

August 2008

Volume 1, Issue 3



The Rehab Council Connection

A Quarterly e-Newsletter

Our Volunteer Members

Jeffrey Abe-Gunter
Spokane

JoAnne Butts
Orting

Sandra Carr
Spokane

Sharey Cleveland
Nespelem

Lou Colwell
Seattle

Kimmer Gordon
Blaine

John Harrison
Olympia

Rudy Hernandez
Burien

Jerry Johnsen
Seattle

Jim Larson
Olympia

Carol Maher
Olympia

Martin McCallum
Council Chair
Olympia

William Murray
Wenatchee

Lynnae Rutledge
DVR Director
Ex-officio
Olympia

Bob Roberts
Spokane

Kris Tefft
Olympia

A Systemic Look at the Transition from High School to Work

The success of every VR process depends on effective partnerships. In the case of supporting young people with disabilities to make the transition from high school to work and beyond, partnerships are even more critical. There is ongoing discussion about promising practices such as Project SEARCH nationally and locally. Still, multiple approaches are necessary to address the systemic challenges facing transitioning students.

The role of the WSRC is to examine the systemic issues which impact DVR's success and to make recommendations to address them. To aid us in making informed recommendations, we invited four experts to present at our July quarterly meeting. Maureen Roberts, a VRC Lead from the Kent office, is well regarded by the field and partners statewide for her work with transitioning students. She helped us focus the discussion on DVR's role

in the process of the transition from high school to work. Cinda Johnson, of the Center for Change in Transition Services at Seattle University, approached the topic from a macro level by presenting survey data on graduation rates and the numbers of Special Education students working or pursuing higher education after graduation. Our own Lou Colwell, with the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, addressed federal requirements and OSPI's role in monitoring local schools' implementation of special education laws and policies. Finally, Karen Blaine of Washington PAVE provided suggestions about how DVR can better support parents and students negotiating the transition from high school to work.

Considering these varied perspectives on transition was a step in the Council's effort to prepare recommendations designed to support DVR to increase its success with young customers. The Executive Committee will prepare draft recommendations for the consideration of the full Council in October.

SAVE THE DATE WSRC Customer Forum

October 16, 2008
5:30-7:30

Tentative Location
Doubletree Hotel
Seattle Airport
18740 International
Boulevard

* Light Refreshments
& ASL Interpretation
provided
*Nearest bus routes
194 and 174

To RSVP or to request
reasonable
accommodation
contact
JoAnne Lang at:
langjk@dshs.wa.gov

Inside this Issue

Transition	1
CAP a Resource	2
Tefft Promotes Prosperity	2
Celebrating Pratt	3



The Client Assistance Program is a Resource in the VR Process

When to Engage CAP

For Information about services offered by Vocational Rehabilitation, Services for the Blind, and Projects with Industry, Tribal VR, Independent Living Centers, or your rights under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

To understand your rights and responsibilities as an applicant or customer of these programs;

To solve case concerns through negotiation;

For help with administrative processes.

Contact CAP at:
1-800-209-2011 [v]
1-888-721-6072 [tty]
caprogram@qwestoffice.net

CAP and the Law

The Client Assistance Program is a private non-profit organization. It is established under Title 1, Section 112 (c) (1) (a) of the Rehabilitation Act. It is funded by the federal government.

In Washington State CAP has authority under WAC 388-891-220 to assist DVR customers to advocate regarding individual case concerns.

The Client Assistance Program (CAP) may be the best resource you were unaware of in the VR process.

CAP is a tool for those who have reached a bottleneck with their individual plan for employment, but it can be a good resource for counselors as well. Last year alone, CAP advocated for 250 clients and provided information and referral for an additional 200 people who inquired. Jerry Johnsen has been the Director of CAP for 15 years. Johnsen, full of energy, and even more opinions, takes a complex view of the role of CAP.

“We are serious about calling people on the stuff they need to see to be successful. We are not an advocacy program that moves ahead without helping the clients understand what they need to consider to overcome the barriers to employment.

Part of getting the best deal for our clients involves working with staff to come up with positive options and creative solutions.”

CAP is a reliable source of independent information. The program supports customers to take an active role in advocating for themselves. Whether you are a customer or a counselor the WSRC hopes you will not hesitate to work with CAP staff to support the success and integrity of the VR process.

Kris Tefft Promotes Prosperity for All



Kris Tefft WSRC Member

Kris Tefft is the kind of ally DVR needs to build inroads to employers statewide. Governor Gregoire appointed Tefft to the State Rehabilitation Council in August 2007. Tefft, a father of four, who lives and works in Olympia, is the General Counsel for the Association of Washington Business (AWB). He advises the Association’s members on employment law and represents their interests before the Legislature and the State Supreme Court, where he previously worked as a clerk.

Tefft came to work for AWB after earning his law degree from Notre Dame. The Association offered him a rare opportunity to work on matters of law and policy in the political arena. AWB is a member-driven industry group that advocates for policies which allow small and large businesses to remain competitive. Tefft believes that the opportunity to prosper should be extended to everyone who is willing to work, a belief that motivates him to serve on the Council. Although there are instances when AWB takes position on Legislation that some

disability advocates oppose, Tefft sees more common ground than difference. He says, “The Council has highlighted that living with disabilities requires people to adapt and that a qualified individual with a disability who wants to work could market his or her ability to adapt or innovate as a valuable skill set. This is a point that I have not heard raised before. It provides a positive message and an effective way of interfacing with the employer community.” The Council and our partners at DVR are pleased to be collaborating with Kris and the Association for Washington Business.

To learn more about the Association for Washington Business visit: www.awb.org or call (360) 943-1600

The WSRC

4565-7th Ave SE, 1st floor
P.O. Box 45343
Olympia, WA 98504-5343

PHONE:
1 (866) 252-2939

FAX:
(360) 407-3899

E-MAIL:
brounjm@dshs.wa.gov



We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.wastrehabcouncil.org

Celebrating the Service of Linda Pratt

Linda Pratt is the genuine article. She is a tireless advocate for tribal members, particularly those with disabilities, who want to go to work. Linda is less concerned about making people comfortable than naming inequity for what it is.

During her four years of volunteer service with the WSRC, which ended in May, there was never a doubt that Linda focused her attention on the success of the tribal people of Washington State. She was also a fierce advocate for young tribal members with disabilities. Linda was a dedicated member of our Council and of our Interagency Liaison Committee. She worked to achieve cultural



Linda Pratt

awareness between the Toppenish School District and the Yakama Tribe. The Council celebrated Linda's service at our July quarterly meeting. We appreciate her assistance in recruiting Sharey Cleveland of the Colville Confederated Tribes to help the WSRC consider tribal interests.

What would happen if all people with disabilities, eligible to vote in Washington State, did?

IT WOULD BE BIG!

Find answers to questions commonly asked by voters with disabilities at:
<http://www.secstate.wa.gov/elections/accessible-voting.html>



Help the WSRC Spread the Word

To subscribe or unsubscribe to this newsletter, contact Joelle Brouner at brounjm@dshs.wa.gov, or call (360) 725-3690

WSRC
4565-7th Ave SE, 1st floor
P.O. Box 45343
Olympia, WA 98504-5343



**COMING STRAIGHT TO YOU
QUARTERLY
FROM CYBERSPACE**