

FLORIDA REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION



Volume 1 / Issue 1

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Thank you all for your continued support of the FRA. On behalf of the board, we thank you for your service through COVID 19, the changing of staff, the changes in leadership and whatever else have been thrown your way. You have improved the lives of so many people and we at FRA are so proud of you.

On behalf of your FRA board, I'd like to welcome you to our conference newsletter. Once again, we were proud to be able to host our 2022 training conference in Orlando, Florida at the Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress. The facility was immaculate and accommodated the FRA conference participants comfortably.

Dorjan Kraja, CRC



FRA CONFERENCE

The 2022 FRA annual training conference was held at the beautiful Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress hotel located in Orlando, Florida. The spacious landscaped grounds and multiple venues afforded conference attendees a relaxed and accommodating venue.

Topics Covered:

Dr. Paul Stiles: Ethics Overview with focus on Conflict of Interest and End of Life Issues

This presentation describes Ethics as the study of morality. The professional ethics code was presented and discussed. Several case studies were presented and briefly discussed. Foundations review of informed consent was presented. Three elements of consent:

1. Knowledge – Disclosure/Information & Understanding
2. Voluntariness
3. Competence

Heather Campbell, MA and Ben Cuttler, MA: Ableism

Disability (physical or mental) impairment was defined. Several types of disabilities were presented and discussed. Models of disability (medical and social). Ableism and inclusion were defined. Forms and expressions of ableism were presented and discussed.

VR Director Brent McNeal & DBS Director Robert Doyle

A DVR update revealed that there is a staff shortage statewide. 21% of fulltime positions are vacant. A legislative budget and recommendations have been submitted and approved by the Department of Education on 9/15/22. Salary upgrade was included. Qualification upgrade and promotion was also included.

Field staff seminar and training continues. A town hall meeting has been held. It was announced that Moore Consulting Group is being utilized for Outreach. Improving the quality of services is being stressed. Improving outcomes was also discussed and is being stressed. A collaboration with Able trust was announced. 646 business partners were announced. 351 outreach activities were announced. 98 is the medium caseload for counselors. It was reported that 55% of counselors are staying in DVR less than a year.

A DBS update revealed that there is a vacancy rate of 25%. An assessment tool has been implemented and completed by Karen Wolf. The assessment targeted vocational needs for the blind and the visually impaired.

It was announced that there is a new bureau chief in Daytona Beach, Florida. It was announced that electric charging stations are being installed at interstate rest areas. DBS is continuing its collaborative efforts with DVR and BEES. Vocational placements can start at age 14.

Dr. Kristen Kosyluk: Stigma as Trauma: Recommendations for Considering and Addressing Stigma as a Source of Trauma
Disclosure and stigma were presented and divided into types which included public, self, and structural stigma. Label avoidance was presented as a strategy.

Dr. Christina Dillahunt-Aspillaga & TBD: Reintegration of Youth with Traumatic Brain Injuries
Reintegration of youth with traumatic brain injuries was presented by Dr. Christina Dillahunt-Aspillaga (pictured below). Brain injury was defined as 1. Closed brain injury – no penetration of skull, 2. Open brain injury – skull is penetrated and Nontraumatic brain injury – stroke, cardiac arrest tumor or anoxia.

Dr. Aaron Norton: The Rehabilitation Professional’s Survival / “Turn It Up” Telehealth: Breaking the “Basics” Barrier with Engaging Interventions for Work Ambivalence, Trauma, OCD, and Anxiety Disorders
Strategies for burnout prevention, coping and mitigation were discussed. The development of time management and organizational strategies were presented. Additionally, somatic quieting and grounding techniques, sublimation, distraction techniques, social supports, prompts, cues, and symbols were presented.

We are striving to make a difference!

CONFERENCE PICTURES



CONFERENCE ORGANIZED BY THE FRA BOARD

Christina Dillahunt-Aspillaga
Devin Lessne
Don Barnes
Alyssa Scott
Donna Farrell, Membership Chair
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Dorjan Kraja, President
Kristin Kosyluk
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NEWSLETTER

The FRA Board would like to take this opportunity to thank all FRA 2022 conference attendees for their dedication and commitment to our organization and the Vocational Rehabilitation profession.

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



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www.FloridaRehabilitationAssociation.org