



The OVR Review

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

Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation

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Article by Jason Jones

2011 Assistants Training

"Support staff converge on General Butler"

It was not at a ballpark, but you would not have known better with all of the action going on in Carrolton, Kentucky last month.

About 115 Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) employees, comprised mostly of assistants, descended upon General Butler State Park for the 2011 Assistants Training. The theme for the March 29-31 training was "A League of Our Own" and the baseball overtones were present in all aspects of the three-day event. The agenda was broke into nine innings and awards were given out to, 'Home Run Hitters', 'Lowest Error Rate for Authorizations', 'Rookie of the Year', and 'Most Valuable Player'. Baseball teams were formed as well.

The training began on Tuesday with a welcome from Executive Director Beth Smith. After her comments, the large group broke into 10 colorful teams: Yellow Jackets, Blue Bandits, Diamond Divas, Outstanding Outfield, Pink Panthers, Red Rockettes, Fighting Frogs, Blue Jays, Pink Ladies and the Green Monster.

Then the game began. Innings 1 and 2 dealt with the Case Management System (CMS). before heading to the showers after day one. Day two's first pitch was thrown at 8:30 am with "What to Pay" taking place in the 3rd Inning and "CMS Reports" in the 4th.

The 5th Inning was very interesting as players joined in a roundtable format. Each person was allowed to visit three tables for 30 minutes to receive information on topics including Self Employment, Rehabilitation Technology Regulations, Travel Vouchers, Hearing Aids and Communication Technology, Community Based Work Transition Program, Scanning, Cost Participation including Training, Procard/Inventory for District/Center/ Office Purchases and Consumer Procard/Inventor.

The 6th Inning included "Disability Awareness," while the 7th gave advice about things you should know about the road between being hired and retirement.

The final two innings took place on Thursday with "Confidentiality/Ethics for Assistants" in the 8th and a Teamwork Panel closed out the 9th inning.

The Awards and Recognition Ceremony followed the game. See the blue box for the list of winners!



Assistant Awards

Home Run hitters

Top 5 assistants according to the number of status changes, new cases, plans, closures, authorizations done, authorizations paid for FY 2010.

1. Heather Rogers – 3748
2. Jenny Hargrove – 3556
3. Tonya Sheneman – 3509
4. Melissa Miller – 3459
5. Carole Spigle – 3453

Lowest ERA

Error rate for authorizations
Jeanette Newberry

Rookie of the Year - Autumn Brown

CDPVTC MVP - Melinda Parker

Central Office MVP - Vicki Yeary

(Above) Participants of the Assistant Training pose in front of the General Butler Conference Center.

(Below) Director of the Assistant Training Pam Jarboe and Assistant Director Holly Hendricks present the "Home Run Hitters" awards to (left to right) Heather Rodgers, Jenny Hargrove and Tonya Sheneman.

(Below left) The training committee: (left to right) Mindy Yates, Vicki Yeary, Carol Leonhart, Kay King, Sue McKeon, Jane Steffey, Melinda Davis, Jane Smith, Gerry Zurliene, Susie Edwards and Diane Hargrove.



Message from Executive Director, Beth Smith

By the time you have the opportunity to read this; I will most likely be finishing up spring break with my youngest daughter and getting ready to catch a flight to the Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR) conference. My hope for all of you, and myself as well, is that when I get back to the Bluegrass State, the trees and grass will be green, flowers will be blooming and the temperature will be nice.

One of the recent highlights of my job was getting to see so many of you at the Assistants Training at General Butler last week. It never ceases to amaze me how much everyone seems to really love their coworkers at OVR. It was very evident with all the smiles and



laughter I witnessed while I was there. I hope everyone enjoyed themselves and felt renewed and ready to tackle the next phase of their career.

To the assistants personally, I just want to thank you and say how proud I am of the work you do all across the state. We would not be the strong agency that we are without your dedication and willingness to take on multiple tasks to see our consumers succeed. At Central Office we would probably be a mess without the strong group of colleagues known as our assistants.

In closing, I would like to wish everyone a wonderful springtime and beginning of summer. I'll see you back on these pages in July.

Staff Report

OVR Going Green

"OVR working to be more environmentally responsible"

Recently OVR was asked to highlight Green Initiatives as part of a report to the Office of the Governor. Here is what was submitted.

Archive Efficiency—OVR has served over 29,000 consumers for the current fiscal year and similar numbers in past fiscal years. In the past, the agency has labeled, loaded, and transported boxes of cases to Libraries and Archives warehouses. The agency transported closed cases from 57 offices from across the state and stored closed files for a fee in Frankfort warehouses. When a case was needed in the field, the agency physically located the case in the Frankfort warehouses and incurred additional time and cost to send a file to the field.

Since the spring of 2010, OVR, with cooperation with the field staff, has moved to a scanning system, no longer incurring the labeling, transporting and storage fees. This reduces paper consumption and fuel emissions as well as creating more space in offices. Once the cases are scanned, the paper is shredded and sent for recycling. The agency can retrieve past cases rapidly via the scanned system.

CDPVT Energy Savings Project—The Carl D. Perkins Vocational Training Center recently completed

a \$552,000.00 energy savings project and now has a significantly smaller carbon footprint. Work began in 2008 to conserve energy and improve efficiency in the 110,000 square foot building. Under the project a wide variety of technologies that focus on lighting, water heating, vending machine controls, plug load controls, and integrated building controls for heating and air conditioning are now complete.

Along with the improvements to the building, staff at the Perkins Center added a behavioral component to their existing procedures to educate students about energy consumption.

The overall project is funded through the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet. OVR will produce and anticipated savings of \$58,983.00. These annual savings are more than sufficient to pay the annual debt service of the project. The real savings take place over the next 12 years as energy rates are expected to increase. Preliminary analysis of the savings realized indicates an overall reduction in consumption of 29 percent and a reduction of the peak kilowatt hour demand of 23 percent. An unexpected result also occurred during the project. Big Sandy Rural Electric Cooperative provided the Perkins Center with a \$6,000 incentive rebate for participating in their Commercial Lighting Retrofit Program.

NEWS BITS



MDEP Trains Independent Living Staff

The Migrant Farmworkers with Disabilities Employment Partnership (MDEP), OVR's migrant grant from the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), provided training to staff from three of the state's independent living centers on Outreach to Hispanic Communities on March 9, 2011.

The training seminar was held at the Coldstream campus of the University of Kentucky's Human Development Institute in Lexington.

The 20 participants included staff from the Center for Accessible Living in Louisville, its satellite center in Murray, and Independence Place in Lexington along with OVR staff and members of the Statewide Independent Living Council.

One product of the seminar was the development by each center of a plan for Hispanic outreach in their local community.



May declared Job Placement Month once again for 2011

We are pleased to announce that Governor Beshear will once again be proclaiming the month of May as the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Job Placement Month.

As in years past, each district will plan local activities for the month of May to acknowledge and celebrate our employer partnerships, placement activities and accomplishments. If you have a Job Placement Specialist, you may team with them or develop a team of staff to plan activities.

The contact person for this year will be Dave Matheis in Central Office, who is coordinating the effort with the retirement of Robin Ritter. Once plans are finalized, all Job Placement Month activities will be posted on the internet.



Charlie Coffield retires after 47 years of service

Longtime CDPVTC employee, Charlie Coffield, recently announced his retirement after 47 years of serving people with disabilities. Charlie's career began when he was appointed as an Education Counselor/ Examiner with the Bureau of Rehabilitation (Department of Economic Security) in 1963. He was assigned to Western State Hospital in Daviess County where he was promoted to Senior Counselor/ Examiner.

Charlie was located at offices in both Hopkinsville and Danville as a counselor before becoming a Rehabilitation Counselor based in Lexington in 1974.

Beginning in 1993, Charlie transported OVR consumers from across Kentucky during their enrollment/discharge at the Perkins Center. He was the driver each week for many of the transportation runs for those consumers who lived in western Kentucky. His final day with the agency was February 28, 2011.

Transition Update

“Hearings could pave way for employment for people with intellectual disabilities”

On March 2, 2011, the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions held a hearing about improving employment opportunities for people with intellectual disabilities.

Witnesses included our very own Commissioner of Rehabilitative Services Administration Lynnae Rutledge and Sharon Lewis, Commissioner, Administration on Developmental Disabilities, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The following key factors for the likelihood that young people with intellectual disabilities will be able to become competitively employed were reported:

1. High expectations and raising expectations. Competitive, integrated ‘Employment First’ policy should be the primary goal for program planning for all publicly funded services.
2. Develop partnerships and opportunities while in school for internships for work experiences to be able to see and connect with role models in the community.
3. Our personnel who are in the schools, in Vocational Rehabilitation, in other support services, need to know what the ‘state of the art’ is. Need access to those practices, need an expectation that they are going to translate those practices into what really works and need an opportunity to share those success stories; that success goes on every day and we don’t recognize it. Look for the role models, those who beat the odds.
4. Focus on student development.
5. Provide opportunities for youth with intellectual disabilities to participate in service learning and to be able to really use their time in school to develop the skills necessary to be successful in employment and we need to more actively engage with the Business Community earlier. Summer opportunities were noted as an example.
6. We need to set higher expectations

of our system to perform better and we need to expect nothing less than an increase in wages, an increase in hours, an increase in vocational goals that lead to a career in those opportunities that create work experience while they are still in school that translates to competitive integrative employment.

Commissioner Lewis went on to note specific approaches that are critically important:

- Job shadowing.
- Peer mentoring.
- Intern experiences.
- Person Centered Planning and provide the person the opportunity to express their interests, passions, dreams & desires are critical.
- Provide a forum to share success stories.
- Family & teen members, their support systems, involved in the person centered planning.
- Access to Post Secondary education as an option is a critical component of this.



Transition Websites to check out:

www.findyouthinfo.gov/index.shtml use the interactive mapping tool on the map my Community page to locate federally supported youth programs in your community. Search by full address or ZIP code and click Find Programs. If programs are found the location is marked on the map. Click on the marker to see the program title,, number, department, funding agency, recipient name and full address.

Dept of Labor has a new website! **[mynextmove.dol.gov/My Next Move](http://mynextmove.dol.gov/MyNextMove)** may be especially useful for students, young adults and other first-time workers as they explore potential careers based on their interests.

The O*Net Resource Center **www.onetcenter.org/** also has this link on their page and always worth visiting.

Don't forget about America's Career Infonet website **<http://www.acinet.org/acinet/>** for videos on careers, career tools, occupational information and a wealth of employment related information.

National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day (May 3) is a key strategy of the Caring for Every Child's Mental Health Campaign (the Campaign), which is part of the Public Awareness and Support Strategic Initiative by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), U.S. Department of Health & Human Services.

The Campaign seeks to raise awareness about the importance of children's mental health and that positive mental health is essential to a child's healthy development from birth.

This year the national theme will focus on building resilience in young children dealing with trauma. Communities around the country will participate by holding their own Awareness Day events, focusing either on the national theme, or adapting the theme to the populations they serve. Click on **<http://www.samhsa.gov/children/national.aspx>** to learn more.

SCVR Holds March Meeting

“Planning begins for joint meeting with SILC”

The Statewide Council for Vocational Rehabilitation (SCVR) held its quarterly meeting on Monday, March 14 in Lexington. During the meeting, the Council listened to a presentation on the status of the Medicaid Works program, Kentucky’s Medicaid buy-in program for individuals with disabilities who go to work, and offered suggestions on how enrollment in the program might be expanded.

The Council was given an update on the special projects funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). In addition, the group reviewed a report on the effects of the change in Order of Selection implemented by the agency in January of 2010 and a preliminary draft of the 2010 Consumer Satisfaction Survey.

The Council agreed to voice support for efforts by the Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities to apply for a Medicaid waiver that will provide increased funding for community services, particularly supported employment, to individuals with behavioral health disabilities.

The Council also began planning for its first-ever joint meeting with the Statewide Independent Living Council that will take place on September 19th in Lexington. That meeting will also include the Council’s annual Employer recognition luncheon.

Save the Date

Upcoming Meetings

Statewide Council for Vocational Rehabilitation (SCVR)

Monday, June 20, 2011 - 9:00-3:30
Marriott Griffin Gate Resort
1800 Newtown Pike
Lexington, KY 40511

Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)

Tuesday, June 7, 2011 - 9:30am
Center for Accessible Living
305 W Broadway # 200
Louisville, KY 40202

Kentucky Assistive Technology Loan Corporation (KATLC) Board of Directors

Monday, May 2, 2011 - 9:00 a.m.
Charles McDowell Center
8412 Westport Road
Louisville, KY 40242

Article Submitted by Dave Matheis

SILC Hires Part-Time Coordinator

“Germaine O’Connell to assist with state plan”

The Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) recently hired Germaine O’Connell as its part-time coordinator.

In this position, she will assist the SILC in carrying out its primary duty of developing, implementing and monitoring the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) and will arrange and help conduct its quarterly meetings.

Germaine comes to the SILC with a great deal of experience in both state government and the disability field. She is a retired state employee having finished her career as Staff Advisor to the Commissioner of the Department for Public Health.

Her duties included providing technical support regarding public health programming, supporting the management of the Department’s budget, working with the executive and legislative branches of state government, working with local Health Departments and other community health partners on policy development

and implementation, and representing the Department on various Governor appointed Commissions such as the Autism Commission and the Developmental Disabilities Council.

Prior to becoming Staff Advisor, Germaine was the manager of the Department’s Early Childhood Improvement Branch.

The branch oversaw the statewide implementation of the First Steps Program, the HANDS Home-visiting Program, the Healthy Start in Child Care Program and the Early Childhood Mental Health Initiative. She spent over ten years developing, implementing and administering the First Steps Program. Before accepting the position with SILC, Germaine was the Public Policy Director for the Kentucky Council on Developmental Disabilities (KCDD) through the University of Kentucky’s Martin School of Public Policy.

News from the Perkins Center

“Update”

It is a busy time at the Carl D. Perkins Vocational Training Center heading into the spring season . Here’s an update.

Enrollment

The Perkins Center continues to experience high enrollment. Peak student total enrollment for 2011 calendar year (199) was noted.

Graduation

2011 Commencement is on track. Currently 65 students have committed to return for the ceremony.

Furlough

The Perkins Center employees have chosen their non-designated furlough day for the month of March. Additional Perkins Center furlough dates include April 21, and May 27, 2011

Vocational Services Unit

The Grounds Keeping program is functioning at full capacity once again, following the retirement of the instructor and subsequent replacement.

Driver’s Education remains one of the most popular programs and a waiting list continues. Some evening Behind the Wheel classes are being offered to reduce the number of students on the waiting list.

Personnel Activity: (As of March 1, 2011)

96 – 18A positions currently filled
4 – positions in recruitment

Physical Plant

The refrigeration project is complete. One walk-in cooler and one walk-in freezer installed.

Elevator replacement... Money in place and consultants as-

signed for replacement of three elevators that serve the dormitories.

Energy savings project complete. The Center received a \$6,000 rebate realized from Big Sandy Rural Electric for installation of efficient lighting.

Medicare Provider Status

CDPVTTC has begun billing Medicare for services provided to outpatients. To date, approximately \$42,817.02 has been billed. \$22,468.16 has been received.

Calendar Reminders

Upcoming CDPVTC Events

Spring Break

April 20 – 24

Center Graduation Ceremony

June 17

Summer Break

Classes end/Family pickup—June 17

Center transportation home—June 18

All staff meeting

June 23

Center Closed:

June 27—July 10

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(Jason Jones - Editor)

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