

# ***Integrated Employment Newsletter***

**February 2008**

## **Update**

The state approved our grant proposal for 2008, so CLA will continue to work on helping members with employment. This means, among other things, we'll continue to have the expertise of ERI and John Fuller throughout the year. We will also be receiving assistance from Progressive Community Services (PSC) beginning in mid-March through the end of the year. PCS will be focusing on helping us set up resources and tools that will help members with self-employment. Currently we have approximately 25 members who are moving through the process of gaining employment. This year we hope to accomplish many goals and will be looking to staff and members for feedback. We will be developing workgroups that will help define the roles, develop policies and procedures, and begin to create a provider network. By the end of year, we want everyone to understand how to make integrated employment services can work for our members. Please contact Gina [ostrowskig@clanet.org](mailto:ostrowskig@clanet.org) with any questions.

## **Toolkit Link**

The online toolkit is available for you and our members. The link is <http://www.eri-wi.org/work.htm>. Please email John [fuller@eri-wi.org](mailto:fuller@eri-wi.org) with any suggestion or with ideas of items you wish to have added. Member should also feel free to email comments.

## **DVR Liaison Working at CLA**

CLA and DVR are in the process of developing a relationship that can increase the effectiveness of employment services being offered to our members. Beginning on March 12<sup>th</sup>, DVR Counselor Tammi Cassidy-Neal will be coming to CLA to do Intakes. She will be coming to CLA the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month from 12:30pm-4:30pm. Tammi will be working with members who are new to DVR or who want to have their case reopened. Members who are already working with DVR will remain with their current counselor. If a member is interested in employment the initial staffing or Brown Bags will help in determining whether DVR is needed to help the member meet their employment goal.

DVR has enacted a waiting list. Consumers in Category 1 will not have a wait; those in Category 2 would be waiting up to 3 months; and consumers in Category 3 could have an indefinite wait. If someone has already applied and

has a plan in development at the time the waiting list was implemented they will continue with the process.

## Initial Staffings and Brown Bags

Once a member has made the decision that they are interested in employment, participation at a Brown Bag or an Initial Staffing should be set up. A Brown Bag schedule can be found on the server in the Pathways folder. Also, to set up a Brown Bag or Initial Staffing you can email Gina [ostrowski@clanet.org](mailto:ostrowski@clanet.org) or the intern you are working with. Initial Staffings and Brown Bags are similar, except that Initial Staffings can occur at any time or location and Brown Bags occur on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month from 11:30-12:30. Please do what works best for you and your member. Normally these meetings will include the member, care manager, John Fuller, and a student intern.

## Informed Choice and Employment

**What is informed choice?** Informed Choice is making a decision based on access to information that helps an individual choose their preference. The information may include giving a variety of options and understanding a member's preference while giving non-judgmental advice and support to assist the member in analyzing information.

**Why is informed choice important when discussing employment with our members?** Our members need to know the choices they may have when it come to employment and making a decision about work. One member that is currently working with the grant deals with pain and pressure and is only able to remain upright for a few hours at a time, but he still wants to work. He has learned that working a few hours a week is an option. Members have various barriers and need to know the possibilities that are available. Some members may want and be able to work 9-5 outside the home, while others may be more interested in telecommuting or even self-employment. If you need help in providing your member with information about making an informed choice about employment contact Gina. Please help your member make an informed choice about employment.

## About The Student Interns

### **Sue Germann...**

I did my undergraduate work at UW-Madison in Rehabilitation Psychology, and will graduate in December with my master's in Rehab Counseling. I hope to go back to working on an inpatient rehab unit working w/ folks following a spinal cord or brain injury. I currently work part-time at Meriter in outpatient physical therapy while I go to school full-time. I am a single mom that decided to go back to college. At one point, my two daughters and I were all in college full-time at the same time. (I ended up selling our house so that we wouldn't also be in tremendous debt!) Some of my research focus in school has been on caring for the caregivers, resilience (why are some folks more resilient than others?), and currently I am researching TBI in veterans of the wars in Iran and Afghanistan. I am tremendously passionate about my future career in rehab counseling, and appreciate my experience and opportunity here at CLA very much.

### **Michelle Wahoske...**

I received my Bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2004, majoring in Psychology and Women's Studies. In 2001, I earned my Certified Nursing Assistant license and spent some time working at nursing home, primarily with people with Alzheimer's disease. While completing my undergrad degree, I worked as a float receptionist for UW Health. After graduation I transferred full-time to Gateway Recovery, UW Health's alcohol and drug treatment clinic. I also spent three months filling in at UW's Psychiatry clinic before leaving to return to school full-time. I am currently pursuing my Master's in Rehabilitation Psychology at UW-Madison, and expect to complete my degree in August of this year. Some of my interests in the field include assistive technology, ergonomic and workplace assessment, and general assessment and counseling. I am pleased to be working with CLA and the Integrated Employment team, and I'm excited about this great learning opportunity.

## Important Contacts

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