

BRAG AND STEAL 2015

Iowa Rehabilitation Association-Job Placement Division

Culture of Collaboration

Friday, June 26, 2015

FFA Enrichment Center -DMACC Ankeny Campus

8:00 – 8:30 am **Registration**

8:30 – 10:00am **General Session**

The Power of Collaboration – Brian Dennis

Brian S. Dennis, Disability Resource Coordinator-Iowa Employment Solutions at DMACC, has worked in disability and low-income services for the past 17 years. He has worked in residential care, mental health case management, for the local area Housing Authority; and now in education/training and employment services through the central Iowa Workforce Investment Act (WIA) provider. As a Disability Resource Coordinator; he is responsible for implementing a collaboration strategy called the Integrated Resource Team (IRT) which brings together public and private sector representatives; employers and service agencies to coordinate resources in order to meet the employment and service needs of job seekers with a disability.

Learning Objectives:

- Understanding the “3 traumas” which occur as job seekers attempt to move into employment.
- The need for collaboration with each of these traumas
- How to identify “champions” within agencies and employers
- Examples of the implementation of the IRT strategy.

10:00 – 10:15 am **Break**

10:15 – 11:45 am **Concurrent Sessions**

1. Life after Spinal Cord Injury: Learning How to Live Again -Jenna Batten

Jenna is a 25-year-old rehabilitation counseling student at Drake University. She is living with a cervical spinal cord injury as a result of a motor vehicle accident she was involved in just one month before her high school graduation in 2008. As a future counselor, advocate, and direct beneficiary of the effects associated with disability awareness (or lack thereof), she hopes to be a voice in helping break down the artificial barriers that make the able-bodied population look at the differently-abled population based on the differences between them rather than the similarities.

Learning Objectives:

How the body reacts to a cervical spinal cord injury:

-inflammation around the spinal cord (a.k.a. tethering) -body temperature regulation-
muscle spasms -blood pressure: hypotension & autonomic dysreflexia -decrease in
metabolism-circulation loss/increased blood clot risk- changes in ability to sweat-bone
density loss-neuropathic pain

Barriers: -Adjusting to loss of independence-fatigue-transportation & parking-
"accessible" bathrooms-lack of awareness

2. Assistive Technology Solutions for the Home and Office – Gary Johnson, and Kim Karwal,

Gary Johnson is the Coordinator of Community Programs, at Iowa Program for Assistive Technology. Accomplishing the Activities of Daily Living and the Assistive Technologies that allow people to perform to their full potential is the mission of the Iowa Program for Assistive Technology (IPAT) and Gary Johnson, Behavioral Health Consultant. Just as cell phones have changed the way we communicate, Assistive Devices allow us to accomplish tasks in different, often better ways. Today's computers, some of which fit into a pocket, can turn your speech into text, speak for you, be your photo album, allow visual phone calls and much more. Gary has used some of these features for over 8 years! Let's find out what can work for you or your clients.

Kim is currently a Rural Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Center Support Specialist at Easter Seals Iowa. Kim supports farm family members with disabilities and provides assistive technology support statewide for children and adults with disabilities and persons with special needs. Kim holds a Bachelor of Science from Iowa State University.

Learning Objectives:

This session will demonstrate and describe how Assistive Technology can be implemented in home and work situations to allow individuals with disabilities to be independent and gainfully employed in competitive employment. There will be a discussion of considerations for independence in the home setting, with a hands-on demonstration of various devices. In addition, this session will discuss considerations for work place accommodations and include a hands-on demonstration of various devices. Included will be an overview of the services and supports available through Easter Seals Iowa Assistive Technology Center and the Iowa Program for Assistive Technology.

11:45 am – 12:30 pm

Lunch

12:30 – 1:45 pm **General Session**

Service Collaboration for Clients Experiencing Vision Loss - Rosie Thierer & Shannon Oakley

Rosie Thierer, M.S., CRC is a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor at Iowa Department for the Blind. Rosie has 25 years of experience assisting person with vision loss choose careers, successfully complete training programs, and link with employers. Finding employment so that persons with vision loss can support themselves is the goal for each person she serves.

Shannon Oakley, M.S., CRC is a Transition Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor at Iowa Department for the Blind. She enjoys working with adolescents and adults on their goals as they navigate and transition from high school to the world beyond. Shannon is passionate about systems change and competitive employment for all.

Learning Objectives

Learn ways to partner with Iowa Department for the Blind for clients served experiencing vision loss. Accommodations, technology, and employer relationships shared. Explanation of services across the lifespan for clients with blindness, visual impairments, reading and physical disabilities.

1:45 – 3:00 pm **Concurrent Sessions**

1. Community and Work Strategies: Helping Brain Injury Survivors Manage Cognitive Challenges – Dave Anders, On with Life Director of Therapy Services, and David Demarest at On With Life Director of Psychology

Dave has been working in the field of brain injury rehabilitation for 18 years both as a speech-language pathologist and director of therapy services. Dave has earned the designation of certified brain injury specialist trainer through the Brain Injury Association of America, and currently serves on the Brain Injury Alliance of Iowa's board of directors. He has presented both regionally and nationally on a wide variety of topics related to brain injury.

Dr. David Demarest is a clinical neuropsychologist with more than 25 years of extensive experience in the rehabilitation and neuropsychology field. As an Iowa- and Nebraska-licensed psychologist, Dr. Demarest has been involved in numerous neuropsychological studies that have helped advance the brain injury field.

Learning Objectives:

- Participants identify 5 common components of cognition that adversely affect return to work following brain injury
- Participants will identify 3 aspects of executive functions that adversely affect return to work following brain injury
- Participants will identify 5 workplace strategies to maximize success in returning to employment after brain injury.

2. The Power of Unity: Partnering Together for Success– Justin Bogers

Justin Bogers has been blessed with the opportunity to serve the public in an employment capacity over the last seven years. Currently, he is the Supervisor of the Goodwill Career Connection Center, a free resource for job seekers and employers alike.

Learning Objectives:

- Understand how partnerships can lead the way to success for clients
- Learn how to foster partnership opportunities with the local community based organizations
- What can happen when we do not partner together
- Receive a list of local agencies interested in partnership
- Begin developing a strong relationship with partners through networking

3:00 – 3:15 pm **Break**

3:15 pm -4:30 **General Session**

1. Ethical Dilemmas Implementing Individualized Plan for Employment– Matt Bruinekool, EdD CRC

Matt Bruinekool is the Director of the National Rehabilitation Institute at Drake University. He has over 22 years experience teaching graduate level courses and giving local, state, and national presentations on a variety of topics including career counseling, understanding employers and their needs, ethics, and leadership. He has consulted to state agencies on systems change projects, strategic planning, and program development. He has worked with business and industry in the development of strategies to improve their recruitment and retention of individuals with disabilities.

Learning Objectives:

This program will discuss ethical issues faced by rehabilitation counselors and placement professions as they work with individuals with disabilities to find employment. Using case scenarios and the CRCC Code of Professional Ethics for Rehabilitation Counselors participants will discuss some of the ethical dilemmas they may face as they seek to assist individuals obtain employment in the community.