
**COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS WITH PRIVATE NON-PROFIT VOCATIONAL
REHABILITATION SERVICE PROVIDERS**

4.8(b)(3)

The utilization of community rehabilitation programs varies considerably throughout the state in that needs and resources are unique to each region. The regional offices at the local level work closely with their local providers to identify needs and to determine, with the provider, whether or not they are able to meet that need. In addition, the triennial assessment of rehabilitation needs completed in FY 2012 included survey questions specific to community rehabilitation programs, their ability to meet individual's employment related needs and barriers encountered in meeting needs. Survey results are discussed in *Attachment 4.11(a)*.

The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation also continues to utilize information gathered from public hearings as well as input received from the providers themselves and organizations such as the North Dakota Association of Community Providers and the North Dakota Statewide Independent Living Council to work more closely together. The agency will continue to make every effort to improve services to individuals when a problem is identified in a particular region.

To insure ongoing dialogue, the North Dakota Association of Community Providers and the North Dakota Statewide Independent Living Council are represented on the State Rehabilitation Council where issues are discussed whenever appropriate.

As a major player on the North Dakota Workforce Development Council, DVR continues to be an active partner as opportunities arise.

The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation continues to survey providers for input regarding their training needs. North Dakota also continues to use the TACE in Colorado as a training resource when training needs are identified, including any training needs that may emerge as a result of provider outcome data. Current training available to Community Rehabilitation Providers includes: video conference training on various topics, DVR 101, and National Employment Certification through TACE.

DVR continues to be involved in quarterly statewide TBI advisory and systems committees.

Outcome based job placement rates and guidelines were implemented October 1, 2012. Two work groups were established from the semi-annual provider meeting to review and update SEP guidelines and job placement services. The group also evaluated and developed a standardized situational assessment form to be used by all DVR staff and providers across the state. A standardized fee for this service was also established.

In addition, standards will be established for facilities and providers of services used by the agency. Rehabilitation facilities must be certified either by CARF, The Council (The Council of Quality and Leadership for People with Disabilities or CQL) or have an approved plan in place for acquiring accreditation. Medical service providers must be

approved by the State Licensing Board through its agreement with the Department of Human Services. All educational and vocational technical programs must be recognized by the State Board of Higher Education.

The department has, as part of its contract package, language that addresses accessibility of facilities, affirmative action plans, special communication needs, and fraud, waste, and abuse.