Wednesday, November 16, 2016

10:00 am – 1:00 pm   CESP Exam (APSE)
1:00 – 2:00 pm   VRCEA Membership Meeting
1:00 – 7:00 pm   Conference Registration Desk Open
1:00 – 5:00 pm   Exhibit Set-Up
2:00 – 5:00 pm   Pre-Conference Training Sessions

Ethics: Supervision, Consultation and Professional Support for Ethical Decision-Making
Sponsored by the Department of Rehabilitation Counseling at Virginia Commonwealth University

Many workshops focused on professional ethics emphasize the importance of consultation for ethical problem-solving. Who can serve as those consultants for us? How can we develop systems supportive of appropriate discussion of ethical dilemmas? What responsibilities do supervisors and other leaders have for developing this? What options do practitioners themselves have for developing professional peer support networks in an ethical manner? Issues relevant to the CRC and ACA code of ethics will be incorporated.

Speakers: Christine A. Reid, Ph.D. CRC and Amy J. Armstrong, Ph.D. CRC, Chairperson, Department of Rehabilitation Counseling, Virginia Commonwealth University.

Waiver Redesign: Update for Providers

Session will provide an overview of the redesign and implementation to date. This interactive session will focus on the most frequently asked questions and provide participants with an opportunity to get additional questions answered.

Speaker: Heather Norton, Director of Community Support Services, Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS)

I’m A New DARS Provider – Now What?

Now that you are an approved Supported Employment provider for DARS and Medicaid Waiver what do you do next? How do you start to receive referrals? What can you expect from the DARS Counselors? How do you get an authorization for services? What about Medicaid waiver? This workshop will address all of these questions and more. It is designed to provide a basic overview of working with DARS and Medicaid waiver clients. Participants will learn about processes related to authorizations, reporting and billing for services for both funding systems.

Speaker: Donna Bonessi, Manager of Employment Support Services for the Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services, Division of Rehabilitative Services (DARS).

5:30 – 7:00 pm   Exhibitor Welcome Reception
Hosted by Sponsors & Exhibitors
Thursday, November 17, 2016

7:30 – 5:00 pm  Conference Registration Open
               Exhibits Open
7:30 – 8:30 am  Breakfast
8:30 – 5:00 pm  Assistive Technology Fair

The Virginia Assistive Technology System (VATS) will host a “hands-on”, give it a good ol’ try, show and tell Assistive Technology Room! All day Thursday, November 17, conference participants will be able to “drop-in” to the Technology Room and personally try out some of the latest and greatest assistive technology (AT) devices and gadgets available to accommodate individuals with disabilities at home, work or play! VATS staff and disability service agency professionals will provide 1:1 training and demonstrations to increase participants’ knowledge, skills, and competencies regarding AT as well has help individuals make informed decisions regarding appropriate and affordable solutions. Conference participants will be able to come and go as their interest and schedule permits and interact directly with the presenters and the technology. This is an excellent opportunity for everyone to learn the benefits and resources available for AT in a fun and un-intimidating setting!

Host: - Barclay Shepard and the Virginia Assistive Technology System (VATS), Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS).

8:30 – 10:00 am  Concurrent Sessions

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) – The Rehab Act Reauthorized – What Does This Mean for the Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) and Its Providers?

The enactment of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) provides a tremendous opportunity for workforce system improvements to ensure that persons with disabilities are prepared for jobs that are available now and in the future. This session will provide an overview of WIOA, its key provisions, and discuss the opportunities it presents for VR and Stakeholders.

Speakers: Missy Diehl, M.A. Ed. CRC, Project Director WINTAC Pre-Employment Transition Services The George Washington University, Center for Rehabilitation Counseling Research and Education (CRCRE)

Audits – Nightmare or Business As Usual? – A Provider Panel

These two providers will provide an overview of the types of audits that might be encountered including Delmarva, Licensure, DMAS Quality Management Reviews (QMR), Medicaid financial and DOL audits…..to name a few. The providers will share their experience, give some tips and facilitate a discussion on concerns and possible resources if you have an audit.

Speakers: Shirley Lyons, Program Manager, Employment & Day Services, Henrico MH/DS & Hermitage Enterprises; and Kelly Reichard, CESP, Co-Founder and Executive Director, Stand-Up Inc.

ABLEnow Opens Soon! – New Tax Advantaged Savings Accounts for Individuals with Disabilities

ABLEnow makes it easier to save than ever before. More independence, greater financial security and a better quality of life – that’s the future ABLEnow is building. ABLEnow accounts are a new way to help individuals with disabilities save money and pay for qualified disability-related expenses. For the first time ever, that
means tax-advantaged savings, usually without endangering eligibility for the means-tested benefit programs critical to the health and well-being of many with disabilities. Contributions to ABLE accounts can be made by anyone, from the account owner to family, friends and loved ones – helping more and more people play a part in creating a better quality of life.

**Speaker:** Mary Morris, CEO, Virginia529 College Savings and ABLEnow

**CARF – The Value of Accreditation**

This presentation will focus on the value of accreditation and address Community Integration and Community Employment Services program standards. Also included will be a discussion on how the CARF standards align with the Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) and the CMS Home & Community Based Services (MCBS) regulation changes. The “Top Ten” missed standards will also be shared. Time will be provided at the end of the presentation for a Q & A session.

**Speakers:** Pete Hathaway, Managing Director of the Employment and Community Services for CARF International and Robin Metcalf, President, The Choice Group and Tenured CARF Surveyor

**What Employment Services Providers Need to Know: Supporting Beneficiaries with Managing Social Security Disability Benefits: (Session 1 of 2)**

This session provides specific information and strategies for employment service providers related to supporting Social Security Disability beneficiaries in employment. Topics to be covered include 1) What information needs to be reported to Social Security for individuals who receive SSI and/or SSDI benefits, as well as effective strategies for communicating information to Social Security; 2) Specific areas that cause problems for beneficiaries in managing their benefits, as well as practical tips for avoiding and resolving benefits problems; 3) Strategies employment service providers can use to support beneficiaries with managing their benefits will be discussed; and, 4) Work incentives counseling services available for beneficiaries through the Social Security funded Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) program.

**Speaker:** Susan O’Mara, Faculty, Department of Special Education and Disability Policy, VCU School of Education and Director, VCU’s Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) National Training and Data Center.

10:00 – 10:15 am  Break  
10:15 – 12:00 pm  Opening General Session

**ABLEnow Opens Soon!**

**Mary Morris, CEO, Virginia529 and ABLEnow**

**LEAP – Living Well**  
This keynote will consider current trends and challenges within our personal and professional lives and making the most of them to explore a meaningful life. Drawing from experience, positive psychology and appreciative inquiry, this session will address strategies and approaches to living well to include learning, engaging, appreciation and positive potentiation.

**Amy Armstrong, Chairperson and Associate Professor in the Department of Rehabilitation Counseling at Virginia Commonwealth University**
12:00 – 1:45 pm  Lunch on Your Own
12:00 – 1:45 pm  VRA General Membership Meeting
2:00 – 3:30 pm  Concurrent Sessions

What Employment Service Providers Need to Know: Providing Work Incentives Information to Youth in Transition (Session 2 of 2)

This session is designed to address special considerations related to providing employment services to youth between the ages of 18 and 25 related to their benefits and working. Student Earned Income Exclusion, an SSI work incentive exclusively for students under age 22 will be explained, and a brief introduction to the other work incentives for SSI and Title II beneficiaries will be shared. The audience will receive a few tips for working with youth, as well as links to specific resources for this priority group of referrals.

**Speaker:** Susan O’Mara, Faculty, Department of Special Education and Disability Policy, VCU School of Education and Director, VCU’s Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) National Training and Data Center.

Journey to Community Services: Making It Work!

Join a team from The Arc of Southside’s employment program as they share their journey from traditional, segregated services, to supporting people with disabilities in their own communities, through Supported Employment and Integrated Day. Through a candid and practical discussion, self-advocates and staff will share the successes, pitfalls, and challenges they faced, along the way, and the steps they have taken to transform the way services are provided.

**Speakers:** Tonya Milling, Executive Director, The Arc of Southside and Self-Advocates

Everyday Ethics

The CRC Code of Ethics is intended to assure the public that the rehabilitation counseling profession takes seriously its responsibility to provide ethical and caring services to individuals with disabilities. This session will offer an opportunity to review the CRC Code of Ethics and to apply ethical decision making to a variety of case studies. This session will be highly interactive and didactic. Please come prepared with your questions, concerns and examples.

**Speakers:** Robin Metcalf, President, The Choice Group and Susan Gaillard, Training Coordinator, Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS).

Supported Decision-Making: Understanding All Team Member Roles for Collaborative Success

A workshop designed to assist all team members in understanding their part in preferences, consent, and treatment planning. Participants will explore the individual’s, guardian/authorized representative, and the provider’s roles to ensure all parties have clear expectations and protect the rights and interests of the individual receiving services. The bottom line is ALL have a voice and a role. This workshop will aid each in embracing their part for empowering success. The session will clarify roles and responsibilities, explore common challenges and questions, and provide a framework to help move from theory to practical application.

**Speaker:** Kevin Paluszak, President, ECCO Consulting Services
Creating Ah-Ha Moments for Legislators and Other Things Political

The election is finally over – what happens now?  How do you successfully reach out to legislators, tell your story and develop valued ongoing relationships?  How do you get your idea written into a budget amendment, a piece of legislation – what happens after that?  Don’t miss this interactive panel discussion!  Discussion will include storytelling as a tool for effective advocacy and will review the basics of what goes on “inside the sausage factory” of how laws and budgets are made.  Participants will learn how to develop a personal plan for improving advocacy skills and building key relationships. Learn from some of the best in the disability field - the “road warrior” advocates for VRA, VA-APSE and vaACCSES.

Speakers: Becky Bowers-Lanier, President, B2L Consulting LLC; Ed Turner, Advocate, Turner & Associates, VA-APSE; and, Karen Tefelski, Executive Director/Advocate, vaACCSES

3:30 – 3:45 pm  Break
3:45 – 5:00 pm  Concurrent Sessions

My Life My Community – A Success Story

Sam Hulcher experienced a rich, full life in the community while in high school, managing his school’s soccer team, participating in service clubs, attending his senior prom, and volunteering at local nonprofit organizations. Life after high school has offered its share of challenges as well as successes. Sam and Bradford will describe Sam’s transition to life after high school, using a person centered approach and home and community based services and supports. Sam’s story will include strategies and supports and services used to accomplish and maintain successful employment, recreation, community, and a home of his own as a young adult.

Speakers: Bradford Hulcher, Program Director, Autism Society of Central Virginia and Sam Hulcher, Self-Advocate.

More Than Cat Videos:  DARS’ Social Media is More Than Entertainment

Learn more about social media, how and why DARS uses Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and other platforms to engage and inform audiences, and tips to incorporate into your work.

Speakers:  Amber Gulla, Social Media Specialist and Betsy McElfresh, Marketing & Public Relations Specialist, Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS)

STRESS, Wellness and Your Job ---- Your Choices

Participants will gain an understanding of how health impacts stress.  They will learn practical ways to improve health and understand stress; ways to “rethink” and learn practical ways to relieve stress.

Speaker:  Shirley Lyons, Program Manager, Employment & Day Services, Henrico Area MH/DS & Hermitage Enterprises; CARF Surveyor

The State of Brain Injury Services in Virginia – If Not Now, When?

Public awareness of brain injury has never been higher, but how is that translating into support and services for persons with brain injury in Virginia? This presentation will focus
on the prevalence of the injury in the Commonwealth, data and services currently available, gaps within the continuum of neurotrauma care, and how other states are responding to the needs of persons with brain injury in their communities. Participants will gain an understanding of 1) The state of brain injury services in Virginia: data, continuum of care and gaps in services; 2) Neurotrauma services and programs being conducted in other states; and 3) Options for brain injury service expansion in Virginia.

Speaker: Anne McDonnell, Executive Director, Brain Injury Association of Virginia

Friday, November 18, 2016

7:30 – 12:00 pm Conference Registration Open
7:30 – 12:30 pm Exhibits Open
7:30 – 8:30 am Breakfast
8:30 – 11:00 am Concurrent Sessions

Taking It to the Next Level: Building With Customized Employment

This workshop will provide an overview of Customized Employment with an emphasis on Discovery (assessment) and true Job Development (negotiation/creation) featured in this newer approach to vocational rehabilitation services. Teamwork, person-centered principles and who would especially benefit from Customized Employment will be discussed.

Speakers: Mark Peterson, DD Employment Resource Specialist, DARS and Pam Hinterlong, Director of Workforce Services, DBVI

Don’t Get Caught Without A Plan! – Personal Safety in the Workplace

With the increase in violence in the world and workplace, one should be knowledgeable and proactive in protecting one’s self, home and the work environment. This workshop will explore personal and office safety, offering insights and assisting in the development and implementation of individualized strategies to address potential incidents. Real examples and easy to use tips make this training highly relatable and easy to operationalize both on a personal and professional level.

Speaker: Letisha Branch, Certified Police Crime Prevention Specialist & Neighborhood Watch Liaison, Portsmouth Police Dept.

Working with the LGBTQ+ Community

This session will give participants a background on issues related to a person’s real or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity. Workshop will include a discussion of the difference between sexual orientation and gender identity, how LGBTQ+ people today are different from in the past, and a breakdown of how risk factors like internal conflict, isolation, and family rejection can impact the mental health of LGBTQ+ people. Training will end with a discussion of how staff can help increase the protective factors and resilience of their LGBTQ+ clients.

Speaker: Charles Dyson, Associate Director, Side-By-Side Virginia
11:00 – 11:30 am Break
11:30 – 12:30 pm Closing Session

Implementation of Virginia’s Settlement Agreement Update & Roundtable Discussion

Where is Virginia regarding compliance with its Settlement Agreement? With 4.5 years since the Agreement, what are the perceived and real barriers that need to be overcome in order to fully and successfully implement the Settlement Agreement? What’s DOJ perspective? Virginia’s focus for compliance is wrapped up in the implementation of the Waiver Redesign. What’s the feedback from the field on how it’s going? This interactive roundtable session will include open Q & A between DOJ and attendees.

Speaker: Jessica Polansky, Attorney, Special Litigation Section and Robert Molson, Community Outreach Specialist, Civil Rights Division, Department of Justice

12:30 pm Final Drawing *(Must be Present to Win)*
12:35 pm Conference Adjourns