



The OVR Review

"To assist Kentuckians with disabilities to achieve suitable employment and independence"

Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation

Winter 2007

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Article submitted by Dave Matheis and Nanci Shelden.

Sherri Greer Named Acting Executive Director

Career Culminates in Agency's Top Spot



On November 1, 2007, long-time agency employee Sherri Greer was named Acting Executive Director of the Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR), replacing Ralph Clark who retired. The ascent to the agency's top leadership position came after 24 years of service to OVR and 26 years in state government.

Sherri has become the second woman to lead the agency, following Beth Smith, Executive Director June, 2004 to the summer of 2006. She is

also the second person with field experience to hold the agency's top post, after Bruce Crump, Commissioner of the, then, Department of Vocational Rehabilitation from May of 2002 to June of 2004. In fact, Sherri followed a remarkably similar career path to Bruce's: vocational rehabilitation counselor, field manager, central office administrator, deputy to the agency head, and finally, agency leader itself.

Sherri was born and raised in Lexington. Her parents had moved there from Eastern Kentucky and Sherri remains fiercely proud of her Appalachian roots. Her father, permanently deafened from his service in the Pacific during World War II, moved to Lexington to work for the federal government after his disability caused him to give up his career as a minister. Sherri graduated from the University of Kentucky with a degree in Education in 1980. She first went to work for the state in 1981 as an employment counselor in the employment office in Lexington. In that position, she worked closely with vocational rehabilitation counselors, most notably Libby Larkin, long time counselor and later district manager for the agency in the city. Sherri became enamored with the mission of vocational rehabilitation and its ability to change individual lives and quickly jumped at the opportunity for a counseling job when a position became open at the old Eastern State Hospital office in 1983.

It was not long before she was a district manager and actually managed both Lexington districts for a time. In 1995, she came to central office as the assistant director for program services, becoming director the next year. Also in 1995, she began

teaching part-time at the University of Kentucky's Master's in Rehabilitation Counseling Program, where she had earned her own master's degree the previous year. Last August, she was named deputy executive director in preparation for taking over as acting executive director upon Ralph's retirement.

Recently, in reflecting on her career, Sherri credited Jean Christensen, a career counselor at the Eastern State Hospital office, with being her mentor when she first came to work for OVR. Sherri said 'she taught me everything I needed to know about rehab counseling.' Her influence was such that they have remained life-long friends. Sherri also said she had a very special assistant in Jo Ann Williams while in the Lexington districts.

Sherri's proudest accomplishment while with OVR is rising through the ranks from a rehabilitation counselor to become the executive director. She also is very proud of being a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor, the title she cherishes first and foremost.

With the agency in transition from one administration to another, Sherri will work closely with the Governor's Transition Team to insure that the agency runs smoothly and continues with business as usual. She is hopeful that her 'acting' status will become a permanent appointment.

Of the agency and career, Sherri has devoted her working life to, she says: 'It is such an honor to work beside such wonderful and caring staff. I believe that the staff of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation is second to none! I can only hope to continue to do even greater things in 2008 and the years to come.'

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Message from Acting Executive Director, Sherri Greer

Proclaims 'Open Door Policy' to the Staff of OVR



When Ralph Clark, former Executive Director, retired on October 31, 2007, I stepped up to lead or quarterback the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR). The last couple of months have been fast paced and interesting to say the least! I know there will be huge challenges yet many opportunities in the weeks and months ahead. I am indeed honored and humbled to be able to serve you in this capacity as Acting Executive Director.

In this newsletter, you will find various pictures and comments. My favorite photo is the one of Ralph Clark, Bruce Crump and Sam Serraglio, three former Agency Heads and all great leaders in their own right. During my tenure as Executive Director you will hear many recurring themes. Many of these themes will sound familiar to you because you have heard them before! That is because much of my management philosophy comes from what I learned from Ralph, Bruce and Sam. I also had the good fortune to follow in the footsteps of a strong business woman, Beth Smith.

Let me tell you who I am and what I believe so that you will know my management philosophy. I passionately believe in the mission of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation and I believe individuals with the most significant disabilities can work. I am a true advocate of supported employment. I believe in clear, open communication and I am confident teams can be effective. I believe those closest to the work should have input in the decision making process. I hold professional, ethical behavior in the highest regard. I will not accept the pre-selection for vacant positions but will insist on a fair and ethical hiring process. I embrace the spirit of rehabilitation and lean on the rehabilitation family.

As Acting Executive Director, I will have an **"open door policy"**. This does not mean that I will circumvent the supervisory chain of communication that we have in place within this agency. It does mean that if you have an idea for improving services to Kentuckians with disabilities, cost savings, enhanced communication, or whatever the topic, then I want to hear it!

At this time I am working to transition the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation into the administration of Governor Steven Beshear. As you may know from the local news media, the papers, there are tough financial times before us. But we are a strong agency and our staff and consumers will navigate through these times and continue to provide quality vocational services to individuals with disabilities and assist them with employment. Yes, I stepped up to quarterback the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation but with an awesome offensive line like the OVR staff, that was easy to do!

Ralph Clark Retires as Executive Director

October 31, 2007



Three of the past four agency heads are pictured together at Ralph's Retirement Luncheon in October: Ralph Clark (2006-2007), Sam Serraglio (1992-2002) and Bruce Crump (2002-2004)

Program Services Report

Making a Difference for 5,063 Kentuckians with Disabilities



Sherry Greer, Acting Executive Director and Don Hiatt, Branch Manager of the Florence District.

Top District for most positive employment outcomes and the highest average of positive employment outcomes per caseload.

Difference,' the celebration was intended to recognize the contribution of all agency employees to the 5,063 positive employment outcomes that were obtained by consumers in fiscal year 2007, the highest total since 1979. In addition, for the sixth consecutive year, the agency met all of the standards and indicators mandated by the Rehabilitation Services Administration. Next year's theme will be 'Essential Pieces'.

The Florence district received recognition for having both the most positive employment outcomes and the highest average of positive

On Thursday, November 8th, the leadership of the agency held a celebration for a very successful year for the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation. Under the theme, 'Making a

employment outcomes per caseload of any district in the state. The Lexington district had the second highest total of positive employment outcomes and the Bowling Green district had the second highest average of outcomes per caseload.

At the celebration, Jack Cline, administrator in West Liberty, belatedly received the Willie Byrd Legislative Award. The award was announced by the Kentucky Association of

Persons in Supported

Employment (KY-

APSE) at its annual

conference in October, which Jack was unable to attend. The award's namesake presented it to Jack for his successful efforts in support of the agency's biennial budget request in the 2001 Kentucky Legislature that established a \$200,000 annual allotment in state general funds for long-term supported employment services and for his on-going advocacy of funding, better services and program expansion for persons with severe disabilities.

The celebration also included a ceremony recognizing the Rehabilitation Counselor Mentor Team for receiving the 2007 RSA Commissioner's Award for Innovative Programming. The agency had received the honor in October at the National Rehabilitation Education Conference in Arlington, Virginia. Kentucky's counselor mentoring program was selected from a number of entries because it demonstrated 'an innovative training program with a special emphasis on partnering within the public vocational rehabilitation program.'

All field managers and central office personnel were recognized individually for their contributions to a most successful year for the agency. The field managers were encouraged to pass on the appreciation to local staff.

5,063

Positive Employment Outcomes!



Jim Wallace, Branch Manager of the Bowling Green District



Phyllis Farson, Branch Manager of the Lexington District



Allison Jessee, Assistant Director of Program Services, presented the 2007 RSA Commissioner's Award for Innovative Programming. The award was given to the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation for the Rehabilitation Counseling Mentoring Program.

The nomination for this award was submitted by Susie Edwards of Central Office.

CDPVTC Report

Christmas Gifts for Consumers at the CDPVTC



Holidays at the Carl D. Perkins Vocational Training Center

The Social Committee was formed at CDPVTC in February 2006 under the capable leadership of Sherry Prater, Speech Pathologist at CDPVTC. The committee was initially formed to assist in the planning for the Center's semi-annual staff meetings. The committee also established a Student Spirit Fund. The fund was set up to benefit the students at CDPVTC. The committee holds various fund raisers year round with proceeds being used to purchase gifts. This year's fundraisers included bake sales, raffling of a UK signed basketball and a silent auction. In 2007, the committee raised over \$2,600, which was used to purchase gifts for one hundred and thirty consumers. They each received a \$20 Wal-mart gift card and a door prize. The committee has also sponsored numerous events including an open house, a rehabilitation appreciation month carnival event for staff/students, and a staff and student Holiday mixer. The committee has received an outpouring of support and involvement from all

CDPVTC staff. Staff support came in many forms, including: donations of home baked goods, items for silent auction, student door prize gifts, and cash donations. The committee's efforts have been noticeably appreciated by the staff and students at CDPVTC.



During Santa's visit at the Center, he takes time to spend a short break with Rebecca Wright.

Frankfort Office Volunteer Work

Spreading Holiday Cheer to Senior Citizens

Article submitted by Sherri Greer

The Frankfort OVR Office spread Holiday cheer this season to senior citizens in Franklin County. Several people in the office went to a local accounting firm packed and gift wrapped boxes full of goodies for residents at a Frankfort senior citizens center. Thanks to Taylor Carter for arranging this opportunity and allowing us to give back to the community!

West Liberty's Holiday Fun

With a Hawaiian Theme

Article submitted by Nanci Shelden

The West Liberty District brought tropical fun to their holiday celebration this year with the theme of Hawaiian Holiday. The gala was catered by staff with Hawaiian style food such as ham, shrimp and Pineapple-Upside Down Cake. Staff participated in several team activities and in an unique gift exchange! All staff enjoyed their Hawaiian celebration and look forward to next year!



Pictured left to right: Branch Manager, Charmaine Wright, Chris Sheeting, Beth Harper, Tammy Cobb, and Taylor Carter with a Senior Citizen's employee.



Front Row, L-R; Jack Cline, Charlie Crigger, Kelly Colvin, Angie Ball, Dawn Rowe, Beverly Back, Michelle Denison, and Missy Gullett.
Back Row, L-R; Tony Perry, Carl Hall, Linda Beeler, Debbie O'Hara, Dolores Thacker, Rosemary Moore, Karen Slone, Paula Sublett, Kathy Ward, Sharon Lawson, Alan Gullett, Christy Ison, and Scott Wright.

Employer Spotlight

Alexander Douglas and Company

Alexander Douglas and Company is an upscale gift and delectable treats shop that first opened its doors in Lexington in November of 2005. In February of 2006, Sherry Washington, employment training specialist, began what would become a fruitful working relationship with this business, establishing it as a PACE site. Since that time, consumers of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation have been given the opportunity to learn new skills such as customer service, retail sales, display design, inventory, purchasing, baking specialty treats and cakes, and making gift baskets.

The first OVR participant began training in February 2006 and was hired as a full-time employee after completing her PACE hours. This initial success has led to 15 more participants receiving training. Five of them have successfully obtained jobs. Two continue to work at Alexander Douglas, one as the kitchen manager and the other as a visual designer. Without the specific training and job skills gained at the business, these five individuals would not have been successful.

Susie Svetich, the store's owner, and Tess Wolf and Steven Thornton, co-managers, have been very eager to work with the PACE program to serve individuals with disabilities since the very first meeting with OVR. They work closely with each participant, asking the employment specialist for ideas and assistance in individualizing their approach. The disabilities of participants have included substance abuse, depression, anxiety, schizophrenia, amputation, dyslexia, and post-traumatic disorder. Alexander Douglas and Company maintains a rewarding and professional relationship with OVR. Every participant has had an excellent training experience and has acquired employable skills. If you are in Lexington, stop and enjoy the many delicious treats made and displayed by former OVR consumers.



Sherry Washington and Jamie L. Stevens take time for a picture at Alexander Douglas and Company

Letter submitted by consumer, Jamie L. Stevens

PACE Consumer Expresses Positive Experience in Letter

Obtains Employment with Alexander Douglas and Company

To whom it may concern,

I was asked to write about how the PACE program has helped me change my life. I could literally write a book about the benefits I have received since I participated in the PACE Program.

I went to a two-day class that was designed to educate me about the PACE program, basic work ethic and what type of job was best for me. The staff was thorough and open for questions. I remember leaving that day excited and ready to join the workforce.

I was placed in a print shop and given a pass for transportation. I was there for a few weeks when I was approached about moving to a place that might be better for me. The fact that I got individual consideration meant a lot to me in a lot of ways. I was placed at Alexander Douglas and Company the next day. Since I am going to pursue a degree in Culinary Arts, this job was perfect for me. I work now as their kitchen manager doing what I love to do, baking and decorating cakes.

I have been clean and sober for almost two years now. A different person writes this letter today. I have learned to live and work and ultimately be a productive, happy member of society. The PACE program has had a huge influence in my life and I will never forget what they have done for me. I couldn't thank them enough for their dedication to helping me and people like myself.

Sincerely,
Jami L. Stevens

Consumer Spotlight

OVR Consumer named Ms. Wheelchair Kentucky 2008

Jaime Blanton, was crowned Ms. Wheelchair Kentucky 2008, on Saturday, November 10 at Jefferson Community and Technical College in Louisville.

Jaime is no stranger to advocating on behalf of people with disabilities. Diagnosed with cerebral palsy at age 1, Jaime has never let her disability stop her from accomplishing great things. Through her platform, "Building Connections to Transform Perceptions" she hopes to empower people with disabilities to contribute to their communities by raising awareness about the issues facing those with mobility challenges, namely in the areas of educational equality, employment opportunity and housing equity. She believes the key to creating truly inclusive environments is to foster positive relationships with one another, and to work together to embrace diversity and ability.

"As an ambitious woman in a wheelchair, it is important people understand my diagnosis of cerebral palsy does not affect my humanity, merely my physicality," said Blanton, 27, of Louisville. "I decided early in life to focus on can-dos rather than can't- or shouldn't-dos, and doing so has allowed me to overcome the world's physical and attitudinal barriers with my own brand of style," Blanton said. "Now I have the unique opportunity to share my story, educate the public and advocate on behalf of people with disabilities."

The Ms. Wheelchair Kentucky program highlights the achievements and abilities of women with disabilities. As the state titleholder, Blanton will represent Kentucky at the Ms. Wheelchair America Contest, held July 21-27, 2008 in Bethesda, Maryland. Manheim Kentucky Auction, and several family members and friends sponsored Blanton in the state contest. She must now raise \$1,500 and travel expenses to participate in the national Ms. Wheelchair America Program.

"This not a beauty contest or a scholarship-based program, it recognizes individual achievement, and it emphasizes advocacy and communications skills," Blanton said. "I'll start raising money soon, but right now, I'm still stunned that I've been honored in this way," Blanton said. "I'm excited about my new responsibilities, and my daughter's excited that 'Mommy's a princess.' I want to take a few days to enjoy this feeling."

Jaime is a devoted wife and mother of two. She is currently pursuing a master's of higher education administration at the University of Louisville. She will serve as the graduate assistant for assessment in the Offices of the Vice President for Student Affairs and Civic Engagement, Leadership and Service beginning in January 2008.

Jaime was a high school teacher, journalist and public information officer for a regional government agency before her family moved from Fort Worth, Texas to Louisville in August 2006. She currently serves on the board of PUSH America, the national philanthropy for Pi Kappa Phi fraternity, which offers hands-on service and leadership experiences for members by serving people with disabilities. She graduated from Texas Christian University with a bachelor's degree in journalism and political science.

As a young child, Jaime recognized her skills as an advocate for disability rights and equal access. She was selected to travel with President Jimmy Carter in 1992 to raise money for disabled sports and her work for the 1996 Paralympic Games earned her the opportunity to carry the Paralympic flag in the game's opening ceremony. She served as Junior Miss Wheelchair Georgia 1996, making more than 350 appearances in that capacity. She served as a youth spokesperson for the Atlanta Lawn Tennis Association, Canine Assistance and the Atlanta area Children's Miracle Network. In 1998, she was honored with the "Yes I Can" Award from the National Council on Exceptional Children.

She and her husband, John, enjoy spending quality time with their children, Jenna, 3 and Jackson, age 1.



Jaime Blanton

News Bits

SAVR-S Pilot Update

In October of 2007, Kentucky OVR began piloting the "Substance Abuse in Vocational Rehabilitation – Screener" (SAVR-S), an assessment tool to identify potential problems related to substance abuse among vocational rehabilitation consumers. This pilot is a collaboration with Wright State University. All new applicants in the 2008 fiscal year have been asked to complete the screening tool. A total of 1,374 SAVR-S assessments were completed through November 2007. Approximately 15.7% of consumers declined to complete the screening tool and in 39.8% of *those completed*, a possible substance use disorder was identified. Wright State University will continue to keep the agency updated on the pilot results.

Evaluation of Ticket to Work Program Released

Mathematica Policy Research recently released an evaluation of the Ticket to Work Program (TTW). The report examines experiences of beneficiaries, state vocational rehabilitation agencies (VR), Employment Networks (ENs), and the Social Security Administration (SSA) during the TTW rollout period from 2002-2004. Overall, Mathematica found that participation in the Ticket to Work Program remains low, but continues to rise. In addition, TTW did not have a significant impact on the way VR does business or on the practices of ENs in the community. Other major findings related to vocational rehabilitation services include:

- Participants who assigned their ticket to ENs instead of VR received fewer services and were more likely to report being dissatisfied with the services.
- Over 80 percent of VR TTW assignments are through the traditional cost reimbursement system. VR is continuing to claim reimbursement under the methods available prior to TTW, thus the VR system has not been substantially impacted.

The full evaluation can be found at
<http://www.mathmatica-mpr.com/publications/pdfs/TTWpostrolloutvol1.pdf>

KentuckyDisability.org

The Kentucky Council on Developmental Disabilities sponsors a website that enables visitors to keep up with important legislation affecting individuals with disabilities. This is particularly important as the General Assembly goes into session this month. Using the site, the user can check on legislation, contact legislators, and set up e-alerts to track the progress of bills. The website is www.kentuckydisability.org.



874K Coalition to Hold Annual Advocacy Event

The 874K Coalition will hold its annual advocacy event on January 23, 2008, from 10:00 to 1:00 at the Frankfort Convention Center. This event offers an excellent opportunity for individuals with disabilities and their advocates to meet with their legislators and state government leaders. For more information, call 502/894-0222, email actionoffice@bellsouth.net, or visit the website, www.advocacyaction.net.



APSE Conference a Success

80 OVR Employees in Attendance

The 2007 Conference of the Kentucky Association of Persons in Supported Employment (KY APSE) was held from October 24 to 26 at the Louisville Marriott East. This year's conference brought together 197 people to explore supported employment issues. Eighty of the participants were employees of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation. The conference also drew people from the Office for the Blind, the Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation Services, and many comprehensive care centers and private supported employment agencies from across Kentucky.

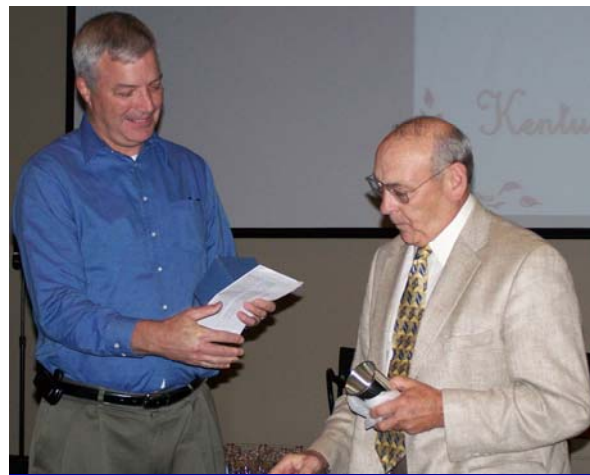
The conference started with a full day pre-conference session regarding job development featuring Connie Ferrell, a long time trainer/consultant in the field. Laura Owens from the national APSE, gave the opening keynote address on October 25. She spoke about the importance of building relationships with the business community. Breakout sessions were held during the second day as well and included such topics as the characteristics of authentic person-centered work, transition planning, serving individuals with visual impairments, how paid employment affects Medicaid Waivers, effective self-advocacy and the importance of voting, self-employment for brain injury survivors, diabetes and age-related eye disease, workplace space basics, and working with individuals with autism, among others. The closing keynote featured Kate Adamson and Tom Cantrell, both of whom have experienced disability in their lives. They spoke of their own stories and how to focus on the abilities and gifts people possess.

Kentucky APSE presented the following awards at the conference:

- The Willie Byrd Legislative Award – **Jack Cline, OVR**
- The Nancy Hall Supported Employment Advocacy Award – **Lisa Sopha, Tri-Generations**
- The Sam Serraglio Community Employment Award – **Scott Coulter, Lifeskills**
- The D. Timothy Estes Award for Inspiration & Innovation – **Paul Meisenhelder, New Perceptions**
- APSE Kudos Awards – **Brenda Tierney, Ashley Taylor, Katie Wolf Smith**

KY APSE was thrilled with the event and the chance to share supported employment information and techniques. KY APSE wishes to thank OVR for its continued support!

In 2008 the National APSE Conference is coming to Kentucky! This is our chance to show off Kentucky and all the fabulous work done here to promote employment for people with disabilities. The conference will be at the Marriott in downtown Louisville from July 9 to 11, 2008!



Willie Bryd presents Jack Cline with the Willie Byrd Legislative Award

OVR, OFB Revamp Assistant Personnel Classifications

More Defined Career Path Now Available

With the urging and support of the state Personnel Cabinet, the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) and the Office for the Blind (OFB) have changed the job classifications of their assistants. To align the positions more with similar positions elsewhere in state government, the Vocational Rehabilitation Assistant series has been abolished and current assistants have been moved to the Administrative Assistant and Administrative Specialist Classification Series. The new classification series contains job descriptions more in line with what agency assistants currently do. It will also provide a more defined career path with opportunities for upward mobility through professional development. Finally, the new series will allow for more flexibility in hiring by giving a clear entry-level position, hopefully making recruitment easier. The changes took effect on December 16.

Vocational Rehabilitation and Gina Hughes

Remembering a Member of the Rehab Family



Gina Hughes, Frankfort District Manager, passed away on October 6, 2007 after a long bout with cancer. Beth Manns, friend and colleague submitted the following in her memory.

I will attempt to convey to everyone just how important Vocational Rehabilitation was to Gina Hughes. Gina's purpose in life, I do believe, was to help people. She demonstrated this every day. It was always evident in her personal and her professional life. Throughout the many years I worked with Gina, I had the opportunity to witness her deep passion and love for this agency and its mission.

I have been blessed and privileged to be Gina's co-worker and friend. I learned many things from her and obtained an abundant amount of wisdom, personally and professionally, which I will hold on to for the rest of my life.

Gina may have loved Vocational Rehabilitation but

that was just a fraction of who she was. Gina was a loyal and true friend! She was an ally and companion to this agency and to the people she loved and with whom she worked. She respected what she did while working as a Counselor, Employer Relations Specialist and Field Administrator. Every aspect of those roles throughout her years with this agency was highly important to her.

Gina strove for perfection in everything she did. She never forgot that people's feelings mattered, whether it was a staff person or a consumer. She cared about people's feelings.

Gina always told me that she planned on returning to Vocational Rehabilitation when she recovered, but, sadly, this will not happen. She leaves behind a legacy as a wonderful daughter, sister, aunt, wife, mother, friend, and mentor. It is for how she lived her life that we must remember. I believe she will forever be remembered in Vocational Rehabilitation, because she loved this agency. The many lives she touched along her short life's journey will forever be saddened by her absence. The people who love Gina will keep her memory alive. Gina will never stop 'helping' because it is inherent in her soul.

Personnel Changes

Information submitted by Carmen Freeman, Susie Edwards and Allison Jessee

New Employees

Todd Hines - Program Specialist I Danville	October 16
Michala Price - Assistant I Elizabethtown	October 16
John Cantrell - Janitor CDPVT	October 16
Johnathan Carr - Counselor Frankfort	November 1
Margaret Agee - Counselor Lexington - Lexington District	November 1
Barbara Ling - Assistant I Owensboro	November 1
Debra Scholer - Program Specialist I Florence	November 1
Gloria Gibson - Program Specialist I SE Consultant - Corbin	November 16
Laketra Whitman - Program Specialist I Elizabethtown	November 16
Tony Sweatt - Program Specialist I Whitesburg	November 16
Mosezella Jones - Program Specialist I Elizabethtown	November 16
Rhonda Atkins - Nurse Program Sup. CDPVT	November 16

Amanda Tackett - PT Assistant CDPVT	December 1
Stephanie Cooper - Program Specialist I Paducah	December 16
Lee Ann Miller - Program Specialist I Lexington - Bluegrass District	January 1
Sharon White - Assistant I Central Office	January 1

Retirements

Joe Short CDPVT	October 31
Ralph Clark Central Office	October 31
Geneva Preston CDPVT	November 30
Ron Jackson Louisville	November 30

Resignations

Jonna Melvin CDPVT	October 18
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Get to Know Your Council Members

Martina Netherton and John Riesenber

Martina Netherton Martina Netherton is the Chairperson of the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) and is the representative of that council to the Statewide Council for Vocational Rehabilitation. She has been on the SILC for seven years and the SCVR since 2006. Martina is from Louisville where she is the Executive Director of Cedar Lake



Residences, a non-profit agency that provides community residential and support services to adults with Intellectual Disabilities in Jefferson, Oldham and Henry counties. Martina has a bachelor's degree from Bellarmine University and a master's degree in Counseling Psychology from Spalding University. Her husband is a Regional Vice President for Malone Associates; they have two sons, ages 22 and 16.

"Many of the individuals supported by my agency benefit from the services provided by the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation. Participation on the council gives me the opportunity to have input into those services and to support those who provide them."

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John Riesenber John has been a member of the SCVR since the summer of 2006.



John has been employed with Mental Health America of Northern Kentucky as a Supported Employment Specialist since 2005. He received a bachelor's degree in Marketing from Northern Kentucky University and his current job duties include working on several marketing projects. John was the owner and operator of a flooring business for 17 years. After much thought, he decided to sell the business and search for a job that involved helping others. He was fortunate enough to join the team with Mental Health of America and has been very happy in all aspects of the job.

Save the Date

Upcoming Council and Committee Meetings

Interagency Coordinating Committee (ICC)

Tuesday, February 19, 2008

10:00-12:00

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation

209 St. Clair Street

Frankfort, KY 40601

Training Room C, 1st Floor

Statewide Council for Vocational Rehabilitation (SCVR) Meeting

Monday, March 10, 2008

9:00-3:00

Marriott Griffin Gate Resort and Spa

1800 Newtown Pike

Lexington, KY 40511

Putting a Face to a Name

New Members Attend December Meeting



Pictured left to right: David Allgood, Lois Taurman and Matthew Davis.
Not pictured: Mike Fogle and Phillip Courtney

The OVR Review is a publication of the Kentucky Office for Vocational Rehabilitation.

The Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, religion, or marital status in employment, or provision of services and provides, upon request, reasonable accommodation including auxiliary aids and services necessary to afford individuals with disabilities an equal opportunity to participate in all program activities.

(Dave Matheis and Nanci Shelden, editors)

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