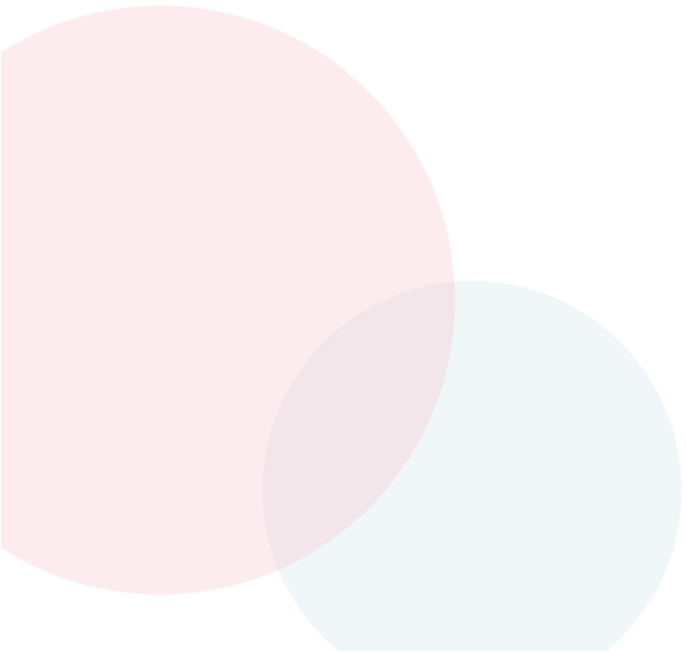


# Behavioral Health Clearinghouse State Agency Training

November 17, 2022

Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission



# What is the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission?

- The Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission (MRC) provides services that break down barriers and empower people with disabilities to live life in their own terms. Our programs focus on training and employment, community living, and disability determination for federal benefit programs. We are change agents and community builders. And we put the people we serve at the heart of everything we do.

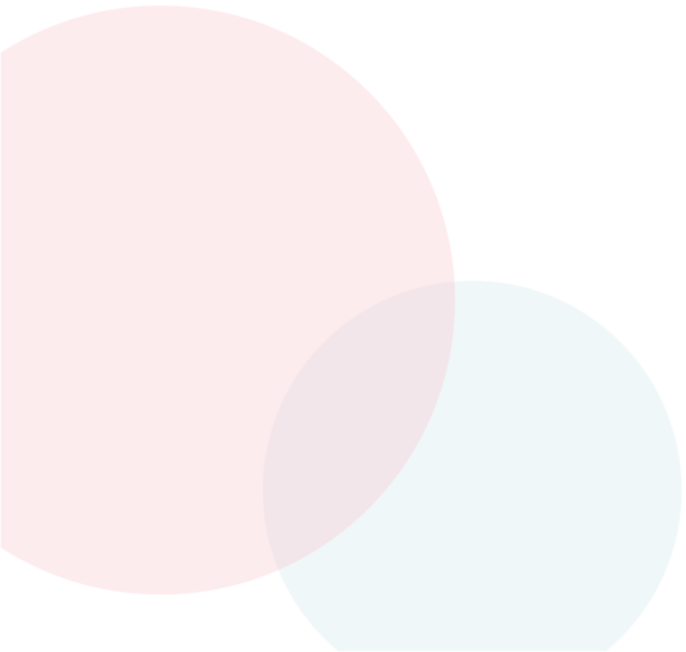
# What's in a name

- Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission
  - Mass Rehab Commission
  - Mass Rehab
  - The Commission
  - MRC
- 
- Currently working on rebranding including assessing relevance and impact of current name



# 4 Core Components

- Vocational Rehabilitation (VR)
- Community Living (CL)
- Disability Determination Services (DDS)
- MRC Connect



# Vocational Rehabilitation (VR)

- Support individuals with disabilities to identify, secure and maintain employment
  - [Vocational Rehabilitation | Mass.gov](#)
  - 21 offices
  - 3 regions
    - **North:** Fitchburg, Framingham, Lawrence, Lowell, Salem, Malden
    - **South:** Boston, Braintree, Brockton, Cape and Islands, Fall River, New Bedford, Plymouth
    - **West:** Greenfield, North Adams, Pittsfield, Southbridge, Springfield, Taunton, Worcester
  - [Locations | Mass.gov](#)
- Leadership
  - Joan Phillips – Assistant Commissioner of VR and Workforce Development
  - Jessica Cimini – VR Director of Operations

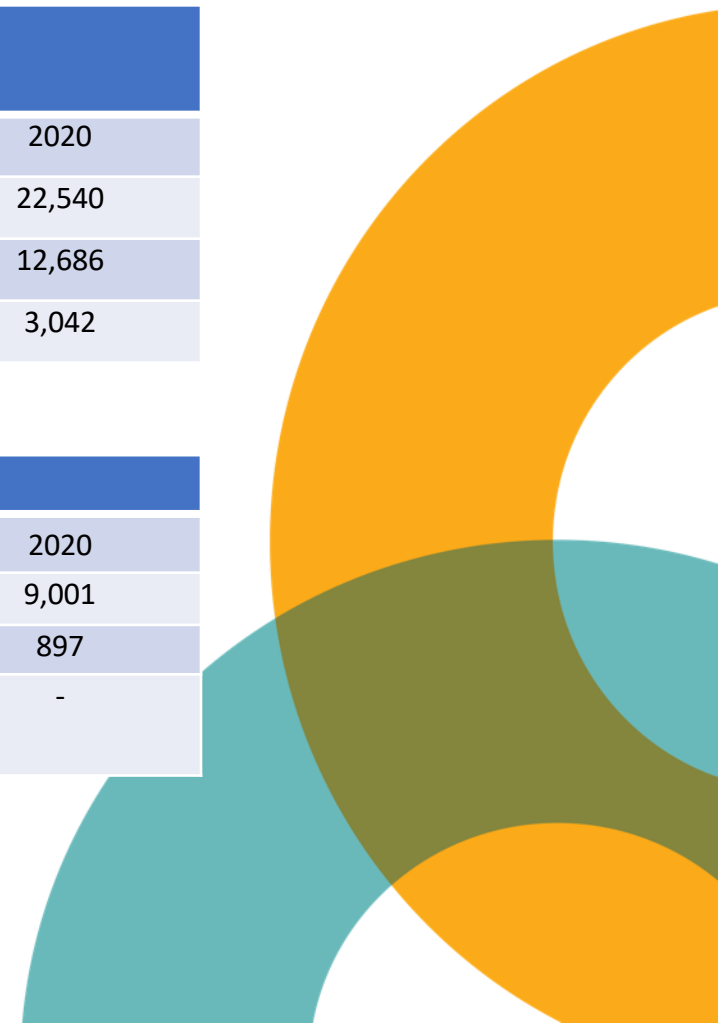
# VR Programming

- VR Services in the field – Jessica Cimini
  - Anyone with a disability 18+
- Job Placement and Workforce Development – Joan Phillips
  - Work with adults with disabilities and employer partners
- Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) – Jessica Cimini
  - Provides students (aged 14 up until 22<sup>nd</sup> birthday) with disabilities the opportunity to experience and explore the world of work.
- Rehabilitation and assistive technology – Joan Phillips
  - Devices, aides, and enhancements used in rehabilitation technology. People with severe mobility, learning, emotional, visual, hearing, neurological, neuromuscular, and other disabilities may benefit from rehabilitation technology to increase function by decreasing barriers in the home and workplace.
- Benefits Specialists – Joseph Reale
  - Support individuals in planning around employment and benefits
- NextGen Careers – Joan Phillips
  - Targets young adults 18-30 with a wrap around model of VR service delivery focused on minority young adults and STEM careers.

# Who we serve – Vocational Rehabilitation

Vocational Rehabilitation Program (ages 14+)			
State Fiscal Year:	2018	2019	2020
Consumers Actively Receiving Services	29,463	24,991	22,540
Consumers Enrolled in Training/Education Programs	18,471	13,174	12,686
Consumers Employed	4,053	3,695	3,042

Youth and Young Adults Receiving Services from Vocational Rehabilitation (ages 14-22)			
State Fiscal Year:	2018	2019	2020
Youth/Young Adults Actively Receiving Services	11,057	10,374	9,001
Youth/Young Adults Employed	1,060	1,050	897
Youth/Young Adults Enrolled in Training/Education Programs	5,588	7,992	-



# Who we serve - Vocational Rehabilitation (2020)

- Primary disability
  - 44% - Psychiatric Disability
  - 25% - Learning Disability
  - 8% - Orthopedic Disability
  - 7% - Substance Use Disorder
  - 6% - Deaf and Hard of Hearing
  - 2% - Neurological Disability
  - 2% - Developmental Disability
  - 1% - Traumatic Brain Injury
  - 5% - Other Disabilities
- Gender
  - 55% Male
  - 45% Female
- Race/Ethnicity
  - 77% White
  - 18% Black/African American
  - 4% - Asian/Pacific Islander
  - 1% - Native American
  - 14% - Hispanic/Latinx
- Average Age – 31



# Community Living (CL)

- Helps people live independently in the community.
  - **Leadership**
    - Mary Otiato – Director of Community Supports and Operations
  - **Brain Injury Residential, Day and Support Services**
    - Statewide Head Injury Program (SHIP) – Director – Maureen Butler
      - Traumatic Brain Injury
      - [Statewide Head Injury Program \(SHIP\) | Mass.gov](#)
    - Acquired Brain Injury/Moving People Forward (ABI/MFP – Waiver) – Director – Rosa Rodriguez - [Acquired Brain Injury \(ABI\) and Moving Forward Plan \(MFP\) Waivers | Mass.gov](#)



# Community Living (CL)

- **Supported Living and Assistive Technology**

- Manager Contact – Anna Hermann
- Supported Living - Support people with significant physical disabilities in combination with a secondary disability to live independently in the community - [MRC Supported Living Programs | Mass.gov](#)
- Independent Living Centers - [Independent Living Centers | Mass.gov](#)
- Assistive Technology – Support individuals with disabilities with delivery and training on assistive technology - [MRC IL Assistive Technology Program | Mass.gov](#)

# Community Living (CL)

- **Home Care Assistance Program –**  
Manager Contact – Stacey Sullivan
  - Adults under 60 with a disability, provides homemaking services to maintain independence at home
  - [Home Care Assistance Program \(under 60\) | Mass.gov](#)
- **Home Modification Loan Program –**  
Martha Quirk
  - No interest loans to modify the homes of adults and children with disabilities
  - [Home Modification Loan Program \(HMLP\) | Mass.gov](#)

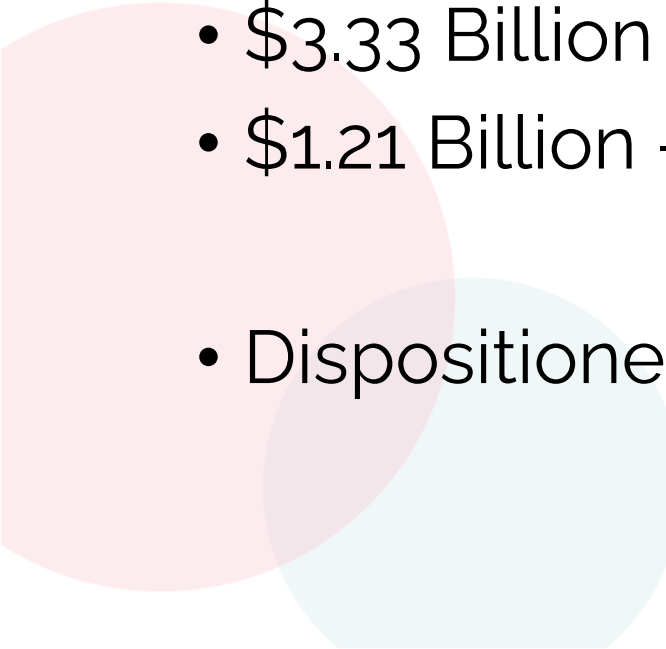


# Disability Determination Services (DDS)

- Determines initial and continued eligibility for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits.
- 2 offices
  - Everett
  - Worcester
- Leadership
  - Aja James– Assistant Commissioner of DDS
  - Karen Sampson Johnson – Director of Statewide Support Operations ([Karen.Sampson@ssa.gov](mailto:Karen.Sampson@ssa.gov))
- [Disability Benefits | Mass.gov](#)



# Massachusetts Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) Summary (2019)

- 6.9 Million – Total Massachusetts population
  - 182,565 – MA SSI recipients
  - 220,552 – MA SSDI recipients
  - \$3.33 Billion – Annual SSDI benefits paid
  - \$1.21 Billion – Annual SSI benefits paid
  - Dispositioned 65,163 cases in 2019
- 

# MRC Connect

- Assistant Director – Kaitlin Morrissette
- Single entry-point to an array of MRC services including
  - Vocational Rehabilitation
  - Statewide Head Injury Program
  - Home Care Assistance Program
  - Supported Living Program
- Information and Referral Services
- Upload documents digitally
- Interview anywhere



# MRC Connect

[MRC Connect | Mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov/mrc-connect) or call 617-204-3665

- Watch the tutorial video on how to fill out the application
- Fill out the online application
- Upload documents per the instructions provided
- One of our MRC Connect Customer Service Advisors will contact you to guide you through next steps!

# Interpreter Services

- Mass Commission for Deaf and Hard of Hearing (MCDHH)
  - Interpreter Referral Service
  - After hours service to locate interpreters and CART for mental health emergencies
  - [How to Request an ASL Interpreter or CART provider | Mass.gov](#)
- Private Organizations
  - Partners Interpreting - [ASL Interpreter in Massachusetts - Language Interpreter Agency \(partnersinterpreting.com\)](#)
  - Mass Interpreters
- Learning Center for the Deaf
  - [Interpreting Services | The Learning Center for the Deaf \(tlcdeaf.org\)](#)



# Contact Info

## **Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission**

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