



July, 2017

President's Column

Irina Razvina, MA, CDMS, VRC

Welcome to the Summer issue of the IARP WA newsletter! I hope it finds you not only working hard as rehabilitation professionals, but also truly enjoying these wonderful hot summer days which we don't get nearly enough of. This is my first official President's column, and I hope it doesn't disappoint. I'm very proud to represent you as IARP members on both local and national levels.

We had a very successful conference this year. It was wonderful to see so many of you present and engaged in the subjects that were discussed. This year we were very fortunate to have all the Department's VSSs present at the conference. From our interactions with one another, it was very clear that these opportunities to meet and to share knowledge and experiences with one another lead to true successful collaboration. The conference speakers were a dynamic bunch and sparked some great discussions. Big thank you to everyone who made this conference a reality.

Your IARP board has already started planning for the next year's conference as evidenced by the survey that was sent out to all IARP members in early June. We want to hear from you! We are trying to decide which conference format makes the most sense and what types of subjects you would like to see covered during the conference. If you have not yet responded to the survey, please do so. You can also just drop us a note and share your thoughts. The IARP board wants to serve its members the best we can.

In the past few months, education has been the primary focus of our industry. As most of you probably already know, the Department of Labor and Industries has hosted a series of brown bag lunches geared toward discussions of offering enhanced vocational services to our clients. These meetings gave participants an opportunity to talk about the types of services that can be offered and how we can better serve our worker population, contributing to one of the Department's goals of helping workers heal and return to work. These lunch-time meetings were very well-attended and a big success.

In the coming months, the Department will continue to focus on collaboration with and education of vocational providers. A group of L&I staff, in collaboration with some private sector VRCs, is working on a Vocational Recovery Project (VRP). What started out as a group focused on reimagining vocational audits, quickly turned into something bigger. VRP is now focused on addressing six distinct areas -- performance measures; firm and VRC registration / requirements; referrals; incentives / payments; quality assurance; and complaint process including escalation / de-escalation. Please stay tuned for progress of this developing project.

It is truly an honor to serve as your IARP WA Chapter President. Please get in touch with me if you are aware of any issues you would like to see the IARP board focus on. **Irina Razvina, IARP WA Chapter President – irina@abilityvoc.com**

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Sarah's Job Mod Corner

Sarah Martin, OTR/L, Therapy Services Coordinator, L&I

When was the last time you reached out to the Job Accommodation Network (JAN)?

We know that modifying the job can increase a worker's ability to return to work while healing from an injury or illness. Research has shown that alternatives such as work place accommodations and modified duty positions are best if presented to the attending provider along with the job analysis of the job of injury. On top of that, collaborating with the worker and the employer to suggest possible accommodations to the attending provider is even better.

Finding ways to modify a job is just a click or call away using JAN.

JAN is a national free consultation service sponsored by the US Department of Labor Office of Disability Policy. Their site provides accommodation ideas, situations with solutions, products, and resources for different conditions and limitations. Moreover, they have staff standing by to answer your questions. **www.AskJan.org or 800-526-7234**

Recently, a JAN phone consultation helped a vocational provider identify possible modifications for a worker with a hand and elbow condition who prepared food. With input of the employer, worker, and attending provider, the vocational provider was able to facilitate her successful return to work using task rotation and special handled knives.

Update from April Job Mod Corner – Sadly, the company who carried active suspension seats, BoseRide, is being dissolved. We hope a new company will sell the product or another like product will become available soon.

Job modification benefit questions: Sarah Martin, OTR/L L&I 360-902-4480

SUMMERTIME QUOTE

"Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass under trees on a summer's day, listening to the murmur of the water, or watching the clouds float across the sky, is by no means a waste of time."—John Lubbock, The Use Of Life

www.AskJan.org
800-526-7234



JAN's office hours are 9:00 am to 6:00 pm Eastern Standard Time Monday through Friday

subscribe@askjan.org for JAN updates and newsletters.

training@askjan.org for Webcast inquiries.

webmaster@askjan.org for Web comments and link requests.

jan@askjan.org for all other requests.

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IARP WASHINGTON CHAPTER'S 2017 ANNUAL VOCATIONAL CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS AND PHOTOS

Outstanding Rehab Participant and Outstanding Employer Awards



2nd Picture (left to right); Julio Rivera, Outstanding Rehab Participant, Jennifer Richards, Owner of Safety Matters, LLC, Outstanding Employer and Peter Hollar, Nominating VRC of OSC Vocational Systems

This year the Board honored two workers for the Outstanding Rehab Participant award and one employer. The worker pictured above, **Julio Rivera** and his employer, **Jennifer Richards** were nominated by Peter Hollar, VRC of OSC Vocational Systems. The second worker (unable to attend and not pictured) was **Joshua Nye**, nominated by Ken Smith, Vice President and Vocational Case Manager of Rainier Case Management.

Julio Rivera began his one-year OJT for the goal of Safety Consultant with **Jennifer Richards**, Owner of Safety Matters, LLC during January 2017. He essentially landed this job on his own after a 27-year career as an Ironworker. He would have likely have returned to work with this employer (and will very likely do so by January 2018), until his VRC explained the advantages of the L&I OJT program to include LEP wages and preferred worker.

Joshua Nye was a Tree Climber who fell 40 feet and sustained a mild TBI and multiple other injuries. He previously had a fall as a Tree Climber and sustained moderate TBI. He reported impactful pre-existing ADHD, anxiety, depression and PTSD. Josh also had a post-dated, unrelated fall down a hill backwards. He broke his pelvis in five places and fractured T10. In addition to his physical and cognitive challenges, Josh developed an addiction to drugs and became homeless. Despite all of his challenges, with the support and guidance from his Vocational Counselor, he was able to successfully complete a drug rehab program, a work hardening program and negotiate return to work with his employer.

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Thank you to all who attended our IARP WA Annual Vocational Conference. This year was our highest attended conference with 92 attendees on Thursday and 110 attendees on Friday!!!

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IARP Leadership Training 2017

Sandra Holman, MA, CRC, CDMS
IARP WA Chapter President Elect

I had the distinct pleasure of attending the IARP Leadership training in Minneapolis, Minnesota as your President Elect with attendance from Chapters and Sections all over the country, and Canada on Sunday, June 25, 2017. The training was put on by Executive Director, Kim Bailey, Director of Memberships and Chapters, Dale Regnier, and Council of Presidents, Beverly Olsen. Additionally, the new IARP National President, Steve Yuhas, spoke about the importance of strategic planning to ensure that each Chapter's goals are met.

IARP has recently hired Ewald Consulting to assist with the management of IARP headquarters. Ewald Consulting is assisting with insurance and liability for the association, as well as all key details to running IARP. IARP wanted to pass on the message that they are available to support and assist all Chapters and Sections in becoming successful in their regional areas. IARP has 2191 members in total, with 354 of those members being students. Our Washington State chapter membership is the highest in the organization, with 160 members.

IARP national's website found at: <http://www.rehabpro.org/home> has some great resources available including discussion threads about complex case examples where you can get feedback from colleagues in the field, mission information, membership information and upcoming events and educational opportunities. Additionally, Washington State has its own chapter website located at: <https://connect.rehabpro.org/washington/home> which gives you information regarding our goals, mission, leadership contact information and discussion threads, as well as links to newsletters and upcoming events.

The biggest takeaway for me is that our Washington chapter of IARP can only succeed if the members see value in our presence in their professional identity. As your Board, we want to add value to your professional continuing education and identity. We value your feedback, and hope that you will join us in our mission to serve rehabilitation professionals throughout the state of Washington through education, professional development, and networking opportunities.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Rules Under Development-Vocational Rehabilitation Chapter 296-19A, WAC

<http://www.lni.wa.gov/LawRule/WhatsNew/Proposed/default.asp?RuleID=267>

All updates for this rule:

Vocational Rehabilitation (Chapter 296-19A WAC)

Further rulemaking is needed to implement SHB 1496 (Chapter 137, Laws of 2015), such as providing clarification about Option 2 vocational counseling and job placement services.

4/5/2016  [Preproposal \(CR-101\)](#)



Option 2 Benefits (Chapter 296-19A – Vocational Rehabilitation)

L&I is adopting rules to implement SHB 1496 (Chapter 137, Laws of 2015). The rules explain the vocational Option 2 benefits available to injured workers and outline the responsibilities of the department, self-insured employers, and vocational rehabilitation counselors in connection with Option 2. The rules clarify which workers are eligible for increased vocational Option 2 benefits. Eligible workers can receive a vocational Option 2 award equal to nine months

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of temporary total disability benefits, can use up to 10 percent of training funds for vocational assistance, and have a longer period of time to make their Option 2 selection. In addition, the rules clarify that the highest priority is returning the injured worker to employment. The changes were adopted 1/19/2016 and became effective on 2/19/2016.

2/19/2016 [Rule Changes Effective](#)


1/19/2016  [Adoption \(Rule-Making Order CR-103\)](#)
 [Adopted Rule Language](#)

10/27/2015 Comments Due

10/27/2015 Public Hearing

9/22/2015  [Proposed Rulemaking \(CR 102\)](#)

 [Proposed Rule Language](#)

8/4/2015  [Preproposal \(CR-101\)](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Explore IARP LEARN Courses

<https://www.pathlms.com/iarp>

July 18, 2017- History of Disability Management Webinar

August 9, 2017 – Cannabis in the Workplace Webinar

Washington Self Insurers Association

July 28, 2017-WSIA's Return to Work Summit

Swedish Medical Center, Glaser Auditorium, Seattle, Washington

IARP/ISLCP Annual Conference

October 11-14, 2017 - "Meet Me in St. Louis"

Hyatt Regency St. Louis at the Arch, St. Louis, Missouri

Your IARP WA Board of Directors

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What's New for Vocational Counselors

<http://www.lni.wa.gov/ClaimsIns/Voc/WhatsNew/Default.asp>

Annual Training Benefit – Delay

June 30, 2017

Because of the delay in adopting a state budget, we will not have the information needed to establish the annual training benefit by July 1.

Starting July 1, 2017, please wait to submit plans until after we have posted the annual training benefit for the period July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018 on What's New. You may request a plan development extension if necessary.

Computer Purchases for Retraining Plans: Things to Consider

June 22, 2017

Many of the proposed retraining plans include a request for a computer. The Vocational Service Specialist team has outlined some considerations for these requests.

1. Is a computer required by the retraining program?
 - If so, ask the school to provide minimum requirements.
 - If not, L&I will consider a computer purchase if the worker cannot use a school lab to submit homework online.
2. Talk with the worker about L&I requirements.
 - Prior approval is required.
 - Workers cannot pay the difference between a required computer and a desired one. For example, if the desired computer costs \$2,000 and only \$750 is approved, the worker cannot pay the difference.
3. Does the worker need internet access in the home?
 - L&I will only reimburse for internet service if the worker doesn't currently have the service. (A set up bill will be required after the plan has been approved.)
4. Reminders:
 - If special/ergonomic equipment is needed, the equipment/software can be requested as a Pre-Job Accommodation provided it is related to the industrial injury. (Examples: Dragon® NaturallySpeaking, wave keyboard, ergo mouse, etc.)
 - Most internet providers offer FREE antivirus software.
 - Call your unit VSS during plan development if you have any questions.

Submitting Vocational Progress Reports and CAC Availability

June 19, 2017

Recently, CAC has had intermittent problems with processing transactions. This can be frustrating when you are trying to submit progress reports. If this is happening to you, here is a reminder of what to do to get credit for a timely report:

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- Fax the report to the claim file by the “timely if received by” date. For security reasons, do not fax or email the report to Janice Orcutt.
- Keep a copy of the fax confirmation.
- Notify Janice Orcutt via phone or email that you faxed the report. If you are notifying her via email, provide only the claim number and do not include the worker’s name (for security).

To reduce the chances of having problems submitting progress reports in CAC, it may also be helpful to remember:

- CAC is unavailable during regular maintenance hours:
 - 11:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday nights to 6 a.m. the next morning.
 - 6 p.m. every Sunday night to 6 a.m. Monday morning.
- CAC may be unavailable on some weeknights or weekends due to other scheduled upgrades or fixes.
- Waiting until the last day and then encountering CAC access problems can increase both stress and workload. If you have any questions, please contact Janice Orcutt at (360)902-4854 or Janice.Orcutt@lni.wa.gov.

Zale Technical Institute is closing

June 8, 2017

Zale Technical Institute has informed the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board that they will close the school as of September 28, 2017. They expressed their commitment to complete training for currently enrolled students. They stopped accepting new students as of March 31, 2017.

VSS staff updates

June 5, 2017

Please note the following staff changes:

- Shelli Fleming has accepted a position with Private Sector Rehabilitation Services.
- Samantha Carter, Jeff Sharp, and TaNisha Jones have been hired as Vocational Service Specialists In-Training.

Please check [Contact Us](#) to find the most up-to-date unit coverage assignments.

Back by Popular Demand– Brown Bags!

May 23, 2017

Starting June 1st Ryan Guppy and other department staff will be coming out to discuss the department’s new initiatives, share good news, and answer your questions. CEUs will be available.

There is room for approximately 20 VRCs at each meeting, so please [register](#) and reserve your seat.

Here are the dates and locations:

- 6/1 – Tacoma Service Location, Room 504 12:00–1:00
- 6/7 – Kennewick– WorkSource Columbia Basin, Benton/Franklin Room 11:30–1:30
- 6/8 – WorkSource Spokane, Cedar Room 11:00–12:00
- 6/27 – Everett Service Location, Conference Room 3 12:00–1:00
- 6/28 – Tukwila Service Location, Conference Room 1 12:00–1:00
- 6/29 – Vancouver Service Location, Training Room 12:00–1:00

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Enhancing communication with Limited English Proficiency injured workers

May 11, 2017

L&I is launching a new pilot for enhancing communication with injured workers who have limited English proficiency and who live outside of Washington State. The pilot will allow selected vocational providers to communicate with their client using services from a third party interpretive services vendor. We hope to gain insight into the usefulness of the service as well as identify key issues that may need to be considered as part of a system-wide rollout. The pilot begins June 1, 2017, and ends August 31, 2017. Pilot results will be reported here and at VTSG. Please note that the VRCs selected for this pilot are those who have worked most often on out of state cases in the last year.

CAC access to all claims for a worker

May 1, 2017

A VRC with an open referral can access all prior claims for that worker in the Claim & Account Center. Access includes any CAC page, including the imaged file, for all the worker's other open and closed claims. VRCs should not call the department to request time-limited access to prior claims; such requests create unnecessary work and cause delays. We've updated the [Review a Claim](#) webpage to include instructions on how to use CAC to view a worker's other claims.

Rare opportunity to be part of implementing PGAP®

May 1, 2017

L&I Private Sector Rehabilitation Services Program Specialist (GovernmentJobs.com) – **located in Tumwater**. We are looking for a licensed or credentialed rehabilitation professional to include occupational therapist, physical therapist, nurse, or vocational counselor. This position will oversee the Progressive Goal Attainment Program to implement this innovative best practice to help workers increase their quality of life and facilitate return to work.

Click [HERE](#) to view full job announcement and apply.

Request archived news

Email VocRehabProgram@Lni.wa.gov to request archived What's New postings.




For questions, comments, suggestions or if you are interested in contributing an article for the Fall edition of the IARP WA Quarterly Newsletter, please contact the Editor, Roselyn Blair via email at: rblair@scsvoc.com.

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Guidelines for Advertising through IARP WA

The IARP WA Newsletter is distributed electronically to approximately 200 members quarterly. If you are interested in advertising in this newsletter, please note the following are guidelines:

We accept ads from vendors who provide ancillary services to injured workers to reduce the physical, mental, social and financial impact of disability. We do not accept ads for job postings. Job postings may be placed through the National IARP Website. (www.Rehabpro.org)

IARP WA is scheduled to publish four newsletters per year; Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter.

Email the ad as an attachment to Roselyn Blair at rblair@scsvoc.com. Please provide the phone number and email address of a contact person(s) who can make decisions regarding the ad. Please be sure the ads look exactly as you wish them to appear. IARP WA is not able to provide ad development or editing services.

Ads should be submitted in one of the following formats: MS Word (DOC or DOCX), or as a TIF, GIF, JPG or other universal graphics file. **Please do NOT submit ads in PDF format.** Ads may be in color, grey tones or black and white.

Ads may appear in the following sizes: Cost:

Full Page: 9 inches high by 5 7/8 inches wide. \$200

Half Page: 4 ½ inches high by 5 7/8 inches wide \$125

Quarter Page: 4 ½ inches high by 3 3/8 inches wide \$75

Prior to submission, please “preview” your ad with the final print size in mind, to make sure that fonts are large enough to be read.

Please proof-read ad for accurate spelling, phone numbers, and other important information as WA-IARP is not responsible for proof reading.