

**AGENDA**  
**WISCONSIN REHABILITATION COUNCIL**  
**May 9, 2024**  
**9:00 AM – 2:30 PM**

**Central Transportation**  
2700 Week Street  
Stevens Point, WI 54482

**WebEx Virtual Attendance Option**

<https://dwdwi.webex.com/dwdwi/j.php?MTID=m843ea7de4b8ab5b955ee809f0ab0fb9d>

To join by phone only, call 855-282-6330    access code 2660 142 4404

**A Statement of Mission**

The Wisconsin Rehabilitation Council, working on behalf of Wisconsin residents with disabilities, will review, analyze, and advise the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) regarding the performance of its responsibilities in providing quality services to persons with disabilities.

- |               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9:00 – 9:15   | Roll Call and Introductions ( <i>new member</i> )<br>Announcements<br>Quorum Check<br>Approval of Minutes – February 2024                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 9:15 – 9:45   | Committee Updates and Committee Member Approvals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Council Engagement Committee</li><li>• Performance Measures and Quality Assurance Committee</li><li>• Policy Review and Administration Committee</li><li>• Services to Business Committee</li><li>• Executive Committee</li></ul> |
| 9:45 – 10:15  | CAP Report<br><i>Jen Espinoza Forlenza, Disability Rights Wisconsin</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 10:15 – 10:30 | Break                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 10:30 – 11:00 | Business Services Overview<br><i>Mallory Bryan, DVR WDA 6 Business Services Consultant</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

11:00 – 12:00	<b>DVR Administrative Update</b> <i>Deanna Krell, DVR Bureau of Management Services Director</i> <i>Allison Gordon, DVR Bureau of Consumer Services Director</i>
12:00 – 12:45	Lunch Break
12:45 – 1:00	Public Comment
1:00 – 1:45	<b>AgrAbility Overview</b> <i>Dick Straub, Professor Emeritus/Farmer</i> <i>Jeff Kratochwill, Easter Seals FARM &amp; Vocational Services Program Director</i>
1:45 – 2:15	<b>Disability Service Provider Network (DSPN) Presentation</b> <i>Kathy Meisner, Director of Program Operations</i>
2:15 – 2:30	Review Action Items, Vote on Committee Membership Recommendations, and Identify Future Agenda Topics
2:30	Adjourn

\*Public comment is limited to the time listed on the agenda. Comments can be sent at any time to: [DVRWIRehabCouncil@dwd.wisconsin.gov](mailto:DVRWIRehabCouncil@dwd.wisconsin.gov).

\*Comments sent to that e-mail box will be read to the full council at the next meeting unless a specific subcommittee is listed. If a specific subcommittee is listed, comments will be sent directly to them and reviewed at their next committee meeting.

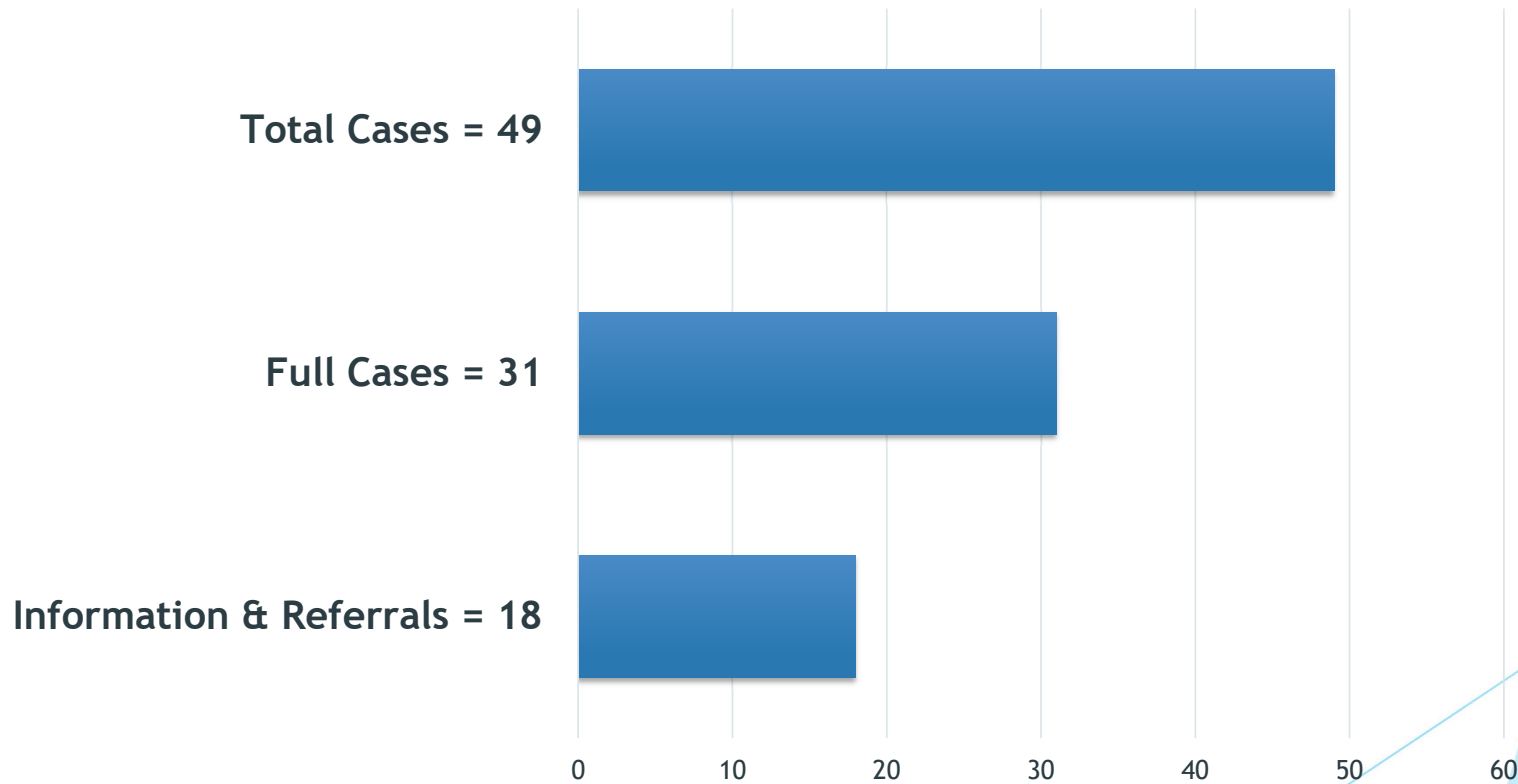


# Client Assistance Program

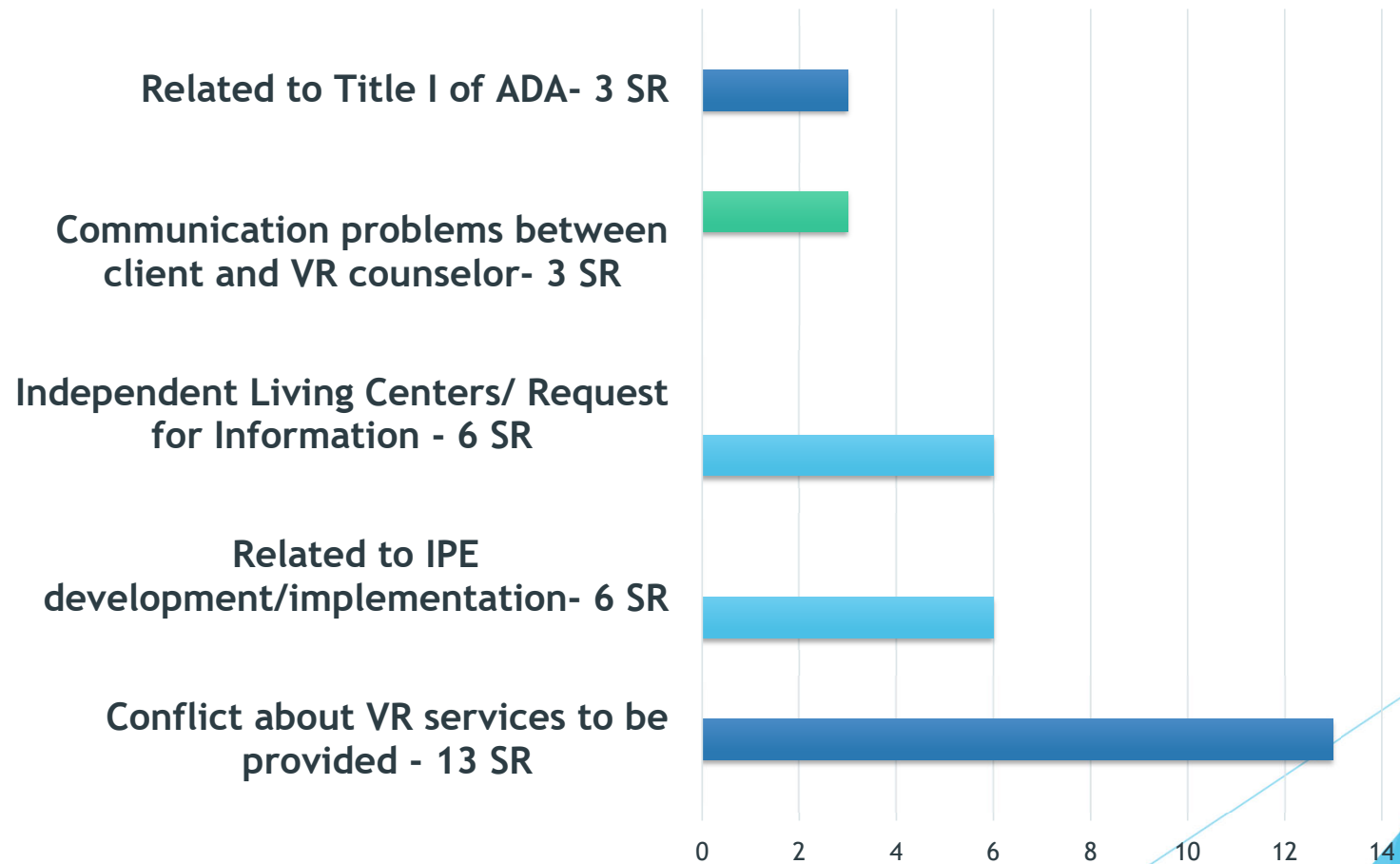
Update to Wisconsin Rehabilitation Council  
May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Jen Espinoza Forlenza  
Disability Rights Wisconsin

# Total CAP Service Requests-1Q & 2Q of 2024



# Service Requests : by problem area



## CAP Projects

- ▶ Reviewing Consumer Rights paperwork for DVR and ILCs
- ▶ Clarifying CAP Consumer Rights role for ILC core services vs. programs housed at ILCs.

# QUESTIONS

Thank you!  
[jenniferf@drwi.org](mailto:jenniferf@drwi.org)

disability**rights** | WISCONSIN





# DVR Business Services

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**Mallory Bryan**

Business Services Consultant

Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development  
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation



# DVR Business Services Consultants

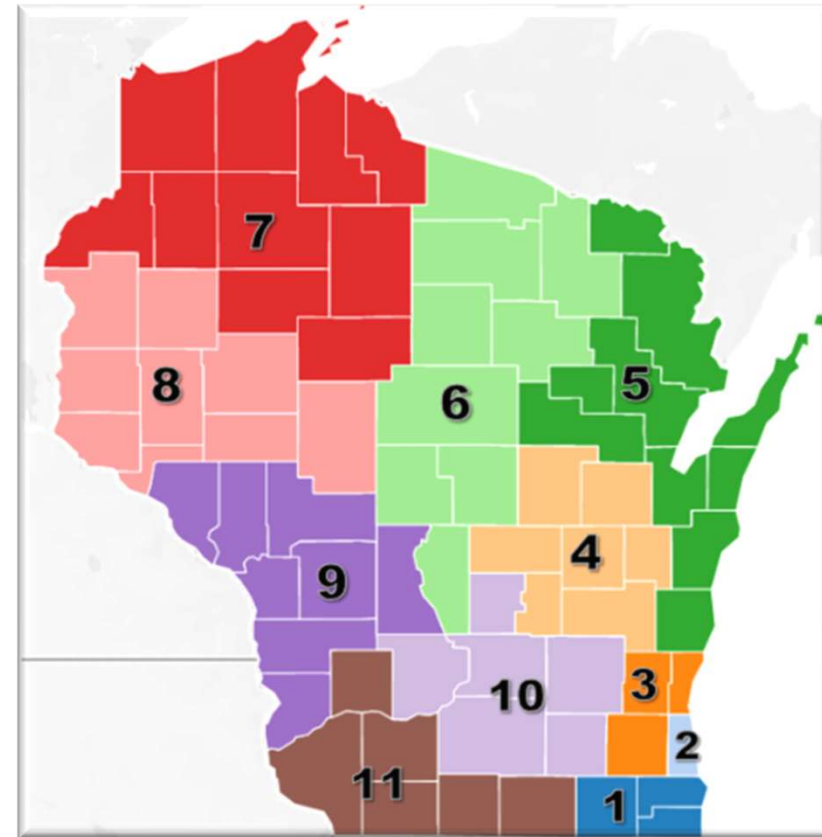
<https://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dvr/business/bsc-contact.htm>

## Business Services Consultant (BSC) Map

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)

Statewide Contact: Patti Johnson 262-488-2889

BSC	Email	Phone	
1	Shaun Lukas shaun.lukas@dwd.wisconsin.gov	262-270-8518	■
2	Markus Watts (MKE North) Markus.Watts@dwd.wisconsin.gov	414-250-6568	■
	Sameer Bhaiji (MKE South) Sameer.Bhaiji@dwd.wisconsin.gov	414-458-8072	■
3	Denise Puffer Denise.Puffer@dwd.wisconsin.gov	262-888-0181	■
4	Nicole Greetan Nicole.Greetan@dwd.wisconsin.gov	920-312-6037	■
5	Lynn Hardginski Lynn.Hardginski@dwd.wisconsin.gov	262-977-1021	■
6	Mallory Bryan mallory.bryan@dwd.wisconsin.gov	715-907-2580	■
7	Dawn Stocks dawn.stocks@dwd.wisconsin.gov	715-415-2712	■
8	Tara Burns Taram.burns@dwd.wisconsin.gov	715-931-7394	■
9	Amy Studden Amy.Studden@dwd.wisconsin.gov	608-799-6308	■
10	Amy Studden Amy.Studden@dwd.wisconsin.gov	608-799-6308	■
11	Ismael Luna ismael.luna@dwd.wisconsin.gov	608-931-0765	■



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# DVR Mission

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To obtain, maintain and improve employment for people with disabilities by working with VR consumers, employers and other partners.

**Find a Job.  
Keep a Job.  
Get a Better Job.**



# What is DVR Business Services?

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Tap into highly-reliable and qualified job applicants who can put their diverse abilities to work for you



Build strategies to ensure that you maintain a critical edge and competitive advantage by retaining your existing workforce



Connect to workforce planning resources and labor market information



# Our Partnerships

## DVR Providers & Counselors Business Services Team Job Center Partners

- \* Chambers of Commerce
- \* Workforce Development Boards
- \* Technical Colleges
- \* HR Groups
- \* K-12 Schools
- \* Industry Liaison Groups





## Special Initiatives

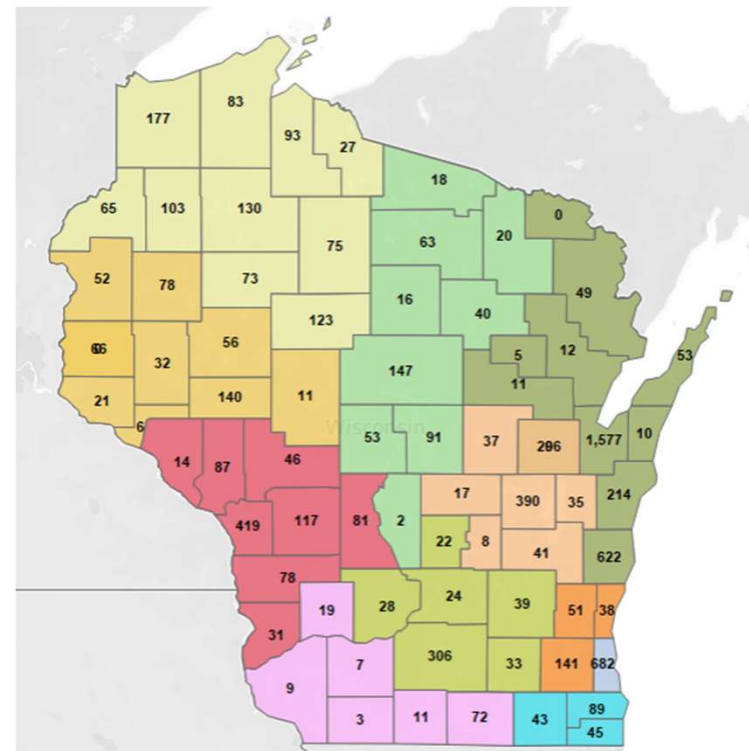
- NDEAM
- Project SEARCH
- Kwik Trip Retail Helper
- Windmills
- Conferences



# Business Services Impact

**Employers**  
**2,633**

**Services**  
**7,787**



STATE OF WISCONSIN



Department of Workforce Development

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**Thank you!**

Mallory Bryan | DVR Business Services Consultant | May 9, 2024

# Icon Library

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Department of Workforce Development

**Vocational Rehabilitation**

# DVR Quarterly Update

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**ALLISON GORDON**

DVR Bureau of Consumer  
Services Director

**DEANNA KRELL**

DVR Bureau of Management  
Services Director

Wisconsin Rehabilitation Council | May 9, 2024 | WebEx

# Program Year (PY) 2023 Outcomes

For cases closed **07/01/2023 – 04/05/2024**:

PY 2023 Closures	All Cases	All SE Cases	All Non-SE Cases
Total Successful Closures	2,316	511	1,805
Average Wages Earned Per Week	\$429	\$180	\$499
Average Wage Per Hour	\$17.67	\$12.80	\$18.38
Average Hours Worked Per Week	24	14	27
Private Insurance	793	98	695



# Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) DVR Budget

- FFY 2023 budget reflects final federal award and applicable state match.
- FFY 2024 budget reflects available federal award and applicable state match through

FFY	TOTAL Budget	TOTAL Spending
2022	\$84,248,222	\$84,248,222
2023 to date	\$89,605,936	\$83,877,921
2024 to date	\$30,600,427	\$28,448,431

*\*Data current as of 4/15/2024. Budget for 2024 includes all applicable state match. State GPR match funding has not changed during the reporting period.*



# Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS)

Total Purchased Expenses FFY24: **\$4,527,361**

WDA	Consumers	Expenses
1	137	\$254,660
2	191	\$444,298
3	300	\$815,075
4	244	\$548,464
5	212	\$424,868
6	158	\$415,539

WDA	Consumers	Expenses
7	41	\$86,588
8	212	\$552,237
9	89	\$180,404
10	259	\$645,717
11	78	\$159,422

*\*Data current as of April 5, 2024*



# RSA Negotiated Measures

Indicator	PY2022 Actual Reported	PY2023 Year to Date	PY2024 Negotiated Level	PY2025 Negotiated Level
Employment (Second Quarter After Exit)	57.0%	54.8%	57.1%	57.4%
Employment (Fourth Quarter After Exit)	54.8%	54.1%	54.9%	55.1%
Median Earnings (Second Quarter After Exit)	\$3,422	\$3,569	\$3,537	\$3,645
Credential Attainment Rate	39.9%	40.7%	41.0%	41.5%
Measurable Skill Gains	60.3%	36.8%	61.5%	62.0%



# Top Things Happening in DVR

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- Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment
- New Service Provider Agreements - July 1, 2024
- Policy Re-organization
- New Disability Innovation Grant released: Creating a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Workforce of Youth and Adults with Disabilities Through the Transformation of Education, Career, and Competitive Integrated Employment Model Demonstration Project.



# DVR Internal Workgroup Updates

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## Policy Academy

- Met in March 2024
- Reviewed updates to Existing Business Policy and reminders around CPA Grant.
- Reviewed policy around recording/reporting in house services and comparable benefits.
- Members are bringing two items back to their local teams to review and provide feedback.
  - Partnership Plus/Ticket to work letter
  - New Eligibility and OOS Policy Procedure document



# DVR Internal Workgroup Updates

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## **Quality Assurance**

- Met in April 2024
- Currently working on review of IPE development following “back to basics” training in 2022.
- Compiling results/writing reports from Peer Review.





# DVR Internal Workgroup Updates

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## **START**

- Met in Feb. 2024
- Reviewed School Survey results and discussed next steps.
- Reviewed transition materials to be used for the updated comprehensive new staff training.
- Discussed elements of the Student dashboard.



# DVR Internal Workgroup Updates

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## **AsTec**

- Robin Jones, Great Lakes ADA Center presented to the team and invited interested DVR staff to attend.



# DVR Internal Workgroup Updates

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## **SenseAbility**

- Participated in a Hearing Loss Simulator to learn more about the lived experience of hearing loss.
- Reviewed and clarified DVR support of cochlear implants and hearing aid purchasing policy.
- Continuing to connect, consult and be subject matter expert for local teams regarding deaf, hard of hearing, blind and visual impaired individuals.



# DVR Internal Workgroup Updates

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## **Workplace Wellness**

- Finalized Recognition plans completed for WDAs and Central Office and asked members for feedback.
- Identified methods Wellness Team can contribute toward employee engagement efforts.
- Shared Wellness and Engagement Activities completed with team members since last meeting.



# DVR Internal Workgroup Updates

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## **Employee Resource Group**

Has not met recently pending membership decision on goals and focus of the group.



# DVR Staff Trainings Update

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- **February 2024:** Depression/Anxiety from Dr. Kris Eiring
- **March 2024:** Existing Business Policy moved to April
- **April 2024:** Principles in De-Escalation and Tough Conversations; Existing Business Policy; AgrAbility in-person training
- **May 2024:** AIVR/DVR Tribal AODA training; technical specification review; WIOA Wednesday – Value of Collaboration; Comprehensive New Staff Training
- **June 2024:** Fundamental Counseling Skills – Case Management vs. Vocational Counseling



# New Mediation Requests 10/6/2023 to 4/5/2024

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DVR received two mediation requests. Both are still active and pending outcomes



# New Appeals Requests 10/6/2023 to 4/22/2024

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DVR received **two** appeals request:

- Currently an open case with no decision rendered
- Consumer with a closed case with no decision rendered





# Appeal Hearing Outcomes FFY 2024

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**Nine** Total Appeals:

- **Two** Decisions rendered
- **One** Rehearing denied
- **Two** Withdrawn by consumers
- **Two** DVR motion to dismiss granted
- **Two** Resolved by parties



# Service Provider Transportation Update

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- Small percentage of providers have added this
- Unable to track usage
- Received no feedback from staff, consumers or providers



# DVR Senior Leadership Team Visits

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- Meredith, Deanna, Allison, and Anna are attending one local DVR meeting in all 11 WDAs
- Visits occurring June through September 2024
- Gives local staff the opportunity to have direct contact with SLT



# Questions?



# Contact Us

## Meredith Dressel

DVR Administrator

608-405-4615

[Meredith.Dressel@dwd.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Meredith.Dressel@dwd.wisconsin.gov)

## Allison Gordon

DVR Bureau Consumer Services Director

608 405-4617

[Allison.Gordon@dwd.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Allison.Gordon@dwd.wisconsin.gov)

## Deanna Krell

DVR Bureau Management Services Director

608 707-6829

[Deanna.krell@dwd.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Deanna.krell@dwd.wisconsin.gov)



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# AgrAbility

## Cultivating Accessible Agriculture

**Richard Straub**

**Professor Emeritus ,UW-Madison**

**Jeff Kratochwill**

**Director, FARM and Vocational Services**

**Easterseals of Wisconsin**

# What is AgrAbility?

AgrAbility is a project to enable a lifestyle of high quality for farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural workers with disabilities, so that they, their families, and communities continue to succeed in rural America

• Nationwide (USDA funded) program helping farmers faced with:

- Aging
- Disease
- Injury
- Illness

# Priorities of AgrAbility

- Provide direct services to assist agriculture workers to remain active in agriculture
- Encourage networking information sharing, provision of services and funding from other organizations
- Develop service capacity to advance individual capabilities, adapt new technologies, and deliver program information through educational venues



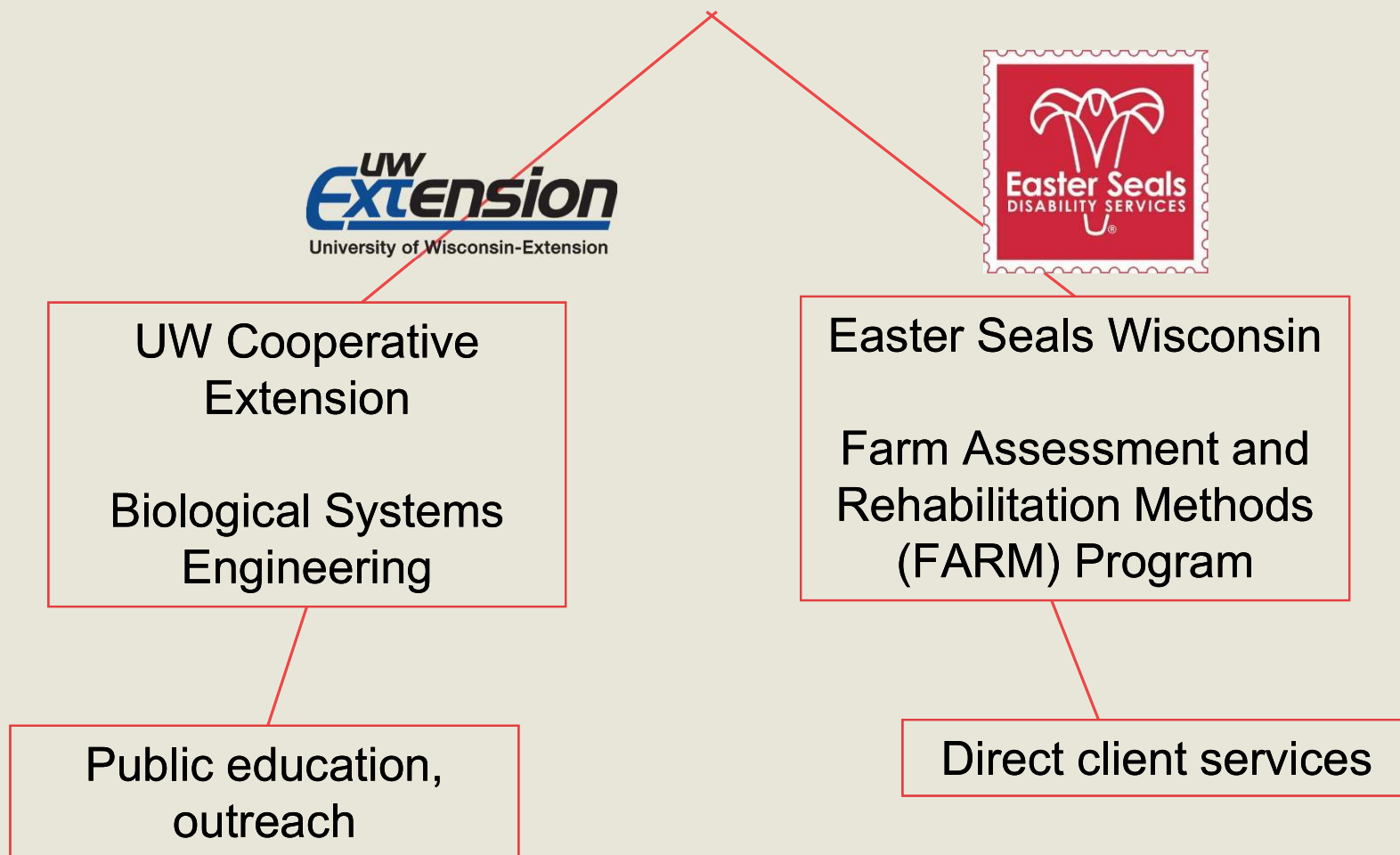
# Program Structure

- **National AgrAbility Project-provides overall leadership, coordination and training opportunities (Purdue)**
- **State/Regional AgrAbility Projects(SRAPs)-currently 21 funded, 8 Affiliate projects**
- **All SRAPs are funded competitively by the USDA providing base funding**
- **All projects must have at least one non-profit partner**
- **No cost to clients—its free!**

# State/Regional Projects



# AgrAbility of Wisconsin



# Who is eligible for AgrAbility?

- Farmers, farm workers, and their family members making \$1000 or more in gross sales/year
- People engaged in agriculture, with any type of injury, chronic illness, or disabling condition
  - Arthritis
  - Back impairments
  - Amputations
  - Brain injury
  - Spinal cord injuries/paralysis
  - Head injuries

# Farmers Served

- **Nationally over 13,600**
- **Wisconsin approximately 3,500**
  - **Rationale for Wisconsin's success:**
    - Nature of Wisconsin agriculture-many small farms and dairies
    - Quality, dedicated staff
    - Supportive State DVR

# Typical WI Client Demographics

## Origin of Disability

- **60% Chronic conditions**
- **20% Farm injury**
- **20% Non-farm (home, auto, sports)**

# Typical WI Client Demographics

## Top Types of Disabilities

- **Joint 30-35%**
- **Back 20-25%**
- **Arthritis 10-15%**
- **Amputation 5-10%**
- **Orthopedic 5-10%**

# The Process for Farmers

- 1. Call AgrAbility SRAP or enroll online (AAW staff will follow up with questions)**
- 2. Farm assessment and recommendations**
- 3. Meet and talk over options with Case Manager and Rehab Specialists**
- 4. Implement suggestions and/or seek assistance**



# Funding Sources AgrAbility Will Help Access

- **State Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Agencies provide funding for equipment, training, and other expenses related to employment for people with disabilities.**
- **Other Non-profits (WI example: Harvest of Hope Fund, Farm Rescue)**
- **Equipment re-use (WI example: Easter Seals Wisconsin Agricultural Equipment Exchange)**

## Other Ag AT Resources

- National AgrAbility “Toolbox”  
<http://www.agrability.org/toolbox/>
- SRAP websites  
<https://agrability.bse.wisc.edu/disability-agriculture/assistive-technology-gallery/>

# Assistance Objective

- ▶ Assistive Technology Assessment
- ▶ Develop individualized rehabilitation plan
- ▶ Facilitate contact with service providers
- ▶ Provide educational resources to consumers
- ▶ Address Safety/Business decisions



# What is Assistive Technology?

*"Assistive technology device means any item, piece of equipment, or product system, whether acquired commercially off the shelf, modified, or customized, that is used to increase, maintain, or improve the functional capabilities of a person with a disability"*



# Assistive Technology Examples on Farms

- Individualized to Farm/Disability needs
- 1,000's of examples
- Can be low-cost or high cost
- With use of Assistive Technology, farmers can maintain productive work on farms in Wisconsin.





John Mitchell  
& Family



▶ I want to give a huge shoutout to [AgrAbility of Wisconsin](#) and [Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development](#) DVR program for making this piece of equipment a reality for John. Equipped with a left hand only joystick and foot pedals to operate the bucket. Sometimes it's really hard to find anything that comes easy like it used to for him, operating the skid loader being one of them. Thanks to these two incredible programs.



- Thank you [Hillsboro Equipment](#) for working with Tim Schultz, FARM Program client of AgrAbility of Wisconsin, to modify his combine with a new ladder accommodation.
- Tim experienced a leg amputation after complications from a knee replacement. These steps help him access a very large piece of equipment rather than the standard vertical ladder he needed to climb.



# Agri-speed Automatic Hitch

Allows hitching and unhitching without leaving the tractor seat

PTO Compatible

Compatible with choppers



Bergman Manufacturing 1.800.677.8329

# Before

# After



# Farm Camera Systems

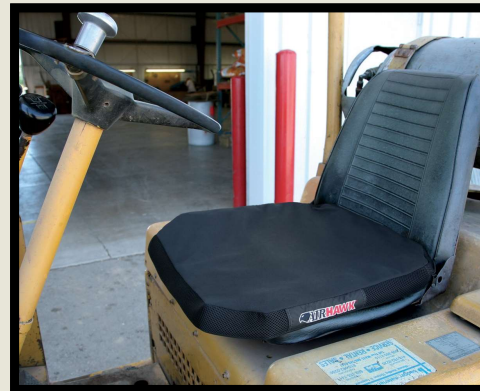


- A camera system during filling
- Monitor silo unloaders
- When to change silo doors



# Suspensions & Seats

High-backed seat with air suspension



Air Hawk seat cushion



Skid steer air suspension

K&M Manufacturing 800.328.1752

# Skid Steer Steps





# Lifts



Truck lift



Trailer lift

S&S Mobility Products, LLC 480.456.5438





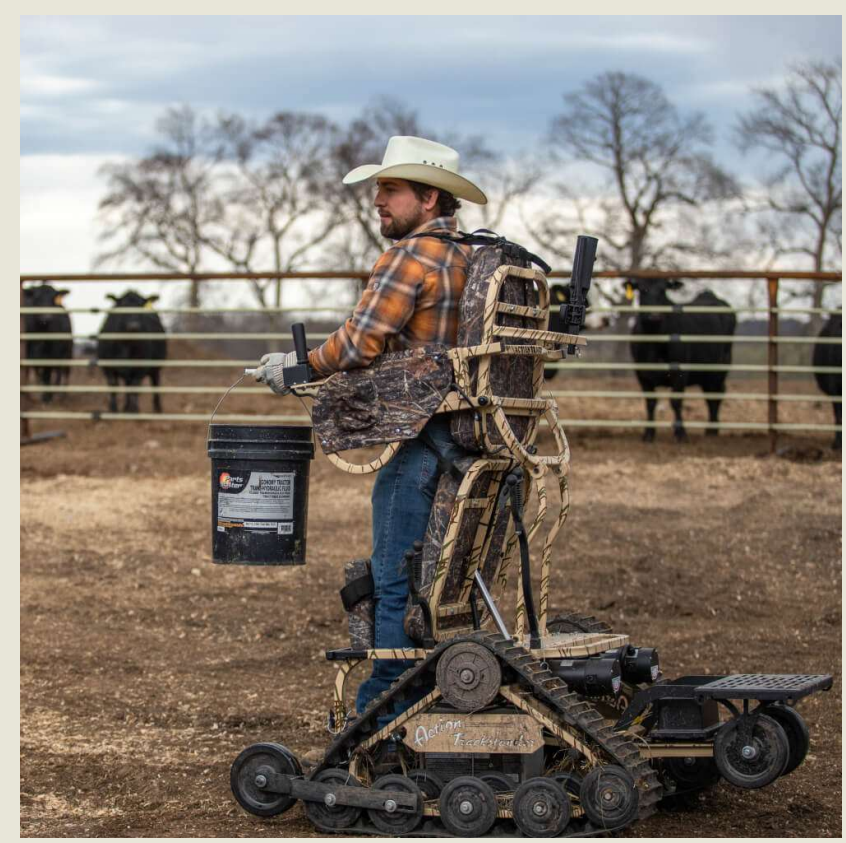


# Mobility

## UTVs



## All-terrain Chair



- **New Holland launches TL5 ‘Acessivel’ tractor**
- 
- [Julian Buckley](#) Editor, *Power Progress International* / [KHL Content Studio](#)
- 04 January 2024 2 min read
- **New Holland TL5 ‘Acessivel’ (Photo: New Holland)**
- New Holland has introduced what is being billed as the world’s first accessible tractor. The machine is designed to support operation by people with lower-limb disabilities.
- The TL5 ‘Acessivel’ was designed at the New Holland Agriculture facility in Curitiba, Brazil. It was developed with the assistance of Fernando Dalmolin, a Brazilian farmer who sustained lower limb disabilities in 2022.
- “This is just what people with disabilities like mine need to be able to work independently in the field. I am very happy and excited to be a part of this ground-breaking project,” said Dalmolin.



# Questions? Or Referrals

Contact us:

AgrAbility of Wisconsin

[agrability@wisc.edu](mailto:agrability@wisc.edu)

(608) 262-9336

Dick Straub: [richard.straub@wisc.edu](mailto:richard.straub@wisc.edu)

(608) 216-6305

Jeff Kratochwill:

[jkratochwill@eastersealswisconsin.com](mailto:jkratochwill@eastersealswisconsin.com)