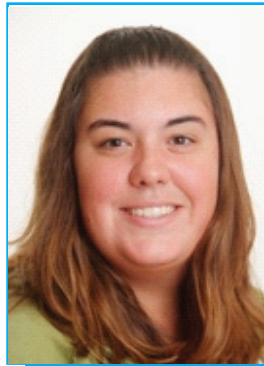


SPOTLIGHT

September 2011

Contents...

Ashley.....	1
Government Affairs Summit.....	2
Letter to MRA Members.....	3
Fall Conference Pre-Registration.....	4
Fall Conference Agenda.....	5-9
2011 MRA Board Members.....	10
Backpage.....	11



President's Corner

Wow it's hard to believe that summer has already come and gone. This year Minnesota has faced many different challenges. The State shutdown being the largest we have seen. I was very happy to see how professionals within the rehabilitation field pulled together and were a strong advocate for consumer rights on many different levels. Thank you for all the work that you did and continue to do for the individuals that we serve!

Looking forwards we have our always anticipated Fall Conference right around the corner October 5-7 in St Cloud, MN. This year's conference will be held at the Holiday Inn and Suites. As always the conference will provide a variety of different sessions for you to choice from. This year's theme is "The Vocational Rehabilitation Roundup." Make sure to send all your nominations for awards into each division. Our annual awards banquet will be held on Thursday October 6th after dinner.

The National Rehabilitation Conference is also coming up in October in Salt Lake City October 14-16th. For more information please see our national website <http://www.nationalrehab.org>. If you are planning on attending please contact me so we know who from Minnesota will be in attendance.

Thanks you again for all that you do! Hope to see you all at the conference!

Ashley Herman



2011 Governmental Affairs Summit Update



March 18-22, 2011 Doris Illies and Sara Sundeen attend the G.A. Summit in Alexandria, VA and meet with legislators in Washington D.C. The NRA G.A. Summit was very good with a lot of interesting sessions. In addition, we attended multiple meetings and continued our networking efforts with rehabilitation professionals across the country. NRA announced the start of the new Transition division.

The main message is that our work is ALL ABOUT JOBS! Kathy West-Evans from CSAVR gave some return on investment figures to share. In 2009, 179,500 people with disabilities went to work through the public VR program. They earned \$3.2 Billion in wages and paid \$1 billion in federal, state and local taxes. These individuals paid back the

cost of VR services in 2-4 years. For those on social security, 8,712 people were removed from the rolls for a saving of \$854 million to the SSA/treasury. For social security recipients the return on investment through VR is \$7.00 for every \$1.00 spent.

Doris and Sara met with staff from Representative Kline, Ellison and Bachmann's office. We also met with staff from Senator Klobuchar and Franken's office. In addition, we dropped off issues statements, ROI data and success stories with the rest of the Minnesota offices. NRA had 16 issue statements this year ranging from defining Qualified Rehabilitation Professionals to Transition. We focused mainly on Infrastructure funding, Governor's Waiver Authority and Maintaining Mandatory Funding for Title 1. Though none of these are on the table yet, we wanted to share this important information about VR programs and jobs. Staff could not tell us whether WIA or the Rehab Act would come up for reauthorization. Kline's office made it clear that the focus would be education (ESCA) first, then the jobs programs. They also said we shouldn't expect a large bill, but several smaller bills (if any).

The most important thing we can do now is for everyone to keep in touch with their elected representative (local and national). Let them know that Vocational Rehabilitation is about jobs. Share the return on investment information, share success stories and encourage clients to advocate for themselves and the funding that keeps them employed and part of the workforce.

Thank you to MRA for supporting important involvement in the National Rehabilitation Association and legislative issues that could have great impact on our field of rehabilitation. If we can be helpful, feel free to contact us.

Sara Sundeen

(NRA president elect, NRAJPD President, NASPPR member, NAMRC member)

Doris Illies

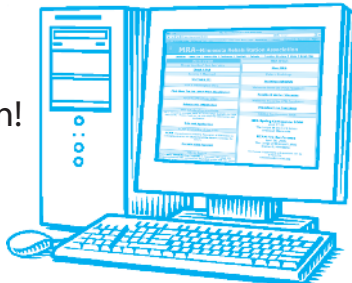
(NRAJPD secretary, NASPPR board member, NARL board member, NRA Transition member, MRA program chair)



2

September 2011

Please refer to
www.mnrehab.org/
for more information!



Abilities working for you

At Opportunity Partners, we match people's skill sets and interests with compatible employers.

To learn more about how we support people with disabilities in the workforce, visit
www.OpportunityPartners.org

OpportunityPartners
ABILITY REDEFINED



Hello MRA Members,

After the whirlwind of this special legislative session and statewide shutdown, Minnesota welcomes back its state workers, as well as other organization shuttered during the shutdown. All over the state, disability advocates came together to urge lawmakers to complete the budget swiftly and fairly; ensuring the continuation and funding of programs that the disability community depends on.

Governor Dayton and GOP leaders agreed to solve the state's two-year \$5 billion budget deficit through a combination of budget cuts, delaying payments to school districts and borrowing against the state's future tobacco settlement payments.

The signed Jobs and Economic Development bill approves total funding of \$170 million, cutting the governor's proposal by \$1.5 million and increasing the conference committee bill by \$16 million. You can access the full special session bills here:

<http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/ss2011/>

and the Jobs Appropriations can be seen here:

http://www.senate.leg.state.mn.us/2011_first_special_session_bills/11-3649sum.pdf

Highlights of the Jobs and Economic Development bill are below.

JOBS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Total state funding: \$170 million
- How it compares to conference committee bill: \$16 million increase
- How it compares to governor's proposal: \$1.5 million less Minnesota Trade Office: Cut of \$158,000 instead of the \$3.1 million cut proposed in the conference committee bill. The GOP had wanted to eliminate it, but restored funding as part of the framework agreement.
- Minnesota Investment Fund: Cut of \$3 million
- Job skills program: \$442,000 cut - less than half the cut proposed in conference committee bill. Other cuts to workforce programs for the disabled.
- Business and community development: \$376,000 cut, about 18 percent less than in conference committee bill.

Also, cuts in aid to entrepreneurs and small business, rural policy and development and similar funds, some of which help small and midsized businesses.

Thank you MRA Members for your continued advocacy for persons with disabilities.

Jessica Flack

Jessica Flack MRA GA Chair

September 2011



VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION ROUNDUP MRA FALL CONFERENCE 2011

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION
Minnesota Rehabilitation Association
October 5th - 7th, 2011
Holiday Inn and Suites - St. Cloud, MN

***Conference fees and registration are for the regular conference only - pre-conference fees and forms are done separately

Regular Conference (check appropriate boxes please):

- | | |
|--|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Member Full Conference (Wed. Thur. and Fri.) | \$200 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Member Daily Rate Wednesday Only | \$25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Member Daily Rate Thursday Only | \$110 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Member Daily Rate Friday Only | \$65 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Member Full Conference (Wed. Thur. and Fri.) | \$260 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Member Daily Rate Wednesday Only - MRCEA | \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Member Daily Rate Wednesday Only - JPD | \$35 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Member Daily Rate Thursday Only | \$135 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Member Daily Rate Friday Only | \$90 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Board Member | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Board Member - Wednesday Additional | \$25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student - MRA Member | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student - Non MRA Member | \$125 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student - WEdnesday Additional | \$25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Late Fee (After September 27, 2011) | \$25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Registration will be paid directly by my agency
PO # _____ | |

Thursday Dinner Choice:

- 8 oz. New York Strip
 Pecan Crusted Walleye
 Vegetable Stir Fry

Special Accommodations Requested: _____

*All accommodations request MUST be submitted by September 14th, 2011.
We cannot guarantee a requested accommodation made after 9/14/11.

Full Conference Registration includes Thursday breakfast, lunch buffet and dinner, Friday breakfast buffet and lunch.

**All other meals are on own.

*Going Green - Bring a tote from home instead of receiving a new one at registration and be entered into a prize drawing!

Please note: Payment expected at time of registration. Sorry, we are unable to process credit card payments.

**** Make checks payable to: Minnesota Rehabilitation Association**

Refund Policy: Due to commitments for meals/speakers etc.
No refunds will be granted after September 27, 2011

For Questions about the conference:
Please contact:

Doris Illies at (320) 630-7774
Dorisillies@hotmail.com

Additional information and registration forms can be found by visiting the MRA website
www.mnrehab.org

Discount: Receive a 10% discount for three (3) or more people from the same agency.

Please note that a list of conference participant names and their contact information will be included in the conference packets. If you do not wish for your information to be included, please check below.

_____ **I do not wish my information to be included.**

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Name: _____ Membership Number: _____
Employer: _____ Telephone: _____
Address: _____ City: _____
State: _____ Zip: _____ Email Address: _____

Mail OR Fax Registration Form and Payment To: (make checks out to MRA)
Doris Illies
Productive Alternatives, Box 371 Little Falls, MN 56345
Or Fax: 320-632-3879 Attn: Doris

NOTE: You must also make hotel arrangements directly with the Holiday Inn and Suites
Individuals may call 1-320-253-9000 to make reservations.
Single/Double Room \$79.95 per night, mention MRA rate
Hotel Registration Deadline September 16, 2011



4 September 2011

Vocational Rehabilitation Roundup Fall 2011 Conference Program

Wednesday, October 5th

Professional Development Institutes

11:00-12:00pm Conference Registration

12:00pm-4:30pm Track A: Bringing Communities into Communication, Understanding communication beyond words involves great skill and deep listening. ACT! Is a communication training that helps people understand nonverbal and mixed” messages. In an interactive format, opportunities to practice new forms for understanding what is spoken through what is needs helps individuals (caregivers, counselors, colleagues, clients” as well as groups (teams, families, organizations). Presented by Brian W. Brooks, ACT! A Communication Training (sponsored by MRCEA)

12:00pm-4:00pm Track B: A Team Approach to Transitional Placement, (sponsored by JPD)

4:45 p.m. Conference MRA Board Meeting

6:30 p.m. Dinner with the MRA Board at the Granite City Food and Brewery. All conference participants are invited to attend. Please note this dinner cost is on your own.

Thursday, October 6th

7:30 – 8:30 am Conference Registration & Continental Breakfast

8:30 – 9:00 am Opening Welcome: Ashley Herman – MRA President

Breakout Sessions:

9:00-10:30 am

1. Lessons Learned: Implementing EBP – SE Individual Placement and Support (IPS) Model – Sharyl Helgeson, R.N, PHN, DHS/ AMHD Program Consultant - Supported Employment IPS and Service Program Providers. The Johnson & Johnson Foundation awarded MN-DEED /VRS and DHS/AMHD a grant to implement Evidence-based Practice of SE: Individual Placement & Support model (IPS). Six projects, comprised of VRS, CRP’s and mental health treatment service providers were launched. Each differed in design, experience and knowledge. In 2010, over 370 people with serious mental illness pursued employment. Join Sharyl today are real providers delivering IPS. These are their real stories.



2. Decision Making Process in Social Security Disability/SSI Cases - Judge Jerome Berkowitz, Retired Judge and Hearing Officer/Chief Administration Law Judge U.S Office of Disability Review. Decision-making process from initial determination through final judicial review. – sponsored by MASPPR
3. A Taste of Motivational Interviewing – Lori Thorpe, MN DEED Vocational Rehabilitation Services and Bill Payne, Professor Metro State. Motivational Interviewing (MI) is a client-centered and directive method of communication which enhances a client's motivation to change. This session will provide an overview of the key concepts, principles, and tools used in Motivational Interviewing through lecture, demonstration and practice. ** PLEASE NOTE this is Session 1 of a 2 part presentation and the second session will be held from 2- 3:30.

10:45 am -11:45 am

1. Autism and Employment –if not now, then when? - Meghan Williams, MA, LAMFT, and Larry Moody Autism Society of MN. Employment and Autism: What is ASD and how to secure and retain the talents of those affected. Real applications, real situations that happen today to prevent someone from getting an interview, receiving the right acclimation support and/or creating a work environment with minor accommodations to help those with ASD be successful.
2. Mental Health Services and the Latino Community – Robert G. Van Noord, Ph. D, L.P. Self-employed: Northstar Psychological, PLLC. This presentation provides an overview of characteristics, practices, and current research relating to the U.S. Latino community and mental health services addressing this community. The purpose consists of educating MH service providers/Facilitators as to the specific needs, challenges, and strengths germane to the Latino community as these relate to MH services. –sponsored by MASPPR
3. Beyond Trauma – Bringing Caregivers and Counselors into Communication for Self Care – Brian Brooks. Caregivers and counselors for people living with the results of deep trauma need support for communicating within themselves as well as with clients, families and coworkers. This interactive presentation workshop addresses challenges in communicating with people in rehabilitation. Participants will receive self-care insights, communication skills training, and wellness practice tools. – sponsored by MRCEA
4. Promoting Vocation and Education through Assistive Technology – Jennifer Mundl, MS, ATP Lead Assistive Technology Specialist Courage Center Assistive Technology and Vocational Department. Promoting Vocation and Education Through Assistive Technology exposes the audience to the process of identifying appropriate low tech and high tech accommodations for individuals with disabilities. Technology is quickly changing in our environment, work and school such that each year brings many new challenges and opportunities for individuals with disabilities. This lecture will cover resources, current technology, assessment practices, training requirements, and services. The presentation will cover not only computer adaptations but many others such as communication, ipads, and office products.



6 September 2011

12:00 - 12:45 pm Lunch poolside

12:45 – 1:45 pm Finding Balance In The Midst of Chaos – Sandy Hanson, Rock Solid. Manage stress and make on-going positive changes. Live life with more energy, and move forward to find your hidden potential. Break free from your road-blocks; manage time to confidently juggle life obligations. Eliminate workplace roadblocks with positive self-talk. Draw on your inner powers to set and reach new goals, and live a healthier life. Break out of old routines, and shake off bad habits that drain energy and creativity. Sandy developed successful strategies to lead her business from near bankruptcy after the loss of her husband. Lead from your intuition and with a creative and open mind. You can reach new goals and truly prosper in your career.

2:00-3:30 pm

1. A Taste of Motivational Interviewing – Lori Thorpe, MN DEED and Bill Payne. Motivational Interviewing (MI) is a client-centered and directive method of communication which enhances a client's motivation to change. This session will provide an overview of the key concepts, principles, and tools used in Motivational Interviewing through lecture, demonstration and practice. ** PLEASE NOTE this is Session 2 of a 2 part presentation and the first session was held from 9:00 – 10:30 am.
2. Get Labor Market Resource Savvy – Rachel Vilsack, Coordinator of Special Projects, LMI Office, MN DEED. For a jobseeker, labor market information can be important to decision-making process. This session will include demonstrations of online resources to identify transferable skills, connect to local jobs, and navigate labor market data. Handouts and resources suitable for sharing with clients will be provided. Sponsored by MASPPR
3. Independent Living Services = Successful outcomes for clients – Cara Ruff, Founder and Executive Director, Independent Lifestyles, INC. a CIL. You will explore the wide ranging world of Independent Living Services, understand how they work, why they work, why they are effective and review case samples in which the blending of Independent Living Services with Vocational Rehabilitation resulted in strong consumer outcomes.
4. Opening Doors to Federal Employment Using Schedule A – Erin Bruntlett, MS, CRC, Charity Hovre, MS, CRC, and John Luepke, MBA, St. Cloud VA Health Care System. Learn about the Schedule A hiring authority used by the Federal Government to hire qualified individuals with disabilities. Get advice from Human Resources, EEO and Disability Practitioners on how to write the Schedule A certification letter and submit Federal application packages to refer your consumer with confidence.

3:45-4:45 pm

1. Empowering Clients, Empowering Ourselves – A Coaching Perspective – Pamela Leland-Nelson, CMIC Self-Employed Re-Empowerment Coach. The emerging field of professional coaching offers new perspectives on approaching the provider-client relationship, holding the client as inherently whole and resourceful and the “coach’s” role as supporting the client’s re-claiming of their personal sovereignty in their life and personal affairs. – sponsored by MASPPR
2. Lesbian Gay Bi-Sexual Transgender and Disability – Galen Smith and Jay Wilson. Session attendees will learn from life experiences of Galen and Jay as they both identify as disabled, queer and transgender.



3. Holding the Hope - Jode Freyholtz-London, Region 5+ Supervisor, Mental Health Consumer Survivor Network of MN, Facilitator for WRAP and Certified Peer Specialist Programs Holding the Hope is mental health consumer video produces with the support of the Region 5 + LAC. It is the story of pain and recovery for nine people who are courageous enough to tell their story. It has been shown to over 800 people and is part of the curriculum in 4 colleges in MN.
4. Protecting your Personal Identity – John Justin, St. Cloud Police Department. Identity theft is on the up rise, do you know how to keep yourself safe? This session will provide useful information and handouts to share with clients on protecting their identity.

5:00 – 6:00 pm MRA Division meetings

6:30-8:00 pm Dinner & Awards

9:00 – 1:00 - Please join us at Legends Bar and Grill – located in the Holiday Inn for a reunion tour of Ken Lundquist's band – now known as HOUSE PARTY. The dance theme is Round-up – so dress in your western garb!

Friday, October 7th

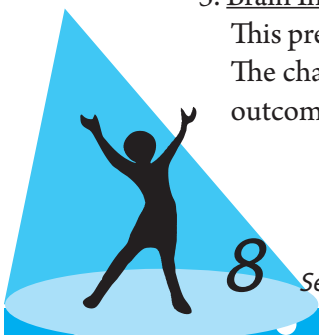
7:30-8:30am Conference Registration

8:30-9:00am - Membership Breakfast Buffett -Ashley Herman, MRA President & Division presidents

Breakout Sessions:

9:15-10:45 am

1. Probation and Parole – Jason Anderson, Evidence-Based Practices Programs Administrator State of MN Department of Corrections. An overview of probation and parole, with an emphasis on how to interact with the corrections agency within your respective jurisdiction. The role of probation/parole agent will be discussed as will the employment challenges unique to individuals with criminal histories.
2. A Mind-Body Approach to Stress Reduction – Christine Paul, MS, CRC, MN DEED –Vocational Rehabilitation Services. Minds and bodies work better together. Learn simple ways to integrate mind and body, become more present, build, inner awareness and decrease stress. Techniques include breathing; simple conscious movements you can incorporate at work and with clients; living mindfully. This will be an interactive session. The presenter will share stories of her own mind-body practice and how it's enhanced her work with her clients.
3. Brain Injury Basics for Professionals – Christina Kollman, LSW, CBIS, Brain Injury Association of MN. This presentation will discuss the incidence and prevalence of brain injury in Minnesota and nationally. The changes caused by brain injury will also be discussed and how this impacts rehabilitation goals and outcomes. Strategies to support persons with brain injury will be shared. – sponsored by MASPPR



8 September 2011

11:00 am -12:00 pm

1. A Look at Minnesota Worker's Compensation – Gary Hall, Assistant Commissioner MN Department of Labor and Industry, Mike Hill Rehabilitation Policy Specialist MN Department of Labor and Industry. –sponsored by MASPPR
2. Sexting and Cyberbullying in the New Age of Technology – Brian Stoll, Senior Probation Agent Wright County Court Services. In the changing world of technology, several unintended consequences have impacted students, schools, and the community. Technological advancements in cell phones have led to the development of new methods of creating and sharing child pornography as well as other sexually predatory behaviors. As Sexting and Cyberbullying have grown in popularity, children and adults are often unaware of the possible consequences. Addressing these matters in a proactive restorative manner maximizes the impact of the intervention while minimizing the long term collateral consequences. This presentation educates professionals on the seriousness and trends with this issue. It is comprised of statistics, videos, first-hand stories, and other valuable insights to further the education of corrections professionals. The presentation is 90-120 minutes in length focusing on consequences of sexting and the different strategies of how corrections can handle the issue when managing youthful offenders who commit the crime, often out of negligence. Cyberbullying is also addressed, specifically how traditional bullying has morphed to the new and more dangerous bullying with the use of technology.
3. Rehabilitation Ethics – Speaker and topic to be announced
4. Fun Strategies to Improve Job Placement Outcomes – Elizabeth Jones Employment Specialist – Owner LJ &A, Sarah Deeny, Program Director – Employment Specialist, Stephanie Kruger Employment Specialist- Team Lead Southland, and Christian McCalla, Corporate Compliance Officer and Employment Specialist LJ&A. LJ & A will provide a panel of Job Placement Specialists and will review 4 intervention/tools that will assist in expediting a stalled or inactive job search, or simply a job search.

12:15-1:30- Lunch

Keynote Speaker

Closing the Gaps: Gender and Generational Communication – Kit Welchlin Communication Strategies. With four different generations converging on the workplace, everyone needs to be equipped with practical strategies to deal with the differences. Learn to sort through stereotypes, and identify strengths.“

This presentation is geared towards getting individuals motivated about finding a career they are passionate about, something more than just a job. It's designed to get people thinking about what they are good at and make the connection towards a career. I also provide helpful tips on the interview process.

1:30PM Conference end and Fabulous Prize drawings

** Please note that this program is subject to slight changes in speaker times or order.

September 2011



2011 MRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

EXECUTIVE BOARD PRESIDENT:

Jennifer Beilke
MN State Services for the Blind
2200 University Ave W # 240
St. Paul, MN 55114
Phone: (651) 643-3541
Fax: (651) 649-5927
jennifer.beilke@state.mn.us

PRESIDENT-ELECT:

Pat Bienfang
Vocation Rehabilitation Services
6630 Crown Circle, MN
St. Francis, MN 55070
Phone: 651-259-7353
Fax: 651-297-5159
pat.bienfang@state.mn.us

PAST PRESIDENT:

Colleen Andresen
Vocational Rehabilitation Services
1201 89Th Ave NE #220
Blaine, MN 55434
Phone: (763)785-3609
Fax: 763-785-3365
colleen.andresen@state.mn.us

VICE PRESIDENT:

Ashley Herman
Opportunity Partners
2324 University Ave W. #120F
St. Paul, MN 55114
Phone: (651) 251-0672
Fax: (651) 641-7223
aherman@opportunities.org

SECRETARY:

Cassandra Avery
Goodwill/Easter Seals
553 Fairview Avenue North
St. Paul, MN 55104
Phone: 651-379-5870
Fax: 651-379-5804
cavery@goodwilleasterseals.org

TREASURER:

Dawn LaRue-Wittwer
Vocational Rehabilitation Services
1201 89th Avenue N.E., Suite 220
Blaine, MN 55434
Phone: (763) 785-3368
Fax: (763) 785-3365
Fax: 651-297-5159
pat.bienfang@state.mn.us

DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES

DISTRICT A

Stephanie Legatt
Phone: 320-420-6708
lest0701@stcloudstate.edu

DISTRICT B

Katie Hartl
Vocational Rehabilitation Services
140 Buchanan Street Suite152
Cambridge, MN 55008
Phone: 763-279-4481
kathleen.hartl@state.mn.us

DISTRICT C

Doreen Hoffman
Rehabilitation Services
318 9th Street
P.O. Box 816
Worthington, MN 56187
Phone: (507) 372-3782
doreen.hoffman@state.mn.us

DISTRICT D

Stephen L. Elke
Mayo Clinic-Recovery/Claims Ser.
200 1st. Stree SW
Rochester, MN 55905
Phone: 507-538-1660
Fax: 507-284-9229

DISTRICT E

John Hoffman
Lifetrack Resources
709 University Avenue West
St. Paul, MN 55104
Phone: 651-227-8471
Fax: 651-227-0621
johnh@lifetrackresources.org

DISTRICT F

Don Ostenson
Vocational Restoration Services Inc.
3300 County Road 10, Suite 220
Brooklyn Center, MN 55429
763-560-8680
Fax 765-560-8643
dostenson@vocrest.com

ARTS PRESIDENT

Sherry Henrickson
Vocational Rehabilitation Services
12 Civic Center Plaza
Mankato, MN 56001
507-389-6515
sherry.henrickson@state.mn.us

MASPPR PRESIDENT

Thomas Saby
Saby Consulting Services
P.O. Box 18503
West St. Paul, MN 55118
Ph: 651.688.8350
Cell: 651.334.7311
FAX: 651.688.9826
tomsaby@comcast.net

JPD PRESIDENT:

Amanda Jensen-Stahl
Workforce Develvor
Direct phone: 651-379-5607
Main phone: 651-379-5800
Fax: 651-379-5604

MRCEA PRESIDENT

Chris Murray
MetLife
PO Box 44801
Eden Prairie, MN 55344
Phone: 952-833-2449
Fax: 800-758-6916

VEWAA PRESIDENT

Jennifer Bey
Courage Center
3915 Golden Valley Road
Minneapolis, MN 55422
Phone: 763-520-0254
Fax:763-520-0861
jennifer.bey@couragecenter.org

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

ST. CLOUD STATE UNIVERSITY

Sabrina Martin
Stasia Fetter
MN State Univ-Mankato
100 Dublin Ct.
Mankato, MN 56001
Phone: 319-360-9938
masa0605@stcloudstate.edu
stasia.fetter@mnsu.edu

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

BY-LAWS/CONSTITUTION

Pat Bienfang
Vocation rehabilitation Services
6630 Crown Circle, MN
St. Francis, MN 55070
Phone: 651-259-7353
Fax: 651-297-
pat.bienfang@state.mn.us

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Jessica Flack
Opportunity Partners
5500 Opportunity Ct.
Minnetonka, MN 55436
Cell: 612-232-5278
Fax: 952-930-4279
jflack@opportunities.org

MEMBERSHIP

Mark Mertens, M.S.
Career Rehabilitation Counselor
2200 23rd St NE, Ste 2040
Willmar, MN 56201
320 231-5175
mark.mertens@state.mn.us

COMMUNICATIONS

Mimi Collins
Vocational Rehabilitation Services
777 E. Lake St. Suite 204
Minneapolis, MN 55364
Phone: (612) 821-4016
Fax: (612) 821-4427
mimi.collins@state.mn.us

PROGRAMS

Doris Illies
Productive Alternatives, Inc.
P.O. Box 371
Little Falls, MN 56345
Phone: (320) 632-9291
Cell: 320-630-7774
Fax: (320) 632-3879
dorisillies@hotmail.com

HISTORIAN

John Hotz
St. Cloud State University
720 Fourth Avenue South
St. Cloud, MN 56301
Phone: (320) 308-2240
Fax: (320) 308-4082
jchotz@stcloudstate.edu

VICE CHAIRS AND OTHER BOARD ATTENDEES

COMMUNICATIONS VICE CHAIR

Erin Baumel
Vocational Rehabilitation Services
1201 89Th Ave NE #220
Blaine, MN 55434

PROGRAMS VICE CHAIR

Annette Sobek
Vocational Rehabilitation Services
140 Buchanan Street Suite152
Cambridge, MN 55008
Phone: 763-279-4474
annette.sobek@state.mn.us

CONTRACTED INTERNET

Jason Bird
Three Eyed Bird Design
Office: 612.424.3861
Mobile: 612.216.8633
Cambridge, MN 55008
Phone: 763-279-4474
www.threeeyedbird.com



Jody Hoffman
 College of St. Catherine
 601 25th Ave S
 Minneapolis, MN 55454

Mark Your Calendars

NOVEMBER						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
				1		3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

**DUE DATE
 FOR THE NEXT
 ISSUE IS
 11/2/11!**

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 Marshall, MN 56258

Mark Your Calendars!!

Due Dates for Upcoming Spotlight Issues
 Deadline for the December Issue is November 2nd.

Advertising Rates

Spotlight Only:

One year (4 editions) - \$50
 Two years (8 editions) - \$75

Web Only:

One year - \$125
 Two years (8 editions) - \$225

Spotlight and Web:

One year (4 editions) - \$150
 Two years (8 editions) - \$275

Call 952-895-7628 for more information or mail ad copy to:

Erin Baumel

Vocational Rehabilitation Services
 1201 89th Avenue NE, Suite 220
 Blaine, MN 55434
 erin.baumel@state.mn.us



SPOTLIGHT SUBSCRIPTION RATE: \$10

(or additional donation, if desired)
 Free to MRA Members

Please write! Space limitations may require editing for length. Every effort will be made to maintain original intent. Articles should be submitted to:

Mimi Collins, Co-Chair

777 East Lake Street #204
 Minneapolis, MN 55407
 715 -829-3955
 mimi.collins@state.mn.us

Erin Baumel

Vocational Rehabilitation Services
 1201 89th Avenue NE, Suite 220
 Blaine, MN 55434
 erin.baumel@state.mn.us

CHECK US OUT

You can locate MRA on the
 World Wide Web: www.mnrehab.org
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