



The OVR Review

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

Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation

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Article submitted by Karen Cinnamond

Migrant Grant Paying Dividends Across State

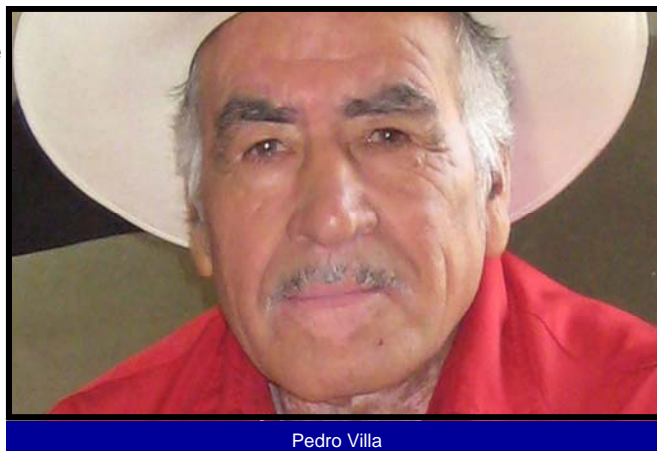
"Hispanic Farmer Finds Hope in MDEP"

Pedro Villa from Shelbyville came to the U.S. in 1972 from Uruapan Mexico in the state of Michoacán, arriving as a migrant farmworker. About five years ago, he began to notice a marked decrease in his ability to hear and began having daily struggles to adapt to the hearing loss.

Problems on the job became evident, as he was unable to hear and follow instructions. Pedro has worked in agriculture for many years, which has long, demanding hours, and does not afford him the time off to take English lessons. Since he did not speak English, he was having no luck obtaining services to help him with problems associated with his hearing loss.

In October 2007, the Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) partnered with the University of Kentucky Human Development Institute (HDI) and Goodwill Industries of Kentucky (GIK) to form the Migrant Farmworkers with Disabilities Employment Partnership (MDEP). The overall goal of this program is to educate the migrant and seasonal farmworker community about the services of OVR and to identify, assess, and provide job placement of identified individuals.

The bilingual/bicultural outreach staff of MDEP conduct outreach activities in central Kentucky and identifies potential referrals to OVR. There are dedicated counselors who receive language and cultural training that receive the referrals and begin the OVR application process. If accepted for services and need job placement assistance, a job placement specialist at GIK, Nancy Agrinsini, helps the consumer. Since outreach activities began in March of 2008, the project has educated over 8000 Latinos about OVR services, interviewed more than 700 potential referrals, and referred 180 individuals for services. The criteria of the project requires the person is able to legally work in the U.S., is over the age of 14, works in agriculture (crops like tobacco, corn, tomatoes, etc) or a family member works in agriculture, and indicates that he or she has a disability.



Pedro Villa

Another important aim of the project is help OVR develop the culturally appropriate resources, practices, and processes that allow counselors to effectively serve the growing Spanish speaking population. The project has seen a number of successes over the past two and half years of outreach, but the greatest successes are always the people that are helped.

Through MDEP, Pedro met Outreach Coordinator Israel Avelar, received a referral to OVR, was assigned to OVR Counselor Regina Bates and was declared eligible for services. Over a six-month process, he received hearing aids and therapy to use the aids and job placement assistance through the services of Goodwill. Agrinsini helped him find a higher paying job in construction when he was laid off from farm working. Pedro admits it was a commitment to attend all the counselor and doctor's appointments;

however, he is very grateful for the programs and services of OVR and the change it has made in his life. When asked about how OVR services made a positive change in his life, he replied, "I am able to hear clearly now, and I will recommend the program to others."

He also stated that OVR provided services that were "excellent and they also want to serve minorities. Thank you very much!"

Pedro is just one of the many people that who have been touched by MDEP. Each opportunity to help is an amazing success considering the barriers to providing and receiving services for any immigrant

community. If you have any questions about MDEP, you can contact Karen Cinnamond, Project Coordinator, at Karen.Cinnamond@uky.edu.

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40th Annual SERID Conference

"Kentucky to host Southeast Regional Institute on Deafness"

Kentucky will host the 40th Annual Southeast Regional Institute on Deafness (SERID) Conference at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Louisville, KY, October 17 – 19, 2010 with pre-conferences being held on Oct. 16.

SERID rotates among the eight southeastern states (Kentucky, Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, Mississippi, North Carolina and South Carolina) and includes large numbers of participants from those states as well as others from across the United States.

SERID features a variety of keynote presentations, concurrent workshops, cultural activities and exhibits that provide an excellent opportunity for professional development and networking.

The theme for SERID 2010 is "Rising to the Challenge: Raising the Bar", spotlighting the collaboration between the programs and agencies that provide services to individuals who are deaf, deaf-blind, hard of hearing or late-deafened. In essence, SERID is

seen as a way to energize professionals in the field of "hearing loss", provide information to consumers and bring innovations to the attention of all that participate. Historically each state's Vocational Rehabilitation Agency has assumed leadership by coordinating resources within the state toward planning and conducting the Institute.

For this year's conference, KY OVR Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services has been joined by the KY Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing as a partner in planning the Institute.

Some of the other groups involved in planning are: KY Department of Education, KY School for the Deaf Outreach, KY Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse, Eastern KY University, KY Office for the Blind, KY Association of the Deaf, and KY Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf.

Article compiled by Jason Jones

New Assistant Program Services Director

"Hendricks moves over to Program Services"

Holly Hendricks started her new position as Assistant Director of Program Services September 1. She takes over for Allison Jessee, who left earlier in the summer to head up Program Services for the Office for the Blind.

Hendricks brings with her experience in vocational rehabilitation at almost every level. Her first job with OVR began April 15th, 2001 as a counselor in the Lexington District. "I served Harrison, Nicholas and Bourbon counties," said Hendricks.

"I was a communication specialist and I had the privilege of being mentored by Julie Hurst and Gwen Babbage."

Hendricks says her aunt, Susan Montgomery, who worked as a counselor with OVR for 30 years, introduced her to the idea of being a Rehabilitation Counselor. "With a love for working with people, I knew it would be a great fit for me. It was one of the best decisions I've ever made."

She also worked with Migrant and Seasonal Farm-



Holly Hendricks

workers and spent four weeks in Mexico as part of an immersion program in January of 2002. In July of 2005 she accepted a position as a Program Administrator in the Program Planning and Development Branch where her responsibilities were focused on Program Evaluation. Her experience with the Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers paid off later when she became Project Director for the Grant. In addition in 2009, she began administering TRACKS and the Monthly Case Reviews.

Hendricks also brings a vast education as well. She earned a BA in English and Psychology from Campbellsville University in May 1999. She began the Masters program in Rehabilitation Counseling at the University of Kentucky in January of 2001 and earned her MRC and CRC in 2003.

Hendricks and her husband of almost five years, Bryan, reside in Georgetown and have a three-year-old son named Connor.

Message from Executive Director, Beth Smith



In the time between this and the next newsletter a great deal of exciting things will transpire. You all will celebrate Thanksgiving, Christmas and a New Year with your family and friends. In addition, significant local, state and national seats could change hands with the elections. It is my hope that no

matter what happens the first Tuesday in November, people with disabilities will be part of the equation.

Additionally by the next newsletter, everyone will have been furloughed for the third time. I encourage everyone to enjoy the days off and try to make the best of a less than ideal situation.

There are also some very exciting things that should be in full operation for our consumers in the next few months. I was fortunate enough to attend the kick-off of the Johnson & Johnson/Dartmouth Supported Employment Project last week. It looks like this grant will clear the way for significant expansion of supported employment services across

Kentucky. I am very excited that OVR is involved with this new endeavor.

Also, the Best Buy initiative that you read about in our last issue is getting ready to begin significant hiring over the next few months. Willie Byrd from Louisville CRP Options Unlimited gave a presentation at the last Statewide Council meeting in September and the potential is exciting. He said that the goal over the next few years is to have a workforce at the Shelbyville distribution center that is between 30-40 percent people with disabilities.

Finally, we just received word last week that the Post-Secondary Inclusion Project that we partner on with the HDI at UK, has received a five-year grant from the United States Department of Education to further post-secondary education opportunities for students with intellectual disabilities.

Finally, I want to wish everyone a great few months to come, especially the five and a half days we have off in November. Since this newsletter only comes out quarterly, I'll say have great SERID and APSE conferences and Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Article Submitted by Donna Osburn

2010 Social Security Cost Reimbursement

"Fourth Quarter and Year-end Results"

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation had 52 claims reimbursed from July through September 2010, totaling \$670,457.96. This brings the total for the year to 157 claims at \$1,986,540.22.

The West Liberty district (Charles Crigger, branch manager) and the RCD district (Janis Friend, branch manager) tied for the most cases reimbursed in the 4th quarter with each having 6 cases reimbursed. The Middletown district (Pat Selch, branch manager) had the most cases reimbursed for the year, with 18 cases reimbursed.

The RCD district (Janis Friend, branch manager) was the top district based on dollars reimbursed for both the 4th quarter and FY2010. Their cases brought in \$139,022.78 this quarter and \$347,419.28 for the year.

The top counselors in terms of number of cases reimbursed are as follows: 4th quarter: Shawne Kinsman (3), Michelle Denison (2), Holly Evans (2), Amanda Friend (2), Patrice Lux (2), Deborah O'Hara (2), Jim Pike (2)

FY 2010: Brent Sturgill (4), Julie Wade (4), Eric Barth (3), Leslie Burton (3), Rick Jones (3), Jack

Kiefner (3), Shawne Kinsman (3), Patrice Lux (3), Kelly Osborne (3), Jim Pike (3), Roxana Robinson (3), Joe Scott (3)

The top 5 counselors in terms of dollars received for case reimbursements are as follows (in order): 4th quarter: Holly Evans, Shawne Kinsman, Amanda Friend, Jane Smith, Deborah O'Hara

FY 2010: Holly Evans, Joe Scott, Julie Wade, Shawne Kinsman, Peggy Anderson

We also want to recognize the Carl D. Perkins Vocational Training Center. Their staff served 8 of the successful cases that were reimbursed during the 4th quarter, totaling \$138,080.87. This brings their FY 2010 totals to 12 successful cases reimbursed for \$166,220.95.

Thanks to all staff who provide services to consumers receiving Social Security disability benefits or Supplemental Security Income for disability. In addition to helping the individual consumer, you also help secure cost reimbursements for the agency. These funds can then be used to provide services to other consumers.

NEWS BITS

Rice Retires after more than 60 Years of Public Service



Long time OVR stalwart Clifton Rice announced his retirement from the agency in September. Rice finished his public service life with more than 60 years as a government employee. He began his career as a soldier in World War II. After his stint in the military, he taught

school for several years before moving to Disability Determination and then on to Vocational Rehabilitation, where he spent 53.5 years before his retirement last month.

While in state government Clifton served under 15 governors, from Earl C. Clements to Governor Beshear. He also served under more than a dozen commissioners and executive directors. He has worked in several capacities over the years, the most recent as liaison to the Community Rehabilitation Providers across the state.

Post-Secondary Partnership Awarded Education Grant

The Human Development at UK has been awarded a \$2.5 million grant from the US Department of Education Office of Postsecondary Education. The Supported Higher Education Project will use what has been learned from these efforts and develop a comprehensive system of support for students throughout the state.

The objectives of the project are to: support 150 students with intellectual disabilities (ID) in inclusive higher education settings using authentic person-centered planning, train 2,000 professionals in secondary and higher education and in disability services to effectively serve a broader audience of learners, implement individualized certificates and meaningful academic recognition that promotes improved educational and employment outcomes, and create viable funding streams to sustain project efforts beyond the project funding.

The focus of the project will be the inclusion of young adults with ID in all aspects of college life, integrating academics, socialization, and meaningful work

experiences within student centered plans.

Key partners in this process who are committed to changing the landscape of higher education include OVR, the Council on Postsecondary Education, the DD Council, and collaborating institutions of higher education: UK, NKU, EKV, and the KCTCS system, a critical partner to ensure replication throughout the state. Jason Jones, Vickie Reilly, and Carol Estes have been involved with Kentucky's pilot efforts which has greatly influenced the development of the proposal. The start date for the project was October 1, 2010.

(Submitted by Dr. Kathy Sheppard-Jones)

AT Specialist Jeff Ritchie Dec 31, 1971 – Sept 6, 2010

The following is from Jeff's friends and coworkers in the rehab tech group.

Jeff Ritchie had a strong passion for working with people with disabilities. He starting working for the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation in 1995.



He served first as a counselor in the Morehead district office and was a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor. He started working part-time with the Rehabilitation Technology Branch in 2003. In 2009, he became a full-time member of the RTB. He served a general rehab tech case load in 11 counties in the Appalachian area of eastern Kentucky and served statewide as a driver rehabilitation technology specialist. He was in training to become a Certified Driver Rehabilitation Specialist. He served on many teams in Vocational Rehabilitation; one of the longest lasting of these was the TRACKS team.

Jeff's dedication to helping people did not end at work. He was serious about being a Mason and his Masonic practice. A goal of Masonic practice is to do noble deeds and acts of kindness to make the world better and brighter. We believe this was a big part of Jeff's mission in life.

Jeff was a great co-worker and a friend. Jeff is deeply missed by all who worked with him, especially those of us in his "rehab tech" family, even those of us who did not get to work with him very long. We will always remember how Jeff's smiling face and infectious laughter would lift our spirits. His sentences were always punctuated with chuckles. I know that many VR employees feel the same way about Jeff and have told me how much they enjoyed working with him. I am so thankful that I had the opportunity to work with Jeff.

Transition & Mentoring Update

"Mentoring training set for October"

Community Based Work Transition Program (CBWTP) Mentoring Update

August was a busy month for all those involved with CBWTP. Trainings took place across the state to train job coaches on the new program changes and policies. Most welcomed the changes and were receptive to the new outlook of 'students explore, job coaches evaluate', which was the theme of each training.

The feedback was positive. Incorporating and implementing the changes will take time and patience but going forward we believe the program will better serve those consumers referred to the program and more effectively have a positive impact on each student's future.

We welcome a new member of HDI's CBWTP staff, Stacy Henderson! Stacy comes to us as a former Job Coach with many years of experience and will serve as technical support for Job Coaches who are new or in need with performance/support plans mainly in the western part of our state. Stacy dove right in and assisted with the August trainings in a presenter role and did a fantastic job. She will be a valuable asset to our team and we look forward to working with her! Stacy can be reached at Stacy.Henderson@uky.edu.



The Mentor Training will be held at Lake Cumberland on October 12 & 13, for all current and new Mentors. Thanks to all those who will be participating and to those presenting as well! We look forward to a successful and educational training. The schedule for trainings includes:

- Negotiating Skills Training (*Holly Hendricks*)
- CMS Top 20 Questions (*Diane Hargrove*)
- Obstacles with Mentoring (*Mentor Panel*)
- Eligibility Overview (*Jamie Yarber*)
- Ethics & Communications (*David Beach*)
- New Mentor Training (*Mentor Leadership Team*)
- Closing Inspiration & Presentation (*Pam Jarboe*)

Interesting Websites

*iTransition is a free, online transition curriculum to help students who are deaf or hard of hearing prepare for life after high school. There are four separate trainings with activities to help students learn about themselves, their career goals, and the skills they need to be successful in the future.

- Career Interests and Education Choices: It's My Plan!
- First Year College Success: Be the One!
- Essential Skills for College Living: It's My Life!
- eFolio: My Online Portfolio!
<http://www.pepnet.org/itransition.asp>

*NICHCY – the National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities has a Transition to Adulthood website that covers the

Basic 101 information for new counselors who may want to see an overview of high school transition information.

http://www.nichcy.org/EducateChildren/transition_adulthood/Pages/Default.aspx

*National Secondary Transition Technical Assistance Center website has a short informative video for transitioning youth and taking charge of their health. The video runs just over 9 minutes and includes information on medicines, talking with doctors, emergency information, as well as eating right and exercising. Check it out at:

<http://www.fyitransition.net/Minicourses/health/level1/player.html>

*Lastly, don't forget the Community Based Work Transition Program website for the new forms to be used for the 2010-2011 school year:

<http://www.ihdi.uky.edu/cbwtp/forms/default.htm>

Food for thought

Rehabilitation Counselors are often asking, 'what can I do with the high school kids?' That they were not 'clicking' with the students and they would drop off the planet once they graduate; never to follow through with their Plans for Employment. So when I read the following article I wondered if this information would help, you decide.

Developing Positive Relationships:
Advice from Teens to Adults

Find the article at ...

https://www.at15.com/about_at_15/teen_voice_2010/tips

Supported Employment Project Kicks-Off in Frankfort

“Collaboration with Johnson & Johnson/Dartmouth begins”

The Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities (BHDID) is working to help Kentuckians with serious mental illness obtain employment using a community mental health grant received earlier this year. The Kickoff event celebrating the partnership between the Johnson & Johnson/Dartmouth Community Mental Health Program, Vocational Rehabilitation and BHDID was held in Frankfort at the Transportation Cabinet Conference Center on September 23, 2010. Kentucky is one of 13 states, including the District of Columbia awarded the Dartmouth/Johnson & Johnson grant, which totals \$280,000.

Four pilot sites have been chosen to launch the employment initiative, including Four Rivers Behavioral Health, Communicare Inc., NorthKey Community Care and Comprehend Inc.

“The main goal of this program is to create a supported employment system that allows everyone to contribute to their community, no matter what the challenge,” said BHDID Commissioner Stephen Hall. “This program will help our community mental health centers (CMHCs) as they work with people with serious mental illness so they can enter the workforce, improve their quality of life and thrive in their own communities.”

Vocational Rehabilitation administrators Carol Estes and Pam Jarboe have been at the center of planning for this grant since Dartmouth visited Kentucky last year. This grant provides four years of funding for the program. As part of the award, Kentucky identified a state mental health authority (Louis Kurtz), a state vocational rehabilitation liaison (Carol Estes), and a full-time supported employment trainer (Lori Norton).

In 2009, only 9.65 percent of adults with serious mental illnesses served by the CMHCs were employed in Kentucky, even though employment is viewed by mental health professionals as a central piece of an individual’s recovery process.

States funded under this initiative that utilize the evidence-based Supported Employment (SE) model, also known as Individual Placement and Supports (IPS), and



base their services on a number of core principles including the integration of mental health and the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR).

This program cannot succeed without the partnership established between DBHDID and Vocational Rehabilitation.

“The Dartmouth initiative fulfills a longtime dream for many people in both agencies to further expand supported employment in Kentucky,” said Carol Estes, OVR branch manager of supported employment services. “For a person with a serious mental illness, having a job brings a better quality of life, a valued role in society and an opportunity to contribute. We in OVR are very excited to partner with BHDID, and we’re committed to seeing great success from this project.”

For more information on this SE Initiative, contact CJ Jones at (502) 564-4456 or visit the IPS website at <http://www.dartmouth.edu/~ips/>.



(Above) OVR Executive Director Beth Smith speaks on OVR’s role in the new supported employment endeavor during the September kick-off event. (left) Director of Program Services Pam Jarboe registers for the day’s events. (bottom right) Branch Managers John Phillips, Ryan Henson and Carol Leonhart have a discussion before the event began.

2010 Employer Awards

“SCVR Holds Annual Employer Recognition Luncheon”

At its annual Employer Awards Luncheon on September 20, 2010, the Statewide Council for Vocational Rehabilitation (SCVR) recognized four employers from across the state for their exemplary efforts in employing individuals with disabilities.

The luncheon was held at the Marriott Griffin Gate in Lexington. Lee Gordon, SCVR chairperson, Nancy Hunter, SCVR vice-chair, and Beth Smith, executive director of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, presented awards to the following employers:

- **Residence Inn by Marriott, Paducah**
- **Cracker Barrel, Richmond**
- **The Internal Revenue Service, Cincinnati**
- **Peebles Department Store, Paintsville**

In accepting the award for the Residence Inn by Marriott, Tonya Dubrock called her company’s relationship with KYOVR “phenomenal.”

The hotel has worked with Cindy Ragland, KYOVR Job Placement Specialist, since its opening in 2007 and still has three consumers employed on day one. Joe Scott, Rehabilitation Counselor for the Deaf, cited Cracker Barrel’s commitment to giving individuals with disabilities a chance at obtaining employment and independence.

The Richmond Cracker Barrel hired two consumers who are deaf.

Claudia Buys, accepting for the Internal Revenue Service in Cincinnati, noted that their location had hired 14 consumers of KYOVR as clerks and tax examiners. Cheryl Martinez, KYOVR Job Placement Specialist in Northern Kentucky, remarked on the great difference employment at IRS has made in the individual lives of consumers.

Kim Castle from the Peebles Department Store in Paintsville was unable to attend because of illness, but Sherry Terry, KYOVR Job Placement Specialist in the Paintsville Office, said that, from the beginning, Kim “has focused on the capabilities not the disabilities” of the consumers that have come to her for employment. Once again this year, the SCVR Employer Recognition Luncheon was a great success.



(Above, left to right) Statewide Council for Vocational Rehabilitation Chairman Lee Gordon, Co-Chair Nancy Hunter, OVR Executive Director Beth Smith, Office Manager Erin Ratcliffe and General Manager Tonya Dubrock of Residence Inn and OVR Employment Specialist Cindy Ragland. (Below, left to right, front) Smith, Hunter, and Gordon, (back) IRS Acting Chief Lois Brockman, IRS Human Resources Specialist Claudia Buys, IRS EEO Specialist Patricia Patrick and OVR Employment Specialist Cheryl Martinez



Save the Date

Upcoming Council Meeting

Statewide Council for Vocational Rehabilitation (SCVR) Meeting

Monday, December 13, 2010

9:00-3:30

Marriott Griffin Gate Resort and Spa

1800 Newtown Pike

Lexington, KY 40511



News from the Perkins Center

"Classes in full swing, Orem retires"

After summer break, students at the Carl D. Perkins Vocational Training Center returned in July ready for another session of classes. Students attending Big Sandy Community and Technical College returned in early August for the Fall Semester. Classes are now underway and enrollment at the Center is currently at 185. Summer happenings at CDPVTC include:

On July 27th, the Growing Together Child Care held its graduation in the Center's Distance Learning Room. Four children graduated from the Child Care which is housed and operates from CDPVTC. Students in the Child Care Training Program do work training in the Day Care as well as at off-site facilities. Pictured below are Growing Together Day Care Supervisor Elizabeth Walker, four excited graduates, and Day Care Assistant Trish Hyden.



On August 17th the Center hosted the "Path to Employment" Job Fair co-sponsored through Protection & Advocacy along with Independence Place located in Lexington. Both Center students and area residents receiving Social Security disability benefits were invited to attend the fair. Activities included employer displays, resume development, and presentations on recent changes in Social Security law that allow persons receiving Social Security benefits to keep their benefits while returning to work. The fair was very successful.



On August 31st, the Center said congratulations and good-bye to long-time employee, Mike Orem. Orem retired from his position as Unit Manager of the Recreation Unit after 33 years with the Center. Mike's presence, experience, and enthusiasm for the students will be missed. Pictured left is Mike Orem receiving a plaque from Assistant Director Barbara Pugh.

The month of September has students and staff preparing once again for upcoming 5-K runs. These activities have become popular with the students and are a good way to keep them moving both for good causes and good health.

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(Jason Jones - Editor)

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