



# The OVR Review

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

Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation

Fall 2007

Volume 1, Issue 2

Article submitted by Julie McConnell and Suzanne Isaacs

## Small Business Makes Big Impression on Community

*Jamie Osborne's Embroidery Expressions*

Graduating Suma Cum Laude from Kentucky State University and with numerous career opportunities at her fingertips, Jamie Osborne had success written all over her future. Her journey was rudely interrupted, however, in 2001 when she was diagnosed with postural orthostatic tachycardia, allergies, asthma and later, interstitial cystitis. Postural orthostatic tachycardia is a life-threatening heart condition that results in significant impact on lifestyle and vocation. The combination of these impairments forced Jamie to leave the field of teaching.

Intent on working in some capacity, she applied to the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) in July, 2003. Her counselor led her through assessment and worked with her to determine a feasible vocational goal. Eventually, they agreed on a self-employment proposal that was approved and set in motion.

After just about a year in operations, Jamie's Owen county business, Embroidery Expressions, has numerous accounts and returning satisfied customers. She is maintaining her health, has surrounded herself with a clean, dust-free environment and is making a name for herself in Stamping Ground and surrounding communities.

Jamie says her life was significantly impacted by her OVR experience and she now feels like a productive citizen. "My experience with



Jamie Osborne, owner of Embroidery Expressions

Vocational Rehabilitation has truly been a life-changing one" she said. "It has allowed me to contribute financially to my family while meeting a need in my community. I feel like a productive citizen making a difference."

Her dedication through the tedious process of building a business plan, researching other benefits and pursuing her dreams is remarkable and difficult to



convey in words. It is easier grasped if one visits Embroidery Expressions and sees Jamie's happiness. Her attitude, expertise, determination to work, combined with the efforts of OVR contributed to the success of the business. To contact Jamie or to see more examples of her work, go to: [www.embexpky.com](http://www.embexpky.com)



Jamie Osborne's workspace

### In This Issue

Headline News	1
Executive Director	2
Program Services Report	3 & 5
News Bits	4 - 5
Employer Spotlight	6
Carl Perkins Center	6
HRD Report	7 - 8
Council Corner	9 - 10

## Message from Executive Director, Ralph Clark

### *Announces Retirement*



I write this report with mixed emotions. As you know, I will be retiring November 1, 2007, so this will be my last newsletter entry. My decision was made with careful thought and planning, but certainly not without moments of indecision. However, as many of you will some day discover, there does become a point in your life at which you know it is time to pursue other interests. This decision process does not occur overnight, but over time and now is my time. There are so many other adventures I want and need to pursue and while I love being your Executive Director, it seems work keeps getting in the way of my plans and new adventures. I'm excited about my future and just as importantly, I'm excited for the future of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation

Even though my public service has not always been with Vocational Rehabilitation, I consider myself a product of the program. My first job out of high school (way back in 1973) was a Clerk Typist for the then Bureau of Rehabilitation Services. I worked in the local Lexington office at the Albert Chandler Medical Center while working my way through college. It did not take long for "Rehab" to be in my blood and even though I have worked for other state organizations, I always knew if the opportunity presented itself I would some day end my career with the program. Commissioner Sam Serraglio gave me that opportunity in 1993. It's been a wonderful journey that has gone way too fast. The program has seen many changes and has achieved tremendous success. The successes are the result of the staff and management of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation who are absolutely the best and your

serve is unmatched in all of state serve you as the Director of Executive Director, and Executive

Even though I'm leaving I know the work express to you how awesome it was that previous year's number of positive sixth consecutive year we have increased employment outcomes obtained in 2007 thirty years. It is a true testament of the the determination of our consumers, and the openness to diversity of Kentucky's employers.

**"The friendships I have made will last a lifetime. I will continue to advocate for individuals with disabilities and I'm sure our paths will cross again."**

The numbers are great, but it is always best for us to look beyond the numbers to the impact that vocational rehabilitation services have on individual lives. Recently, I had the privilege of hearing Lee Gordon, the chair of our Statewide Council for Vocational Rehabilitation (SCVR) speak to a group of employers being honored by the Council for their efforts in hiring people with disabilities. In only a few brief comments, Lee encapsulated what our services are all about. A former consumer, Lee expressed his appreciation for the assistance he received from the agency in becoming employed. His employment enabled him to get off Social Security benefits, support his family, and build a successful career. Behind every outcome there is a story like Lee's.

Before I close, I want to take the opportunity to congratulate Sherri Greer on being named the Deputy Executive Director of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation. It is a fitting reward for her years of dedicated service to the agency. And she will be a great benefit to our agency and to Kentuckians with disabilities in her new role. Sherri's promotion was one of several changes in Central Office since the last edition of the newsletter. In August, Allison Jessee was named assistant director of program services and Carol Weber became the rehabilitation technology branch manager. Allison has served the agency in a variety of roles over the years – assistant, counselor, administrator – and all of this experience will serve her well in her new position. Carol's extensive knowledge of and experience with rehabilitation technology will be a great asset to the agency. Recently, Dr. David Beach moved from the Carl D. Perkin Vocational Training Center to Central Office to assume Allison's former position as our planner. All of these staff changes make me extremely optimistic about the future of our agency.

Finally, to all of you who I've worked with the past 30 plus years, I give you a simple thank you. The friendships I have made will last a lifetime. I will continue to advocate for individuals with disabilities and I'm sure our paths will cross again.

passion and dedication to those we government. It has been an honor to Administrative Services, Deputy Director.

of the agency continues and I cannot you once again have surpassed the employment outcomes. It was the our outcomes and the 5,063 positive represent our highest number in over hard work and dedication of our staff,

## Program Services Report

### *Comprehensive System of Personnel Development (CSPD)*

The vocational rehabilitation counselor is the backbone of the public vocational rehabilitation program. This belief first originated in 1920 when the Smith-Fess Act mandated that States submit annual plans to the Federal government regarding the qualifications of staff, including rehabilitation counselors, as well as training plans for these employees. The commitment to qualified standards for rehabilitation professionals gained momentum through the years and culminated in the Comprehensive System of Personnel Development (CSPD) requirements, formally written into the Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1992. On July 29, 1992, the Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources voted unanimous support for the Amendments, noting: *"The Committee believes that this amendment is among the most important included in the bill. Trained, qualified personnel often make the difference between success and failure in facilitating the achievement of an employment outcome for a client."* (25<sup>th</sup> Institute on Rehabilitation Issues).

The Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation is committed to upholding CSPD standards for all staff. This commitment exists not because it is the law, but because the leadership of this agency embraces all that this legislation represents. This commitment equates to a continuous increase of knowledge that will impact the quality of services provided to our consumers. We believe our consumers deserve to be served by qualified professionals.

The evidence of the OVR commitment to CSPD is easily identifiable by the many training and professional development opportunities afforded to our staff. The opportunities are made possible in part by the Federal In-Service Training Grant, but without the agency commitment to provide matching dollars for this grant or to underwrite the expenditures that exceed what the grant can provide, the vast range and amount of training offered to staff would simply not be possible. (continued on page 5)

## OVR Staff with CRC

Adams, Jerry  
Allen, Lisa  
Anderson, Viva  
Babbage, Gwen  
Banks, Danny  
Barney, Teresa  
Bates, Regina  
Beach, Dr. David  
Beach, Kristen  
Bell, Ed  
Bishop, Lori  
Blackburn, Michael  
Botzman, Jane  
Bradley, Linda  
Branham, Vanessa  
Brizendine, Clint  
Brown, Donna  
Brown, Keith  
Burton, Leslie  
Carver, Amy  
Chandler-Standifer, Cynthia  
Clark, Karen  
Clevenger, Brian  
Cole, Heather  
Collings, Penney  
Colvin, Kelly  
Combs, Tom  
Cook, Laura  
Cranmer, Glenn  
Crigger, Charles  
Dale, Veronica  
Darlene, Davis  
Davis, Malinda  
Denison, Michelle  
Dyer, Ruth  
Edison, Shannon  
Edwards, Patricia  
Ellis, Jennifer  
Farson, Phyllis

Favinger, Steven  
Flanagan-Jessee, Allison  
Flynn, Patrice  
Greer, Sherri  
Griebe, George  
Gross, Jane  
Gullett, Alan  
Hall, Carl  
Hall, Randall  
Hall, Roxana  
Harper, Beth  
Harris, Jodi  
Hendricks, Holly  
Herron, Amanda  
Herron, Jason  
Howard, JoAn  
Howard, Tressa  
Hudgins, Patrica  
Hudson, Heather  
Hudson, Leslie  
Hurston, Connie  
Isaacs, Suzanne  
Ison, Christy  
Jackson, Ronald  
Jarboe, Pamela  
Jennings, Paul  
Jones, Rick  
Knight-Trevino, Cassandra  
Kinsman, Shawne  
Klapheke, Debbie  
Lang, Victoria  
Languedoc, Daniel  
Derek Law  
Lawson, Sharon  
Lee, April  
Leonhart, Carol  
Lux, Patrice  
McConnell, Julie  
McGuire, Channa

Mills, Brad  
Moreland, Margaret  
Morse, Jennifer  
O'Hara, Deborah  
Osburn, Donna  
Perry, Anthony  
Phillips, Johnny  
Pike, James  
Powers, Charles  
Preston, Robin  
Prichard, Tina  
Puckett, Charles  
Reilly, Victoria  
Ritchie, Jeffrey  
Ritter, Robin  
Sanders, Michael  
Scott, Kellie  
Selch, Patrica  
Settle, Donna  
Sheetinger, Chris  
Short, Dana  
Smith, Jane  
Steinhaus, Douglas  
Sturgill, Anthony  
Talent, Constance  
Thomas, Jennifer  
Thorton, Suzanne  
Wade, Julie  
Ward, Todd  
Wedding, Rhonda  
West, Sherry  
Wheeler, Melissa  
White, Jonathan  
Willett, Greg  
Williams, Tyler  
Wright, Charmaine  
Yarber, Jamie  
Yates, Melinda

## News Bits

OVR has been selected to pilot the **“Substance Abuse in Vocational Rehabilitation – Screener” (SAVR-S)**, an assessment tool used to identify potential problems related to substance abuse among vocational rehabilitation consumers. The Department of Substance Abuse Resource and Disability Issues at Wright State University developed the screener through a grant from the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR). Kentucky will begin a one-year pilot on October 1, 2007, along with Utah and Virginia. Illinois, Ohio and West Virginia began piloting the tool in the fall of 2006.



District Substance Abuse Specialists and Branch Managers at the SAV-R Training

On August 9, the district administrators and substance abuse specialists met at the Holiday Inn in Lexington for training on how to use the assessment tool. The substance abuse specialists will subsequently provide training for the staff in their districts. The SAVR-S will be administered by counselors to all applicants who consent with the exception of high school students. The completed forms will be faxed to the SASSI Institute where they will be scored and the results sent back to the counselors. The agency will be provided with regular reports including individual counselor and district data.

This is an exciting opportunity for the Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation! The timing is excellent given our focus on the revised Substance Abuse Policy in 2007.

The Social Security Administration has retooled its Benefits Plus program into the **Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) Program**. Kentucky still has two grantees under the new program, the Center for Accessible Living in Louisville and Independence Place in Lexington. These were the same grantees as under Benefits Plus. With a new name comes a new focus. WIPA will provide more intense case management services to fewer people, those who are close to going or have already gone to work. Anticipating a gap in services, the agency is hiring two **Benefits Consultants** to work

with individuals who need some initial information about the potential impact of employment on their Social Security benefits. Margaret Agee will serve Eastern Kentucky out of central office. Charity Knabel will serve Western Kentucky out of the Middletown Office. To reinforce the importance of benefits planning, the agency also provided training to all rehabilitation counselors this past spring and summer.

On August 1, 2007, the United States Department of Education awarded the Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) a five-year grant under the **Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers Program (CFDA 84.128G)**. Kentucky OVR will receive \$993,705 over the course of the grant to serve migrant and seasonal farm workers with disabilities. The program, entitled the **Migrant Farm Workers with Disabilities Employment Project (MDEP)**, will officially begin on October 1.

MDEP will create unique, non-traditional partnerships that focus on comprehensive outreach, job placement and retention, as well as systemic change. Partners include the Kentucky Business Leadership Network, the North Central Area Health Education Center, Goodwill Industries™ of Kentucky, the Kentucky AgrAbility Program and Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Kentucky, Inc™. The grant will concentrate services in Central Kentucky where a high number of migrant and seasonal farm workers can be found. The service area will consist of those counties that include and surround the cities of Lexington, Richmond and Shelbyville.

On October 1, the Department for Medicaid Services (DMS) is set to roll out a buy-in program for individuals with disabilities who go to work. Officially called the **Medicaid Working Disabled Program**, it will allow employed individuals with disabilities to pay premiums to “buy into” Medicaid coverage when their earnings take them above the usual Medicaid income eligibility level. Eligibility standards, which will be incorporated into several existing Medicaid eligibility regulations, include:

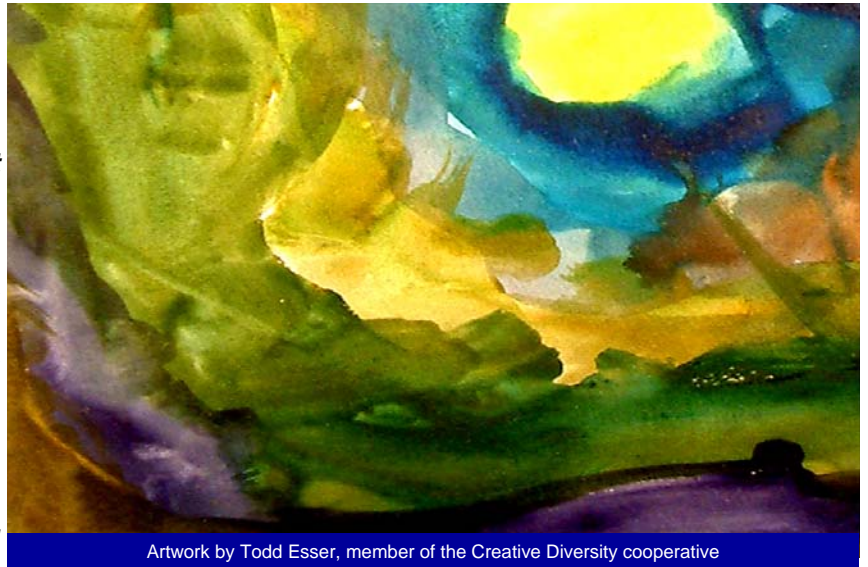
- Income eligibility limit – Earned and unearned income must be less than 250% of the Federal Poverty Level (currently \$1701 per month for an individual). Unearned income must be less than the SSI standard plus \$20.
- Whose income is counted? The individual. The spouse only if the spouse’s income is over \$45,000 per year.

## News Bits (continued)

- Resource limits - \$5,000 for an individual. \$10,000 for a couple. Retirement accounts are excluded from countable resources.

October is **National Disability Employment Awareness Month** and October 17<sup>th</sup> is **Disability Mentoring Day**. Several locations, including Louisville and Lexington, will have events marking Disability Mentoring Day. For more information about activities in Louisville, contact Keith Hosey at the Center for Accessible Living at (502) 589-6620 and, in Lexington, contact Karen Cinnamon at the Kentucky Business Leadership Network (KYBLN) at (859) 977-4054. KYBLN also is starting a **Kentucky Employer Mentoring Project** that includes a leadership academy. KYBLN is looking for college students with disabilities in the Lexington area to participate. Contact Karen Cinnamon for more information.

The Supported Employment Branch is helping create an artist (with disabilities) cooperative in Louisville. **Creative Diversity** is working initially with five artists. It will help them with marketing and financial management. Partners in this pilot project include the Creative Diversity Art Studio in Louisville, Community Employment, Inc, (a Jefferson county- based Supported Employment agency) and OVR.



Artwork by Todd Esser, member of the Creative Diversity cooperative

## Program Services Report (continued)

When OVR employees attend conferences and trainings for professional development or are the recipient of tuition assistance, it expresses this agency's commitment to our staff reaching the highest possible goals for professional growth.

One of the questions asked of leadership through the years has regarded the decision to uphold the Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC) as the "qualified" standard rather than pursuing other options such as a state certification. When the leaders of the agency initially committed to implementing and achieving CSPD, they were given the options of creating a state certification, requiring adherence to educational qualifications to sit for the CRC, or requiring the CRC itself. It was determined the agency would define a "qualified rehabilitation counselor" as one who holds the CRC. It was not defined in this manner to create exclusivity, but because this specialized certification embodies how agency leadership viewed the profession of rehabilitation counseling. The CRC is recognized nationally and underscores the unique skills required for the profession. This certification also holds members to the highest ethical standards and promotes professional development to encourage

members to remain abreast of new research and ideas in this field. As with many challenges it has faced, Kentucky OVR determined to take the high road regarding the commitment to CSPD by choosing the certification model.

This decision was made years ago has sometimes been considered as too stringent and requests have been on-going regarding changing the CSPD standard to "educationally qualified to sit for the CRC" instead of requiring the actual certification. In 2007, the agency state plan will change the OVR standard for qualification to "educationally qualified to sit for the CRC." This change is being made to align more closely to the standards of other states. This change does not mean the agency is less committed to our staff obtaining the CRC. That commitment is clearly evidenced by the counselor job specifications that require the CRC for career advancement and by our policy of assisting with the costs associated with obtaining and maintaining the CRC.

We are proud of the achievements staff have made and continue to make regarding meeting CSPD standards. Our commitment to CSPD is to have 100% of staff qualified by 2010. We appreciate all of your efforts to assist us in successfully meeting this federal requirement.

Article submitted by Suzanne Isaacs

## Employer Spotlight *Winchester Goodwill Store*



Margaret Moreland,  
previous KRA President and  
Bob Henrick from Goodwill of  
Winchester

Three cheers for a special employer in Winchester who is committed to the successful employment of individuals with disabilities! In 2003, Suzanne Isaacs, Employment Relations Specialist, began a working relationship with this business and established it as a P.A.C.E. site.

The first P.A.C.E. participant with this business was hired after completing his 136 hours. Since that time, three other consumers have been hired—an impressive total of four working consumers.

The manager of this business, Bob Henrick, takes responsibility for taking the P.A.C.E. opportunity for our clients as a very serious matter. This was exemplified last year when a consumer with Asperger's Disorder was presented to him as a possible P.A.C.E. site placement. Bob eagerly studied the material provided to facilitate the working relationship. The consumer was placed on the payroll after successful completion of her P.A.C.E. hours and is performing admirably.

Mr. Henrick has been a true advocate for our consumers and job placement services, even exerting his advocacy in the following counties: Clark, Montgomery, Scott, and Jessamine. Thanks to the Winchester Goodwill Store, located on Bypass Road and a shining beacon for meeting the needs of those with disabilities.

Article submitted by Dave Matheis

## Breaking News *And its Good News, Too*

We received the following information just a few days before this edition of the newsletter was to be released:

The agency was notified on Monday, September 24, that OVR's Rehabilitation Counselor Mentor Program had been named winner of this year's Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) Commissioner's Award for innovative programming. The focus of the award this year was recruitment and retention of state agency staff. Congratulations to the Mentor Team and all of the mentors (see the July issue of the newsletter) for this well-deserved national recognition. The award will be presented to the agency at the National Conference of Rehabilitation Educators on October 16 in Washington, DC.

On Tuesday, September 25, the agency was notified by RSA that it has received a supplemental award of \$18,320 to its annual training grant. The agency will receive this additional amount annually for the next three years. It will be used to convert parts of new employee orientation to on-line training and to develop on-line training for job placement professionals. It is the second time in three years that Kentucky OVR has received a supplemental award to its basic staff training grant. Thanks to Susie Edwards for her hard work in getting this award!

Article submitted by Tim Barber

## CDPVTC Report

### *Carl D. Perkins 2007 Graduation Ceremony a Success*

Approximately 400 guests were in attendance to observe the 2007 Graduation Ceremony conducted for graduates of the Carl D. Perkins Vocational Training Center. The event was held on June 15th at 1:00 p.m. One hundred thirteen graduates earned diplomas from eight vocational training programs, GED and the External Diploma Program. Guest speakers were Tim Farmer, executive producer and host of Kentucky Education Television's "Kentucky Afield" and Beth Smith, Commissioner, Kentucky Department for Workforce Investment. Carter Caldwell, graduate of the Materials Management class and a Pineville resident, provided the students' remarks. Dana Hughes of Inez was recipient of the Citizenship Award, presented by Dr. David Beach, Dean of Students.



Pictured above (left to right): Veronica 'Nikki' Gregg,  
CDPVTC Director Barry Newill and Commissioner Beth Smith

## Annual Kentucky Rehabilitation Conference

*Conference a Success with 252 Individuals in Attendance*



The Kentucky Rehabilitation Association (KRA) held its annual conference in Lexington at the Griffin Gate Marriott from July 18 to July 20. A total of 252 individuals attended from 13 different agencies. Approximately 200 OVR employees were among the attendees. A number of OVR staff and consumers received awards at the 2007 Kentucky Rehabilitation Association's Annual Awards Luncheon. They included:

- Jason Herron, counselor in Bowling Green, received the Wendell Taylor Memorial Award.
- Goodwill Industries™ of Winchester received the Employer of the Year. Goodwill was nominated by Suzanne Isaacs, OVR job

placement specialist in Lexington.

- Sarah Richardson from the OVR Central Office in Frankfort won the KRA Staff Award.
- Mona Bloodworth, employment specialist in Henderson, received the Janet B. Gold Job Placement Division (JPD) Award
- Wade Bailey, recently retired from Central Office, received the Kentucky Association of Rehabilitation Leadership (KARL) Award
- Joyce Graham, assistant in Campbellsville won the Margaret T. Wilson Kentucky Association of Rehabilitation Support Staff (KARSS) Award
- Vickie Lang, counselor in Louisville received the Professional Achievement Award and a consumer on her caseload received the Personal Achievement Award
- Kevin Reinhardt, an OVR consumer in Richmond, won the J. Wister Wallace Scholarship Award. Kevin was nominated by Jennifer Morse, counselor in Richmond.



Kevin Reinhardt  
J. Wister Wallace Scholarship Award Winner

Article submitted by Dave Matheis

## Administration Changes in Central Office

*Two Long-time Employees Receive Promotions*

On July 16, Allison Jessee was promoted to the position of Assistant Director for Program Services, replacing Wade Bailey. Allison had been a program administrator in the Program Planning and Development Branch. During her 14 years of service to OVR, Allison has also worked as an assistant and a counselor.

On, August 1, Sherri Greer was named Deputy Executive Director, the second highest ranking position in the agency. For the time being, Sherri will also continue to serve as Director of Program Services, a position she has held for 11 of her 24 years with the agency.

On August 1, Carol Weber was named Rehabilitation Technology Branch Manager. Although new as an employee of the agency, Carol has assisted OVR consumers on rehabilitation technology issues while at the Human Development Institute of the University of Kentucky since 2002.

Finally, on October 1, Dr. David Beach will transfer from the Carl D. Perkins Vocational training Center to Central Office to assume Allison's former administrator position.



Left to right: Allison Jessee, Sherri Greer and Carol Weber

## Meet the Curriculum Design Team

### *Team formed in 2004 Makes Successful Progress*

In February 2004, the Curriculum Design Team was formed to provide oversight, direction and suggestions for ongoing in-service training programs such as Skills Enhancement Training, High Performance Organization Training and innovative training such as the recently released Academy of Leadership Exploration and Preparedness (ALEAP) program. The team has also taken on technological challenges such as the development of ideas for online training programs. This active team meets approximately one time per month, twelve months of the year or as needed to accomplish the task at hand.

The spirit of excellence of the dedicated members along with geographical and job classification diversity make this an effective team. Though membership has changed somewhat since its inception in 2004, there is a core group of individuals that have been with the team since the beginning. I am pleased to introduce you to this group:

**Veeta Bain—Assistant—Central Office**  
**Tim Barber—Administrator—CDPVTC\***  
**Heather Cole—Counselor—Lexington\***  
**Suzanne Isaacs—Job Placement—Lexington**  
**Pam Jarboe—Branch Manager—Middletown**  
**Cherilyn Kizer—Branch Manager—Owensboro**  
**Joyce Lee—Administrator—Central Office\***  
**Debbie Mazurek—Assistant—Richmond Office\***  
**Brad Mills—Administrator—Central Office\***  
**Carol Weber—Rehab. Tech. Branch Manager—Central Office\***  
**Sherry West—RCD—Bowling Green\***

(\*indicates that the individual has been on the team since it was established in 2004)

## Personnel Changes

Information submitted by Carmen Freeman

### New Employees

Carol Weber - Rehab. Tech. Manager Central Office	August 1
Myja Brant - Counselor Burlington	September 4
Jonna Melvin - Rehab Care Aide CDPVTC	September 4
Kami Cossey - Program Spec. Bowling Green	September 4
Chrisonia Thomas - Program Spec. Bowling Green	September 4
Crystal Farmer - Assistant Bowling Green	September 16
Sandra Cantrell - Janitor CDPVTC	September 16
Charles Jones - Security Officer CDPVTC	August 1
Alethea Watts - Assistant Lexington	October 1
Donna Marshall- Counselor Richmond	October 1

### Retirements

Marty Sensing Bowling Green	July 31
Sandra Hart Lexington	July 31

Andrew Jones CDPVTC	September 1
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### Resignations

Shannon Moler Lexington	July 31
Tina Hughes CDPVTC	August 15
Melissa Adams CDPVTC	August 19
Adrienne Garnett Paducah	September 15

### Transfers

Dr. David Beach - Administrator CDPVTC to Central Office	October 1
Kristin Beach CDPVTC to Lexington	October 1
Michelle Cobb - Job Placement Louisville to Florence	October 1
Lesa Patenaude - Assistant Louisville to Shepherdsville	October 1

## Get to Know Your Council Members

### Ann Holstein



In 2006, Ann Holstein was appointed by Governor Ernie Fletcher to both the Statewide Council for Vocational Rehabilitation and the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC). Ann serves as the Director of Professional Services at Gateway Rehabilitation Hospital, Florence, Kentucky. She has been at the hospital for approximately seven years performing marketing and public relations duties. Gateway Rehabilitation Hospital is an acute 40 bed rehabilitation hospital offering both inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation services to the Northern Kentucky community.

"There are so many people who are committed to making a change for people with disabilities in the state of Kentucky. I look forward to the future work and serving on this council."

A Northern Kentucky native and a graduate of Northern Kentucky University, Ann is also a newspaper columnist, writing for *The Senior Scene* in **The Inside Your Town** newspaper in Northern Kentucky. Ann and her 11-year-old-son Adam live in Ft. Wright, Kentucky. She is a member of St. Agnes Parish in Ft. Wright and volunteers her time for various projects in the community including fundraising events. Of her involvement on the

Council, Ann says: "It has been a pleasure serving and being involved with the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation. It has been a learning experience for me and I continue to learn. There are so many people who are committed to making a change for people with disabilities in the state of Kentucky. I look forward to the future work and serving on this council."

Ann serves on the Policy and Planning Committee of the Council.

### Terry Shockley



Terry R. Shockley has been a member of the Council since the spring of 2006 and currently serves as Chairman of the Council's

Policy and Planning Committee. Terry retired from Frankfort Habilitation Inc.™ in 2005 after having served as its Executive Director for twenty-eight years. He has also served as a surveyor for the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) International for

34 years, reviewing programs in forty states. Before joining Frankfort Habilitation, Terry worked as a vocational evaluator with the then Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation, workshop director for the West Kentucky Easter Seal Center in Paducah and statewide consultant on community rehabilitation programs for the Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation Services. Terry has served on several statewide and national committees related to the field of vocational rehabilitation and also serves as a Governor for Goodwill of Kentucky. He has been a long time member of the Rotary and will serve as District Governor for 2008-2009 for an area covering 60 clubs in western half of the state.

Originally from Scottsville, Terry graduated from Western Kentucky University. He and his wife, Jo, live in Frankfort and have three adult children and seven grandchildren. After having been a service provider for many years, a new role was assumed by Terry and his family in December of 2006. Since that time, his younger son (age 40) has been in a minimal responsive state from a brain injury resulting from a combination of insulin and drugs and is currently served by a rehabilitation hospital in Louisville.

Terry says his Council involvement 'allows me to continue to contribute to the enhancement of services and opportunities for persons with disabilities in the Commonwealth. My experience operating and conducting accreditation surveys of programs serving persons with disabilities may benefit citizens of Kentucky. I consider it an honor and privilege to serve on the Council.'

"My experience operating and conducting accreditation surveys of programs serving persons with disabilities may benefit citizens of Kentucky. I consider it an honor and privilege to serve on the Council."

## New Council Members

### Five New Council Members Appointed

Congratulations to the new council members recently appointed to the Statewide Council for Vocational Rehabilitation!

David Allgood—Louisville  
Phillip Courtney—Verona  
Matthew Davis—Bowling Green  
Michael Fogle—Glasgow  
Lois Taurman—Louisville

## SCVR Employer Recognition Awards

### *Employers Recognized for Providing Employment Opportunities to Kentuckians with Disabilities*

The Statewide Council for Vocational Rehabilitation (SCVR) in conjunction with the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) held its annual employer recognition luncheon Monday, September 10. Each year OVR staff from across the state nominate worthy businesses and their leaders for outstanding leadership in the employment of persons with disabilities. The council recognized five such businesses this year at an afternoon luncheon at the Lexington Green Hilton®.

Newly appointed Deputy Executive Director Sherri Greer read the nominations, while Executive Director Ralph Clark and SCVR Chairperson Lee Gordon presented each business with an award. Several representatives from each business, SCVR, OVR counselors, employment specialists and senior leadership all attended.

Executive Director Clark spoke to the audience on the importance of the relationship between business and OVR.

"These businesses have made positive contributions in the hiring of people with disabilities," said Clark. "Organizations like this have a real desire to assist OVR consumers attain their job goals. The relationship is equally beneficial to OVR and the business. Our consumers get an opportunity to excel and the employer gets a dependable employee who is job-ready."

The following businesses were recognized: Wakenhut Security™ and UPS®, Louisville, Sodexho Campus Services of Centre College, Danville, Tennessee Wire Technologies™, Hopkinsville, and Frisch's Restaurants® of Northern Kentucky.

Look for nominations for next year's event to begin around June, 2008.



Pictured above (left to right):  
OVR Counselor Julie Beth Hayden, Roy Platt, of Sodexho, Statewide Council Chair Lee Gordon and OVR Executive Director Ralph Clark.

Article submitted by Holly Hendricks

## Report on Focus Groups

### *First One Held in Lexington*

As mentioned in our July newsletter, OVR is in the process of conducting focus groups at each of the Independent Living Centers across Kentucky on behalf of the Council. The purpose of the focus groups is to obtain feedback from previous OVR consumers whose cases were closed unsuccessfully. The need for the focus groups arose when evaluation of the Consumer Satisfaction Survey results indicated that the satisfaction level of this population was not being adequately assessed. The focus groups are being facilitated by the Human Development Institute at the University of Kentucky. The first focus group took place in Lexington on August 22<sup>nd</sup> and preliminary reports indicate that the participants enjoyed the experience and provided a good deal of feedback. Remaining focus groups will take place in September and October.

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

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(Dave Matheis, editor, Nanci Shelden, co-editor)

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## Save the Date

### *Upcoming Council and Committee Meetings*

#### **Interagency Coordinating Committee Meeting**

Tuesday, November 13, 2007

10:00-12:00

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation

209 St. Clair Street

Frankfort, KY 40601

Training Room C, 1st Floor

#### **Statewide Council for Voc. Rehab. (SCVR) Meeting**

Monday, December 10, 2007

9:00-3:00

Marriott Griffin Gate Resort and Spa

1800 Newtown Pike

Lexington, KY 40511