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ANNUAL REPORT 2007

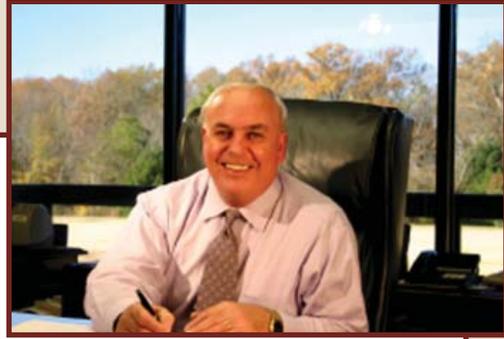
**MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF
REHABILITATION SERVICES**

Providing the freedom to live

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**Dear Governor
Barbour and Members
of the Mississippi
Legislature:**



On behalf of the citizens with disabilities we serve, let me sincerely thank you for the support you have given the Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services (MDRS). We are making great strides in serving Mississippians with disabilities and you are certainly a part of every success story that we have. We are continually working to improve our services to consumers and develop partnerships with other agencies, consumer groups, and businesses.

At MDRS, we provide a quality program of comprehensive rehabilitation services, independent living services, and disability determination services for people with disabilities that will result in social and economic independence, employment opportunities, improved quality of life, and integration into the community. The Office of Special Disability Programs continues to increase home and community based services to our consumers with severe disabilities at a staggering rate. Without your help funding these services, many individuals would live in institutional settings instead of their own homes surrounded by their families and caregivers. The Offices of Vocational Rehabilitation and Vocational Rehabilitation for the Blind have continued to meet or exceed all federal standards and indicators prescribed by the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) and were rated as the #1 combined state rehabilitation program in America. The Office of Disability Determination Services (DDS) continued to process a phenomenal number of cases with increased accuracy and with one of the best processing times in the country.

At MDRS, we are always working to serve Mississippians with disabilities in a timely and effective manner, mindful of our consumers' needs and concerns. I hope you enjoy reading about the accomplishments we have made together.

H.S. McMillan, Executive Director
MS Department of Rehabilitation Service

Success Story

ADAM PATES

Adam was a Millsaps College Honors Program senior majoring in Psychology when his life changed forever. One night, he was in the wrong place at the wrong time and fell victim to a random act of violence. He was stabbed in the heart during a robbery and arrived at the nearest hospital lifeless. Miraculously, Adam recovered but was facing many months of rehabilitation.

After a lengthy rehabilitation, Adam was ready to reclaim his life. Although he could remember everything he learned in college, he might not remember a conversation he had hours earlier or even how to get home. He did know that he wanted a job more than anything else and his counselor was committed to helping him find employment that would match his knowledge and skills to his abilities. He had worked as a waiter during college, but the fast pace and memory skills needed for that job wouldn't work for Adam now.

His vocational training instructor accompanied Adam on many interviews and one day after leaving an interview, they decided to stop by Mississippi Public Broadcasting to inquire about job openings. They were introduced to Jay Woods, Director of Human Resources, who spent a few minutes visiting with Adam. Later, he called and said that although he didn't have a full time position available, he was very interested in Adam working part time. As a result, Adam was hired to do various jobs, including reading for a high frequency radio program for subscribers who are blind. Adam is happy with his new career and Jay is happy with Adam whom he describes as a tremendous asset to their business.

Success Story

ROBERT COTTEN

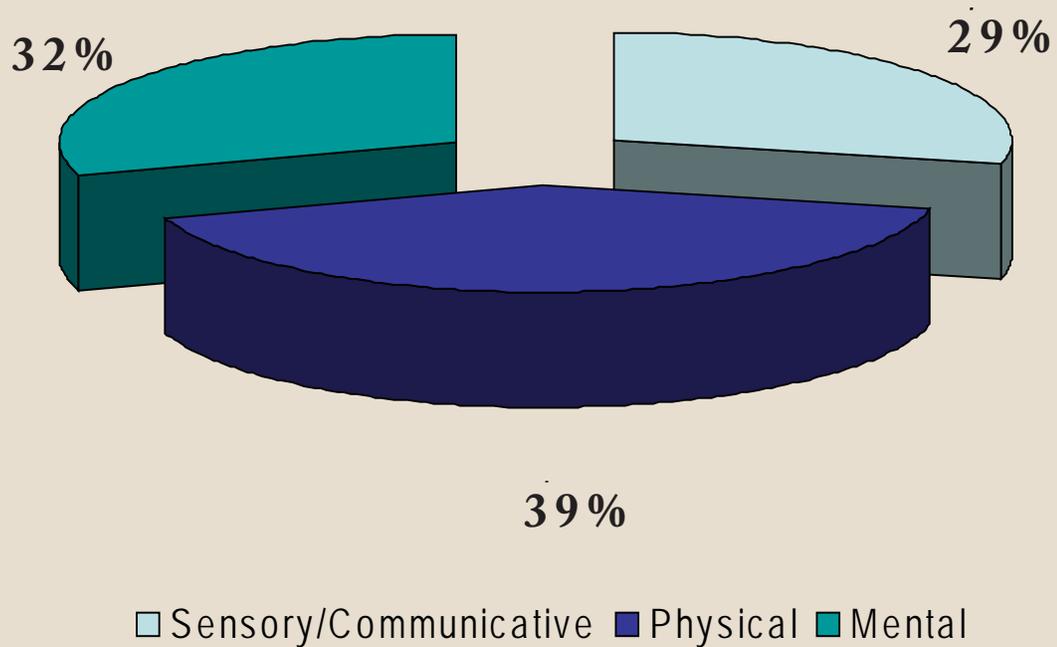
Life was good for Robert Cotten, 48, a professional truck driver and horse trainer. Always active and interested in sports, he was umpiring a professional baseball game when he was hit in the face, damaging his optic nerves. Temporarily blinded, he regained most of his sight for about a year, but eventually the strain on his eyes from the permanently damaged optic nerves caused him to lose his sight completely. Without his sight, everything he knew and enjoyed in life – his work, hobbies, a simple drive to the grocery store - seemed out of reach for him.

A friend convinced him to make a visit to the Addie McBryde Rehabilitation Center, a Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services personal adjustment center operated through the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Services for the Blind. There he observed others freely moving around and adjusting well to their visual impairment. The Addie McBryde Center opened up a whole new world for Mr. Cotten. He learned about advanced communication technology that he never knew existed. There were talking watches, talking cash registers, even a talking computer system that he would later learn to use. Along with the technology, there was also training in the daily skills that blind people need, such as walking with a cane and the use of Braille. He began to understand how he might overcome his disability and return to being a productive member of society.

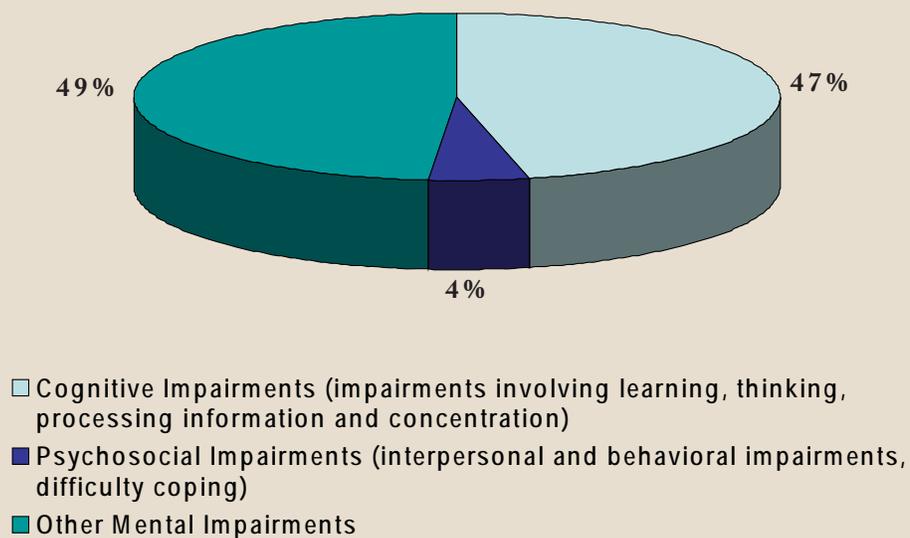
Mr. Cotten's determination to succeed and willingness to learn new things made him an excellent candidate for the Business Enterprise Program (BEP) at MDRS. Although claiming to know nothing about cooking beyond the ability to boil water, Mr. Cotten was trained in cafeteria management. MDRS taught him the skills and provided the technology that would allow him to manage employees, organize his inventory, and run his own small cafeteria. Today Mr. Cotten is the cafeteria manager at the MDRS state office building in Madison. He attributes his success to his family members who work by his side and the assistance he received from MDRS. His wife, aunt, nieces, and nephews all work together in the cafeteria to provide the home style cooking that MDRS employees enjoy every day.

Facts At a Glance

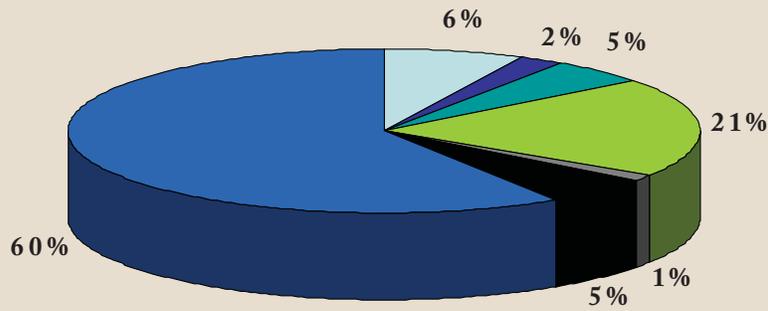
Forms of Disabilities Served in 2007



Mental Disabilities

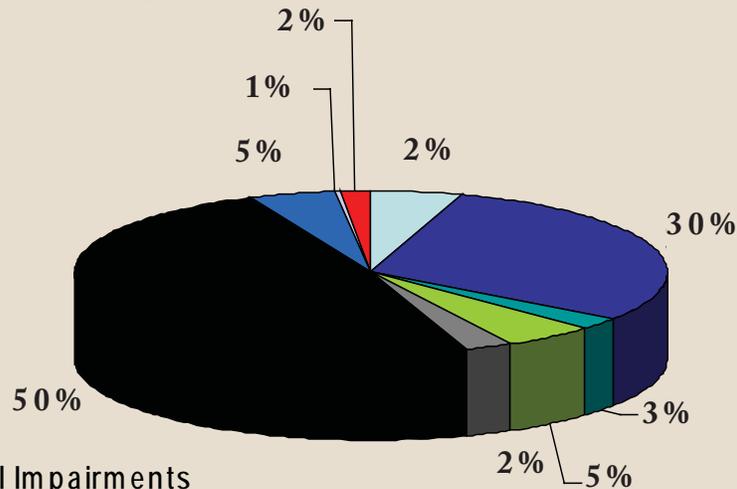


Physical Disabilities



- Mobility Orthopedic/Neurological Impairments
- Manipulation/Dexterity Orthopedic/Neurological Impairments
- Both Mobility and Manipulation/Dexterity Orthopedic/Neurological Impairments
- Other Orthopedic Impairments (e.g., limited range of motion)
- Respiratory Impairments
- General Physical Debilitation (fatigue, weakness, pain, etc.)
- Other Physical Impairments

Sensory/Communicative Disabilities



- Blindness
- Other Visual Impairments
- Deafness, Primary Communication Visual
- Deafness, Primary Communication Auditory
- Hearing Loss, Primary Communication Visual
- Hearing Loss, Primary Communication Auditory
- Other Hearing Impairments (Tinnitus, Meniere's Disease, hyperacusis, etc.)
- Deaf-Blindness
- Communicative Impairments (expressive/receptive)

OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) serves over 20,000 Mississippians each year. Services offered by OVR are designed to assist eligible individuals in overcoming the limitations imposed by physical or mental disabilities in order for that person to secure or maintain employment. An individual eligible for services is one who :

- Has a physical or mental impairment which constitutes or results in a substantial impediment to employment;
- Can benefit in terms of an employment outcome from vocational rehabilitation services; and
- Requires OVR services in order to prepare for, enter, engage in, or retain gainful employment.

Eligible clients work with local vocational rehabilitation counselors to develop an individualized program of services and goals, which will lead to employment. Each client is actively involved in choosing the goals and services which are right for him or her.

Some of the services that may be provided through OVR include:

- Counseling and guidance in adjustment to disability, vocational exploration, and planning for return to work;
- Evaluation to determine individual vocational strengths and weaknesses, leading to plans for services and employment alternatives;
- Physical and mental restoration services necessary for the individual to secure employment;
- Training for those who may need to change employment or develop specialized skills to meet their vocational goals. Training may be provided in colleges, vocational-technical schools, or in direct placement on the job;
- Job placement with the counselor and client working together to secure rewarding and productive employment.

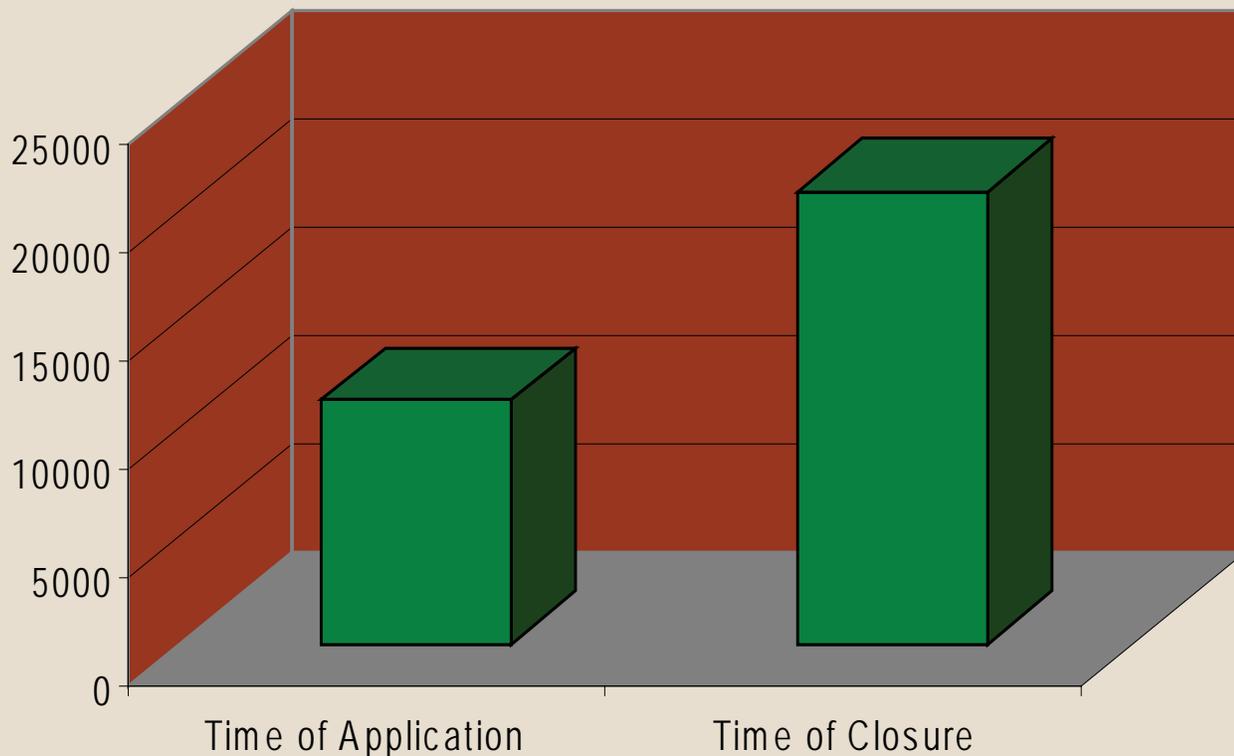
The total number of individuals served in 2007 was 20,818, and the total number of successful employment outcomes was 4,544. After receiving services through MDRS, the average client income increased by \$10,000. The total increase in income for all VR clients was \$46 million.

VR Facts At A Glance

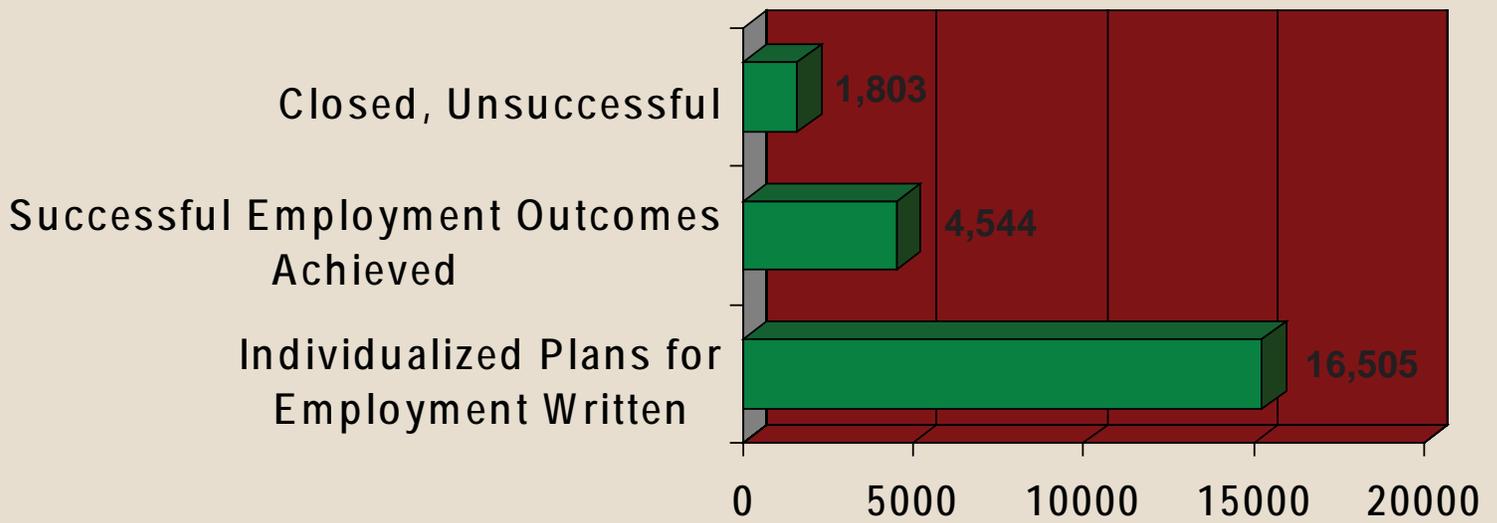
Consumers with severe disabilities served	20,818
Consumers who were closed rehabilitated	4,544
Total earning of rehabilitants' first year earning	\$90,363,353
Estimated taxes paid by rehabilitants' first year earning	\$26,205,372
Increase in earnings of rehabilitants after services	\$71,615,234
Percent of increase in total earnings	204%
Mississippi's successful rehabilitant rate	72%

In Mississippi, Vocational Rehabilitation doesn't cost; it pays. Investing in people with disabilities to create taxpayers yields a cost benefit of 15:1.

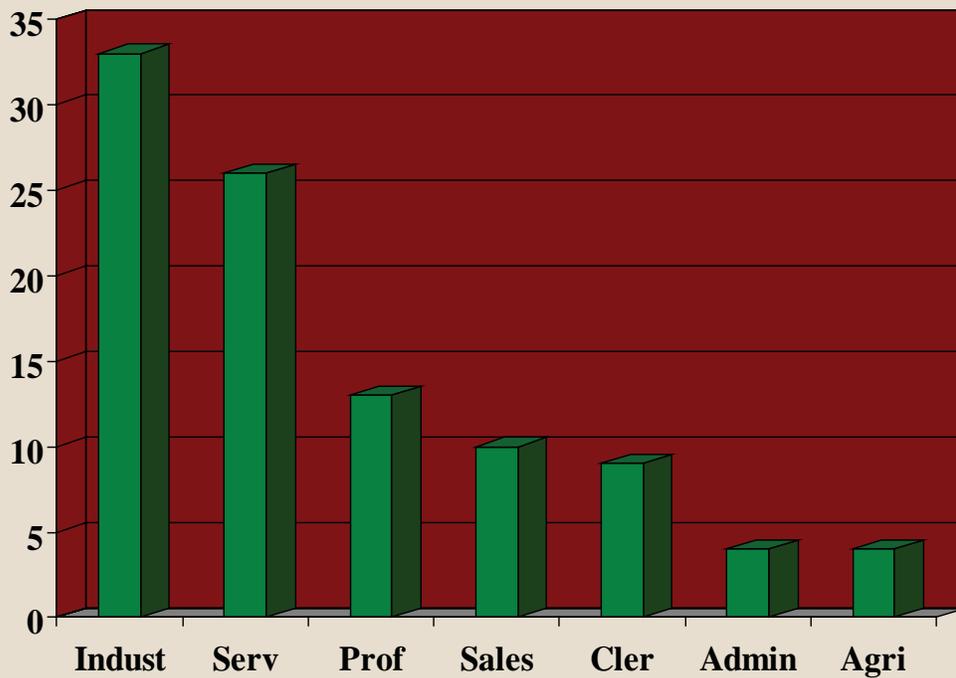
Annual Income of Constituents (Before and After Services)



Clients Served and Closed for 2007



Occupational Classifications of Consumers (in percentages)



AbilityWorks, Inc.

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation operates a network of seventeen (17) community rehabilitation programs (CRP), AbilityWorks, Inc., located throughout the state. These centers provide vocational assessment, job training, and actual work experience for individuals with disabilities. During 2007, AbilityWorks served a total of 2,308 MDRS clients, placing 698 in employment opportunities resulting in 627 successful employment outcomes.

MDRS is committed to ensuring that all facilities are accredited by CARF, a national accreditation body for community rehabilitation programs. It is of the utmost importance for the assurance of quality service provision that the facilities attain the high standards required by this nationally recognized and respected accreditation body. Presently, all of the AbilityWorks locations are accredited for the specific programs of Comprehensive Vocational Evaluation Services and Employee Development Services.

Locations of AbilityWorks facilities are as follows: Brookhaven, Columbus, Corinth, Greenwood, Harrison County, Hattiesburg, Jackson, Kosciusko, Laurel, Meridian, Monroe County, Olive Branch, Oxford, Philadelphia, Starkville, Tupelo and Washington County.

Workforce Investment Act

The federal Workforce Investment Act (WIA) of 1998 created a nation-wide one-stop delivery system of employment services, known as the Workforce Investment Network (WIN) in Mississippi. MDRS is a mandated partner in WIA, or WIN in Mississippi, and plays an active role at the state and local levels. MDRS is represented on the State Workforce Investment Board and all four Local Workforce Investment Boards that govern the WIN system. MDRS has eleven certified Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Counselors and six Counselor Assistants located in six WIN Job Centers on a full-time basis. At WIN Job Centers where a VR Counselor is not co-located, information and referral services pertaining to MDRS are available.

Through special grant programs, MDRS houses various other staff in the WIN Job Centers, including: four Work Incentives Planning and Assistance Specialists at WIN Job Centers in Pearl, Tupelo, Hattiesburg, and Oxford. These BPAO Specialists counsel beneficiaries of Supplemental Security Income and Social Security Disability Insurance about the effect employment will have on their benefits. Two members of the Mississippi Model Youth Transition Innovation staff work with severely disabled youth who are transitioning from school to work. MDRS also operates WIA-funded programs for youth with disabilities, known as Employability Skills Training, in three of the four local workforce investment areas.

AbilityWorks Facilities



Deaf Services

The MDRS Deaf Services Program continues to promote excellence by striving to assist new RCD's (Rehabilitation Counselors for the Deaf) to reach the required communications skills level on the Signed Communication Proficiency Interview (SCPI), an American Sign Language assessment developed by the Rochester Institute of Technology. Adequate communication skills are a pre-requisite to meaningful counseling and guidance with people who are Deaf and use manual communication. Six staff interpreters are available to assist consumers and staff members and use American Sign Language to insure accessibility throughout the rehabilitation process. **In 2007, successful employment outcomes were achieved by 596 consumers.**

Transition Services

(School-to-Work for Secondary Students with Disabilities)

Students transitioning from school to work experience difficult vocational decisions. To help provide a seamless transition from school to work, Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Counselors work directly with school personnel, students, and their families to assure that there is an integrated program of education and vocational training available to students who are eligible for VR services. In addition to maintaining an Interagency Agreement with the Mississippi Department of Education, MDRS maintains 142 Cooperative Agreements between our local District Offices and local School Districts.

Examples of transition services are vocational evaluation, work adjustment training, on the job training, job search skills, and work experience programs. These services may be available both on and off campus or at one of the 17 AbilityWorks near their school as a part of their school day. **In 2007, the Transition Program served approximately 2,243 students in FY 2007 and placed 242 in successful employment outcomes.**

Supported Employment (SE)

The Supported Employment Program serves individuals with the most significant disabilities who require intensive support services to prepare for, secure, retain, or regain employment. Competitive employment is based on the individual's unique strengths, resources, abilities, interests and informed choice. Supported Employment is for individuals for whom competitive employment has not traditionally occurred, or has been traditionally interrupted or intermittent as a result of severe disability. Each MDRS District has a Supported Employment team consisting of a specialized VR/SE counselor, and a Vocational Training Instructor who oversees the work of Job Trainers working on site with our consumers. **During 2007, 745 individuals received Supported Employment services and 130 resulted in successful employment outcomes.**

OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION FOR THE BLIND

Each counselor within the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation for the Blind (OVRB) serves a four or five county area, visiting each county periodically to interview clients, accept new referrals, and conduct job placement and job development activities. These counselors work within the same administrative structure as the counselors in the general OVR program, but specialize in working with persons who are visually impaired. Their goal is to ensure opportunities for inclusion into the workforce, community, and home for individuals with blindness or visual impairment. **In Fiscal Year 2007, OVRB served 2,124 clients and achieved successful employment outcomes for 584.**

Statewide Facility System

Three facilities around the state serve blind individuals and assist them in making personal and vocational adjustments to blindness. The goal of these facilities is to increase and improve the independence and self-reliance of those with severe visual impairments.

The Addie McBryde Rehabilitation Center for the Blind provides traditional intensive evaluation, training, and adjustment services on the campus of the University of Mississippi Medical Center. This training capitalizes on remaining sight with the use of magnifying devices and software as a part of training. **During Fiscal Year 2007, the McBryde Center provided training to 144 individuals.**

The REACH Center for the Blind in Tupelo began the provision of structured discovery training in 2003. This method involves the use of sleep shades (blindfolds) for all students at all times, increasing self-reliance and reducing recidivism. With the initiation of the REACH Center, Mississippi became the only state in the nation with two centers operating under the two prevailing methods of training for individuals with blindness or visual impairment. **During Fiscal Year 2007, the REACH Center provided training to 37 individuals.**

By means of a contract relationship, MDRS works closely with Mississippi Industries for the Blind placing persons who are blind in competitive, integrated employment. **Over the past year, MIB has averaged placing one consumer per month in competitive, integrated employment.**

Independent Living Services for the Blind

Independent living and training services for the blind enable individuals with blindness to meet their independent living goals. Through these programs, eligible clients receive peer group counseling, assistive technology evaluation, adjustment services, orientation and mobility training, personal adjustment instruction and training in techniques for daily living. Eligible consumers may receive home, office or community instruction, aids and appliances, transportation, and therapeutic treatment even though their potential for returning to work may be limited.

During 2007, the Independent Living Program for the Blind provided services to 3,501 consumers who are legally blind and either over age 55 or diagnosed with a significant secondary disability.

Itinerant Teacher Program

Itinerant Teachers are specially trained to provide services to consumers who are blind or visually impaired.

Working with the area counselor, teachers provide itinerant services in the consumer's home, community or work environment. Teachers work closely with counselors to coordinate services, evaluate client needs, develop living needs plans and instructional materials, and provide onsite training. **During 2007, these services were provided to 103 consumers in Mississippi.**

Business Enterprise Program (BEP)

The Business Enterprise Program (BEP) provides full-time self-employment opportunities for 36 legally blind Mississippians. These BEP entrepreneurs, more commonly known as blind vendors, operate a variety of businesses including vending machine routes, snack bars and even cafeterias on military bases.

The BEP has been in existence nationally since 1937, with the passage of the Randolph-Sheppard Act. The largest location is located at Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi.

OFFICE OF SPECIAL DISABILITY PROGRAMS

Independent Living Services

Independent Living Services are provided through a Federal grant program which MDRS administers through its Office of Special Disability Programs. Independent Living Services are designed to assist individuals with the most significant disabilities. Individuals with a significant disability are those with a severe physical, mental, cognitive or sensory impairment whose ability to function independently in the home or community is substantially limited. Independent Living Services improves their ability to function, continue functioning or move toward functioning independently in the home or community. The Office of Special Disability Programs has 45 counselors specializing in providing Independent Living Services. Some Independent Living Services that are provided to eligible consumers include but are not limited to, home modifications, vehicle modifications, and durable medical equipment. **During Federal Fiscal year 2007, the Office of Special Disability Programs provided independent living services for 3,403 individuals with significant disabilities.**

State Attendant Care Program

In 1985, the Mississippi Legislature created the State Attendant Care Fund. This program provides personal care services to individuals with significant (severe) disabilities. The provision of a personal care attendant allows an individual to function as independently as they can in the home or community. Many times, individuals receiving these services are able to continue in competitive employment.

Independent Living Waiver

In 1994, through a cooperative agreement with the Mississippi Division of Medicaid, MDRS implemented the Independent Living (IL) Waiver, a home and community-based services program. This program allows MDRS to provide personal care services to eligible individuals who have severe orthopedic and/or severe neurological impairments that render the individual dependent upon others, the use of assistive devices, or a combination of both to accomplish the activities of daily living. In addition, individuals served must be medically stable. Medical stability is defined as the absence of any of the following: (a) An active, life threatening condition (e.g. sepsis, respiratory, or other condition requiring systematic therapeutic measures); (b) IV drip to control or support blood pressure; and (c) Intracranial pressure or arterial monitoring. Recipients must be able to communicate effectively with caregivers, personal care attendants, case managers, and others involved in their care. Without this service, these individuals would be at risk of nursing home placement. **During 2007, a total of 1,295 individuals received services through the IL Waiver.**

Traumatic Brain Injury and Spinal Cord Injury Waiver

In 2001, through a cooperative agreement with the Mississippi Division of Medicaid, MDRS implemented the Traumatic Brain Injury/Spinal Cord Injury Waiver, a home and community-based services program. This program allows MDRS to provide personal assistance services, home modifications, specialized durable medical equipment/supplies, and respite services to individuals determined eligible. Waiver services are limited to individuals with traumatic brain injury and traumatic spinal cord injury. Traumatic brain injury is defined as an insult to the skull, brain, or its covering resulting from external trauma, which produces an altered state of consciousness or anatomic, motor, sensory, or cognitive/behavioral deficits. Traumatic spinal cord injury is defined as a traumatic injury to the spinal cord or with evidence of motor deficit, sensory deficit, and/or bowel and bladder dysfunction.

In addition, individuals served must be certified as medically stable by their primary care physician. Medical stability is defined as the absence of any of the following: (a) An active, life threatening condition (e.g. sepsis, respiratory, or other condition requiring systematic therapeutic measures); (b) IV drip to control or support blood pressure; (c) Intercranial pressure or arterial monitoring. The recipient's primary care physician must provide certification of traumatic injury and medical stability. **In 2007, a total of 545 individuals received services through the TBI/SCI Waiver.**

Traumatic Brain Injury/Spinal Cord Injury (TBI/SCI) Trust Fund Program

In 1996, the Mississippi Legislature established the TBI/SCI Trust Fund. The goal of this program is to enable individuals who are severely disabled by a traumatic spinal cord injury or a traumatic brain injury to resume the activities of daily living and re-integrate into the community with as much dignity and independence as possible. These funds are 100% special funds generated by surcharges on moving traffic violations and violations of the Implied Consent Law. **During 2007, a total of 128 persons received services through the TBI/SCI Trust Funds.**

OFFICE OF DISABILITY DETERMINATION SERVICES

The Office of Disability Determination Services (DDS) is 100% federally funded through an agreement with the Social Security Administration (SSA). Disability claims for Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) are processed for Mississippians with disabilities through the Mississippi DDS.

The guidelines for determining disability are determined by law and Social Security Administration regulations.

Medical evidence is gathered from attending physicians and other treatment sources. Other examinations may be purchased at no cost to the claimant if more specific information is needed.

The first consideration in determining eligibility for benefits is to determine whether the impairment is medically severe and to what degree the impairment limits the applicant's work related functioning. If the applicants cannot return to work, further decisions are made regarding his/her ability to do other kinds of work. Factors considered in vocational decisions include the applicant's job skills, age, and education. The DDS also processes periodic reviews of the previously allowed claims as required by the Social Security Administration. Before these benefits can be ceased, it must be shown that there has been work-related medical improvement since the last favorable decision.

The DDS receives cases electronically from SSA offices throughout the state. Medical and non medical evidence is scanned or downloaded into the electronic folder and a DDS examiner and medical consultants review medical evidence on line and complete electronic ratings forms. When cases are closed, all electronic forms and closure documents are uploaded into the electronic folders. The electronic process is designed to provide improved customer service to Americans with disabilities.

The Mississippi DDS continues to be one of the best in the nation, processing over 75,235 claims this year, which result in more than \$149 million in federal payments made to Mississippians per month.

SELECTED SOCIAL SECURITY SERVICES Ticket to Work Program

Ticket to Work is the centerpiece of legislation signed into law by former President Bill Clinton as part of the Incentives Improvement Act of 1999. This legislation increases choices in obtaining rehabilitation and vocational services for beneficiaries receiving Social Security Disability benefits and removes barriers that require people with disabilities to choose between health care coverage and work.

The ticket legislation in the Ticket to Work Program requires the Social Security Administration (SSA) to issue tickets to beneficiaries with disabilities. These tickets may be used to obtain vocational rehabilitation services, employment, or other support services from a SSA approved provider of their choice. **As of 2007, 1,170 clients receiving vocational rehabilitation services have assigned their Tickets to MDRS.**

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

Rapid changes in technology are constantly expanding opportunities for those with disabilities to participate in their communities and in the work place. MDRS has assumed the lead in assuring that Mississippi citizens with disabilities have the maximum access to this technology. The Assistive Technology Division of MDRS includes an Assistive Technology Coordinator, Administrative Assistants, Rehabilitation Technology Specialists, and Rehabilitation Technologists, enabling the agency to provide evaluations and assessments for customers of MDRS throughout the state.

Types of services are based on the individual's needs. Such services may include: agriculture accommodations; augmentative/alternative communication; auditory accommodation; adaptive computer access; home modifications; environmental control; job site accommodations; vision aids; seating and mobility; adaptive driving; and vehicle modifications.

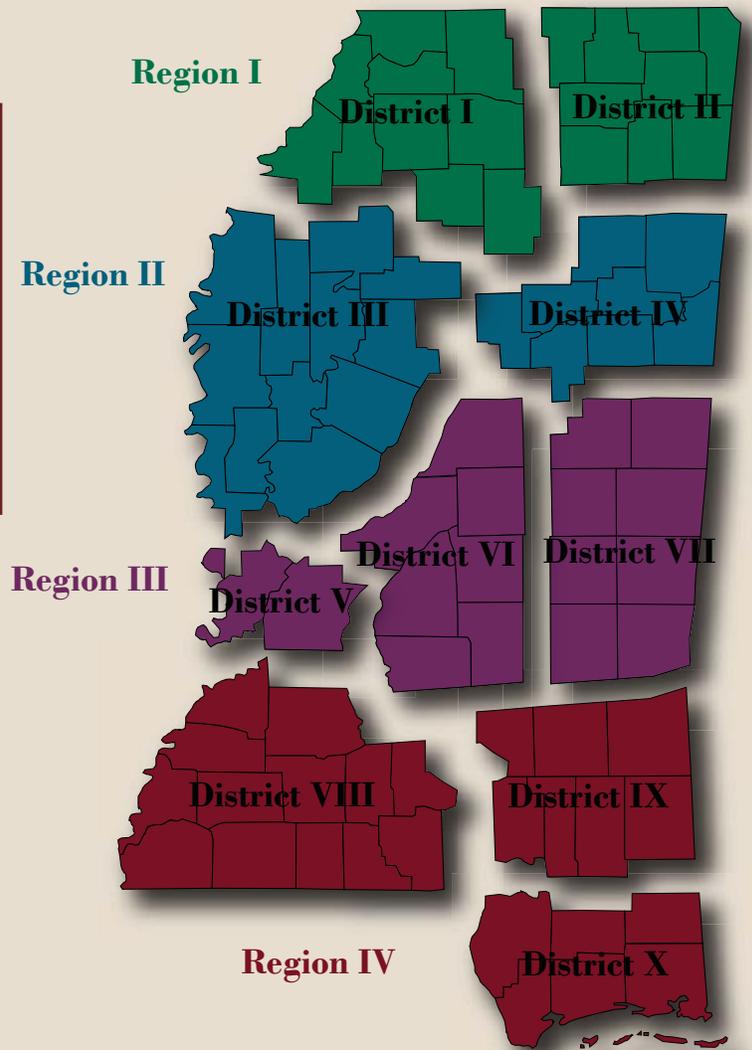
Project START

Project START (Success Through Assistive/ Rehabilitative Technology) is a federally funded grant program created to increase the awareness of, and access to, assistive technology for individuals with disabilities. The project focuses on providing training, information, and technical assistance in all parts of the state. In State Fiscal Year 2007, Project START subgrants provided over one thousand assistive technology evaluations.

Also, through the increasing equipment loan program, Project START loaned over 100 pieces of equipment to individuals with disabilities, schools, and organizations for people with disabilities. Together with its sub grantees, the project conducted training sessions, provided technical assistance, and served over 9,000 consumers and service providers. The project will continue to work with underserved and minority populations to assure that assistive technology information and services are available to individuals with disabilities at their home, school, and in the workplace.

Field Office Locations

In order to provide the best service to clients of MDRS, the state has been divided into four (4) regions and ten (10) districts. District managers report to the regional manager over their area. Each district includes general counselors and assistants, as well as specialized staff for blind and deaf counseling services, independent living, supported employment services, and transition services. Service information can be obtained through any of these offices or by calling toll-free 1-800-443-1000.



District Offices

District I

51 County Rd. 166
Oxford, Ms 38655
VR/VRB: (662) 234-2723
OSDP: (662) 234-6086

District VI

3895 Beasley Road
Jackson, MS 39213
VR/VRB: (601) 898-7004
OSDP: (601) 898-7055

District II

2620 Traceland Dr.
Tupelo, MS 38801
VR/VRB: (662) 842-1010
OSDP: (662) 840-9947

District VII

1003 College Drive
Meridian, MS 39304
VR/VRB: (601) 483-3881
OSDP: (601) 483-5394

District III

201 Highway 7 South
Greenwood, MS 38930
VR/VRB:(662) 453-1542
OSDP: (662) 455-2706

District VIII

1400- A Harrison Avenue
McComb, MS 39649
VR/VRB: (601) 684-1265
OSDP: (601) 249-4646

District IV

207 Industrial Park Road
Starkville, MS 39760
VR/VRB: (662) 323-9594
OSDP: (662) 324-9646

District IX

17 J.M. Tatum Industrial Road
Hattiesburg, MS 39401
VR/VRB: (601) 545-5619
OSDP: (601) 544-4860

District V

3895 Beasley Road
Jackson, MS 39213
VR/VRB: (601) 898-7004
OSDP: (601) 898-7055

District X

10280 Larkin Smith Drive
Gulfport, MS 39503
VR/VRB: (228) 897-7601
OSDP: (228) 897-7624

Regional Offices

Region I

613 Pegram Drive
Tupelo, MS 38801
VR: (662) 680-2655

Region III

3895 Beasley Road
Jackson, MS 39203
VR: (601) 897-7002
OSDP: (601) 898-7055

2701 County Road 402
South Fulton Drive
Corinth, MS 38834
OSDP: (662) 287-6951

Region IV

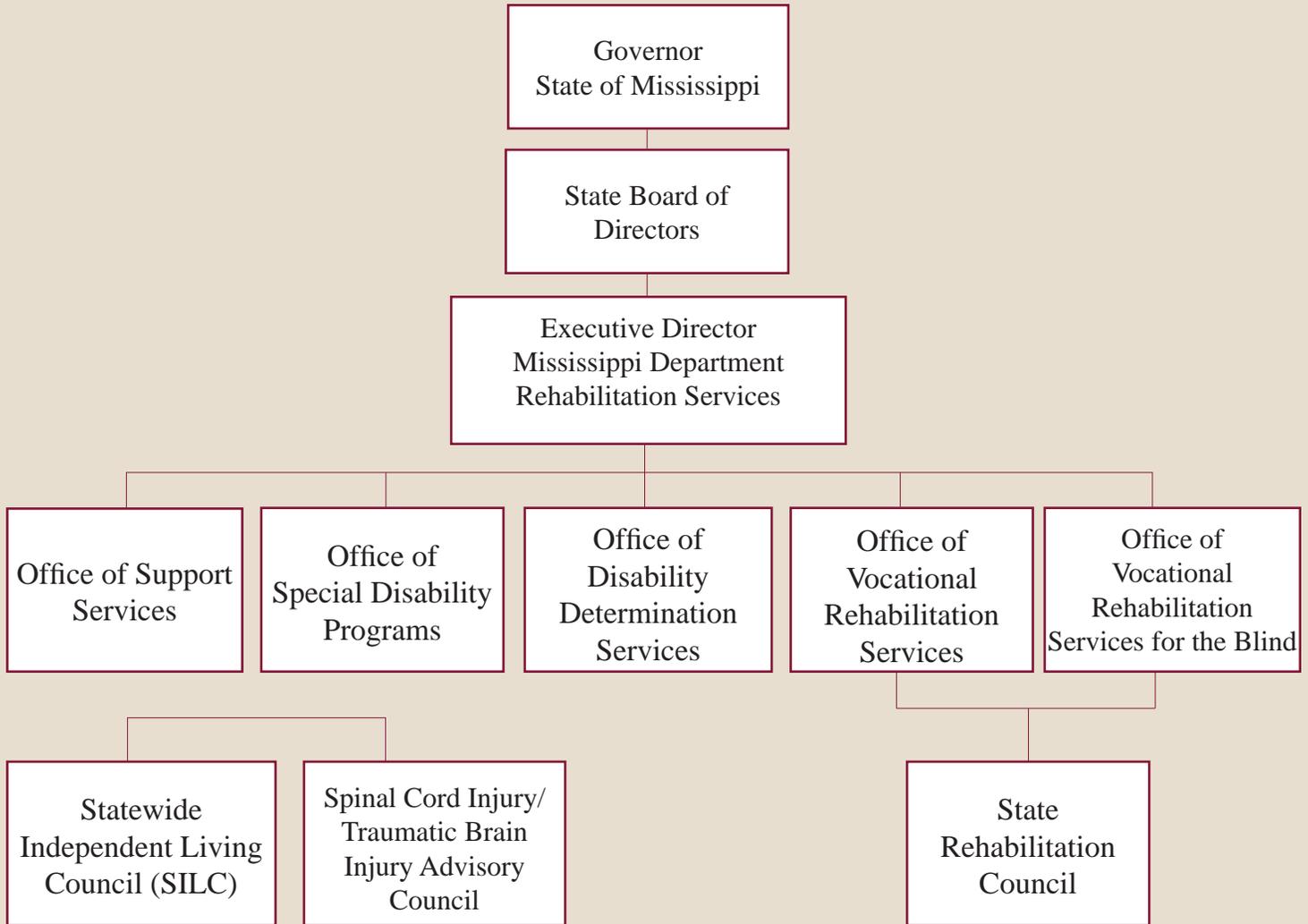
10280 Larkin Smith Drive
Gulfport, MS 39503
VR: (228) 897-7616

Region II

201 Highway 7 South
Greenwood, MS 38930
VR: (662) 351-1495
OSPD: (662) 455-2706

18 J. M. Tatum Industrial Road
Hattiesburg, MS 39401
OSDP: (601) 544-2613

Organizational Chart



MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF REHABILITATION SERVICES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dr. Brian Amy
Dr. Hank Bounds
Dr. Randy Hendrix

Dr. James E. Sardin
Michael Sullivan
Colonel Don Taylor

Jack Virden

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Presley Posey, Chairperson
H.S. McMillan, Ex-officio
Curtis Dupree
Charlie Farrar
Sam Gleese

Walter "Doug" Gurley
Matt Nalker
B.H. Stringer
Michael D. Thomas
Christy Dunaway

Ben Wagneknecht
Kearney Waites
Antonio Wright
Mary Meruvia
Tim Turner

STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT COUNCIL

Christy Dunaway, Chairperson
Mary Allsup
Nancy Beal
Stephanie Billingsley
Ed Butler
Jan Cloud

Lavonda Hart
Amanda Lacoste
Doug Maples
Connie McDaniel
Mary Lundy Meruvia
Malinda Scarborough

Walker Swaney, Jr.
H.S. McMillan, Ex Officio
Shelia Browning, Ex Officio
Tonya Bradley, Ex Officio

Senior Management Staff

State Office Building

1281 Highway 51 North
Madison, MS 39110
Phone: 601-853-5100 or 1-800-443-1000
www.mdrs.state.ms.us

Executive Director H.S. "Butch" McMillan 601-853-5200	Office of Special Disability Programs Lavonda Hart, Director 601-853-5234
Deputy Director, Administration Norman W. Miller 601-853-5206	Management Information Systems Paula Brown, Director 601-853-5141
Deputy Administrator, Non-Vocational Programs Shelia Browning 601-853-5209	Human Resources Development Pat Klar, Director 601-853-5260
Deputy Administrator, Vocational Programs Gary Neely 601-853-5230	Communications and Consumer Relations Natalie Wagner, Director 601-853-5162
Deputy Administrator, Finance Chris Howard 601-853-5220	Assistive Technology Division Kris Geroux, Director 662-324-0285
Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Tarea Stout, Director 601-853-5232	Selected Social Security Services Rebecca Doyle, Director 601-853-5332
Vocational Rehabilitation for the Blind Michael Gandy, Director 601-853-5245	Administrative Services Tommy Browning, Director 601-853-5151
Disability Determination Services Jo Ann Summers, Director 601-853-5599	



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