



Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation

CSAVR National News Brief

October 15, 2023

CSAVR *National News Brief* is a regular series covering national news, research initiatives, webinars, conferences, and national advocacy activities of interest to member state VR agencies.

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NATIONAL NEWS

In late September Federal health officials announced that 30 states had mistakenly dropped people from Medicaid while re-examining their rolls. At that time at least 500,000 children and families nationwide have been improperly marked for cancellation and then reinstated to coverage after officials recognized the problem, according to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The mistake started with looking at entire households that are on Medicaid, and not looking instead at the qualifications of each individual in the household, according to a [letter the feds sent \[disabilitycoop.com\]](#) to states on Aug. 30. CMS found, some states were removing the entire household, qualified children included, based only on the fact that it didn't get paperwork back from the adults in the household. Several states reported tens of thousands of people affected. Pennsylvania and Nevada reported more than 100,000 each. Georgia reported that it was still assessing how big the problem was.

The US lost more than 7 million workdays because of labor disputes this year through August, more than any full year since 2000. Eight strikes involving more than 1,000 workers each affected employers in August, matching the highest number since 2005. *The Wall Street Journal*

Good news as to the number of available jobs in the US. There were an estimated 9.61 million open jobs in August according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. This was an increase of about 5.8% from the month before and bucked a three-month decline. There are still 1.5 open jobs for every unemployed person which is a number above pre-pandemic levels.

Thinking a shorter workweek might be the solution to your labor problems? Per Vanessa Furhman in *The Wall Street Journal*, it might not be a picnic. Organizations who have tried it have found that it resulted in happier, healthier staff, less turnover, and increased interest in their jobs. To make it work, companies have found the transition requires a diligent makeover, with changes like cutting down on meetings, instituting uninterrupted "focus days", and banning long email exchanges. Food for thought.

2023 CSAVR FALL CONFERENCE

We are counting down the days to seeing you in Savannah, Georgia from October 28th to November 1st for the fall conference. We believe we have something for everybody. We have almost 400 registered for the conference and over 130 for the Leadership Forum. Wow, it is going to be educational and fun!

We always have new folks attending the conference. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to stop any of the other CSAVR staff. We will also have staff from the Georgia VR agency available to provide support. To get the full value of the conference others in the agency who have attended CSAVR conferences before may want to reach out to the newbies to give them an idea of what to expect and the value of the formal sessions as well as the networking opportunities. Your teams attending might even want to have a debriefing session after you return home from the conference just to share what you learned and most importantly how you can use the information to assist your customers, staff, and partners.

Save travels to Savannah. Look forward to seeing you there.

RSA & OTHER FEDERAL NEWS

On October 1, 2023, the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) began collecting the *Annual Client Assistance Program (CAP) Report* for FY 2023 in the [RSAMIS](#). These reports are due no later than December 30, 2023.

Also, on October 1, 2023, the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) began collecting the *Annual Report for the Older Individuals who are Blind (OIB), Independent Living Program* (RSA-7-OB) for FY 2023 in the [RSAMIS](#). These reports are due no later than December 30, 2023.

On September 29, 2023, a proposed waiver and extension of the project period with funding for [Innovative Rehabilitation Training Grants \[Inks.gd\]](#) and a proposed waiver and extension of the project period with funding for [Rehabilitation Long-Term Training Grants \[Inks.gd\]](#) posted in the Federal Register for public inspection. The Secretary proposes to waive the requirements in the Education Department General Administrative Regulations that generally prohibit project periods exceeding five years and project period extensions involving the obligation of additional Federal funds. The scheduled publication date in the Federal Register for each notice was October 3, 2023. **Please consult each notice for the comment period closing date and instructions for submitting comments.**

TAC NEWS

[VRTAC-QM Manager Minute: Celebrate the National Disability Awareness Month with a DIF Career Advancement Grant Discussion - The Trifecta Approach with Virginia DARS \[managerminutevrtac-qw.libsyn.com\]](#).

In the studio today is David Leon, Director of Workforce Programs at the Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS), and Kate Kaegi, Project Manager for the DIF.

In recognition of Disability Awareness Month, the second podcast of our DIF series includes David and Kate explaining how Virginia's DIF grant was initiated, implemented, and adjusted to best reach their initiatives of placing 750 individuals with disabilities in STEM and healthcare careers, registered apprenticeships, and State, County, and City jobs. Learn about the challenges they navigated and what they recommend when applying for a DIF grant.

The VRTAC-QE will hold its October webinar on Thursday, October 19th, at 12pm Central, 1pm Eastern.

Title: The RETAIN Kentucky Return to Work and Stay at Work Model: Strategies for Helping Workers with Disabilities Maintain Quality Employment

Description: The RETAIN Kentucky project is a four-year initiative funded by the U.S. Department of Labor, one designed to improve the job retention and career maintenance outcomes of people with acquired disabilities. RETAIN Kentucky adheres to

best practices in return to work/stay at work through an early intervention procedure guided by the well-known Crux model of vocational case management, which was first introduced in the 1970s by Drs. Richard Roessler and Stanford Rubin. This presentation describes the activities and outcomes of the RETAIN Kentucky project.

Presenters: Kathleen Sheppard-Jones, Ph.D., CRC; Executive Director, Human Development Institute, University of Kentucky; and Phillip Rumrill, Ph.D., CRC, Director of Research, Human Development Institute, University of Kentucky

[Registration Link \[tacqe.com\]](#)

REPORTS, TRAINING, NEWSLETTERS AND CONFERENCE OPPORTUNITIES

The [Great Lakes ADA Regional Center\(link is external\) \[click.icptrack.com\]](#) (90DPAD0012) will host a webinar, [Disability and Employment in Large Businesses: Researching Pathways to Inclusion\(link is external\) \[click.icptrack.com\]](#), October 17th, 2 - 3:30 pm ET. A panel of researchers will present findings from different national studies on organizational practices related to disability and employment within the realm of large business. Registration is free and required. Continuing education credits are available upon request.

The [National Research Center for Parents with Disabilities \(NRCPD\)\(link is external\) \[click.icptrack.com\]](#) (90DPCP0012) will host a webinar, [Strategies to Support Parents with Psychiatric Disabilities with Child Welfare Involvement: Perspectives from Staff Providing Legal Services\(link is external\) \[click.icptrack.com\]](#), October 19th, 3 - 4 pm ET. Presenters will explore the experiences of parents with psychiatric disabilities with child welfare involvement, including barriers and facilitators to positive outcomes; provide background information about the disproportionate representation of parents with psychiatric disabilities within the child welfare system and issues that these parents face; and identify how legal staff and other service providers may meaningfully support parents. Registration is free and required.

The Financial Resilience Center at National Disability Institute invites you to its upcoming webinar, **Tools to Build, Maintain and Improve Credit**. This is a virtual event taking place on Zoom, Wednesday, October 25, 2023 at 2:00pm EST. Credit plays a vital role in the lives of consumers and helps them meet important milestones. Unfortunately, not every creditworthy individual has equal access to financial services. In fact, 28 million adult Americans are credit invisible and another 21 million are considered unscorable.

The [Pacific ADA Regional Center\(link is external\) \[click.icptrack.com\]](#) (90DPAD0006) will host a webinar, [ADA National Network Learning Session: The Basics of Health Care and the Americans with Disabilities Act \(ADA\)\(link is external\) \[click.icptrack.com\]](#), October 26th, 2:30 - 4 pm ET. Presenters will discuss health care facility access, including physical access to the building and exam rooms, and accessible medical equipment and share strategies to help health care professionals communicate effectively with patients with disabilities and examples of modifications of programs, policies, and procedures. Registration is free and required.

In November TransCen is hosting a new webinar series in partnership with Cornell. The 3-part series examines issues of ethics in transition and employment services. They are able to offer CRC credits

[Metrix Learning \[metrixlearning.com\]](http://metrixlearning.com) is an accessible online learning platform with over 7000 courses to help customers build skills. In joining the webinar you will see a demo on how Metrix is an innovative approach to achieving Competitive Integrated Employment goals. This platform works with over 100 workforce boards throughout the country and is entering the VR space. On October 24 at 2p eastern they will present a national demonstration. If interested, you may [register here \[us06web.zoom.us\]](http://us06web.zoom.us).

The [ADA National Network and the ADA Network Knowledge Translation Center\(link is external\) \[click.icptrack.com\]](http://click.icptrack.com) (90DPAD0004P) debuted an [Employment Resource Hub\(link is external\) \[click.icptrack.com\]](http://click.icptrack.com), centralizing new and existing information about disability, employment, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The Hub's nine sections address specific issues related to employment and the ADA, covering the basics of the law, reasonable accommodations, addiction and recovery, mental health, pre-employment, service animals, veterans, and work-leave.

The [U.S. Access Board \(link is external\) \[click.icptrack.com\]](http://click.icptrack.com) released [five videos \(link is external\) \[click.icptrack.com\]](http://click.icptrack.com) on the recently published [Rule on Public Right-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines \(link is external\) \[click.icptrack.com\]](http://click.icptrack.com). Four of the videos review the guidelines, including accessibility requirements for sidewalks, crosswalks, shared use paths, on-street parking, and other pedestrian facilities. The fifth video highlights changes in the final rule from the proposed accessibility guidelines published in 2013. The Board offers technical assistance on the guidelines via email at [row@access-board.gov \(link sends e-mail\)](mailto:row@access-board.gov) and accessibility training by request at [training@access-board.gov \(link sends e-mail\)](mailto:training@access-board.gov).

The NIDILRR-funded project [Building Capacity to Improve Community Participation for People Aging with Long-Term Disability Through Evidence-Based Strategies\(link is external\) \[click.icptrack.com\]](http://click.icptrack.com) (90DPCP0001) published plain language summaries of recent research in social and community participation. [The Role of the Built Environment in Community Participation for Adults Aging with Physical Disability: A Scoping Review\(link is external\) \[click.icptrack.com\]](http://click.icptrack.com) (PDF) examines recent research in how the built environment affects the ability to participate in one's community. [Social Participation of Adults Aging with Long-Term Physical Disabilities: The Role of Transportation and Urban vs. Rural Living\(link is external\) \[click.icptrack.com\]](http://click.icptrack.com) (PDF) examines how both the built environment and socioenvironmental factors impact social participation. These summaries are also available as [infographics\(link is external\) \[click.icptrack.com\]](http://click.icptrack.com).

The [Learning and Working During the Transition to Adulthood Rehabilitation Research and Training Center \(Transitions ACR\)\(link is external\) \[click.icptrack.com\]](http://click.icptrack.com) (90RTEM0005) seeks participants for the [Tools for Work Success Study\(link is external\) \[click.icptrack.com\]](http://click.icptrack.com). Participants will help researchers determine which of two approaches is most effective in helping young adults with mental health conditions develop skills around focus, memory, planning/time management, and problem solving for work. To participate or to receive more information about the

study, [complete the screening survey\(link is external\) \[click.icptrack.com\]](#) or contact the study team at [FSST@umassmed.edu\(link sends e-mail\)](mailto:FSST@umassmed.edu) or 508/864-5329.

The [National Institute of Mental Health \(NIMH\)\(link is external\) \[click.icptrack.com\]](#) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) is hosting a new podcast series exploring the stories behind influencers and innovators in mental health research and takes listeners into the lives of people with mental illnesses. In the first episode, [Understanding and Preventing Youth Suicide\(link is external\) \[click.icptrack.com\]](#), NIMH Director Dr. Joshua A. Gordon and guests discuss who is at increased risk for suicide, how it is impacting the nation's youth, and what NIMH is doing about this issue. Transcripts are available on the episode's webpage.

Use of customized employment in state vocational rehabilitation programs: A retrospective study 2017–2020. *Rehabilitation Counseling Bulletin (RCB)*. Volume 66(3), Pgs. 186-194. NARIC Accession Number: J91820.

New to the NARIC collection, this NIDILRR-funded study examined the outcomes of customized employment related to competitive integrated employment status and weekly earnings at exit, based on an analysis using the Rehabilitation Services Administration Case Service Report (RSA-911) from fiscal years 2017 through 2020. Those who were more likely to get competitive integrated employment at exit are consumers who have cognitive disability; have cultural barriers; are migrant farmworkers and/or dependents; and receive job placement assistance, short-term job supports, maintenance services, benefits counseling, and supported employment. Multiple variables were found to be significantly related to weekly earnings at exit and explained some of the variance. Rehabilitation counselors should take into consideration the findings of this study to determine from which supports consumers may benefit to attain successful employment goals, particularly for customized employment. [Access the full abstract and ordering information in REHABDATA\(link is external\) \[click.icptrack.com\]](#)

COVID STUDY

Professionals' perspectives on service delivery: The impact of COVID-19 on early childhood special education providers. *Topics in Early Childhood Special Education (TECSE)*. NARIC Accession Number: J91881.

New to the NARIC collection, this NIDILRR-funded study investigated how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted early childhood special education (ECSE) professionals both personally and professionally, particularly the change from providing in-person therapeutic services to primarily remote service delivery. In interviews, the ECSE professionals described challenges as well as unexpected positive outcomes associated with continuing to work during the COVID-19 pandemic. They also explained the importance of increasing parent interaction through coaching interventions while engaging in remote service delivery. The findings conclude with discussions of how the field may be impacted by the pandemic in the future. [Access the full abstract and ordering information in REHABDATA\(link is external\) \[click.icptrack.com\]](#).

RECENT ARTICLES

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Griffiths, Amy Jane, [\[links.news.mathematica-mpr.com\]](https://links.news.mathematica-mpr.com) Amy Hurley-Hanson, Cristina Giannantonio, Kaleigh Hyde, Erik Linstead, Rachel Wiegand, and John Brady. "[Enhancing Employment Outcomes for Autistic Youth: Using Machine Learning to Identify Strategies for Success](https://links.news.mathematica-mpr.com) [links.news.mathematica-mpr.com]." *Journal of Vocational Rehabilitation*, 2023.

Hawkins, Amelia A., Christopher A. Hollrah, Sarah Miller, Laura R. Wherry, Gloria Aldana, and Mitchell D. Wong. "[The Long-Term Effects of Income for At-Risk Infants: Evidence from Supplemental Security Income](https://links.news.mathematica-mpr.com) [links.news.mathematica-mpr.com]." National Bureau of Economic Research, 2023.

Horn, Annemarie L., Laura C. Chezan, Jonna L. Bobzien, Marcia L. Rock, Aeshah Alturki, and Olga Karadimou. "[You're Hired!: Effects of eCoaching Transition-Age Students with Autism During Job Interview Preparation](https://links.news.mathematica-mpr.com) [links.news.mathematica-mpr.com]." *Career Development and Transition for Exceptional Individuals*, 2023.

Scott, LaRon A., and Karrie A. Shogren. "[Advancing Anti-Racism and Anti-Ableism in Transition: Equity-Oriented Indicators for Research](https://links.news.mathematica-mpr.com) [links.news.mathematica-mpr.com]." *Career Development and Transition for Exceptional Individuals*, 2023.

Tinnerholm Ljungberg, Helena, Caroline Olsson, Irene Jensen, Lotta Nybergh, and Elisabeth Björk Brämberg. "[Managers' Experience of Causes and Prevention of Sick Leave Among Young Employees with Common Mental Disorders \(CMDs\)—A Qualitative Interview Study with a Gender Perspective](https://links.news.mathematica-mpr.com) [links.news.mathematica-mpr.com]." *PLOS ONE*, vol. 18, no. 9, 2023, pp. 1–18.