While referrals dropped significantly during the pandemic (many members requested employment services be put on hold due to pandemic-related concerns), August and September showed an increase in referrals from DDD to VR in comparison to 2019. In August there were 38 referrals, and in September there were 39 referrals (compared to 45 (August) and 29 (September) referrals in 2019).

Despite the pandemic, members have continued to obtain employment and successfully retain their jobs. The average wages each month for working members ranged from $11.67 to $12.07 per hour while the average hours worked ranged from 19.7 to 25.5 hours per week.

HIGHLIGHTS

JULY
• VR joined Pima and Mojave County school district cooperatives to foster collaboration with schools.
• DDD & VR collaborated with Phoenix School District and other stakeholders to present about mutual services at the virtual Phoenix Town Hall meeting.

AUGUST
• VR & DDD presented to VR counselors and supervisors at a quarterly meeting where updates and further collaboration were discussed.
• VR joined the Peoria Transition Community of Practice to foster collaboration with the Peoria School District.
• DDD & VR partnered with the Sonoran University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities to develop tools for professionals that help people with I/DD prepare for employment.

SEPTEMBER
• Collaborated with Behavioral Health, Arizona Department of Ed., and DDD to develop training.
• DDD & VR partnered to develop presentation to schools and families about employment services.
• DDD hired 2 new Employment Support Specialists: Kelly Thomas for district North & Teresa Simpson for district South.
• DDD Employment Specialists attended State Employment Leadership Network (SELN) Annual Policy Meeting

PARTNERSHIPS & ALLIANCES
VR & DDD participate in work groups and collaborate with a number of organizations including:
• Arizona Employment First
• Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council (ADDPC)
• Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS)
• Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE)
• Workforce Innovation Technical Assistance Center (WINTAC)

QUARTER DATA

Referrals from DDD to VR
92

Mutual clients made eligible
38

Mutual clients placed in Competitive Integrated Employment
13

Average hours worked for mutual clients closed successfully employed
22.4

Average hourly wage of Successful Closures for mutual clients
$11.91