

FLORIDA REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION (FRA)

FLORIDA
REHABILITATION
ASSOCIATION

2014 NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 7

Striving to make a difference



FRA Conference Hotel

The 2014 FRA conference attendees were housed at the beautiful Florida Hotel located in Orlando, Florida. This hotel is adjacent to the Florida Mall and afforded guests the opportunity to shop and dine without exiting the hotel. Access was by way of an internal entrance into the mall.



FRA Conference Site



Message from the President

Dear Rehabilitation Friends:

On behalf of your Florida Rehabilitation Association (FRA) board members, I'd like to welcome you to our annual newsletter. I sincerely hope you find it entertaining and enlightening.

Goodwill Industries of Central Florida, Inc. hosted our 2014 FRA training conference in Orlando, Florida. Many of us were in awe of the facility and gratified that we were able to accommodate 130 FRA conference participants comfortably. The conference was tremendously successful and covered topics such as working with ex-offenders, serving veterans with PTSD, service animals, and the Discovery process. The participants were able to receive a total of 13.5 contact hours for certification maintenance.

This year, FRA sponsored a year-long National Rehabilitation Association (NRA) membership for one lucky participant. Please join me in congratulating Ms. Elizabeth Aragon for winning this membership and becoming the newest annual member of the NRA. Planning for the next annual FRA conference will start soon. We ask for any topics of interest you may have. We strive to improve our conference each year.

Be well,

Donna

Ethics: If it's not broken, don't fix it!!

Presenter: Ronald J. Spitznagel, Ed.D., CVE, CRC



This Ethics workshop provided an introduction to the concept of ethics and the importance of ethics in the rehabilitation counseling field. Dr. Spitznagel traced ethics through the history of counseling and rehabilitation services, including the most recent code of ethics document for Certified Rehabilitation Counselors (CRC's). Attendees were actively engaged in the many facets of ethical considerations and actions. Participants were able to use the CRC Code of Professional ethics as a tool to guide and assist rehabilitation counselors to successfully navigate the ethical dilemmas that occur in rehabilitation practice and daily life.



FRA Board meeting

The FRA Board meeting resulted in an update on the financial, membership and programmatic aspects of the association. Membership remains at 126 and the financial status is strong.



Pictured above: Gene Hefflin, Beverly Coleman and Therin Short (Re-entry specialists via Goodwill Industries located at the Orange County jail)

Community partnerships are crucial for employment re-entry services for incarcerated people. Utilizing multiple approaches, life skills training and job placement assistance were discussed.

Pictured below: Conference attendees



Above: Milton L. Moss and associates

School-to-Work services are crucially important for students with disabilities seeking employment. Ten best practices for counselors and supervisors were discussed. A discussion panel reviewed the best practices. Panel consisted of Blind Services, Vocational Rehabilitation, Veterans Association, Private Rehabilitation and Postsecondary Education.



Pictured Above: *Aleisa McKinlay, Director, Florida Division of Vocational Rehabilitation*

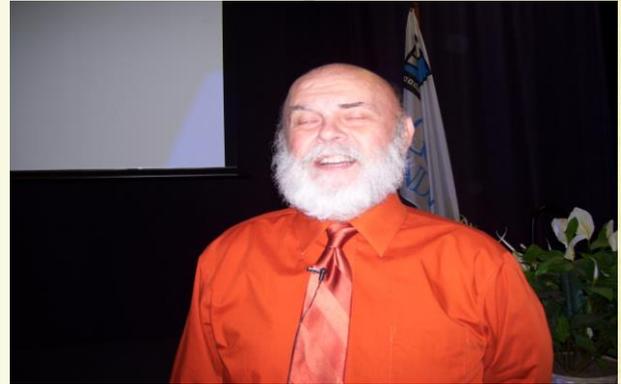
A DVR update was provided. A budget overhaul has occurred. Category 1-3 category have been placed on a waiting list but folks considered category one as coming off of the waiting list. 7214 – 26’s have occurred, which is an 11% increase from previous year.



Pictured above: *Tammy Jorgensen Smith, Ph.D., CRC*

The discovery process was presented as the first step in the customized employment process. It assists in the development of a vocational profile that provides a descriptive picture of the job seeker. By definition, customized employment is “competitive integrated employment” for a client with severe disabilities”. It was indicated that the counselor needs to learn about the client through interaction and the reviewing of records. Discovery starts at home, then expands to the community. You discover familiar and novel activities the client may enjoy or would like to pursue.

Pictured below: Harry McEwen, who discussed Wonderful Service Animals: The life of a service dog and how their use is misinterpreted.



Pictured below: Karla Wooten, who discussed Vocational Evaluations: Gateway to the Future. The interpretation of testing results and the use of these results were discussed.



Donna Jorgensen Smith

FRA Board Members

Donna Farrell, President

Denise Giarrusso, Treasurer

Andrea Meloin, Secretary

Madeline Davidson, Membership Chair

Tina Dillahunt-Aspillaga, Legislative Chair

William Hudson, Sr., Newsletter Editor

Board Members at Large

Don Barnes

Harry McEwen

Linda Rimmer

Karla Wooten

Chapters

*Pam Hunter, President
of Tampa Bay FRA Chapter*

We wish to thank the Goodwill Industries of Central Florida and our own Linda Rimmer for the use of their facilities and the hospitality shown to the attendees and the FRA Board. You are much appreciated.

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Entrance to the Florida Hotel

On behalf of the FRA Board, I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank each of the FRA 2014 conference attendees for their time and commitment to our organization. We strive to make a difference.

Bill Hudson, Sr., Editor

Visit FRA at floridarehabilitationassociation.org