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SSA/Ticket to Work Training Updates

Updates to the information that was recently presented during the SSA/Ticket to Work training were sent to all DVR staff in an email from Mike Greco. These [updates are also available on the DVR Workweb](#).

Updated SGA Levels

The Social Security Administration recently announced changes to [substantial gainful activity levels](#).

- Effective January 1, 2010, the substantial gainful activity level for nonblind individuals will increase from \$980 to \$1,000 per month.
- Effective January 1, 2010, the substantial gainful activity level for blind individuals will **not** change, and the level will remain at \$1,640 per month.

Virtual Museum

In 2000 and 2001, the National Museum of American History displayed *The Disability Rights Movement* exhibit. The exhibit is now available online. The web site represents what a visitor to the museum would encounter when using one of the kiosks in the physical exhibition.

<http://americanhistory.si.edu/disabilityrights/>

DVR Counselor Receives Award

Kathi Pederson (VRC, Eau Claire) was recently presented the Criminal Justice Collaboration Award from the Eau Claire County Mental Health Court Program for her efforts to help people with mental health and legal issues become employed.

[Award photo/picture.](#)

DVR Counselor Featured in Article

Carol Schaufel (VRC, Kenosha, Wisconsin Rehabilitation Council member) was the focus of an article in the October issue of The Chronicle, a bi-monthly publication of the Kenosha County Department on Aging.

[Read the full article here.](#)

DVR Counselor Honored

Cindy Zwald (VRC, Dodgeville) was recently honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award from IOWA County ARC. Cindy's supervisor, Suzanne Lee, said, "This is a well deserved recognition for Cindy's years of dedicated work with individuals with disabilities."

Disability Program Navigators

An updated contact listing for [Wisconsin's Disability Program Navigators](#) was recently released.

DVR Monthly Policy Tip

When completing the Training Grant Form, the *private/out of state school necessary* box must be changed to "y" if the consumer has been grandfathered in or attendance has been approved through an administrative review.

If this is not done, the consumer will not receive the correct training grant amount, and in many cases will be significantly underpaid.



Supported Employment Information

Kathleen Enders, DVR's Program Development Specialist, recently developed [information for DVR staff regarding Supported Employment](#). The terminology glossary was developed to explain the changes, differences and trends in supported employment.

Health Care Reform

The Disability Coalition on Healthcare Reform (a statewide, cross-disability coalition in Missouri) recently released several documents that relate to health care reform and people with disabilities.

- [Summary Document](#)
- [Resource List](#)

Thank You for a Job Well Done

Curt Ditloff, Diana Scheelk and Dawn Ahrens – VRC's, Milwaukee
(Email sent to VR Supervisor Meredith Dressel from a partner agency)

I wanted to let you know that Curt Ditloff, Diana Scheelk and Dawn Ahrens all did a wonderful job during their respective presentations. Their knowledge, professionalism, and willingness to help were greatly appreciated and integral to the success of our programs.

Pamela Nelson-Martin – VRC, Milwaukee Northwest

Pamela Nelson-Martin was the finest DVR counselor I could have had. Pam is hard working and diligent in her work. Pam pays excellent attention to detail and is fantastic with people. Her smile and friendly voice picked me up on many days.

Amy Grotzke, WDA Director and Marilyn DeJarlais, VRC – La Crosse
(Email sent to Amy Grotzke)

I want to thank you so much for what you have done for me. Marilyn DeJarlais told me the good news. I am so happy that I can finally get a job. I am very thankful to you and Marilyn for all of the wonderful help and support you have given me, and not given up on me. So thank you again so very much. You and Marilyn are very well appreciated.

Staff Updates

New Faces/Transfers:

- (None)

Goodbyes:

- Patricia Bronk, VR Counselor (WDA 1)
- Tom Newman, VR Counselor – LTE (WDA 10)
- RJ Halley, VR Counselor (WDA 10)
- Marge Schaefer, VR Counselor (WDA 4)
- Ayleen Martin, Consumer Case Coordinator (WDA 6)

What's New on the Web

- [Policy Academy Meeting Minutes](#) (November of 2009)
- [Policy Academy Meeting Minutes](#) (October of 2009)
- [Policy Academy Meeting Minutes](#) (September of 2009)
- [Policy Academy Code of Ethics](#)
- [Alternate Format Resources](#)
(Added Foreign Language / Oral Translations Section)
- [WDA Administrative Meeting Minutes](#) (July of 2009)
- [OJT Hiring Initiative Payment Processing](#)
- [OJT Hiring Initiative Procedures](#)
- [FARM Toolkit](#)
- [Confidentiality Guidance Piece](#)
- [Transition Action Guide – Short Version](#)
- [WRC Minutes](#) (August of 2009)
- [Fiscal Manual](#) (Fiscal Expert List Updated)
- [Social Security Team Responsibilities Checklist](#)

Updated Forms & Publications

- [OJT Hiring Initiative](#) (DVR-16561-E)
- [Records Notice](#) (DVR-229-E)

Office Closings/Relocations

Staff located in Chippewa Falls were relocated to the Eau Claire office in October.

The [DVR Staff Directory](#) has been updated with these changes.

IRIS Redesign Update

The construction of the new system has been moving along according to schedule. We are about a third of the way completed with the project.

It is important to be sure we have accurately communicated the Scope of the Redesign project to all of you. You should expect to see an upgraded version of the IRIS Case Management system that will continue to have the same functionality as the current IRIS system. Many of the “nice to have” features that you have requested will be added at a later time. What will be the most notable difference is an “integrated” fiscal component which is to say that purchasing will be done right from IRIS, without use of the RAPWeb system. We expect the fiscal function to be efficient enough for all staff to process purchase orders and consumer payments.

We’ve recently asked for staff to volunteer for testing of the new system and hope that several of you will be able to assist with this process.

Thank you goes to Manuel Lugo for his vision of the system. It is because of his support, insistence, and efforts in pursuing funding that we will be able to realize a new, improved IRIS.

IRIS Redesign Core Group Members: Amy Ehlinger, Aimee Jahnke, Deanna Krell, Audrey Merten, Tony Shay, Rita Wurzer.

Knowledgebase Updates

- [Question & Answer Updated – Eligibility](#)
- [Question & Answer Added – Customary Wage](#)
- [Question & Answer Added – Competitive Employment](#)

