

New Hampshire Rehabilitation Association



FALL, 2007

President's Message

I hope that everyone in the New Hampshire rehabilitation community is enjoying the beautiful fall weather. This summer and fall, the board members have been planning our annual conference and fall meeting to be held on Monday, November 19, 2007 at the lovely Hilton Garden Inn in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. See their website at www.hiltongardeninn.com. Our theme this year is "The Benefits of Work".

We have invited an excellent group of presenters including our keynote speaker, Dr. John Lui, Executive Director of the Stout Vocational Rehabilitation Institute and past president of the National Rehabilitation Association and the NHRA. We are also proud to present Deloris Jay, Vocational Rehabilitation Coordinator with the NH Department of Labor, Gail Kastors, M.Ed., Director of Vocational Support for the Asperger's



Association of New England, and Sue Young, Administrator of Programs, Northern New Hampshire Correctional Facility. Our speakers each have unique and informative perspectives on providing quality rehabilitation and work related serves to individuals with different barriers to employment. John Lui will also provide a session on Ethics in Rehabilitation.

We look forward to a great fall event with lots of good networking opportunities located in one of the most beautiful and popular areas of the state.

Once again, we invite new members to be part of our professional organization. Your membership can provide training, leadership, and networking opportunities and can help you make a difference in New Hampshire!

Sincerely,

Laurie Corbett, President

The Importance of Involvement

By Mary Cahill

The Northeast Rehabilitation Association (NERA) hosted its 2007 annual conference, *Vocational Rehabilitation: Dealing a Winning Hand* in Atlantic City, NJ. The three day conference took place in mid-September and had attendees from a variety of northeast states

such as Pennsylvania, New York, Massachusetts and New Hampshire. The conference offered many different workshops that allowed the presenters to share their skills, knowledge and programs with representatives from

(Continued on page 2)

Inside:

Annual Fall Meeting and Conference Information and Registration

Scholarship Information

Concord Job Fair

MISSION

The Mission of the New Hampshire Rehabilitation Association is to advance the rehabilitation of persons with physical and mental disabilities by eliminating barriers to employment and productivity through ethical and excellent professional practice.



(Continued from page 1)

other states in order to combine efforts to help individuals in need.

As a recent graduate from the Vocational Rehabilitation Masters program at Assumption College, a former intern at Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission (MRC) and present VR Counselor in Nashua, NH, I was asked to be on a panel that would discuss the topic of recruiting students. It was entitled, "Marketing Public VR: A Students' Perspective." Among the panelists presenting with me, were Lee Pearson, Director of the Rehabilitation Counseling Graduate Program at Assumption College, George Fortier, the Supervisor at MRC in Milford, MA and adjunct professor at Assumption College, Courtney Marshall, a second year graduate student in the Rehabilitation Graduate Program at Assumption College and a current intern at MRC in Sturbridge, MA, and Deborah Booth, also a second year graduate student in the program at Assumption College and a former MRC consumer/customer.

The focus of our workshop was the recruitment of students into the field of Vocational Rehabilitation. As many probably know, the Vocational Rehabilitation workforce across the United States is facing a very large dilemma. As many counselors near the age of retirement, the gap between open counseling positions and qualified applicants is growing bigger. So why are students not choosing to go in to this field and how can we change this? These two ques-

tions were addressed at our workshop.

In short, the word "involvement" encompasses everything we discussed. When it was my turn to "take the stage," I spoke about how important the involvement of others was in my decision to pursue Vocational Rehabilitation. If it was not for the involvement of my professors, many of whom have worked in public VR, encouraging me to pursue my master's degree I never would have gone for it. If it was not for one of my professors, George Fortier, being a supervisor at MRC, I might have never even considered going into public VR or doing an internship at MRC. And if it was not for the involvement of my intern supervisor and intern mentor assisting me in pursuing a VR job opportunity in New Hampshire, I might have never ended up in public VR.

The message of our one hour and fifteen minute presentation was for individuals working in public VR to try and get directly involved with nearby colleges and universities. By recruiting interns and giving them the opportunity to learn from experienced VR counselors, you are paving a path for them to pursue public VR. For example, the location where I did my internship, Milford, MA, in the past five years has consistently placed five interns in public VR in various states around New England. It may not always be practical to take on a commitment like having an intern, but the simple act of opening your doors, visiting colleges and educating the youth about this agency will help propel VR into the future.

Scholarship Money Available from NHRA

Please spread the word that the NHRA Scholarship Committee would like to remind all members and friends of the availability of the 2007 Scholarship Fund. Scholarships are for New Hampshire residents who are taking classes, workshops, or are students of human services or rehabilitation programs.

A total of \$1,000 is available for one or more qualified applicants. Qualified appli-

cants are either current NHRA members *or* New Hampshire residents who currently work or are students studying in the field of rehabilitation and who hope to assist persons with disabilities to obtain or maintain employment. Funds are intended to be used toward educational or staff development pursuits.

To apply, complete the application on page

(Continued on page 3)

Concord Lakes Region Job Fair a Big Success

By Jim Hinson

The 2nd Annual Concord Lakes Region Job Fair was held on Wednesday, September 5 from 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the National Guard State Armory (located at 4 Pembroke Road in Concord, NH) and was a big success. This event, developed by the New Hampshire Governor's Commission on Disability in coordination with the NH Department of Education Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, NH Business Resource Center, NH Division of Personnel, NH Employment Security, the Developmental Disabilities Council, Granite State Independent Living, State Independent Living Council and the Workforce Opportunity Council was designed to assist workers with and without disabilities to secure employment with local and state-wide companies.

Participating employers were given the opportunity to showcase their businesses and meet with hundreds of potential new employees with excellent work ethics and skills. Through our combined efforts, approximately 550 people at-

tended this event. In addition, we had 67 businesses (142 business professionals) registered to attend the job fair, and to our delight everyone showed up.

Behind the scenes and months before the job fair, the New Hampshire Vocational Rehabilitation (NHVR) Regional Office in Concord, New Hampshire, under the direction of Gail Rueggeberg, was hard at work reaching out and preparing NHVR customers for the upcoming job fair. Flyers were mailed directly to all NHVR customers in the area and workshops were held at the Concord Regional Office to help customers prepare job applications, write resumes, and participate in mock interviews. As a direct result of these efforts, David Walsworth, the Employment Specialist working out of the Concord Regional Office, reported that some of his customers were able to secure jobs even before the job fair took place, and others secured jobs after attending the job fair.

During the 2nd Annual Concord Lakes Region Job Fair, we collected 55 surveys from employers and 151 surveys from

job seekers telling us what they felt were the strengths and the weaknesses of our Job Fair. While some of the surveys we collected from businesses were able to offer suggestions on how we could improve, the majority of the business participants (95%) felt that the job fair met their expectations, was well organized (98%), they would be willing to attend another one of our job fairs (98%) and they would recommend that others attend our job fairs in the future (100%). Because of the overwhelming positive response from employers and job seekers, we are already starting to plan the 3rd Annual Concord Lakes Region Job Fair for 2008.

The 2nd Annual Concord Lakes Region Job Fair is a positive example of what we can achieve when we work together. The job fair required 6 months of hard work and a high level of cooperation among the organizers. The 1st Annual Concord Lakes Region Job Fair held in 2006 led to successful employment outcomes for at least 20 of our customers, and we are anticipating even greater success from this year's event. For more information about the Concord Lakes Region Job Fair, contact Jim Hinson, Statewide Program Coordinator, Corporate Relations, (603) 271-7093.

Scholarship

(Continued from page 2)

five, or for an electronic copy of the application in Word format or PDF, go to <http://www.nh-rehab.org>. The application deadline for the 2007 Scholarship Fund is December 1, 2007. For more information, contact Christine Spaulding at (603) 428-3590.

New Hampshire Rehabilitation Association
Annual Conference and Fall Meeting
"The Benefits of Work"

November 19, 2007, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
 Hilton Garden Inn, Portsmouth, New Hampshire
 Conference Schedule

- 8:00 am - 9:00 am **Registration and Welcome**
- 9:15 am - 11:15 am **Keynote, *John Lui*, Benefits as an Up - and - Coming Field in Rehabilitation and Current Issues and Trends**
- 11:30am - 12:30 pm **Annual Meeting and Lunch**
- 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm **Session One Break Outs**
 - Room A *Sue Young, Administrator of Programs, Northern New Hampshire Correctional Facility, Community Re-Entry: Commitment to Offender Transition*
 - Room B *Gail Kastors, M.Ed., Dir. of Vocational Support, Asperger's Association of New England, Asperger's Syndrome and Practical Strategies for Employment*
- 2:00 pm - 2:30 pm **Break and Raffle**
- 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm **Session Two Break Outs**
 - Room A *John Lui, Ethics*
 - Room B *Deloris Jay, CRC, Vocational Rehabilitation Coordinator, NH Dept. of Labor, Everything You've Always Wanted to Know About VR and Workers' Comp*

Registration includes breakfast, lunch, and cookie break!

Member \$80.00 Non-Member \$90.00 FT Student (present ID at door) \$50.00

Name _____ **Organization** _____

Address _____ **City/State/ZIP** _____

Phone _____ **Email** _____ **NHRA Member #** _____

Needs/Requests _____ **Registration Deadline: 11/2/2007**

Please request any accessibility or dietary needs by 11/2/07. Return registration form with check payable to:

NHRA Fall 2007 Conference c/o Judy Sanderson, Granite State Independent Living, 84 Iron Works Road, Concord, NH 03301

For more information contact Laurie Corbett (603) 889-6844 or Judy Sanderson (603) 224-1130. CRC CEU's applied for.

New Hampshire Rehabilitation Association 2007 Scholarship Application

The New Hampshire Rehabilitation Association (NHRA) Scholarship Fund is designed to assist members of NHRA, working professionals or students of rehabilitation/human services programs in their educational or staff development pursuits as they relate to the mission of NHRA. The NHRA mission is to advance the rehabilitation of persons with physical or mental disabilities by eliminating barriers to employment and productivity through ethical and excellent professional practice. The Scholarship Committee will accept applications post-marked on or before December 1, 2007. A grand total of \$1,000 is available. Please provide the following information and submit to the Scholarship Committee at the address below.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ E-mail: _____

Employer/School Name & Address _____

NRA/NHRA Member # _____ Student (yes/no) _____ Amount of Request: \$ _____

Check One:

Prepayment is requested (Note: prepayment will be made in the form of a two-party check)

Reimbursement (Note: A paid receipt must be attached to this application.)

1. Explain how the training will relate to your employment and professional work and/or studies in Vocational Rehabilitation:

2. Explain how this information or materials will be used:

3. If awarded scholarship funds, do you approve the use of your name and/or photograph for publicity purposes? (yes/no) _____

4. Attach a copy of the class outline or training brochure and submit with the completed application.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

NHRA Scholarship Committee, c/o RSA, POBox 711, Henniker, NH 03242

Scholarships will be awarded without regard to race, creed, sex, age, physical, or mental disability.

NHRA Board Members

President Laurie Corbett
Secretary Judy Sanderson
Treasurer David Dwyer
Past President Kathy Shaw

Members-at-Large

Red Densmore
Karen Furman
Linda Dunfey
David Hagner
Jean Hillier
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Kathy Shaw

**Don't miss the
NHRA Annual Conference
And Fall Meeting**

"The Benefits of Work"

November 19, 2007

Hilton Garden Inn

Portsmouth, New Hampshire

8:00 am to 4:00 pm

Breakfast and Lunch will be served

Great raffle prizes

to benefit NHRA Scholarship Fund

See registration information inside!

**We're on the Web!
www.nh-rehab.org**

New Hampshire Rehabilitation Association

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