**Orientation Center for the Blind Program Report**

**January 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 January 2, 2024, the participants for the Winter 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

* 15 participants are enrolled and receiving on site services in the OCB program in the month of January.
* OCB is currently serving 2 participants between the ages of 18 and 21.
* One DOR consumer is participating in the adult paid work experience.
* One DOR Consumer participated in two week Mobility Boot Camp in November 2023.

## 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.

* OCB will be the host site for an International Full Power Self Defense training in late April early May.
* One Orientation and Mobility intern began January 2024.

## Administrative and Personnel Updates

* Kerry Stamps continuing as the Acting Assistant Administrator over Programs and Services.

Active job postings and interviewing as of this report include:

* Vocational Instructor Computers and Related Technologies;
* Home Economics instructor of Daily Living Skills.

## 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 arriving January 21, 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 is working with Department of General Services (DGS) to develop the scope of work needed for putting the project out to bid.
* Dormitory repairs including painting, wall repairs and resurfacing kitchen cabinets, were completed during the holiday break in December 2023.
* An Invitation for Bid (IFB) was released seeking a C16 plumbing contractor to repair the fire service water line. The walk through was held January 17, 2024.
* The IFB for re-keying the campus has been developed and is expected to be released in February 2024.
* Plumbing leaks have been found in the commercial cafeteria. OCB is obtaining quotes for the repair.
* Two water leaks that flooded the Cooking Instructor’s office were repaired in Teaching Kitchen Number One: both the fresh water supply line and the water drainpipe were leaking.
* 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.