

ACBI
April 19, 2013 meeting

REPORT FROM IVRS

As of the end of March our active caseload was over 12,400. Our Administrator and CFO presented the IVRS Budget to the Education Appropriations Subcommittee, asking the committee to support the funding recommendations by Gov. Branstad (\$5,113,168 – 2014; \$5,263,168-2015). A request for an additional \$500,000 in 2015 was made to allow IVRS to continue our present pace of operations.

IVRS received over \$100,000 from SSA for Cost Reimbursement in the month of March. This payment was the result of 21 claims submitted for job candidates who reached 9 months of SGA.

In March, IVRS completed 4 pilot trainings with Walgreen's REDI (Retail Employees with Disabilities Initiative) in Iowa City, Waterloo, Ankeny and West Des Moines. This is a significant partnership between IVRS, Walgreens and the Community Rehabilitation Programs. There were 12 referrals with 10 completing the training and 2 graduates have been hired by Walgreens.

IVRS is the lead agency in a multiple team effort identified as Employment First. There are three primary goals that are spelled out in the Strategic Plan for Iowa. EFLSMP stands for Employment First Leadership State Mentor Program, and Iowa is one of three states participating through the Department of Labor, Office of Disability and Economic Policy. These projects will be asked to work with five consumers that typically meet the level of care required to be in a workshop facility, day program or money follows the person program. The concept of the project is how we can increase access to community based, integrated, competitive employment as a viable option. The Projects received seed money through the contract to help provide customized employment services. They can access all community resources and services as they normally would. They will be collecting and providing data and results from their efforts, which will eventually feed into what services IVRS and DHS/Medicaid want to pay for and what amounts we should be paying for. There are 5 pilot sites in Iowa.

Another partnership that IVRS is involved in is called Project Search. This is a partnership with Des Moines Schools, Easter Seals and Mercy Medical Center. The project is completing its first year with 12 students with cognitive disabilities. Students have gone through 3 internship rotations at the hospital and the hope is that they will be employable once internships are complete and job searches are started.

In March, our state rehabilitation council held their legislative breakfast. I've attached the flier that was shared with those that participated in the event.