**Orientation Center for the Blind Program Report**

**October 2024**

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 16, 2024, the Fall Session participants 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) 2024/2025

* 14 participants are enrolled and receiving on site services in the OCB program in the month of October.
* One DOR consumer began their adult paid work experience in October.
* OCB is currently serving seven participants between the ages of 18 and 21.

## 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. OCB resumed availing itself as a voting site for Albany residents. 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

* Vincent Cherry- Supervising Cook started on 08/15/2024.
* Martin Ayala- Building Maintenance Worker started on 09/23/2024.
* Joshua Lopez- Mobility Instructor started on 08/20/2024.
* Bisi Lawal- Associate Government Program Analyst (AGPA)/Consumer Resource Navigator started on 11/01/2024.

Active job postings and interviewing as of this report include:

* Braille Communication and Related Technologies Instructor posted.
* Activities of Daily Living Instructor Interview 08/13/2024.
* SSA Interviews were held on 10/25/2024 and 10/29/2024.

## 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.
* OCB continues to be a paid work experience site for DOR Adults with disabilities.
* Orientation and Mobility two-week, 40 hour-Bootcamp continues.
* One-Week Work-Related and Skills Assessment continues.
* OCB is able to serve day-students.
* In-Person Self Defense with Full Power on 09/04/2024.
* Kayaking on the Bay on 10/16/2024.

## The Family Integration Program

OCB will conduct a Zoom meeting at the end of the training session with the participant’s family members and the goal being to support participants with the transition back to their homes and communities after training at OCB. It will give 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

* A new roof for Building C is needed despite numerous repairs over the last several years. Central Office Business Services Section continues to work with Department of General Services (DGS) to develop the scope of work needed for putting the project out to bid.
* Tiechert Construction has been engaged to repair the water line to the fire service. The agreement has been sent to Teichert for signature and return to DOR.
* 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.