



# The OVR Review

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

Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation

Summer 2011

Volume 6, Issue 9

Article by Jason Jones

## 2011 Job Placement Month

*"JP staff celebrates all across Kentucky"*



Once again for 2011, Governor Steve Beshear declared May as Job Placement Month. Below are the ways the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) celebrated across the state.

**Paducah** - Job Placements Specialist Cindy Ragland and District Manager Lisa Allen visited employers throughout the district to present them with certificates of appreciation for their efforts in employing individuals with disabilities.

**Madisonville** - Tony Simning, PACE Coordinator, participated in the Job and Career Expo at Madisonville Community College. Other partners in the Expo included the JobNet Career Center and the Madisonville Office of Employment and Training (OET)

**Owensboro** - Owensboro had a staff meeting along with OET, the Green River Area Development District (GRADD) and the Office for the Blind (OFB). Steve Wedding, Owensboro OVR Job Placement (JP) specialist, was recognized by staff for his contributions. Stephanie

Overfield, manager of People Plus, met with staff and discussed temp agencies and how our consumers can get permanent jobs through them.

**Bowling Green** - Job Placement Specialist Missy Wheeler led a celebration of Job Placement Month in the district office for fellow staff.

**Louisville / Middletown** - The Louisville and Middletown staff took a tour of the new Best Buy Distribution Center in Shepherdsville.

**Danville** - Kristi Short, JP Specialist in the OVR Richmond office, collaborated with OET and the local WIB to sponsor a Veteran's Job Fair at the Bluegrass Army Depot near Richmond. Staff also took tours of the Danville DENYO manufacturing plant and Alternative Energies of Kentucky. Somerset spotlighted the success

of a consumer, Martin, who received guidance and counseling, JP services and rehabilitation technology from the agency. Tracy Wheeldon, JP specialist interviewed him, his supervisor and the human resource director at his place of employment and an article appeared in the local newspaper.

**Florence / Ft. Wright** - Elizabeth Westerman, RCD led a training for OVR CRP partners to increase their skills in providing JP and job support services for deaf

consumers. Both districts also partnered with the OET Veterans Unit for an event in conjunction with the 5th Annual NKY Veterans Job Fair. JP Specialist Cheryl Martinez, presented on tax incentives and interviewing.

**Lexington/Bluegrass** - The districts recognized six employers with a certificate of appreciation and a letter of thanks.

**Ashland / West Liberty** - Job Placement Staff (JPS) met and discussed ways of getting

involvement of employers and consumers. A plan was discussed for West Liberty District Counselors, JPS, and one or two employers to meet. For the meeting, JPS invited a former consumer, who now works in Human Resources at the local hospital, Morgan County Circuit Clerk to talk about the new courthouse under construction, and Human Resources from the Mt. Rural Telephone to speak about the new building and positions. Kentucky Representative Rocky Adkins and Senator Walter Blevins also spoke.

**Whitesburg** - Jeanette Hawkins, counselor in the Harlan office, participated in a Career Fair at the Mountain Comprehensive Health Center in Harlan.

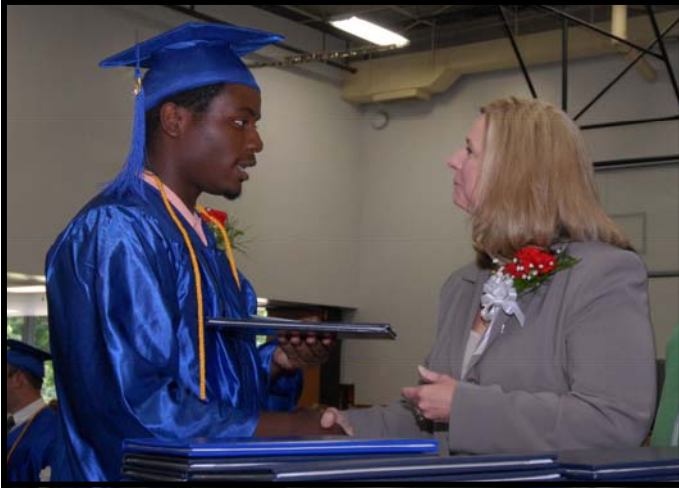
**CDPVTC** - Each week there was a different activity. Week 1 - The Shriek Servers (staff)



*Continued on Page 8*

## 2011 CDPVTC Graduation

*"131 Students become latest graduating class at Perkins Center"*



Commencement for the Carl D. Perkins Vocational Training Center Class of 2011 was held June 17, 2011 in the gymnasium on campus in Thelma. Commissioner Beth Brinly, OVR Executive Director Beth Smith, and CDPVTC Director Barbara Pugh, welcomed the 131 graduates, family, friends, visitors, and staff.

The keynote speaker for the event was former student and entrepreneur, Tina Jackson. The stu-

dent speaker, Jerome Stanley, reflected on his time and accomplishments while at the Center.

Musical entertainment was provided by Ms. Brittany Parker. Visitors on hand for the event included State Representative Hubert Collins (Johnson, Floyd, Martin, and Pike Counties) and many OVR Managers and Counselors.

A moment of silence and reflection was observed in remembrance of former instructor Teresa Wells, who lost her battle with cancer in December and to whom the ceremony was dedicated.

Executive Director Beth Smith said that it was probably the most inspirational ceremonies she has witnessed in her time with OVR.



Top left, Jerome Stanley receives his diploma from CDPVTC Director Barb Pugh. Stanley represented the other graduates as the student speaker for the ceremony. Bottom left, Jason Lewis celebrates the long journey that led to graduation day from the Perkins Center. Top right, Pugh congratulates keynote speaker and former Perkins graduate Tina Jackson. Bottom right, Pugh and Workforce Investment Commissioner Beth Brinly await the next graduate to receive his diploma during the CDPVTC Graduation on June 17.

## Employee Spotlight Presents “The Exit Interviews”

“A final Q&A with two OVR stalwarts as they end their careers”



### Kathie Regan

#### 1. Family, size, traditions, etc.?

I WAS RAISED AS AN ONLY CHILD AND ONLY GRAND-CHILD. MY MOTHER HAS BEEN IN A NURSING HOME THE PAST SIX YEARS. ABOUT 15 YEARS AGO MY

PATERNAL BROTHER AND SISTER LOCATED ME I HAVE A WONDERFUL RELATIONSHIP WITH THEM AND THEIR FAMILIES. I DO NOT HAVE ANY BIOLOGICAL CHILDREN. HOWEVER, GOD HAS BLESSED ME WITH CHILDREN I CONSIDER MY DAUGHTERS AND THEIR CHILDREN MY GRANDCHILDREN. I AM SURE MANY OF YOU HAVE HAD TO LOOK AT PICTURES ON MANY OCCASIONS OF THE GRANDCHILDREN.

#### 2. Why VR? How did you end up here?

IN 1974 I NEEDED A JOB. A COMMERCIAL DRIVING SCHOOL NEEDED AN INSTRUCTOR TO PROVIDE DRIVER TRAINING TO THE PATIENTS AT CARDINAL HILL HOSPITAL. AT THAT TIME THERE WAS NO ONE IN KENTUCKY THAT PROVIDED DRIVER TRAINING FOR DRIVERS WITH DISABILITIES. IN FACT THERE WERE ONLY FOUR PROGRAMS NATIONWIDE. AFTER A YEAR WITH THE COMMERCIAL SCHOOL, CARDINAL HILL OFFERED ME A POSITION TO DEVELOP A DRIVER REHAB PROGRAM. THAT PROGRAM WAS SERVING OVR CONSUMERS STATEWIDE. HOWEVER, ALL THE CONSUMERS THAT NEEDED SERVICE'S HAD TO COME AND BE PATIENTS AT CARDINAL HILL TO RECEIVE THE DRIVER EVALUATION/TRAINING SERVICES. AFTER FIVE YEARS GERALD WILLIAMS OFFERED ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO CREATE AND DEVELOP A STATEWIDE PROGRAM.

#### 3. How long have you been with OVR?

OVR 32 YEARS—38 TOTAL YEARS IN DRIVER REHABILITATION. COME SEE MY BRICK IN THE



### Charlie Crigger

#### 1. Family, size, traditions, etc.?

I HAVE ONE DAUGHTER AGE 27, WORKING IN PITTSBURGH WITH EDISON ELECTRICITY. HER GOAL IS TO SAVE THE PLANET AND OUR RESOURCES. SHE IS SCHEDULED FOR AN INTERVIEW IN LOS ANGELES NEXT

WEEK, SO I SAY I AM ON MY WAY TO CALIFORNIA TO MOVE HER, SOME TIME IN JULY. AS FAR AS TRADITION, MACKENZIE AND I GENERALLY PLAY A ROUND OF GOLF EVERY FATHER'S DAY. THIS YEAR SHE BEAT ME!

#### 2. Education history?

DEGREE IN PSYCHOLOGY AND POLITICAL SCIENCE, MASTER IN EDUCATION FROM MOREHEAD STATE AND A MASTER IN REHABILITATION COUNSELOR FROM UK.

#### 3. Hobbies – What do you do outside of work?

GOLF AND FISH ... WELL IF YOU LISTEN TO JACK CLINE, I DON'T KNOW HOW TO FISH, I AM IN TRAINING.

#### 4. Why VR? How did you end up here?

I WORKED FOR LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH CENTER AND A JOB OPENED UP AT THE CARL PERKINS REHABILITATION CENTER, I APPLIED AND THE REST IS HISTORY.

#### 5. How long have you been with OVR?

34 YEARS

#### 6. Any memories of your early days?

MANY, AT ONE TIME I KNEW EVERY REHABILITATION COUNSELOR IN THE STATE BY FIRST NAME. WE WERE ALWAYS IN SMALL TRAINING GROUPS GENERALLY ONCE A MONTH. WORKING AT THE CENTER IN COUNSELING YOU HAD CASES FROM EVERY OFFICE IN THE STATE, THAT IS HOW I GOT TO KNOW PEOPLE LIKE DON HYATT AND JIM WALLACE.

## Message from Executive Director, Beth Smith



First of all, let me begin by wishing everyone a very productive and enjoyable summer season. I absolutely love the much longer days and warmer temperatures that this time of year brings. It just seems like it is so much easier to get everything done and there are an endless amount of activities for everyone to enjoy. So enjoy your friends and family outdoors before autumn draws us back indoors.

As I sit to write this, I can't help but think that this installment will have to be about congratulations. There have been so many things happening recently that deserve a mention. I would like to start with the Carl Perkins Center graduation. I have been attending the annual event for as long as I have served in state government. I think this year may have been the best yet. The facility was beautiful. The staff was poised and on its game. And, the best part was the inspiring words of Tina Jackson, who reminded us all why we show up everyday to do what we do. It was truly amazing. Kudos to Barb Pugh and her staff.

Next I would like to congratulate our job placement staff on a great Job Placement Month in May. I heard nothing but good things from all across the state about the various activities of each district. I had the pleasure of attending a presentation here at Central Office. Kudos to the JP staff for your creativity and dedication.

The same can be said for Carol Weber and the assistive technology staff for the annual conference they put on in collaboration with the Human Development Institute and Agrability at UK and KATLC. Most of our administrative staff attended a portion of the conference and had good reviews for what they saw. Kudos AT staff.

I also have to congratulate a few people we work closely with here at Central Office. Good luck to Kathie Regan and Charlie Crigger for their retirements the first of July. The two combine for almost 60 years of experience. They will be very hard, if not impossible to replace. We will miss you both. Enjoy your retirements.

Also a quick congratulations to my fellow ELT member Jason Jones and his wife Jessica on the birth of their second son, Bryce Owen Jones.

Enjoy your vacations and all the fun this time of year. Everyone be safe and I'll write more in the fall.

Submitted by Vickey Reilly

## Transition Update

### CBWTP Monitoring Update

In March we received our long anticipated Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) response to our Corrective Action.

RSA is seeking more details about the CBWT cooperative arrangement and how it is administered. RSA is requesting clarification of the services, how they differ from school services, and details on who are providing the services. They are interested in seeing more information regarding administrative oversight procedures, tracking tools used for program expenditures, and further clarification on the staff allocated to this arrangement including time spent delivering the services and specific duties of staff.

In the matter of the fiscal management of the CWBT, further

information is also requested regarding guidance, assurance, or a monitoring design which would ensure that specific items on the budget worksheet are truly costs experienced

### 2010-11 CBWTP Onsite Random Audit Reports Found:

- 85% - Job Coaches had access to computers
- 95% - OVR Counselors returned calls in a timely manner
- 60% - OVR Counselors attended meetings regularly
- 65% - Job Coaches ledgers were up to date and kept in a secure location
- 65% - Job Coaches had access to Individual Education Plan's
- 85% - Overall schools were carrying out the Program in an acceptable manner
- 80% - Monthly Progress Notes should have been paid

providing VR services to the eligible students by the job coaches. OVR will be presenting a detailed response in June with all changes going into effect immediately for the 2011-12 Agreement.

One piece of good news is that where we were exceeding the Agreement amounts, RSA reported that OVR has taken steps to ensure that respective entities in the CBWTP Agreement are not over paid and providing a closer review of these payments to be tied to services provided to the consumer. Therefore RSA considers this particular issue closed.

### Mentoring Update

Mentors, mark your calendars. We are planning the fall training and have it scheduled for October 25-27. More details are to come.

## KADB Socialization Event

*“Volunteers “horse around” with deaf-blind consumers”*

On June 4th, members of the Kentucky Association for the Deaf-Blind (KADB) participated in a horseback riding event in Owingsville.

OVR and OFB State Coordinators for the Deaf-Blind (SCDB) have long played an active role with KADB, which is a consumer driven group designed to address issues related to deafblindness.

Socialization is perhaps the most valuable attributes of KADB as members gather several times a year participating in an assortment of activities.

What makes this story special is that it demonstrates the power of teamwork and service.

Americorp volunteer, Jessica Cornett, who is working with OVR Deaf-blind coordinator Jeffrey Fischer in Lexington, made it her mission to make this event possible. She brought her idea to the attention of Robin Little of Rockin' R Farms from the Mt. Sterling area who graciously offered her time, horses, and heart free of charge with help from Paul Stamper from Mountain View Farm. Stamper provided a covered wagon ride for the participants.

Little also instructs a drill team of young ladies, the 4-H Licking River Valley Riders, who also volunteered in the event.

To add to the generosity, the Lions Club of Owingsville allowed the use of their facilities at no charge.

Cornett also sought out donations in order to provide a meal for participants. Not only did she receive loads of food and drinks, she also received financial contributions to offset any additional costs.

Dorothy Brame, SCDB from OFB, provided transportation for most of the participants from all over Western Kentucky. She spent the greater part of that Saturday on the road.

She says that in the end, it was more than worth a little of her time just to see their expressions when they first touched or rode the horses.

OVR also had staff interpreter volunteers, Ruth Bradley and Tom King, who

provided some much needed assistance in communicating with the individuals involved.

A special thanks needs to be given to Jessica Cornett who brought together KADB, OVR, OFB, Lions Club, 4-H Club, sponsors, and volunteers to provide what could be a once in a lifetime experience for those we serve at OVR. Not for money, recognition, or even a grade, but because she could. A true testament to the power of service.

For more information on Rockin' R Farms (for lessons, trail riding, parties) please call Mrs. Little at 859-585-0758.



Above, Participant Paula Caldwell speaks with Staff Interpreter Tom King during a riding event sponsored by KADB. Below, Shannon Caldwell brushes one off the horses used during these socialization event in June. .



## 2011 AT/Transition Conference

*"Annual conference spotlights OVR partnerships"*

Once again in 2011, OVR joined forces with the Human Development Institute (HDI) and Agrability at the University of Kentucky, as well as the Kentucky Assistive Technology Loan Corporation (KATLC) to put on the 8th Annual Institute on Assistive Technology & Transition. The two-day event took place June 16-17 at the Goodbarn on UK's campus.

The training is held every year to provide professional development opportunities for: rehabilitation technologists, professionals serving people with disabilities, and consumers and families with a focus on new technologies and applications. More than 100 people attended the two day series of workshops.

For the second year a transition track was provided on day 1 for professionals who work with students moving from secondary education into the workplace or, in some cases, post-secondary education opportunities. Jeff Bradford, Director of the Supported Higher Education Project at HDI, opened the transition track talking about

the OVR pilot project his group partners with that gives some students with significant intellectual disabilities an opportunity to attend college.

"It is important that every person who wants an opportunity to give college a try, gets the chance," Bradford said. "Programs like ours have worked in other places and have profoundly affected the lives of the participants and the

people around them. Not only are these students engaged in doing the things most college students do, they are developing interpersonal skills, learning to do things that will lead to a vocation and ultimately in becoming successful for a lifetime."

Other topics from the transition side included a presentation from another OVR partner, Jackie Marquette on autism in the workforce, an update from Transition Coordinator Vickey Reilly and an overview of the Bluegrass Challenge program for troubled youth.

The AT side presented two full days of information covering a wide spectrum of topics including: funding, supported employment, safety and injury prevention, role of interpreters in the job search and several others. There were also several sessions that demonstrated the latest technology and how it is being utilized to help people with disabilities on the job, in the classroom and to find and/or maintain employment.

Discussions for next year's conferences are already underway.



Top left, SHEP Director Jeff Bradford talks about post-secondary education for people with intellectual disabilities. Bottom left, conference goers learn about funding for assistive technology. Top right, Jackie Marquette presents on Autism in the Workplace. Bottom right, OVR Counselor Kristen Beach enjoys a laugh with Branch Manager Jonathan White.

## Meet Council Member Mark Jackson

*"Inventor brings talent to OVR Statewide Council"*

Mark Jackson was appointed to the Statewide Council of Vocational Rehabilitation in the summer of 2010. A past consumer of services, Mark sustained a closed head injury in 1981 at age 16 resulting in a six week coma and affecting his fine motor skills and his sense of balance.

Since then he has worked as a bicycle mechanic intern responsible for assembling and performing general maintenance on bicycles. Mark also started a successful lawn care service in 1998 and works full time in the summer months.

Mark graduated from the Carl D. Perkins Vocational Training Center

in 2001, completing a course in Small Engine Repair. He has also attended classes in drafting and has knowledge of designing and mechanics. Since 1998, he has been a volunteer co-organizer of the Appalachian Bike Tour, an annual college scholarship fundraiser.

Mark is the inventor of the Jackson Peg Tube Stand and formed Jackson Peg Tube Stands, LLC in 2003. The company sells an assistive device for individuals who are feeding tube dependent.

Mark and his wife, Tina, live in Louisa, Kentucky.



SCVR Council Member Mark Jackson demonstrates the peg tube holder he invented for his wife Tina (also pictured).

Article Submitted by Dave Matheis

## Meet Council Member Jane Smith

*"Veteran counselor fills OVR appointee position on SCVR"*



Jane Smith began her career with OVR in 1987 as an assistant at the regional office in Bowling Green. Jane worked as an assistant for 10 years while attending college.

Jane received a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Western Kentucky University graduating Cum Laude in August 1997 and became a counselor

that same month. She received a Master of Education with an emphasis in Rehabilitation Counseling from Auburn University in December 2001 and earned her CRC in 2002. She currently serves as a counselor in Allen County, as well as the district specialist in self-employment. And as the supervisor of the Glasgow field office.

Jane has been very active in the Kentucky Rehabilitation Association (KRA) and has held every office the association offers at some point in her career. She is currently a board member of KRA and she will serve as President-Elect of the Southeast Region National Rehabilitation Association beginning in 2012.

Jane also represents her district on the Barren River Workforce Investment Board and previously served on

the Executive Committee of that Board. She is a mentor for new counselors and she successfully completed both phases of the agency's Academy of Leadership Exploration and Preparedness Program.

Jane is married and has two daughters and she states that her blessings (her four grandsons) call her, "Nana."

## Save the Date Upcoming Meetings

### Statewide Council for Vocational Rehabilitation (SCVR) / Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) Joint Meeting

Monday, September, 2011 - 1:00-4:00 pm  
Marriott Griffin Gate Resort  
1800 Newtown Pike  
Lexington, KY 40511  
(SCVR & SILC will conduct quarterly meetings separately from 8:00 am -12:00 pm)

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

Wednesday, September 28 2011 - 9:00 a.m.  
Charles McDowell Center  
8412 Westport Road  
Louisville, KY 40242

## NEWS BITS



Pictured are Perkins Center students (front row): Subastian Moffett, Ashley Allen, Rachelle Spence, Brian Passmore, Krissy Moermond, and Devony Turner. (Back row): Dennis Windham, Ryan Blanchett, Randy Davis, Whitley Damron, Hannah

### **CDPVTC students help raise money for Prestonsburg Autism program**

Students from the Carl D. Perkins Vocational Training Center recently participated in the Changing Lives 5K run/walk in honor of Autism Awareness Month.

Students completed a five-week conditioning program lead by Center staff in preparation for the three-mile course and enjoyed participating in this community event. All proceeds raised from the 5K benefit the Highlands Center for Autism in Prestonsburg.

### **Julie Wade joins Central Office staff**

Julie Wade, counselor in Somerset, recently accepted a new position with the Program Planning & Development Branch of OVR.

Her principal duties include coordinating job placement activities, providing technical assistance to the agency's job placement specialists and substance abuse specialists, and organizing and conducting meetings of the Job Placement Team. She will also provide technical assistance on PACE, coordinate the agency's self-employment initiative, and function as a resource person on ex-offender issues, among other duties.

Julie boasts an impressive education background. She received a bachelor degree in psychology with a minor in special education from Eastern Kentucky University. She furthered her education obtaining her MRC from the University of Kentucky and eventually her CRC as well.

She has been with OVR since January, 2005. Julie and her husband Cary have three grown children, Josh, Amanda, and Brandon.

### **Janis Friend inducted into Lions Club Hall of Fame**

On June 29th, OVR Branch Manager Janis Friend

was inducted into the Lion's Club Hall of Fame. John Shouse made the following comments during his introduction of Janis. "This year's winner far exceeds even those rigid standards. This Lion is still working but still finds time to make almost all of the meetings and has done about everything this club has asked this Lion to do. Janis has served as a Director, 2nd Vice President, 1st Vice President and then served as President. She is a silver life patron, a Melvin Jones Fellow a Finis Davis Fellow. Janis also served on the Endowment board and has been selected by the Lions Club as Lion of the Year!" Her daughter and son-in-law and grandchildren were present at this special event.



### **2011 Job Placement Month (cont.)**

ilariously demonstrated inappropriate behaviors while taking orders and serving lunch to students followed by a wrap-up session where students and staff discussed what should have happened.

Week 2 - A speaker provided information to students receiving SSI detailing how much they can earn and keep their benefits. Week 3 - Students and staff held a fashion show demonstrating the do's and don'ts of appropriate work attire. Week 4 - Students participated in an afternoon of team building exercises to highlight and demonstrate how they can often achieve more while working in a team.

**Central Office** - Juanita Shackelford from the Department of Aging and Independent Living (DAIL) spoke at the OVR Leadership Meeting of central office administrators and field managers about the Senior Community Service Employment Program. Also Ron Crouch with OET gave a presentation on the demographic, educational, workforce and economic trends that will impact OVR consumers in their efforts to enter the job market.

**Interagency Coordinating Committee** - Willie Byrd presented on the Best Buy Initiative to the Interagency Coordinating Committee of the OVR Statewide Council.

## Employee Spotlight Presents “The Exit Interviews” (cont.)

“Kathie Regan ”

GARDEN AT THE KENTUCKY HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

### 4. Any memories of your early days?

I WOULD PACK UP AND HEAD OUT ON SUNDAY NIGHTS TO ONE OF THE OVR DISTRICTS. I WOULD PROMOTE THE PROGRAM, EDUCATE COUNSELORS ON TECHNOLOGY AND WHICH CONSUMERS WOULD BE AN APPROPRIATE REFERRAL, PROVIDED DRIVER EVALUATION'S, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME EDUCATING PHYSICIANS, STATE POLICE, MEDICAL REVIEW BOARDS AND DRIVER LICENSE EXAMINERS, RETURN HOME ON FRIDAY NIGHT AND START OVER AGAIN ON SUNDAY. I WANTED TO TEACH KENTUCKY HISTORY, BUT INSTEAD I GOT TO GO TO ALL 120 COUNTIES MANY TIMES OVER. I DIDN'T GET TO TEACH I GOT TO LEARN BY SEEING, TOUCHING, SMELLING, DRIVING BACKROADS, SOMETIMES OFF THE BEATEN PATH... WHAT A LIFE. I HAVE A PICTURE OF ALL 120 KENTUCKY COURTHOUSE'S.

### 5. What are favorite and least favorite things about your job?

THIS WAS NOT A JOB, IT WAS A LIFE. FAVORITE ...THE LOOK ON THE CONSUMERS FACES WITH A NEW DRIVER LICENSE, MOTHERS THAT CRIED WHEN THEIR CHILD DROVE AWAY ALONE FOR THE FIRST TIME AND CONSUMERS THAT GOT A JOB BECAUSE THEY HAD THE OWN PERSONAL TRANSPORTATION. I'M SURE THERE WERE SOME LEAST FAVORITE THINGS---I JUST DON'T REMEMBER WHAT THEY WERE. OH IT COULD BE THAT TIME IN EAST KY I HAD TO GO IN THE HOUSE WITH THE CAGED RATTLESNAKES OR MAYBE THAT TIME IN WEST KY I GOT STUCK IN THE CREEK, OR THE TIME IN SOMERSET WHEN THE BULL CHASED ME OR THE TIME ...

### 6. Anything you want to say about coworkers?

I LOVE EVERYONE I HAVE WORKED WITH. I HAVE HAD THE WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE OF BEING IN EVERY DISTRICT OFFICE AND HAVE MADE LIFE-LONG FRIENDS. IT'S SAD FOR ME TO THINK THERE ARE SOME OF MY CO-WORKERS THAT I HAVE

SEEN FOR THE LAST TIME. I KNOW EACH AND EVERYONE OF THE OVR EMPLOYEES ARE HERE FOR THE SAME REASON, THEIR PASSION FOR THE OVR CONSUMER.

### 7. Who was your unofficial mentor?

GERALD WILLIAMS - HE NOT ONLY TAUGHT ME ABOUT OVR, HE TAUGHT ME TO LOVE LIFE. HE WAS AMAZING AS HE WOULD WHEEL HIS WHEELCHAIR AROUND AND TEACH PEOPLE ABOUT ATTITUDINAL BARRIERS. HE IS THE REASON THE KENTUCKY DRIVER REHABILITATION PROGRAM WAS THE FIRST STATE NOT TO HAVE ATTITUDE BARRIERS FROM THE STATE POLICE, MEDICAL REVIEW BOARD AND DRIVER LICENSE EXAMINER'S. I HOPE ONE DAY THE KENTUCKY OVR DRIVER REHABILITATION PROGRAM IS A RECIPIENT OF THE AWARD THAT BEARS HIS NAME.



### 8. Would you do anything different if given the opportunity? (personally or professionally)

LEARNED EARLIER TO NOT TAKE SOME CHANGES AS PERSONAL AND NOT TO ALLOW MY PERSONAL FEELINGS TO HAVE BEEN HURT. I SHOULD HAVE REMEMBERED THAT THIS PROGRAM WAS GOD'S PLAN NOT MY PLAN AND NOTHING COULD HAVE CHANGED THE PROGRAM FROM SERVING THE CONSUMERS.

### 9.Plans for the future?

I'VE TRADED IN MY HEELS AND SUITS FOR JEANS, BOOTS AND A DODGE RAM PICK UP TRUCK. I HAVE AN AMERICAN QUARTER HORSE, A 10-WEEK-OLD REDBONE COONHOUND AND A BARN. THAT'S WERE I CAN BE FOUND SO COME ON DOWN.

### 10..Anything you would like to add?

TO THE YOUNG STAFF ROLL WITH THE PUNCHES. DON'T GET BENT OUT OF SHAPE OVER THE SMALL STUFF. KEEP YOUR FOCUS ON WHO YOU SERVE AND WHEN YOUR RETIREMENT TIME COMES I HOPE YOU LOOK BACK AT ONLY THE GOOD TIMES. EVERYDAY IS A GOOD DAY WHEN YOU HAVE SERVED ANOTHER PERSON. GOD BLESS AND COME SEE ME ON THE TRAIL.

## Employee Spotlight Presents “The Exit Interviews” (cont.)

“Charlie Crigger”

### 7. What changes have you seen over the years?

THE NUMBER OF CONSUMERS NEEDING SERVICES AND OUR ABILITY TO PROVIDE THOSE SERVICES. WE HAVE MORE MONEY THESE DAYS BUT THE COST OF MEDICAL SERVICES IS SO HIGH NOW, WE HAVE A HARD TIME KEEPING UP.

### 8. What are favorite and least favorite things about your job?

WELL THE LEAST FAVORITE THING ABOUT MY JOB IS NOT SEEING THE CONSUMER SUCCEED LIKE I DID AS A COUNSELOR. YOU DON'T HAVE THAT ONE ON ONE RELATIONSHIP. THE BEST THING ABOUT MY JOB NOW IS SEEING THE STAFF GROW AND DEVELOP, AND HAVING INPUT IN THE DIRECTION OF THE AGENCY. I LIKE THAT.

### 9. Anything you want to say about coworkers?

HEY, THE WEST LIBERTY DISTRICT IS THE BEST DISTRICT IN THE STATE AND I WILL TRULY MISS WORKING WITH THE STAFF.

### 10. Who was your unofficial mentor?

IN THE EARLY YEARS IT WAS ERNIE PENNINGTON AND NOW IT IS JACK CLINE. BOTH ARE GOOD FRIENDS AND BOTH REALLY KNOW REHAB.

### 11. Would you do anything different if given the opportunity? (Personally or professionally)

NO, I LOVE OVR AND VERY PROUD TO SAY I WORK FOR THIS AGENCY.

### 12. Any plans for the future?

WELL, I HAVE A REAL ESTATE LICENSE AND AN APPRAISAL LICENSE, SO I WILL DO SOME WORK IN

THIS AREA BUT PLAN TO TRAVEL AND WORK ON MY GOLFING SKILLS.

### 13. Anything you would like to add?

WE HAVE A GREAT AGENCY AND WONDERFUL PEOPLE TO WORK WITH, APPRECIATE YOUR WORK AND DO THE BEST YOU CAN DO FOR THE DISABLED POPULATION IN KY.

I LOVE EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU.



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

The Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, religion, or marital status in employment, or provision of services and provides, upon request, reasonable accommodation including auxiliary aids and services necessary to afford individuals with disabilities an equal opportunity to participate in all program activities.

(Jason Jones - Editor)

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