**Vocational Habilitation- Myths and Misperceptions FAQ**

**General Overview-** The vocational habilitation service is a Medicaid funded service that is available through Ohio’s individual options, level 1, and self-empowered life funding (SELF) waivers. This service can occur in different locations including community-based locations and facility-based locations. These facility-based locations typically are called sheltered workshops, work centers, or day habilitation centers. The purpose of the vocational habilitation service is to provide general skill development and training that would help someone get a job in the community. The service could help a person work on communication, workplace conduct, problem solving, safety, etc. It is important to remember that this is a service, and it is not someone’s job. The goal is that this service would eventually end, as someone has built the skills to either move into group employment or individual employment in the community.

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| **Myth or Misperception** | **DODD’s Response** |
| I can only stay in vocational habilitation if I do discovery | This is not something that is required in rule. You do not need to receive career planning-career discovery before being authorized for the vocational habilitation service.  Career planning- career discovery is a service that can help you and your team identify your preferences, interests, needs, and strengths so you can make a decision about whether or not you would like to work in the community. |
| I can’t stay in vocational habilitation because I already have a job in the community | You are able to receive multiple Medicaid services to address different support needs.  This service is available, if you are currently working in the community and you have an additional need to build general work skills and have identified a specific employment outcome. |
| I can’t stay in the art program because I am getting paid | To best answer this question, we need to understand what service you are being authorized.  We have multiple services that are available that could support you to become a working artist. These services are vocational habilitation, career planning, or individual employment supports. |
| My family member(s) want me to be in a facility to be safe | Everyone accessing Medicaid services must have the opportunity to participate in things that are meaningful to them and support their personal interests and plan outcomes.  This does not mean that 100% of your services must be provided in fully, integrated community-based settings.  Whether receiving services in a facility or in a community-based setting, your SSA will work with you to identify the services you need to help you be safe. Providers of vocational habilitation, adult day support, or other employment-related services will provide these needed supports in either setting. |