



**UTAH STATE  
OFFICE OF  
REHABILITATION**

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April 18, 2013

Dear Sen. Christensen, Rep. Menlove and Rep. McCay:

I am responding to your letter, Chair Priorities for the Interim and Unanswered Questions.

(1) The number one priority will be the Vocational Rehabilitation Program. This program represents the essence of our agency, helping individuals with disabilities obtain employment and increase their independence. All the other programs are directly or indirectly related to employment and increased independence, with the optimal level of independence being economic self-sufficiency. For example, independent living services or the provision of assistive technology increases the level of independence of individuals with significant disabilities to where they are able to participate in and benefit from job training activities and become employed, pay taxes and get off of disability related public assistance.

The unit level information you requested such as: expenditures, number of clients served, cost per client, etc., are attached in a separate document titled: Utah State Office of Rehabilitation – Performance Measures- FY05 Through FY12.<sup>1</sup> Note: Cost per client served is calculated by dividing the entire budget for a particular program by the number of clients served by that program. Blind and Visually Impaired- \$488 per client (not including 58,850 vision screening kids, which is a cooperative arrangement with district school nurses and county health departments). Rehabilitation Services- \$1,751 per client served. Disability Determination Services - \$527 per claim processed. Deaf and Hard of Hearing- \$312 per client served/interpreter tested/certified.

(2) The performance measures for the programs we currently operate are included in the above document. In addition, we have attached Regional and National comparative data of our Vocational Rehabilitation Program. The first performance statistic is the GAP chart.<sup>2</sup> This compares the percentage people without disabilities working full time, year round to the percentage of people with disabilities working full time, year round. The difference in the two percentages is the GAP. Utah has the smallest GAP in the nation i.e. we have more people with disabilities working as compared to people without disabilities working in the nation. The next chart(s) are the 10 State Comparisons for FY 11 and FY 12.<sup>3</sup> The following three charts are national comparisons<sup>4</sup> of Utah VR and other combined VR agencies in number of successful

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<sup>1</sup> Utah State Office of Rehabilitation Performance Measures

<sup>2</sup> GAP Chart

<sup>3</sup> Ten State Comparison

<sup>4</sup> Charts of National Comparisons

employment outcomes, percentage of clients working more than 35 hrs per week and the mean cost per rehabilitated client (case service budget expenditures only).

(3) What areas are there overlaps in services and what are you doing to coordinate? USOR coordinates with a number of other agencies to eliminate duplication of services. Examples include but are not limited to the Choose to Work Utah<sup>5</sup> Program which is a coordinated partnership with the Department of Workforce Services (DWS) where we co-fund job development/job placement services specifically for people with disabilities. A second partnership is with the Division of Services for People with Disabilities (DSPD).<sup>6</sup> The Support Work Independence is a program for taking people off of the DSPD waiting list and get them into supported employment. A third example is our partnership with the Correctional System and DWS called Utah Defendant Offender Workforce Development Taskforce (UDOWD).<sup>7</sup> The purpose of UDOWD is to assist ex-offenders in obtain employment and become productive members of society. (see attachments)

Unanswered Questions:

Rep. Redd: Information regarding federal funds received and the programs the fund. Attached is a chart titled: State Office of Rehabilitation Allocation for FY 2013.<sup>8</sup> From the 3<sup>rd</sup> column over, all federal funds are listed with a breakdown of personnel costs, operations, case service and/or pass through.

Rep. Chavez-Houck: More definitive answer to effects of sequestration. The Vocational Rehabilitation Program grant (VR) was reduced \$1,791,552, but the actual cut to the existing budget was only \$344,782. The reason being, VR at the federal level has a COLA built into the appropriation by statute. The feds took the vast majority of the sequestration cut out of the mandated COLA increase, leaving the net cut to \$345K. Independent Living was cut \$16,307. This was pass through to the centers. (attached are charts: Estimated FY 13 VR State Grants with 5.1% Reduction from FY 13 Mandatory Levels<sup>9</sup>. Est. FY 12 Impact FFIS)<sup>10</sup>. The Older Blind Independent Living and Support Employment grants were not included in the sequestration cuts.

Rep. Cosgrove: Explanation of how Disability Determine Services benefits Utah citizens. Utah's Disability Determination Services (DDS) is a 100% federally funded state agency. They adjudicate the claims for disability benefits, both Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI). Each month Social Security pays over \$410 million to the citizens of Utah. Of that, around \$57.2 million per month goes to the disability beneficiaries that our DDS processed the claims for. An additional \$14.2 million per month is paid to SSI

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<sup>5</sup> Choose to Work Utah Program

<sup>6</sup> Division of Services for People with Disabilities (DSPD)

<sup>7</sup> UDOWD

<sup>8</sup> State Office of Rehabilitation Allocation FY 2013

<sup>9</sup> VR State Grants with 5.1% Reduction from FY 13 Mandatory Levels

<sup>10</sup> Est. FY 12 Impact FFIS

beneficiaries which our DDS also adjudicated the claims for. That is a total of \$71.4 million per month into the Utah economy. People with disabilities buy stuff, eat, pay rent, etc. just like everyone else.

Our DDS makes sure benefits are only given to those who are truly eligible. Our DDS accuracy rate is 98.8%, which is higher than the regional average (97.3%) and higher than the national average (96.1%).

This is pretty remarkable since they cleared 22,964 claims last FY. (see attached information from SSA Regional Office - Denver<sup>11</sup>)

Rep. Tanner: Base Budget amounts of different Social Services Programs and the funding sources. Please see attached chart used in explanation for Rep. Redd's question about federal funds. The first two columns include state general and education plus dedicated credits and transfers.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,



Donald R. Uchida  
Executive Director

CC: Rep. Redd  
Rep. Chavez-Houck  
Rep. Cosgrove  
Rep. Tanner

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<sup>11</sup> SSA Regional Office Report - Denver