Vocational Rehabilitation Services
Sept 25, 2017
Autism Council Meeting

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PROGRAM SPECIALIST FOR NEURODEVELOPMENTAL DISORDERS
Total Customers Served

As of August 30, 2017,

- Rehabilitation Services Division assisted 13,941 customers to achieve their employment goal

- Blind Services Division served 1,305 customers to achieve a successful employment outcome
THAT’S OVER 15,000 TEXANS WITH DISABILITIES WHO ARE NOW LIVING A LIFE WITH MORE INDEPENDENCE THAN THEY HAD A YEAR AGO.
Summer Earn and Learn (SEAL)

One of our biggest successes in FY17:
The SEAL program, a work-based learning initiative that provided training and paid work experience to more than **1,520 students with disabilities**
Autism and SEAL

Quinn is a 20-year old with autism spectrum disorder who had significant social skills deficits. But through SEAL and a Transition Educator, she worked on her social and behavioral skills and ended up being offered a job at CVS. She is now working on her pharmacy tech certification.
Neurodevelopmental Disorders

SPECIFIC LEARNING DISORDERS (SLP), ATTENTION DEFICIT DISORDER (AD/HD), AUTISM, INTELLECTUAL DEVELOPMENTAL DISORDER (IDD)
Neurodevelopment Disorders: As of August 2017
(Approximate numbers as reported by Department of Operational Insight (DOI))

- SLP: 12,000
- AD/HD: 7,000
- Autism: 6,000
- IDD: 7,000
Environment Work Assessment

THE EWA IS FOR ALL NEURODEVELOPMENTAL DISORDERS
Environmental Work Assessment - EWA

This self-paced course is the last in a series of courses designed to prepare the participant to support a consumer with Autism Spectrum Disorder as he or she pursues an employment goal. The focus of the course is the environmental work assessment designed by Jennifer Kaut M.Ed., BCBA. The Environmental Work Assessment or “EWA”, the preferred instrument for the Texas Vocational Rehabilitation program, is used to determine the consumer’s response to different work environments. This course is designed to review the assessment, information, expectations and outcomes for an Environmental Work Assessment (EWA).

This course is self-paced and completely online in Blackboard. Please click here for the technology requirements for this course. The participant will have one week to complete the course after the specified start date.
Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)

Main Points:
• Service available for customers with a neurodevelopmental disorder who qualify per VR counselor

• Significantly updated policy to be published this fall

• More hours and templates for ABA Providers
EWA: What Does It Do?

• The EWA focuses on the consumer’s responses to variables in a work environment rather than on how the consumer performs the job.

• The results of this assessment identify variables that could effect the consumer’s ability to function at his or her full potential.
Autism Spectrum Disorder
Autism: As of August 2017

Approximant numbers as reported by Department of Operational Insight (DOI)
Example of Post Secondary Schools Providing with Specialized Supports

(For Autism & Other Neurodevelopmental Disorders)

• Project Hire
• Project HIRER
• Project Search
• Project CASE
• Burkhart Transition Academy

(These are just a few examples, many more are being created each year as the need grows)
Examples of Employers Targeting Autism Initiatives
Specific Services for Customers with Autism
Autism Endorsement
FOR EMPLOYMENT SPECIALISTS CONTRACTED WITH VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES
UNT: Department of Rehabilitation Serves

Autism Endorsement earned through:

UNTWISE (Workplace Inclusion and Sustainable Employment)
Autism Endorsement: Pre-requisites

1st Endorsement Specialization offered for the Employment Track. Employment Specialists must:

- Hold a current Supported Employment credential and
- Proof of successful completion of Autism Specialization courses or,
Autism Endorsement: Pre-requisites

Proof that participant holds one of the following:
• Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst (BCaBA)
• Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA)
• Board Certified Behavior Analyst - Doctorate (BCBA-D)
As of September 2017, there are 207 Employment Specialists, across the state that have earned the endorsement.

Autism Specialization Endorsement

An Autism Specialization provider is required to conduct the Environmental Work Assessment (EWA). To become an Autism Specialization provider, you must have completed:

- Supported Employment Specialist credential
- Autism Specialization courses provided by Relias Learning
- Environmental Work Assessment (EWA)

To see all requirements, go to the Standards for Providers section 2.9.
ASD Premium

CAN ONLY BE EARNED BY AN EMPLOYMENT SPECIALISTS WHO HAS EARNED THE ENDORSEMENT
Employment Specialist is Eligible for Endorsement When

Employment Specialist who is directly working with a customer that has a verified autism endorsement through UNTWISE

The customer has been diagnosed with:

• Autism Spectrum Disorder per the DSM 5;
• Social Communication Disorder per the DSM 5;
• Pervasive neurodevelopmental Disorder per the DSM 4; or
• Asperger’s Syndrome per the DSM 4; or
• Has diagnostic characteristics of Autism
ASD Supports
ASD Supports: Overview

• Intended to address and reduce targeted barriers for customers who with ASD or who have characteristics of AS

• These supports are the middle ground between clinical intervention and job coaching.
ASD Supports: Overview Continued

• ASD Supports can be used alongside of ANY employment service, BUT it must not duplicate job coaching services.

• ASD Supports begins with a brief assessment of barriers directly related to the customers autism. Goals are identified and documented in the ASD Support Plan.