

June 2014

Iowa Rehabilitation Association

Special Interest Articles:

- President's Report
- NRA Conference Report
- Legislative Update
- Brag and Steal



Lindsay Walker
President

President's Report

I hope that you are all enjoying this wonderful weather as much as I am. I am very excited to be finally watching baseball games, going to the lake, and enjoying my evening walks outside!

As the 2014 National Conference quickly approaches, I want to touch base on the importance of association membership and getting our colleagues involved. It is a great opportunity for us to show our commitment and dedication to

helping the individuals we serve, as well as show off the strong initiatives and progress the state of Iowa is making in our field.

We also want to continue to grow our membership and it is up to us to be able to do so! Make sure to reach out to your coworkers and touch base with them on the incentives of membership. Members pay much less to attend the conference this fall! This is an opportunity to connect with other professionals nationwide and improve on our skill level and expertise as counselors and professionals. If you have the chance, ask your supervisor if you can take 15 minutes of your next office meeting to talk to your colleagues about the National Conference and becoming a member!

I also want to encourage our members to become actively involved in making this year's NRA conference the best to date. Please take time to touch base with Ellen (esokolowski@mchsi.com) or Diane (diane.hernandez@mchsi.com) and ask if they need help in any areas. Touch base with providers/vendors/support professionals in your area to let them know we are hosting the National Conference and encourage them to support our Association by becoming a vendor or advertiser, or attending the conference! All help is appreciated - this is our year to shine!!!

I look forward to what we have to come at this conference and seeing all of you there. As always, if you ever have any questions, feel free to shoot me an email at lindsaywalker103@gmail.com.

Best regards!

Lindsay Walker

Conference Report



Diane Hernandez
President-Elect

Things are shaping up for the National Rehabilitation Association (NRA). Iowa is hosting the conference in Des Moines from **Thursday, October 30 through Sunday, November 2, 2014** (Thursday is the pre-conference). All activities will take place at the Des Moines Marriott Downtown. The theme of this year's national conference will be "**Meeting of Two Rivers: Where Opportunity and Rehabilitation Unite.**"

Thanks to Ellen Sokolowski's hard work, we have two great keynote speakers.

Dr. Richard Deming is the **Founder and Chairman of Above + Beyond Cancer**, a public charity with a mission to elevate the lives of those touched by cancer, to create a healthier world.

Advocates create a public following through participation in a variety of adventurous, physical endeavors – including recent trips to Mount Kilimanjaro and Everest Base Camp. Upon completing a program, advocates work as citizen-lobbyists, speakers, writers, and fundraisers, who are driven to reduce the burden of cancer across the globe.

The organization seeks participants who are climbing not in spite of their cancer, but because of their cancer. When they complete the journey, they will have overcome unbelievable odds while proving that there can be deep meaning and fulfillment in reaching for a goal that is just out of the reach of what is knowingly attainable.

Upon returning from the field, our participants view the world with new confidence and motivation, and are ready to devote themselves to a life of advocacy.

Dr. Deming is medical director of Mercy Cancer Center in Des Moines. He is known in for the compassionate care he provides cancer patients and their families. He is involved in many national, state and community organizations and is the recipient of numerous awards. He was awarded the Lane Adams Award by the American Cancer Society for excellence and compassion in patient care. He is the recipient of "the one hundred" Award by Massachusetts General Hospital for his work with cancer survivors. He was awarded the Iowa Cancer Champion Award for his tireless efforts in the field of advocacy. He is dedicated to the principals of human dignity, social justice, and compassion. He is inspired by the courage and compassion of his patients and their families. He is also an athlete and adventurer. His greatest ambition is to encourage others to pursue lives of meaning, purpose, passion and compassion.



Dr. Richard Deming in Nepal



Jeff Huffman is the Founder and Head Coach at Huffman Healthcare and Disability Consulting. It is his vision that led to the development of a first-of-its-kind hotel where teaching and employing people with disabilities will be just as important as accommodating overnight guests.

Jeff Huffman could no longer sit by and watch his son with Down syndrome get repeatedly denied employment opportunities. So, he decided to develop a job that had never before existed.

Huffman volunteers with the Arc of Indiana, an organization that empowers people with developmental disabilities. When the concerned dad proposed that the organization start a program that trains its clients to work in the hospitality industry, it enthusiastically accepted the challenge, according to the nonprofit's blog.

The organization decided to build a Courtyard by Marriott unlike any other hotel in the hospitality industry, the Star Press reported.

The Muncie, Ind., hotel -- which is slated to open in the summer of 2015 -- will train people with disabilities, and will then give them a chance to apply those skills by working at the hotel. The venue expects that at least 20 percent of the jobs will be filled by people with a range of disabilities, according to the Disability Scoop.

Considering that the hospitality industry added 80,000 jobs last year, and demands a wide range of skills, the Arc of Indiana thought this would be the ideal area to try and create work opportunities for its clients.

"As far as the typical guest experience, this Courtyard will be no different," Sally Morris of the Arc of Indiana told the Disability Scoop. "That said, this hotel will not just meet ADA standards, it will exceed them. Every decision we are making is meant to enhance the guest experience for all of our guests."

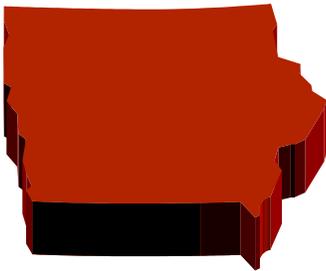
Jeff Huffman is a seasoned leader with 28 years of domestic and international business experience. Huffman Healthcare and Disability Consulting was born from Huffman's career in sales and marketing, moving into manufacturing and then the last 12 years in healthcare. It is a company set to break the mold and accomplish something bold we are for its customers. Huffman's team is currently working with State Government, not for profit organizations, for profit growth-oriented companies, advocacy groups and parents. In addition, a subsidiary of the consulting company, SuccessAbility Solutions, focuses on advocacy and a social networking platform.

More on the Conference

We will keep you posted on more conference information as it comes available. But knowing that these are the keynote speakers – these individuals who are inspiring both people and industry to take a new look at disability as possibility – than I am sure there is only one thing you want to know now – how to reserve a room and get registered! Registration information is coming soon. Meanwhile, do not delay to book your room by calling the **Des Moines Marriott Downtown** at **1-800-514-4681**. Ask for the National Rehabilitation Conference Group Rate – Code NRA.

See You There,

Diane Hernandez



State Legislative Report By Jeffrey Morgan

2014's Legislative session went 10 days over its scheduled end date but produced some results for Iowans with and without disabilities. Governor Branstad's proposal "Home Base Iowa" to attract military vets from other states to Iowa was approved. Also passed were bills exempting military pensions from state income tax and allowing companies to give vets hiring preference. A bill was clarified -- consumers can still self-direct their care under the Consumer Choices Option (CCO), Consumer-Directed Attendant Care (CDAC) providers don't have to be affiliated with a provider agency and that CDAC providers cannot act as both provider of CDAC services and legal guardian.

A tuition freeze for the three state universities was enacted for the second straight year. Laws were passed defining dyslexia relating to special education and also clarifying that the state is responsible for paying the costs of commitments. Adult day service programs were approved to serve more difficult clients without additional regulation and this will be something to watch as its enacted. The Medical Cannabidiol Act was passed, decriminalizing the possession and use of cannabis oil for people diagnosed with some forms of epilepsy. Senate Bill 2239 defines Elder Abuse for the first time in Iowa Law and creates a process to obtain protective orders for vulnerable persons.

In the 2014 Health/Human Services Budget, \$1.9 billion was appropriated for public health, Medicaid, child welfare, and other human services programs and services. This is an increase of \$107.4 million over current funding levels but \$950,000 less than the Governor's recommendation. Appropriated \$1.3 billion for Medicaid which is an increase of \$106.5 million (about one-third of this increase is due to changes in the federal match rate). Also included \$8 million increase to cover increased cost of waiver services, and \$6 million increase to take people off HCBS waiver waiting lists. Increased the children's health insurance program (Hawk-I) by \$9 million to maintain current caseloads, pay for premium increases, and address the change in federal match rates. Appropriated \$3 million (the same as last year) for autism support programs. The new Human Services/Mental Health & Disability Budget extended county mental health and disability services (MH/DS) property tax levies, state equalization formula through June 30, 2016 to give the state and newly formed regions time to determine if changes are needed. \$250,000 was appropriated to the Department of Inspections and Appeals to implement a new Mental Health Advocate Division but this was repealed

in another bill. Other legislation regarding the MH/DD Redesign was passed and will be implemented.

Although other appropriation bills were vetoed by Governor Branstad, he did not veto any funding amounts in the Human Services or MH/DD budget, although he did veto non-financial provisions in these bills.

Brag & Steal

REGISTER TODAY!

This year's **Brag & Steal** conference, **Connecting the Dots**, offers you a great opportunity to further expand your knowledge.

Date

Friday, June 27, 2014

8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (Registration 8:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.)

Location

[Carroll County Conservation Education Center](#), 22676 Swan Lake Dr., Carroll, Iowa 51401

Topics

Deaf Culture - Laura M Lord CI/CT, EIPA 4.8, President of Comprehensive Interpreting Services, Inc.

Mental Health Redesign, There's no I in team – Justin Schieffer B.S., Carroll County Case Management Supervisor

Proximity Ethics - Dr. Cris Wildermuth, SPHR, Assistant Professor at Drake University

Putting Together a Successful Career Marriage – Tammy Cline B.A. CPC, President of Career Search Associates, Inc

Latino Culture; More Than Words – Laura Johnson Palomares, B.S.-Social Sciences-Human Services Concentration

Benefits Planning – Sheila Stoeckel, M.S., CRC, Program Coordinator for Iowa Work Incentive Planning and Assistance (IWIPA)

Peer Support - Todd J. Lange, B.S., Peer Support Coordinator; Magellan Health Services of Iowa

Questions

Contact Kevin @ BragandSteel@DU-IRA.org or Call 515.401.5089



NRA Conference Planning: Opportunities to Serve

Please contact Diane Hernandez (515-321-5393/diane.hernandez@mchsi.com), Lindsay Walker (641-682-7569/lindsay.walker@iowa.gov), or Ellen Sokolowski (esokolowski@mchsi.com/712-254-1021) if you are interested in serving on any of the committees listed below:

Programming
Transportation
Exhibitors
Registration

Marketing
Accessibility and Logistics
Physical Program
Room Monitors

More National Conference Speakers Info.



Stephen Wooderson, CEO for the Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation, will update the participants on the current status of legislative activity regarding the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and other national priorities impacting the public vocational rehabilitation program. Participants will be provided with the opportunity to hear how the disability community has rallied to have their voice heard in the halls of Congress and what is expected in the weeks and months ahead. He will also share a perspective on the challenges, opportunities and leadership needed to create a new vision for the future of the program.

Board for 2014

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 Matt Bruinekool
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Save
the
Date

10/30/14 to 11/2/14

National Rehabilitation Association

Des Moines, Iowa

2014 Training Conference

“Meeting of Two Rivers”

Where Opportunity & Rehabilitation Come Together

Hosted by Iowa Rehabilitation Association Chapter

Photo Courtesy of the Greater Des Moines Convention and Visitors Bureau

Iowa Rehabilitation
Association

Membership:
304 5th Street
Decorah, IA 52101

We're on the Web!
See us at:
www.iraiaowa.org

Save the Date!

**2014 National Rehabilitation
Association
Conference**

October 30 - November 2, 2014

**Des Moines Marriott Downtown
700 Grand Ave, Des Moines, IA 50309**

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