



Overview of Vocational Rehabilitation Services for Transition-Age Youth

Listen and Learn
Maine Dept. of Education
April 12, 2012



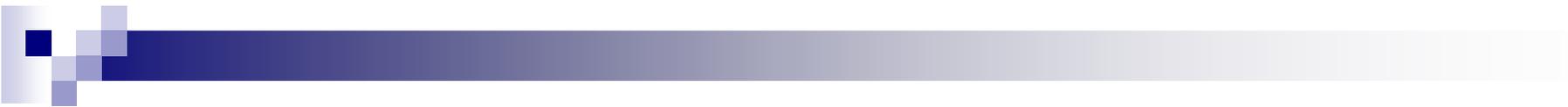
What's New in VR?

- Elimination of Long-Standing Waitlist
- All categories open
- New tools and resources to support youth, families, and schools in the transition planning process
- Updated Cooperative Agreement with the Maine Department of Education
- State Personnel Development Grant partnership



What is Vocational Rehabilitation (VR)?

- Vocational Rehabilitation is a statewide program that helps eligible people with disabilities to prepare for, find and keep jobs.
- VR helps High School students within 2 years of graduation and adults of all ages, to find employment.



Maine Department of Labor Bureau of Rehabilitation Services

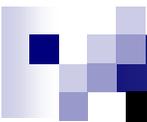
- Includes:
 - Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
 - Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired

 - Partner of the Workforce Development System
 - Co-located in CareerCenters across Maine



VR Eligibility

- The Maine Vocational Rehabilitation Rules state that you are eligible for services if you:
 - have a physical, mental or emotional disability that keeps them from getting and keeping a job
and
 - need Vocational Rehabilitation services to overcome the barriers that interfere with preparing for, finding and keeping a job
- Eligibility will be determined as quickly as possible.



Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE)

- Identifies a specific vocational goal
- Outlines steps and time frames
- Includes necessary services, training, and supplies
- Identifies accommodations and modifications
- Is cost effective



Overview of Services

- **Vocational counseling and guidance services** are provided throughout the rehabilitation process to help you make informed decisions about how to reach your goals.
- **Assessment services** to identify your disability needs, and to measure your strengths, capabilities, work skills and interests.
- **Assistive technology** to help you reach your job goal.



Overview of Services

- **Job development** – to help you carry out a job search, complete applications, develop a resume and practice interviewing
- **Job Shadows** – to see how a job is done and ask questions about the job
- **Job Coaching** – to help with learning the job and new tasks.



Overview of Services

- **Self Employment** a service offered to individuals who are seeking to own and operate a business; requires commitment of your time.
- **Support Services** are provided when necessary to achieve the employment goal.



Overview of Services

- Training and Education will be explored when necessary to achieve the employment goal
- Steps to take:
 - Assess academic skills, interests, and abilities
 - Research job market for opportunities
 - Identify training program
 - Apply and get accepted to a training program
 - Apply for Financial Aid

Training and education assistance is offered as cost effectively as possible.



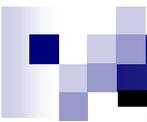
Cooperative Agreement with MDOE

- Includes Special Services, Adult Ed and CTE's
- Promotes better coordination of the process of student transition
- Focuses on:
 - Outreach and Communication
 - Personnel Development
 - Information and Referral
 - Service Provision



Referring Students to VR

- Introduce VR services early in transition planning
- Referral within 2 years of school graduation/exit
- Student and parent/guardian complete application and intake process
- Invite VR to be part of the school team - if students are receiving special education services, invite VR to participate in IEP meetings
- VR can be more helpful when everyone is supporting the student to reach the same goals.
- Reminder that students do not need to be receiving special education services to be eligible (Gen Ed, 504)



Transition Career

Exploration Workshop

- A new curriculum designed to help students discover employment possibilities in an interactive team environment.
- T-CEW is offered in modules that make it flexible for delivery in schools, adult ed, community organization or other setting
- T-CEW includes numerous assessments that can support transition planning
- T-CEW is available for use independently or in conjunction with VR



Examples from the TCEW

Career Decision-Making The SODA Process

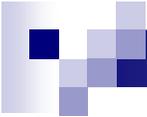
Four components that comprise the career decision-making process -

S – **Self-Exploration** - What Do I Know About Me?

O – **Occupational Exploration** - What Do I Know about **Occupational Options**?

D - **Deciding** on a Career/**Developing** a Plan

A - **Acting** to Make It Happen!



Examples from the TCEW

Keeping Track of Your Progress - SODA Packet

- **SODA** – the components of decision-making
- **SODA Participant Workbook** – where you record your activity results
- This tool will be used to **connect information about YOU and future job goals**
 - **Does this job “fit” with who I am?**
- After each exercise:
 - **Enter results in your Participant Workbook.**

Examples from the TCEW



The Employment Readiness Scale (ERS)

Employment Readiness –

– is defined as being able, with little or no help, to find acquire and keep a job, as well as, manage transitions to new jobs as needed.

- Helps you **understand what changes will increase your chances of being effective in your work life**
- The results are based on **how you see yourself at this point**
 - Your current employment readiness portrait
- Results will change as you work with VR and move closer to that “ideal” job!



Examples from the TCEW

Barsch Learning Style Inventory

Why are you going to be completing the Barsch Learning Style Inventory?

- To gain a better understanding of yourself as a learner.
- To help you learn the way you prefer to learn
- Once you understand your preferred learning style, you can increase your learning efficiency.



Want to learn more about VR?

- Watch our new “Orientation to VR” video which is available at

www.maine.gov/rehab/index.shtml

- To request a copy of the DVD – contact 623-6799 or 1-888-755-0023 (TTY) or email michelle.selwood@maine.gov

- Find a VR office near you

www.maine.gov/rehab/index.shtml



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