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SOUTH CAROLINA VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION DEPARTMENT

FY 1984-85

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

SOUTH CAROLINA VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION DEPARTMENT

FY 1984-85

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

The Honorable Richard W. Riley
Governor of South Carolina
The State House
Columbia, South Carolina

Dear Sir:

I hereby submit to the General Assembly, through you, the annual report of the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department for fiscal year 1985, in compliance with the 1976 Code of Laws of South Carolina, as amended.

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department completed FY 85 having served 46,657 handicapped individuals, with the goal of helping in their preparation for employment.

The Department has continued to maintain its top national standing for more than ten years, based on the number of rehabilitants in comparison with other states. South Carolina is still an innovator in Vocational Rehabilitation and one of the most respected agencies in the country.

In spite of decreases in the size of the staff of the Department, handicapped citizens continue to receive quality services, though there has been some decrease in the number of clients the staff is able to serve. The remaining staff have accepted the challenge of serving clients with the best possible services.

In keeping with the federal mandates imposed by the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Department is serving a larger proportion of severely handicapped clients. Of the 8,012 rehabilitated last year, more than 60% were severely handicapped by the definition of the law. These cases usually require a more comprehensive range of services over an extended period of time.

The average cost of services per client has shown only modest increases, due primarily to inflationary increases in the cost of goods and services. Fewer medical benefits are being provided by the Department, in keeping with requests from the General Assembly to reduce spending, and greater emphasis is being placed in our relationships with business and industry to secure competitive employment for handicapped clients.

We are proud of the work of our staff and our success in helping physically and mentally handicapped South Carolinians return to gainful employment.

Yours very truly,

Joe S. Dusenbury
Commissioner

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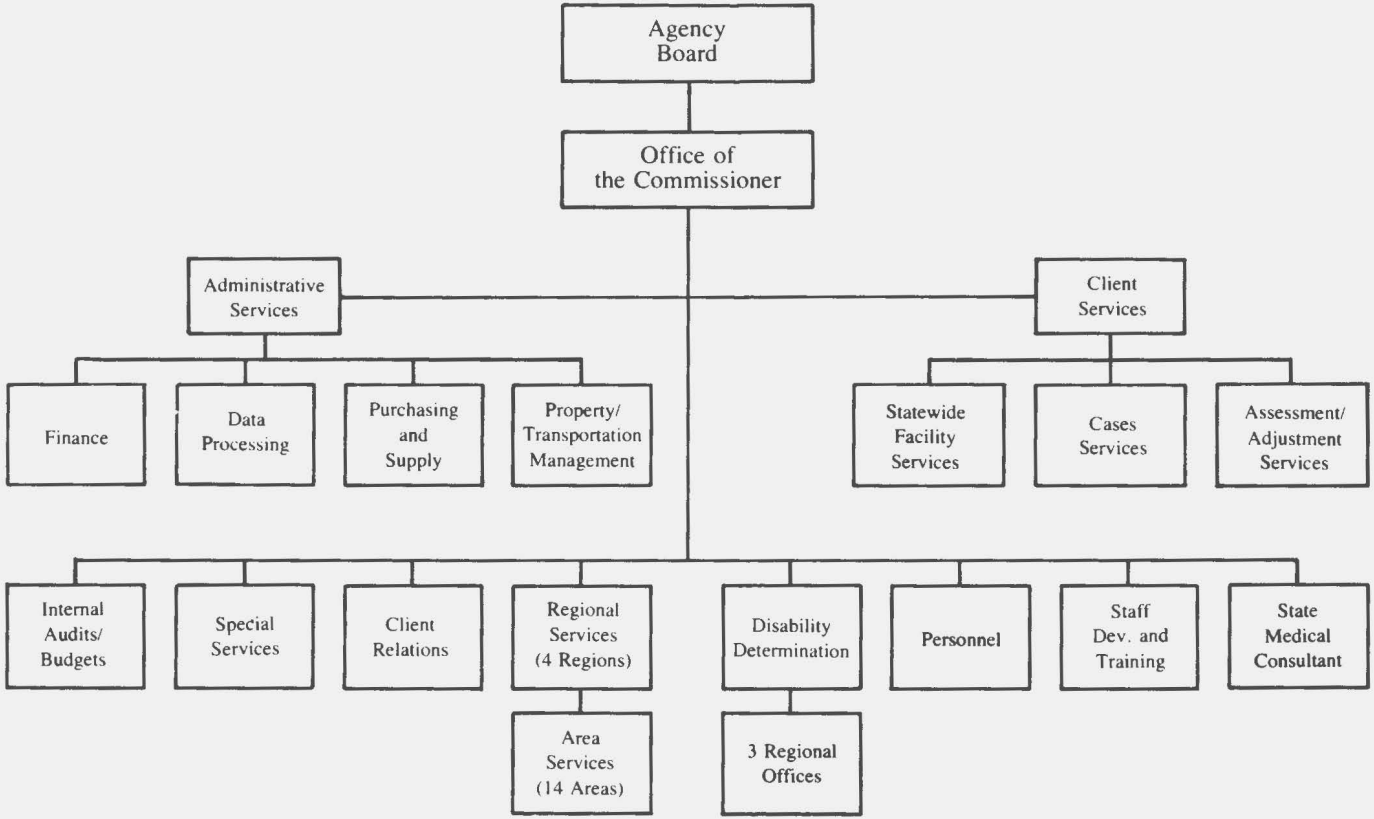

Agency Board
Office of the Commissioner
Administrative Services
Client Services
Finance
Data Processing
Purchasing and Supply
Property/ Transportation Management
Statewide Facility Services
Cases Services
Assessment/ Adjustment Services
Internal Audits/ Budgets
Special Services
Client Relations
Regional Services (4 Regions)
Disability Determination
Personnel
Staff Dev. and Training
State Medical Consultant
Area Services (14 Areas)
3 Regional Offices

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

E. Roy Stone, Jr., Greenville, Chairman
H. L. Laffitte, M.D., Allendale, Vice Chairman
Joe S. Dusenbury, Columbia, Secretary
T. James Bell, Jr., M.D., Hartsville
Floyd Breeland, Charleston
Harry W. Findley, Anderson
John A Montgomery, Columbia
J. Hewlette Wasson, Laurens

HISTORY

A large population of disabled veterans brought about by World War I created a need for a program to return handicapped people to gainful employment. On June 2, 1920, President Woodrow Wilson, by then severely disabled himself, signed into law an act making available financial aid to all states to help them develop programs of guidance, training, and placement for physically disabled persons who were vocationally handicapped. The main thrust of the program was centered on training.

Though funding was available, it was not until 1927 that such a program was started in South Carolina. The South Carolina General Assembly at that time authorized the creation of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation of the South Carolina Department of Education with a staff of two people.

The program operated primarily as a training division from that time, providing training for physically handicapped persons in vocational schools as well as through on-the-job training. The Federal Social Security Act of 1935 endowed it with permanent status within the framework of United States social legislation.

Under the original Vocational Rehabilitation program, services were restricted to physically disabled people. This concept changed drastically with passage of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1943. It was at this time that rehabilitation services were extended for mentally retarded people. The act also provided that a rehabilitation client could receive any services necessary to realize full employment potential. Federal funds were made available to provide handicapped clients with medical, surgical and other physical restoration services required.

The Vocational Rehabilitation program began with 50-50 matching funds. Financing the program was improved under the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1954 in order to help states improve their services. This act also made it possible for the program of vocational rehabilitation in the state to be administered by a separate Commission with efforts toward the vocational rehabilitation of handicapped people.

The South Carolina General Assembly, seeing this option as an opportunity for Vocational Rehabilitation to impact more fully on its handicapped citizens, passed legislation in 1957 to make Vocational Rehabilitation a separate state agency with permanent agency status.

A network of local offices to better serve the major population areas in the state was created. In 1960 the first Area Vocational Rehabilitation Workshop was established in Greenville to better

meet the needs of a diverse handicapped community in areas of job exploration and work adjustment.

South Carolina was the first state in the nation to set up a rehabilitation facility within a state hospital setting to provide services to the institutionalized mentally ill. South Carolina was one of the first states to work with mentally retarded individuals within institutions. The Department began to enter into cooperative agreements with other state agencies and institutions including Mental Health, Department of Corrections, Department of Education, including local school districts, and the Medical University. This cooperative approach has helped assure a complete service delivery system, and has enabled more that 230,000 disabled citizens to be placed in gainful employment following rehabilitation services since the beginning of the program.

SERVICES FOR HANDICAPPED CITIZENS

Offices across the state provide rehabilitation services to all South Carolinians with handicapping conditions. Uniform services are provided in each of the offices operated by the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department.

In order to qualify for services through the Department, a person must have a physical or mental disability which for that individual constitutes or results in a substantial handicap to employment and a reasonable expectation that vocational rehabilitation services may benefit the individual in terms of employability.

A disabled person may need one or more services offered through the Department in order to prepare for his or her return to gainful employment.

COUNSELING AND GUIDANCE is a continuous service provided to all people in the program through the entire rehabilitation process. The counselor and client develop and individualized program of services taking into consideration needs, interests and aptitudes, with the ultimate goal of gainful employment upon completion of services.

A thorough EVALUATION of the client's medical, social, psychological and vocational needs provides insight into potential for employment, as well as the nature and scope of services needed to lead the individual toward a suitable occupation.

All rehabilitation services contribute toward JOB PLACEMENT, and no one is considered rehabilitated until he or she begins working on a job suited to his or her vocational and physical ability. Every person receives FOLLOW-UP services to ensure that

rehabilitation is successful and that both the client and the employer are satisfied.

Some clients may require additional services prior to job placement, such as adjustment services, training, provision of artificial appliances, or other related services.

ADJUSTMENT SERVICES provided within the vocational rehabilitation program assist the client in learning to deal with day-to-day problems and situations, as well as getting along in the community and on the job.

Wheelchairs, limbs, braces, hearing aids, and other kinds of ARTIFICIAL APPLIANCES may be provided for people who would otherwise be unable to perform satisfactorily on the job.

A person may also receive maintenance and/or transportation payment to ensure maximum benefits from other aspects of the rehabilitation program.

TRAINING in vocational and technical schools, business schools, as well as in colleges and universities may be sponsored by Vocational Rehabilitation, in keeping with the person's employment goals, if unable to obtain assistance through other sources. This equips the person with skills to improve saleability on the job market.

In addition, occupational licenses, tools, equipment and supplies may be included as a part of Vocational Rehabilitation services to increase the individual's prospects of successful employment or self-employment.

All services are expected to assist the person in a search for suitable employment, as it did last year for 8,012 handicapped South Carolinians.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE REHABILITANTS

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department was successful in rehabilitating 8,012 people during 1985.

At the time of referral:

88.0% were unemployed
15.0% were in tax supported institutions
64.6% were dependent on family and friends for livelihood
50.0% had less than 12th grade education

Of the people rehabilitated, 64.5% were male; 53.5% were white, 46.1% black and .4% other.

DISABILITIES

Rehabilitation of handicapped people has paid off as those with disabilities become productive. Services provided by the Vocational Rehabilitation Department are extended to persons handicapped by many types of physical and mental disabilities.

The rehabilitants served by Vocational Rehabilitation last year had these disabilities:

TYPE OF DISABILITY	NUMBER OF REHABILITANTS
Mental Illness	4,137
Mental Retardation	1,699
Orthopedic Deformity	732
Hearing Impairments	359
Heart and Circulatory Conditions	206
Epilepsy and Nervous Disorder	186
Allergy, Endocrine Disorders	171
Visual Impairments	114
Digestive System Disorders	65
Genito-Urinary System Disorders	63
Absence of Limbs	61
Respiratory Diseases	48
Speech Impairments	29
Blood Diseases	26
Cancer	22
Other	94

PROGRAM AREAS

Vocational Rehabilitation Centers

Vocational Rehabilitation Centers operated by the Department are designed to assist in the coordination, development and provision of comprehensive rehabilitation services to handicapped citizens of the State of South Carolina.

A Vocational Rehabilitation Center has as its main emphasis the provision of comprehensive assessment and adjustment training services. Vocational assessment, including I.Q., aptitude, interest and achievement testing, to identify the limitations and assets of the client, is provided by the staff at the center. The center also provides comprehensive adjustment training, which may include personal grooming classes, world of work groups, activities of daily living classes, work adjustment through the utilization of contract activities, academic classes and other services as required. These centers serve all disability groups.

The Department operates a network of rehabilitation centers located in strategic areas throughout the state. The sixteen community-based centers are placing emphasis on the rehabilitation of severely disabled people with an array of services geared to meet the individual needs of the handicapped clients.

Buildings are owned and operated by the Department in a number of areas of the state: Charleston, Greenville, Orangeburg, Walterboro, Sumter, Conway, Aiken, Spartanburg, Columbia, Lancaster and Florence. Construction on the Greenwood Rehabilitation Center was completed this year. Laurens Rehabilitation Center will be completed in 1986. These functional structures are designed specifically for providing quality services to handicapped individuals.

Other centers in the state are operating within rental space, which has been adapted for the most effective and efficient delivery of adjustment, evaluation and training services to handicapped individuals.

Centers are operated in the following locations:

* Aiken
* Anderson
Bennettsville
Charleston
Columbia
* Florence
Greenville
* Conway
* Greenwood
* Orangeburg
* Rock Hill
Spartanburg
* Sumter
* Walterboro
* Lancaster
Union

* Work activity centers for severely mentally retarded in these facilities.

Work Activity Centers

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department and the South Carolina Department of Mental Retardation have, through a cooperative agreement, set up work activity centers to provide services to people with severe mental retardation.

The work activity center program began with two centers, one in Anderson and one in Rock Hill, in 1973, with initial funding under the Developmental Disabilities Act. All are now operated jointly by Vocational Rehabilitation and the Department of Mental Retardation. Centers are now in operation in Greenwood, Aiken, Orangeburg, Rock Hill, Anderson, Walterboro, Conway, Florence, Sumter and Lancaster.

Services offered in these projects include evaluation, personal and social adjustment, work adjustment, and on-the-job training.

The program was set up to take the severely mentally retarded population out of institutions and provide them with the training they need in order to take their places in society. The goal is to return them to the community so that they can earn a livelihood. Because of the severity of their disabilities, these handicapped people usually require a longer transition period before their employment.

The work activity centers served 210 mentally retarded clients during fiscal year 1985.

Statewide Facilities

The Department staffs projects within a number of facilities around the state operated by other state agencies and working in cooperation with other agencies.

Such facilities are located as follows:

Morris Village Alcohol and Drug Addiction Center, Columbia
Cedar Spring Facility for the Deaf, Spartanburg
Vocational Rehabilitation Evaluation Center, Opportunity School, West Columbia
Medical University Hospital Facilities, Charleston
Psychiatric Rehabilitation Facility
Speech and Hearing Facility
Cardio-Vascular Facility
Peripheral Vascular Facility
Epilepsy Rehabilitation Facility
Referral Unit

Amputee Clinic
Public Offender Facilities
Manning Correctional Institution, Columbia
Watkins Pre-Release Center, Columbia
Correctional Institution, Boykin
Women's Center, Columbia
Blue Ridge Community Pre-Release Center, Greenville
MacDougall Youth Correction Center, Ridgeville
Coastal Work Release Center, Charleston
Campbell Work Release Center, Columbia
G. Werber Bryan Psychiatric Hospital, Columbia
State Hospital Rehabilitation Facility, Columbia
William S. Hall Psychiatric Institute, Columbia
S.C. Department of Youth Services, Columbia

The Department also owns and operates the following statewide facilities:

Holmesview Alcoholic Center, Greenville
Palmetto Center, Florence
Vocational Rehabilitation Comprehensive Center, West Columbia

Vocational Rehabilitation Comprehensive Center

Severely handicapped people in South Carolina had some difficulficulty in the past in getting from one location to another in order to receive necessary services.

The Vocational Rehabilitation Comprehensive Center in West Columbia has helped in alleviating this problem. The statewide facility is the only residential facility of its kind operated by the Department to provide services to its severely disabled clients.

The Center provides a program of services which is designed to meet the individualized needs of severely disabled people. Close coordination between the rehabilitation team at the facility and the Vocational Rehabilitation counselor at the local level ensure that the clients of the Department receive maximum benefits of the service delivery system at the Center.

The Center can accommodate 40 people at any one time, including residents and out-patients. Services at the facility include physical therapy, occupational therapy, hydrotherapy, and activities of daily living. In addition, the Center is equipped and staffed to provide gait and mobility training, speech and hearing services, vocational

and psychological evaluation and support services which consist of recreation, dining and residential care.

The uniqueness of the Center lies in the provision of these services in one location, thus eliminating the necessity of transporting Vocational Rehabilitation clients throughout the community or state for services which can now be provided at the Comprehensive Center. However, any services not provided at the Center can be coordinated with other agencies, facilities and organizations in order to provide maximum services to meet the individual needs of severely disabled individuals.

The Comprehensive Center is staffed to provide twenty-four hour services as needed. The barrier-free building includes dormitory facilities for eighteen residents, and by residing in such a facility, clients learn to become more self-sufficient in taking care of their daily needs. This, in turn, makes them more suitable for employment once they return to their communities within the state.

A modular unit on the grounds of the Center provides supplemental adjustment programs serving as a transitional phase from the traditional vocational rehabilitation program into community living. The unit is architecturally barrier-free and serves a full range of severely disabled clients. The primary objective is to create awareness of the world around us and to develop the handicapped person's ability to live independently.

During fiscal year 1985, 338 people received services through the Comprehensive Center.

Deaf and Hearing Impaired

The Vocational Rehabilitation program for the deaf and hearing impaired is administered by specialty staff members located strategically through South Carolina to serve the hearing impaired. These staff members include:

State Coordinator for Deaf Services
Counselors
Evaluators/Adjustment Specialists
Production Coordinators
Speech Pathologist
Rehabilitation Aide
Rehabilitation Assistants

Vocational Rehabilitation specialty staff receive extensive training in development of communication skills with the deaf as well as psychological and audiological aspects of hearing impairments.

During fiscal year 1985, clients were referred by physicians, schools for the physically handicapped, artificial appliance companies, educational institutions, interested individuals, deaf consumers and other human service related programs.

Cases accepted for services under the program include the following:

	Served	Rehabilitated
Deafness, Pre-lingual	452	60
Deafness, Pre-vocational	56	10
Deafness, Post-vocational	26	4
Hard of Hearing, Pre-lingual	308	81
Hard of Hearing, Pre-vocational	307	79
Hard of Hearing, Post-vocational	372	125
TOTAL	1,521	359

The Vocational Rehabilitation facility located on the campus and in cooperation with the South Carolina School for the Deaf continues to work with the deaf students while they are attending Cedar Spring. Upon graduation the students are transferred to their respective home areas and services are continued until completion by the specialty counselors.

An adult vocational training program has been established at the school for the deaf in order to provide post-secondary vocational training for deaf adults who are in the Vocational Rehabilitation program. This program is in its first year of operation. Each program will be adapted to meet the needs of each individual in the program. These adaptations will be based on the applicants' desires, their vocational objective, and any special need they may have. In addition to the specific job training, instruction in related communication skills will be available to the student should the development of these language skills in any ot the vocational areas be critical to the development of the overall job capabilities. This would also apply to such areas as mobility and speech therapy. In addition to this training, each student will be given specific instructions in the art of seeking and holding a job. Also, each student will receive an initial evaluation in independent living skills. The voca-

tional training areas are business education, automotive services, graphic communications, carpentry/cabinet making, building trades, custodial/building maintenance, landscape/groundskeeping, industrial sewing and food services.

A continued effort is being made to provide adequate services through local speech and hearing centers throughout the state and with the medical community. Also, more involvement with the deaf community and their organizations has continued to provide a channel of communication between the Vocational Rehabilitation Department and the hearing impaired population.

During the past year, the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department continued its cooperation with the South Carolina School for the Deaf, with the multi-handicapped unit housed on the grounds at Cedar Spring. This innovative program evaluates vocational needs of multi-handicapped students and helps maximize their future employment goals based on individual capabilities. These students have two or more handicaps and are being served by a specialty staff.

Mental Retardation

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department also provides services to mentally retarded individuals in cooperation with local school districts in many locations.

Services include vocational evaluation, adjustment training, job placement, training and follow-up services to ensure that the person is progressing.

The Vocational Rehabilitation Department and the Department of Mental Retardation have also developed Work Activity Centers within the state for those being transferred from institutions into community residences.

During fiscal year 1985, there were 9,286 people with the disability of mental retardation served by the Department, of whom 1,699 were successfully rehabilitated.

Mental Illness

The Department also served a large number of mentally ill people referred from institutional programs and a wide variety of community agencies.

Cooperative programs have been developed with the Department of Mental Health to serve individuals in the State Hospital Rehabilitation Facility, William S. Hall Psychiatric Institute, the G. Werber Bryan Psychiatric Hospital, and the community.

During fiscal year 1985, there were 15,610 people served and 2,585 rehabilitated who had been diagnosed as mentally ill, excluding those with alcoholism, drug addiction and drug abuse.

JTPA Program

During FY 1985, the Vocational Rehabilitation Department was one of the three major state sub-contractors providing services to JTPA participants who were involved in the various programs sponsored by the Job Training Partnership Act under the Department of Labor. The other sub-contractors which worked cooperatively with the Vocational Rehabilitation Department were Employment Service and Technical Education.

The program is designed to provide employment and training along with other individualized services to assist the economically disadvantaged and unemployed population of the state. The goal of the program is to allow individuals to receive services which will better prepare them to enter the labor market.

A number of these individuals under the JTPA program have physical and mental disabilities, for which vocational rehabilitation services are appropriate.

Full-time Vocational Rehabilitation evaluators casework assistants serve JTPA applicants in the provision of assessment services statewide.

Twelve assessment centers are available for ascertaining the applicant's vocational potential.

Approximately $462,012 was made available to the Vocational Rehabilitation Department for services and equipment through the JTPA program, enabling the Department to provide 3,976 assessments to eligible participants.

Social Security and Supplemental Security Income Disability Recipients

Social Security Disability beneficiaries and Supplemental Security Income Disability recipients have been served by the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department since the beginning of the disability programs. Many of these severely disabled individuals have, as a result of rehabilitation services, been able to return to the labor market, no longer being in need of Social Security benefits or Supplemental Security Income payments.

Funding is available through the Social Security Administration for reimbursement of expenditures made by the Department in its effort to rehabilitate recipients. Reimbursement may be made only for successfully rehabilitated recipients who maintain employment for a nine (9) month period of time. During fiscal year 1985, the Department was reimbursed approximately $23,632.

Emphasis continues to be placed on serving severely disabled recipients of Social Security and Supplemental Security Income disability payments to assist as many as possible in returning to the labor market. All counselors now have the responsibility of serving the beneficiary/client in his or her territory over the state.

Disabled Public Offenders

Last year the Vocational Rehabilitation Department served 4,770 public offenders and rehabilitated 708. The Public Offender Project provides rehabilitation services to public offenders within the institution and to ex-offenders in the community who are eligible because of a physical or mental disability. Services provided as needed are assessment, counseling and guidance, placement and follow-up.

The Department is working with a majority of the public offenders who are eligible for Vocational Rehabilitation services. Through close coordination between the Vocational Rehabilitation Department and the Department of Corrections, the project is endeavoring to provide a better service delivery system to those public offenders eligible for Vocational Rehabilitation services.

The South Carolina Department of Corrections now operates seven work release centers and two pre-release centers. The Vocational Rehabilitation Department is included in most of these centers to assist the client back into the community, as well as follow-up services once the person has returned to the community. The Vocational Rehabilitation counselor plays an integral part in assisting the public offender return to the community.

With the vocational rehabilitation services provided while the disabled public offender is incarcerated and the services provided after release, a disabled public offender receives the reinforcement necessary to ensure successful rehabilitation.

The follow-up program for these clients who are deemed eligible for vocational rehabilitation services is now carried by nine counselors located in strategic areas of the state who serve primarily those clients who have been transferred from various institutions within the correctional setting.

Epilepsy

A concentrated effort is made through the Epilepsy Rehabilitation Facility at the Medical University Hospital in Charleston to provide the necessary services for clients with epilepsy and other seizure disorders. The facility was set up as a result of a grant through the Developmental Disabilities Act, specifically for these clients who need a well-coordinated delivery of services, usually for a longer period of time than many other rehabilitation clients. A major portion of their rehabilitation deals with educating the client and family on the nature of epilepsy.

Last year 933 clients with a disability of epilepsy received services through the Department. This number includes clients from other areas of the state who are served by rehabilitation counselors in their home communities as well as 86 clients served by a full-time rehabilitation counselor at the Medical University facility.

Alcohol and Drug Abuse

During the 1985 fiscal year, Vocational Rehabilitation served 4,251 clients handicapped by alcohol abuse and 1,136 by drug abuse, of whom, 1,027 alcoholics and 252 drug abusers were successful rehabilitated.

Two treatment centers administered by Vocational Rehabilitation provide in-patient therapy to the substance abuser. Palmetto Center in Florence served 527 residents this past year, while Holmesview Center, located in Greenville, served 353 clients. Both centers support the referring Vocational Rehabilitation field counselors who assume responsibility for follow-up services once the client returns home. The Centers are a major treatment resources for currently employed workers in danger of losing their jobs due to substance abuse problems, thereby providing a much needed service for the employee as well as the employer.

Vocational Rehabilitation counselors and mental health counselors use the Earle E. Morris Alcohol and Drug Abuse Center for clients needing in-patient therapy for the misuse of drugs and alcohol. A Vocational Rehabilitation unit at the Center provides clients a comprehensive vocational assessment plus personal and social adjustment services.

Both Palmetto and Holmesview Centers offer a Community Training Seminar program for local community professional and lay persons upon request. Also, the two centers operate out-patient and family treatment groups.

The programs for treatment of alcohol and drug abuse use other community resources such as Alcoholics Anonymous groups and other such organizations to augment their effectiveness.

Public School Program

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department, through a cooperative arrangement with the State Department of Education and local school districts in many areas of the state provides rehabilitation services to eligible physically, mentally and emotionally handicapped students in secondary schools.

The services, which are the same type provided to other vocational rehabilitation clients, include counseling and guidance, personal and social adjustment training, medical and vocational evaluation and placement assistance to determine the type of work for which the student will be suited upon completion of formal education. This program helps bridge the gap between school and employment for students who have vocational handicaps.

A program of services is also available for youth out of school. These individuals may be returned to school, placed in on-the-job training, or placed in some specialized vocational training program in keeping with their abilities and interests.

The Department has established satellite workshops which operate within existing school programs. This work component has provided valuable work experience as well as monetary compensation in a competitive production environment as a part of the student's overall curriculum. Students also receive Carnegie units for their participation in the work adjustment program.

There are school programs located in the following areas: Abbeville, Aiken, Anderson, Batesburg, Beaufort, Berkeley, Camden, Campobello, Charleston, Cherokee, Columbia, Conway, Dillon, Florence, Georgetown, Graniteville, Greenville, Greenwood, Irmo, Lancaster, Laurens, Lexington, Newberry, Oconee, Orangeburg, Pickens, Rock Hill, Spartanburg, Spring Valley, Summerville, Sumter, Union, York and Walterboro.

Youth Services

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department has a cooperative agreement with the South Carolina Department of Youth Services to provide rehabilitation services to eligible physically, mentally and emotionally handicapped youth within the Department of Youth Services Correctional Facilities.

As a result of this agreement, 375 Department of Youth Services students received Vocational Rehabilitation services while incarcerated in FY 85. This includes 189 new referrals to Vocational Rehabilitation.

A comprehensive vocational assessment was provided to 198 people and 210 received vocationally related adjustment services. A work adjustment component was also added during FY 85. The Work Adjustment Training Program provided a simulated work setting for those clients needing to develop basic work skills and appropriate work behavior. It became operational in January, 1985, and has served 13 students and paid client wages of $448.86. Contract work has included work for Metroplex, Allied Fiber and Shakespeare.

Independent Living

The Independent Living Program assists severely handicapped individuals with limited potential identify their needs in a variety of life situations and explore alternatives for meeting those needs. The goal is to help individuals who happen to be severely handicapped to improve their quality of life and to function more independently in their homes, in society, in communities, and at work or school.

The following case histories give a vivid description of the results of the program:

Case History I:

Client is a 35-year old single black female. She was referred to the Independent Living Program by her V. R. Counselor due to her suffering Quadriparesis as a result of a spinal cord tumor surgery. On initial interview, client was being cared for by her sisters and assisted in all activities of daily living and personal care. She was unable to feed herself, propel her own wheelchair, or assist in transfers. She was referred to the V. R. Comprehensive Center for services to include: Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Adjustment Services, and Recreational Therapy. This client made great progress and, upon discharge from V. R. Comprehensive Center, she was able to feed herself, propel her own wheelchair, and make sliding board transfers. The Independent Living Program has been working in cooperation with Community Long Term Care from Sumter in assisting this client. This client has, since discharged, moved into her own handicapped apart-

ment. The Independent Living Program has provided this client with Counseling and Guidance, adaptive aids, including a Wanchick Writing Splint, aids and equipment for bathing, and a Microwave oven so that she can heat pre-cooked foods for her meals. Long Term Care has been arranged for this client to receive the services of a homemaker twice a week and an attendant will come by daily to assist client in getting ready for the day. She has the services of a R.N. once or twice a week and physical therapy in the home two times a week. At last report, this client is doing well, living in her own apartment.

Case History II:

Client is a 31-year old married white male who was referred to the Independent Living Program due to his suffering Quadriplegia as a result of an auto accident. Client lives with his wife and one son and has been unemployed, drawing disability since his injury. Independent Living has been working with this client in cooperation with a traditional rehabilitation counselor and Independent Living has provided client with modification of his bathroom in order that he may be independent in his bathing and self-care. Independent Living Program and regular rehabilitation program has provided Counseling and Guidance and a support system for this client over the past two years while he adjusted to his disability. This client had worked as a computer analyst before his accident and regained his desire to work and become the breadwinner in his home again. His wife has been able to quit her job as this young man has returned to employment with a salary of over $20,000 a year starting. His rehabilitation counselor will provide him with the necessary equipment such as a lightweight wheelchair and adaptations to his vehicle for driving in order that he may continue in this employment. The Independent Living Program will continue to follow this client to provide counseling and guidance and additional support system for adaptive aids and to meet his special needs. At last report, this young man is doing well, working an eight-hour day and has regained his self-esteem.

Disability Determination Division

The Disability Determination Division of the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department processes Social Security Disability claims under the provisions of the Social Security Act of 1954 and the Supplemental Security Income Program which went into effect January 1, 1974. The Division conducts operations from regional offices in Greenville, Columbia and Charleston. Benefits from these programs are paid to individuals unable to work because of a mental or physical impairment. Payments continue as long as the person's impairment prevents any substantial gainful activity.

The disability decisions are made jointly by a "team" consisting of a Disability Examiner and a physician. These professional personnel are trained in the evaluation of medical and vocational factors. It is their responsibility to ensure that sound medical evidence is obtained and that the decision to allow or deny benefits meets all requirements of the Social Security law. In addition, South Carolina Retirement System Disability applications and claims connected with the South Carolina Homestead Exemption Act are processed by the Division's Columbia Office. During the past fiscal year, the Disability Determination Division processed 55,162 claims for disability benefits.

At the end of 1985, approximately 50,000 disabled workers in the state were receiving over $26 million each month from Social Security. In addition, some 49,854 disabled and blind people were receiving $11,052,000 in monthly Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments.

In addition to determining disability, each claim is reviewed to decide if the individual has potential for vocational rehabilitation. Because of the large numer of disability cases processed, the Disability Determination Division is an important source for referrals of disabled individuals who are not prepared to go directly into the work force. These individuals are thus afforded and opportunity for rehabilitation and training in their efforts to gain employment. A large number of former recipients have received services through the Vocational Rehabilitation Department and are now employed.

THE COST OF REHABILITATION

Supporting unemployed disabled persons is a continuous cost year after year. The cost for rehabilitation per person last year was $3,782 – only a fraction of the annual cost per case at many state institutions such as prisons, hospitals and treatment centers.

A number of advisory committees and boards have been an invaluable resource to the Department in their planning and delivery of services to handicapped citizens. The Department has also used volunteers in other areas such as recreation in residential and other facilities.

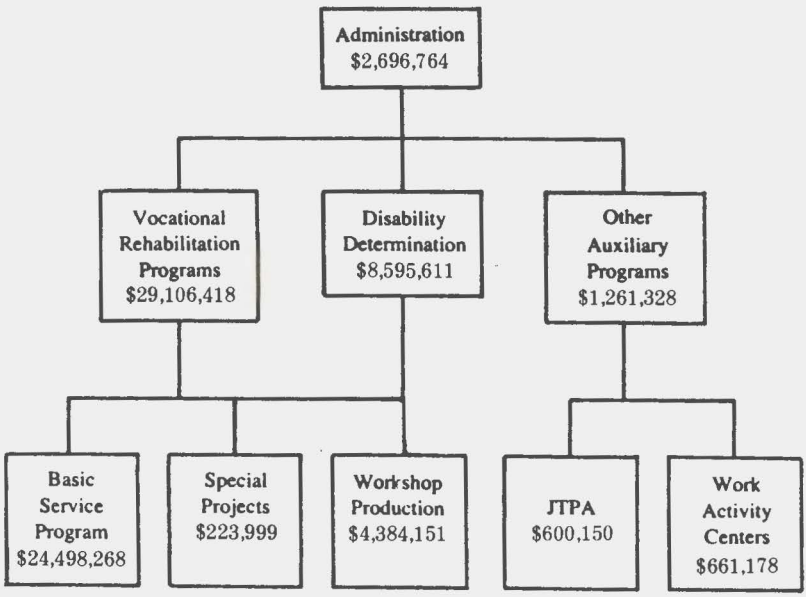
ANNUAL EXPENSE

The total operating expense of the Vocational Rehabilitation Department during fiscal year 84-85 was $41,660,121. Of this amount, $38,963,397, or 93.5%, was spent for "services to individuals." This includes counseling and placement of clients, including professional and clerical salaries, travel expenses, communications, supplies, rent, office maintenance and equipment. These monies are spent also on diagnostic procedures and surgery, treatment, prosthetic appliances, hospitalization and convalescent care, training, equipment and licenses for clients, as well as for determinations of disability for SSA recipients.

The remaining $2,696,764, or 6.5% was spent on administration of the Department. This includes administrative and clerical salaries, travel, communication, supplies, public information, rent, office maintenance, equipment, staff training, and data processing.

Below is a breakdown of expenditures for FY 85:

STATE AGENCY OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION



PUBLICATIONS

Annual Report — South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department

Breakthrough — a pictorial, graphic and factual review of each fiscal year

New Horizons — a quarterly newsletter

From Dependence to Independence

Your Handbook of Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Palmetto Center

Holmesview Center

Vocational Rehabilitation Comprehensive Center

Program for Deaf and Hearing Impaired

50 Years of Service to the Handicapped

Client Handbook (Vocational Rehabilitation Comprehensive Center)

Independent Living Program

Journalism Contest

Special Licensing and Parking for the Handicapped

Handicapped Parking Tickets

Making South Carolina Barrier-Free

Profitable Partnerships

People . . . and People with Disabilities

Working Together