News & Updates:
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired

Maine Parent Federation
May 5, 2020
Agenda

- Responding to COVID-19
- New Initiatives
- Applying for Services
- Summer Programs
- Questions & Answers
Responding to COVID-19

- MDOL CareerCenters closed to the public March 17
- March 31st - Governor’s Executive Order - Stay Healthy at Home to be effective April 2nd
- Staff moved to teleworking immediately to minimize delays in service
- Applications continue to be processed
- Intakes conducted remotely
- Client meetings held via phone and video-conferencing
- Services continue to be provided
- In compliance with Governor Mills’ Stay at Home order – working remotely through May
New Initiatives

DVR & DBVI
DBVI Programs

- **Education**
  - Education Services for Blind and Visually Impaired Children (ESBVIC)
  - Work with DBVI’s Blindness Rehabilitation Specialists

- **Vocational Rehabilitation**
  - Expanded Core Curriculum goes virtual!
  - Virtual lessons
Virtual Job Shadow

- Virtual Job Shadow empowers individuals to discover, plan and pursue their dreams with a unique video-based career planning platform. Interactive tools help students and job seekers develop career paths.
  - Career and Interest Assessments
  - Job shadow and career advice videos
  - Flex lessons

- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vTvzdblLL_c&t=0s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vTvzdblLL_c&t=0s)
- Virtual Job Shadow can be used in group settings or 1:1 in person or virtually.
Virtual Career Exploration Workshop (VCEW and VTCEW)

The VCEW is a combination of teleconferencing and computer-based activities, utilizing core CEW activities.

- VR Counselors host zoom meetings prior to and once activities are completed.
- Interaction between group members and VRC’s can be through the Virtual Job Shadow, zoom chat box, phone and zoom.
- Flexible schedule and activities tailored to the individual and group.
- Offered to a group or 1:1
- Participants complete several activities that are designed to explore and identify a career path.
Example of VCEW

Introduction
Welcome to your VirtuallJobShadow.com assignment!

Once again CONGRATULATIONS for completing the assessments.

As mentioned at the end of the assessments you will now attend a Skype meeting to overview the results. This Skype meeting is meant to be a general overview of interpreting the results so that you can better understand the information on your own. We ask that you save any in depth personal questions for a one on one meeting with your counselor at a later date. Also included in this module are links to handouts that you may find helpful as they relate to the work you just completed. Thank you for your effort so far and we cant wait to see you on Skype!

Exit Preview
The Job Club is a possible next step after completion of the CEW.

The Job Club is a 14 week 1 hour phone in meeting to provide facilitated conversations on several topics and to provide support while navigating the job search.

Topics include:

- Resume writing
- Job search tools
- On-line job applications and applying for positions
- Dress for success
- Disclosures
- Workplace culture
Apprenticeship

- VR partnered with MDOL Maine Apprenticeship Program in a one year pilot to increase awareness of apprenticeships as an option for VR clients.
- Pilot focused on apprenticeships in the hospitality industry in the Lewiston area. Early 2020, this expanded across the state and opened to all Apprenticeable occupations.
- Apprenticeships provide a great opportunity for youth to get engaged with an employer early on, earn a living while taking classes and applying what they learn immediately with natural supports.
- We currently have apprentices in welding, industrial design, construction, with many more in the planning stages.
Financial Literacy for Youth


- Designed for families, educators, VR counselors, employment supports, and case managers to assist youth with disabilities to explore financial literacy. This resource contains lessons, activities, local resources, games, and a smartphone app.
Other New Opportunities

- **Youth Advisory Group**
  - Recruiting new youth members!

- **DVR/DBVI** - In partnership with the Maine Parent Federation, Maine Department of Health and Human Services, Maine Department of Education, Maine CITE, Center for Community Inclusion and Disability Studies

- Youth advise policymakers on services of importance to them!
Applying for Services

- To download an application for DVR services go to: https://www.maine.gov/rehab/dvr/Application-DVR/DVR-Application.shtml
- To download an application for DBVI services go to: https://www.maine.gov/rehab/dbvi/Application-DBVI/DBVI-Application.shtml
- To find your nearest DVR/DBVI office go to: http://www.maine.gov/rehab/offices.shtml
- Or call 207-623-6799 for assistance finding an office near you
NEW! W.O.R.K. Services

W.O.R.K Services is Maine’s new online portal that provides access to statewide and local employment, adult education, and disability related resources all in one place. It is a collaborative effort of Maine’s Bureau of Rehabilitation Services and Bureau of Employment Services as well as Maine’s Adult Education Services.

Introducing W.O.R.K. Services:
We’re here to help you get support and training to find a great job in Maine.

workservices.maine.gov

Directions: https://www.maine.gov/rehab/work/
Planning for Summer!

» 2020
DBVI – Summer Programming

- **College Preparation**
  - 5 week program
  - Daily learning labs
  - Blindness specific skills
  - Work experience
  - Community service
  - 3 credit college course
DBVI Summer Programming

- **No Barriers**
  - one weekend
  - Explore interests, passion and potential
  - Identify role models
  - Create a vision
  - Problem solve
  - Identify alternative ways to achieve objective
DBVI – Summer Programming

- ACE (Advocacy + Communications = Employment) Academy

  4 weeks
  Career Exploration
  Work-Readiness
  Self-Advocacy

https://youtu.be/mgkxrSE9CIY
Summer Work Experience - 2020

- In 2019, approximately 300 students around the state participated!
  - Paid at minimum wage
  - Employment in the community
  - Some school programs, some individual placements
  - Built-in employability class
  - Great feedback

A Work Experience Student

Robin’s Flower Pot – Farmington
Other Summer Programming

- Step Up Program
- Goodwill Pre-Employment Transition Services Program
- Virtual Program for Students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing
Progressive Employment

- Adapted from successful Vermont-developed model
- Early engagement
- Informational interviews, job shadows, paid work experience
- Different way of partnering with the business community
- Everyone is ready for something!
- Providing work-based learning experiences to transition-age youth and young adults in Portland, Lewiston, Augusta and Bangor
Transition Work Based Learning Model Demonstration Grant

5-year initiative to implement and evaluate two interventions with students with disabilities in the Augusta and Bangor areas

1. Enhanced JMG
2. Progressive Employment

Goal = Improving post-secondary education and employment outcomes

All participating students must participate in 2 paid work experiences

Jobs for Maine’s Grads (JMG)
Institute for Community Inclusion
American Institutes for Research
Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation
Center for Workforce Research and Information
Contact Information

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Maine Department of Labor provides Equal Opportunity in employment and programs. Auxiliary aids and services are available to individuals with disabilities upon request.