Job Placement Month Activities Report

October 2017
The **2017 Employer Recognition Award of the Statewide Council for Vocational Rehabilitation** was presented to **Cintas Corporation, Ashland, KY** in recognition of their valuable contribution to providing employment opportunities to Kentuckians with disabilities. Joy Combs Employment Specialist, Goodwill Industries of KYOWVA Area, Inc. has worked closely with OVR consumers and Tracey Scruggs, Cintas HR Manager. Ms. Scruggs reaches out to OVR consumers for open positions at Cintas. She exhibits inclusion of those with disabilities, by opening doors for interviews and facility tours for OVR staff, Job Placement staff as well as OVR consumers.

Presenting the 2017 SCVR Employer Recognition Award (pictured left to right): Tina Prichard, Ashland District Branch Manager – Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, DJ Farley- Cintas, Tracey Scruggs- Cintas HR Manager, and Joy Combs- Employment Specialist – Goodwill Industries of KYOWVA Area, Inc.
Disability Mentoring Day is a large-scale national effort designed to promote career development for students and job seekers with disabilities through hands-on career exploration, on-site job shadowing, possible internships, and/or employment opportunities. OVR Job Placement Specialists: Christa Martin, Amber Barnes and Elizabeth Theisen, along with Willis Deitz and Megan Coleman of Independence Place, will be participating in a panel.

Panelist: Amber Barnes-OVR (not pictured, Elizabeth Theisen-OVR, Megan Coleman-Independence Place, Julie Pattie-OVR, Christa Martin-OVR. Moderator: Shaun Collins-Anthem

Need Name, Shaun Collins-Anthem, Dr. David Beach-UK Disability Resource Center
Christa Martin, Job Placement Specialist in the Bluegrass District, spoke at the SERNRA/NCRA Annual Training Conference about “Job Seekers and Social Media: Implications for Employment Specialists and Ethical Practice”.
Southwest Region National Rehabilitation Association/Texas Rehabilitation Association/National Rehabilitation Association: Christa Martin, Job Placement Specialist with the Bluegrass District, gave a presentation at the annual training conference about “Supporting Job Seekers with Criminal Backgrounds”. Christa was given the Lou Ortale lecturer plaque by Paul Barnes (NRA-JPD representative to the NRA Board).

Christa presented TRA President, Susan Rapant, with a $400 check from KRA which was collected during the annual training conference’s awards luncheon to aid in Hurricane Harvey relief for impacted TRA members.
Job Placement Specialists Amber Barnes, Suzanne Isaacs, and Christa Martin participated in the Amazon Health Fair at Amazon.com in Lexington. They set up a booth to share information on OVR services.
Bowling Green: KCC Resource Table

Paula Brooks, OVR Job Placement Specialist, and Theresa Murphy, Office of the Blind, partnered with the Bowling Green KY Career Center Business Services Team at a recruiting event on October 12, 2017 to provide information to attendees.
Bowling Green: Western Kentucky University Resource Table

Job Placement Specialist Paula Brooks with the Bowling Green District set up a table at Western Kentucky University Glasgow campus in observance of National Disability Employment Awareness Month. The photo shows Paula discussing the accommodations under the Americans with Disability Act.

Paula Brooks (OVR)
Paula Brooks Job Placement Specialist from the Bowling Green District shared information that October was Job Placement Month and National Disability Employment Awareness Month with her coworkers at the Glasgow Career Center on October 27, 2017.

Pictured are Wendy Underwood, Angie Smith, Norma Lyons, Paula Brooks and Janea Moore.
On October 26, 2017 Paula Brooks presented information that October is Job Placement Month and National Disability Employment Awareness Month at a staff meeting for the Kentucky Works Program (KWP) of Audubon caseworker’s.

Shown in the picture is Sara Morgan-Russell, Barren River Regional Manager Kentucky Works Program and Paula Brooks.
Throughout the month of October, students and staff at Carl D. Perkins Vocational Training Center participated in weekly activities to promote job placement. As kick-off to Job Placement Month, students got a taste of bad customer service at the “Greasy Pit Cafe.” The following week, students participated in a series of team-building activities to promote cooperation, decision-making and communication skills. Also during this week, CDPVTC recognized local employers that provide Work-Based Learning Experiences for students. During the week of October 16th 2017, CDPVTC students participated in a two-part mock interview workshop presented by the Big Sandy Community Action Program and Kentucky Career Center. For CDPVTC’s final activity, staff and students participated in the “CDPVTC Career Catwalk” fashion show to demonstrate the “Do’s” and “Don’ts” of interview and workplace attire.

This year, the following business were recognized for their support of the Center and its training programs:

- Advance Auto Parts
- Hospice of Big Sandy
- Paintsville Independent Schools
- Sandy Valley Fasteners, LLC
- Ramada Inn of Paintsville
- Stone Crest Golf Course
- Johnson County Animal Shelter
- Johnson County Bus Garage
- Johnson County Public Library
- Christian Appalachian Project
- Johnson Central High School
- American Metal Works
Partnering with the Office for the Blind, OVR Central Office staff showed the movie “Do You Dream in Color”, a coming-of-age story of four courageous blind high school students as they strive to prove that their disability will not hold them back from achieving their dreams. Staff also participated in Job Placement team-building activities.
Our OVR Covington staff referred consumers and attended this job fair. The OVR Counselor, Tina Lee, provided information about our services to the attendees. This job fair was designed to help connect individuals with legal histories to access community resources and employment.
The Covington District conducted a film festival to raise awareness of the employment capacities and personal strengths of individuals with disabilities. Marie Mahan, SGA Job Placement Specialist during the time limited grant project, volunteered many hours throughout October to coordinate the event. The festival was offered in the morning and again in the afternoon to allow for greater participation. A concession stand was set up to offer fresh popped popcorn (popper courtesy of Brighton Center), soft drinks, and theater snacks. Also, many audience members chose to have their picture taken on the red carpet by our own KCC paparazzi! It was great to see how many outside of our agency participated in the event. In addition to OVR staff, most of the staff in the Kentucky Career Center in Covington from all our partner agencies attended. Our participants included employers, multiple Community Rehabilitation Programs, mental health practitioners and many other community partners. Over 80 participants from a wide range of professions who attended and learned more about the abilities of those with disabilities. Employers were recognized and given certificates of appreciation for giving employment opportunities to individuals with disabilities in Northern Kentucky. After the film festival, the participants toured the Kentucky Career Center and were introduced to employees from the various partners in the building.
Employer recognition of Yankee Doodle Deli taken in conjunction with the Film Festival on October 17, 2017

From Left to right: Marie Mahan, OVR SGA Project, Cheryl Martinez, OVR Job Placement, Marilyn Baker, Owner Yankee Doodle Deli andMichelle Cobb, OVR Florence Branch Mgr Center-Carol Leonhart, OVR Covington Branch Mgr -- "on the red carpet"
Employer Recognition of the Center for Disease Control, Cincinnati Ohio. This employer was recognized at the Film Festival event held on October 17, 2017.

Left to Right: Angie Williams, Mona Meszaros- HR, CDC; Carol Leonhart, OVR Branch Mgr, Covington; Kurt Schwaninger, HR-CDC; Cheryl Martinez, OVR Job Placement –Florence; Ken Wocher- Veterans Program NKY Career Center
Employer Recognition of Remke Markets in Florence, KY.

Left to right: Cheryl Martinez, OVR Job Placement, Florence District and Jill Newbern, Customer Service Manager, Remke Markets, Florence KY
Covington/Florence District: Employer Recognition

Employer Recognition: McDonalds, Edgewood KY

Picture: Left to right: Michelle Cobb, OVR Branch Mgr-Florence; Renae Lancaster, Supervisor-McDonald’s; Cheryl Martinez, OVR Job Placement-Florence
The Covington District finished out the month with a huge celebration on October 31st. Marie Mahan again volunteered her time and resources to bring all of the partners together in team activities creating even stronger connections among the KCC partners. There was food throughout the day, costume contests, fun team activities and more tours were given. The decorated office space was enjoyed by employees, employers, applicants, consumers and community providers throughout the month of October. Multiple tours and multiple introductions were made throughout the month of October. Our thanks from OVR goes out to Marie Mahan for all the work she did to make October a great Job Placement Month for the Covington District.
Danville District: Employer/Consumer Forum

Somerset OVR held an Employer/Consumer forum. Speakers at the event included: Pulaski County Chamber of Commerce Business Liaison Bill Marshall, Director Mary Oakley from Active Day, General Manager Gary Dennis from Courtyard by Marriott, Karen Miller SCSEP Coordinator for Goodwill Senior Worker Program, and Julie Simms from Zaxby’s (who just hired another consumer). The employers present asked and answered questions from the consumers who were present. A lot of networking was accomplished for those seeking a job as well as employers networking with each other about various programs and opportunities.

The last speaker was consumer success story who discussed her past employment history, accident that led to being a person with disabilities, working with OVR to obtain a college degree and open her own business then give back to OVR by becoming a PACE site.

As requested by the employers, Job Placement Specialist Deana Wilson-Kimbler plans to implement this as a regular event. One of the consumers present will have a second interview as a result of attending this forum.

Joe Fedele of WAKY interviewed Kelly Mooney, Job Placement Specialist, for the Community Close Up program about the services of OVR. It was aired at 7:30 a.m. on October 22nd. Alex Greer is a consumer of OVR and is currently doing the PACE training program with WAKY. Alex sat in on the interview and then showed Kelly some of the “technical” work that has to be done after a program is recorded. Alex is a recent WKU graduate with a degree in broadcasting.

Audio of the Interview: [Click Here]  
Interview Transcript: [Click Here]
Kentucky Career Center Staff in Elizabethtown were able to purchase lunch for $5 that consisted of a BBQ sandwich, beans, potato salad, chips, dessert and drink. Co-workers from all partnering agencies participated.
Eva Feese, OVR Employment Specialist, set up a resource table at the Adair County High School Career Fair.
Five co-workers submitted chili and others providing cheese, crackers, drinks and desserts for the Annual Chili Cook Off. Staff voted for their favorite by donating money to their favorite chili. Rhonda Bush’s “Nothin’ Fancy” chili took first place, earning $100, which was donated to Hurricane Relief–Puerto Rico. Two co-workers in the Elizabethtown location have family affected by the hurricane. Mike Bray of Service Source, an area employer where several consumers are employed, stopped by to support the Cook Off.
On Thursday, October 26th, Job Placement Specialist, Kelly Mooney, hosted the weekly meeting of the SE SMI Job Coaches from Communicare. To thank the Job Coaches for all that they do in assisting consumers with finding jobs, Kelly treated them to breakfast and some “job related” games!
Job Placement Specialist, Kelly Mooney, presented the Diversity in Disability training to staff from OET, OVR, OFB, and LTADD over the course of two days prior to state training. Approximately 25 staff received the training. This was done in request by the “Individuals with Disabilities” committee of the Lincoln Trail Workforce Development Board.
Employer of the Year for the Lexington District was presented to Dan Glass of Courtesy Acura. Pictured above from left to right are Tyler Williams, OVR Job Placement Specialist, Dan Glass of Courtesy Acura, and Craig Smith, OVR Job Placement Specialist.
The Coalition For Workforce Diversity is an alliance of companies and individuals working together to create employment opportunities for people with disabilities. To find more information or to find your local chapter, please visit their website: \[http://www.coalitionfwd.com/\]
Coalition for Workforce Diversity hosted a career fair located at Kosair Shriners Club. 40+ companies were in attendance, looking for qualified, hard-working candidates to be a part of their diverse workforce. OVR staff from Middletown, Louisville, Bluegrass and Elizabethtown Districts provided information to applicants.
HCC’s Healthy on the Hill event is focused on first semester students enrolled in the First Year Experience course but is open to all students-campus wide. Numerous community partners will provide students with information and resources to overcome possible barriers they may encounter such as physical, mental, emotional and financial health issues. Helping students realize services are available in the community can be life changing.
On October the 31st, the Owensboro District held a Transition Fair at the Owensboro Career Center. Twenty-five students from Owensboro High School’s special education programs participated in the event. Students were divided into small groups to participate in games and activities designed to teach about Career Center services, job search, and appropriate workplace behaviors. At the end of the event, each student received a certificate of participation and a goodie bag. Since the event was on Halloween, staff dressed as M&Ms and had a door decorating contest, which was judged by the school. Bob Hurt, won the first place trophy and bragging rights for his door. The office received great feedback from the students and teachers who participated.
West Kentucky District participated in the Army Community Services Job Resource Fair for Individuals with Special Needs on October 17th at Fort Campbell Kentucky. As always KY OVR likes to maintain a strong relationship with the US Department of Defense and neighboring state VR Programs.
Dena Burgess and Brooke Cain both OVR Counselors in the Corbin office were provided a tour by Carla Joseph of the SEKRI plant located in Corbin, KY on 10/12/2017. This plant employs a population of at least 75% of individuals with disabilities.
Whitesburg District: Job Networking Day

The Corbin OVR office hosted an event for partner agencies, local businesses, and local employers to network with each other to discuss services offered which will hopefully lead to employee referrals as well as the hiring of individuals that we serve. Agencies/Employers were involved Adult Education, Cumberland River Behavioral Health, StaffMark, KCEOC, and Global Connections to Employment.

Photo above OVR Staff: Heather Moses, Brooke Cain, Kelly Osborne, Dena Burgess

Cathy Stout, CRCCC; Heather Moses, OVR Counselor; Vonda Martin, GSE; Erin Moses, Adult Ed; Emily Devers, KCEOC (Paths to Promise); T. Brooke Bingham, Adult Ed; Dena Burgess, OVR Counselor; Brooke Cain, OVR Counselor; Teri Hill, StaffMark
The Statewide Council for Vocational Rehabilitation (SCVR) awarded five Kentucky employers with the 2017 Employer Recognition Award:

- Alliance Entertainment
- Cintas Corporation
- J&S Fee
- Kroger
- Remke

Top Row from left to right - Lisa Fort, Cynthia Elliott, Tyler Levy, Dorothy Jenkins, Veronica Hazard, Carrie Ann Schofield, Sharon Fields, Carol Estes, Phil Donahue, Zella Wells, Kellie Scott
Bottom Row from left to right - Kelly Knoop, Joe Cowan, Tony Lobianco, David Dennis, Duke Pettit, Lonnie Cowan, Sharon Kay Fields