



Joint Legislative Oversight and Sunset Committee Hearing

Via Zoom

February 9, 2021

DVI MISSION STATEMENT AND BACKGROUND

The Mission of DVI is to provide educational, vocational, and technical support to empower and foster independence for Delawareans with visual impairments.

While DVI is a small division in Delaware state government, the services it provides to more than 3,300 Delawareans are life-altering.

RECOMMENDATION 3: ADDITIONAL STATUTORY UPDATES

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- House Bill 301 enacted on June 22, 2020

NEXT STEPS

- Continue to review and revise legislation to address areas of concern identified during the JLOSC review

RECOMMENDATION 4: ANALYSIS OF AGENCY STRUCTURE – STAFF AND FUNDING

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Repurposing positions to meet service gaps
- Participating in the Equitable Infrastructure Subcommittee's proposed plan to create more equitable services and funding across the state
- DVI's organizational development initiative

NEXT STEPS

- Continue with organizational development to create and implement plan for improving agency operations and enhancing services
- Utilize findings from the VR program's Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment to inform the plan
- Consult with DHSS to assist with identifying resources and plan for implementation

RECOMMENDATION 5: AGENCY STAFF – TRAINING

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Contracting with experts in the field and accessing technical assistance from National TA Centers
- Acquired a VR specific learning management system for staff training
- Collaborating with Statewide Training to better utilize the DLC
- Hired Training and Communications Director

NEXT STEPS

- Continue with organizational development to identify agencywide and program-specific priorities and training needs
- Develop and implement a comprehensive training plan

RECOMMENDATION 6: AGENCY STAFF – POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Newly-created Division policies
- New Employee Manual

NEXT STEPS

- Finalize draft policies and ensure staff receive training
- Create a system to monitor and update policies regularly

RECOMMENDATION 7: CREATE AGENCY PROGRAM-SPECIFIC POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUALS

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Reviewed service delivery policies for all programs
- Identified gaps
- Prioritized policy updates

NEXT STEPS

- Finalize draft policies and ensure staff receive training
- Create a system to monitor and update policies regularly
- Create a policy team

RECOMMENDATION 8: EDUCATION SERVICES – FUNDING

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Participating in the Equitable Infrastructure Subcommittee of the Special Education Strategic Plan Advisory Council (SESPAC)
- Developing plan to address equity in services and funding
- Working closely with the Department of Education to address funding needs and apply for High Needs Grants when available

NEXT STEPS

- Continue to participate in the Subcommittee and further refine proposed plan

RECOMMENDATION 9: EDUCATION SERVICES – COMMUNICATION

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Completed first review of DVI/DOE MOU to identify updates/clarification required
- Recently implemented a monthly DVI Education “Coffee Hour” to allow for regular engagement with LEAs
- Trainer/Educator position dedicated to serving students and LEAs
- Implementation of a Department-wide constituent inquiry database

NEXT STEPS

- Ensure MOU, policies/procedures, and practices are aligned
- Incorporate education communication strategies into larger DVI communication plan
- Continue regular communications with DOE representatives, LEAs and transition stakeholders

RECOMMENDATION 10: ACCESSIBILITY OF DVI OFFICES

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- DHSS Herman Holloway Campus architectural updates
- Community-based assistive technology services

NEXT STEPS

- More cost-neutral solutions
- Council on the Blind Accessibility Sub-committee

RECOMMENDATION 11: BOARDS, COMMITTEES, OR COUNCILS RELATED TO DVI

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Working with Boards and Commissions to expand recruitment efforts
- Added new council members

NEXT STEPS

- Continue to pursue membership with the Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens
- Complete plan developed with RSA to correct the issues related to SRC
- Work with SRC to jointly develop goals and priorities

