**FRA Conference**

The 2018 FRA annual training conference was held at the beautiful Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress hotel located in Orlando, Florida. This hotel with its spacious landscaped grounds and multiple venues afforded guests the opportunity to enjoy the amenities, shop and dine without exiting the hotel grounds.

**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.

Once again, we were proud to be able to host our 2018 FRA training conference in Orlando, Florida at the Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress. The facility was immaculate and accommodated the FRA conference participants comfortably. The topics were relevant and informative. The participants were able to receive a total of 14.5 contact hours for CRC and CVE certification.

The topics were of current interest which affects all of us in our profession and beyond. While selecting topics of current crisis areas we continued our efforts to strive to improve our awareness and ability to provide adequate and appropriate services to clients. The major way to accomplish this is through an annual conference each year.

Sincerely,

Denese
Enhancing Employability Through Executive Skills Development
Presenter: Lance O. Hastings

The following Areas of executive function were presented and discussed. 1. Learning 2. Thinking 3. Attention 4. Memory 5. Flexibility 6. Communication and 7. Social/Emotional Cognition

Pictured below: Dr. Nikki Panasci and Dr. Dryan Batien

FRA Board meeting

The FRA Board meeting was called to order at 4:40PM. The conference call of 5/22/18 was reviewed and accepted. The treasurer’s report was given. This report included an update on the investment and checking accounts. Total balance for all accounts are $48,000. It is anticipated that the cost of the 2018 conference may result in the red or barely breaking even with the allotted budget. Membership has increased to 138 active members, up from 126. An update was provided from the Tampa Bay Chapter was given by John Ficca, Tampa Bay Chapter Treasurer. The planning for the 2019 FRA conference has begun. The proposed dates are 9/4-6/19. The topics for presentations will be discussed at a later date. There are two potential candidates for board membership at large. Further discussion will be held at the next FRA conference call.

Opioids: A Wolf in Sheep’s Clothing
Presenter: Aaron Norton (see picture below)

This conference workshop provided an introduction to the opioids epidemic and the importance of understanding treatment methods in the rehabilitation counseling field. The difference between and assist rehabilitation counselors to successfully navigate the ethical dilemmas that occur in rehabilitation practice and daily life.

Customized Employment Strategies: Demystifying the Process for Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors’ ACCESS
A general overview of the RSA grant for scholars in the USF ACCESS program.

Above: Dr. Tammy Jorgensen-Smith and Dr. Christina Dillahunt-Aspillaga

“Opioids: A Wolf in Sheep’s Clothing”
A DVR update was provided. There are 2.5 million individuals with disabilities in the State of Florida. There are 100,000 students with disabilities in the State of Florida. There are 18-19,000 students 14–21 years of age being served in the State of Florida. The order of selection is being emphasized more closely. There is a fee study being done by the George Washington University for the State of Florida.

A DBS update was indicated provided. Engagement with universities was emphasized. There is a reorganization of supervisors taking place. It is anticipated that this reorganization will result in salary increases.

DBS is looking forward to working with the University of Washington on the provision of services. A few of the areas of emphasis discussed were 1. Pre-employment Transition 2. Direct Services Expenditures 3. Work Incentive Counselors (shortage of vendors 4. Workman Compensation 5. Common Performance Measures. Vision 2020 and National messaging was briefly discussed.

Pictured above: Allison Flanagan, Director, Florida Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

Pictured below: Left to right Antonio Reyes, Alyssa Scott and Chava Litwin who discussed the Positive impacts regarding Veterans’ outlook and perspective in finding employment after participation in the VA-Vocational Rehabilitation’s Job Club in Tampa, Florida.

Pictured above: Robert Doyle, Director, Florida Division of Blind Services

Pictured below: Dorjan Kraja presented with Dr. Christina Dillahunt-Aspillaga on Providing Client Supports: Practical and Ethical Considerations. The presenters outlined when appropriate and with consent from clients, rehabilitation counselors enlists the support and involvement of others (family members, friends, guardians, as well as community and spiritual leaders).
The FRA Board would like to take this opportunity to thank all FRA 2018 conference attendees for their dedication, time and commitment to our organization.

We strive to make a difference.

Bill Hudson, Sr., Ph.D., CRC, CHS, Editor

Visit FRA at floridarehabilitationassociation.org