
TODAY'S NEWS

Special Interest Articles:

- * President's Note
- * Legislative Report
- * IRAJPD Conference Information

Iowa Rehabilitation Association

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.iraiaowa.org



President's Note

Michelle Dickerson

Hello!

**President, Iowa
Rehabilitation
Association**

I hope everyone is enjoying summer. The Iowa weather has once again kept things interesting with its range of ultimate humidity to pouring rain showers to extreme heat. However, this is Iowa...what do you expect?! Iowa is a great place to live and our state is really taking on great initiative to implement the changes of the Workforce Innovation and

Opportunity Act. For that, we should be proud. And busy and maybe a bit cranky from keeping up with all of the changes. But remember, change is good and I do believe the changes will positively impact our clients and move them in a more progressive, well-planned and speedier route towards employment. Embrace the change. It is important that we take care of ourselves and one another as professionals as well. While going through

“Please join us this year on July 19-20th at the Quality Inn & Starlite Village Conference Center in Ames.”

change may be good, it can also be a daunting task and can be stressful to keep up with and manage. The Iowa Rehabilitation Conference this year will not only focus on educating you as a professional and discuss best practice, ethics, statewide programs, disability, legislation, transportation, job placement, employment first and diversity but it will also focus on self-care. Please join us this year on July 19-20th at the Quality Inn & Starlite Village Conference Center in Ames, IA. Registration is now open and will be open the day of the conference as well. Please contact Alice Castle, with any questions at alice.castle@iowa.gov.

See you at the IRA Conference!

State Legislative Report

Jeffrey Morgan

The 2017 Iowa legislative session is now just a memory. Depending on what side of the aisle you’re on, the memory is one of great accomplishment or very painful. This Legislative session passed the most bills since 2010, 226 in all. But sometimes more isn’t better.

**State Legislative
Chair, Iowa
Rehabilitation
Association**

ROLLBACKS FOR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING: The Legislature's Republican majority has approved a proposal to dramatically scale back a four-decades-old collective bargaining law that governs union contract negotiations for the state’s 184,000 public employees. No Democrats supported the bill. Under the legislation, most public-sector union contract negotiations will be limited only to base wages. State employees have been notified about the changes that went into effect July 1.

SCHOOL AID INCREASE: Lawmakers approved a 1.1 percent increase in funding to kindergarten-through-12th grade schools for the 2017-2018 academic year. The bill was approved with no Democratic votes. It increases per-pupil funding by about \$40 million.

MINIMUM WAGE HIKES BLOCKED: The measure prevents cities and counties from setting their own minimum wages, effectively nullifying wage increases approved in five Iowa counties. The bill freezes Iowa's minimum wage at \$7.25, where it has been since 2008. The bill also includes provisions that would prevent cities and counties from implementing policies like requiring paid family leave, implementing a soft-drink tax and banning the use of plastic bags.

AUTISM INSURANCE: Lawmakers agreed to require many employer-provided health insurance policies to include treatment of autism spectrum disorder for young people. The passage of House File 215 represents years of work by advocates for people with autism. The legislation will apply to employers of more than 50 full-time workers. It will require coverage of applied behavioral analysis for persons under age 19 diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder. The bill provides maximum annual benefits, depending upon a person's age. Coverage can also be subject to deductibles, co-payments or co-insurance provisions.

VOTER ID BILL: A voter ID law was passed, requiring voters to show a photo ID or a new voter registration card when voting, and their signatures can be questioned by poll workers. While this goes into affect this July, it is considered a "soft roll-out." Poll workers won't actually enforce the new ID law until January 1, 2019. Among the forms of identification poll workers will accept: A driver's license, a non-driver's license identification, a U.S. passport or military identification card or a special voter verification card that every voter will receive in the mail. The bill also shortens the time that citizens can vote early from 40 days to 29.



MH/DD FUNDING: MH/DS regions were given authority to tax at a per capita rate, which provides greater stability and predictability in the system for nearly all of the state's regions. Two regions will need a future fix, to be reviewed in the 2018 interim - Polk County and Eastern Iowa.

Other than that, Iowa has now become a Stand Your Ground State, you can carry a concealed weapon in the State Capital and children can possess a firearm as long as they're under the supervision of an adult over the age of 21. Oh, yes, you might have notice that fireworks are now legal. With the comment people have been making, this will be an explosive issue next Legislative Session.

IRAJPD Annual Conference

[Rose Thierer](#)

What a year of changes we have seen both at the national and state political level. This has left many individuals scared and wondering where they fit in this new landscape. 'What we do know is that those of us who work in the rehabilitation field understand individuals needs and know how to support those who are not always seen as "fitting in". In order to offer assistance we must also keep learning and upgrading our skills. One way to do that is by joining the Iowa Rehabilitation Association as we host our annual conference. As you can see there are sessions on employment supports for those

**Iowa
Rehabilitation
Association**

along the autism spectrum, developing a business partnership mindset when working with employers, learning about the inclusion for those who identify as LGBTQ, understanding how suicide can be prevented, and gaining insight in how poverty affects brain function. Beyond the training you will get the chance to meet and have fun with some of the best individuals in the rehabilitation field. CEU's will be available for CRC's as well as Job Coaches and Employment Staff working with Community Rehabilitation Programs. Please join us and expand your knowledge as well as make connections within the rehabilitation community.

IRAJPD CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

July 19-20, 2017

July 19, 2017

8:00 am	Exhibitor Set-up
10:00 am	Registration
10:30 am	IRA Board Meeting
11:00 am	Exhibits Open
12:00 -1:30 pm	Opening Luncheon
1:30-1:45 pm	Exhibits
1:45-3:00 pm	Concurrent Sessions Session A What's New in the CRC Code of Ethics Matt Bruinekool Ed.D, CRC

At the beginning of the year a new code of ethics was published by CRCC. This session will highlight some of the changes.

Session B The Changing Face of Transportation In Iowa-Kristin Harr MPA, Iowa Department of Transportation

What is often heard around Iowa is "there is no transportation". In the past year there have been a number of community conversations around transportation which is changing the landscape for these communities. Learn about some of the changes and how to work in your community to start to address some of the transportation needs.

Session C Finding Success through Project Search-Trisha Crane-ARC of Story County

Successful employment after high school starts with employment experiences during high school training. This session will cover the strategies used for Project Search participants and how it changed the employment options for students in the Ames area.

3:00-3:15 pm	Break
3:15-4:30 pm	General Session-Poverty and the Brain-Cayte Anderson Ph.D, CRC University of Wisconsin Stout

There is a relationship between poverty and disability and this session will discuss the implications for those of us who work in the vocational rehabilitation system.

4:30-5:00 pm	IRA Business Meeting
---------------------	----------------------

- 5:00-5:45 pm** Division Meetings
- 6:00- ?????** President's Reception

July 20, 2017

- 7:00 am** Past President's Breakfast
Registration

- 8:00-9:15 am** General Session: Keeping up with our Legislators
Ellen Sokolowski MS, CRC; Jeffrey Morgan MA

During the past legislative session the importance of advocacy was made very clear. Learn about the role all of us plays in influencing legislation and how the discussions with our representatives are an ongoing conversation throughout the year and not just during the legislative session.

- 9:15-9:30 am** Break/voting

- 9:30-10:45 am** General Session: Taking and Making Care: Reflecting on
the Interplay of Self-Care and Leadership
Paul Hengesteg M.Ed. ISU Doctoral Student

Advocates and care providers have a unique need to practice holistic self-care, yet many feel blocked from doing so. In addition, notions of leadership for advocates and care providers can feel conflicting. This interactive session will reflect upon personal concepts of leadership and self-care, and more importantly how they are linked for each of us.

- 10:45-11:45** Concurrent Sessions:

Session A Creating a Safe and Welcoming Environment Daniel
Hoffman-Zinnel Ed.D. One Iowa

Living and working as a member of the LGBTQ community presents another set of challenges. This session will start with an overview of LGBTQ terminology and then provide skills to help create a safe and welcoming environment for those seeking rehabilitation services.

Session B There's a New Kid in Town: Employment First Sue
Ann Morrow Ph.D., Money Follows the Person; Kelly Kratz,
NIVC; Toni Tewes, Hope Haven

Changes such as the expectation that all Iowans with disabilities can work, the new Discovery service, the Pre-Vocational time limit, and the career exploration service have left many agencies scrambling to adapt. Learn how NIVC Services of Mason city and Hope Haven of Rock Valley have undertaken the journey to implement the philosophy and intent of Employment First.

Session C Be the Bridge: Serving Iowans from Different Cultures
Loren Bawn, Iowa Bureau of Refugee Services

As the workforce changes and employers attract those of other cultures it will be important to understand the needs of these workers. Learning how to promote individuals from other cultures and support them in the workplace will increase our value to our business customer.

11:45-1:30 pm Awards Luncheon/Doris Illies NRA

1:30-1:45 pm Exhibitors/break

1:45-3:00 pm Concurrent Sessions:

Session A Having the Discussion about Suicide
Deb Peddycoart and Cheryl Plotz, Foundation 2

Even for professionals suicide talk or dealing with the loss of a loved one from suicide can be difficult. Learn what should prompt questions about suicidal thoughts with clients and what can help you and your client feel more at ease discussing suicide.

Session B Job Placement Strategies for those with Autism Toni
Fuller Merfeld MS.Ed.

Supporting those on the autism spectrum is necessary for successful job placement and retention. Learn some of the best practices for working with those along the spectrum.

Session C Rural Job Placement-Doris Illies

With fewer employers to choose from in the rural areas different strategies are needed for developing relationships. Through her years of experience working in Minnesota, Doris can provide insight into some of these strategies.

3:00-3:15 pm Break

3:15-4:30 pm Concurrent Sessions:

Session A I Am Somebody
Soneeta Mangra Dutcher-Stand for the Silent

As more pre-employment services are provided to high school students the stresses and cares faced by these students will be entering into the rehabilitation process. Learn about this student organization which provides support for those facing bullying.

Session B Think Like a Boss: Employer Development Practices-
Kari Tietjen M.Ed. and Bronna Crase

Traditional job development places the job seeker at the center and business as a passive participant. When you think like a boss, the employer becomes the primary client. This session will share how to build relationships and create changes in the way businesses think and act in recruiting and hiring people with disabilities.

Session C Finding the On-line and Written Resources

Ellen Sokolowski MS, CRC, Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation
Services

WIOA has changed the way that rehabilitation counselors interact with students in the public school settings. Information about Job Exploration, Self-Advocacy, and Work-Based Learning Experiences are now required for students. This session will expose the attendee to resources online that can be used in these areas.