WRA Connection Fall 2011 Newsletter

WRA Offers 3 Continuing Education Opportunities

On October 19th from 2 to 4 pm, Megan Koch, MS will present a webcast on Benefits Specialists in Wisconsin. Participants will learn the different types of benefits specialists in WI, what services are provided, when to make a referral and what the BOND project is. Participants will earn 2 CRC credits!

On November 1st from 11 to 3 pm cst, Dr. David Mays, MD, PhD will present a webinar on Personality Disorders that will give participants an understanding of the disorders, treatments and boundary challenges when working with consumers with Personality Disorders. Participants can earn 4 CRC credits!

Finally, on November 30th from 10:30 to noon, Linda Hedenblad will join us in a Caseload Management Teleseminar that includes using ethical principles when making time management decisions and prioritizing service delivery to customers. Participants can earn 1.5 CRC ethics credits by participating in this teleconference.

For full details including costs and registration deadlines, please visit the WRA website at www.wra-org.org.

Job Coaching 101 Training
Sponsored by WRA Job Placement & Development Board and Pathways to Independence

The Job Coaching 101 training will take place Dec 2, 2011 from 8 am to 2:30 pm at the Best Western in LaCrosse, WI. This training is valuable for teachers, paraprofessionals, employment specialists, managed care staff and VR professionals. You will learn:

* Roles of a job coach
* Understanding the support needs of the employee

* Knowing and conveying the rules of the work environment
* Understanding the needs of the employer
* Facilitating the learning of job tasks
* Fading back direct assistance
* On the job problem solving
* Critical support needs of the employee
* Systematic Instruction and Task Analysis
* Facilitating co-worker relationships.

Nancy Molfenter will be the presenter. Nancy serves as the WI APSE Projects Director.


Contact Amy at 608-785-9510 if you have any questions.
WRA Connections

WRA President’s Message

Leaves are turning color, fall festivals abound, apples, squash and cranberries are in season and so is the annual WRA board election.

The following board positions will be on the ballot later this month: President Elect, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Three Board Member at Large Positions and a Consumer Board Member Position.

The President Elect position is a 3 year term: 1 term as president elect, 1 term as president and 1 term as past president. The treasurer is a 2 year term. All other positions are a 1 year term.

For position descriptions, please contact Deb Henderson Guenther at Deb. Hendersonguenther@wisconsin.gov.

If you are interested in a position or wish to nominate someone, you must be a National Rehabilitation Association member in good standing and understand the responsibilities of the position. Please email your or your nominees name and contact information to Deb Henderson Guenther at the email address above no later than October 19th.

Nominations will be reviewed by the WRA president to determine that the nominee is a member in good standing and that the nominee is in agreement with the nomination. Names will then be placed on the October ballot.

Happy Fall to all.
Deb Henderson Guenther
WRA President

Tim Carey Awarded 2011 Abilities Award

Congratulations to Tim Carey, WRA Webmaster who was the recipient of the 2011 Abilities Award. These awards are in their 9th year of recognizing people in the community who enhance the way people with disabilities develop and celebrate their abilities.

Tim received his award at a presentation held on Oct 6th at the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center in Appleton. He was nominated by staff at Options for Independent Living for his advocacy work including his newsletter and website – www.disabilityvoice.com. Tim started his website in 2008 with a DAWN grant through the WI Board for People with Developmental Disabilities. The goal is to educate people about the disability experience. He also wants to ignite advocacy efforts statewide and nationally. Tim says, “You can't rely on others to make change for you. If we all step up we can really reach our goals better.” In addition, he has a companion newsletter that reaches over 600 people monthly.

Tim also has a home based web design business. He has been WRA’s webmaster since 2002 and is currently working closely with us on a re-design. Tim, who shared that he has Muscular Dystrophy, has earned two degrees – an Associates degree from UW Fox Valley and a BA in Math Computer Science from Lawrence University.

Tim was very proud to have received this award for work that he is so passionate about. The following is an excerpt from his acceptance speech…“As people with disabilities we should not assume others will solve our problems. Neither can we consider our problems unsolvable. As people with disabilities we must voice our needs, desires, and even dreams. Whether it is going to college, starting a website, riding a horse, or independence, our dreams are no less than of those without disabilities. No doubt many of us need help reaching our goals or may need to be more realistic with our goals. What’s important is to not be limited by preconceptions of disability…”

Tim, at the ceremony with his mother and stepfather.
Accreditation of Undergrad Rehab Education Programs

For more than 10 years, rehabilitation educators have been working to create greater consistency in undergraduate rehabilitation education. A national role and function study was conducted to learn what undergraduate trained professionals actually need to be able to do at work. Out of those efforts an accreditation process and standards were developed. A new entity entitled the Commission on Undergraduate Standards and Accreditation (CUSA) was developed. CUSA is a branch of our rehabilitation field educational program accrediting body, Commission on Rehabilitation Education (CORE). CORE will be applying to expand its’ scope to accredit undergraduate programs late this fall.

The goals of accrediting the undergraduate rehabilitation education programs include:

1. Greater consistency in undergraduate rehabilitation training.
2. Standards for required supervised field work.
3. Clarified knowledge, skills and attitudes expected of an undergraduate trained rehabilitation professional.
4. Better services to consumers including professionals who know when to refer or to consult to enhance the person’s success.
5. Greater efficiencies created through clarity in training standards allowing more comprehensive training.
6. Identification of the differences between graduate and undergraduate education.

In addition to accreditation, an Undergraduate Code of Ethics is being developed. The National Council on Rehabilitation Education (NCRA) and the Committee on Rehabilitation and Disability Studies (CRDS) has spent the last couple of years working on creating a code of ethics specifically for individuals trained in rehabilitation at the undergraduate level.

Just as the CRC Code of Ethics is comprehensive for graduate level counselors, the undergraduate practitioner needs a code that can be easily and immediately accessed and that highlights the most essential expectations of ethical practice. The draft code has been developed to reflect the variety of work settings and job roles of undergraduates while providing clarity about ethical practice. It is expected that the draft guidelines will be reviewed and approved by the full CRDS committee at either the Fall or Spring NCRE meeting. The WRA newsletter will offer members a chance to view the final draft when it is available for dissemination and comment.

Efforts have now shifted to development of an undergraduate rehabilitation certificate or credential. This would ensure practitioner competence independent of school programs. It would also make the code enforceable after undergraduates left school programs and were out in the community providing services. The rehabilitation profession benefits because an undergraduate credential:

1. Makes rehabilitation equivalent to other helping professions that already have an undergraduate credential.
2. Supports career mobility with evidence of the skills and competencies undergraduates bring to the job.
3. Gets more professionals with rehabilitation expertise into the field. Since with the tight economy prospective students and their parents are looking for education that results in a credential.
4. Increases the potential pool of people who understand rehabilitation and are thus interested in graduate training to become rehabilitation counselors.

Undergraduate rehabilitation credentialing is one more step into that future.

AT EXPO Highlights

Learn, work, play better. Assistive technology that can make a difference in how we live. This was the theme of the 27th Annual AT Expo that was held at UW Madison on September 29, 2011. Over 40 exhibitors showcased the latest in AT for all areas of life – work, recreation, school and home. This year there were four modified vehicles on display, including a full-sized RV and pick up truck, as well as an all-terrain wheelchair and more!

In addition, there were presentations on a variety of topics including quality of life technology; apps for your iPod Touch, iPad, iPhone and android devices; interactive exercise techniques for people with disabilities, Smartboard, and technology for the aging populations. The keynote was NPR commentator and author Beth Finke discussing how technology has helped in her life.

WRA/WRCEA sponsored the coffee and breakfast for the exhibitors for the expo.
Work Incentives Benefit Specialist Association Off to a Strong Start

The mission of the Wisconsin Work Incentive Benefits Specialist Association (WIBSA) is to support and promote high quality work incentives benefits counseling services for all people with disabilities through: promoting and upholding statewide standards, encouraging training and professional development, and advocating for systems change at the state and federal levels.

The purpose of WIBSA is not only to create a community and develop connections among members, but to also encourage members to articulate and observe the standards by which they would like to operate. While WIBSA seeks to provide an authoritative voice on standards, it is actually the strength of the community that gives those standards authority. The standards are only effective if each member of the community acts in accordance with them, trusting that all WIBS will honor the same code of conduct.

WIBSA hopes to build a professional identity by creating a community with strong social ties—online and offline—and by articulating the standards of professional practice developed by community/association members. We sometimes forget how young the work incentive benefits counseling profession is. For WIBSA, this creates a special responsibility to encourage its members to commit his or her strengths to enhance the growth of the profession and success of all WIBS.

WIBSA was fully incorporated in July of 2010. With one year under our belt, we are happy to say that we are 54 members strong! All current members are active Work Incentives Benefit Specialists from across the state of Wisconsin. All members currently participate in a peer review process as well as meet continuing education requirements.

You may still have a few questions about the Association. Please check out our website at www.wibsa.org for further information.

WI Board for People with Developmental Disabilities Receives Grant!

The WI BPDD was thrilled to learn they were one of 6 Projects of National Significance: Partnerships in Employment Systems Change grants awarded by the Administration on Developmental Disabilities (ADD).

Funding will be used to support consortia aimed at improving existing state systems to increase competitive employment outcomes for youth and young adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities. These grants will be used to create partnerships in states to promote systems change efforts leading to the development of policies that support competitive employment in integrated settings for youth and adults with developmental disabilities.

“Improving access to appropriate employment supports is among the most important priorities expressed by the DD community. Beyond the opportunity to earn wages, the benefits of competitive, integrated employment include expanded social relationships, improved self-worth, transferable work skills, and increased self-determination. These grants will contribute to better employment outcomes for people with developmental disabilities” said Commissioner Sharon Lewis of ADD.

The WI BPDD is partnering with the other state ADD partners, Waisman Center University Center for Excellence on Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) and Disability Rights WI as well as the Department of Health Services, Department of

Continued on pg 5
Public Instruction and the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. The grant, called “Let's Get to Work,” will be putting together a statewide consortium that represents all stakeholders including youth, families, state agency leadership, educators, employers, legislators and others with expertise in transition and policy development and implementation. Let’s Get to Work will also select 8 schools to pilot an intervention package including recommended policy changes. These schools will have access to a Coaching Team that will serve as intense, on-the-ground technical assistance. The goal is to break down the barriers to community-based, integrated employment at the policy level.

This is a five-year, $365,000 grant. Other states awarded grants include California, Iowa, Mississippi, Missouri and New York.

ADD is further supporting these grantee efforts with additional data collection, technical assistance, and evaluation activities to ensure success of these efforts, as well as creating strong replication and dissemination avenues. Funding has been awarded to the Institute for Community Inclusion (ICI) to provide training and technical assistance to the 6 newly awarded grantees.

ICI will also collect data, analyze, and report on the employment and economic status of youth and young adults, ages 16 to 30, with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Finally, the Lewin Group has been awarded a multi-year contract to evaluate the Partnerships in Employment Systems Change efforts.
## 2011 Calendar of Events

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oct 19</td>
<td>WRA Benefits Specialist Webinar with Megan Koch, MS</td>
<td>2 – 4 pm. For more info: <a href="http://www.wra-org.org/site/wra-happenings/">www.wra-org.org/site/wra-happenings/</a> - 2 CRC Credits!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 25 – 26</td>
<td>7(^{th}) Annual Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Training Conference</td>
<td>Madison Concourse Hotel, Madison, WI. For more info: <a href="http://www.uwsp.edu/conted/conferences/">www.uwsp.edu/conted/conferences/</a> - click on conference name</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 1</td>
<td>WRA &amp; WI DVR Personality Disorders Webinar with Dr. David Mays, MD, PhD</td>
<td>11 am – 3 pm, For more info: <a href="http://www.wra-org.org/site/wra-happenings/">www.wra-org.org/site/wra-happenings/</a> - 4 CRC Credits!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 7 – 9</td>
<td>4(^{th}) Annual Statewide Self-Determination Conference</td>
<td>Kalahari Resort, WI Dells, WI. For more info: <a href="http://www.wi-bpdd.org/sdc/">http://www.wi-bpdd.org/sdc/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 17 – 18</td>
<td>2011 Joint Mental Health Summit</td>
<td>Concourse Hotel, Madison, WI. For more info: contact Sandy Hall at <a href="mailto:SGHall@matcmadison.edu">SGHall@matcmadison.edu</a> or 608-246-6791.</td>
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<td>Nov 30</td>
<td>WRA Caseload Management Teleconference with Linda Hedenblad, MSE, CRC</td>
<td>10:30 am to Noon. For more info: <a href="http://www.wra-org.org/site/wra-happenings/">www.wra-org.org/site/wra-happenings/</a> - 1.5 CRC Ethics Credits!</td>
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<td>Dec 1 – 2</td>
<td>Assistive Technology Across the Lifespan Conference</td>
<td>Glacier Canyon Lodge &amp; Convention Center, WI Dells, WI. For more info: <a href="http://www.atacrosslifespan.org">www.atacrosslifespan.org</a></td>
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<td>Dec 2</td>
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**Check us out on the web!**

[www.wra-org.org](http://www.wra-org.org)

and on Facebook!