



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

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The Honorable Alan Bates, Co-Chair  
The Honorable Nancy Nathanson, Co-Chair  
Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Services  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairs:

Please accept this letter as response to the Committee's questions raised during the DHS Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) presentation on February 23, 2015.

**Question:** How much do people get paid to be dental assistants? When we place people, are they getting paid good wages and are they sustainable?

**Answer:** Annual salary for Dental Assistants range between \$26K and \$44K per year.

**Question:** What percentage of working-age Oregonians are disabled?

**Answer:** The percentage of working age Oregonians with disabilities is 13.9 percent based on the Disability compendium 2014 report (age range is 18 to 64 years of age).

**Question:** What percent of Oregonians with disabilities are working? What percent of Oregonians without disabilities are working?

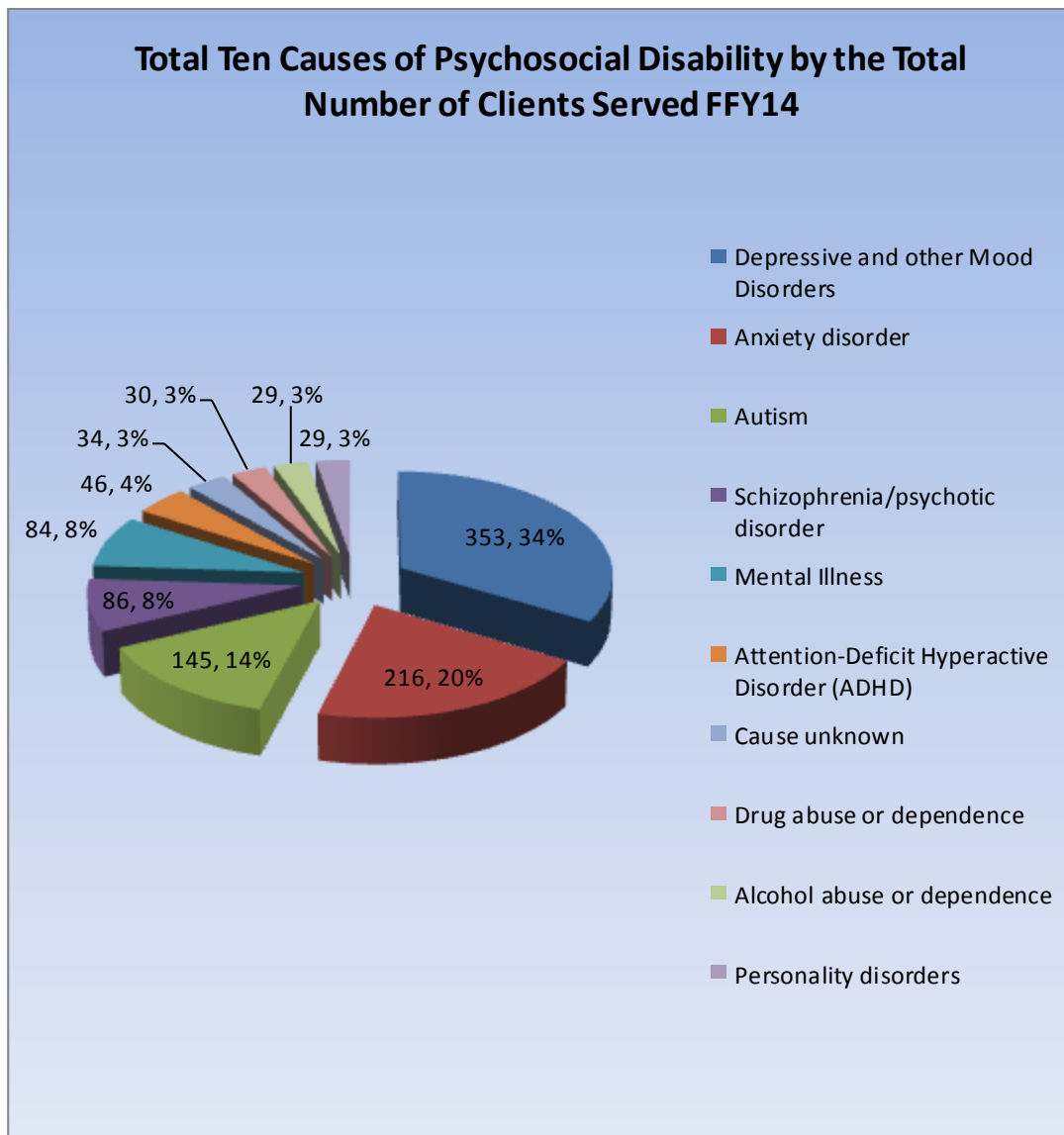
**Answer:** The percent of Oregonians with disabilities that are working is 34 percent and the percent of Oregonians without disabilities that are working is 72 percent.

**Question:** Cognitive impairments: What percentage of your caseloads in VR are also caseloads in mental health (OHA)? DHS to provide more detail on the overlap.

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**Answer:** The percentage of the VR caseload that is also on the Mental Health caseload is about 58.6 percent in Fiscal Year 14 which is about 9,138 concurrent clients on the two caseloads out of the 15,589 on VR for the same time period:

**Question:** Breakout of known psychosocial impairments:



**Question:** Has the 50-59 age group increased during the recession?

**Answer:** It does not appear that clients 50-59 years of age have increased due to the recession. This is thought to be part of the dampening effect of Order of Selection that occurred in FFY 09 & FFY 10. Data for the last four fiscal years show: FFY14 – 3,641; FFY13 – 3,845; FFY12 – 3,689; FFY11 – 3,677

**Question:** Are there failures on the part of DHS that may contribute to the decrease from the eligibility step to plan step? Provide additional reasons/details for the decreases in-between steps to get to plans and employment.

**Answer:** Client's stop services for a variety of reasons: they choose not to go to work, they move, they become ill, their disability becomes more severe, unrealistic employment goals, loss of interest, and other competing interests. Vocational Rehabilitation is a voluntary program.

**Question:** Would like follow-up on Youth Transition Program (YTP) agreements and services. DHS will provide additional information for participants to the agreements (school districts/ESDs) and how services are provided, especially large vs. small school districts.

**Answer:** Youth Transition Program (YTP) exists in 7 Educational School Districts: Malheur, Lane, Southern Oregon, Willamette, Wallowa, South Coast, and Northwest Regional as well as in 32 other school districts. YTP services are provided by a collaborative, interagency team that works from a person centered approach to achieve competitive employment outcomes for students with disabilities throughout Oregon. These teams, comprised of local school district employees and VR staff members, provide an individualized set of employment and independent living services to meet each student's unique needs. YTP services have been recognized nationally and internationally as a best practice in serving youth with disabilities.

**Question:** Would like a fuller picture of Supported Employment area across all departments, and how many are duplicative or not?

**Answer:** We have no good way to get at the cross program data, in part because each program defines and tracks Supported Employment quite differently. Under each program's unique definition we have:

VR – 2198

Mental Health – 1,506

Self Sufficiency – 54,834

DD - 2,500 identified as receiving sheltered workshop services, 138 received individual integrated employment services and 376 received group supported employment services.

**Question:** How is an order of selection determined?

**Answer:** Order of selection for services relies upon a determination of the number of functional capacity limitations that affect an individual's ability to work, the number of substantial vocational rehabilitation services required and the need for these services over time. Once the priority is established the clients are then placed on the list based on date of application.

**Question:** What is the cost per case?

**Answer:** The cost per case fluctuates in cost and duration based on the severity of the client. Average cost per case overall is \$2,212.99, approximately \$170.23 per month over 13 months. The most significantly disabled clients including I/DD clients coming from the sheltered workshops, range from \$2,600 to \$6,600 and take from 13 to 15 months.

**Question:** What is the federal VR grant based on?

**Answer:** The VR federal grant is calculated based on a complex formulae based in part on per capita income of the state and population amongst many other variables. You can find the formulae at <https://rsa.ed.gov/formula-grant-calculation.cfm>. Note the award of this grant is for both VR and the Oregon Commission for the Blind (OCB). OCB receives 12.5 percent of the state's award.

**NOTE FOR LINK:** The above is the link to the grant calculation – you then need to select: Detailed, 2015 CR 1, and Oregon and then click on the calculate button and it will bring up the page with the calculation for Oregon.

We hope this letter addressed the identified questions adequately. If you have additional questions, please don't hesitate to contact Trina Lee at 503-990-9039 or email [trina.m.lee@dhsosha.state.or.us](mailto:trina.m.lee@dhsosha.state.or.us)

Sincerely,



Eric Luther Moore  
Chief Financial Officer

cc: Laurie Byerly