

2011 Program Report Card: Independent Living Services (BESB)

Quality of Life Result: All Connecticut residents under 55 years of age with blindness are self-sufficient.

Contribution to Result: BESB's Independent Living Program provides social work, rehabilitation teaching, mobility instruction and low vision services to adult clients who are legally blind. By delivering these services, in combination with the provision of adaptive devices such as magnifiers, daily living aids and travel canes, BESB improves the quality of life by enabling clients to live safely and independently in their homes and communities.

Actual SFY 10 Program Expenditures: \$90,714 *State Funding:* \$23,478 *Federal Funding:* \$67,236 *Other Funding:* \$0

Estimated SFY 11 Total Program Expenditures: \$ 91,000 *State Funding:* \$24,000 *Federal Funding:* \$67,000 *Other Funding:* \$0

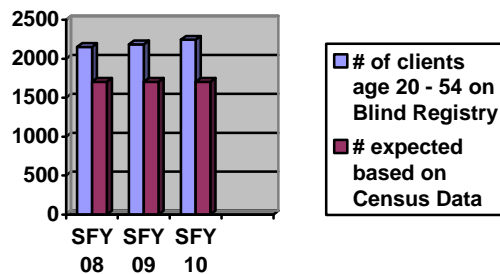
Partners: eye doctors, municipal social services departments, assisted living facilities, Centers for Independent Living, families, caregivers, Department of Social Services, transportation providers, volunteer agencies, housing authorities, faith-based organizations.

Performance Measure 1: The number of adult clients under the age of 55 who were referred to BESB relative to the number of clients in this age range who would be expected to be on the BESB Blind Registry using prevalence rates developed by the National Eye Institute in comparison to census data.

FY 08: 2,150 (expected prevalence, 1,702)

FY 09: 2,185 (expected prevalence, 1,702)

FY 10: 2,243 (expected prevalence, 1,702)



Story behind the baseline: Data from a National Eye Institute study on the prevalence of blindness among U.S. adults, combined with population figures provided by the U.S. Census Bureau, indicates that BESB would expect the

number of clients in this age range on the BESB Blind Registry to be 1,702.

The BESB Blind Registry for this age range has been steadily moving upwards over the past three years, from 2,150 in FY08 to 2,185 in FY09, and to 2,243 in FY10. This indicates a larger demographic existing within the working-age population for people who are blind than is predicted by application of the Eye Institute's prevalence formula to Connecticut's census data. The upward trend in new referrals to BESB illustrates successful outreach efforts.

Proposed Action to Turn the Curve: New census data is anticipated in 2011. The agency will use this data to reassess prevalence rates of working-age individuals who are blind. This updated data will then be compared to referral rates to ascertain if BESB's outreach efforts are successfully reaching all eligible candidates for agency services.

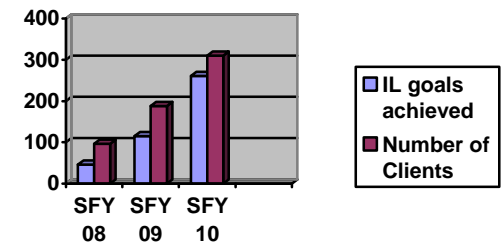
Performance Measure 2: The number of independent living goals for clients under the age of 55 that were achieved in comparison to

the total number of Independent Living Program clients served during the year.

FY 08: 46 goals achieved for 96 clients

FY 09: 115 goals achieved for 188 clients

FY10: 261 goals achieved for 310 clients



Story behind the baseline: The Independent Living Program at BESB has focused on providing clients with services that will yield measureable gains in the skills necessary to achieve and maintain independence in their homes and communities and to prepare these individuals to seek employment where feasible. This priority is illustrated by the increased number of clients for whom independent living goals have been established and the increased number of goals achieved.

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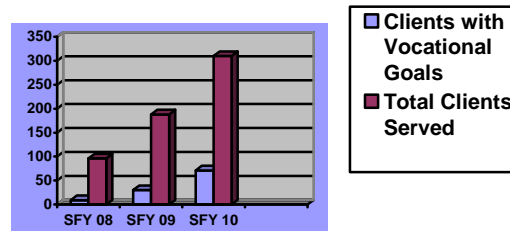
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Partners: eye doctors, municipal social services departments, assisted living facilities, Centers for Independent Living, families, caregivers, Department of Social Services, transportation providers, volunteer agencies, housing authorities, faith-based organizations.

Proposed actions to turn the curve: BESB has set a high priority on establishing measureable outcomes of increased independence in activities of daily living for clients served. As resources are strained, both in staff time available to work with clients and in funding to purchase independent living aids and equipment, the agency has implemented new strategies to maximize services within existing resources. This has included expanding a centralized service delivery model into the Bridgeport and Norwich areas to enable clients to receive multiple services at a single location, supplementing the existing itinerant service delivery model where each BESB service provider goes to the home of the client individually. The centralized model reduces staff travel time and increases timely service delivery. This service delivery model needs to expand to further locations with increased frequency in order to address the increasing volume of clients. As a cost containment strategy, the agency has also shifted to a new approach of directly providing non-prescription magnifiers to clients more economically from agency inventory rather than seeking this service through low vision doctors.

Performance Measure 3: The number of Independent Living Program clients under the age of 55 for whom vocational rehabilitation goals have been established to address self-sufficiency through employment.

FY 08: 9 clients of 96 served
FY 09: 30 clients of 188 served
FY 10: 71 clients of 310 served



Story behind the baseline: Proficiency in performing independent daily living tasks is an important precursor to the achievement of career success. Independent living services such as teaching clients to safely cook meals, read mail, do laundry, shop for groceries and manage personal finances are provided by BESB rehabilitation teachers. Braille and speech access devices are provided in situations where low vision aids are not practical. This

Performance Measure illustrates the agency's increasing focus on the achievement of independent living goals that prepare clients for participation in vocational rehabilitation services and future career success.

Proposed action to turn the curve: As the agency serves greater numbers of adults under age 55, the increase in goals established to improve independence in community living has expanded to include a greater emphasis on preparation for employment. There has been a steady rise in the number of clients served as well as the number of vocational goals established for these clients. In order to achieve even greater success, the agency has converted an existing job vacancy to a Rehabilitation Teacher position to further strengthen the level of independent living teaching services that can be offered to this growing population. This staff person will be located in the southwest region of the state, which had previously been served by staff from the Windsor office. With this new position there will be a reduction in staff travel time and increased availability to address pre-vocational and vocational goals.

