



John Kitzhaber, Governor

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COMMISSION
FOR THE
BLIND**

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March 18, 2013

Senator Alan Bates and Representative Nancy Nathanson, Co-Chairs

Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Services

900 Court Street NE

Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairs and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with some additional data and information in response to the testimony the agency provided during the Oregon Commission for the Blind budget presentation on March 12th. I have prepared the following information and would be happy to offer additional information where it is available upon request.

1. There was a request for additional information on the Business Enterprise Program locations and earnings. In 2012 Oregon had 17 licensed managers who are blind. Those managers operated facilities such as cafeterias, snack bars, espresso carts, convenience stores and vending machine routes. These facilities are located in Portland, Salem, Roseburg, Grants Pass, Medford, Lincoln City and Prineville. Note: vending routes can encompass a large geographic area to provide a reasonable income to the manager.

Total 2012 sales: approx. \$2,637,716

Total 2012 Net income: approx. \$536,164

Average net manager income: approx. \$31,539

2. You had asked to see the data related to key performance measures in both numbers and percentages. (reference: agency budget presentation slide 10 &11) That information is below.

KPM #1: EMPLOYMENT- Percentage of individuals who enter into individualized plans for employment in the vocational rehabilitation program who are successful in reaching their outcome.

Yearly Performance Data:

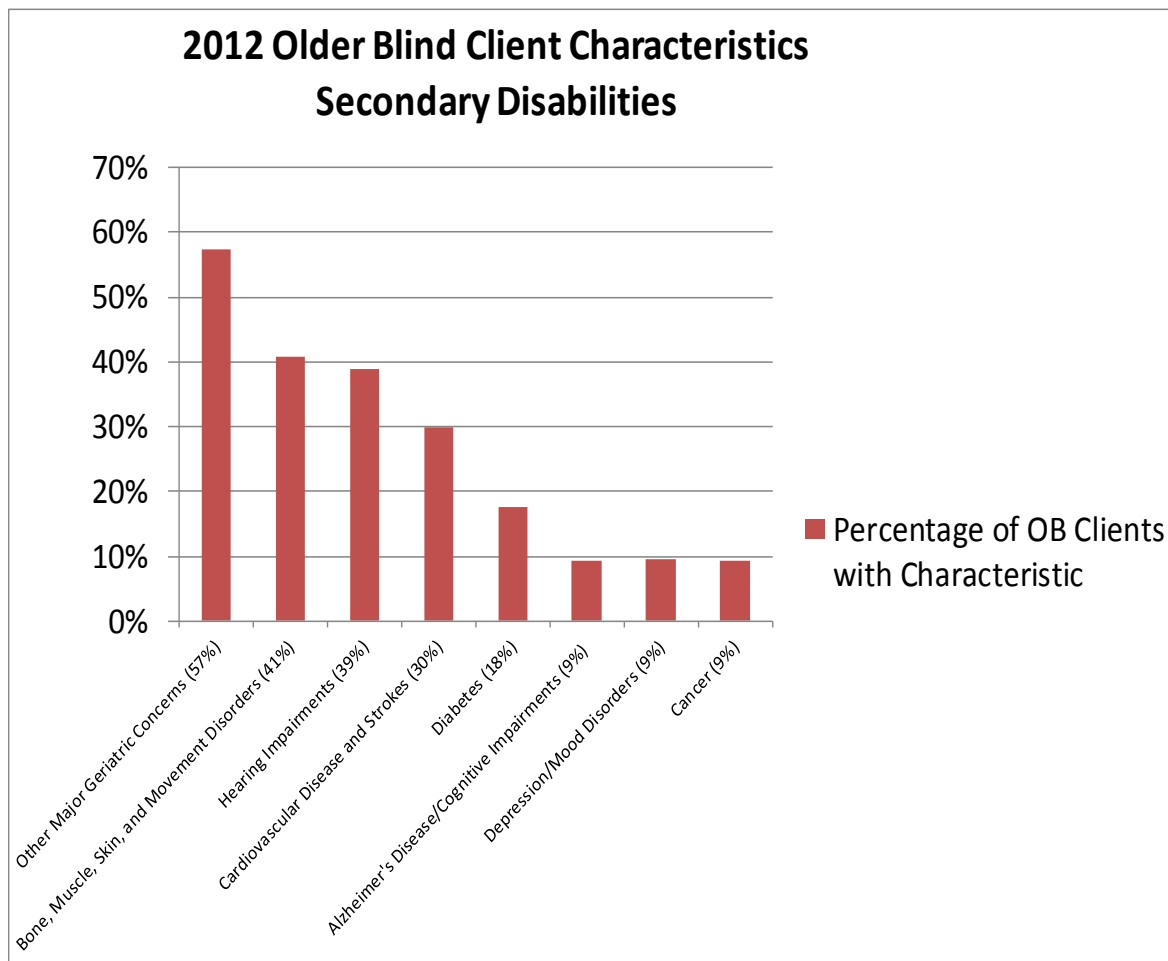
2008: 45% 115/254
2009: 79% 97/122
2010: 70% 85/121
2011: 74% 100/135
2012: 78% 101/130

KPM #2-INDEPENDENT LIVING- Percentage of older individuals who complete independent living services who self-assess as having an increase in confidence, skills, and abilities.

Yearly Performance Data:

2008: 87% 520/599
2009: 79% 316/400
2010: 85% 312/367
2011: 91% 416/458
2012: 90% 458/507

3. You requested more information about other disabilities in addition to blindness related to the Older Blind Independent living program. This chart indicates a breakdown of blindness and other disabilities in the older blind program.



4. You were interested in additional information on Macular Degeneration here in Oregon to determine the potential unmet need for Older Blind Independent Living Services. It is estimated that 557,607 individuals in Oregon are over the age of 65 based on the 2010 US Census. Given the incidence of age related Macular Degeneration in individuals over the age of 65, it is expected that over 195,000 Oregonians are living with the condition. It is difficult to determine the percentage of those individuals who are experiencing significant functional limitations that would require rehabilitation intervention. Macular Degeneration is progressive and if the individuals live long enough, they will likely require some level of assistance with acquiring new skills of independence. In addition, as I stated in my testimony, the agency experience has been that any time we place a staff person in a community they quickly identify clients who are in need of our services that meet or exceed the capacity of our staffing level.

5. The agency was asked to provide additional information on return on investment related to the cost savings of other programs in Oregon. Generally, we know that if an individual obtains the skills to return to work, they are no longer relying on programs such as Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, Supplemental Security Income and Oregon Health Plan. We also know that home medical services and meal assistance programs are not required when an individual acquires the skills to be able to perform these tasks independently. It is difficult for us to determine a return on investment and measure what services did not have to be provided as a result of a preventative intervention. In order to do this accurately, the agency would need to hire a consultant and we have not invested the dollars for a comprehensive return on investment study.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide follow up information. If there are any additional questions or concerns regarding the content of this letter, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Dacia Johnson
Executive Director