**Orientation Center for the Blind Program Report**

**August 2023**

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 June 26, 2023, 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 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) 2023/2024

* 17 participants are enrolled and receiving on site services in the OCB program in the month of July.
* Currently serving one day student.
* OCB is serving four participants between the ages of 18 and 21.
* Two DOR Adults with disabilities began their paid work experience in July and continue.
* One DOR student with disabilities continues their employment with OCB as a Food Service Technician working in the cafeteria.

## 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. Additionally, maintaining regular communication by meeting with BFS counselors individually, attending BFS unit meetings, and participating in bimonthly BFS managers’ meetings will continue.

OCB hosted the two-day SB 105 event beginning with an all-day training on July 13, and concluded with an open house celebration on July 14.

## Administrative and Personnel Updates

Eric Mazariegos is continuing as the OCB Acting Administrator.

Active job postings and interviewing as of this report include:

* Vocational Instructor Computers and Related Technologies.
* Lamont Hubbard was hired to fill the vacant Building Maintenance Worker position and started in June 2023.

## Curriculum Enhancement/Development/Strategic Planning

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

* OCB participants attend the following seminars on the topics of healthy relationships, consent, and healthy boundaries: Boundaries in the Workplace; Safety While Out in the Community; and, Sexual Health and Education.
* OCB continues to be a paid work experience site for DOR students with disabilities.
* OCB continues to be 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 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.
* In the final phase of internet service upgrade. Fiber optic has been pulled to the building, new switches and wi fi access points have been installed. Programming and activation of the new cable/port remains.
* Dormitory water heater replaced.
* Fire service waterline repairs to fix two leaks.
* Two electric vehicles added to OCB’s fleet.
* Working on the scope of work phase for the entire OCB campus fence replacement.
* Working on the scope of work phase for enhancing and replacing all existing campus security cameras.