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— M I N N E S O T A —

State Rehabilitation Council for the Blind

2 0 1 8 A N N U A L R E P O R T



Letter from the Chair	2
Letter from Director Pankow	4
Garry Otto: Taking the Initiative, Helping Others.	6
Communication Center Committee Report	7
Customer Satisfaction and Goals and Priorities Committee Report.	9
DeafBlind Committee Report	17
Employment Committee Report	19
Minority Outreach Committee Report	19
Senior Services Committee Report	20
Transition Committee Report.	22

Letter from the Chair
Robert Hobson, Council Chair
State Rehabilitation Council for the Blind
2200 University Avenue West, Suite 240
St. Paul, MN 55114
November, 2018

The Honorable Mark Dayton
Office of the Governor
130 State Capitol,
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Governor Dayton:

Over the last year, State Services for the Blind, and the State Rehabilitation Council for the Blind (SRC-B) continued to work together to improve the quality of life for Minnesotans. As I am sure you are aware, State Services for the Blind (SSB) is tasked with the responsibility of providing the best avenues of success for their customers.

Every year, SSB works with more than 800 adults and 100 Transition age students to give them the best tools for success, so they are able to be employable and return the investment by being tax paying citizens. Blind people struggle with either gaining, or maintaining employment. SSB's customers receive several types of services to aid them in becoming employed. The first option for most customers is for them to receive some form of adjustment to blindness training. There are three training centers here in Minnesota, and two of these centers are in Minneapolis. Additionally, there are several vendors who contract with SSB to provide itinerant services for newly blind, or congenitally blind people who need additional training. All of these services are provided through the state appropriation and the Federal matching grant through RSA. Without these funds, Minnesotans would not get the services they need in order for them to gain and or maintain their employment.

This year, SSB was able to close 105 cases with customers who were employed for 90 days or more. This was a little more than a 10% increase since last year.

For the fourth year in a row, SSB continued to build their program for transition age students who receive services through the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) funding. This year The Council's Transition Committee continued to work towards advertising the new and annual transition programs that SSB, and their vendors provided for the WIOA funded students. For the third year in a row BLIND, Inc., and Duluth Lighthouse both offered year round programming for Transition age students. The STP program funded through the Minnesota Department of Education, and SSB continued to provide their two-week program which I believe had 13 students.

This year the number of seniors served decreased to 3,722 people. Of these customers, 500 were served through SSB's Aging Eyes Partners. Less seniors were served due to two staff retirements. On average, over the last few years, the number of blind Seniors continues to increase. When a senior finds out they



Back Row: Ron Woelfel, Mike Colbrunn, Jennifer Dunnam, Rob Hobson, Steve Jacobson, Carol Pankow, Barb Ziemke, Jeff Thompson
Front Row: Catalina Martinez, Catherine Golding

are blind, there is usually a period of asking "What do I do, and how do I continue with my life?" More specifically, they might ask, "how do I continue to pay my bills and live alone in my own home?" This is why SSB's senior services adjustment to blindness programs are so important. The SRC-B Senior Services Committee tackles the issues the seniors face, and continues to be a voice for the council and SSB to insure seniors are receiving the services they need.

This year I had the opportunity to attend the National Council State Agency for the Blind (NCSAB) convention in Virginia. At this convention, I learned how well SSB is doing compared with the other state agencies throughout the country. SSB continues to be at the top in regards to the services they provide. This is strengthened by continuing to have a great relationship with the SRC-B, and continuing to work along with the council to provide opportunities for Blind Minnesotans.

For the third year SSB needed to be on an order of selection. Blind Minnesotans have been lucky because SSB has continued to hold open category A which provides the most opportunity for customers to gain adjustment to blindness skills. Periodically SSB has opened up categories B and C when there was adequate funding.

Over all, The SRC-B, and their committees have been working diligently to continue to hold SSB accountable, and to aid the agency in providing the best advice and voice on its policies. When you read the rest of the report you will see all of the hard work and energy the council members have provided over the last year.

Sincerely,

Robert Hobson Jr., SRC-B Chair
State Rehabilitation Council — Blind



Dear Governor Dayton:

In 2018, 105 of our consumers found a job, 3,700 seniors got the support they needed to stay independent, 55 students received their textbooks in braille, and about 13,000 Minnesotans got access to print in a format that worked for them. Behind these numbers is the work of our staff, our volunteers, our vendors, and our council. Established to guide the work of State Services for the Blind, the State Rehabilitation Council for the Blind (SRC-B) fulfills the important roles of determining priorities and

tracking our progress toward meeting our goals. While staff, volunteers and partners focus on their specific jobs, it's the role of the council to maintain the big-picture view: ensuring that the work we do adds up to quality services for blind, DeafBlind, and low vision Minnesotans. I commend the council for the hard work they've done in the past year to thoughtfully and skillfully advise and guide our organization.

In this past year, the council has demonstrated a commitment to fostering a strong, in-depth working knowledge of the various programs of our agency. In addition to hearing the personal experiences of customers, the council has also heard presentations from staff members on various programs and initiatives, including the Business Enterprise Program, transition services, the Radio Talking Book, and the Aging Eyes Initiative. As the following pages make clear, while the council as a whole tracked the big picture, council committees focused time, energy, and creativity to strengthen our work in specific areas. Some committees, such as Senior Services and the Communication Center Advisory Committee, helped guide surveys and discovery processes in order to better tailor our services. Other committees, like the DeafBlind Committee, and the Minority Outreach Committee hosted events and initiated activities to build community, and promote our work. Altogether, the council and its committees provided smart, practical, and forward-looking guidance in order to continuously improve access to equality, independence, and access for Minnesotans who are blind, visually impaired, and DeafBlind.

The following reports detail the work that was undertaken to meet our goals and align our work with our priorities. To complement those reports, here is a brief snapshot of SSB's 2018 accomplishments.

Strengthening Employment Success

The average wage for the 105 successful employment closures in 2018 was \$19.06. The average number of hours per week for these positions is 28. The council also closely followed our progress as we worked to add a vending location for our Business Enterprises Program (BEP) at the Minneapolis Veterans Hospital campus. After three years of negotiating we signed a permit with the VA, and the council, having tracked our progress, welcomed this expansion of our BEP program. The 29 small business owners of BEP brought in more than \$6 million in sales in 2018, supporting Minnesota with about \$400,000 in state sales taxes.

Expanding Senior Services

Every year, as Minnesota's over-65 population increases, the council has worked closely with SSB to make sure that seniors experiencing vision loss find the support they need in order to remain independent and active. The council's Senior Services Committee has been closely following the progress of the in-depth consumer participation survey that SSB is conducting in partnership with Mississippi State University. The survey results will help us tailor training services provided to seniors through SSB. More and more seniors across Minnesota are living well with vision loss. They are eager to build their skill-sets and learn from one another. The technology and home-skills trainers on our senior services staff are crisscrossing the

state, helping seniors learn nonvisual techniques for cooking, getting around, Skyping with grandchildren, or talking to smart speakers to turn on the lights, catch the news, or find a favorite recipe. A support group of seniors meeting at our St. Paul headquarters is led by Brucie Hawkins, the recently retired director of the VA Visor program who has her doctorate in vision rehab.

Increasingly, the first-of-its-kind Aging Eyes Initiative is harnessing the skills of community partners to serve seniors with low or moderate vision loss. This frees up staff time to provide more advanced support to seniors with more significant vision loss.

SSB was honored to have the Aging Eyes Initiative recognized by the Humphrey School of Public Policy and the Bush Foundation with a State Government Innovation Award. Of the nine recipients, the top three, including the Aging Eyes Initiative were highlighted with a short video about the project. The video (including a full transcript, and audio described and captioned versions) are posted on our website. The Aging Eyes Initiative grew out of an intensive study to determine how best to meet the increasing need for services from the expanding senior population in Minnesota. The council has closely followed our work to ensure that seniors have access to timely and practical services for maintaining safety and independence.

Building the Future of Reading in Accessible Formats

January 2nd, 2019 will mark the fiftieth anniversary of the first broadcast of Minnesota's Radio Talking Book Network. Our radio reading service was the first of its kind and this model for delivering timely news and the reading of current books and magazines has been replicated across the country and abroad. In the year ahead we will be taking some time to review the last fifty years in order to thank the volunteers, staff, and, indeed, the listeners who have made the RTB such a vital service. We'll be devoting even more time and energy to looking toward the next fifty years in

order to continue to provide access to information in ways that work for our consumers. The council, and its Communication Center Advisory Committee continue to provide valuable insight to help us chart our course. Here are a few of the developments from this past year that demonstrate some of the ways we've been working to ensure that our Communication Center continues to be "Minnesota's Accessible Reading Source."

- We've launched a telephone survey of RTB listeners in order to collect solid, user-based data as we develop strategies for shaping the future of RTB.
- We've continued our collaboration with St. Thomas University Engineering students to develop systems to scan and preserve tactile graphics.
- Using lease-improvement monies, we've re-modeled and re-configured the braille section to better utilize that space.
- This year we helped to host the Midwest Regional Braille Conference in the Twin Cities.
- Books produced here at SSB are making an impact nationally. More than 2,800,000 pages downloaded from the Braille and Audio Reading Download service of the National Library service were from books produced here.

Charting a Course

In closing, I would like to express my gratitude to each of the council members for their service in this past year. They've brought great questions, good ideas, important feedback, and fresh perspectives to their work. They've not only strengthened the work of SSB in 2018, but they've helped us to chart a course to better serve blind, DeafBlind and low vision Minnesotans in the years to come.

Sincerely Yours,

Carol Pankow, Director, State Services for the Blind

“One of the reasons I’m proud of Gary,” Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor Catherine Golding told the SRC-B last April as she introduced Gary Otto (pictured), “is that he was really the fuel behind landing this job. He called me up and told me about it, and he pursued it until he got it.”

“At first,” Catherine continued, “When I talked with them about Gary, they had some questions. They had never worked with a blind person before, so they weren’t sure how it would work out. Then,” she continued, “I got a call a few months later, and they said to me, “We absolutely love Gary, and we don’t know what we’d do without him.”

With those words, Catherine handed the microphone over to Gary. The council has an ongoing interest in hearing directly from consumers, and Gary attended the April meeting to share his story.

For several years, Gary had been working for a small, private, senior care business. He performed custodial duties and helped out with the residents. Then, because of a new licensing procedure, the business could no longer allow Gary to have any contact with the residents. There was no longer enough work for Gary to do, and he lost that job.

Gary, who loves working with people, was disappointed but not defeated. His mom told him about Epic Enterprise in Dundas Minnesota, a nonprofit serving adults with severe disabilities. They were looking for someone to assist clients in their adult day services program. Gary, with assistance from Catherine and SSB set out to prove that he was the best person for the job.

As Gary makes clear, Epic is the kind of place where staff and clients all genuinely care about one another. It’s a place where Gary, with his easy way with people and skills as a caregiver fits right in. He spends most of each day working with one client, assisting them in getting from place to place; in addition he pitches in where ever he is needed.



He uses a scanner to read client files in order to know about client allergies and other important information.

Before working in the personal care field, Gary was a stay-at-home dad. “Our oldest son was easy,” Gary remembers, “but the younger one was more of a challenge. He’d do his best to try and sneak passed me, but I just listen for the squeak of his diaper, and I’d know exactly where he was.”

In 1977, Gary was shot in a hunting incident, which would eventually lead to the loss of his vision. The accident happened on an evening that he had originally planned to spend on a first date with a woman who would eventually become his wife. “She’s kept me on the path,” Gary says warmly, “and we’ve made a great team!” Together they raised two boys and now have six grandsons and a granddaughter.

The practical experiences and life-lessons Gary gathered from raising a family and taking care of seniors combine to make him a great fit at Epic. In sharing a few stories with the council from his work with Epic clients, it was clear how much he valued having work that gave him the chance to help others every day. “I’m helping people get what they need,” Gary said with a warm smile, “and help from you [SSB] made that happen.”

Committee Charge

The product of this committee consists of reports to the State Rehabilitation Council for the Blind containing specific strategies for increasing and improving Communication Center services as well as a summary of the accomplishments of the past year. During FFY 2018 the Committee met four times to receive updates and offer input on the projects, staffing changes, and other ongoing work of the Communication Center.

The effectiveness of this committee is greatly enhanced by extremely active participation of Communication Center section supervisors and managers. The committee wishes to express our thanks for their efforts and time.

One of the major focuses of the Communication Center is to make textbooks available to blind students throughout Minnesota in braille, e-text, and audio formats. These services directly enhance the education and therefore the future employment of blind persons. The provision of these services can be seen throughout their activities.

Listed below are highlights and accomplishments of the Communication Center and this committee in FFY 2018:

- Support the Needs of youth in Minnesota Schools The Communication Center continues to provide braille and audio textbooks to blind students through a contract with the Minnesota Department of Education. This reduces the need for school districts to provide this kind of support for their blind students directly and increases the efficiency of service by creating one-time materials common to multiple school districts.
 - During this past year, braille was provided to 55 students and 455,622 braille pages were transcribed, reproduced, or acquired from other sources for these students.
 - Tactile Graphics Production – With the increasing emphasis on STEM subjects, there is a parallel increased need to supplement textbooks for blind students with tactile representations of graphs and diagrams that appear in print. The committee together with Communication Center staff have adopted the following position:
 - The Communication Center Advisory Committee, among its other priorities, has adopted the goal of assisting the Braille Unit with improving the quality and quantity of tactile graphics and materials made available to blind and visually impaired Minnesota students.
 - To that end we understand that the Braille Section of the Communication Center is currently involved in a discovery process concerning tactile graphics. This process will result in a specific set of recommendations concerning hardware, software and personnel usage that will result in the increased quality and quantity of tactile graphics that the Braille Section is able to produce. Further the discovery process should produce recommendations on how to best integrate new hardware and procedures into existing processes.
 - With a fully developed proposal, SSB will be able to fund raise and pursue other strategies to make recommendations happen. The Advisory Committee of the Communication Center fully supports this discovery process and will assist in any way possible.
 - Current remodeling will increase the area occupied by the braille section from 1,400 to 2,100 square feet. Some of this expansion will be devoted to the production of tactile graphics.

- **Audio Services** – The Communication Center continues to provide audio and electronic transcription for Minnesota youth and adults. Provision of these services helps ensure blind students and workers have equal opportunities to succeed in education and employment. This past year, 66,210 unique audio pages were transcribed, 39,881 audio pages were redistributed, and 4,797 E-text pages were produced. The Communication center is recognized nationally as a quality source of materials as 2,882,011 of their audio pages have been downloaded through the National Library Service of the Library of Congress.
- **Radio Talking Book** –Through the Radio Talking Book, NFB-NEWSLINE, and Dial-In News, the Communication Center offers access to local and national newspapers, along with a variety of other literature. This past year, there were 24,898 hits on the RTB audio stream, 494,260 accesses to NFB-NEWSLINE, and 8,807 accesses to Dial in News.
 - **Engineering** – Virtually all of the Communication Center’s services are kept running smoothly by the Engineering section. Whether it is keeping satellite links to transmitters functioning, repairing or upgrading recording booth equipment, maintaining braille embossers and more, they do it all and are an essential part of the Communication Center.
- **Professional Development** – To help ensure their skills remain up-to-date, Communication Center staff attended several conferences including Midwest Regional Braille Conference which they hosted, National Braille Association, and the National Library Service conference.
 - **Community Outreach** – Building on the completion of an outreach brochure in 2017, efforts continued to provide materials for underserved populations. They have compiled a group of volunteers to record in Spanish, Somali, Hmong, and Russian. This effort was in part a result of an earlier special project of this committee.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy McGillivray, Chair

Members: Kathy McGillivray, Chair, Amy Baron, Mark Dahlberg, Catherine Durivage, Kristin Oien, Ryan Strunk, Rebecca Kragnes, Carla Steinbring, Jeff Thompson

SSB Staff: David Andrews, Gwen Bighley, Brianna Holeman

24,898 hits on the RTB audio stream,
494,260 accesses to NFB-NEWSLINE,
and **8,807** accesses to Dial in News.

Customer Satisfaction and Goals and Priorities Committee Report

Part I - Overview

This committee exists to carry out specific duties contained in federal regulations for the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) program. These include:

1. Conduct a review and an analysis of the effectiveness of and consumer satisfaction with the functions of the Department of Employment and Economic Development; Vocational Rehabilitation services provided within the state

Part II — Customer Satisfaction Survey Review

In 2017, the frequency of the conducting of the customer satisfaction survey (CSS) was changed from quarterly to once a year. The survey for FFY2018, conducted near the end of the fiscal year, covers customers served during the period from March through August 2018. The survey includes only six months of data because the reliability of responses collected from experiences more than six months in the past decreases.

The Committee reviewed the CSS results for FFY2018. The eight survey items which have typically been analyzed to compare the results for the three previous fiscal years are not presented with the comparison this year because of the different data sets. Previous comparisons have not shown significant variations in results from year to year.

(except adjustment to blindness and technology services), and the employment outcomes of persons served.

2. In collaboration with SSB, evaluate the extent to which SSB achieved its goals and priorities, strategies used, and factors that impeded success and performance on the federal Workforce Investment Opportunity Act (WIOA) Primary Indicators of Performance.
3. Jointly with other committees of the Council, and in partnership with SSB, develop and, as necessary, revise an annual statement of goals and priorities.

SSB Customer Satisfaction Survey
FFY2018 Summary Results

Summary	FFY 2018
Q1: How satisfied are you with the time it usually took to get your answer	88%
Q2: Satisfied that counselor (staff) understood customer's needs	87%
Q3: Satisfied that customer given enough info to make good choices on employment plan	83%
Q4: Satisfied that customer had an active role in decisions about services	90%
Q5 Satisfied that services helped plan for/maintain employment	80%
Q11: Overall satisfaction with services provided	86%
Q12: Extent to which services have met expectations	78%
Q13: Comparison with "ideal" set of services	79%

SSB's results on the Customer Satisfaction Survey are also computed by the Minnesota Department of Economic Development utilizing the Minnesota Customer Satisfaction Index (MnCSI). Simply put, this index summarizes overall satisfaction with services by applying a formula to the responses for Questions 11, 12, and 13 on the survey. Using the MnCSI makes it possible to compare the customer satisfaction ratings of SSB with those of other agencies in Minnesota and with industry in general.

Average MnCSI score over time (rolling quarterly 12 month periods)

Customers Served	Jan 16 – Dec 16	Apr 16 –Mar 17	Jul 16 –Jun 17	Oct 16 –Sept 17	Mar 18 –Aug 18**
Average MnCSI Scores	76.1	76.4	75.7	75.6	73.5
N size	222	233	235	238	260

The committee continued to track the questions about assistive technology that began to be asked on the survey in the year ending 2015:

Q6 Have you received any Assistive Technology from State Services for the Blind? This could be hardware or software

Responses	2015 4 Quarters	2016 4 Quarters	2017 4 Quarters	2018 Mar-Aug
Yes	72%	66%	65%	66%
No	25%	31%	31%	31%
Unsure	3%	3%	4%	3%
DK/Refused	<1%	0%	0%	0%
N Size	223	216	238	281

Q7 Think about when you most needed to use your Assistive Technology. How prepared did you feel to use the Assistive Technology when you needed it? Were you very well prepared, somewhat prepared, not very well prepared, or not prepared at all? (NEW VERSION STARTED APRIL 2016)

Responses	2015 4 Quarters	2016 4 Quarters	2017 4 Quarters	2018 Mar-Aug
Very prepared	46%	37%	60%	55%
Somewhat prepared	37%	42%	32%	35%
Not very well prepared	12%	8%	5%	6%
Not at all prepared	4%	11%	3%	2%
DK/Refused	1%	2%	1%	2%
N Size	161	142	154	184

Q8 How useful do you think the Assistive Technology equipment that you received will be/was in helping you meet your vocational plan goals? Do you think it will be very useful, somewhat useful, not very useful, or not at all useful? (NEW)

Responses	2015 4 Quarters	2016 4 Quarters	2017 4 Quarters	2018 Mar-Aug
Very useful	75%	76%	75%	70%
Somewhat useful	22%	16%	20%	21%
Not very useful	1%	2%	1%	3%
Not at all useful	2%	4%	1%	2%
DK/Refused	1%	1%	2%	4%
N Size	161	142	154	184

The members of the committee read the verbatim comments elicited by the following two survey questions to determine if trends or issues specific to SSB were apparent. No significant trends were identified from this data.

Q9 In your opinion, what is/was the most important part of the services you received from SSB?

Q10 If you could change one thing about the services you received, what would you change?

Part III —
 Progress on FY18 Goals and Priorities
 (July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018)

State Services for the Blind (SSB)

FOCUS AREA: JOBS, MORE JOBS, BETTER JOBS

PRIORITY:

Increase competitive integrated employment outcomes by 3% from the previous year.

STRATEGIES:

- Annual review of customer base with counselors and develop targeted plans for those in “ready for employment” status.
- Work with Department of Human Services (DHS) in the Olmstead interagency workgroup focused on blending and braiding funding that allows access to extended services for the long term supports needed for customers for seeking employment.
- Active participation in the Assistive Technology interagency workgroup as part of the Olmstead planning. Serve as the Olmstead lead for employment and assistive technology strategies that will make the State of Minnesota a model employer for persons with disabilities.
- Actively promote the Connect 700 program to SSB customers to help increase employment of people with disabilities in state government.
- Implement and evaluate activities of the SSB Rapid Response Team in support of the Connect 700 program.

Response

We successfully closed 105 individuals for FFY18, an increase of 9% over FFY17. The review of our current customer base leads us to project successfully closing 106 individuals for FFY19.

We completed work with the Assistive Technology Interagency Workgroup that resulted in a statewide assistive technology directory.

In October, 2016 SSB initiated the Rapid Response Team consisting of an employment specialist, an assistive technology specialist, and a counselor. The outcome is that the level of need for the Connect 700 program has been significantly less than originally anticipated. A typical scenario is that Americans with Disability Act coordinators or hiring managers are contacting the employment specialist who assesses the situation and through low tech accommodations or other basic trouble shooting with at least one site visit with the assistive technology specialist, is able to address the need. We provide follow up if requested. We handled 5 requests were during this reporting period.

PRIORITY:

Potential SSB applicants have an increased awareness of the vocational rehabilitation process including their responsibilities and intent to achieve an employment outcome.

STRATEGIES:

- Complete a full analysis of closures by October 31, 2017 after one full year of the new intake process to determine the impact on unsuccessful closures.
- After reviewing the analysis, implement strategies as needed.

Response

We realized since creating these strategies that we needed to specifically track individuals from the start of their eligibility. We have now adjusted and have identified individuals who have been through the Metro orientation for FFY2018. Our analysis of the 52 individuals we tracked shows that 17, or 33%, who applied for services were closed during the year. Numbers and reasons are:

- Not interested – 4
- Unable to locate – 3
- Ineligible – 4
- Other – 6

We will need to continue following the remaining 35 to learn who closes successfully versus those who do not, and why. To some extent, even with the orientation, there are and likely always will be some individuals who do not know if they really want to participate in the program until they actually participated. We also know there are individuals who lose touch with us at any point in their rehabilitation. Ineligibility can be based on a number factors, but key are not meeting the vision criteria or the vision loss is not a barrier to employment. “Other” are a mix of transferring to another agency, finding employment before services were initiated, and not having the medical documentation needed to confirm the eye condition.

Our conclusion is that a meaningful analysis for outcomes is going to require more time as we follow these 35 individuals. In the meantime, we are confident enough in what we have learned to implement the following strategies:

- ✓ Formalize in Rule the orientation and intake process
- ✓ Begin piloting the requirement that eye reports accompany the application before initiating eligibility
- ✓ Refine the orientation information about services being reasonable and necessary

PRIORITY:

Implement the primary performance indicators under Section 116 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

STRATEGIES:

- SSB will establish a baseline in coordination with the other WIOA partners in Title I, II, and III.

- Utilize the newly launched Workforce One case management system to ensure SSB’s ability to report on performance measures.

Response

We have not yet established a baseline as we are still in our baseline development year. We will be negotiating our targets in 2020.

Meanwhile, staff continue training to accurately record data to ensure Measurable Skill Gains (MSG’s) and Credentials data is being entered correctly into WF1. Changing federal requirements are an issue that has had an effect on our process and subsequent training needs.

A CPM Workgroup has been established which drafted three joint guidance documents (MSGs, Credentials, and Effectiveness in Serving Employers). These will be posted for a 30-day comment period. This information will help field staff understand these new measures..

FOCUS AREA-SSB-Your Resource Within Reach

PRIORITY:

Increase the number of transition students receiving Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) from SSB to 100% of students identified by the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) as blind, visually impaired or DeafBlind. (Currently serving 104 of 141 students listed on the MDE Unduplicated Child Count Report as Blind, Visually Impaired or DeafBlind.)

STRATEGIES:

- Identify and communicate with all transition aged students who are blind, visually impaired or DeafBlind who are not currently engaged with SSB so they are informed of services.
- Research charter school and home schooling networks and implement methods for reaching potential blind, visually impaired, or DeafBlind students in those services.

- ▶ Regular communication with teachers for Blind and Visually Impaired (BVI) students through the BVI listserv and targeted mailings about SSB opportunities for students so they can share this with families and encourage them to apply for services.
- ▶ Utilize the data sharing agreement with MDE to obtain names and addresses of blind, visually impaired or DeafBlind students and target mailings specific to Pre-ETS and services SSB can provide.

Response

Although we cannot say that we are communicating with ALL students who are not connected with SSB, we are increasing the scope of outreach. One example is that special education directors and Professionals in Transition, which includes all Minnesota General VR transition counselors, are now on the mailing list for The Spectacle, the SSB Pre-ETS newsletter.

SSB is mailing the general SSB transition student flier to charter and home school networks in an effort to reach additional students.

Weekly posts are sent to BVI teachers and we have presented at teacher community of practice groups, for example, the community of practice for students who are DeafBlind and at the BVI group in Rochester.

During this program year we communicated with every special education director on the MDE list and will do so again in April, 2019.

PRIORITY:

95% of Pre-ETS students served will participate in at least one skill building opportunity outside of the school setting each year.

STRATEGIES:

- ▶ Promote and continually improve the year-round transition programs provided by Community Rehabilitation Providers.

- ▶ Promote summer opportunities to students and families.
- ▶ Co-sponsor a two-week Summer Transition Program with the MDE for 12-16 students annually on a college campus focused on independent living skills, skills of blindness, technology training, employment, and socialization.
- ▶ On a rotating basis co-sponsor a Job Readiness Fair or a Career Expo with the Minneapolis Community and Technical College where students meet professionals who are blind, visually impaired, or DeafBlind so they learn about careers.
- ▶ Work with the DeafBlind committee to pair DeafBlind students with DeafBlind mentors.
- ▶ Annually review and update the SSB Pre-ETS Blueprint.

Response

Of 183 students last year, 130 or 71% were involved in a SSB skill-building activity. These opportunities are posted on the SSB website, sent to counselors and families, and emailed to families.

We are promoting and improving the year-round transition programs. BLIND, Inc. and the Duluth Center for Vision Loss have restructured their programs to better meet student and family needs. Their program information is promoted through the teacher listserv, counselor emails, and outreach to parents.

STP was held in June, 2018 with 13 students attending.

This program year SSB hosted Career Connections, a series of monthly classes held at SSB's central office. Each class corresponded to a different career pathway. We are planning a career expo for April, 2019.

SSB conducted a DeafBlind mentoring day in October, 2017. This is still in progress as a means to connect DeafBlind students with DeafBlind mentors.

The SSB Pre-ETS Blueprint has been reviewed, updated, and distributed to SSB staff and the State Rehabilitation Council – Blind.

PRIORITY:

During their senior year, 100% of transition aged students planning to attend college will complete technology and travel assessments and receive requisite equipment and training prior to graduation.

STRATEGIES:

- ▶ Each fall counselors identify students that are graduating.
- ▶ Technology specialists complete a comprehensive assessment and procure required equipment.
- ▶ Travel instructors complete a comprehensive assessment of student travel skills and recommend training.
- ▶ Counselors and Assistive Technology Specialists will work with the students Individualized Education Plan team to discuss these strategies and the assessment results so a coordinated plan can be implemented.
- ▶ Training is provided to students to build necessary skills for entering college.

Response

30 graduating students were initially identified, however there can be last minute changes as later in the year students in 18 – 21 programs may make last minute decisions.

SSB Technology Specialists completed assessments for 27 or 90% of students initially identified. Of those, 15 were actually college bound and 14 or 93% completed technology assessments.

Counselors coordinate with schools and families to address student travel skills. Not all assessments are necessarily performed by travel instructors as there may be situational circumstances for

any given student. 23 or 77% of students initially identified had travel assessments of which 11 or 73% of 15 were college bound.

The goal of 100% of students planning to attend college have assistive technology and travel assessments was not met. We have learned that we would need to analyze further to know what the reasons are that not all students were assessed. However, by looking at just the number of students who had assessments indicates a fairly good result.

Counselors attend IEP meetings and discuss transition strategies with the team. SSB has two dedicated transition counselors and a third has been hired to meet the increased number of students we are now serving.

As identified by the counselor, student, and if appropriate, family, training is identified and provided to build necessary skills for entering college.

PRIORITY:

Provide services and training to customers and vendors to improve the employment outcomes for DeafBlind (DB) individuals.

STRATEGIES:

- ▶ Focus on improving skills of vendors (state contractors) who are able to “directly” serve DB individuals.
 - ✓ Work with HKNC and/or other professionals to train current and potential ATB trainers on specific techniques for DB individuals. ATB training areas of specific interest include technology and tasks of daily living, especially to include ProTactile techniques.
 - ✓ Provide training to interpreters who frequently work with ATB vendors in Minnesota to improve on specific communication techniques, ex. ProTactile techniques and boundaries for DB individuals.

- ▶ Identify strategies to improve current transition services to address the specific needs of DeafBlind youth.
 - ✓ Develop DB Foundational Skills document.
 - ✓ Improve communication between DB Committee and SSB Transition Coordinator
 - ✓ To include DB youth in the content of messages about Transition services such as video, brochure, etc.
- ▶ Increase awareness of the DeafBlind community by collaborating with the DeafBlind consortium of agencies and participating in community events such as conferences/awareness day, panels, policy projects, presentations, etc.

Response

The DB sub-committee is working to identify vendors who work with DB customers and who may be interested in improving their skill sets. The DB sub-committee will provide training material and training from existing resources and include them in professional trainings as they become available.

A vendor survey is being developed to determine what they lack or are interested in learning to improve their techniques to work effectively with DB customers. A strategy to address identified needs will follow the survey.

A survey is going out to contracted interpreter service providers to determine if they have needs for training or guidance material. Results will guide whether training is offered to specific vendors or as a group.

The sub-committee continues to revise the DB Foundational Skills document to reflect updated allowable services.

The sub-committee has two SSB counselors who relay information and questions from the committee to the SSB Transition Coordinator. Communication has improved and there are no current issues in this area.

Material content is provided to youth in the alternative format of their choice. SSB counselors have been trained to utilize interpreters, braille, and digital print of videos. The Transition Coordinator is contacted if schools need materials in an alternative format.

The DB committee members have been a presence at community events to promote SSB services. Examples include Deaf Awareness Day, school career days and transition events, advocacy days at the Capital, SSB vendor trainings, and policy groups. The sub-committee has worked with establishing relationships between the MN DeafBlind Association and DeafBlind Services to create opportunities for DB individuals to be more involved in their communities and advocate for themselves and others.

PRIORITY:

Increase existing ongoing outreach efforts within the five top minority communities in Minnesota so they are aware of SSB and have access to information about SSB by participating in 15 touchpoint activities throughout the year.

STRATEGY:

- ▶ During Fall 2017 coordinate an open house for minority communities to learn more about SSB services

Response

This goal was met. The Minority Outreach committee participated in more than 15 touchpoint activities during this time period including the Hmong Resource Fair, Karen Senior Health Fair, Wisdom Steps, and meetings with both Red Lake and White Earth reservations. An open house was held in the fall of 2017 with low participation.

24 minority community outreach events were conducted.

Four job posting announcements were shared with 41 minority organizations..

FOCUS AREA: SSB-A Great Place to Work

PRIORITY:

SSB will create a culture that celebrates inclusion and diversity.

STRATEGIES:

- ▶ All SSB job postings have a preferred qualification of fluency in a second language.
- ▶ SSB will participate in the Connect 700 Hour program for the State of Minnesota.
- ▶ Work with the Minority Outreach Committee to develop an email distribution list of minority communities and communicate job openings to them.
- ▶ All postings are sent to consumer groups for broad dissemination.
- ▶ Expand the Pre-ETS student worker program and develop opportunities in greater Minnesota.

Response

Each spring a memo is sent to BEP operators asking if they are interested in providing a student worker opportunity during the summer to a Pre-ETS student. The BEP operators are informed that the work experience will be paid for by SSB.

Typically there are 3-5 BEP operators who indicate a willingness to participate. We try to match up potential Pre-ETS students with a volunteer BEP operator. This last summer a student from Duluth worked with the BEP operator in Moose Lake.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennifer Dunnam, Chair

Committee Members: Jennifer Dunnam, Chair, Steve Jacobson, Margaret Klein, Kristina Petromko

SSB Staff: Jennifer Beilke, Jon Benson

DeafBlind Committee Report

Committee Charge

This committee exists to support and advise State Services for the Blind (SSB) regarding its services to individuals who are both deaf/hard of hearing and blind/have low vision. This committee provides input to the Customer Satisfaction & Goals and Priorities Committee of the full Council for consideration in the development of annual goals and priorities in conjunction with SSB.

The DeafBlind Committee gathers on a monthly basis, and reports full attendance and active members. This year, the committee saw membership change late in the year with two member's terms expiring; Molly Wenzel Peterson and Sarah Carlson. We would like to thank these members for their time and dedication bettering the lives of Minnesotans living with visual and hearing impairments. The committee welcomes newly appointed chairperson Jessica Eggert, and newly appointed member AJ Herculeidez. This year, the committee focused on learning how new federal law and guidance has provided expanded opportunity for youth in pre-employment transition services, and looked into expanded opportunities for the DeafBlind youth of Minnesota to take advantage of expanded service offerings provided by their school and while working with SSB. We are pleased to provide information below on some of our committee activities in the past year below:

-Review of WIOA laws, and how those laws provided SSB, and our schools with the opportunity to dedicate time and funds towards pre-employment transition services. The committee was able to connect with school districts in Minnesota to gain ideas on how this could positively impact DeafBlind youth.

-Reviewed and discussed the Transition Aged DeafBlind framework and learned how SSB in

actively engaging the youth early on in their schooling. The group was able to use this timeline to focus on how the committee can use it to focus on DeafBlind specific learning opportunities, and experiences. This timeline is currently being reviewed and updated due to new federal guidance and SSB policy to provide our youth, their family and our schools a more current resource on ways to help prepare our DeafBlind youth for a successful future.

-In October 2017, the committee organized and provided an event for DeafBlind youth. This event focused on introducing the DeafBlind students in attendance to peer mentorship, role models, and pro-social youth experiences. The students, mentors, educators and parents gathered at Pinz event center in Woodbury Minnesota where they had a great evening filled with bowling, food, and networking. The students were not only able to meet other DeafBlind members of their own community, but hear about their own success stories and acquired new ideas for consideration on possible future opportunities. The youth also networked and met new members of their peer group, and were able to foster long lasting relationships. Feedback from the event was overwhelmingly positive from the youth, parents, and all in attendance. The committee was asked to think of future events similar to this.

-In April, the fifth annual Deaf Awareness Day was celebrated, with DeafBlind Committee members in attendance in White Bear Lake Minnesota. The committee members volunteered their time manning the booth alongside SSB staff present at the event. Both SSB and volunteers provided outreach to the event attendees on the duties of the State Rehabilitation Council for the Blind and the DeafBlind Committee, and on the services and advocacy that are available to DeafBlind stakeholders. The committee received the report that the event was well attended, with an added note that equal access was to be provided for all resulting in the successful outreach.

-The Committee has worked for some time on creating a DeafBlind Technology Day event for the DeafBlind students to experience and educate them on available technology. The purpose is to provide information and resource about assistive technology, and how they are used to promote access to information and services in home, community, school and the workplace. This event is being planned to be held at SSB in the springtime. The agenda will include technology experiences and exposure with SSB assistive technology experts providing the education, accompanied with a few DeafBlind adults to share about their experience utilizing these technologies. There will also be a tour of SSB to provide youth with a meet and greet of staff, who will provide them an understanding of vocational rehabilitation services available to them. A final opportunity of the day will be a tour of the low vision store to learn about high and low tier assistive technology with on-site demonstration. Coordination is underway with the school systems and stakeholders so this may be a successful experience for all!

-The Committee worked on creating a survey to send out to DeafBlind youth and their parents who are connected to SSB, and or DB services in Minnesota to get feedback on what experiences they/their parents would like to see them take part in. The committee is in the final stages of finishing this survey and will send it out in early 2019 to gain perspective on what opportunities could be provided for the DeafBlind youth in the future.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jessica Egger, Chair, DeafBlind Committee

Committee Members: Jessica Eggert, Chair, Wendy DeVore, AJ Herculeidez, Cathy Lyle, Jamie Taylor.

SSB Staff: Greg Applekamp, Ryan Odland

Employment Committee Report

Committee Charge

This committee exists to provide advice and propose strategies to increase the quantity and quality of employment outcomes for individuals served through the state vocational rehabilitation services for the blind system.

This year the Employment Committee began with all new members. Subsequently the committee reviewed the focus of the committee, and went through some of the committee's previous topics of concern. Some of this information is below.

This year SSB was able to provide 105 employment closures. This means there were 105 people who were employed for 90 days or more. This was an increase from last year. SSB now needs to get a customer employed for 90 days, and have follow ups at the 6 month and 12 month marks to insure the consumers were continuing to be employed.

Additionally, the committee received an overview of new performance measures SSB is evaluated against that were enacted as part of WIOA legislation. Performance indicators include: **1 and 2)** employment rate at different stages after clients exit the program, **3)** earnings rate, **4)** attainment of education or vocational degree or certification, **5)** skill attainment and **6)** services provided to employers such as training, job placement or accommodation assistance.

Special emphasis is placed on services to youth and young adults with specific measures related to employment and education of transition age youth.

SSB staff also provided committee members with an update on the Connect 700-hour program, which is a program to help individuals with disabilities obtain employment with the State of Minnesota. Under the Connect 700-hour program, if the individual is qualified, they receive priority in the

hiring process. It is not a guarantee that they will be hired, but there must be a conversation to see if the person is qualified to do the job. The person then does the job for up to 700 hours as a training period. If the person works out, he or she can then be hired permanently. Less than (10) SSB clients have already been placed through this program.

This year, DEED is working on a new branding of the Workforce Centers. Additionally, SSB is working with DEED on education for Workforce Center staff. This has occurred when some people who are blind were turned away because they were told they could not be helped; they needed to go through SSB.

Respectfully submitted
Robert Hobson, Employment Committee Chair

Committee Members: Robert Hobson, Chair, Michael Colbrunn, Brian Delude, Michael O'Day, Kenneth Rodgers, Dennis Siemers, Ron Woefel

SSB Staff: Pam Gowan, Natasha Jerde

Minority Outreach Committee Report

Committee Charge

The role of the Minority Outreach committee is to advise State Services for the Blind (SSB) with specific strategies concerning its services to individuals with minority backgrounds. Additionally, the committee is responsible to provide input to the council, and both the customer satisfaction and the goals and priorities committee in order to develop the annual goal and priorities in conjunction with State Services for the Blind.

During the past year, the committee met on the following dates: 12-05-17, 2-13-18, 3-03-18, 6-12-18, 7-31-18, and 10-02-18.

The focus of the committee has been to increase outreach efforts within minority communities in Minnesota so that they are aware of SSB and have access to information by participating in several outreach activities throughout the year. This year, as part of the committee outreach strategy, the committee decided to focus on a particular area; to table at minority communities' events while undertaking other outreach initiatives.

During the regular meetings, our Discussion centered around outreach strategies. For example, each committee member provided updates on outreach work he or she had undertaken. In addition, there were approval of meeting minutes, discussion on outreach strategies, and follow-up on previous agenda items.

Also, during our meetings, committee members brainstormed and discussed strategies to support our initiative; to table at community events. The purpose of this initiative is to increase awareness of the services SSB has to offer to minority communities, groups, and organizations.

The Minority outreach committee continues to establish relationship with minority groups and organizations to support our outreach efforts. We presented to minority organizations and groups, networked with individuals with minority background, and attended minority events and conferences. Listed below are some of the organization we connected with:

- Islamic Women's Leadership Event,
- Community Connections Conference,
- Karen Cultural Event,
- American Indian Center,
- Hmong Resource Fair,
- Asian Pacific American council,
- Event Community Connections organized by the U of M.

Plus, we continue to develop the list of contact information for organizations and groups that serve minority communities; we used this list for outreach purposes such as mailing lists or making phone calls to reach out.

Additionally, it is with pleasure that I announce and welcome our two newly appointed members, Catalina Martinez and Ryan Strunk on the committee.

Respectfully submitted,
Kotumu Kamara

Committee Members: Kotumu Kamara – Chair, Gloria Lafriniere, Catalina Martinez, Ryan Strunk, Michael Colbrunn, Jessie Wang

SSB Staff members: Susan Kusz, Alana Strickler, Lisa Iargis, and Meredith Larson

Senior Services Committee Report

Committee Charge

The Senior Services Committee exists to assist State Services for the Blind to improve and expand services to blind, visually impaired, or DeafBlind Minnesotans who are not interested in employment. The majority of this group is seniors. These customers face significant barriers to independence, but they can benefit from services which help maintain or increase their independence. Activities include identifying unmet needs, recommending services necessary to meet these needs and identifying strategies to remove or reduce barriers to their independence.

The Senior Services Committee is thoroughly engaged with the Senior Services Unit. It provides fresh perspectives, advice and new project ideas at each meeting.

For the 2018 Fiscal year, the meetings focused on three projects: Assist in establishing a Senior Recording Project; Become more knowledgeable about the Aging Eyes Initiative program in the Senior Services Unit; and to help evaluate the responses to SSB's survey from the previous year.

➤ Assist in the Establishment of Senior Recordings for Radio Talking Books

- The Senior Services Committee as a group periodically met with the new supervisor of Radio Talking Books, Scott McKinney, to help develop procedures and protocols for recording and distribution of personal stories. The focus for the stories was to document accounts of accomplishment for those whom have experienced vision loss later in life. It was felt that such stories could serve to encourage others who are also experiencing vision loss. The general consensus was to develop a timeslot on the RTB roster to broadcast the senior's stories. Additionally, other means of distribution of the recordings were also discussed including webcasts, podcasts and using National Library Service, Talking Book Machines. It was also suggested that providing electronic transcripts of the recordings would be of help to those who like to follow along with text.

➤ Aging Eyes Initiative

- Cindy Kaufman, the Aging Eyes Coordinator for the Senior Services Unit, attended two meetings of the Senior Services Committee to explain the program in detail. Committee members were very interested in the Aging Eyes Initiative's use of Community Partners in determining need for SSU services as well as to provide implements useful to the vision impaired. Cindy also educated the committee on the policies and procedures used by the AGI to evaluate and train the Community Partners.

➤ SSB Senior Services Unit program training effectiveness survey

- In FY 2017 the Senior Services Unit was mandated to provide customer training at a higher level. The Senior Services Unit, in partnership with Mississippi State University, created a consumer participation survey which could give SSB feedback on the effectiveness of the Senior Services program. The feedback from the survey will be used to measure program effectiveness.
- As part of its FY 2017 projects the committee piggy backed on to Senior Services Unit survey that could accommodate questions concerning mobility. A FY 2018 project of the committee was to help evaluate the results of this survey. However, due to technological issues and personnel changes, the Senior Services Unit survey was not completed for evaluation by the committee in FY 2018.

In addition to the above described projects, each meeting consisted of a report from Ed Letcher, director, Senior Services Unit, follow-up on previous agenda items and discussion and planning for current and future activities. The committee is in the process of evaluating several project ideas for the 2019 Fiscal year.

Respectfully Submitted,
Patricia McGee, Chair

Members: Patricia McGee, Patrick Barrett, Jean Christy, RoseAnn Faber, Judy Sanders

SSB Staff: Ed Letcher

Transition Committee Report

Committee Charge

This committee provides specific advice and counsel regarding services to transition-age youth (ages 14-21). This committee will provide input to the Customer Satisfaction & Goals and Priorities Committee and the full Council for consideration in the development of annual goals and priorities in conjunction with SSB, and will monitor those goals and priorities throughout the year.

Dates the Committee Met

The Transition Committee met on the following dates during FY 2017-2018: 9-21-17, 11-16-17, 1-18-18, 3-22-18, 5-24-18

The following is a report on the 2 Priorities and Strategies that Transition Committee identified as relevant to their committee and the actions taken to support these goals.

Review of the Federal Fiscal Year 2017 (FFY17) Goals & Priorities

The Transition Sub-Committee reviewed the SSB Goals and Priorities for Fiscal Year July 1, 2017. The committee then provided their feedback to the SRCB for review on September 28, 2017.

SECTION #1: Jobs, More Jobs, Better Jobs

PRIORITY:

Implement the workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act (WIOA) Pre-Employment Transition Services (PETS). (This new priority is a result of WIOA becoming law with the emphasis on youth with disabilities who are transition students to better prepare for the world of work through a variety of activities.)

STRATEGIES

1. Proposed: Identify and communicate with all transition aged students who are blind, visually impaired, and DeafBlind who are not currently engaged with SSB so they are informed of services available.

Transition Committee actions and activities that took place for FFY17-18:

- a. Transition Newsletter – Continuation of newsletter called, “The Spectacle” on a quarterly basis. The newsletter is made available online via the SSB Website as well as the teacher list-serve. Efforts will be made to continue to send out hard copies and alternative formats to students and parents.
- b. STP Program (June 2018) & Summer Paid Work Experience
 - i. STP was held for 12 days in June, 2018. The students spent a full day at SSB and met with SSB staff and placement team members. The students participated in mock interviews with SSB staff.
 - ii. Several students had work experience during the STP Program and job shadows.
 - iii. Students were supported by SSB for paid-work experiences after the program. (July – August 2018)
- c. Transition Services State Grant Funding (2017-2018) - BLIND, Inc. located in Minneapolis, and the Lighthouse Center for Vision Loss, located in Duluth, continued their state grant to fund the following:
 - i. Year-round Transition Services for Blind, Low Vision and DeafBlind students.
 - ii. Statewide outreach efforts in providing informational seminars to professionals, teachers, parents and students.

- iii. Summer Transition & Employment Program Services.
- iv. Peer Mentoring Program.
- d. SSB Transition Coordinator. Sheila Koenig, who was hired for this position in 2015 continues to focus on the areas listed below:
 - i. Keeping in contact with current and new SSB Transition students.
 - ii. Attending IEP meetings, building relationships with all the team players, meeting with all SSB Counselors.
 - iii. Attending various conferences throughout the State (BVI, Council Meetings, etc.)
 - iv. Coordinating and attending outreach activities that also include a variety of media formats and outlets.

SECTION #2: SSB-Your Resource Within Reach

PRIORITY:

All Blind, Visually Impaired, and DeafBlind Minnesotans are aware of and have access to information about SSB.

STRATEGIES:

- Develop and implement marketing and outreach plan targeting Regional Low Incidence Facilitators and Special Education directions.

Transition events that occurred FFY 2017-2018 and upcoming events:

- a) Blind and Socially Savvy: Three introductory sessions in 2016-2017 were provided and were well received and attended. This year was a continuation of last year and had a Step Two focus. Students who completed Step One last year were eligible to attend Step Two this year.

- a. April 13-15, 2018. This event was for participants who attended last year. This was held at the Duluth Center for Vision Loss.
- b. August 5-10, 2018. This event was for first-time attendees. This was held at the Duluth Center for Vision Loss.

- b) Self-Advocacy and ProTactile (PT) Training: SSB is sponsoring several workshops with John Lee Clark who is a DeafBlind consultant in providing self-advocacy and ProTactile training for DeafBlind students at MSAD.
- c) Career Connections- SSB continued to offer workshops for their Career Connections program. This is aligned with the Minnesota Career Paths which are divided into 6 sections. Every other month SSB provides a workshop for transition students highlighting one section at a time. At these workshops employers and adults with a vision loss who are in the highlighted field will be invited to present. The first workshop was held on Monday, September 25th, 2017 and addressed Arts, Communication and Information Systems. Some of the presenters included Walker Art Museum, Minute (computer programming), Hubbard Broadcasting and Sam Jasmine, a local radio host who is Blind. Participants do not have to be SSB consumers. A call-in number for student that are not able to attend in person, is also available. Other careers presented on this year were:
 - a. January 23, 2018. Human Services
 - b. February 27, 2018. Health Science, Technology
 - c. March 27, 2018. Engineering, Math, Technology
- d) DeafBlind Youth Day - October 7th, 2017. SSB DeafBlind Committee and members from the SSB Transition Committee partnered with the Minnesota DeafBlind project and DeafBlind Services of Minnesota in hosting a DeafBlind

Committee Reports

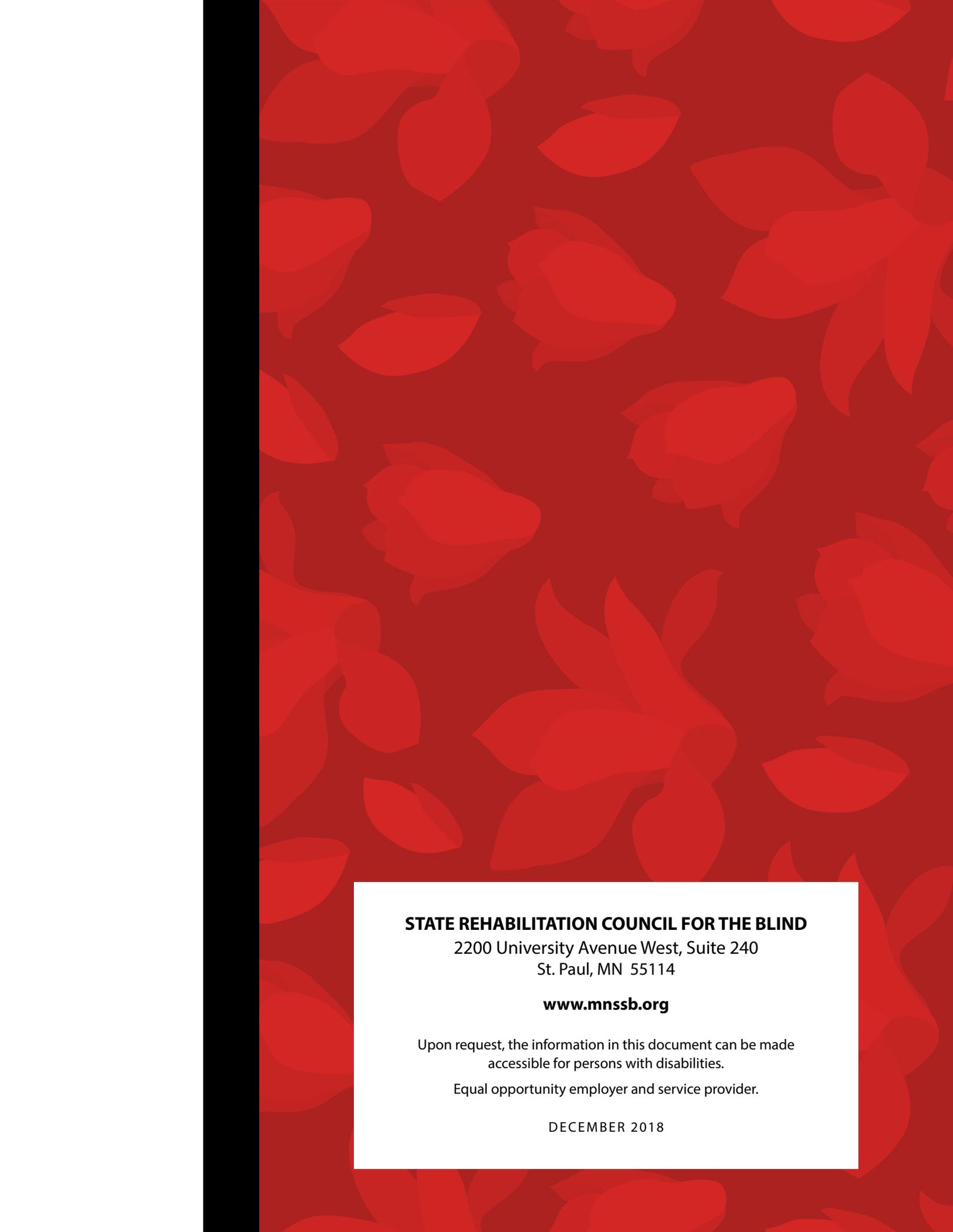
transition youth mentor bowling activity. This activity was for DeafBlind students between the ages of 14 to 21 and was held at Pinz Bowling Alley in Woodbury. Pizza, ice breaker activities, and bowling were provided free of charge for attendees.

- e) **PACER Workshops:** SSB has developed a contract with PACER to create outreach and training opportunities for parents and families. A workshop was held on October 10th, 2017 at the Bloomington PACER Center. This workshop covered the IEP process and SSB services. Barb Ziemke spoke about the IEP process and Sheila Koenig spoke about SSB services. Workshops and trainings have continued through-out the year.
- f) **Opportunities Fair** – February 25, 2017: State Services for the Blind is hosting an Opportunities Fair on Saturday, February 25 at Fairview Community Center, 1910 County Road B West, Roseville, MN 55113 from noon until 4. This event provided an opportunity for Transition students to learn about internships, assistive technology, summer programs, and more.

Respectfully Submitted,
Wendy DeVore, Committee Chair

Committee Members: Wendy DeVore, Chair,
Kristin Oien, Julie Kochevar, Elizabeth Bruber, Jeff
Thompson, Mitchell Gip, Barb Zimke

SSB Staff: Mike Newman, Sheila Koenig

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STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL FOR THE BLIND

2200 University Avenue West, Suite 240
St. Paul, MN 55114

www.mnssb.org

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DECEMBER 2018