

VRCA NEWS NOTES

Spring 2004

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE...

Happy Spring!

Rehabilitation Counselors' Day training and reception last year was phenomenal with three excellent speakers. I am already looking forward to seeing you at this year's Rehabilitation Counselors' Day, on Friday, May 7, 2004. This is an opportunity for VRCA to show true appreciation to rehabilitation counselors and to celebrate the field of rehabilitation counseling.

VRCA maintains its commitment to providing quality training opportunities, especially Ethics training, as we understand how important this is for CRC maintenance. VRCA plans to co-sponsor an Ethics training with VARL this fall, so check back for more information. VRCA also plans a dynamic training workshop for this year's Collaborations Conference in Virginia Beach.

Additionally, VRCA hopes to offer training opportunities in different regions of the state so many can benefit. There is usually an additional cost to non-VRCA members for training, so this is just another reason to consider becoming a member of VRCA. We are particularly interested in developing training to

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Disability Resource Specialists in the One-Stop Career Centers

Submitted by Mary Lecuyer:

In 2002, Virginia placed five disability resource specialists in different sections of the state. The following is a recent interview with two of them, who serve Richmond and Henrico.

Q - Where do you provide disability resource specialist services and what are your hours?

A - One of us goes to the Richmond one-stop career centers, namely the Richmond Career Advancement Center at 201 W. Broad St. and the Va. Employment Commission off Midlothian Turnpike on the Southside. The other goes to four sites in the Capital Workforce Area: Va. Employment Commission on W. Broad St. by Willow Lawn Shopping Center, VEC on Nine Mile Road just off interstate 64 and the Capital Area Training Centers in Chesterfield and Sandston. We both are responsible for spending twenty hours weekly at our one-stop sites. The other twenty hours we are vocational rehabilitation counselors for the Dept. of Rehabilitation Services.

Q - Can you explain how a disability resource specialist differs from a vocational rehabilitation counselor?

A - One major difference is that we do not carry a caseload, but we do speak with many consumers to screen them for disabilities, provide information and referrals for them, and often give them counseling and guidance, much like a counselor. We also speak with the one-stop center's staff for disability consultations, provide information and trainings for them on disability issues, and educate them on how to identify invisible and undiagnosed disabilities, such as mental health and learning disabilities. We also do orientations for our one-stop centers and group question/answer sessions, and interact with, and develop working relationships with community agencies, businesses, and employers relative to disability issues. We assist with identifying needs and make recommendations to the one-stop centers about them, and help develop staff and consumer resources as well. Our goal is to make the process of finding employment as seamless, effective, and efficient as possible for the job seeker with a disability who comes to our one-stop centers.

meet the needs of rehabilitation counselors, and your input is greatly appreciated.

VRCA is always seeking new members. In addition to seeking new members, we will also be seeking officers and committee chairs for the upcoming year. We welcome you to share your talent, expertise, and leadership skills with VRCA. Please be reminded that all VRCA members and prospective members are welcomed to attend VRCA Board meetings.

Asha C. Rodwell
VRCA President

EDUCATION REPORT

Submitted by Darlene Ackerman

VRCA Education Committee is busy planning educational seminars and training events for 2004!!! On March 11th VRCA held a full day of training on EMDR(Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing with participants receiving 7 CRC credits. This was an excellent training but poorly attended.

The Committee has ETHICS Training at WWRC on Friday, June 18th. Bill Heinlein, psychologist from WWRC will present this training with 4 CRC credits to be given. Watch for a flyer this spring.

VRCA will present a training seminar at Collaborations Conference in September in Virginia Beach. Angela von Hayek LPC, doctoral candidate at College of William and Mary, will present on Asperger's Syndrome.

Plans are being formalized for training in November by Cindy Currier on Eating Disorders.

VRCA wants to provide the kind of training YOU want so let a committee member know your interests and needs.

Committee is Ed Navis (#804-367-9871), Darlene Ackerman (804-662-7126), Debbie Penrose (804-739-7377), Charles Blaine (804-275-6952). Let us hear from you.

We also would like your input on any contact you would like us to make concerning flyers on upcoming trainings.

Nominating Committee Report

Submitted by Jane Bennett:

The Nominating committee is looking for VRCA members to fill several Board positions for our 2005 year. We are looking for a President-Elect (2006-2007 term); Secretary (one year position - 2005) and two Board members (two year position - 2005-2006).

VRCA meets as a Board approximately four times a year to plan, development and discuss activities for Rehabilitation Counselors. This includes, fund-raising, training, Rehabilitation Counselor Day, and other social events geared towards the recognition of

Rehabilitation professionals. If this is something you would be interested in please contact Jane E. Bennett at 703-277-3510 or bennetje@drs.state.va.us or any of the Board members for VRCA. Please come and join us - not only do we conduct business in our meetings - WE HAVE FUN!

JOKE TIME!!

ACTUAL EMPLOYEE EVALUATIONS

1. Since my last report, this employee has reached rock bottom and shows signs of starting to dig.

2. His men would follow him anywhere, but only out of morbid curiosity.

3. I would not allow this man to breed.

4. This associate is really not so much of a has-been, but more of a definitely won't be.

5. Works well when under constant supervision and cornered like a rat in a trap.

6. When he opens his mouth, it seems that this is only to change whichever foot was previously in there.

7. He would be out of his depth in a parking lot puddle.

8. This man has delusions of adequacy.

9. He sets low personal standards and the consistently fails to achieve them.

10. This employee should go far -- the sooner he starts, the better.

11. This employee is depriving a village somewhere of an idiot.

12. Not the sharpest knife in the drawer.

13. Got into the gene pool while the lifeguard wasn't looking.

14. A room temperature I.Q.

15. Got a full six-pack, but is missing the plastic thingy that holds it together.

VRCA GROUP PICTURE

Taken at the annual VRCA Christmas Board Meeting/Luncheon held on December 11, 2003 at Darlene Ackerman's house. Good People!! Good Food!!

Pictured from left to right are: Darlene Ackerman, Kristina Meunier, Debbie Penrose, Alison Mundy, Asha Rodwell, Charles Blaine, Kristi Lockhart, Billy Smelser, Jane Bennett, Ed Navis, Byron Maddox and Kim Graves

Q - In what specific ways have you noticed that your services are making a difference?

A - Since we have been doing this for about one and one-half years now, we have seen more job seekers with undiagnosed disabilities being identified and served within the One-Stop System. These job seekers with hidden and apparent disabilities, who have traditionally fallen through the cracks or been automatically referred to state vocational rehab services, are starting to enjoy equal access and benefit from our One-Stop Service Centers. Also we have been able to introduce more resources for job seekers with disabilities to our one-stop centers so there is more available to the job seekers and to the one-stop staff to use, even when we are not there. It does appear that the staff is becoming more comfortable and efficient at knowing when to make appropriate referrals too. This all helps to make the job seeking process smoother for the individuals. Often in talking with the job seeker, we are able to provide enough information, resources, and counseling so that they are empowered with more confidence and independence to make informed choices. It does help that we are also a direct link to the vocational rehabilitation program, so that referral happens much faster. It seems like the timing of referrals, counseling, and planning to get the consumer's needs met makes a significant difference, as we have noticed that after the initial consultation with an individual, they are often able to move forward with a plan for seeking employment on their own.

Q - What is your vision for the future of disability resource specialists?

A - We can only provide our services part-time, but believe that a full-time disability resource specialist in each of our areas would be needed. There is a need to continuing building on and maintaining the linkages and relationships that have already been established, and to expand relationships to other community partners, such as local employers and the chamber of commerce. We would like to see the One-Stop Centers to continue their push toward universally accessible services and to continue introducing important disability support service providers into our centers such as employment assistance agencies, perhaps through the use of videoconferencing and or a website. Also we would like to be more involved with transitioning people with disabilities from the school system into our employment programs. A good start to this would be to visit with area high schools to discuss our services and program.

If you would like to contact either of the disability resource specialists in this interview, contact information is provided below.

Mary Lecuyer, Richmond Disability Resource Specialist
804-367-9855
lecuyemk@drs.state.va.us

Richard Kriner, Henrico Disability Resource Specialist
804-662-7106
krinercc@drs.state.va.us

WAYS AND MEANS

VRCA 2004

V.R.C.A. is planning several fundraisers throughout the year. Our first fundraiser will be a silent auction on May 7, 2004 on Rehab Counselors' Day in Richmond. We will be auctioning theme baskets to include:

- Chocolate
- Coffee
- Romantic Evening
- Bath & Relaxation
- Spring
- Night Out

At the Collaboration Conference in September, we will sponsor a 50/50 raffle, and a silent auction for two theme baskets.

We plan on having a 50/50 raffle at all V.R.C.A. trainings and events. We have also discussed the possibility of a dance in the fall.

We invite you to help increase our income by your participation. Please contact us should you have other ideas or interests for fundraising activities.

Co-Chairs

Debbie Penrose
Charles Blaine
(804) 739-7377

VRCA Board Meeting Dates

June 24, 2004
Ashland Library
Ashland, VA
10:00am

September 2004
Collaborations Conference
Virginia Beach, VA
Date and Time TBA

December 9, 2004
Location TBA (Northern VA)
10:00am

All VRCA Members and Prospective Members
Are Invited to Attend.

Officers, Board Members, and Committee Chairs

President

Asha Rodwell (703) 277-3512
rodwelac@drs.state.va.us

President-Elect

Billy Smelser (703) 771-4778
smelsebg@drs.state.va.us

Past President

Jane Bennett (703) 277-3510
bennetje@drs.state.va.us

Secretary

Alison Mundy (703) 277-3567
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Treasurer

Cheryl McDonnell (703) 792-4912
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Board Members

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Debbie Penrose (804) 739-7377
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Committee Chairs

Awards-Billy Smelser/Alison Mundy
CRC-Darlene Ackerman (804) 662-7126
ackermdz@drs.state.va.us

Education-Ed Navis (804) 367-9871
navise@drs.state.va.us

Legislative-Kim Graves
Membership-Billy Smelser

Newsletter-Billy Smelser
Nominations-Jane Bennett

Ways & Means-Charles Blaine/Debbie Penrose

