

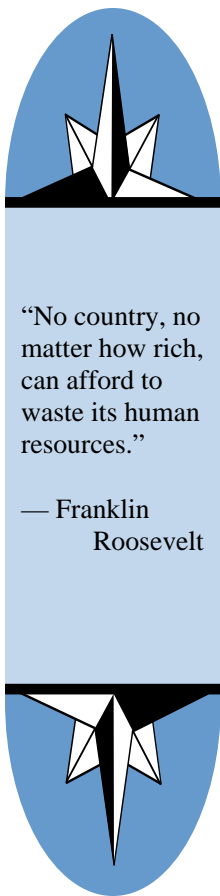


THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI MISSISSIPPI DEAF-BLIND PROJECT

FOCUSING ON QUALITY SERVICES TO INFANTS, CHILDREN AND
YOUNG ADULTS WHO ARE DEAF-BLIND

Summer 2006

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“No country, no matter how rich, can afford to waste its human resources.”

— Franklin Roosevelt

FOCUS FLYER

TRANSITION: What it is? When should it be done and who is involved? Part Three of a Three Part Series

By Cassandra Holly, Project Support Coordinator

In the last *Focus Flyer*, I discussed transition timelines and what should be done in the transition process before a certain age. In this last part of the three part series, I would like to focus on transition contacts, which are agencies or individuals who can provide services after graduating from the school setting. These contacts, in best case scenario, should be involved early on in the transition process.

Let’s take a look at transition contacts available for Mississippians:

Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services (MDRS)

MDRS provides numerous programs, agencies, and facilities that work together to meet the needs of Mississippians with disabilities.

Vocational Rehabilitation (VR)

VR is one of the most thought of agencies under MDRS. It provides services designed to improve economic opportunities for individuals with physical and mental disabilities through employment.

An individual who is eligible for services is one who has a physical or mental impairment, which constitutes or results in a substantial impediment to employment and can benefit from VR services in order to prepare for, enter, engage in, or retain gainful employment.

Types of programs and services provided by VR include but are not limited to *deaf program, job development, job placement, job training, supported employment, transition services, employability skills training program.*

To contact someone in the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation call the main office at 601.853.5100 and ask for a VR counselor or district manager in your area.

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TRANSITION... Part Three (continued from page 1)

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation for the Blind (OVRB)

OVRB serves individuals through Mississippi who are blind or visually impaired. These services offered through a variety of special programs are unique in that they are designed to meet the personal and vocational needs specific to those who have severe loss of sight. Types of programs and services provided by OVRB include but are not limited to *job development, job placement, job training, orientation and mobility, communications, physical conditioning, and independent living services.*

OVRB administers the Business Enterprise Program (BEP) that provides full-time job opportunities for legally blind Mississippians. BEP vendors are self-employed business persons who operate a variety of food service operations. For more information, call MDRS at 601.853.5100.

The Addie McBryde Center for the Blind (AMC)

AMC is part of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation for the Blind or Visually Impaired. It is a personal adjustment center that is located in the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson. Some of the services that AMC provides are *orientation and mobility, communication/advanced communication, personal management, techniques of daily living, leisure education, low vision evaluations, and a deaf-blind program.* For more information, or to arrange a tour, contact: Karen Brown, director, at 601.364.2700.

Office of Special Disability Programs (OSDP)

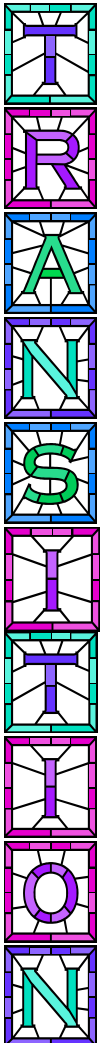
OSDP provides services to individuals with the most severe disabilities who do not necessarily demonstrate immediate potential for competitive employment. An individual who is eligible is one who has a severe disability, which constitutes multiple barriers to the individual's capacity to live independently and exhibits a strong likelihood that the individual will be able to live significantly more independent at home, avoiding institutionalization. Types of services include but are not limited to *home and vehicle modification, durable medical equipment, personal care attendant services, and peer counseling.* For more information call MDRS at 601.853.5100.

Office of Disability Determination Services (ODDS)

ODDS is funded entirely through the Social Security Administration. It establishes eligibility for Mississippians with severe disabilities that apply for Social Security Disability Insurance and/or Supplemental Security Income. These individuals must first apply for benefits at their local Social Security office and their applications are then forwarded on to ODDS for determination. For more information, call MDRS at 601.853.5100.

Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ODHH)

ODHH is part of MDRS and is specifically for the deaf and hard of hearing. ODHH works with the deaf community to provide quality interpreting services; teach sign language to businesses, government agencies, and employers of the deaf; train agencies and companies how to properly use a TTY/TDD; and provide sensitivity training to the public. For more information, call Denee Smith at 601.898.7056.



Home and Community Based Waiver Services (HCBS)

Millcreek

Millcreek is one of the well known community based programs in the state of Mississippi. There are seven locations across the state. The locations include Jackson, Moss Point, Collins, Tupelo, Grenada, Port Gibson, and Long Beach. These programs are funded by Medicaid under the Community Based Services Mental Retardation/Developmental Disabilities (MR/DD) Waiver Program administered by the Mississippi Department of Mental Health (DMH). The HCBS programs provide a wide variety of services which include *respite care; attendant care; behavioral support; day habilitation; prevocational/supported employment; and therapy services, such as occupational therapy, speech therapy, and physical therapy.* For more information contact Danny Cowart at 601.849.4221.

Willowood Developmental Center

Willowood has a variety of services including a community based program along with prevocational supported employment, day habilitation, community living, and vocational services. For more information call 601.366.0149.

Mississippi's State Regional Centers

The regional centers are usually where eligibility for the Home and Community Based Waiver Services begins. In order for a person to be eligible for HCBS, the individual must go through an evaluation process. All regional centers have a division of community services.

There are several regional centers across the State which include Hudspeth - Jackson 601.664.6100; Boswell-Magee 601.867.5000; North Mississippi Regional-Tupelo 662.234.1476; South Mississippi Regional-Long Beach 228.867.1327; and Ellisville State School-Ellisville 601.477.6167.

Advocacy Contacts

ARC of Mississippi - Matt Nalker, Executive Director, 601.982.1180

My Voice My Choice - Charity Drummond, Coordinator, 601.982.1180

Mississippi Client Assistance Program, 800.962.2400

Living Options and Contacts

Creative Community Living – Brenda Havens or Carolyn Taylor, 601.607.2981

Home of Your Own (HOYO) - Cassie Hicks, 601.266.5163

National Resources

National Coalition on Deaf-Blindness - 617.923.8076



Mississippi Deaf-Blind Project

The University of Southern Mississippi
Curriculum, Instruction, and Special Education
118 College Drive # 5115
Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001

Phone: 800.264.5135
Fax: 601.266.4978
E-mail: deaf-blind@usm.edu

We're on the Web!
www.usm.edu/msdb

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AA/EOE/ADA

Summer 2006 Workshops

- **American Association of Deaf-Blind
27th Biennial Conference**

Baltimore, MD
June 17-23, 2006
For more information call 301.495.4402.

- **Annual Tri-State Conference on
Recreation Inclusion**

Pearl River Resort in Choctaw, MS
July 6-7, 2006
Professionals \$60; Families \$30
Contact Rick Green at 601.266.5576.

- **Advocacy and Leadership**

an NTAC Parent Workshop
Tampa, FL
July 13-14, 2006
Contact Cassandra Holly at 601.259.2575.

- **Functional Communication:**

Using Calendar systems and objects
Two-day workshop
presented by Bernie Wynn
of the Helen Keller National Center
South MS Regional Center, Long Beach, MS
July 18, 2006 (8:30 a.m. —4:30 p.m.) and
July 19, 2006 (8:30 a.m.—2:00 p.m.)
Contact Cassandra Holly at 601.259.2575.

- **ARC Annual Conference**

Eagle Ridge Conference Center
Raymond, MS
July 20-21, 2006
Contact Cindy Dittus at 601.982.1180.

- **Educating Students with Deaf-
Blindness: National Conference**

Presented by Dr. Jan Van Dijk
Greensboro, NC
July 21-24, 2006
Contacts: Ken Prohn 828.227.3377 or
Chris Jones 919.807.3991