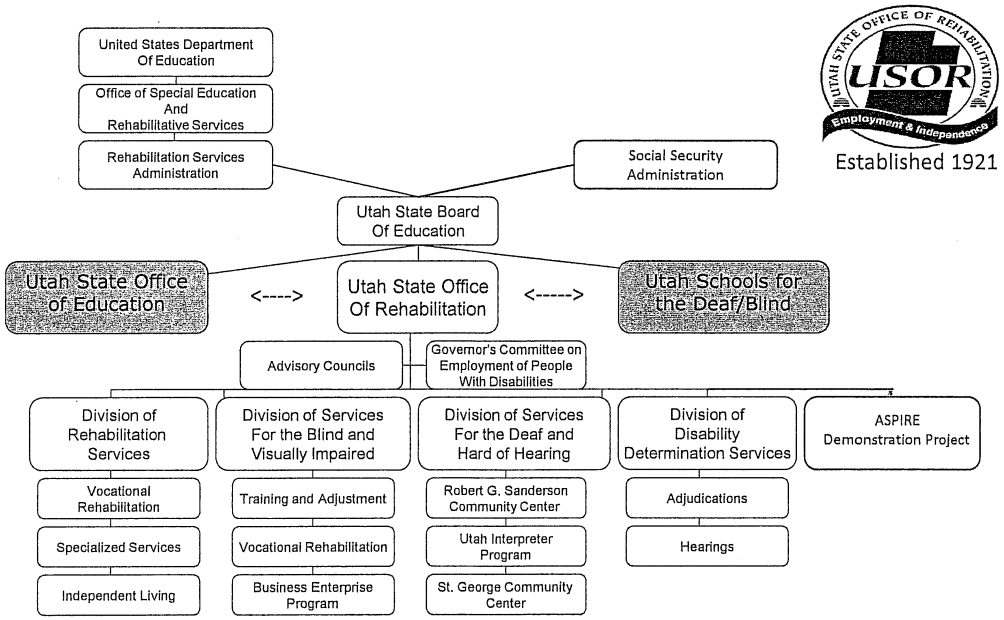
Utah State Office of Rehabilitation

UTAH HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES INTERIM COMMITTEE

OCTOBER 15, 2014



Established 1921

Utah State Office of Rehabilitation

MISSION

Assist eligible individuals with disabilities to prepare for independence and careers.

Division of Disability Determination Services

State administered federal program

Processes and adjudicates disability claims for SSDI and SSI

Conducts continuing disability reviews

Fraud investigation unit

Division of Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired Services

Vocational Rehabilitation

Training and Adjustment
- Computer skills evaluation and training
- Orientation and mobility education
- Daily living skills training
- Low vision services

Pre-school vision screening

Services to persons who are deaf and blind

Independent living training to older blind

Summer transition program for college students with visual impairment

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Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

A Community Center for Utah's Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Deaf ***and*** Hard of Hearing Programs

Daily living skills training

Adult Education in American Sign Language (ASL)

Counseling and Therapy for Deaf in ASL

Interpreter Training and Certification

Interpreter Services

Assistive Technology

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Division of Rehabilitation Services

- Clinical counseling and guidance
- Career Exploration Evaluation Services
- Restoration (medical, psychological, etc.)
- Education enhancement for career competency
- Assistive Technology
- Career training
- Career development
- Job placement
- Employment follow-up (90 days min.)
- Post employment services

History of USOR Placement Review:

1997; Review of USOR as possible part of newly developing DWS agency. Determined to be properly placed under the Board of Education.

2000; ***"Report to the Utah Legislature, #200-03. A Follow-Up Review of Utah's Employment and Training Programs."*** Citing educational emphasis of USOR, the agency is retained under the Board of Education.

2009; ***LFA Interim Report- "Budget Review: DWS"*** Existing effective partnership between DWS and USOR was such that no recommendation for change was made.

2010; ***Utah Advisory Commission to Optimize State Government- A report to Governor Gary R. Herbert.*** The commission makes no mention of changing USOR placement for purposes of optimizing State Government.

What is new?

Rehabilitation Act of 2014 (July 22, 2014)

- "A high proportion of students with disabilities is leaving secondary education without being employed in competitive integrated employment, or being enrolled in postsecondary education...there is a substantial need to support such students as they transition from school to postsecondary life."
- "To ensure, to the greatest extent possible, that youth with disabilities and students with disabilities who are transitioning from receipt of special education services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.) and receipt of services under section 504 of this Act have opportunities for postsecondary success."
  - Program requirements:
    - Prioritized counseling, guidance and rehabilitation services to students with disabilities ages 14-24
    - Coordinate services alignment between rehabilitation and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act at the LEA level
    - Provision of Pre-Employment Transition Services (PETS) to students with disabilities starting at age 14
    - Required minimum set aside of 15% of all funds for provision of PETS to designated population
    - 50% of Supported Employment funds reserved for Transition students with disabilities in the noted age range.

ASPIRE Demonstration Grant (2014)

Counseling and educational interventions through VR for students with disabilities who are recipients of Social Security disability benefits.

Results

3,699: Individuals with disabilities rehabilitated to self-sufficiency last performance year.

8,600: Number of "Transition" students served by USOR Rehabilitation program each year (ave.)

2,867: Students with disabilities provided Independent Living, Braille, ASL, orientation and mobility, financial literacy last performance year

3,581: K-12 students with disabilities assessed and provided augmentative communication and other assistive technology for education integration and participation

571: Students with deafness attending Adult Education classes in ASL for literacy improvement and high school completion

442%: Increase in weekly earnings attained through rehabilitation services

$5.64: Economic Impact, Return on Investment per $1 of allocation for Rehabilitation services