

# Nevada Statewide Needs Assessment

Rehabilitation Division  
State Rehabilitation Council  
2010 Summary of Findings



# DETR

Nevada Department of Employment,  
Training and Rehabilitation

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# Purpose of the Needs Assessment

- To identify unmet needs of people with disabilities in Nevada
- To identify underserved groups of people with disabilities in Nevada
- To provide direction for the development of the state plan

# Data Analysis

- Consumer service data
- Census data and available data sources
- Focus group and interview data

# Consumer Service Data

- Differences among three regions in NV of how disability severity ratings are assigned
- Case expenditures for White clients were higher than almost all other ethnicities
- Intensive work supports were associated with higher costs (and often successful case closures)
- The average plan cost increased significantly from FY 2005 to FY 2008
- Consumers achieving employment outcomes had consistent increases in hours worked and wages earned

# Census Data and Available Data Sources

- PWD may be less likely to contact the Division for services if they are not affiliated with other referral sources
- The number of PWDs is expected to increase over the next 20 years
- The number of applicants in the north and south has increased with population growth, but not in rural areas

## Census Data and Available Data Sources (cont'd)

- Compared to regional or national data, persons with cognitive impairments, mental retardation, or depressive/mood disorders were under-represented
- There were differences in the ethnic composition of the Division's applicant pool

# Consumer Service Data

- Consumer demographics
  - Characteristics of the Division's consumers
- Costs of services
  - Costs of services provided to the Division's consumers
- Rehabilitation outcomes
  - Impacts of participation in VR



# Consumer Characteristics

- The consumer pool is more ethnically diverse
- IEP participation increased
- The number of consumers living in private residences decreased
- In the north, a higher percentage of individuals were rated as “most significantly disabled”
- More individuals applied for the Division’s services

# Services Received by Consumers

- A majority of the cases received counseling and guidance, assessment
- The incidence of technical assistance, disability-related augmentative training, and rehab technology increased
- Work-related supports (maintenance, job placement, job search assistance, on the job supports) were significantly related to successful employment outcomes

# Costs of Consumer Services

- Average participant cost for clients who were White, non-Hispanic were higher than all other ethnic group
- Average participant cost for veterans were low
- Participants with sensory impairments had higher program costs than any other impairment
- Average plan costs reflected substantial increases
- Cost per program increased significantly—on average, more plans included college/university training

# Impacts of Participation in Vocational Rehabilitation

- Persons with sensory impairments had higher rates of successful closure than individuals with any other type of impairment
- There were few significant reductions in SSI/SSDI payments to participants whose cases were closed

# Applicant Data

- The percentage of increase of applicants from FY 2005 to FY 2008 exceeded the increase in NV's population
- Rural areas have demonstrated a flat level of applicants, despite population growth
- Applicants referred to the Division through “other” sources, self-referral, and educational institutions are lower than nationwide rates
- Referrals from SSA are notably higher in NV than nationwide rates

# Census Data and Available Data Sources

- 12.6% of applicants are Latino, while 25.7% of the NV population is Latino
- 2.2% of applicants are Asian, while 6.0% of the NV population is Asian
- 16.9% of applicants are Black/African-American, while 7.4% of the NV population is Black/African-American
  - In the south, 25.9% of applicants are Black/African-American, v. 9.6% of the population

# Census Data and Available Data Sources (cont'd)

- For FY 2008, 63.7% of applicants are White, while 77.3% of the NV population is White
  - In the south, 51.1% of applicants are White, v. 74.1% of the population
- Applicants in the south have the most ethnic diversity of all three regions

# Qualitative Needs Assessment: Focus Group and Interview Data

- Mobility
- Communication
- Self-care
- Interpersonal skills
- Work skills
- Work tolerance
- Transition
- Underserved groups
- Other needs



# Mobility Needs

- Learning to use public transportation (N/S/R)
- Public transportation and commute times (N/S)
- Reliability of public transportation (S/R)
- Expanded public transportation service routes (N)

# Communication Needs

- Assistive communication technology (S/R)

# Self-Care Needs

- Life-skills instruction (N/S)
- Budgeting assistance (S)

# Interpersonal Skills Needs

- Developing interviewing skills (S/R)
- Clubhouses and opportunities for development of social skills (S)
- Learning workplace expectations (S)

# Work Skills Needs

- Supported employment services and funding (N/S)
- College-based training (S/R)
- General work training (S/R)
- On-the-job training (S/R)
- Computer training (S)

# Work Tolerance Needs

- Adjustment or transition to work (N/S/R)
- Post-placement employment supports (N/S/R)
- Assistive technology needs when beginning employment (N/S)

# Needs of Transition-Aged Youth

- Additional transition services (N/S/R)

# Underserved Populations

- Transition students as an underserved group (N/S/R)
- Individuals with autism spectrum disorders as an underserved group (N/S)
- Individuals with less-severe disabilities (N/R)



# Other Needs

- Conducting outreach to employers (N/S/R)
- Lack of social services (N/S/R)
- Cooperation between rehabilitation agencies (N/S/R)
- Increasing VR staff (N/S/R)
- Services for individual with psychiatric disabilities (N/S/R)
- Assistive technology services (N/S/R)

## Other Needs (cont'd)

- Consistent delivery of VR services (N/S)
- Educating individuals about available services (N/S)
- Shared funding of client services (N/S)
- Waits for VR and other social services (N/S)
- Provision of assessments (N/S)
- Increasing public awareness of VR (N/S)
- Stress management for VR counselors (N/S)

## Other Needs (cont'd)

- Barriers to other WIA employment services (N/S)
- Matching jobs to abilities (N/S)
- Job placement assistance (N/S)
- Health care services (N/R)
- Employers willing to hire PWD (S/R)
- Recreational opportunities for PWD (S/R)

# Frequently-Occurring Consensual Themes

- In focus groups and interview across all three regions, the following themes were raised most frequently:
  - Conducting outreach to employers (N/S/R)
  - Consistent delivery of VR services (N/S)
  - Reliability of public transportation (S/R)
  - Developing interviewing skills (S/R)
  - Lack of social services (N/S/R)
  - Employers willing to hire PWD(S/R)

# Recommendations

- Collaborative planning that includes people with disabilities and educates employers and other constituents in the community