

EVIDENCE OF COLLABORATION REGARDING SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT SERVICES AND EXTENDED SERVICES

A guiding principle of the Supported Employment (SE) system is the use of all available resources and strategies to meet the needs of workers and employers. Collaborative agreements are used to specify the roles of consumers, service providers and employers. The sharing of service provider resources is negotiated through more than 127 collaborative agreements between the VR Program and other non-profit community based organizations.

VR collaborates with a statewide network of private, non-profit community rehabilitation facilities for the provision of supported employment services. In addition to formal training, these agencies prepare VR consumers for permanent jobs through a combination of supported employment, temporary or transitional employment at the program facilities and in the community, enabling them to receive on-the-job training while earning a paycheck. The most common organizations that VR utilizes include:

- A statewide network of **Community Service Boards (CSBs)** that provide VR consumers with mental health, developmental disabilities, and addictive diseases a wide scope of outpatient, day and residential housing services. Collaborative agreements are established with the *DeKalb CSB, Georgia Highlands CSB, Lookout Mountain CSB, McIntosh Trail CSB, Gwinnett/Rockdale/Newton CSB, Clayton County CSB, Satilla CSB, Middle Flint CSB, and Advantage Behavioral Health Service Centers.*
- **Easter Seals** provides services to children and adults with disabilities and other special needs. These services include medical rehabilitation (physical, occupation, and speech-hearing therapy, and early intervention), transportation, assistive technology, and job readiness/training. Collaborative agreements are established with the *East Georgia, Middle Georgia, and Southwest Georgia East Seal Societies.* Agreements are also established with *Opportunity Center – Easter Seal and Achievement Center - Easter Seals in Alabama.*
- **Goodwill Industries-** A statewide network of Goodwill Industry programs provide VR consumers with on-the-job training, employment services, and post-employment support. These services include vocational assessment, job readiness, occupational skills training and work experience, job placement and retention, and support services such as childcare, transportation, and counseling. Collaborative agreements are established *with Goodwill Industries of the Chattahoochee Valley, Goodwill Industries of the Coastal Empire, Goodwill Industries of Middle Georgia, and Goodwill Industries of North Georgia.*

- **Bobby Dodd Institute (BDI)** provides VR consumers with on-the-job and work adjustment training in the areas of packaging, assembly and hand work, information technology, office essentials, food service, building trades, and janitorial services. Through BDI's Explorers Program, VR's transition students within the metro Atlanta area receive half-day classroom enrichment and a half-day of paid job training opportunities.
- **WORKTEC** offers a full range of supported employment services to assist and support consumers of Mental Health/Developmental Disabilities/Addictive Disease (MHDDAD) services. VR consumers receive job sampling, on-the-job training, work adjustment training, community based training, job readiness training, follow-up support, and job site analysis. Through WORKTEC, VR consumers receive on-the-job training in department/retail stores, grocery stores, hospitals, manufacturing plants, medical offices, research facilities, human services, and administrative services.

Through the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Program, WORKTEC's contract services division provides work opportunities for VR consumers through a variety of state and federal contracts. These services include janitorial-maintenance, grounds maintenance, landscape management/irrigation systems, mail sorting-bulk mailing, mailroom operations and services, and quality control-shelf stocking.

- **Speech, Hearing and Rehabilitation Enterprises, Inc. (SHARE)** - SHARE provides VR consumers with the job readiness and work adjustment training in business/marketing, home consumer science, industrial technology, and manipulating processing and production. Supported employment participants receive training on finding job vacancies, interviewing, and job maintenance.
- **Tommy Nobis** – On a referral basis, the Tommy Nobis Center provides comprehensive job training and employment services to VR consumers. These services include vocational evaluation and career planning, work evaluation, supported employment, employment development, and office technology training.
- A network of **service agencies for blind and visually impaired individuals** provides necessary skills for these individuals to function independently. VR clients with vision loss receive services from *Blind and Low Vision Services of North Georgia*, *Center for the Visually Impaired*, and *Savannah Association for the Blind, Inc.* These agencies provide individual instruction in the client's home, school, and/or place of employment. Other services include vision rehabilitation, employment assistance, support groups, visual aids, and computer training.