



# 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

## 2010 OVR Awards

*"Staff recognized for efforts in assisting Kentuckians with disabilities"*



The tables were adorned with autumn decorations, the raspberry punch was chilling in the crystal bowl, and the cake read "Thanks for Doing More with Less." It was time for a celebration.

On Wednesday, November 17, 2010, the Executive Leadership Team, District Managers, Central Office staff and a group of representatives from across

Kentucky met at the Complex Center East in Frankfort to celebrate the accomplishments of OVR staff for FY 2010.

OVR staff and districts were recognized in several categories that illustrated the hard work and dedication of everyone across the state. Director of Program Services Pam Jarboe was the host for the day and gave out the award for the top positive employment outcome: Jamie Yarber (77 PEOs), Angela Holcomb (66) and Patrice Flynn (56).

Susie Edwards was on hand as well to recognize the latest group of graduates from the ALEAP Phase II program (pictured below) Dave Matheis recognized Whitesburg and West Liberty as the two districts that had the highest customer satisfaction ratings in the state.

The awards for the top five performers in the category of standards and indicators were presented by Holly Hendricks to Phyllis Joiner, Andrea Willett, Rebecca Wilson, Vanessa Branham and Penny Pierce.

Mindy Yates gave the award for the counselors who brought in the most Social Security reimbursements. The top five were: Holly Evans (\$77,433.87), Joe Scott (\$72,863.86), Julie Wade (\$64,898.27), Shawne Kinsman (\$61,893.56), and Peggy Anderson (\$53,028.58)

Barb Pugh honored CDPVTC staff. Gary Ferguson, Larry Hyden, Troy Williams, Bobby Hammonds and Rick Duty for a range of accomplishments including most PEOs to best attendance.

Executive Director Beth Smith presented Linda Weber with the Central Office award (Pictured above left). Pam and Holly returned to present the District Cases of the Year (See chart below)

The committee that put together the event included Vicki Yeay, Pam Jarboe, Holly Hendricks, Brad Mills and Jason Jones.



(Above) Middletown Branch Manager Pat Selch and Counselor Kelly Scott.



2010 ALEAP Graduates (pictured left to right) Holly Hendricks, Vickie Reilly, Jeremy Lyons, Carol Leonhart, Michelle Denison, Brent Sturgill, Teresa Barney, Alan Gullett and Kristen Beach.

### District Cases of the Year

1. Cheryl Son- District 1 (Lisa Allen)
2. Jane Ann Botzman- District 7 (Ruth Dyer)
3. Lisa Riley- District 16 (Carol Leonhart)
4. Kellie Scott-District 15 (Pat Selch)
5. Heather Cole-District District 14 (Brad Mills)
6. Shawne Kensman-District 8 (Ryan Henson)
7. Ebony Williams-District 6 (John Phillips)
8. Tina Prichard District 12 (Tom Combs)
9. Michelle Denison District 10 (Charlie Crigger)
10. Carla Joseph-District 13 (Viva Anderson)
11. Donna Crews-District 3 (Malinda Davis)
12. Vickie Lang – District 5 (Greg Willett)
13. Dell Hurdle District 2 (Jan Offutt)
14. District 4 Leslie Hudson (Jim Wallace)
15. Kristen Beach District 9 (Jonathan White)



## Message from Executive Director, Beth Smith



I take it that all holiday celebrations have commenced, resolutions have been made and the realization of a long cold winter has sunk in to all our heads. In saying that, I hope all of you had a great December and enjoyed spending time with your

families. I hope everyone got what they wished for. If not, don't worry...I hear the next holiday season begins in about 350 days. If the speed of 2010 is any indication of the pace of 2011, we'll be singing Jingle Bells in mere moments.

As far as the resolution category, I encourage everyone to stay true to the things you really need to do to improve your quality and the quality of your loved ones' lives and don't worry so much about everything else. All good things in time, just be patient. And as always, I wish everyone a terrific 2011.

As far as work, I'm strongly encouraged by the numbers I see coming in with our budget situation. You

all have done an incredible job reducing costs and yet continuing to provide high quality of service for our consumers. We will have to see what comes out of the current legislative session and what the outlook is for the near future. However, if things continue on the current path, hopefully we will be able to serve even more people with disabilities in 2011. Stay tuned.

I hope all of you had the chance to see the announcement of Barb Pugh as the Division Director of the Carl Perkins Center. We have been hoping for this appointment for quite a while and are very happy to see it come to fruition. Barb is a vibrant and bright member of our staff. She adds great insight and input to our Executive Leadership Team. We are expecting even greater things at CDPVTC in the future because of Barb's leadership.

In closing, I would like to welcome all of our new employees around the state. We have had several new additions and several retirements recently. I wish everyone a great career here at OVR and the best of luck to those who have left us to pursue other endeavors. Remember, we are always here to serve you in Central Office.

Thanks again for all your hard work in 2010. Let's have a great 2011.

Article submitted by Donna Osburn

## Social Security

*"Employment Network Pilot project starts to pay off"*

The first payment from the EN pilot project was received in October. Kentucky OVR received \$1,211.00 for assisting a Social Security Ticketholder to work at the Trial Work level (\$720/month).

Ticket to Work specialist, Kellie Scott, recognized the potential for additional program income and agreed to be the first counselor to participate in the pilot.

Because many Ticketholders do not work at the required SGA levels (\$1,000/month), they are never eligible for traditional Cost Reimbursement payments from Social Security.

If these consumers can be identified prior to plan development and have their Tickets assigned under the EN payment system, they may be eligible for EN milestone payments. While the amounts may not be as generous as the traditional cost reimbursements, they

represent income which might not be available under the traditional payment system.

With today's tightened budgets, every little bit helps. Currently, only two counselors are participating in the pilot - there is room to expand. Anyone interested can contact Donna Osburn (donnab.osburn@ky.gov) for further information.



## NEWS BITS

### **Clifton Rice - Aug 24, 1925 - Dec 21, 2010**



Clifton Albert Rice, 85, passed away Tuesday, December 21, 2010 after a prolonged illness. Born in Akron, Clifton grew up on the family farm on Indian Gap Road in Franklin County where he lived until his death. He graduated from Peaks Mill High School in 1943 and volunteered for service in the US Navy during

World War II. He served as Radioman Second Class aboard the LSM 309 in the Asiatic Pacific Area Campaign and in occupied Japan. He was honorably discharged in June 1946.

Clifton attended UK on the GI Bill and graduated with honors in 1950 with a degree in Math and Physics Education. He began his teaching career at Breathitt County High School and continued teaching at Peaks Mill High School in Franklin County until 1957 when he went to work for the Kentucky Division of Disability Determination.

He retired from OVR on October 1, 2010 after more than 53 years of state government service. *(Reprinted with permission from the State-Journal in Frankfort)*

### **MDEP to Provide Outreach Training to Independent Living Staff**

On March 9, 2011, the Migrant farmworkers with Disabilities Employment Partnership (MDEP) will provide a day-long training seminar to the staff from three independent living centers and the Statewide Council for Independent Living.

The seminar will focus on how to provide independent living services in the Hispanic community. As part of the three-year State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) that was implemented on October 1, 2010 the three centers will focus targeted outreach to the Hispanic community in their areas.

The three centers involved are Disability Resource Initiative in Bowling Green, Independence Place in Lexington, which, in addition to Central Kentucky, is now providing some services in Eastern Kentucky with an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) grant, and the Center for Accessible Living in Louisville, which operates satellite centers in Murray and Northern

Kentucky.

Topics at the seminar will include the growth of the Latino population in the state (where and why), diversity in Hispanic populations, immigration and mental health, the immigration process in the United States, and development of an outreach plan. The seminar will take place in Lexington.

MDEP is a partnership of OVR, the Human Development Institute at the University of Kentucky, Goodwill Industries™ of Kentucky, and Kentucky AgrAbility. It is in the fourth year of a five-year migrant services grant from the Rehabilitation Services Administration. This seminar represents a unique collaboration between a migrant services grant and independent living centers.

### **Ryan inducted into Kentucky Civil Rights Hall of Fame**

Norb Ryan, the Kentucky Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) coordinator in the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet, was inducted into the Kentucky Civil Rights Hall of Fame Oct. 15, 2010, for his work with people with disabilities.

Ryan, along with 30 other people, was inducted into the Hall of Fame by the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights. An independent, volunteer group of citizens elected the inductees out of more than 50 nominations from people in the state. Nominees are people who are from the Commonwealth or who have lived or worked in the state and have made progress for civil or human rights.

Ryan, a resident of Versailles, has been the ADA coordinator since 2001. His office provides training and technical assistance to state government, agencies and programs regarding ADA and its effect on employment, programs, services and facilities. He works to ensure that people with disabilities are treated fairly in employment, housing and public accommodations.

Prior to his job as ADA coordinator, Ryan advocated for parents and children with significant disabilities when he worked at the Child Development Center of the Bluegrass from 1976-1991 in Danville. He worked as director of Therapeutic Recreation at Cardinal Hill Rehabilitation Hospital in Lexington, where he helped many children and adults with disabilities.

One supporter said that Ryan has an engaging, full-time job, but is often asked to serve on many charity and agency boards because of his knowledge, compassion and commitment to helping people with disabilities.

## Transition & Mentoring Update

*"Lisa Medley named Mentor of the Year"*

### Community Based Work Transition Program (CBWTP)

Rehabilitation counselors may now have access to the Individual Learning Plans (ILP) that students are required to complete while in high school.

The ILP begins in the sixth grade and tasks are completed through the 12th; students may access the service for life as long as it is utilized at least once every five years upon exiting high school. This web-based tool assists students to record and track their individual career, educational and personal goals.

By completing online vocational assessments, the ILP then allows the student to explore careers, research post-secondary training options and to investigate paying college tuition expenses.

The system allows the student to log work experience and community service as well as awards and recognitions. Then the ILP can create an updated resume for the student utilizing all the information provided.

The counselor, once permission to access their ILP is given by the student, may use this tool to help with goal setting and implementation as well as to provide online encouragement to the student regarding their accomplishments and successes. More information is available by searching ILP at [www.education.ky.gov](http://www.education.ky.gov).

### Mentoring Update

Once again because of the support and commitment from our Executive Leadership Team the mentors were able to gather for training at Lake Cumberland on October 12-13.

This year there were 30 mentors that participated from

almost every corner of the state.

Diane Hargrove from Central Office presented on our Case Management System, giving everyone tips on how to train their mentees based on the Top 20 Questions the finance department receives.

Jamie Yarber, mentor from the Lexington district, delivered a wonderful presentation on eligibility and how to train the mentees with confidence in this area.

The ethics training for this year was provided by David Beach and centered on communications with and for our consumers.

We had a panel discussion on Obstacles with Mentoring that allowed Lisa Riley (Ft. Wright Mentor), Brent Sturgill (Ashland Mentor), and Patti Edwards (Danville Mentor) to provide their insights to a multitude of questions relating to the various mentoring hurdles that occasionally present themselves.

Negotiating was presented by Holly Hendricks from Central Office that provided strategies for the mentors to use and insight on how to then train the mentees on the development of these skills as well.

Program Services Director Pam Jarboe presented the 2010 Mentor of the Year Award to a much surprised Lisa Medley, mentor in the Owensboro district.

Her many nominations reflected a



Director of Program Services Pam Jarboe presents Counselor Lisa Medley with the 2010 Mentor of the Year Award.

21 year history of mentoring others both officially and unofficially as well as providing support to her district manager and true dedication to her consumers.

Lisa has accepted an invitation to sit on the Mentor Leader Team and will serve for three years.

Lisa wrote the following:

*"I have worked for this Agency for a very long time and I can honestly say that I love what I do. I enjoy working for an organization that empowers people as well as one that makes such an impact on individual's lives.*

*I never get tired of watching the high school students that I work with grow and mature and reach goals that many times they have been told that they will never obtain. I find a great deal of inspiration through their strength and actions.*

*I would like to say "Thank You" to those people who have educated, guided, and befriended me as I have learned the job of VR Counselor.*

*My training has been done with such kindness and encouragement that I can only hope that I follow their example and show the same encouragement to my co-workers and any new staff that is hired in the future.*

*I am so blessed to be a part of OVR and I am truly honored to have been given this award."*



## 874 Disabilities Coalition

### *"874K Coalition Schedules Annual Advocacy Event for February"*

Every year, the Statewide Council for Vocational Rehabilitation has several representatives attend the 874K Coalition Schedules Annual Advocacy Event.

The 874K Coalition has scheduled its annual advocacy event this year for February 24, 2011. For this event, the Coalition will return to the Frankfort Convention Center where it will host a Gubernatorial Candidates' Issues Forum .

Established in 2001, the 874K coalition seeks to bring together and strengthen the voices of the growing number of Kentuckians who are identified as having a disability which interferes with activities of daily living. 874K is comprised of organizations representing individuals with disabilities, their family members, advocates, providers and concerned citizens.

The coalition sponsors an advocacy event annually in Frankfort during the legislative session with the goal of giving individuals affected by disabilities the opportunity to meet the Governor and key Cabinet officials, their state legislators and staff, and the media. Typically, attendance at the event is between 700 and 1,200 individuals from all parts of Kentucky.

As in the past, the forum will focus on the priorities for individuals with disabilities, emphasizing the desire for self-determination and choice. All declared candidates for the Office of Kentucky Governor will be invited to participate. All state legislators are once again invited to attend. The coalition is asking that everyone who plans

on attending send postcards to both of their state legislators – Representative and Senator. A chart is available on the Coalition website at [www.advocacyaction.net](http://www.advocacyaction.net) that provides lists of the counties, the legislators and their home mailing addresses.

The KY Council on Developmental Disabilities (KCDD) will again make the Consumer Involvement Fund available to reimburse individuals with developmental disabilities for travel expenses. Please contact Carol Wray at [Carol.Wray@ky.gov](mailto:Carol.Wray@ky.gov), download the forms at [www.kcdd.ky.gov](http://www.kcdd.ky.gov) or call 877-387-5332 to apply.

Those participants traveling more than 120 miles to Frankfort who do not qualify for KCDD funding may apply for financial assistance for overnight accommodations and travel support directly from the United 874K Coalition. Please contact Christin Miller at [actionoffice@bellsouth.net](mailto:actionoffice@bellsouth.net) or call 1-877-894-0222. With the support of KCDD, the Coalition hopes to provide assistance to everyone who needs it in order to attend the February 24th Advocacy Event!

Doors will open at 10:00 a.m. on February 24. The program will begin at 10:30, includes a box lunch and will conclude at 1:00 p.m.

## Save the Date

### *Upcoming Meetings*

#### **Statewide Council for Vocational Rehabilitation (SCVR)**

Monday, March 14, 2011 - 9:00-3:30  
Marriott Griffin Gate Resort and Spa  
1800 Newtown Pike  
Lexington, KY 40511

#### **Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)**

Thursday, March 10, 2011 - 9:30am  
University of Kentucky Human Development Institute  
Coldstream Offices  
1525 Bull Lea Rd, Suit 160  
Lexington, KY 40511

#### **Kentucky Assistive Technology Loan Corporation (KATLC) Board of Directors**

March 16, 2011 - 9:00 a.m.  
Charles McDowell Center  
8412 Westport Road  
Louisville, KY 40242



## News from the Perkins Center

### "2010 in Review"

The staff members and students of the Carl D. Perkins Vocational Training Center had an extremely productive Fiscal Year 09-10. Facility enrollment remained extremely high during the fiscal year, often nearing a total enrollment of 200 persons each class day on several occasions. The Perkins Center served 1108 Kentuckians during the fiscal year, exceeding the total of 1082 served during the previous fiscal year. There were 562 referrals made by Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors during the year. The referral total was the highest number of referrals received by the facility in several years.

During the fiscal year, the Perkins Center continued efforts to generate additional revenue from third-party sources and provide services to persons receiving Social Security benefits to enter/reenter the workforce. The Perkins Center became Medicare eligible during the fiscal year. Referrals for the Outpatient Medical Rehabilitation program increased noticeably from 68 the previous year to 99 during FY 09-10 due to the inclusion of persons receiving Medicare who were able to receive therapy services at the Perkins Center. There were 12 persons served by the Perkins Center for which Social Security reimbursement was received by the agency totaling \$166,220.95.

Although serving more consumers, the Perkins Center still maintained strong levels of customer satisfaction based on the results of surveys conducted with both students and counselors. Customer satisfaction for students actively enrolled was recorded at 94%. Counselors rated the quality of services provided by the Perkins Center to persons they referred at 3.4 on a 4.0 scale.

Staff members and students participated in several community projects during the fiscal year. This included two blood drives sponsored by the Kentucky Blood Center. There were 34 donors who participated in the July blood drive. Several students also participated in locally sponsored 5K runs to raise cancer awareness. Addition-

ally, the Perkins Center hosted the "Path to Employment" fair on August 17th. The fair was sponsored by Protection & Advocacy and co-sponsored by Independence Place located in Lexington. Both Center students and persons in the local area who receive Social Security benefits attended this event. The Perkins Center staff also participated in several job and transition fairs for students with disabilities held across Kentucky.

Numerous events were also held to coincide with "Job Placement Month" in May. Student activities included skill-building exercises, a job fair, a customer service demonstration project, and a presentation to students receiving SSI/SSDI on the opportunity to work while still keeping their benefits.

The fiscal year also saw completion of two projects that will greatly reduce operating expenses. The Perkins Center has been actively involved in projects to retrofit lighting and conserve energy. The Perkins Center obtained a \$6,000 refund from Rural Electric Cooperative for these initiatives. The Perkins Center also completed the replacement of walk-in cooler and freezer food storage units that will increase efficiency and energy savings.

The new fiscal year will present the Perkins Center with opportunities to expand services to persons with disabilities and create additional partnerships with local educational, business, and community organizations. The Perkins Center will continue development of off-campus work opportunities for students at local businesses. Work experience gained in a business setting has been invaluable to several students who attend the facility. The Perkins Center also plans to work closely with Midway College as a new pharmacy school opens in near-by Paintsville, Kentucky. Representatives from the college have visited the Perkins Center and will be utilizing the facility as an internship location for students in the pharmacy program.

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(Jason Jones - Editor)

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