



February, 2017

President's Column

Amy Williams, MA, CRC, D/ABVE, FVE

Greetings! I am very honored to serve as your Chapter President alongside some of our community's most outstanding professionals, including Irina Razvina, President Elect; Roselyn Blair, Immediate Past President; Kim North, Secretary/Treasurer; and Leslie Weaver, Bradley Ehrlich, Jennifer Bowes, Nicole Hernandez and Michelle Jensen, Directors at Large. Our Board is proliferating into a cohesive group dedicated to each other and to serving our members.

It is a very exciting time for the vocational community in Washington State as we welcome the cultural evolution taking place at the Department of Labor and Industries (L&I). Seemingly in answer our community's long-standing collective wishes, we have been gifted a wide variety of new tools that empower us to be more effective in our work. The success of these progressive enhancements, programs, policies and procedures is dependent upon us, the vocational community. Your Board is committed to supporting you in overcoming the natural growing pains that accompany even the most positive changes, and ensuring that we are all successful. Your Board will be soliciting feedback from you to help advance our community's partnership with L&I, and we will be providing educational opportunities in concert with L&I throughout the year.

In addition, your Board remains committed to supporting your success in the many other arenas in our state that call for vocational professionals, including Self-Insurance; Longshore and Harbor Workers Act; Family Law; Personal Injury; the Veteran's Administration; the Social Security Administration; and others.

Please save the date for annual conference, which will be held May 18, 2017 – May 19, 2017 at the beautiful Hotel Murano in Tacoma. We will nourish you with delicious food while featuring the very best speakers and most relevant and up-to-date information. Conference attendees will earn CEUs in support of their CDMS, CRC, CCM, and ABVE certifications. We will be transmitting electronic notifications with updated details about the conference and other educational and networking opportunities in the very near future.

I would like to thank you again for the opportunity to serve as your Chapter President. I would love to hear from you and can be contacted via e-mail at awilliams@scsvoc.com or (503) 781-4414.

Amy Williams, IARP WA Chapter President

Vocational Providers Play a Key Role in L&I's Newly Expanded Preferred Worker Program

Rena Shawver, L&I Public Affairs

The Washington State Department of Labor and Industries (L&I) recently expanded the Preferred Worker Program to open up return-to-work opportunities by offering new incentives that will benefit both workers and their employers. And the new program puts vocational providers at the helm to lead workers with permanent restrictions from able to work, to returned to work.

"We're creating the opportunity to realize better outcomes for injured workers and employers with the expanded program," says L&I's Chief of Return to Work Partnerships, Ryan Guppy, adding that the new program design will be a major game changer.

"How many times have we seen workers whose permanent medical restrictions don't allow them to go back to their old job, yet these workers are motivated and want to work?" says Guppy. *"How many times have we wanted to help them find medically-appropriate jobs, but couldn't because of system constraints?"*

"These are the issues we've addressed in the newly expanded Preferred Worker Program," says Guppy. *"We've added another possibility for return to work back into the vocational professional's toolbox."*

Here are five major changes to the Preferred Worker Program:

1. Now all employers in Washington State, who hire a State Fund certified preferred worker, can get the incentives including the employer of injury and self-insured employers. That opens up a whole new realm of possibilities for employment for preferred workers.
2. When an eligible employer hires a certified preferred worker under the rules of the expanded program, reimbursements include:
 - Half (50%) the base wage paid to the preferred worker, up to 66 days or \$10,000, within a consecutive 24-month period.
 - Up to \$2,500 for tools and equipment.
 - Up to \$400 for worker clothing.
3. A bonus equal to 10% of the worker's wages or \$10,000, whichever is less, is available to employers who provide 12 months of continuous employment for a preferred worker.
4. Vocational providers have an active role to play in supporting both the preferred worker and employer. The job offered by the employer must be approved by both the workers' health care provider and a credentialed vocational rehabilitation professional. This means, you can now assist the employer to develop a preferred worker job that meets the providers' medical restrictions for the worker at the beginning of permanent disability notification, and you can keep an active role with both the worker and employer until the worker is hired.
5. The form used to help the worker and employer apply for benefits has changed. A new Preferred Worker Request form can be downloaded from the L&I website and used to help a worker apply for preferred worker certification and/or help an employer apply to hire a certified preferred worker. To find the form, go to www.Lni.wa.gov and put the publication number (F280-060-000) in "Search". Any old Intent to Hire forms can be recycled since they are no longer accepted.

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Workers will be certified for a period of 36 months within a five-year period. These new benefits apply only to preferred workers certified on or after January 1, 2016.

"I still can't get over the great benefits being offered with this program. These will really help us support workers and employers with return-to-work outcomes," says Aimee Jolie, a vocational counselor and manager at Sound Vocational Services, Inc. in Seattle.

The Washington State Legislature, through the efforts of L&I's new Return to Work Partnerships, heard the need of the vocational community and passed a law in 2015 that expands L&I's existing Preferred Worker Program to provide better incentives in support of both workers and employers.

"I'm very, very happy about the expanded Preferred Worker Program," says Kenneth Smith, Vice President of Rainier Case Management, Inc. in Seattle. *"My colleagues at Rainier are almost dumbfounded, in a good way!"*

What hasn't changed is the premium relief benefits for State Fund employers who hire preferred workers. That benefit remains the same and includes the following during the certification period:

- No charges to the employer's workers' compensation account that would raise the experience rating if the preferred worker files an injury claim.
- No charges for Accident Fund or Medical Aid Fund premiums.
- Only Supplemental Pension Fund premiums need to be paid.

The newly expanded Preferred Worker Program is just getting off the ground. Temporary guidelines for the program can be found on the L&I website at www.Lni.wa.gov/PreferredWorker which will be updated in August with more information and details as they become available.

Look for additional information about the Preferred Worker Program in future editions of IARP Newsletter.

IARP Washington Annual Conference; May 18th & 19th 2017

Roselyn Blair, IARP WA, Past President

Your IARP WA Board has been busy planning another excellent speaker line up for this year's conference at the Hotel Murano in Tacoma, Washington. We are offering a two-day conference again this year and will be applying for CEUs from CRCC, CDMS, ABVE and CCM. We are pleased to announce that Jason Parker will be part of our conference agenda on Thursday presenting some fresh, inspirational return to work themed material on, *"Returning Workers Back to Work-Creating Meaningful Conversations with Stakeholders."* Dr. Timothy Field will also be returning this year to share his expertise on transferable skills analysis on Friday's agenda, and Jeff Carlisle, past Chair of the CRCC and IARP Ethics Committee will be our featured ethics speaker on both days. Stay tuned for an upcoming announcement with the complete two-day conference agenda and registration information!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Elections-IARP WA Board of Directors

Open positions for the IARP WA Board of Directors will be announced shortly! Information and requests for nominations will be distributed via IARP WA member email on February 15, 2017. If you are a current IARP WA Chapter member and have an interest in serving on the Board, please feel free to contact any of our current Board members (contact info listed on page 5). If you have questions about running for an open position for the IARP WA Board of Directors for the upcoming year; 5/1/2017 through 4/30/2018, please contact Roselyn Blair, 2017 Election Committee Chair at rblair@scsvoc.com.

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IARP National Honors Award Winners

- **IARP LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**
[Mary Barros-Bailey](#) was honored with the IARP Lifetime Achievement Award. The award recognizes the individual professional member who has demonstrated a history of distinguished service and life-long commitment to the rehabilitation profession.
- **IARP OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP AWARD**
[Lynne Tracy](#) was recognized as the winner of the IARP Outstanding Leadership Award.
- **IARP OUTSTANDING PROFESSIONAL MEMBER AWARD**
[Elizabeth Watson](#) earned the IARP Outstanding Professional Member Award for her volunteer activities both inside and outside of IARP.
- **IARP EMERGING PROFESSIONAL AWARD**
[Emily Veith](#) was awarded the IARP Emerging Professional Award.
- **IARP OUTSTANDING CHAPTER AWARD**
[IARP FLORIDA](#). As the winner of the IARP Outstanding Chapter Award, IARP Florida will receive a banner that commemorates their accomplishment and can be used at future chapter events.
- **FLCPR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**
[Cloie B. Johnson](#) was honored with the FLCPR Lifetime Achievement Award. The award is given to an individual in recognition of their dedication and countless contributions to the specialty practice of life care planning.
- **FLCPR OUTSTANDING LIFE CARE PLANNING EDUCATOR AWARD**
[Ann T. Neulicht](#) was recognized as Outstanding Life Care Planning Educator for her outstanding contributions to the education of life care planners through teaching, research, publications, conference presentations, community service and guidance.
- **SHERI JASPER MEMORIAL RECOGNITION AWARD**
[Susan Riddick-Grisham](#) was awarded the Sheri Jasper Memorial Recognition award in recognition of her contributions to the life care planning community that exemplifies the consummate professional and one who continues to be a positive influence in the specialty practice of life care planning through her consistent positive, supportive, friendly and encouraging attitude toward colleagues.
- **PATRICIA MCCOLLOM/FOUNDATION FOR LIFE CARE PLANNING RESEARCH AWARD**
[Timothy F. Field](#) was awarded the Patricia McCollom/FLCPR Award for his significant contributions not only to the body of literature in life care planning but to the everyday practices of life care planners and either directly or indirectly to the lives and well-being of individuals with a disability.

IARP National Under New Management

Please note that effective January 1, 2017 IARP is no longer being managed by TCAG or The Center for Association Growth. Ewald Consulting is the new management company under the direction of Kristin Haskin, incoming IARP Executive Director, who has replaced Carl Wangman, former IARP Executive Director. Members will continue to use the same login information for the IARP website. All membership benefits remain in place. Please note that all telephone and postal correspondence should now be sent to:

International Association of Rehabilitation Professionals
1000 Westgate Drive, Suite 252
St. Paul, MN 55114
888/427-7722 (888-IARPQaA)
www.rehabpro.org

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UPCOMING EVENTS

FREE IARP LEARN Webinar-Life Care Planning 101

With Kathie Allison, PT, MS, CLCP and Karen Preston, PhN, CCRN, FIALCP
<https://www.pathlms.com/iarp/courses/1265>

Washington Self Insured Association-WSIA Events

FEB. 8, 2017 Webinar: Effective Investigative Practices for Workers' Compensation
FEB. 15, 2017 – FEB. 16, 2017: Complex Claims Management 2017-Olympia WSIA Office
FEB. 23, 2017 Webinar: 2016 Year in Review: Laws, Cases, Rules, Policies
MARCH 13, 2017 – MARCH 14, 2017: IIU Claims Administrator Certification Review Course March-Olympia Office

Professionals in Workers Comp (PWC)

PWC Annual Banquet at Salty's on Alki, March 9, 2017

The American Board of Vocational Experts: ABVE Annual Conference

Hyatt Regency in Savannah, GA, April 7-9, 2017

IARP WA Chapter Annual Spring Conference

Hotel Murano in Tacoma, WA, May 18-19, 2017

IARP/ISLCP Annual Conference Set for St. Louis in 2017

SAVE THE DATES: October 11-14, 2017

Your WA IARP Board of Directors

Amy Williams, President - awilliams@scsvoc.com

Roselyn Blair, Past President - rblair@scsvoc.com

Irina Razvina, President Elect - irina@abilityvoc.com

Kim North, Secretary/Treasurer – kim@achieveconsultingteam.com

Jennifer Bowes, Member at Large – jennifer@bowesvocational.com

Bradley Ehrlich, Member at Large – bradley@career-ops.com

Michelle Jensen, Member at Large – mjensen@eastsidevocational.com

Nicole Hernandez, Member at Large – nicoleh@advancedvocational.com

Leslie Weaver, Member at Large – lweaver@washingtondmc.com

Guidelines for Advertising through IARP WA

The IARP WA Newsletter is distributed electronically to approximately 200 members quarterly. If you are interested in advertising in this newsletter, the following are guidelines:

We accept ads from vendors who provide ancillary services to injured workers in an effort to reduce the physical, mental, social and financial impact of disability. We do not accept ads for job postings. Job postings may be placed through the National IARP Website. (www.Rehabpro.org)

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IARP WA is scheduled to publish four newsletters per year; Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter.

Email the ad as an attachment to Roselyn Blair at rblair@scsvoc.com. Please provide the phone number and email address of a contact person(s) who can make decisions regarding the ad. Please be sure the ads look exactly as you wish them to appear. IARP WA is not able to provide ad development or editing services.

Ads should be submitted in one of the following formats: MS Word (DOC or DOCX), or as a TIF, GIF, JPG or other universal graphics file. **Please do NOT submit ads in PDF format.** Ads may be in color, grey tones or black and white.

Ads may appear in the following sizes: Cost:

Full Page: 9 inches high by 5 7/8 inches wide. \$200

Half Page: 4 ½ inches high by 5 7/8 inches wide \$125

Quarter Page: 4 ½ inches high by 3 3/8 inches wide \$75

Prior to submission, please "preview" your ad with the final print size in mind, to make sure that fonts are large enough to be read.

Please proof-read ad for accurate spelling, phone numbers, and other important information as WA-IARP is not responsible for proof reading.

New Tools for the ADMX Pilot!

January 23, 2017

In response to questions from the VRC community, and in an effort to increase collaboration and reduce delays, we've created some additional tools to assist the VRC with their ADMX referrals.

Please use these new tools:

-  [ADMX initial request template](#) (103 KB PDF)
-  [ADMX update EVOC template](#) (102 KB PDF)
-  [Worker engagement activities list](#) (276 KB PDF)

New travel mileage rate effective January 1, 2017

January 23, 2017

Effective January 1, 2017, the personal vehicle mileage rate is \$.54 per mile.

VocLink Connect is going away because LINIIS is moving to the web!

January 19, 2017

What is VocLink Connect and how does it relate to LINIIS?

VocLink Connect is the remote access system Labor & Industries (L&I) uses to transmit vocational referrals. Vocational providers who are assigned State Fund referrals use VocLink Connect to receive vocational referrals and enter an outcome recommendation at the conclusion of their work on a referral. The vocational referral and outcome information are stored in L&I's computer system called "LINIIS."

What will change from your perspective?

In the next couple of months, instead of using VocLink Connect via Secure Access Washington (SAW), you'll be able to access LINIIS through My Secure L&I, an easier and more efficient way for customers to sign up for L&I secure services.

We'll be posting instructions for accessing LINIIS in the coming weeks.

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Testing Credentials

December 22, 2016

With the exception of self-administered test such as Career Scope, most vocational tests require the test administrator to possess specific credentials to administer, score, and interpret the test. Depending on the test, the qualifications may range from a bachelor's degree (usually in a specific field such as psychology) to Master's degree with 1 or 2 graduate level courses in testing administration and psychometrics. Psychological tests such as intelligence tests can only be administered by a licensed psychologist (Ph.D. or Psy.D.). It is the responsibility of both the referring VRC and the testing administrator to be sure that the tester's qualifications meet the requirements of the test publisher. This is both a legal as well as an ethical consideration.

It should be noted that few vocational tests allow for the test to be administered by a proctor, even when supervised by a credentialed counselor.

Qualifications can be found in both the testing manual and from the test publisher's website.

The information in this announcement has been added to the [Aptitude and Interest Testing](#) vocational Web page.