



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES (DHS)

COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND & VISUALLY IMPAIRED (CBVI)

STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL (SRC)

MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 6, 2025 - HYBRID MEETING

130 LIVINGSTON AVE | NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ 08901

Members Present: Ronda Banks, Vito DeSantis, Breeanna Douglas, Alice Eaddy, James Good, Steven McCoy, Linda Melendez, Nicole Pratt, Gary Robinson, Sarah Spitzmiller, Lauren Weishaar, Joseph Zesski

Absent: Donald Campbell, Felicia Hopson, Sioban Leahy, Gwen Orlowski, John O'Connell, Wanda Williford

Ex Officio Present: Dawn Corbett, Dr. Bernice Davis, Charles Pat McKenna

CBVI Staff: Esther Lavarin, Bryan McClain

Members of Public Present: Wanda Blann, Susan Head, Rhea Hood, Jon Katz, Bill Schultz, Braden Flax

Vito DeSantis, SRC Chairperson, welcomed everyone, calling the meeting to order at 9:32am.

Vito announced that the meeting was being held in compliance with the New Jersey Open Public Meeting Act, NJSA 10:4-6.

After attendance and introductions, Vito reminded all those participating on Zoom to keep themselves muted until speaking and for all those participating to announce themselves prior to speaking. Vito reminded members of the public that they are welcome to be at the meeting and if they have questions concerning the meeting, they can wait until after the meeting or send an email to Charles Pat McKenna at Charles.McKenna@dhs.nj.gov.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

The minutes of February 7, 2025 were acknowledged as received and reviewed. Vito asked if there were any comments about them, or corrections to be made. There were none. Nicole

motioned to accept the minutes as sent. Joe seconded the motion. These minutes will be put into the permanent record of the SRC.

The next SRC meeting will be Friday October 3, 2025.

New Business:

Chair/Vice Chair Elections:

Vito DeSantis was the only nomination for Chair of the SRC. Vito spoke on his background and why he would like to serve as the SRC Chair. Pat facilitated the vote.

Vito received the majority of votes to elect as Chair of the SRC and has been confirmed.

Nicole Pratt and Joe Zesski were nominated for Vice Chair of the SRC. Nicole and Joe spoke on their background with vision loss both personally and professionally and why they would like to serve as the Vice Chair of the SRC. Pat facilitated the vote via hand raising for both those in person and on Zoom.

Nicole received the majority of the votes to elect as Vice Chair of the SRC and has been confirmed.

Review of New Practice for Committees

Vito began discussion regarding the need to setup a regular schedule for meeting as subcommittees, emphasizing to the committee chairs the need to organize the meetings. Vito also offered his assistance.

Vito also mentioned that John O'Connell received a new role as District Director with the Blinded Veterans Association and would like to step down from Chair of the Business Engagement Committee, yet remaining on the committee. Anyone who is interested should make it known.

Discussion/Selection of Annual Report Committee Chair

Vito transitioned to the Annual Report Committee Chair. Pat mentioned that currently the Chair is Breeanna Douglas, and then asked Breeanna if she is still interested in being the Chair, to which she confirmed her interest.

Pat provided clear expectations on the Chair of the committees, identifying the need for keeping the momentum going on the work of the SRC in between the meetings, the need to schedule the Committee meetings in between the SRC meetings, and if there is a need for assistance in hosting a Zoom meeting, either himself or Bryan would be able to assist in this way or in other ways.

Dr. Bernice Davis – Executive Director’s Report

Dr. Davis began by extending a congratulations again to the newly elected Chair, Vito DeSantis, and Vice Chair, Nicole Pratt.

Federal Budget & Grant Funding

There was good information to report; earlier in the year CBVI was concerned about what monies would be received for FY25. CBVI did receive the full FY25 VR Grant money and a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for FY24 & FY25. The question is now looking forward to FY26. There is good reason to believe that CBVI may not receive a COLA for next year, and there has not been any news on Reallotment monies. For 2025 there will be a process for applying for Reallotment money. Historically, CBVI applies every year, and because of being in good standing, the requests were always considered, and CBVI received what was asked for. The Reallotment funding received has been focused on acquiring a new Case Management System that is more sophisticated, with the ability to quickly turnaround reports needed to send to the Federal Government, and the ability to manipulate data in real time.

There is speculation, however, that the FY26 Reallotment monies will either remain the same or be reduced.

Technical Assistance Centers

There are Technical Assistance Centers which help VR agencies administer and comply with Federal VR expectations, and it was said that as of October 2025 those TACs will not be available, however, assistance across the country will be provided in a different forum but not in the same way. Currently there are Universities that have historically been apart of the TAC and continue to have services available for VR agencies, but for a fee, which is a big difference the free services of a TAC.

Order of Selection

An Order of Selection is like a triage, or preliminary assessment of consumers. Because of not having the money to serve everyone that a VR agency is responsible for serving, it is then required for that agency to follow federal regulations on providing service to the most vulnerable of their constituents, and in determining which cases are to remain open, and which ones are to be closed. There has been a lot of focus on an Order of Selection. A few agencies since the start of 2025, due to state budgets and a lack of federal funding, have gone into an Order of Selection. Prior to the Pandemic, there were many agencies in an Order of Selection, but they have since come out. Many are now going back into an Order of Selection. CBVI has a draft plan of an Order of Selection in the event it becomes necessary to implement.

CBVI Fiscal and all staff has been very proactive in these regards. CBVI is looking to sure up the financial landscape for FY26 because of being unsure of what will happen with federal grant funding, and because of the overall rise in operating costs.

Supportive Employment (SE) Funding:

SE funding are Federal monies used to support adults and youths in employment. CBVI, along with many other agencies across the country, has had difficulties in expending all of these monies, particularly on the youth. CBVI is looking for additional partnerships and avenues to expend these monies which are a total of approximately \$90,000 annually. That amount is difficult to spend because of the requirements on how agencies are to spend these funds.

CSAVR / NCSAB Spring Convention

Dr. Davis attended the Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR) / National Council of State Agencies for the Blind (NCSAB) Spring Conference in April, and at that point in the year there was a lot of focus on what was going to happen Federally regarding Order of Selection and the grant funding. Now the focus is on the agencies spending their monies.

State Budget & Grant Funding

Concerning the State Budget, CBVI was asked to put forth a 5% reduction proposal, which, if accepted, would require CBVI to work with a decreased budget for the year. As of yet, the proposal has not been acted on by the State Government. Once July 1st arrives, the new State Fiscal Year will begin and the 5% reduction would not be needed.

There is an ongoing hiring freeze for the state except for critical positions. CBVI has sent a critical needs packet in response to the freeze, to provide justification for hiring various positions. With current staffing there is no significant delays in service delivery, but some delays have been noticed, and this was made part of the justification sent to the Central Office.

Dr. Davis then opened for Questions.

- With the elimination of the TACs, with the RSA continue with the discretionary grants?
 - Dr. Davis explained that for FY25 and the discretionary grants that are current, those grants will continue. But there is no certainty they will be in place for FY26.
 - Nicole also mentioned that SPAN has a discretionary grant for the Real Transition Partners program and was recently asked to reapply for the grant. She too has heard similarly about FY26, that it is a wait and see situation.
- Regarding the plan for Order of Selection, Vito noted for the council that if the Order of Selection plan was to be implemented it would have to be approved by the SRC first.

Dr. Davis added a point about the SE monies, that there is the option of returning the monies, but CBVI would not want to be noted as having to return the SE funds each year.

- Vito asked if the population for this grant is being served, but without the SE funds?
 - Dr. Davis acknowledged in the affirmative, this population is being served.

- Vito followed by asking, is it a simply a matter of identifying which account the money should come out of?
 - Esther answered that it is not simply that, but in order to spend the SE funds the youth have to be employed in Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE), but most of the youths CBVI serves are seeking to attend College instead of employment.
 - CIE can be part time or fulltime employment, the person is paid no less then minimum wage, they are integrated in their place of employment, and are eligible for any type of promotion or fringe benefits that everyone else is eligible for there.

Pat McKenna - Assistant Division Director's Report

Joseph Kohn Training Center (JKTC)

JKTC is presently averaging 10-12 consumers and Pat hopes to increase the average number of students to 12-14 consumers in the next few months. Pat and Joy, the JKTC Manager, have been working on improvements that can be made to the JKTC Operations and Procedures. One of which is the JKTC Application which was sent to the SRC Policy & Procedures committee for their review and input. The hope is to review and update some of the guidance documents to ensure excellence in the JKTC Operations.

JKTC has hosted Family Day twice, and this Fall work is being done to host another one. It is a day where an active JKTC consumer may invite a family member to join them for the day so they may get a better idea of what goes on at the JKTC - the instruction, its value, and its impact. Blindness has an impact on more than just the person who received the diagnosis, it also has an impact on their family members and friends, and to provide this type of opportunity for them to visit the center for that education is seen as very valuable.

Preparations have started for hosting the LIFE101 Summer Program, a two-week residential opportunity for students ages 14-16. This will be taking place at the end of July and the beginning of August.

Business Enterprises of New Jersey (BENJ):

BENJ is reopening a location that had been closed in early 2020 for Pandemic related reasons. It is being reorganized from the former Snack Bar model to the current Micro Market model.

BENJ will be holding a meeting at the JKTC on June 28th a training opportunity for the BENJ Operators and Field Representatives.

Work continues on locating, building, and developing more vending locations for the program. Pat invited anyone at the meeting who may know of potential locations for the BENJ program to please reach out to him. For 2025 there are a few new locations that have opened, and it's good to see that CBVI has been able to build back these BENJ opportunities.

The BENJ and EDGE transition program will be partnering up again this summer to offer internship opportunities to appropriate students in the EDGE program.

Agency Updates:

The Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that govern the Summer programs at The College of New Jersey (TCNJ) will be ending on September 30, 2025. Pat and others are working on the process for what the next generation of summer programs will look like starting in 2026, since the current model of the programs are wrapping up after this year.

The EDGE program is facilitated by the ARC of Ocean County. There are currently 113 students in the EDGE Program. Additional information will be sent to the SRC from Pat.

A Request for Proposal (RFP) was sent out recently for a new transition program, a weekend program to run from Friday evening through Sunday afternoon, for transition students on the theme of mentoring and advocacy. The hope is that this will offer additional opportunities to transition students.

New training opportunities and in service trainings are continuing to be scheduled for staff, a number of them are to be scheduled over the next 6 months.

Pat then opened for questions.

- Vito said he has read an article that discussed how businesses across the country are now requiring employees to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) in one way or another to help them become more efficient. In looking at the JKTC, and in response to the MOAs running their course, would it be worthwhile to start looking to train individuals on AI?
 - Pat sought to clarify the question, asking who would be the target of the training? Vito was referring to all, consumers, staff, etc.
 - Pat then answered it would absolutely be worthwhile to do so, yet an associated question to be considered would be how can this be done in an effective way when considering the efficiencies, the cost, and what will be done with it?
 - An example of an AI tool common now are the Meta Ray Ban glasses, and Pat expressed that what we see now is just the very beginning of what is going to be possible in the future, which will impact a person's ability to live independently.
 - Vito commented that he sees a role for the SRC in this, specifically with the Business Engagement committee and with Nicole at SPAN to further the discussion on having some sort of AI training, at least introducing what AI is and how it works.

Esther Lavarin – VR Coordinator’s Report

Business Relations Unit (BRU):

BRU is in the planning phase of a virtual career fair scheduled for this fall. BRU is also implementing the Progressive Employment approach at the JKTC for the students participating in the Work Experience training. At the same time, the team is working on increasing the number of employers that CBVI is working with so as to provide more opportunities for the students who are ready to begin working.

Employment, Development, Guidance, & Engagement (EDGE):

EDGE will be hosting their Celebration of Success event on June 14th with guest speakers Steven McCoy of the SRC, Pat McKenna and Dr. Davis of CBVI. EDGE will also be hosting their annual summer BBQ at Roosevelt Park in August 2025.

Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Updates:

Transition Counselors are now collecting medical documentation for the students attending the LIFE101 program from July 28th through August 8th.

The TCNJ Summer Programs will be held from July 14th through July 26th. A total of 29 consumers will be attending across the 3 different programs: STEPS, SUCCESS, and CREATE. College Unit counselors are working with Transition counselors to prepare students attending college in Fall 2025.

Two Deafblind counselors attended the Helen Keller National Center (HKNC) Tech Blitz event to learn about new tools that will become available for deafblind individuals. One tool that really stood out was the Tater Robotics tool, a mechanical hand that translates English to Braille using tactile finger spelling. This tool will allow deafblind consumers to receive voice and text communications in real time. This device is not yet available.

Supportive Employment (SE)

Esther and team are in the process of developing an SE assessment for prospective vendors, to make sure they are able to support our consumers in their needs for supportive employment. In the development of the assessment, it was realized that the training related to working with blind and visually impaired individuals should come from CBVI and the team is now in the beginning stages of redeveloping a training for the vendors. The training will cover customized employment, supportive employment, and blindness etiquette. This will also be available to the VR Counselors (VRC) as well as the employment vendors.

Regarding the spending of SE funding, Esther has been in contact with Sandra Miller from the N-TAC about it. Sandra has put her in contact with the Minnesota, Wisconsin, Massachusetts, and Vermont Blind Agencies to discuss best ways to utilize SE funding. They have been meeting and discussing the topic and have been informed that Maine and Oregon are utilizing their SE funding, so they are looking to speak with those agencies as well.

Vision Loss Alliance of NJ (VLANJ) Fellowship Program:

There are 20 members in the fellowship program and they are engaged in the meetings. Two Meetings took place in May.

May 9th – Resolving a Conflict – The Mental Health Perspective

May 30th – The Power of Choice

Esther then opened for questions. There were none.

Old Business:

Client Assistance Program (CAP) Report by Disability Rights New Jersey (DRNJ):

The CAP Report was submitted for inclusion with the meeting minutes by Susan Head, of Disability Rights New Jersey (DRNJ) and highlights were presented to the SRC. The second quarter report dealt with DVRS and not CBVI. The full report will be appended to the end of these meeting minutes.

Committee Reports:

- Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment (CSNA) – Chaired by Vito DeSantis
 - Vito informed the SRC that the CSNA report is due next year, and work on processing the Assessment needs to begin.
 - The committee met and discussed some of the targeted consumer groups for the Assessment.
 - Transition aged youths 14-21years
 - Deafblind
 - Pre-ETS
 - Vito reviewed these targeted groups and added the Supported Employment youths. It was then asked if any others had additional groups to target. There were none.
 - Nicole motioned to accept the targeted communities mentioned. Lauren seconded the motion. All were in favor.
 - Vito asked Bryan to read the series of questions previously used for the Assessment, and after reading them, Vito asked if the SRC would like to approve them for the upcoming Assessment.
 - Nicole motioned to accept the questions as presented. Dawn seconded the motion. All were in favor.

- Business Engagement Committee – Chaired by John O’Connell
 - Brief email sent by John stating he has a new role and needs to step down as Chair.
 - No other points were presented by other members of the Committee.
- Policy and Procedures – Chaired by Lauren Weishaar
 - Lauren presented an update regarding the Policy & Procedures committee reviewing the new proposed JKTC Application and provided feedback. Once completed the application will be sent to the SRC.
 - The committee will be receiving a College Services Handbook soon and will be reviewing it as a committee and will be providing feedback on that.
- Quality Assurance Committee – Chaired by Gary Robinson
 - Gary needed to leave early and did not have any updates to present.
- SRC Annual Report Committee – Chaired by Breeanna Douglas
 - Pat presented the timeline for the annual report’s completion.

Member Updates:

Members were called upon to provide updates to the SRC.

- Update sent via email: John was selected as USA Hockey’s Disabled Athlete of the Year and attended the awards ceremony in Denver, CO. He was also elected as a District Director at the Blinded Veterans Association.
- Sarah Schiffelbein - DOE, gave two updates. Dare to Dream Student Leadership conferences for Middle school and Highschool students with disabilities throughout NJ. Schools apply to come and the students run the show. Have held 8 of the 9 conferences and the last one will be next week. Have had 1,200 attendees and 78 schools represented. The Disability Innovation Fund (DIF) project, now called New Jersey’s Pathways to Secondary Success held a logo contest for the DIF project from amongst the 3 school districts, Newark, Edison, Pinelands. The winner came from Pinelands Regional School District. Website group will be starting this summer to develop the Transition Hub. A summer academy is happening for the agencies involved in the grant and the school districts on June 26, 27. Esther will be presenting for CBVI at this event. It is expected to be working in the schools with the students this fall.
- Linda Melendez – NFB. NFB is holding its annual convention July 8-13th in New Orleans, LA. On July 9th there will be a job seeker’s seminar and career fair. Anyone with questions can reach out to Linda at president@nfbnj.org

- James Good mentioned information on the reopened Division of Children and Families (DCF) location. James met the gentleman that will be running that program who had a lot of questions for him about Micro Markets and will visit James again for more information.
- Joe Zesski, ADA – The ADA National Network has their national conference coming up in Atlanta, GA on June 16-18. Joe will be attending and doing 3 presentations.
- Steven McCoy – Will be looking to create a group chat on WhatsApp to share immediate questions and resources with the Business Engagement Committee.
- Nicole Pratt, SPAN – Regarding the 2026 Budget surrounding the Parent Centers, they did reapply for their 5-year grant, however, the proposed budget is that the Federal Government would send the money to the States, through the DOE for the SPAN centers. SPAN conference coming up on September 27th in Princeton, NJ. Information on registration will be forwarded.
- Ronda Banks, NJT – Customer Forums – We will be conducting customer forums this summer. Once the dates are finalized, I will be sure to share them with everyone. Rider Choice Program (TNCs) – We have a dedicated team available to assist with any questions or concerns regarding the program. Please feel free to reach out to us at AccessLinkAltServices@njtransit.com or call (973) 491-4297.

Announcements:

No additional announcements made.

Adjournment:

Linda motioned to adjourn the meeting. Joe seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 12:10pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bryan McClain

Bryan McClain

Executive Secretarial Assistant

DISABILITY RIGHTS NEW JERSEY

ADVANCING JUSTICE. ADVOCATING INCLUSION.

GWEN ORLOWSKI, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Disability Rights NJ Report to State Rehabilitation Council

Client Assistance Program (CAP) Reporting Period: 01/01/25-03/30/25

Prepared by: Gwen Orłowski, Executive Director

Brief introduction of CAP

The Client Assistance Program (CAP) at Disability Rights NJ (DRNJ) provides legal advocacy and education to people with disabilities applying for or receiving services funded by the Rehabilitation Act, including vocational rehabilitation. CAP also provides legal advocacy and education about Title I (employment rights) of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

This year we are working to ensure equitable access to Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) services for VR applicants and clients by providing self-advocacy assistance, limited legal assistance, and extended legal assistance as well as education emphasizing individual plan for employment (IPE) development, informed choice, and access to appeal rights. Educate policymakers about access to VR services and engage in systemic advocacy including participation in State Rehabilitation Councils.

CAP Goals and Objectives:

Goal 2: Ensure that people with disabilities can live and work in the community by accessing equitable person-centered services, supports, and resources.

A. Employment

- **OBJECTIVE 1:** Ensure equitable access to Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) services for VR applicants and clients by providing self-advocacy assistance, limited legal assistance, and extended legal assistance as well as education emphasizing individual plan for employment (IPE) development, informed choice, and access to appeal rights. Educate policymakers about access to VR services and engage in systemic advocacy including participation in State Rehabilitation Councils.

NEW JERSEY'S DESIGNATED PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY AGENCY.

Individual Client Representation:

- Active: 27 clients/30 Service Requests (some clients have multiple SRs)
- Opened: 11 clients/11 SRs
- Closed: 15 clients/15 SRs
- Carry over into 3rd quarter: 15 clients/15 SRs

Systemic Issue:

- In a client matter that went to fair hearing, an Initial Agency Decision was issued, and within 13 days, Disability Rights NJ issued exceptions. However, the Acting Director issued a Final Agency Decision prior to the 13th day, upholding the IAD against the client. Thereafter, the Deputy Attorney General wrote a letter positing that the ALJ may only issue a FAD under federal law because NJ had not adopted a two-tier fair hearing process allowed under federal law (pointing out that there was an expired regulation that did allow for the two-tiered process). Thereafter, the Acting Director issued a new letter saying that the ALJ decision was the FAD, and that her FAD was retracted.

Disability Rights NJ filed an appeal to the appellate division on the underlying substance, and the appellate division asked for a brief addressing the procedural issues. Disability Rights NJ filed the requested letter brief, but thereafter, at the client's request withdrew the appeal.

This issue needs to be resolved.

Examples of Client cases closed in 2nd quarter:

- Disability Rights NJ represented a 36-year-old client diagnosed with anxiety and neurological disorders, a traumatic brain injury and visual impairment by providing advice and counsel and limited advocacy regarding the implementation of a revised IPE. We ordered and reviewed documents from the client's DVRS file and attended the client's IPE meeting at the DVRS office. The information we obtained from our review of the case, indicated that DVRS had resisted providing the client with the therapeutic and assistive technology services she had requested for over a year. We requested that DVRS schedule an in-person IPE meeting which we attended with the client. At the meeting we requested that DVRS implement revisions to the client's IPE including a change of employment goal from biological technician to biomedical engineer; an expanded timeline for client to complete her bachelor's degree; the provision of vision therapy services; and an updated assistive technology assessment. DVRS implemented the requested services to the IPE which the client signed this quarter.
- Disability Rights NJ represented a 37-year-old client diagnosed with bi-polar, schizophrenia and hearing impairment by providing advice, counsel and limited advocacy to assist client gain access to customized employment services. The client requested

NEW JERSEY'S DESIGNATED PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY AGENCY.

Disability Rights NJ assistance during monitoring visits conducted by our agency in New Jersey's sheltered workshops. DVRS advised that based on a letter they received from the sheltered workshop's contracted psychiatrist, the client's disability was too severe to benefit from DVRS services. We educated DVRS that prior to making this determination they must conduct trial work experiences, which the client successfully completed. We scheduled multiple in-person meetings with DVRS and based on evaluation reports requested that DVRS authorize an assistive technology assessment. We also requested that DVRS authorize customized employment (CE) services based on the client's interest in working in the community. The assistive technology assessment report recommended technology and training which DVRS authorized. The client had to wait for CE services to be implemented due to a lack of trained CE vendors in the state, however, after client met and approved the vendor who would be providing the services DVRS authorized this service at an in-person meeting which we attended with the client. These services were documented in an IPE which the client reviewed and signed.

- Disability Rights NJ represented a client diagnosed with Generalized Anxiety Disorder and Learning Disabilities to provide advice, counsel, and limited advocacy to obtain DVRS financial sponsorship for a Master of Art in Education with a certification of Preschool-3 (MAT). This credential is necessary for the client to obtain the necessary licensure to own and operate an early childhood center in New Jersey serving more than 30 children, which is the client's self-employment goal. We reviewed the facts of the case, and based on the client's request for assistance, represented the client at a DVRS meeting to revise the client's IPE. DVRS agreed to develop an IPE that included financial sponsorship for a Master of Art in Education at Montclair State University (MSU), at the Rutgers University tuition rate. DVRS also agreed to provide funds for the client to retake the Praxis test and \$700 in funds for books and supplies. These services were documented in an IPE which the client signed this quarter.

Educating Policy Makers:

Disability Rights NJ has been attending regular meetings with the State Rehabilitation Councils and providing information and updates on activities and systemic concerns that have been identified through our work.

- **OBJECTIVE 2:** Increase awareness of the Client Assistance Program (CAP) and Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS) through outreach about CAP and PABSS to Vocational Rehabilitation constituencies, including VR clients and prospective VR clients, VR agencies and staff, and other stakeholders.

Outreach:

Disability Rights NJ raised awareness of the CAP program through planning and marketing of the April 2 conference: Classroom to Careers – Transition Services and VR Conference.

NEW JERSEY'S DESIGNATED PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY AGENCY.

- **OBJECTIVE 3:** Advocate for an end to subminimum wage and for equitable access to competitive, integrated employment for people with disabilities, especially people with complex medical, physical, and behavioral needs, through a public report and systemic advocacy.

With the reduction in staff, this objective and the public report is on hold.

E. Education and Transition Services for Youth

- **OBJECTIVE 1:** Promote student involvement in accessing pre-employment transition services (ETS) and transition services from the vocational rehabilitation agencies and school districts by providing self-advocacy assistance, limited legal assistance, and education to students with disabilities between the ages of 14-22. Engage in systemic advocacy and collaborations with stakeholders to ensure youth have timely access to transition services while in school and through VR agencies.

Outreach/Education/Training:

During the 2nd quarter, Disability Rights NJ planned and did marketing for the April 2 conference: Classroom to Careers – Transition Services and VR Conference. We will report on this conference in the 3rd quarter report.

NEW JERSEY'S DESIGNATED PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY AGENCY.