



Washington Chapter
IARP FALL CONFERENCE

FOCUS ON SOLUTIONS

SEPTEMBER 21, 2012

THE HOTEL MURANO • TACOMA, WA



Washington Chapter
International Association of Rehabilitation Professionals
FOCUS ON SOLUTIONS
2012 Fall Conference

Topics and Speakers

Friday September 21, 2012

Title: The Role of Vocational Experts in Social Security Hearings

Objective: You will learn the basic format of a Social Security hearing, the Social Security rules establishing a claimant is disabled and the role of a vocational expert in the hearing. You will learn about the questions vocational experts typically confront from the Administrative Law Judge and the attorney in a Social Security case.

Speakers:

Anne Kysar - is an attorney whose practice is devoted exclusively to helping disabled people obtain Social Security Disability benefits. For almost ten years, Anne has exclusively represented individuals who have been wrongfully denied Social Security benefits. Anne started her legal career doing litigation and trial work and now uses that experience to fight for the rights of her Social Security clients. She has won benefits for hundreds of clients at all stages of the benefits process from initial applications to contested disability hearings to lawsuits in federal court. Anne represents clients with all types of disabilities including depression, anxiety, arthritis, chronic pain, lupus, fibromyalgia, chronic fatigue syndrome and many others. Anne frequently trains lawyers and judges on how to practice Social Security Disability law. She has received numerous awards for her community service work including the Harry S. Truman Public Service award and a New York University School of Law Community award. Anne was also a Root-Tilden-Snow Public Service Scholar at NYU Law School.

Sandy Widlan - is a Social Security Disability attorney at the law firm Schroeter, Goldmark & Bender in Seattle. Sandy has represented hundreds of clients at all stages of the Social Security disability process. Sandy joined Schroeter Goldmark & Bender in 1996 and is a shareholder. Sandy began her legal career as a law clerk to Chief Justice Barbara Durham of the Washington Supreme Court. Sandy received her bachelor's degree from Northwestern University and her law degree from New York University.

Topic: Expanding Your Rehabilitation Opportunities with Business Diversity

Objective: The attendees will learn the different types of cases in which a VE can provide assistance. This will ideally provide new ideas for lines of business that can be obtained as well as provide an explanation of how the VE fits into the process in different types of cases.

Speaker:

Steve Shedlin - received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology from Kent State University in 1977. He began working as a job seeking skills/job placement specialist for a non-profit in Akron, Ohio while working on his graduate degree. Mr. Shedlin then received a Master of Education Degree in Rehabilitation Counseling from Kent State University in 1981. Mr. Shedlin also became a Certified Rehabilitation

Counselor in 1981. He has worked in the rehabilitation counseling field since 1978. Since 1989, Mr. Shedlin has had his own company, Rehabilitation Experts of Maryland, Inc. in which he provides vocational expert and life care planning services. He has provided testimony in hundreds of matters in federal and local jurisdictions throughout the United States.

Mr. Shedlin has been a member of IARP (NARPPS) since 1985. He has served as a board member and past president of his local chapter (Chesapeake). He is also a former board member and past president of NARPPS. In those capacities, Mr. Shedlin was invited to provide testimony to the Maryland General Assembly and the United States Congress in areas related to disability and employment. Subsequently Mr. Shedlin served on the IARP Forensic Section Board for three years, including a year as section chair and as the program chair of the 2006 Forensic Section Conference. He is currently the President of the IARP Board of Directors and will serve in this capacity through May 2013.

Title: Ethical Decision Making Model for Rehabilitation Counseling

Objective: To improve one's recognition of the complexities of ethical decision making. Understand the stages of moral development and moral reasoning in the ethical decision making process. Apply an ethical decision making model to resolve ethical dilemmas.

Speaker:

Chris Fascilla - has been a rehabilitation counselor and vocational evaluator since 1980. He became a CRC and CVE in 1985 after receiving his Masters in Rehabilitation Counseling and Educational Specialist degree in Vocational Evaluation. He has enjoyed rehabilitation counseling in a variety of settings including private sector with a focus on industrial insurance, private non-profit working with developmentally disabled adults, private business such as Boeing, hospital and private medical clinic with a focus on interdisciplinary pain rehabilitation.

He has contributed to the field of rehabilitation by serving on Washington State IARP Management Group, Vocational Technical Stakeholder Group, Vocational Improvement Project, as well as 9 years as an IARP board member, past president, secretary-treasurer and conference planner. Chris has devoted much of his more recent work to clients with chronic pain and is employed at Northwest Center for Integrative Medicine. In addition to vocational / educational services, Chris is a Board Certified Biofeedback therapist who provides clients with biofeedback and relaxation therapy as an alternative coping strategy to dealing with chronic pain. Past credentials include Certified Vocational Evaluator, National Certified Counselor and Licensed Professional Counselor (Montana).

Topic: The November Election and its relevance to the Vocational Rehabilitation community

Objective: To help anticipate changes in the Vocational Rehabilitation field based on election results

Speaker:

Steve Duncan - founded Duncan and Associates in 1986. Duncan and Associates provides pro-active government relations services to a broad and diverse base of clients. Steve's credentials include serving on the White House Staff during the Carter Administration, and as an aide to former Congressmen Norm Mineta. Steve brings extensive political campaign experience in the areas of management, communications, and grassroots development. As a political consultant, Steve has served as a state director in presidential campaigns; as a manager of congressional and state legislative campaigns; and on

the municipal level, director of campaigns to fund art museums, zoos, water projects, and low-income housing. In recent years his campaign efforts have focused on acquiring earned media and the development and implementation of extensive grassroots voter contact projects. This extensive political campaign experience provides the firm with unique insight to the political basis for which policy decisions are made.

Topic: Fundamentals and Practice of Life Care Planning

Objective: Life care planning is a multifaceted area of specialization which relies upon a transdisciplinary, collaborative, and consistent approach to case analysis. Recommendations in a life care plan are supported by medical and rehabilitation foundations and identify current and long-term needs and associated costs throughout an individual's life expectancy. Learn about the history and methodology as well as best ways to enhance your rehabilitation counseling/case management practice.

Anthony Choppa - earned his M.Ed. in Rehabilitation Counseling in 1979 from Kent State University; is a co-founder of OSC Vocational Systems, Inc., practicing since 1976. OSC has over 50 employees throughout the State of Washington specializing in "hands on" case management (life care planning) and vocational rehabilitation services. He has published many Life Care Plan and Vocational Rehabilitation articles and is a frequent speaker on rehabilitation issues. Mr. Choppa served on the Boards of the International Academy of Life Care Planners and the International Association of Rehabilitation Professionals. He holds certifications including CRC, CDMS and CCM. His specialties include life care planning, vocational assessment, and economic damage calculations.

Cloie Johnson - is a vocational rehabilitation counselor and case manager with OSC Vocational Systems, Inc. in Bothell, Washington. She has been practicing in the rehabilitation field since 1987 providing consultation, opinion and vocational expert testimony in workers' compensation, personal injury and employment discrimination cases. She has particular expertise in provide earning capacity assessments and preparing life care plans and medical bill reviews in injury cases involving the complicated constellation and interplay of physical, mental and emotional impairment. She is the past Chair of the International Academy of Life Care Planners, 3 time Life Care Planning Summit Chair. She has presented on this topic to Texas Tech University, Minnesota State University and for Lorman Educational Services. She was the Managing Editor of IARP's Rehabilitation Professional Journal; and is currently an Editorial Board Member of the Rehabilitation Professional Journal and The Earnings Analyst. She has also been a special Editor of the Journal of Life Care Planning Vol 11:1 creating a Special Issue on Life Care Planning Summits.

Title: Dealing with Criminal Conviction History and Rehabilitation Planning

Objective: Understand the barriers to employment workers face when they have a criminal conviction history and how this factor impacts rehabilitation planning. Learn what work fields and occupations are precluded depending on the type and age of the conviction. Learn how employers perceive and respond to these issues. Learn what strategies exist to help workers with criminal histories overcome this barrier.

Speakers:

Jenipher Gaffney - Jenipher S. Gaffney is a counselor in private practice in Vancouver, Washington. She is a certified rehabilitation counselor (CRC), licensed mental health counselor (LMHC), nationally certified counselor (NCC), and is registered as a vocational rehabilitation counselor (VRC) in Washington, Alaska, and with the Department of Veterans Affairs. She is a board certified vocational expert (Diplomat, American Board of Vocational Experts), and is called as an expert witness in cases

involving permanent disability, personal injury, wrongful termination, medical malpractice, veterans issues, marital dissolution and worker's compensation. She has provided expert witness testimony for Social Security (ODAR) since 1992, as well as for the Railroad Retirement Board (RRB).

Title: Expanding the Centers of Occupational Health and Education

Objective: Learn about the history and development of Washington's Centers of Occupational Health and Education. Understand the purpose behind this project and learn of its outcomes. Appreciate why the state has passed legislation to expand these valuable resources and the impact these centers have on injured workers.

Speakers:

Ellen Hull - Ellen came to Valley Medical Center at the inception of the Renton Center of Occupational Health & Education (COHE) when it began as a pilot program in 2002. She has 20 years experience as a VRC/Case Manager providing vocational services in State of Washington in a variety of settings: as a private sector VRC on state fund, self-insured claims, and with veterans; in the employer setting while at Boeing as an IAM CREST vocational counselor; and in healthcare as a VRC in a pain management program and as occupational health clinic manager at Valley Medical Center. She currently serves as a Health Services Coordinator/Case Manager at Valley Medical Center Occupational Health and the Renton Center for Occupational Health and Education (COHE). Ellen has a Master's in Education from Western Washington University and is a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor. She is a past board member for the Washington State Chapter IARP.

Kathy Visser - Kathy has over 23 years experience as a VRC/Case Manager providing services to industrially injured workers in the State of Washington. Her experience includes over 6 years as a VRC on the Boeing account and 14 years as VRC supervisor/owner of Nova Vocational Consultants. She currently works as a Health Services Coordinator/Case Manager at Valley Medical Center Occupational Health and the Renton Center for Occupational Health and Education (COHE). Kathy has a Master in Education Guidance and Counseling from City University and is a Certified Disability Case Manager. Kathy has extensive experience on State Fund and Self-Insured Workers' Compensation claims, completing forensic evaluations, providing expert witness testimony and working on short-term disability files. She is active in the International Association of Rehabilitation Professional Washington State Chapter and is committed to maintaining her professional education as well as promoting ethical standards in the vocational community.

The statements, comments and opinions expressed during this meeting are those of their respective author(s), or presenters who are solely responsible for them and do not necessarily reflect the official policy, position or opinions of IARP – Washington Chapter and its officers and directors.

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