

**Virginia Department of  
Rehabilitative Services**

**Presentation to the Disability  
Commission on Vocational  
Rehabilitation**

**James A. Rothrock, Commissioner**

**June 20, 2011**



# VR Client Demographics

	FFY2010	
Gender	Male	56%
	Female	44%
Ethnicity	Caucasian	56%
	Black	39%
	Hispanic	3%
	Asian	1%
	Multiple Ethnicities	1%
Multiple Significant Barriers	84%	

# Disability Groups Served

Disability	FFY10
Cognitive/Other Mental Impairments	63.7%
Psychosocial Impairments	36.3%
Physical Impairments	18.5%
Deaf/Hearing Impairments (Includes Deaf-Blind)	5.9%
Communicative Impairments Expressive/Receptive	3.4%
Blind/Vision Impairments	1.8%

## ***Selected Populations FFY09-10*** ***Based on Information at Time of Application***

<b>Population</b>	<b>FFY09 Applications</b>	<b>FFY10 Applications</b>	<b>% Change</b>
Limited English Proficiency	238	294	23.5%
Autism	399	478	19.8%
Deaf and Hard of Hearing	541	646	19.4%
Veterans	374	446	19.3%
Substance Abuse	1,883	2,155	14.4%
Seriously Mentally Ill	9,122	10,015	9.8%
Traumatic Brain Injury	415	422	7.0%
Felons	1,083	1,058	-2.3
Transition	4,546	4,498	-1.1%

# **Order of Selection Waiting List**

- All Order of Selection categories closed March 1, 2011.
- Current waiting list: 1,010 consumers.
- Projected waiting list: 7,000 consumers by 6/30/12.

# ***VR Client Wages***

- At case closure, average hourly wage for all successful rehabilitants: \$9.40.
- Transition Clients (age 24 and under): \$8.46 average hourly wage.
- 93% earned at or above minimum wage.
- Maximum hourly wage: \$100

# **Return on Investment (ROI)**

- 1988 study of VR applicants:
  - Five-year ROI for male applicants (successfully and unsuccessfully rehabilitated) with “musculoskeletal” impairments: Estimated at \$2.58 for every \$1 invested in purchased services.
  - Ten-year ROI estimated at \$3.88
- Study of VR cases closed in 1999:
  - 1/3 of those unsuccessfully closed were employed six months and one year after closure
  - On average, those who were employed earned about \$3,000 per quarter during the year after closure

# ***ROI Continued***

From recent study of LTESS participants:

- For individuals who received follow-along services sometime in the ten years after their initial application for VR services in SFY 2000, each \$1.00 spent for follow-along services was matched by about \$3.50 in earnings

# *We have a cash problem.....*

- Not all GF is spent on VR programs. Between 1991 and 2008, the percent of GF available for the VR program decreased from 48% to 30%. Between 2008 and 2011, it decreased from 30% to 11%.
- The difference between the 30% GF funding in 2008 and the 11% GF funding in 2011 is \$8.1M. This reduction in funds has resulted in wait-listing new clients thru an order of selection process, staff layoffs, office closings, and reduced expense available for case service costs.
- WWRC, a division of DRS, is a VR program. Between 1991 and 2008, funding grew 19% in comparison to 10% growth in GF available for VR for DRS. Between 2008 and 2011, WWRC GF went down 26%, just over \$2M. This reduction in funds has resulted in staff layoffs, reduced services provided by the Center and reduction in clients served in the local community.
- We hope to resolve our cash problem through a biennium budget request of an additional \$10.1M in GF, \$8.1M for DRS and \$2M for WWRC. The requested appropriation restores GF funding to FY 2008 levels.

# *We have a match problem.....*

- Federal VR funding is contingent on a 21.9% state match. Match can include GF, special fund revenue to rehabilitative and administrative services provided to state agency partners, capital funds that support VR programs and GF from the WWRC. A long-term, sustainable VR program requires stable long term funding and that has disappeared over the past three years.
- Between 1991 and 2008, GF available for match from DRS and WWRC went from 217% of the minimum match to 119% of the minimum match. Between 2008 and 2011, it fell from 119% of the minimum match to 48% of the minimum match.
- We hope to resolve our match problem by \$8M of the biennium budget request of an additional \$10.1M in GF.

# *We have a growth problem.....*

- One of the impacts of reduced GF was wait-listing of clients thru Order of Selection effective this past March, 2011. Since that time the wait-list has grown to over 1,000 clients. We anticipate growth in the wait-list to over 7,000 clients by the end of FY 2012.
- Between 2009 and 2010, the number of VR cases on hand has grown from just over 29,000 to over 32,000, the largest number of cases on hand in the history of the VR program in Virginia. This is a 10.3% growth in VR cases on hand.
- The current average cost of a case is \$1,600. Restoration of GF for VR to FY 2008 levels allows service to an additional 6,300 clients, allowing us to eliminate the wait-list and address our program growth.
- We hope to resolve our growth problem by the biennium budget request of an additional \$10.1M in GF.