

# *Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency Transfer, attached to DHS*

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Date: May 16, 2012



**Georgia Department of Human Services**

# Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency Transfer Mission & Guiding Principles

- **Mission.** Coordinate a seamless transfer of the five Rehabilitation Programs from the Department of Labor and assist standing them up as an Agency, administratively attached to the Department of Human Services, no later than 30 June 2012.
- **Guiding Principles.**
  - Transition the entire Vocational Rehabilitation program (five programs) with maximum efficiency
  - Treat DOL/Rehabilitation staff with respect and dignity
  - Be present, accessible and respond to inquiries
  - Avoid conflicts, report concerns to team leader and/or Commissioner

# Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency Transfer Overview

- HB 1146 signed by the Governor will create a Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency with an effective date of 1 July 2012
- Agency will consist of five programs with approximately 2,000 staff
- Agency will be attached to DHS administratively: DHS will provide Human Resource, Contracts and Procurement, Financial, Legal, Facility and limited Information Technology support
- Agency budget is approximately \$185M; agency will control their budget
- Legislation requires an Executive Director and Board to be appointed
- Give the new agency an identity:
  - Create website for new agency
  - Mask emails to reflect gvra.ga.gov
  - Agency space/floor and board room at 2PT
  - Create letterhead and business cards

# Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency Transfer Programs

Vocational  
Rehabilitation

ROOSEVELT  
WARM SPRINGS  
INSTITUTE FOR  
REHABILITATION

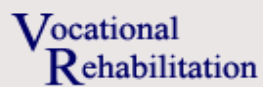
DAS

Georgia  
Industries for the  
Blind

  
BEP

- **Georgia Industries for the Blind (GIB)** provides jobs in manufacturing and packaging for individuals who are blind. The authorizing legislation for GIB was the Wagner-O'Day Act of 1938, which provided for federal government purchase of products from agencies employing the blind. Georgia's first plant was established in 1949. Today there are four facilities - one in Bainbridge, which also houses the administrative offices, and the others in Griffin, Albany, and Robins Air Force Base (Warner Robins, Georgia).
- **Georgia's Business Enterprise Program (BEP)** provides work opportunities to persons who are blind and who want to manage small businesses such as vending machine routes, snack bars, cafes/grills, and full-service cafeterias. BEP was established in 1944 under its authorizing legislation, the Randolph-Sheppard Act, and opened its first vending facility in 1945. There are currently more than 130 locations. Sales for FY2010 exceeded \$9.1M and generated over \$630K in sales tax revenue.

# Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency Transfer Programs



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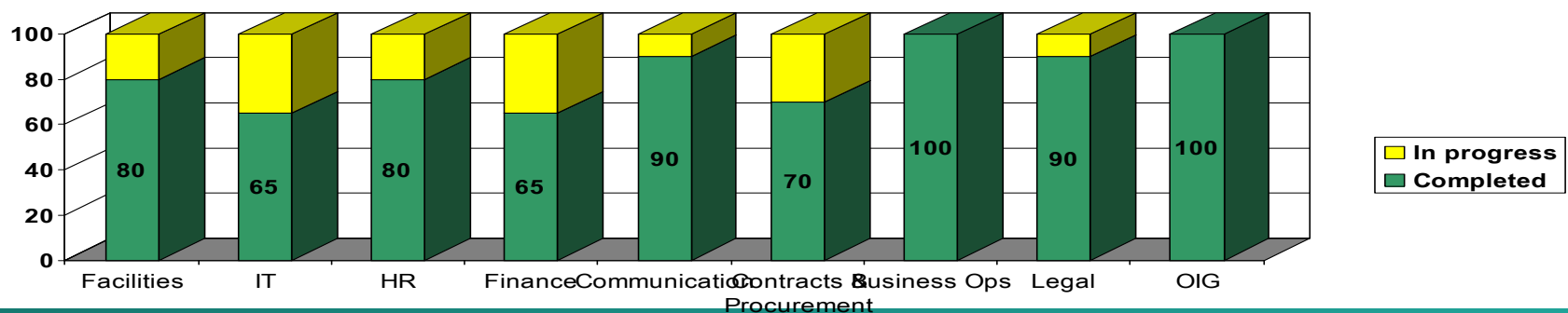


BEP

- **Vocational Rehabilitation (VR)** provides services to help eligible persons with disabilities prepare for, start, and maintain competitive employment, thus becoming productive and independent citizens in their communities. VR has more than 50 offices in 12 regions statewide with expert staff that work in the community and have in-depth knowledge of both the marketplace and the support services available.
- **The Roosevelt Warm Springs Institute for Rehabilitation (RWSIR)** is one of the oldest comprehensive care and rehabilitation centers in the nation. The primary focus in both the medical and vocational programs is on outcomes that improve functional independence, self-sufficiency, quality of life and employability.
- **Disability Adjudication Services**, a specialized program of Rehabilitation Services, works with the Social Security Administration (SSA) to make disability determinations for Georgia citizens who apply for entitlement programs administered by the SSA. These programs include Disability Insurance for workers who pay FICA taxes, and Supplemental Security Income, a disability needs program.

# Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency Transfer Transition Update

- **Facilities:** Conducting inventory and identified space at 2PT for administrative staff
- **IT:** Majority of IT services will be provided by DOL through MOU and conducting inventory
- **HR:** Testing payroll system to ensure employees will be paid
- **Finance:** Transferring financial system processes from unique DOL financial system
- **Communications:** Responded to FAQs and establishing web page for new agency
- **Contracts and Procurement:** Received contract list from DOL and constructing MOU
- **Business OPs:** Received all applicable policies
- **Legal:** Examined policies and will review MOU
- **Inspector General:** Prepared to conduct appropriate personnel checks



# Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency Transfer

## Questions?