

2015 GRA Annual Training Conference

Augusta Marriott at the Convention Center, Augusta, Georgia

**GVRA Support Staff Pre-Conference (9/1-9/2, 2015)
September 2-4, 2015**

Tuesday, September 1

12:00-1:00 pm Registration for Pre-Conference
1:00-1:15pm Opening Remarks – Mary Ellen Mendiratta, Training Ad Hoc Chairperson
Ed James, VR Program Director **Hamilton**

GENERAL SESSION

1:15-4:15 pm Pre-Conference Session for GVRA VR Support Staff **Hamilton**
The Conflict Competent Manager

Presenter: Nanette Cantrell

All workplaces experience conflict. Some conflict is positive and encourages debate and great problem solving. Other conflict can be negative and cause work to be harder and less productive. This interactive workshop will combine a high-level lecture with small group work and an individual assessment giving participants insight into their own behaviors during conflict; provide tools to improve conflict competency and help participants to understand how different people deal with conflict.

4:15-4:30 pm BREAK

GENERAL SESSION

4:30-6:00 pm **The ADA & Vocational Rehabilitation Professionals** **Hamilton**

Presenter: Mike Galifianakis

In this interactive session, participants will learn the basics of the ADA's employment related provisions with particular emphasis on the law's "reasonable accommodation" mandate. The role of the employer and VR in the workplace accommodation process will also be discussed.

Wednesday, September 2

8:00 am Conference Registration Opens

PRE-CONFERENCE GENERAL SESSION

8:30-10:00 am **Pre-Employment and Transition Services (PETS) & VR Implementation** **Hamilton**
Presenters: Jeff Allen and Jennifer Howell

This session will be discussing Pre-Employment Transition Services (PETS) and Work Force Innovation and Opportunities Act (WIOA). This session will discuss how these will impact VR and how GVRA plans to implement them through policies and procedures.



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Wednesday, September 2 (continued)

- 9:00-9:30 am Facilitators' Meeting **Lester Moody**
Presiding: La Detria King
- 9:30-10:00 am Conference Committee Meeting **Lester Moody**
Presiding: Lauri Tuten
- 10:00-10:15 am BREAK
- 10:00-5:30 pm Exhibits Open

PRE-CONFERENCE CONCURRENT SESSIONS

- 10:15-11:45 am **Bureau of Labor Statistics – Accessing and Utilizing Information**
Presenter: Matthew Dotson **Estes A&B**
This program will introduce the Bureau of Labor (BLS) employment programs, data collection, the current state of the U.S. and local labor markets and 10-year employment projections. Furthermore, this session will include a tutorial on how to find job information on the BLS website.
- Equipping Students to Transition from High School to College**
Presenters: Kim Linek & Melissa Freeman **Hamilton**
This session explores relevant laws, navigating differences between high school and college, describes characteristics of academic readiness, executive function, assistive technology, and self-advocacy, and explains documentation required by the Board of Regents.
- 11:45 am-1 pm **LUNCH ON YOUR OWN**
- 12:00-12:30 pm GRA New Member Welcome (*Invitation Only*) **Hamilton**
Presiding: Mary Ellen Mendiratta, NRA Membership Committee
- 1:00-2:00 pm GRA Opening Session **Oglethorpe ABCD**
- Platform Guests Greg Schmieg, Exec. Director, Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency
Paige Tidwell, GRA President
Lauri Tuten, GRA Vice-President
Mayor Hardie Davis, Jr.
- Presiding – Paige Tidwell
Welcome to the Conference – Paige Tidwell
Invocation – Carl McRae, Project Director/Team 26/VOICE
Presentation of Colors – Cross Creek Navy JROTC Color Guard
Lead by Johnathan D. Shaw, Senior Naval Science Instructor
National Anthem – Candice Roberts
Welcome to Augusta – Mayor Hardie Davis, Jr.
Welcome to the Marriott – Carlos Morales, Director of Sales & Marketing
Recognition of Special Guests: Past GRA Presidents, GVRA Board of Directors, and SRC – Paige Tidwell
Conference Highlights – Lauri Tuten
Certification Protocol – Cece Hockett, Certifications
Introduction of Exhibitors – Joya LeNoir or Cheryl Braswell,
Ads and Exhibits



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Wednesday, September 2 (continued)

2:00-3:30 pm Introduction of Speaker – Mike Pryor, GRA Past President
Life is Change **Oglethorpe ABCD**
Presenter: Judson Laipply
Sponsored in part by Goodwill Middle Georgia & CSRA.
Life is Change. A constant flowing, moving, changing world means that there will be things in our lives beyond our control. Learn how to let go of the things you don't have control over and utilize power of choice to influence the things you do. Learn how our emotions affect our choices and how to keep a rational brain when making important decisions.

3:30-3:45 pm BREAK

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

3:45-5:30 pm GRA Annual Business Meeting & Candidate's Speeches
Oglethorpe ABCD

Platform Guests Paige Tidwell, GRA President
Mike Pryor, GRA Past President
Patsy Morris, GRA Treasurer
Keita Alston, GRA Secretary
Presiding: Paige Tidwell, Business Meeting
Presiding: Mike Pryor, Political Caucus

Built In Accessibility of Mobile Apple Devices **Hamilton**

Presenters: April Evans and Doris Chadwell
The presenters will use a variety of methods to discuss and demonstrate the numerous, powerful built-in features of Apple's mobile devices. Attendees will leave with a basic understanding of accessibility features that can be used to accommodate disabilities to include blindness or low vision, learning and literacy difficulties, physical and motor difficulties and hearing difficulties.

6:30-8:30 pm Candidates Social and President's Welcome **Oglethorpe ABCD**

8:30 pm **GARL Auction** **Walsh**

Thursday, September 3

8:00 – 4:30 pm Registration
8:00 – 5:30 pm Exhibits Open
8:00 – 4:30 pm GRA Voting

GENERAL SESSION

8:00-9:30 am Introduction of speaker – Jason Williams, GARL President
Managing Your Career: Even During the Ups and Downs
Presenter: Gena Kay Shealy, MS **Oglethorpe ABCD**
Sponsored by GARL.
Managing Your Career: Even during the Ups and Downs provides discussion and strategies to help participants recognize what they can do to contribute to their own personal and career success and how to take charge of change.

9:30-9:45 am BREAK



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Thursday, September 3 continued

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

9:45-11:15 am **Physical Therapists as Partners with SSI/SSDI Claims** **Oglethorpe H**
Presenters: Laurri Wallace, PT, DPT, MHS, Cert.MDT, and D. Gregory Rogers
This program contains insider tips on how Physical Therapists and Attorneys can advocate for and improve the quality of life for individuals with disabilities.

Posttraumatic Stress Disorder in the Vocational Rehabilitation Setting
Presenter: Heather C. Futral, Psy D. **Walsh**
This course will provide a thorough overview of posttraumatic stress disorder as well as guidelines for comprehensive assessment and treatment planning. Practical strategies are presented for dealing with clinical challenges in working with individuals that are suffering from posttraumatic stress disorder. This seminar will also address the new changes to the diagnosis of trauma disorder in the DSM-5. Vocational implications of posttraumatic stress disorder and work accommodations will also be discussed.

From Learning to Earning: Expanding Transition Services to Students with Disabilities **Oglethorpe F**
Presenters: Karen Royston, Jeff Allen, Charlotte Young, and Kayla Wilson
For rehabilitation professionals that work in the field of transition, change is constant. There are so many changes in the field of transition including: federal laws, financial aid for post-secondary education, economic eligibility requirements, and resources available to students. A former Vocational Rehabilitation customer and a High School High Tech alumni will give a presentation on how both of these programs assisted her with becoming successful. In the panel discussion, attendees will receive updated information on the WIOA law pertaining to transition services for students with disabilities. Best practices for counselors and staff that work with students with disabilities will be presented and discussed as well as information on "pre-employment transition services". Information will be provided on the Georgia High School High Tech Program and how they partner with schools and rehabilitation staff to provide additional services for students with disabilities. Ideas for integrating Vocational Rehabilitation Services and High School High Tech services to benefit the students will be presented and discussed.

Effectively Engaging Clients in Their Rehabilitation through Inquiry-Based Learning and More **Hamilton**
Presenters: Amanda Holloway and Nicola Robinson
This workshop will explore the power of client learning through an inquiry-based approach. Drawing on examples from various frameworks the presenters will show how this practice can help learners of all ages develop complex understanding. Attendees will join in a discussion on current practices and future possibilities.

11:15-1:00 pm **LUNCH ON YOUR OWN OR EDGAR'S GRILLE**
(Lunch and tour of Goodwill Augusta, Helm's College Campus)

11:30 – 1:00 pm Retiree's Luncheon **Terrace**



Thursday, September 3 continued

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

1:00-2:30 pm **Therapeutic Interventions for the Vocational Counselor** **Hamilton**

Presenter: Kimberly Wagner-Bass

In this session Erik Erikson's stages of human development will be explained as a backdrop to explore how disabilities can impact the typical process of development. Participants will be challenged to consider how a person with a disability adjusts to the emotional and social changes that occur. Several therapeutic modalities will be presented including Solution Focused, Narrative and Cognitive Behavior.

The Basics of Social Security Work Incentives **Oglethorpe F**

Presenters: Steve Doty, Lora Richardson, Jodie Oakes, and Steve Mickens

Social Security is your partner in a rehabilitation plan. You will learn how you and your clients can use a Plan to Achieve Self-Support to pay for work expenses and to use SSA/SI work incentives as a safety net until your client earns enough to be self-supporting.

An Overview of the DSM **Walsh**

Presenter: Heather C. Futral, Psy D.

This seminar is aimed at providing updated information regarding diagnostic categories and changes in the new DSM. It is geared to train clinicians in the DSM 5, the prominent mental disorders (including adult and childhood disorders), differential diagnoses, and the key criteria required to diagnose. Participants, who work in non-diagnostic mental health related areas, will gain an understanding of these mental disorders, which will assist them when reading client reports, creating treatment plans, educational plans and more.

Navigating New Waters: Planning for Transition into Inclusive Postsecondary Education **Oglethorpe H**

Presenters: Susanna Miller and Jeff Allen

Inclusive post-secondary education for students with intellectual disabilities has been expanding for decades. Background and strategies for transitioning students into postsecondary education will be addressed. This presentation will discuss the climate for inclusive postsecondary education in Georgia, the requirements of inclusive postsecondary programs and lead participants through a process of developing appropriate transition goals.

2:30-2:45 pm BREAK

GENERAL SESSION

2:45-4:00 pm Introduction of speaker – Paige Tidwell, GRA President **Oglethorpe ABCD**

Disability Simulation and Disability Awareness

Presenters: Dr. Tamara Payne and Dr. Silvio Reyes

This presentation on disability simulation will infuse exercises that will enhance disability awareness amongst professionals within the Rehabilitation Counseling arena. Further, this presentation will engage its participants in simulations which will reduce stigmas associated with lack of knowledge, experience and empathic relation. Lastly, this presentation will touch on CRC Ethics.



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Thursday, September 3 continued

4:00-4:15 pm BREAK

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

4:15 – 5:45 pm GRA Division Meetings
GRCEA – Presiding Dana Skelton-Sanders **Oglethorpe F**
GARL – Presiding Jason Williams **Oglethorpe G**
ARTS of Georgia-Presiding Pam Eaton **Oglethorpe H**
GAMRC – Presiding Michelle Temple **Walsh**

Built In Accessibility of Mobile Apple Devices **Hamilton**

Presenters: April Evans and Doris Chadwell

The presenters will use a variety of methods to discuss and demonstrate the numerous, powerful built in features of Apple's mobile devices. Attendees will leave with a basic understanding of accessibility features that can be used to accommodate disabilities to include blindness or low vision, learning and literacy difficulties, physical and motor difficulties and hearing difficulties.

DINNER ON YOUR OWN

8:00-12:00 pm **Dance with DJ** **Lamar**

Friday, September 4

9:00-11:00 am Exhibits Open

8:00 – 12:00 pm Registration

8:00 – 8:45 am Breakfast **Oglethorpe ABCD**
Invocation – Tom Wilson, GRA representative to SERNRA

8:45-10:15am Introduction of Speaker- Lauri Tuten, GRA Vice-President
Hear Me, See Me, The Symphony of My Autism **Oglethorpe ABCD**
Presenter: Laura Nadine
Laura hears music in everything she sees, which she refers to as the Shadow Songs. As a musician and composer, she performs the pieces she hears while telling her story of adapting to life with autism. Not diagnosed until age 27, Laura developed her own strategies to live life to its fullest, with autism as her companion.

10:15-10:30 am BREAK



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Friday, September 4 continued

10:30-12:00 pm Awards and Closing Session
Platform Guests Paige Tidwell, GRA President
LaDetria King, GRA Remembrance Chair
Julie O'Connor, GRA Awards Chair
Mike Pryor, GRA Past President

Presiding – Paige Tidwell
GRA Memorial Service – LaDetria King
Awards – Julie O'Connor
Announcement of Election Results – Mike Pryor
Welcome to 2016 Conference –
Mary Ellen Mendiratta, GRA Vice-President Elect and
Paige Tidwell, SERNRA President Elect
Door Prizes
Evaluations
Drawings for Chapter Prizes
Wrap Up & Adjournment – Paige Tidwell

12:00 pm Collection of CRC, CEU, LPC Credit Verification Forms – Cece Hockett

GRCEA POST CONFERENCE

1:00-1:30 pm Registration for Post Conference

1:30-4:45 pm Introduction of speaker – Mary Ellen Mendiratta, GRA VP Elect

Oglethorpe ABCD

Confidentiality, HIPPA and CRC Ethics, we are bound by all!

Presenters: Dr. James Martin and Dana Skelton-Sanders, CRC

This perspective comes together with a long line of looking at VR psychological assessments, medical issues and CRC ethics. The interactive session will incorporate a variety of topics and materials, including: a brief review of rules, ethical and confidential scenarios and HIPPA issues. This interaction will allow attendees to complete the remainder of the training by applying the principles and each attendee will have a reference guide for adherence.



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