

# Nevada Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation (BVR)

Grae Matheus, MA

Transition Rehabilitation Counselor II



Vocational Rehabilitation A Proud Partner of American Job Center of Nevada At Work for Disability Inclusion

#### **Basic Overview**

- The Department of Employment, Training & Rehabilitation's (DETR) Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation is a state and federally funded program designed to help people with disabilities become employed and to help those already employed perform more successfully through training, counseling and other support methods.
- Vocational rehabilitation services are available to students in high school who have a disability that results in a substantial barrier to employment, not just those who take special education classes.

# **Potential Service Options**

- Assessments to determine job-related skills and abilities
- Career Counseling and guidance
- Assistance with college or trade school education
- Assistive technology
- On-the-job training
- Job seeking skills
- Job placement (supported employment or customized supports)
- Job coaching and follow-up

#### Assessment

- Situational Assessment
  - On-the-job assessment of behaviors, skills and strengths.
  - Typically provided at a sheltered/JDT work space for constant supervision.
- Functional Capacity Assessment
  - Assessment provided by an occupational therapist.
  - Looks at ability to complete job tasks (Can they bend, stand for extended periods of time, crouch, etc).
- Work Based Learning Experience
  - > Typically provided at a community employer.
  - Assists with identifying job strengths, limitations and interests.

#### Assessment Cont.

- Psychological Assessment
  - Provided as needed if counselor or participant feel that a mental health condition could be a potential barrier to employment.
- Interest and Aptitude Testing
  - Computer based assessment to assist with identifying job interests.
  - Career exploration services to help with goal setting and determining services needs.

# Supported Employment

- Supported employment is a specialized service made available for people with the most significant disabilities and/or employment has not historically occurred.
- This service provides more comprehensive and long-term employment related services.
  - Additional assessment, job exploration and placement services.
  - Extensive job coaching hours
  - Collaboration with SRC for life-long coaching/job follow-along supports

# **Customized Employment**

- Customized employment begins with a discovery process to determine strengths, interests, abilities, limitations and capabilities.
  - Targets specific tasks that the employer needs.
- Job developers work with employers to negotiate individualized tasks/duties.
- Intensive job coaching and follow-along is also provided with the transfer to SRC for long-term job supports.

# Subminimum Vs. Day Habilitation Placement

- Subminimum wage
  - Earning a wage below minimum wage.
  - Non-integrated placement (not in community with those with and without disabilities).
  - Need VR certification to participate until age 24.
- Day Habilitation
  - Wage is not earned
  - Non-integrated
  - VR certification not required.

# Subminimum Employment

- Subminimum wage/sheltered employment/job day training:
  - Employment in a non-integrated setting
  - ▶ Wage is below minimum
- Subminimum placement is the opposite of VR goals but may be a better option for some.
- Federal legislation requires VR to provide adequate counseling, Information and referral before a contract for subminimum employment can be implemented.

# Subminimum Employment Certification

- A client interested in subminimum employment must receive the following before they will be able to participate:
  - ► Application to VR
  - Career counseling guidance: provide VR options and services to consider.
  - Pre-employment transition services must be considered/provided with adequate documentation.
  - Assessment as needed.
  - Discussion with VR counselor.
  - Documentation of participant/guardian decision.

Application	<ul> <li>Complete online interest form:</li> <li><u>https://detr.nv.gov/Page/Vocational_Rehabilitation</u></li> <li>Application process will be triggered</li> <li>An application will be sent to the email provided: 5 DAY DEADLINE TO SUBMMIT!!</li> </ul>	
Intake	<ul> <li>Once application is submitted a virtual intake will be scheduled via email</li> <li>To move forward medical documentation is needed (IEP, psyched)</li> <li>We have 60 days to determine eligiblity using records</li> </ul>	
Eligibility	<ul> <li>Assessment of VR needs will be completed</li> <li>Career Exploration</li> <li>Discussion of IPE services</li> <li>We have 90 days from eligibility to put into service status (IPE)</li> </ul>	
IPE/Services	<ul> <li>Services are provided that are included in the IPE</li> <li>Annual reviews are completed</li> <li>Training and job prep are completed</li> </ul>	)
Job Ready Status	<ul> <li>Job search and development begins</li> <li>Job placement services</li> </ul>	
Employed	<ul> <li>Once employed, coaching services are provided as needed</li> <li>If stable and satisfied VR put in stable date to trigger 90 day count</li> <li>VR counselor will follow-along and check-in to ensure retention</li> <li>After at least 90 stable days case will be closed</li> </ul>	

Questions?

Contact: Transition Counselor

Grae Matheus Cell: 775-430-3969 Email: agmatheus@detr.nv.gov

#### Subminimum Certificate Contact



Tiana Sims, CCI&R Representative E-mail (preferred): <u>tmsims@detr.nv.gov</u> Phone: 702-486-0386