**Orientation Center for the Blind Program Report**

**July 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 June 24, 2024, the summer 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 July.

* One DOR consumer completed their adult paid work experience.
* OCB is currently serving three 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. 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

* Claire Inosanto was hired as a Permanent Intermittent Dormitory Counselor with a start date of July 2, 2024.
* Katie Flatbush was hired as the OCB Office Technician Typing with a start date of July 16, 2024.
* Karen Shrawder was hired as the Computers and Related Technology Instructor with a start date of May 20, 2024.

Active job postings and interviewing as of this report include:

* Supervising Cook
* Building Maintenance Worker
* Orientation and Mobility Instructor (Permanent Intermittent);
* Senior Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor-Qualified Rehabilitation Professional (SVRC-QRP)

## 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 Assessment participant is arriving August 11, 2024 for One-Week Work-Related and Skills Assessment.
* OCB is able to serve day-students.

## 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.
* Repairs to water lines in the commercial cafeteria were made that included excavating to reach the broken pipes. Additional leaks were discovered once the plumbers excavated. The job increased in scope from repairing two leaks to five leaks including replacing the water shut off valve that broke when turning the water on and off.
* Work continues to find a contractor to repair the water line. DOR is proceeding on an emergency basis. Teicher Construction has assessed the line and submitted a bid totaling $499K.
* The IFB for re-keying the campus has been awarded. The project was completed June 7, 2024.
* 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.