



# NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 01, 2024

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## BASIC SUPPORT/SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

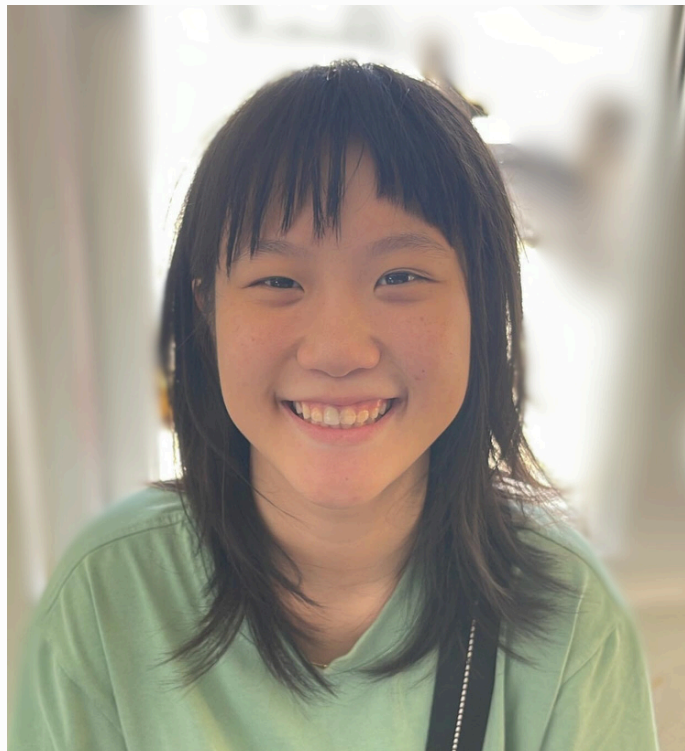
REPORTED BY: SHERRAINE FLORES & RAYMOND DIAZ

Ms. Lydia Lee proudly completed the Work Experience Training Program (WETP) at Saipan Coffee Stop. She really enjoyed her training and is looking forward towards future opportunities in the workforce.

During Ms. Lydia’s WETP at Coffee Stop she was trained and guided by management and staff members in preparing and serving hot & cold (coffee) beverages, restocking and organizing dessert displays, as well as frequently interacting with customers — enhancing her social skills.

She was praised as a very sociable individual, compliments customers, and seamlessly interacts with patrons.

When asked about her experience, Ms. Lydia shared, “I enjoyed training with the staff and management of Coffee Stop and I really like training at Coffee Stop.”



LYDIA LEE, VR CONSUMER

## PRE-EMPLOYMENT TRANSITION SERVICES PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

REPORTED BY: JASMINE CALVO

On October 16, 2024, Marianas High School PRE-ETS students took a field trip to OVR to learn about the BS/SE program and services. Several students shared their transition goals after high school. Some wanted to pursue their post-secondary education at NMC or NMTEch,

while several others intended to apply under OVR for assistance in various employment opportunities!

Special shout-out to OVR Pre-ETS Vendor, “Train Smart,” coordinated by Josephine Mesta.



## INDEPENDENT LIVING OLDER BLIND PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

REPORTED BY: JASMINE CALVO

Mr. Barcinas was a Consumer of the ILOB program, who was laid to rest in recent weeks. When visiting Mr. Barcinas, I always seem to leave with a smile on my face, whether it was because he cracked a joke, or shared about his life experiences. It has been an absolute pleasure working with Mr. Juan Barcinas. His dedication, spirit, and kindness have left a lasting impact on all who had the privilege of collaborating with him. Our deepest condolences to his family, friends, and loved ones.



## FISCAL HIGHLIGHT

REPORTED BY: LOU ATALIG, FISCAL OFFICER

As fiscal year 2024 comes to an end, below is a quick glance at our Federal/State Budget and Expenses.

**Total Federal/State Budget:**  
\$1,526,034.49

**Total Federal/State Expense:**  
\$863,018.30

For more information, visit [www.ovrgov.net](http://www.ovrgov.net) and find **OVR FY 2024 Citizen Centric Report**.

## MORE NEWS!

BY: ARLENE YAMAGATA, OVR DIRECTOR

### Fiscal Training

OVR Fiscal Officer Lourdes Atalig and I participated in 3 virtual Fiscal Trainings conducted by the Vocational Rehabilitation Technical Assistance Center on Quality Management (VRTAC-QM): (1) Fiscal Basics on 10/1/24, (2) Fiscal Reporting on 10/10/24, and (3) Period of Performance on 10/15/24. Presenters were Carol Pankow and Christina Merritt, who provided these for the territorial Vocational Rehabilitation Agencies serving CNMI, Guam, and America Samoa.

### OVR Welcomes NMC Career Services

NMC's Career Services Manager, Neda Deleon Guerrero, visited OVR on 10/22/24 to learn about our programs and how we help people with disabilities to prepare for employment. Both Ms. Neda and myself are excited for what the future holds in terms of strengthening and/or expanding our partnership to increase collaboration and opportunities for referrals, trainings (Work Experience & OJT), and placements (post-degree/certification attainment). "I am excited about our improved and continued partnership for the betterment of our [mutual consumers]," said Ms. Neda with optimism.

## DATA HIGHLIGHT

REPORTED BY: ELVIRA SEMAN, DATA ANALYST

There are many individuals with disabilities receiving services from OVR. OVR consist of three programs, Basic Support/Supported Employment, Pre-Employment Transition Services, and Independent Living Older Blind. Below are the active cases we serve as of 09/30/2024 to individuals with disabilities.

- Basic Support/Supported Employment Program
  - 234 Active Cases
- Pre-Employment Transition Services Program
  - 131 Students and Counting!
- Independent Living Older Blind Program
  - 7 Active Cases

## MEET JASMINE CALVO!

### VR TRANSITION SPECIALIST

As a VR Transition Specialist, I lead two programs under OVR (Pre-ETS and ILOB). Maintaining two programs at times, may be stressful, but overall, it remains a rewarding and selfless career. I have the privilege of working with both past and future generations!



**FUN FACTS:** When I am not at work, I enjoy going to the beach or hanging out with families and friends! I enjoy playing sports, listening to music, and painting!

## NOVEMBER

### NATIONAL DIABETES AWARENESS MONTH

Diabetes is a disease in which blood glucose levels are above normal. Individuals with diabetes may need to monitor glucose levels periodically and take appropriate action to ensure stability. Some Employer accommodations are stated below:

- Allow for storage of medications, such as insulin and/or food
- Provide an area to test blood sugar levels
- Provide an area to administer medications (insulin)

Visit <https://askjan.org/index.cfm> for more information!



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