort to have BFS consumers try and obtain new apprenticeships in the health care industry. The second annual RWA Apprenticeship Fair will be held on November 16, 2023, in LA County and flyers are in the process of being distributed to all interested BFS consumers, staff, and community partners.

**Authorizations processed by the BFS District Operations (DOS) Team**

As indicated in the last BFS report, we will no longer be reporting the “activity due” processing to the BAC. The activity dues do not accurately reflect the amount of work being completed by the Operations Team. Instead BFS will be reporting the actual number of authorizations processed by the BFS DOS Team each quarter. However, as of the writing of this report, this data was not available. It will be reported in December for the first six months of the year.