DIVISION OF SERVICES FOR THE BLIND
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2026

DSB BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT
Tiffany Moore, AER, Board Chair
Ernest Huff, At-Large, Vice Chair
Roy DePriest, At-Large, Secretary
Mollie Hernandez, DRA
Judy Ricci, ACB

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT
Larry Wayland, FAIRS
Terry Sheeler, OIB

DSB BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT
Vacant, Lions Representative

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ABSENT
Nicole Walsh, ASBVI
Kourtni Felps, VFP
Eric Yarberry, WSB
Kara Aaron, BVA
Vacant, ASBVI

Attorney General's Office Representative: Michael Lewis

Governor's Office Representative: None

Division of Services for the Blind (DSB) Board Meeting Support Staff: Nathan Winter, Dr. Megan Lamb, Theresa Bertram, Rayvern Lewis, Gustavo Manzanales, Amy Jackson, Dr. Sherlyn Harris, Contrena Smith, and Brandy Bryant.

Others Present: Matt Pitsch, Secretary of State Office, David McCoy, Chief of Legal Services

Mr. Nathan Winter introduced himself as the Interim Director of DSB. In addition, to acknowledging the newly appointed board members and welcoming each member aboard. Because the meeting notice was expedited, Mr. Winter wanted to call the meeting to communicate the agency's transition. The meeting is being held in-person, via Zoom, in addition to being streamed live on ARCAN. Additionally, Mr. Winter thanked the Governor's office for appointing the five new members to the DSB Board. Mr. Winter stated that the meeting was called to swear in the new members and provide updates for the review of the DSB State Plan. Mr. Winter explained that the board meeting would consist of reports from legal services, with regard to the Boards' responsibilities and roles. In addition to DSB Staff Leadership reports regarding some of the pertinent matters, the agency has been facing recently.

Swearing in of Board Members – Matt Pitsch:

Mr. Matt Pitsch swore in two of the newly elected members, which were Mr. Roy DePriest and Ms. Judy Ricci. The brief ceremony consisted of the signing of documentation, an oath of declaration, and a photograph solidifying the commitment.

At the start of the meeting, Department of Commerce Secretary, Hugh McDonald, took a moment to thank Interim Director Winter and the DSB staff for all their hard work and dedication. In addition to recognizing the newly elected DSB Board members with regard to welcoming them aboard. Mr. McDonald stated that the ultimate goal is being fully transparent by informing the DSB Board members of what is known; with a mission to get better by providing more and better services to the blind and visually impaired individuals in within the state of Arkansas. Mr. McDonald thanked the newly appointed board members and expressed his appreciation for their commitment to ensure the DSB agency is "getting off on the right foot."

Meeting Agenda Approval
Nathan Winter asked for a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Mollie Hernandez motioned to approve the agenda. Roy DePriest seconded, and the motion carried.

Responsibilities of the Board – David McCoy:
Mr. David McCoy introduced himself as legal counsel to the DSB Board. Mr. McCoy stated that the Arkansas Workforce Connections reform with regard to the DSB agency, soon would have some legislative items coming up to the DSB Board for input and review. Mr. McCoy informed the newly appointed DSB Board that with their new role, board members are subjected to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) which may require members to produce documents that are publicly available. Mr. McCoy stated that the quarterly board meetings have certain requirements to adhere to. For example, Mr. McCoy referenced that if any two members decided to meet about board business, under the law that would be considered a "public meeting." With that, all board meetings should be discussed publicly in an open meeting. Mr. McCoy stated that he would get those guidelines in an accessible format and out to the DSB Board for members to review.

Mr. McCoy also stated that, as part of a Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) agency with regard to clients - there is a due process that must be given to consumers if they complained or were dissatisfied with a service outcome and/or determination. Which could ultimately end up in mediation or impartial hearing. However, the rules are being updated to streamline this process. In the June quarterly meeting, the DSB board will be asked to approve a list of mediators and/or impartial hearing officers to be selected to assist with this process. Mr. McCoy stated that along with this general overview, other information will be provided to Mr. Nathan Winter to share directly with the DSB Board.

Dr. Ernest Huff asked if the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) could be privy to a personal cellular device.

Mr. McCoy answered that if discovered that board business was discussed on a personal cellular device, then there is a possibility that a request for FOIA could be obtained if necessary. While everything would have to be determined on a case-by-case basis, please be careful regarding communicating board business on a personal device.

Mr. Micheal Lewis from the AG's office introduced himself as legal services to the newly appointed DSB Board and piggybacked on Mr. McCoy's comment to reiterate that all board business should be avoided being communicated in any digital format. Mr. Lewis stated that personal cellular devices and emails can absolutely be subjected to FOIA requests. Therefore, it is highly critical that all board business should be saved for board meetings and communicated publicly.
Mr. Winter added that National Coalition of Rehabilitation Councils (NCSRC) Guidebook will be sent to board members to assist members with roles and responsibilities regarding how the board should interact with vocational rehab entities and legislators, agency and staff. In the upcoming June meeting, more information and additional clarity will be provided. With that, the DSB board will play a vital role in how DSB functions daily and help guide with the Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment (CSNA) coming up in the near future. This identifies how the agency is doing with regard to consumers across the state of Arkansas, as well as some areas the DSB agency may need to improve on as a whole.

Election of Officers – Nathan Winter:
Mr. Nathan Winter asked each board member to collaborate and select officers for the newly elected DSB Board. The officers will serve as a liaison for the DSB agency, becoming an agency spokesperson to ensure that there are no blind spots and nothing falls through the cracks. Each new DSB Board member took a moment to introduce themselves detailing a little of their background. After a small deliberation, the DSB Board agreed upon which members would serve in each designated capacity. It was determined that Ms. Tiffany Moore would be assigned the role of Chairman. Dr. Ernest Huff would take on the role of Vice Chairman. And Mr. Roy DePriest, would serve as Secretary. All in favor agreed, and the motion passed to elect the newly appointed officers.

Mr. David McCoy took a moment to let all the board members know that each member will be responsible for submitting a Statement of Financial Interest form to be notarized and filed with the Secretary of State's Office. This is to ensure that no board member has any financial conflict of interest with board duties.

Director's Report – Nathan Winter:
Specific Conditions and Corrective Action Plan:
Mr. Winter began his report by stating the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), which is the agency's federal funding regulators, essentially has deemed DSB as a high-risk grantee.

RSA has issued a Corrective Action Plan (CAP), which resulted in specific conditions for the current FY2026 grant award. This means that the DSB agency must meet certain criteria to avoid sanctions being placed on the agency's current active award. Some of the reasons for that stem from a couple of furloughs including a reduction in force (RIF). With that, State general revenue must be spent to match the draw for federal funding. With that being the case, RSA is asking DSB to ensure fiscal responsibility by expending its federal funds. This is significant because it is important to spend the totality of the agency's grant award within the year of issuing. Therefore, when the match is met, it allows for carryover funds in the following year to be used, which is essential in the event of a government shutdown or some other form of disruption. As a high-risk grantee, RSA is requesting DSB to look at criteria such as reduction in administrative costs, and case service cost containment measures to promote a greater carryover in funds as a buffer to prevent a delay in funding.

Currently, there has been one monthly response with RSA, which going forward will be required on the 7th of each month; this initiative is to show progress on some of these things. One of those measures to implement is an Order of Selection (OOS) process. This means that all eligible applicants will not be able to be served once the order of selection is instituted. Which will place new applicants in various categories to determine eligibility based on specific criteria. Another objective is to reduce administrative costs which were demonstrated on behalf of the RIF, including looking at lease agreements such as rent and utilities, which will assist in maximizing the actual funds available towards case service dollars. Another measure being taken is the implementation of a Financial Needs Assessment being put in place, to evaluate an individual's ability to contribute to their plan. In that instance, this means that regardless of eligibility, all categories will be closed, and applicants will be put on a waiting list. However, this should not affect active caseloads.

Dr. Ernest Huff asked how that affects active caseloads and consumers who were shifted around in light of the furlough?

Mr. Nathan Winter responded that because of the reduction in force, cases may have been moved regionally to ensure that they can be met locally by a reassigned vocational rehab counselor.

Dr. Ernest Huff also asked, does the documentation submitted for each consumer needs to be resubmitted due to the shuffle?

Mr. Nathan Winter responded that if any documentation has already been uploaded inside the case management system, there should not be a need to resubmit documentation. However, to keep in mind that some vocational counselors may not be familiar with new cases currently. So, with regard to that, there may be some questions asked regarding missing information but as long as the documentation has been uploaded there should not be a need to resubmit.

Ms. Tiffany Moore took a moment to summarize and clarify that the Order of Selection process was in reference to a waiting list policy, based on the high-risk grantee status of the agency's position; and would be contingent upon fiscal resources during that time?

Mr. Nathan Winter confirmed by stating that was correct, however, Mr. Winter highlighted that any clients who are already on active caseloads would not be affected by the Order of Selection process. It would only affect new applicants that are applying for services.

Ms. Tiffany Moore also asked how that would affect Pre-ETS consumers who are wanting to transfer into vocational rehabilitation services?

Mr. Nathan Winter stated that if the consumer is actively receiving dual services for Pre-ETS and vocational rehab jointly then services will continue. However, if the consumer is receiving Pre-ETS services only, and wanting to apply for further vocational rehab services then at that point they would be considered a new applicant.

Performance Improvement Plan:

Mr. Nathan Winter stated that the money spent has to be focused correctly. While the agency's funds are limited, it is critical the money spent is going towards integrative competitive quality outcomes. DSB in conjunction with Arkansas Rehabilitation Services (ARS) have both been placed on a Performance Improvement Plan, which is a statewide VR plan dating back to PY2024. This plan was put in place because DSB dropped below 90% of overall state performance. These measures includes: Median Earnings, Q2 Employment Rate after exit, Q4 Employment Rate after exit, Measurable Skill Gains, and Credential Attainment Rate. These negotiated rates do possess an adjustment factor based on economic impact and natural disaster. However, if the DSB falls below 90% within two consecutive program years, then sanctions are issued from RSA for a lack of performance. Considering that, DSB and ARS are actively working with RSA to improve their performance goals.

A program year is recognized from July 1through June 30th annually. With that being the case, DSB has only a month and a half left to improve its performance since the agency is knee deep in the fourth quarter of the second program year.

Mr. Roy DePriest asked if DSB was currently still sitting at 83% in overall performance?

Mr. Nathan Winter responded that in PY2024 that was correct. However, he added that Dr. Megan Lamb would provide in her report what the overall performance measured to regard DSB's current state. Mr. Winter added that some of the measures currently are contingent upon a wage data pull issue. But the DSB agency is definitely seeing some improvement.

One important factor to notate is that with regard to DSB and ARS conjoined, the DSB agency is the little brother on the block. ARS serves an average of 12,000 consumers, while DSB serves on average 1,000. With those stats, if DSB performs effectively, the agency can still only make about 1 and ½ percent difference on the overall statistics. But that does not mean that DSB's impact is not as meaningful. In hindsight, DSB still wants to operate at a higher level of performance to ensure that it does not drag ARS down regarding the overall statistics.

DSB Leadership Reports:

OIB Services and Outcomes Update – Amy Jackson:

Division of Services for the Blind (DSB) is currently serving **286** individuals in the OIB Program. For Federal Fiscal Year 2026, which covers October 01, 2025, until September 30, 2026, DSB has received **153** OIB Referrals to date which is 93 less than this time in FFY2025. **267** cases have been closed successfully as Goals Met so far this year which is 203 more closures than May 2025. DSB continues providing assessments, assistive technology devices and training on the proper use of the items, daily living skills, orientation and mobility services, surgical and therapeutic related to visual disabilities, and transportation as needed to DSB consumers. The largest service request for FFY 2026 has been surgical and therapeutic treatment related to visual disabilities followed by Orientation and Mobility services. The OIB Program significantly decreased expenditure by providing In-House services and utilizing IL Aids/Devices from the bulk supply received in 2025.

1. Surgical and Therapeutic: $22,607.10
2. Orientation and Mobility: $6,490.00
3. Assistive Technology Devices: $5,267.96

Comparison

FFY 2025: 246 Referrals

64 Closures- Goals Met

1. Surgical and Therapeutic: $62,100.02
2. Orientation and Mobility: $10,080.00
3. Assistive Technology Devices: $48,955.35

DSB Vending Facility Program Update – Gustavo Manzanales:

Vending Facility Program:

We currently oversee 15 active blind vendors, with 3 additional vendors in their initial status. Our primary focus is ensuring these entrepreneurs have the support needed to manage their sites successfully. As we transition back from the recent furlough and navigate a reduction in available funds, we are prioritizing operational efficiency and maintaining high standards for all vending locations.

Technology Lab Management:

The Technology Lab continues to serve as a critical resource for one-on-one training, detailed evaluations, and equipment recommendations. To address the current budget constraints, we have implemented a new AI-driven approach. By utilizing AI to develop custom curriculums and lesson plans, we are significantly reducing our reliance on external software programs that require expensive annual subscription fees.

Braille Production:

Our braille production services remain available on an as-needed basis to fulfill specific requests. We have streamlined this process by using AI to reformat printed materials and simplify complex formatting requirements. Additionally, AI's ability to summarize large data sets from printed text has allowed us to shorten the overall length of brailled materials, resulting in faster turnaround times and lower production costs.

AIRS Update – Theresa Bertram:

AIRS Radio focus: Quality of Life, Jobs and Options

AIRS.aetn.org averages approximately 1,400 listeners each month. AETN-4 Audio is accessible on television with local channels, and the platform has about 100 listeners weekly. AIRS Plus, which can be reached at (844)-888-0981, has approximately 2,500 listeners. Newsline has 562 listeners signed up with 100 loyal users. The information to join Newsline is on nfb.org. AIRS is now on Alexa. The command is "Open AIRS Radio."

Newsline-

- 562 Number of Subscribers
- 985 Calls for April
- 2589 Web Sessions

Have had to play catch up since we were not being updated during the furlough. Ms. Bertram stated that due to the furlough information for AIRS wasn't updated. As a result, listenership dropped during that time but has since picked back up since listeners know AIRS staff has returned.

Ms. Bertram stated she is working closely with Sandee Pinkstaff with Creative Descriptions. AIRS's agenda is to push audio descriptive services at live events in Arkansas, especially theatre, and great momentum is being gained in this area.

The summer programming will focus on jobs, events, and updates on national conventions.

Field Services Update – Rayvern Lewis:

Field Administrator Report:

DSB Field Services has continued to handle various demands and persistent operational changes. Despite any challenges, as a team, we strive to deliver innovative problem-solving and high-quality service. The aim is to ensure that we reach out to every consumer on the caseloads, assess needs, establish goals, and recognize wraparound services to address those goals.

We are working on training dates for the field staff. The training will include: Pre-ETS Training and MSGs Training.

2026 Performance, January, February (Furlough), and March

In January 2026, DSB closed the rehabilitation plans of 13 successfully employed individuals

who are blind or severely visually impaired, compared to 27 closures at the same time last year. This brings the number of individuals successfully employed year-to-date to 52 for the federal fiscal year, compared to 49 at the same time last year. Individuals closed in the current month are now employed in positions such as Tax Preparers, Meter Readers, Utilities, and Registered Nurses. They now earn an average of $473.76 weekly. Services to individuals aged 55 and older, who also have significant vision problems, are provided under the older individuals who are blind program (OIB). To date, the number of older individuals successfully rehabilitated totals 182 for the federal fiscal year, compared to 50 for the same time last year. Such services to blind individuals aged 55 and older measurably improve their abilities to function more independently.

In February, DSB closed the rehabilitation plans of 0 successfully employed individuals who are blind or severely visually impaired, compared to 27 closures at the same time last year. This brings the number of individuals successfully employed year-to-date to 52 for the federal fiscal year, compared to 49 at the same time last year. Individuals closed in the current month are now employed in positions such as Tax Prepares, Meter Readers, Utilities, and Registered Nurses. They now earn an average of $473.76 weekly. Services to individuals aged 55 and older, who also have significant vision problems, are provided under the older individuals who are blind program (OIB). To date, the number of older individuals successfully rehabilitated totals 229 for the fiscal year, compared to 206 for the same time last year. Such services to blind individuals aged 55 and older measurably improve their abilities to function more independently.

In March, DSB closed the rehabilitation plans of 0 successfully employed individuals who are blind or severely visually impaired, compared to 27 closures at the same time last year. This brings the number of individuals successfully employed year-to-date to 52 for the federal fiscal year, compared to 49 at the same time last year. Individuals closed in the current month are now employed in positions such as Tax Prepares, Meter Readers, Utilities, and Registered Nurses. They now earn an average of $473.76 weekly. Services to individuals aged 55 and older, who also have significant vision problems, are provided under the older individuals who are blind program (OIB). To date, the number of older individuals successfully rehabilitated totals 249 for the fiscal year, compared to 215 for the same time last year. Such services to blind individuals aged 55 and older measurably improve their abilities to function more independently.

Field Activities:

Arkansas Workforce Connections, Division of Services for the Blind, and Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind are collaborating this year to bring Jump Start Initiative 2026. This year's event will take place June 21-26.

Jump Start will be a one-week, in-person, summer program that provides paid work experience, educational resources, and independent living skills to students who are blind or visually impaired upon graduation from high school. Students will be placed in their field of interest and transported back and forth to work. Concluding with a talent show along with the students' graduation from the program.

Closing:

The field services staff will continue to demonstrate dedication, professionalism, and a commitment to providing quality services to clients. Our efforts will remain focused on maintaining effective communication, timely service delivery, and addressing client needs in a responsive and timely manner.

DSB Quality Assurance Update – Dr. Sherlyn Harris:

Our Quality Assurance unit is made up of two positions: me and the DSB Auditor, Jeffrey Scott Seay. Together, we conduct comprehensive case file reviews across all program areas. Our focus is to ensure that each case meets agency policy as well as state and federal regulatory requirements.

In addition to case reviews, our unit manages all customer satisfaction and departmental surveys, including those supporting the Vending Facility Program (VFP). We design, distribute, and track these surveys through the Qualtrics platform. To improve participation and accessibility, we've implemented a tiered communication approach for the Customer Satisfaction Survey. Consumers first receive a brief conversational text message, followed by a second text with the survey link, and then an email invitation. This multi-channel strategy has helped us reduce duplicate responses, increase convenience, and minimize survey fatigue. As a result, we are maintaining an 18% response rate, well above the industry benchmark of roughly 11%.

Looking ahead to Program Year 2026–2027, our priorities include expanding the depth of our Measurable Skill Gains and Credential Attainment reviews to ensure stronger alignment with federal reporting standards. We also plan to enhance fiscal audits related to consumer authorizations and payments, with a particular focus on ensuring that comparable benefits and expenditures accurately align with everyone's employment plan. These efforts will strengthen accountability, maintain program integrity, and reinforce our commitment to delivering high-quality services across all DSB programs.

DSB Assistant Director's Report – Dr. Megan Lamb's Report:

Since returning, DSB has been working to make sure that the agency is meeting all the expectations and deadlines in both the Special Conditions Corrective Action Plan and the Performance Improvement Plan.

For the Special Conditions, DSB is required to provide monthly updates to RSA on services and number of consumers to ensure that we are providing VR services. In addition, DSB is implementing cost saving measures on the program side. DSB is working with our rate setting methodology and vendors to review rates and determine places where savings can be applied. DSB has also drafted a financial participation needs assessment and submitted it to RSA for review. This would implement financial participation for all eligible VR services for consumers whose household income is above 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. DSB reviewed models

from several other states and coordinated with the Technical Assistance Center to try and identify the best model for this assessment. The suggested model will ask participants to provide a monthly contribution to eligible services based on the percentage they are above 200% of the Federal Poverty Level.

DSB is also working with RSA to complete the justification and approvals to enter into an Order of Selection. On Friday May 15, DSB submitted to RSA the estimated number of individuals eligible for services and the anticipated costs to serve those individuals. The justification for the Order of Selection identifies the fixed costs that DSB currently has and the remaining funds available for case service. Based on this information, to effectively serve the individuals on DSB's caseload at the average cost of the last three years, DSB will need to enter an Order of Selection with all categories closed for the short term.

Under the Performance Improvement Plan, DSB counselors have been diligently reviewing every case to determine if all Measurable Skill Gains and Credentials were entered correctly. During this process, we were able to identify cases where participants were incorrectly still listed as in training on the RSA 911 and should have been removed from our numbers as well as identifying numerous additional measurable skill gains that have been added to the system. DSB's statistician also reran all of the wage screens for the 2nd and 4th Quarter After Exit participants and entered additional wages that had not been located in the past due to DSB losing access to the system for part of the year. One significant difference is the denominator for DSB changed from 243 to only 163, meaning each MSG entered counts for almost twice as much now. Similarly, the work to confirm credentials allowed DSB to confirm 6 out of 10 potential credentials instead of just 1, increasing the rate from 10% to 50% for the Program Year.

Old Business Section:

N/A

New Business Section:
DSB State Plan Updates – Dr. Megan Lamb, Assistant Director:
Dr. Lamb provided the DSB State Plan Update via a PowerPoint presentation. The DSB State Plan PowerPoint presentation was shared with the DSB Board members via email.

Report on RSA WIOA Dash Boards/WIOA Update – Dr. Megan Lamb, Asst Director:
WIOA Update – Megan Lamb:
Dr. Megan Lamb stated that the RSA II is compiled by using the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) from October 1, 2025, to September 30, 2026. The report categorizes expenditure by service category. For the same period of October 1, 2025, to May 19, 2026, the expenses by service category were as follows: assessment was $16,716.73; diagnosis and treatment $762,599.06; training $2,217,805.86; job services $124,066.80; transportation $89,684.13; maintenance $379,343.50; rehabilitation technology $305,240.39; supported employment $0; reader services $3,745.50;

personal attendant services $0; interpreter $7,341.42; other services $1,157,930.70; technical assistance $0; customized employment $0. Training category as follows: graduate college was $92,173.41; four-year college $578,618.40; junior college $16,412.48; vocational $310,908.02; on-the-job $11,980.00; apprenticeship $0; disability skills training $380,622.54; and miscellaneous (costs that were more specific to the consumer's individual needs) $518,010.51; job readiness $309,071.50. Job services are as follows: job search assistance $2,787.33; job placement $71,418.47; on-the-job support – time-limited $3,736.00; on-the-job support - supported employment $46,125.00.

Dr. Lamb explained that the RSA II not only outlines expenditure but also identifies the number of actual participants who received each service. The services provided from October 1, 2024, to the present are listed in the following categories: assessment 63; diagnosis and treatment 277; graduate college 13; four-year college 65; junior college 8; vocational training 24; on-the-job training 4; apprenticeship training 0; disability skills training 34; miscellaneous training 32; job search assistance 6; job placement assistance 42; on-the-job supports time-limited 2; transportation 47; maintenance 54; rehabilitation technology 108; interpreter 2; reader services 1; personal attendant services 0; other services 92; customized employment 0; job readiness training 21; technical assistance 0, and on-the-job supports supported 2.

Performance Measures PY2025 (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026)

- Measurable Skill Gains
  - Target Rate of 59%
- Credential Attainment
  - Cohort of exits from Jan – Dec 2024
  - Target Rate of 37.5%
- Employment Rate 2nd Quarter
  - Cohort of exits from PY2024.
  - Target Rate of 65.0%

- Employment Rate 4th Quarter
  - Cohort of exits from Jan – Dec 2024
  - Target Rate 65.0%
- Retention with the Same Employer
  - Cohort of exits from Jan - Dec 2024.
- Median Wages 2nd Quarter After Exit
  - Cohort of exits from PY2024.
  - Target Rate $6,870.00

Performance Measures

PY 2025 Measurable Skill Gains - Updated

  - 109 Skill Gains (96 Participants)
- 2 Educational functional level

- 7 Secondary Diploma or Equivalent
- 83 Postsecondary Transcript/Report Card
- 5 Training Milestone
- 12 Skill Progressions
- Rate 96/163 is 58.9%
- Target 59%

PY 2025 – Dec

  - 21 Skill Gains

- 4 Secondary Diploma or Equivalent
- 13 Postsecondary Transcript/Report Card
- 1 Training Milestone
- 3 Skill Progressions
- Rate 66/243 is 27.2%

PY 2024 MSG Comparison

- 5 Skill Gains (1 Participant)
- 5 Secondary Diploma or Equivalent
- Rate 5/236 is 2.1%
- Target 55.6%
- State Rate (1197/2732) is 43.8%

Credentials Earned PY 2025

- December 2025
  - Credential Rate is 1/10 10.0%
- May 2026
  - 6/10 Credential Confirmed 60%
- Target Rate of 37.5%

2024 Credential Comparison

- Credentials Earned During PY2024
  - 7 Bachelor's Degree
  - 2 Master's Degree
  - 1 Attained Degree Above a Master's (e.g., PH.D., Ed.D., J.D., M.D.)
- Reported Credential Rate 1/10 is 10%
- State Rate (362/1616) is 22.4%

2025 Employment Rate

- 2nd Quarter After Exit – 256 participants
  - Employment Rate (2/256) is 0.78%
  - May: 95/256 for 37.11%
  - Target Rate of 65.0%
- 4th Quarter After Exit – 233 participants
  - Dec: Employment Rate (23/233) is 9.9%
  - May: 99/233 is 42.5%
  - Target Rate 65.0%
- Retention PY2024 (20/65) is 30.7%

2024 Employment Rate Comparison

- 2nd Quarter After Exit – 65 participants
  - Employment Rate (65/173) is 37.5%
  - Target Rate is 64%
  - State Rate (1494/3032) is 49.3%
- 4th Quarter After Exit – 29 Participants
  - Employment Rate (29/180) is 16.1%
  - Target Rate is 63%
  - State Rate is (1490/3336) is 44.7%
- Retention PY2024 (28/79) is 35.4%

2025 Employment Rate

- Median Wages PY 2025
  - At Exit - $17.20/hour
  - 2nd Quarter After Exit - $8,239.43
    - Target is $6,870

2024 Employment Rate

- Median Wages PY2024
  - At Exit - $16/hour
  - 2nd Quarter After Exit - $8,423.64
    - Target Rate is $6,800.00
    - State Rate is $7,114.91

Program Outcomes:			
Program Year 2023		**Program Year 2024**	**Program Year 2025**
VR Closures	115	155	132
VR Referrals	604	584	432
VR Applications	395	367	264
PE Closures	3	7	27
PE Referrals	43	85	50
PE Applications	9	21	5

OIB Program Outcomes:			
Federal Fiscal Year 2023		**Federal Fiscal Year 2024**	**Federal Fiscal Year 2025**
Closures	239	92	267
Referrals	485	409	168
Applications	308	290	108

Schedule for the Next Meeting

The next DSB Quarterly Board Meeting is scheduled for Friday, June 12, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. (Commerce Building/Zoom)

Motion to Adjourn

Mr. Nathan Winter asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Ernest Huff made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Roy DePriest seconded. The motion carried.

ADJOURNED at 12:28 p.m.