

Alaska State Vocational Rehabilitation Committee

# 2021 Annual Report



Max's Mini Cache, Anchorage Federal Building

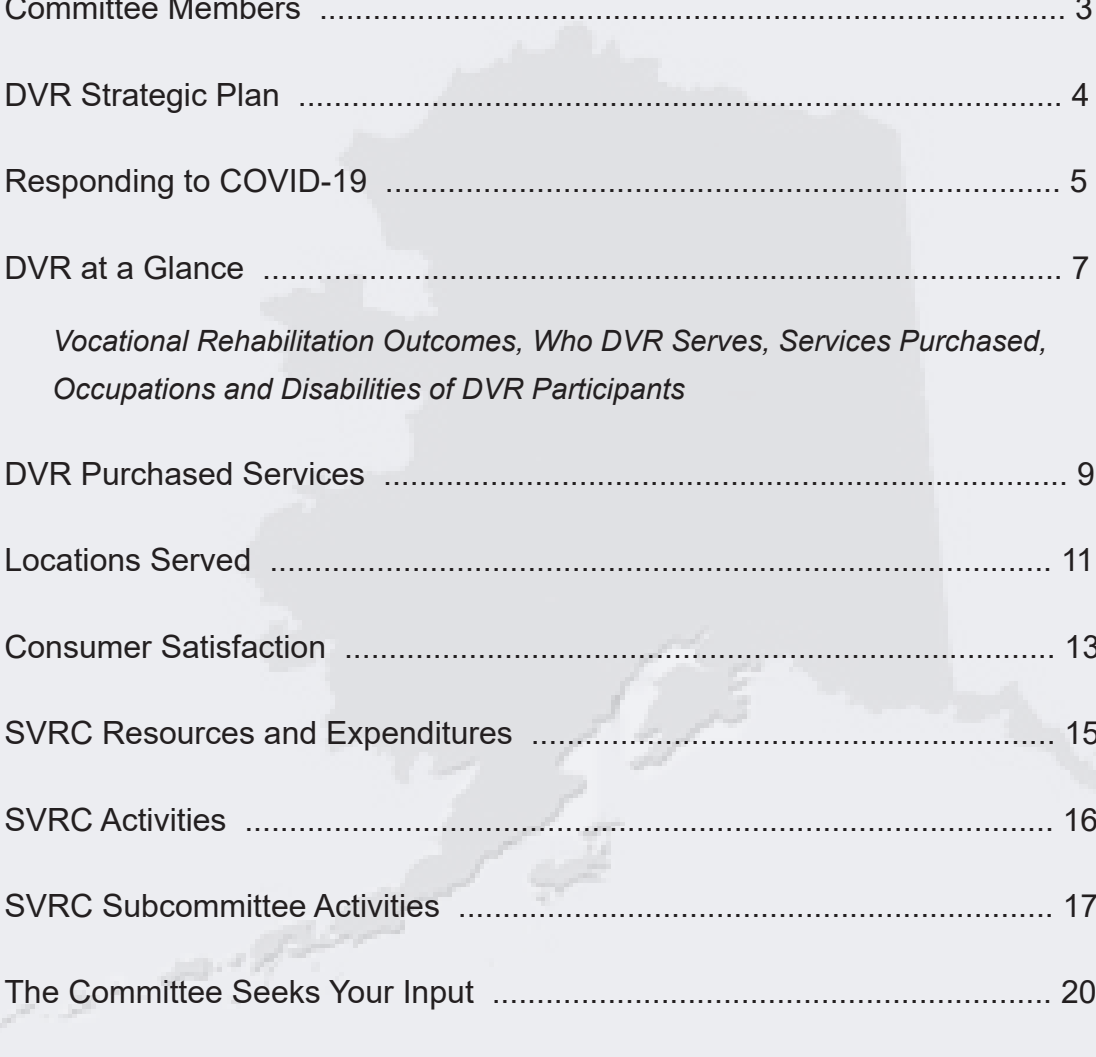


**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

A Proud Partner of the American Job Center Network

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NOTE: This report is for the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY), but, statistics for the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation were only available for the corresponding State Fiscal Year (SFY).

# From the SVRC Chair and DVR Director

As the Chair of the State Vocational Rehabilitation Committee (SVRC) and the Director of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR), we would like to express our excitement with the work being done to improve and enhance employment outcomes for Alaskans with disabilities in this great state. We believe that the SVRC plays an important part in helping to provide guidance to Alaska DVR leadership on addressing the employment needs of Alaskans with disabilities. With new board appointments, we can see the passion and enthusiasm from our members as we strive to address the challenges of our aging and at-risk youth population. Now, more than ever, we must address this need through efficient and accountable service delivery. Employment can be the best cure to many challenges Alaskans with disabilities experience. With the SVRC and DVR partnership intact, we are confident we can do more!



*SVRC Chair, Travis Noah*



*DVR Director, Duane Mayes*

“When I lost my vision, I was working in the bakery department of a grocery store. I could not safely do my job any more. My DVR counselor and assistant have been helping me obtain the tools and training I need to eventually return back to the workforce. Through the collaboration of DVR and the Alaska Center For the Blind and Visually Impaired, I started my training in April of 2019, and now I am in my second semester of college to obtain my Bachelor’s Degree in Social Work. I love helping others and thanks to DVR, I am able to reach for dreams I thought were lost when my vision was gone.”

*- DVR Participant, Public Testimony*

# SVRC Committee and Members

## **Travis Noah**

*CHAIR*  
*Anchorage*  
Consumer

## **Mandy Link**

*VICE CHAIR*  
*Anchorage*  
Parent Training and  
Information Center

## **Ann Anderson**

*Anchorage*  
Community Rehabilitation  
Provider

## **Dave Bérube**

*Anchorage*  
Client Assistance Program

## **Garrett Dominick**

*Kenai*  
Business

## **Doug Gryzbowski**

*Kenai*  
Vocational Rehabilitation  
Counselor

## **Cynthia Lovel**

*Wasilla*  
Business

## **Duane Mayes**

*Anchorage*  
Director, Division of  
Vocational Rehabilitation

## **Michael Merritt**

*Anchorage*  
Consumer

## **Ric Nelson**

*Anchorage*  
State Independent Living  
Council

## **Alison Nielson-Bryant**

*Anchorage*  
Alaska Workforce Investment  
Board

## **Alicia Ore**

*Anchorage*  
Consumer

## **Gwen Sargent**

*Kodiak*  
Section 121

## **Coleen Shivers**

*Juneau*  
Alaska Dept. of Education &  
Early Development

## **Vacant**

Business

## **Vacant**

Business

## **The Alaska State Vocational Rehabilitation Committee**

The State Vocational Rehabilitation Committee (SVRC) is composed of volunteers from around the state who are appointed by the Governor to both advise and partner with the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR). Members help shape policy by participating in strategic planning, needs assessments, consumer satisfaction surveys, and ongoing program evaluation.

Members include people with disabilities, community rehabilitation program service providers, representatives from independent living, Department of Education and Early Development, Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation (TVR) programs, advocates, VR participants, and business leaders.

Each year, the SVRC submits this report on the status of the DVR program to the Governor and to the United States Department of Education's Rehabilitation Services Administration.

# DVR Strategic Plan



## **Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Mission**

To assist individuals with disabilities to obtain and maintain employment.

The SVRC and DVR continuously work to improve the delivery of vocational rehabilitation (VR) services to Alaskans with disabilities. A keystone of this work is an ongoing, three year cyclical strategic planning process, which is the responsibility of DVR and SVRC leadership. The strategic planning process utilizes data captured from the triennial Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment (CSNA) report. The results of the CSNA are used to determine DVR priorities.

The strategic planning team includes the DVR management and leadership teams, SVRC members, the Client Assistance Program, and Tribal VR programs. The four goals listed below were identified for the 2020-2023 planning cycle and provide organizational direction and focus for DVR. Specific teams are tasked with duties that will ensure these goals are met. These assigned tasks are reviewed and updated quarterly.

### **Goal 1: Provide High-Quality Services**

DVR will deliver high-quality vocational rehabilitation services to people with disabilities and assist them with obtaining employment that is consistent with their career goals. This goal reflects DVR's continued focus on improving the VR service delivery system.

### **Goal 2: Provide Highly Skilled Staff**

DVR will recruit, employ, retain, and train the most qualified and highly skilled rehabilitation staff. This goal reflects the value that DVR places on well-trained staff and the need for succession planning.

### **Goal 3: Improve Organizational Systems**

DVR will continuously evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of organizational systems and identify opportunities to develop innovative solutions for necessary changes. This will include implementing advancements in technology as resources allow, analyzing current business practices to improve service delivery systems, and ensuring critical applications/systems are current.

### **Goal 4: Provide Leadership in the Workforce System**

DVR will maintain a leadership role in expanding vocational opportunities for Alaskans with disabilities. This goal is to strengthen our connection to other programs that serve individuals with disabilities. DVR will continue to collaborate with other agencies to improve the delivery of VR services.

# Responding to COVID-19

## By Duane Mayes, DVR Director

On March 12, 2020, Alaska confirmed its first positive case of COVID-19.

The virus had made landfall on United States soil in January and had begun spreading rapidly throughout Washington State. Although not much was known about COVID-19 in the beginning, it appeared to be highly contagious and to have more deadly consequences for the elderly and immunocompromised.

The Alaska Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) serves and employs individuals with disabilities, who often experience conditions that make them more susceptible to illness. Because of this, we quickly decided to implement telework for employees considered most at risk and to initiate telephonic meetings with consumers. DVR immediately planned a phased telework roll-out for mitigation control, placing employees who were considered at-risk in the first phase.

DVR was committed to ensuring the safety of our consumers and our staff from day one.

We implemented workplace controls to ensure social distancing and established rigorous cleaning procedures. We trained staff on everything known about COVID-19 at the time, including guidance from the Center for Disease Control (CDC).

On March 16, just under one week after Alaska had its first positive COVID-19 case, DVR instituted a “soft-closure” and field offices began providing services in a distance delivery format. DVR Leadership (what was to become known as the Command & Control Team) met daily to discuss the ever-changing landscape, service delivery strategies, and overall logistics of

telework. Those were long days, with many of us “on-call” 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

By the first week of April, 90% of DVR’s staff was teleworking from home, and 100% of our services were being delivered via distance. DVR offices were officially locked during business hours, with only a skeleton crew remaining to process mail and keep files updated. We implemented a mail/email process for individuals to apply for services without having to come to an office, a process for use of online assessment tools, and a process for rapid response

for current consumers who had been impacted by job loss.

As summer approached, COVID-19 cases continued to rise. It became apparent that what we thought was a temporary situation, had now become permanent. DVR had seen a sharp decline in the number of applications, and existing consumers were still too scared to work. We knew we needed to do more to encourage Alaskans with disabilities to access services, but

“My counselor is located in the Kenai Peninsula branch in Kenai, AK. Ever since I walked in the door of the office, I was welcomed warmly and respectfully with the offer of assistance without a negative or unwanted to be here atmosphere.”

- DVR Participant,  
Public Testimony



we also needed to make it easier. DVR created an online pre-application process for anyone interested in services.

As spring of 2021 approached, many schools began in-person learning for the first time in a year. We revisited our online application processes and revamped them so individuals could start their applications from any device with an internet connection, including a tablet or a smartphone. DVR conducted a survey of existing consumers to gauge their level of comfort in accessing services. Many expressed they were comfortable continuing to receive services via distance delivery, but many also wanted to start having in-person meetings again.

Today, our offices remain open to the public, and we have fully embraced a hybrid telework model, with roughly 75% of our staff working both in the office and at home. We are able to effectively serve consumers and prospective consumers as they walk in the door. Individuals are offered the choice of in-person services or distance delivery, depending on their preference.

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the future of Vocational Rehabilitation in more ways than we could have imagined. As an agency that touts itself as a planning organization, March 2020 catapulted DVR into an environment that required us to constantly react to change and try to predict the unpredictable. These last 18 months have shown us that our staff, and the consumers we serve, are adaptable to almost any situation and their resiliency is beyond what any of us knew possible. We have grown

and changed and created more flexibility and access to our program than ever before. Our consumers have learned new skills using internet-based tools and have flourished with virtual engagement, preparing them for what the new world of work, and work-search, has become.

But with the positive, also comes the negative. We are preparing ourselves for a new wave of individuals who have acquired long-term disabling conditions due to contracting COVID-19. We will continue to work with medical personnel to better understand the long-term adverse effects of COVID-19 and the vocational considerations for those individuals who have become known as “long-haulers.” We have adapted to a changing world, have more robust service delivery options, and continue to be the best resource for individuals with disabilities seeking employment. If you experience a disability and want to work or know someone who experiences a disability and wants to work, please have them contact their local DVR office.

In closing, many of our staff have their own personal story of how they ended up working for this Division, but we are all here because we truly believe in DVR’s mission. I am honored to be your Director under such challenging times and proud of both our staff and our consumers for their unwavering dedication to this program. We will weather this storm and prevail, because we are the Alaska Division of Vocational Rehabilitation!

# DVR at a Glance

Individuals served by DVR represent demographics as vast as Alaska itself. Although each individual has their own unique story, looking at aggregate numbers can help provide the State with an understanding of the overall scope of Alaska's vocational rehabilitation (VR) program.

## Vocational Rehabilitation Outcomes for State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2021

- 1,785 individuals received services from the VR program
- \$2,835,575 was spent on direct services to individuals
- \$932,648 was spent on Pre-Employment Transition Services provided to students with disabilities under the Potentially Eligible program
- \$132,002 was spent on Pre-Employment Transition Services provided to students with disabilities under the VR program
- \$1,064,650 was the total spent on Pre-Employment Transition Services under the VR program and the Potentially Eligible programs
- 606 new individuals applied for services
- 1,510 individuals received information and referral services
- 251 individuals exited the program employed with an average wage of \$16.16/hr. The minimum wage in Alaska is \$10.34

### Of the 251 individuals who exited the program:

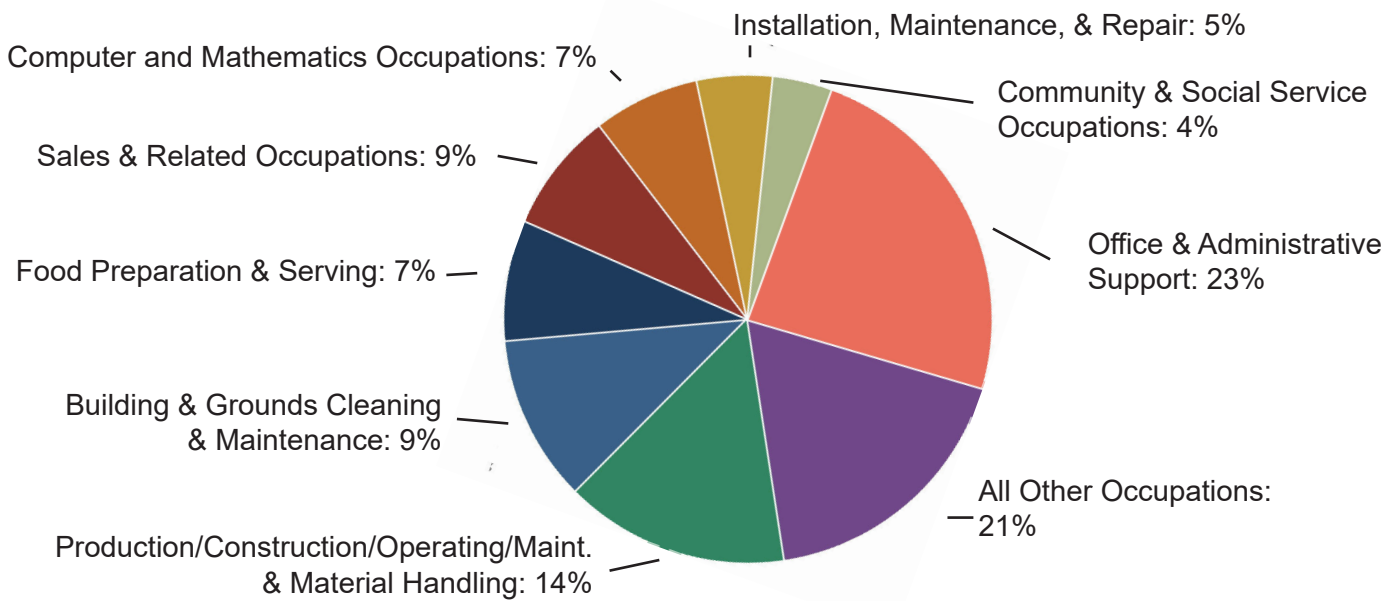
- 198 were employed in the private sector
- 47 were employed in federal, state, or local government
- 6 were self-employed

## Who DVR Serves

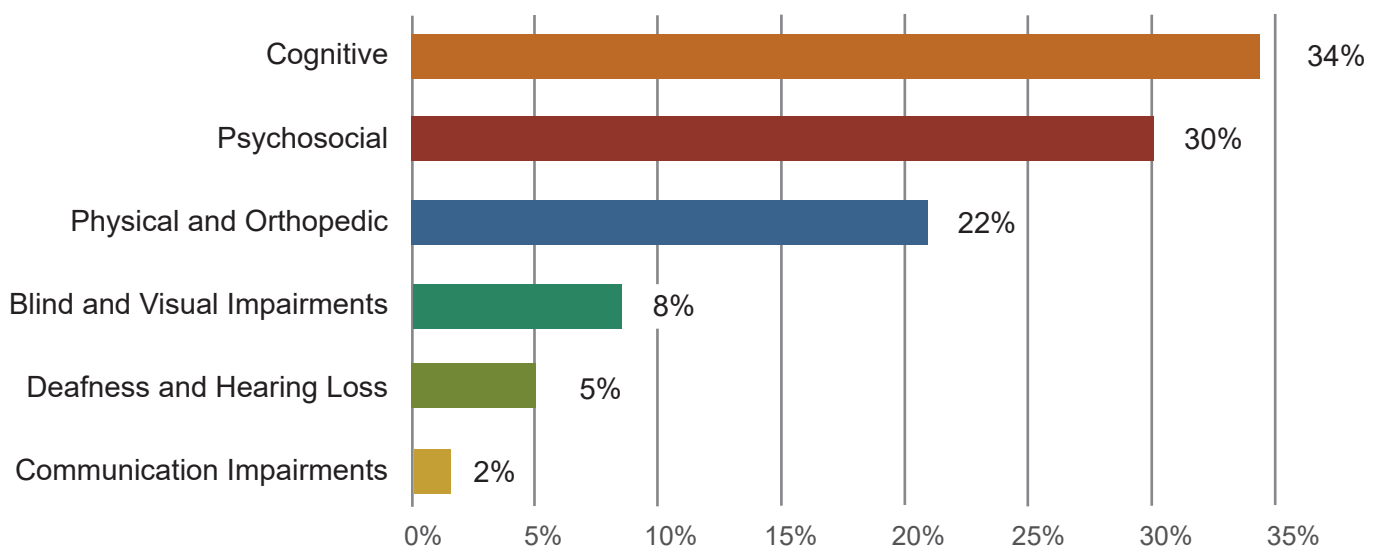
- 92% of individuals receiving services were significantly disabled, with multiple barriers to employment
- 63% were Caucasian, 22% were Alaska Native, 10% were Black or African American, 3% were Asian, and 2% were Pacific Islander or Native Hawaiian (participants may identify as one or more racial groups)
- 543 students with a disability (age 14-21) received Pre-Employment Transition Services



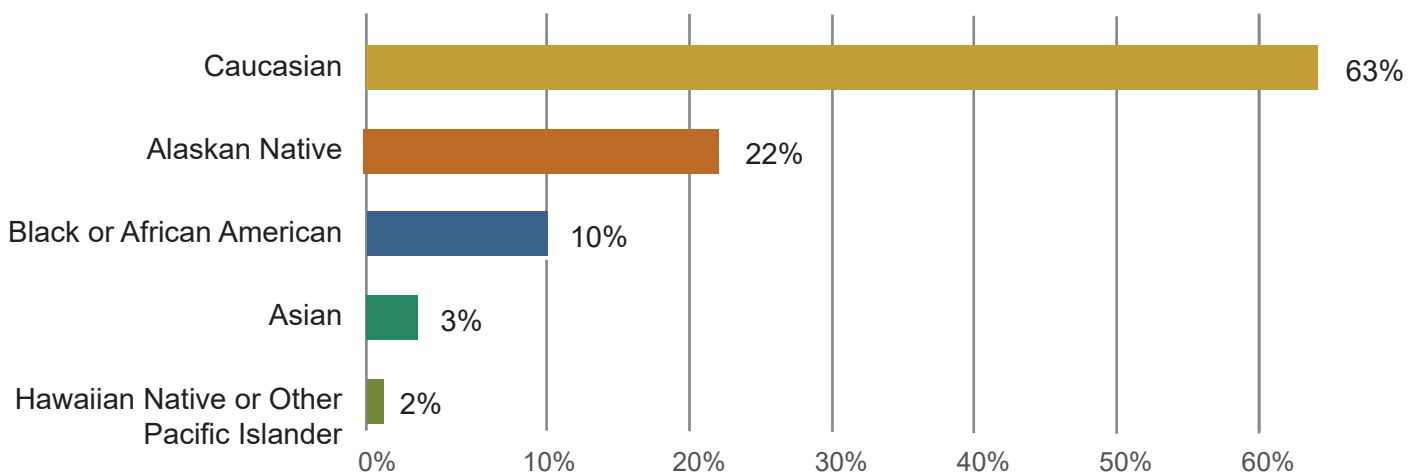
## Employment of DVR Participants after Exiting the Program SFY 2021



## Disabilities of DVR Participants SFY 2021



## DVR Participants by Race SFY 2021



# DVR Purchased Services SFY 2021

The federal agency that oversees DVR is the Department of Education's Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA). RSA has restructured service categories provided to individuals into five specific focus areas:

## Career Services

Career Services consists of identifying the needs of individuals as their Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) is developed. Career Services include services such as labor market information, vocational assessments, diagnosis and treatment, and counseling and guidance. Career Services are provided to assist individuals in obtaining or retaining employment.

## Training Services

Training Services are provided to assist individuals in accomplishing their vocational goals. Training Services are available for individuals who are unlikely or unable to obtain or retain employment that leads to self-sufficiency with their current skill set. Training Services include services such as college/university enrollment (junior, four-year, and graduate levels), occupational/

vocational training, on-the-job training, and apprenticeships. Training Services assist individuals in obtaining an education credential, such as a degree or certificate, which will increase their probability of achieving competitive integrated employment.

### Consumer Quotes from Satisfaction Surveys

"DVR Staff promptly provide answers to my questions and inform me of changes."

"DVR helped me choose a job consistent to my capabilities and interests."

"I have been treated with the utmost respect from the staff at DVR. Thank you very much for your continued support and commitment to help people like me. Mahol nui loa."

## Other/Supportive Services

Other/Supportive Services are available to participants who are receiving career or training services and to reduce barriers to employment. Other/Supported Services include services such as support for transportation, personal assistant services, maintenance, rehabilitation technology, reader services, and interpreter services.

## Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) Under the VR Program

Pre-ETS are a specialized group of services provided to Students With a Disability (SWD) to prepare them to transition from an educational setting to post-secondary education or employment. Pre-ETS under the VR program are delivered to SWD who have applied for VR services and can be provided at any stage in the VR process. These services are provided to a participant of the VR program who is 14-21 years old and currently enrolled in an educational program such as high school, college, or recognized educational



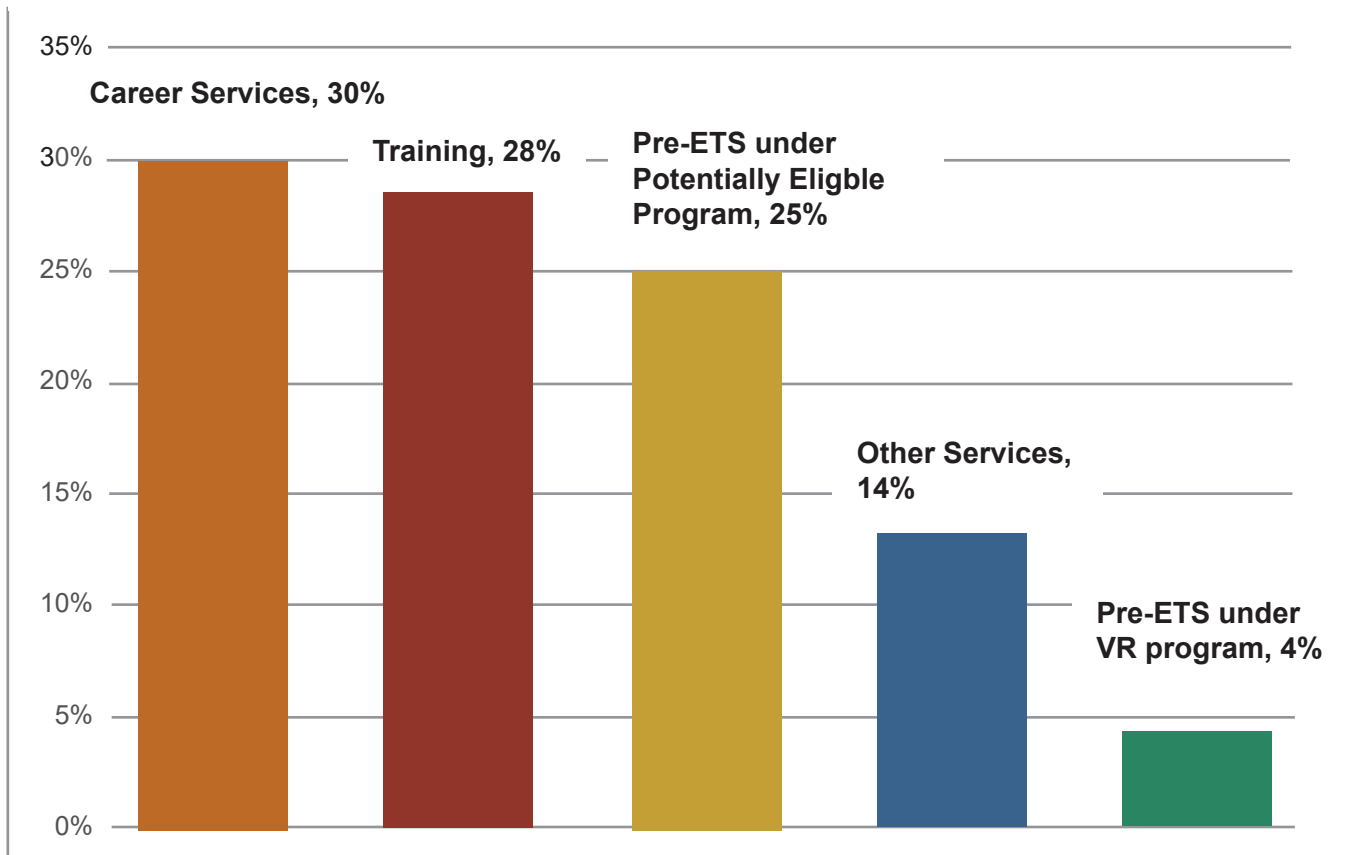
*DVR Purchased Services continued...*

program. The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as Amended identifies five distinct Pre-ETS activities: Job Exploration Counseling; Work-Based Learning Experiences; Counseling on Enrollment Opportunities in Post-Secondary Education; Workplace Readiness Training and Independent Living; and Instruction in Self Advocacy.

### **Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) Under the Potentially Eligible Program**

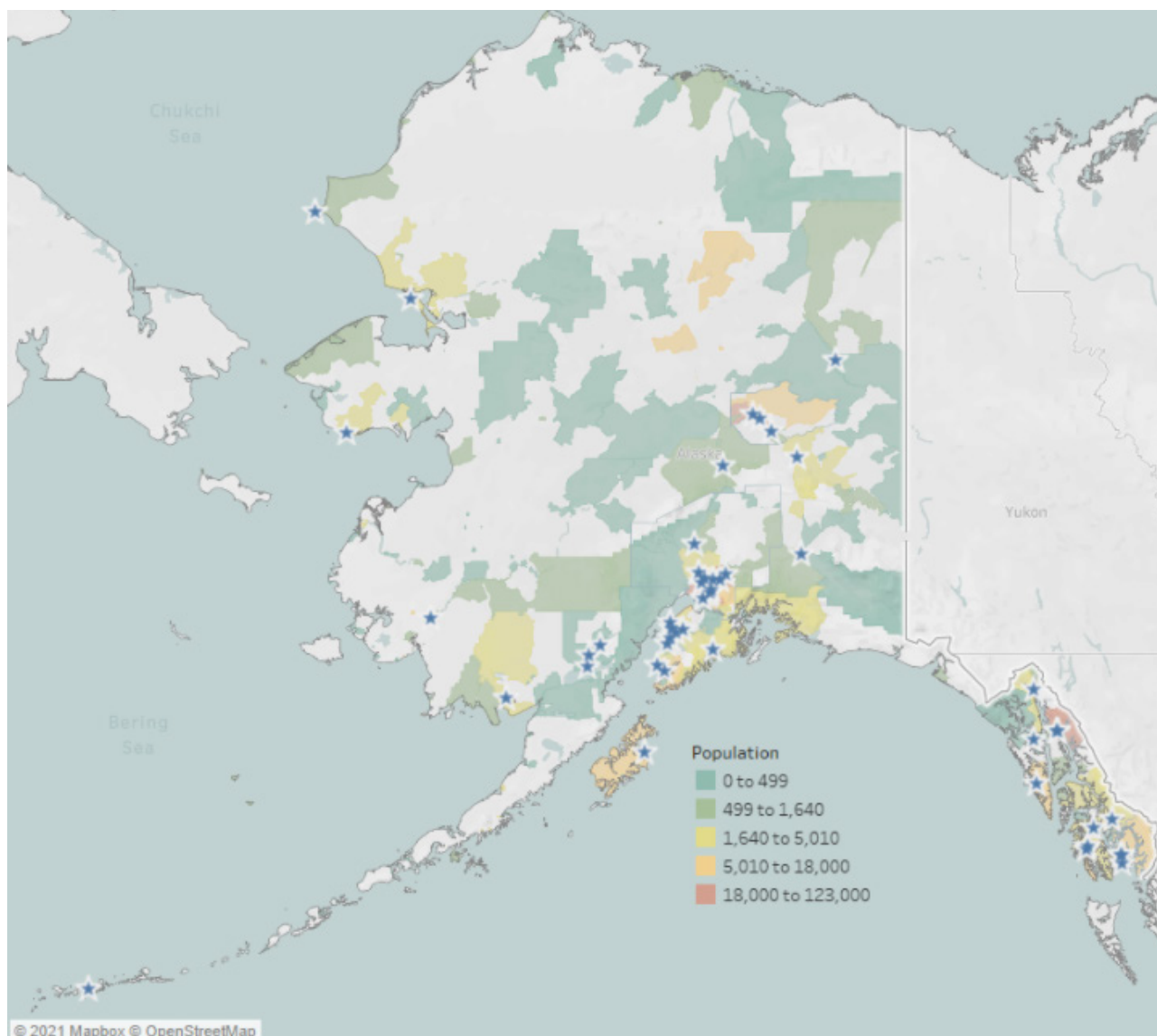
Similar to the Pre-ETS under the VR program described above, Pre-ETS under the Potentially Eligible program provides Pre-ETS to Students With a Disability (SWD) who are not applicants of the VR program, but who are considered to be potentially eligible for VR services. These services are provided to SWD who are 14-21 years old and currently enrolled in an educational program such as high school, college, or a recognized educational program. These SWD are also provided with Job Exploration Counseling; Work-Based Learning Experiences; Counseling on Enrollment Opportunities in Post-Secondary Education; Workplace Readiness Training and Independent Living; and Instruction in Self Advocacy. DVR provided Pre-ETS services to 543 SWDs in 53 different cities throughout SFY21.

### **Purchased Services SFY 2021 (\$3.7 million)**



# Locations of Alaskans Served SFY 2021

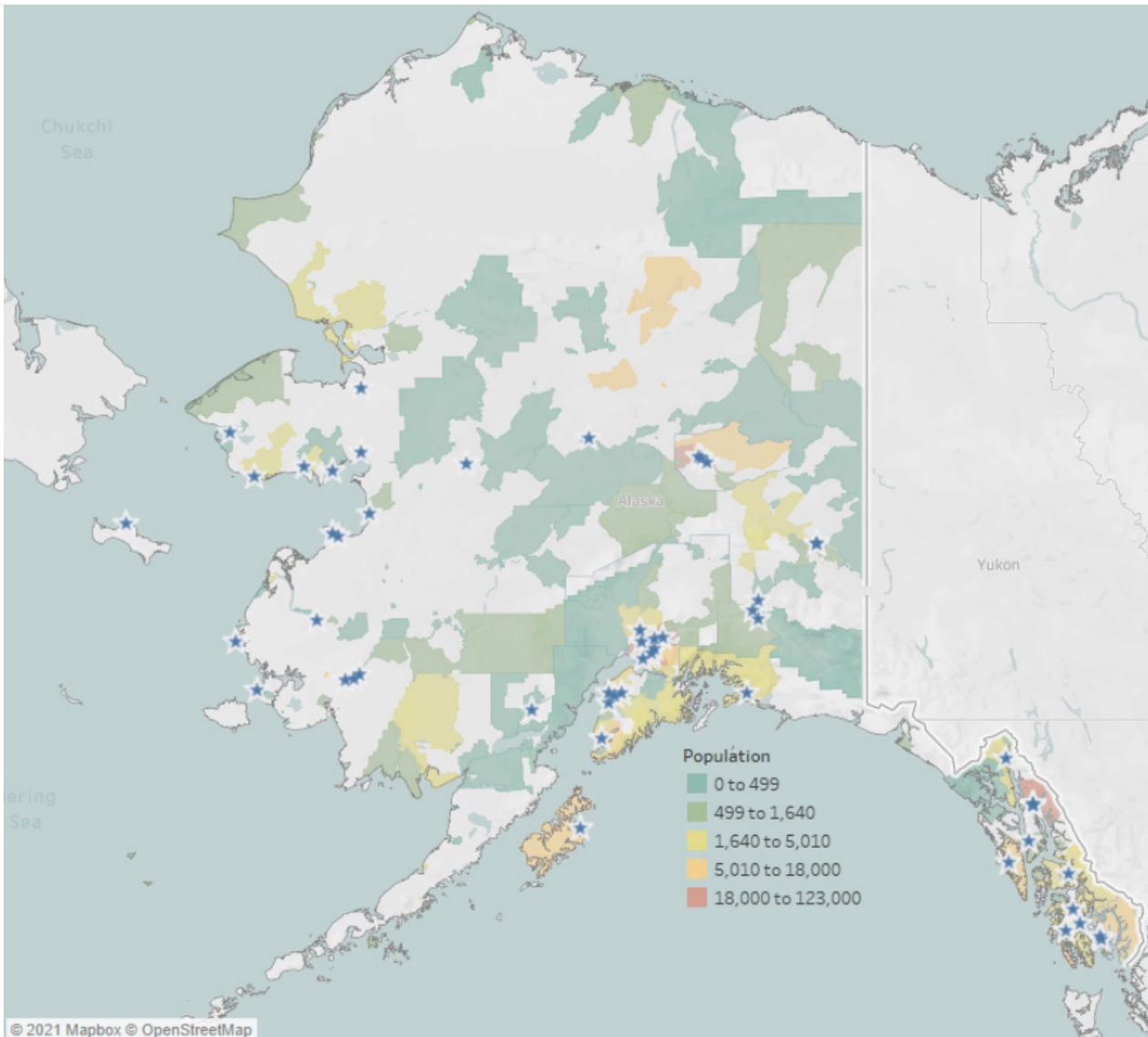
## 1,785 Participants Served by the VR Program in 48 Communities



**Vocational Rehabilitation Program:** These are individuals who have applied for Vocational Rehabilitation Services and have been assigned a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor to assist them towards achieving competitive integrated employment.



## 543 Students with a Disability Served in 53 Communities



**Pre-Employment Transition Services:** Pre-Employment Transition Services are the earliest set of services available to Students with Disabilities (SWD) under both the VR program and the Potentially Eligible Program. These services are provided to SWD who are 14-21 years old and currently enrolled in an educational program such as high school, college, or other recognized educational program.

# Consumer Satisfaction

## Survey of Participants Who Exit DVR Services

The SVRC oversees the on-going consumer satisfaction survey of DVR participants who are closed after an Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) was developed.

### Consumer Satisfaction Survey Highlights

DVR is a consumer-driven organization where a participant's self-involvement in the vocational rehabilitation process and informed choice are vital for success. The consumer satisfaction surveys focus on four points: Consumer and Staff Interaction, Consumer Involvement, Program Information, and Program Satisfaction. For State Fiscal Year 2021, DVR increased its positive response percentages in each of the four focus points, some by as much as 16%.

Surveys are sent to participants' email addresses via the online survey tool, SurveyMonkey. The surveys are sent on a monthly basis to individuals who have exited the program after an Individualized Plan for Employment was developed. Currently, 91% of DVR participants who meet the established parameters have a valid email address, which is a 3% increase from last year. The average monthly response rate is 10%, which is a 1% increase from last year.

### Treating the Consumer Participant with Respect

Eighty-eight percent of DVR participants who responded agreed that staff replied promptly to their questions, requests, and informed them of changes. This is a 13% increase from last year. Eighty-eight percent of respondents felt staff were polite and helpful on an on-going basis during the life of their case. This value increased 3% from last year.

### Informed Choice and Involvement in the DVR Process

Eighty-three percent of respondents were pleased with their involvement in the decision-making process that led to their Individualized Plan for Employment, which is a 12% increase. Additionally, 88% stated that Alaska DVR helped them understand their abilities so that they could choose a job consistent with their strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, capabilities, interests, and informed choice. This value increased 16% from last year.

### Referral of Others

Overall, 87% of respondents stated they would recommend Alaska DVR to others, which is a 12% increase from last year's recommendation. Respondents indicated an 83% satisfaction rate of the DVR program and the services they received. This value also increased 16% from last year.

### Review

The results of the surveys are reviewed on a quarterly basis and forwarded to regional office managers for follow-up and further action, if needed.



## All Respondents SFY 2021 - Survey Categories

### 1. Program Satisfaction

I would recommend DVR to others.	87%
Overall, I am satisfied with the services.	83%

### 2. Program Information

I knew the goal of DVR was to help me find employment or stay employed.	92%
DVR staff helped me understand the services available to me by DVR and other agencies.	85%

### 3. Consumer Involvement

I was aware of my right to disagree and was informed about the process to appeal DVR decisions and about the Client Assistance Program.	88%
I was pleased with my involvement in the decision making process that led to my plan for employment.	83%
Alaska DVR helped me understand my abilities so that I could choose a job consistent with my strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, capabilities, interests and informed choice.	88%

### 4. Consumer and Staff Interaction

DVR staff replied promptly to my questions, requests and informed me of changes.	88%
DVR staff were polite and helpful on an ongoing basis throughout the time I had an open case.	88%

# SVRC Expenditures and Resources

## SVRC 2021 Expenditures

The SVRC FFY 2021 funds were used for expenses related to quarterly meetings. Although funds were budgeted for printing the Annual Report, due to COVID-19 the report was not printed, and so funds were not used. Four quarterly meetings were held via video conference. Before the pandemic, the SVRC would meet face-to-face at least once during the year. However, due to COVID-19, all meetings were virtual in FY2021. Meeting costs included the use of a court reporter and the provision of accessibility options for the public and members with various disabilities.

## 2022 Resource Plan

FFY 2022 funds will be used to support the SVRC's quarterly meeting expenses, including one face-to-face meeting to be held in Anchorage, Alaska, if health and safety concerns related to COVID-19 allow it. This will involve travel and accommodations for members and staff, a court reporter, a sign language interpreter for public testimony, conference room rental, and meeting accessibility needs of the public and members. Funds will also be used to pay for travel, room, and conference registration for two members to attend a National Coalition on State Rehabilitation Council conference.



*DVR staff with partner at Veterans Job Fair in Anchorage, Alaska*



# SVRC Activities

In partnership with DVR, the SVRC engaged in a broad range of activities during FFY 2021 from October 1, 2020, to September 30, 2021, to help ensure the quality of DVR's services.

## SVRC Activities FFY 2021

- Collected public testimony from around the state via email, phone, and written letters.
- Held four meetings via video/teleconference. Each meeting focused on different regions: Anchorage, Rural, Northern, and Southern.
- Increased orientation efforts to help new members become effective more quickly. This included orientation sessions with the SVRC Chair and DVR Director for all new members.

### Speakers

At each meeting, reports were given by the DVR Director, Duane Mayes; Chief of Vocational Rehabilitation Services, Mariah Krueger; DVR Rehabilitation Manager(s) and from the following partner members: Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation, the Alaska Workforce Investment Board, the Client Assistance Program, and the parent training organization "Stone Soup Group." There were also a variety of guest speakers from disability, community, tribal, and workforce development agencies.



*DVR Participant John Miranda*

"I worked with both the Anchorage and Juneau DVR offices. I have yet to run into a person in either location that did not genuinely care about the people who walked through their doors. Everyone I met through DVR has always been warm hearted, kind, and very helpful."

*- DVR Participant, Public Testimony*

# SVRC Subcommittee Activities

The State Vocational Rehabilitation Committee (SVRC) has five standing subcommittees: Executive; Program Evaluation; Assistive Technology; Planning and Recruitment; and Policy, Public Relations, and Resources. The committee also has an ad-hoc Business Recognition Subcommittee. Below is a summary of each subcommittee's role and activities.

## Executive

The Executive subcommittee's role is to help SVRC members work together to assist DVR in providing the best possible services to their clients. It is comprised of the Chair, Vice Chair, and the chairs of the standing subcommittees. The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) Director also attends as an ex-officio member.

The subcommittee held monthly teleconferences where members reviewed the work of the SVRC as a whole and assigned work to the other subcommittees. They also planned the SVRC's quarterly meetings, including identifying guest speakers.

This past year, DVR has updated most of its policies. This Subcommittee, with the help of the Policy, Public Relations, and Resources Subcommittee, reviewed and gave DVR input on all updated DVR policies.

## Program Evaluation

The purpose of the Evaluation Subcommittee is to review and analyze the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, its functions, services, and outcomes. The subcommittee spent the past year reviewing public testimony and consumer satisfaction reports for both positive and negative patterns. Additionally, the group investigated other areas in which DVR might be able to improve.

## Assistive Technology

The Assistive Technology (AT) subcommittee provides "consumer-responsive and consumer-driven" input and feedback on how the federal AT Act funds are being used in the state of Alaska. The goal of the AT Act is to help individuals who experience a disability, get the AT needed to improve their quality of life and independence. The AT subcommittee brings formal recommendations to the SVRC for further actions.

AT Act funds are currently administered by DVR and passed through the implementing agency, Assistive Technology of Alaska (ATLA). ATLA is a non-profit agency based in Anchorage that provides services statewide. The AT subcommittee held bi-monthly teleconferences. ATLA Director, Mystie Rail and DVR AT Coordinator, Jason Caputo, also attended. The DVR AT Coordinator tracks grant progress, provides



*SVRC Subcommittee Activities continued...*

informal input to DVR and ATLA, and brings issues to the full SVRC, as needed. The AT subcommittee also plans an annual one-day meeting with the full SVRC that focuses entirely on AT. This year, it was held via videoconference. The meeting focused on assistive technology issues within the state and gives SVRC members an overview of AT Act activities and progress.

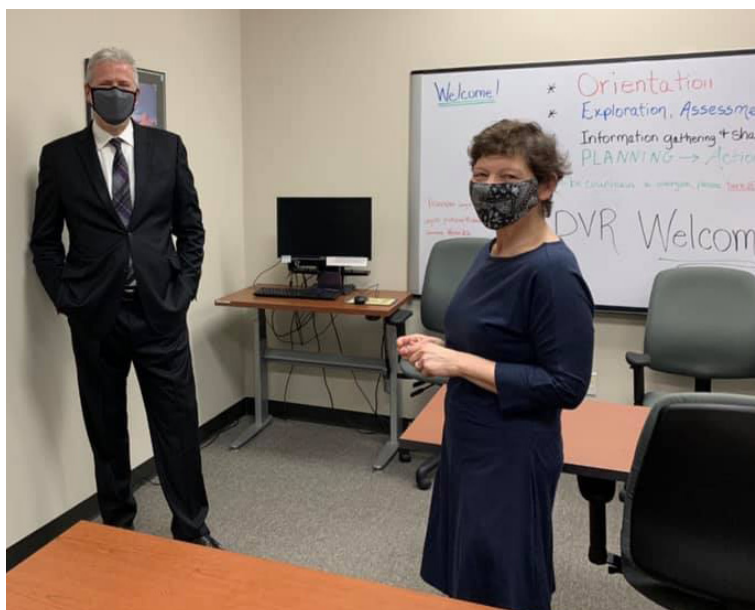
The AT Subcommittee discussed ways to bring awareness of different assistive technologies to the public, explaining how AT can positively impact the lives of individuals who experience various disabilities. They looked at possible barriers to receiving needed AT such as the lack of funding, lack of internet access, and other issues. They also discussed moving forward with an AT Proclamation. This year, due to other priorities to address the pandemic, the proclamation did not get issued. However, the subcommittee is planning to establish it next year and promote it throughout the

SVRC's networks.

The pandemic made AT a part of many more individuals' lives, both with and without disabilities. It has shown the great impact AT can have on the lives of those who

need it the most. ATLA has given this subcommittee multiple reports including quarterly AT reports and the COVID Technology Capacity Building report, and provided useful information and perspective about what they are currently seeing throughout the state. The AT Subcommittee will continue to work towards positive outcomes for

individuals with disabilities, who require AT in the state of Alaska.



*DVR Director Duane Mayes and DVR Regional Manager Beth Tusten review pandemic safety protocols and equipment.*

### **Planning and Recruitment**

The Planning and Recruitment subcommittee's role is to collaborate with DVR on the preparation and renewal of the WIOA Combined State Plan, the triennial Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment, and recruitment of new committee members. This subcommittee held

# SVRC Subcommittee Activities *continued*

multiple meetings via videoconference where it reviewed the current member recruitment efforts for vacant committee seats, planned for when seats would become vacant, and strategized how the SVRC could reach potential members with diverse perspectives and limit vacancies while maintaining quality, active members.

## **Policy, Public Relations, and Resources**

The Policy, Public Relations and Resources subcommittee's role is to provide guidance and recommendations to DVR on their policies as well as input to both the SVRC and DVR on their public relations efforts. This includes collaborating with the SVRC Planning and Recruitment subcommittee to coordinate SVRC member recruitment efforts.

This past year, DVR has updated the majority of its policies. This Subcommittee helped the Executive Subcommittee review and provide input to DVR on all updated DVR policies.

"I wanted to take this opportunity to say how vital DVR and the employees that work there are to the success of my company. I have been working with them for over seven years. Not only have they been part of our team for years, they provide a service that is critical to Fairbanks as a community. They are great at what they do, we appreciate them and look forward for many years to come."

*- Del Watkins, Operations Manager,  
Republic Parking System  
Fairbanks International Airport*

# The Committee Seeks Your Input



**The State Vocational Rehabilitation Committee invites you to:**

## **Apply to Become a Member**

If you care about issues pertaining to disability and employment, the SVRC encourages you to apply for a seat on this committee. You may apply at: [www.gov.alaska.gov/services/boards-and-commissions/apply-for-a-board-appointment/](http://www.gov.alaska.gov/services/boards-and-commissions/apply-for-a-board-appointment/)

You may also apply by sending a completed Boards and Commissions application, resume, and a brief letter explaining your desire to serve the State of Alaska, to:

### **Office of the Governor**

Attention: Director of Boards and Commissions  
P.O. Box 110001, Juneau, AK, 99811-0001

For more information, contact the Boards and Commissions office:

**Call:** 907-269-0006

**Fax:** 907-269-7463

**E-mail:** [Boards@Alaska.Gov](mailto:Boards@Alaska.Gov)

## **Attend a Meeting or Public Forum**

All State Vocational Rehabilitation Committee meetings and forums are open to the public. Meeting dates are available at [www.labor.alaska.gov/svrc/svrc-meeting-calendar.pdf](http://www.labor.alaska.gov/svrc/svrc-meeting-calendar.pdf). Notification of meeting times and agenda are posted 30 days prior to meetings at <https://aws.state.ak.us/OnlinePublicNotices/>.

More information about the SVRC is available at [www.labor.alaska.gov/svrc](http://www.labor.alaska.gov/svrc).

## **Share Your Thoughts and Ideas with SVRC**

**Call:** Voice/TDD 907-465-2814 or 1-800-478-2815

**Mail:** Chair, State Vocational Rehabilitation Committee  
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation  
PO Box 115516  
Juneau, AK 99811-5516

**E-mail:** [dol.svrc@Alaska.Gov](mailto:dol.svrc@Alaska.Gov)

# Examples of DVR's Social Media Outreach



## DVR Continues Collaboration with Mat-Su Partners on Successful Student Internship Program

Project SEARCH is an international employment-oriented student internship program. Last week, the Mat-Su Project SEARCH Team met with DVR Director Duane Mayes at the Wasilla DVR office to discuss the program, its successes, and our collaboration with community partners. Local partners include DVR, the Mat-Su Borough School District, Alaska Employment Services, and our host for the program, the Mat-Su Regional Medical Center.

"I graduate in seven days and was already offered a hospital job in a lab. This would not have been possible without DVR." - DVR Participant

We help Alaskans with disabilities get and keep good jobs.  
[labor.alaska.gov/dvr/](http://labor.alaska.gov/dvr/)

**Jobs**  
 ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
 Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

"Since meeting my DVR counselor, I've found a new sense of myself. I'm not broken or disabled. I just need to find a different way of doing things in my life." - DVR Participant

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"I'm old school. It's hard for me to accept help, but I fully support this program. It helps people get on their feet and become independent again." - DVR Participant

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# Examples of DVR's Social Media Outreach *continued*



## Alaska Tribal VR Director talks about the partnership with Alaska DVR

The Association of Village Council Presidents' Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Program Director, Irma Goodwine, talks about the partnership with DVR, Alaska's State VR program.

"Since the beginning, DVR partnered and supported our program and we have consistently worked together. So it has been a pleasure working with them."



## DVR and My House Partner to Improve Lives of Alaskan Youth

The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) is excited and proud to partner with My House in the vital work of serving at-risk Alaskan youth. On April 21, DVR Director, Duane Mayes and DVR Manager Beth Tusten met with My House founder and Executive Director, Michelle Overstreet, and Peer Navigator for MY House Case Management, Kurt Hoenack, to plan their two agency's partnership to make a positive difference in the lives of many Alaskan youths.



## DVR Virtual Employer Recognition Awards

DVR held multiple Virtual Employer Recognition Award events focusing on different regions across Alaska.

# **Alaska State Vocational Rehabilitation Committee**

## **2021 Annual Report**

Michael J. Dunleavy, Governor

Dr. Tamika L. Ledbetter, Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Labor  
and Workforce Development

### **Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development**

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

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**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
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