



April, 2017

President's Column

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

It has been a lot of fun being President of the IARP Washington Chapter. I can hardly believe that the year has almost passed. A lot of your Board's energy went into reaching out to you and planning our upcoming annual conference per your expressed interests and educational needs. Our conference will take place on May 18 & 19 at the Hotel Murano in Tacoma, and I hope to see every member of the vocational community there. Because of the prolific workers' compensation system in our state, our conferences tend to offer a lot of workers' compensation-centric material, and this conference will be no different. However, most of the information provided is applicable to the many other varieties of work performed by vocational professionals in our state and nationally, including family law, personal injury, Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act (LHWCA), Office of Worker's Compensation Program (OWCP), Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA), etc.

Jason Parker will kick off our conference on Thursday by proffering some inspiring new communication and motivational techniques for every savvy vocational professional's toolbox during his two-hour presentation entitled, *"Returning Workers Back to Work – Creating Meaningful Conversations with Stakeholders."*

If you accept state fund referrals, it is an exciting time to be a VRC in the midst of L&I's Vocational Recovery Project. During the past year, your board vigorously discussed ways of improving and fine-tuning the partnership between the vocational community and L&I amongst ourselves and during multiple discussions and meetings with key individuals at L&I. L&I eagerly listened to our feedback and I am extremely optimistic that the partnership will continue to strengthen and flourish. I am excited that L&I's three VSS Supervisors will present, *"A Day in the Life of a VSS,"* to help us better understand their busy and complex role in the delivery of vocational services to our clients.

The year has been witness to the vocational community's successful implementation of several new or enhanced programs and pilots. Ryan Guppy, CDMS, Chief of Return to Work Partnerships, Tuyen Manikhoth, Outreach Specialist for Return-To-Work Partnerships, Wayne Shatto, Data Analysis Manager, and your board's own Michelle Jensen, CRC, will continue Thursday's program in their presentation *"Enhanced Services: A Yearly Review,"* highlighting some of the magic that is helping inspire our clients in their return-to-work paths. I have personally used the skills that I have acquired from Jason Parker's presentations and the Enhanced Services Pilot Project to motivate my clients from

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multiple referral sources. The presentation, “*Claim Costs 101*,” will enhance our ability to encourage return to work with the employer of record by helping state fund employers understand the multifarious ways in which claims impact their workers’ compensation rates.

On Friday, during what he tells me will be one of his final presentations ever, Timothy Field, Ph.D., who literally wrote the book on transferable skills analyses and so many more foundational topics in our field, will teach us the best practices when conducting these analyses in his presentation entitled, “*Transferability of Skills*.” His presentation is sure to be peppered with his amazing stories that offer a glimpse of the history of our industry and the importance of the consistent application of methodology in our work.

Elizabeth Boland, Ph.D., CRC, Casey Kilduff, MPA, CDMS, IPEC, and Cleo Risser, MA, CRC, CDMS, will take us back to the basics of vocational testing in their panel presentation entitled “*Best Practices in Testing and Assessment*.” They will help us to determine when vocational testing is appropriate and how to employ the right tests under a variety of circumstances. Helping us sharpen our own practices and providing fodder to those of us who engage in forensic work, Douglas M. Palmer, Attorney at Law, and DT North, M.S., C.D.M.S., ABVE-D, will help to identify and avoid vocational ‘Achilles heels’ in their presentation, “*Pitfalls in Employability Assessments and Retraining Plans*.”

Janet DeLapp, MS, CPE, CDMS, CPDM, and Sara Schmitz, MS, CRC, CPDM, CEOE, will provide us with intrinsic concepts that should be considered in all areas of the work that vocational professionals perform in their presentation “*Ergonomics of Sit-Stand Stations and Job Accommodations*.” Merrill Cohen, MC, CDMS, CRC, CCM, CLCP, and Jennifer Kabacy, CDMS, will present “*The Role of the VRC Providing Vocational Rehabilitation through the Office of Workers Compensation Program (FECA and Longshore)*,” enlightening us about a system of work outside of our state workers’ comp system.

Florida’s Jeffrey E. Carlisle, M.A., C.R.C., will travel a long way to cap off both days of our conference by providing a total of two ethics credits with his presentation, “*The New CRCC Code of Professional Ethics for Rehabilitation Counselors*.” Mr. Carlisle has the unique ability to make the topic of ethics fun and hopes to involve all of us in rich discussions surrounding ethical dilemmas that we face in our practices daily.

While at the time of this printing, our elections process has not been finalized, our candidates for Member at Large and President Elect are top-notch and guarantee much more excitement as your IARP WA Board advocates for you and finds ways to enhance your practice and support you as a vocational professional.

Thank you so much for the opportunity and honor to serve as your President!

Amy Williams, IARP WA Chapter President – awilliams@scsvoc.com

Sarah's Job Mod Corner

Sarah Martin, OTR/L, Therapy Services Coordinator, L&I

Have you heard of active suspension seats? Would this help your client get back to work? Studies are showing these seats may significantly reduce whole body vibration and reduce self-reported low back pain.

L&I recently made it possible to access one of these active suspension seats (Bose Ride) and is within the available \$5,000 job modification benefit.

How does it work? The Bose Ride driver suspension system actively cancels much of the road shock and vibration before it reaches the driver. It works in a manner similar to how noise-cancelling headphones work. The system senses motion in the cab floor and counteracts it with nearly continuous, precise adjustments by a powerful electromagnetic motor. The result is a dramatically smoother ride for drivers.

Types of vehicles: Heavy duty trucks, construction delivery trucks, utility trucks, transit buses, and yard tractors

Vendors with L&I provider numbers* who offer these seats:

- Western Peterbilt L&I #88024 206-624-7383 Multiple Locations Statewide
- Freightliner Northwest L&I #367474 1-800-523-8014 Multiple Locations Statewide

Manufacturer Contact*: David Osborne 508-766-1756
www.boseride.com

SUSPENSION SEATS



Job modification benefit questions: Sarah Martin, OTR/L L&I 360-902-4480

*Vendor and manufacturer information are based on information currently available to L&I.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Elections-IARP WA Board of Directors

The new IARP WA Board of Directors for the upcoming year; 5/1/2017 through 4/30/2018 will be announced shortly! Thank you for all members who have taken the time to cast your vote. Elections close on 4/30/17. If you haven't taken the opportunity to vote, please do so now by going to our survey monkey at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7R7YTP6>

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Explore IARP LEARN Courses

<https://www.pathlms.com/iarp/courses>

IARP WA Chapter Annual Spring Conference

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

<https://connect.rehabpro.org/washington/events/recentcommunityeventsdashboard>

Washington Self Insured Association-WSIA Events

May10-12, 2017-46th Annual Conference, "Raise Your Game" Tri-Cities, WA

<https://www.wsiassn.org/events/46th-annual-conference/>

AREA Annual Conference

May 11-13, 2017 San Diego Yacht Club

http://www.a-r-e-a.org/?page_id=1031

Professionals in Workers Comp (PWC)

May18, 2017 Point-Counter Point, Doubletree at Southcenter, Tukwila, WA

<http://www.pwc.org/main-nav/events/>

2017 Life Care Planning Summit

May 19-20, 2017 Embassy Suites-Denver International Airport

<http://members.rehabpro.org/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=939194>

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

SAVE THE DATES: October 11-14, 2017

Your IARP WA Board of Directors

Amy Williams, President - awilliams@scsvoc.com

Irina Razvina, President Elect - irina@abilityvoc.com

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

Roselyn Blair, Past President - rblair@scsvoc.com

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

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

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What's New for Vocational Counselors

<http://www.lni.wa.gov/ClaimsIns/Voc/WhatsNew/Default.asp>

Reminder: SNA3 Not able to work or participate in vocational rehabilitation due to unaccepted conditions

April 13, 2017

Documentation may support that unaccepted conditions arising from unrelated events (post-injury motor vehicle accident, a post-injury illness, a post-injury progression of a pre-existing condition, or non-cooperation) prevent a worker from participating in vocational services (SNA3).

To support a vocational outcome SNA3, please provide the following information, regardless of the phase of vocational services:

1. Documentation of the occupational possibility the worker could benefit from were it not for the unrelated conditions or barriers.
2. A medically-approved job goal.
3. The methodology for acquiring the skills.
4. A labor market survey demonstrating the job goal exists.

VSS staff updates

April 13, 2017

Please note the following staff changes:

Lara Drabek has promoted to VSS supervisor.

Kelly Leber has accepted a transfer to the Vocational Dispute Resolution Office.

Please check [Contact Us](#) to find the most up-to-date unit coverage assignments.

Early AWA Referrals: A Sea Change

April 10, 2017

In partnership with you, our early AWA referrals are improving vocational outcomes and reducing long-term disability.

The charts below tell the story.

What we've done

AWA referrals are going out earlier than ever before.

Since December 2013, the days of time-loss benefits paid before the first AWA referral have plummeted- from 245 to 84!

Since July of 2016 claim managers have:

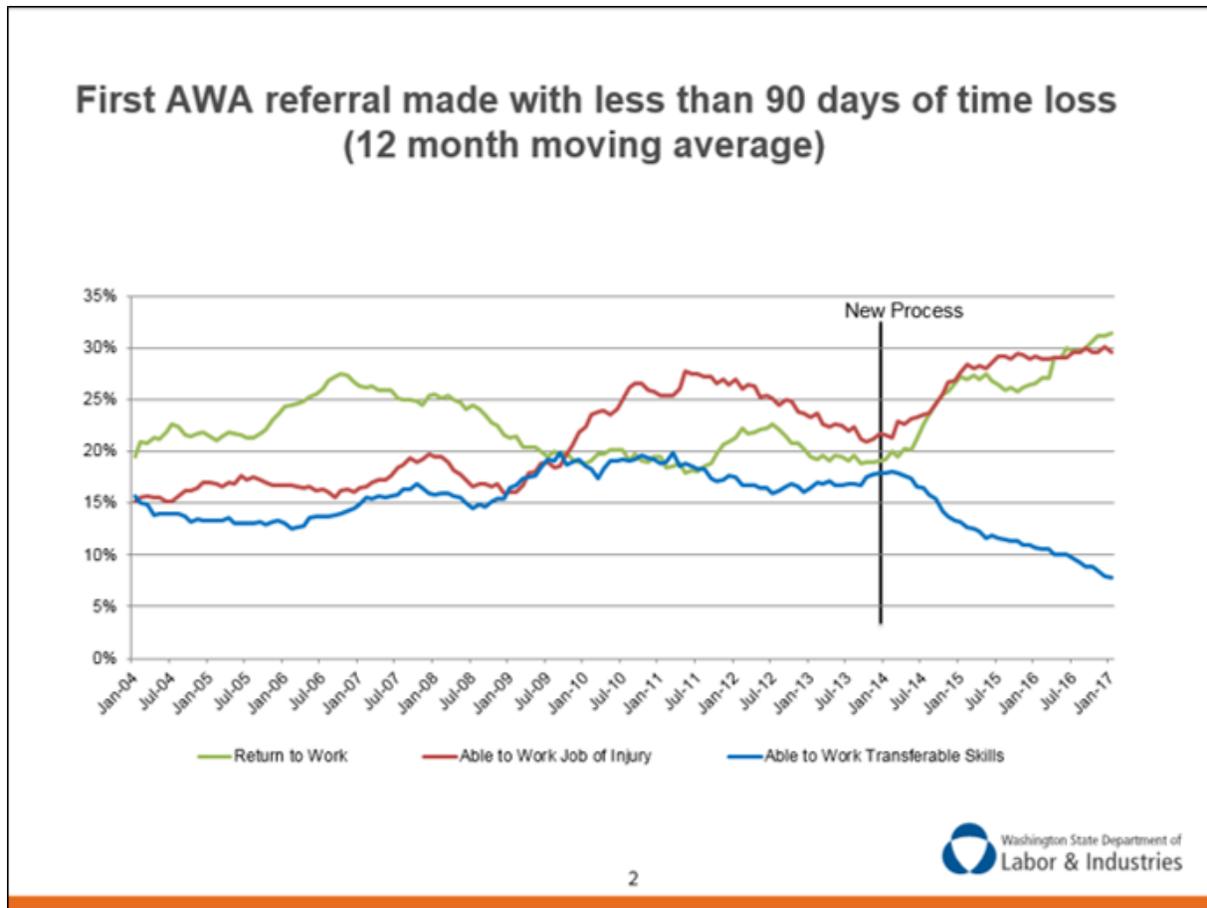
- Kept AWA referrals going out around our 90-day goal.
- Sent out an average of 550 first AWAs every month, a rate not seen in 7 years!

What you've done

As a result of your hard work, outcomes are the best we've ever seen:

- **Return to Work** and **Able to Work Job of Injury** outcomes have never been higher.
- **Able to Work Transferrable Skills** outcomes have never been lower.

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Thank you for providing better outcomes for workers and employers! Our goal is to continue working with you to maintain these improvements, prevent long-term disability, and help our workers heal and return to work.

PGAP Training Opportunity – Advanced Registration Extended to April

March 29, 2017

The University Centre for Research on Pain and Disability is pleased to announce an upcoming Progressive Goal Attainment Program (PGAP®) training workshop opportunity. The workshop will be held in Bellevue, WA on September 15 & 16, 2017.

There is an advanced registration opportunity for WA vocational and therapy providers using the [PGAP Workshop Registration Form](#) (484 KB PDF). Registrations will be accepted by fax up until open registration online is available at PGAPworks.com (www.PGAPworks.com) in April. Registrations will be accepted in the order in which they are received.

L&I has a strong need for bilingual (English/Spanish) PGAP Providers and for PGAP Providers who are trained in the telephonic delivery of PGAP. The telephonic portion of training will take place following the 2-day workshop on Monday, September 18, 2017 and is open to newly trained and previously trained PGAP Providers (3rd edition and 4th edition only). Details about this portion of training will be available in April.

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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)

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.