

OUTLOOK

Interview with Michelle Rhuman, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) Questions by: Sarah Raaymaker

May 2010

A Newsletter from
Pacific Co. Health
& Human Services
Dept.

Editor:
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Points of interest:

- Interview: Michelle Rhuman w/ DVR
- Upcoming Events

Coming Next Issue:

- IRWE (Impairment Related Work Expenses)



(Above) Michelle Rhuman, Lead Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor for Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

Who qualifies for DVR services?

“You may be eligible for DVR services if:

1. You have a physical, mental, cognitive or sensory disability that makes it difficult to work in a job that matches your skills, interests and potential; **and**
2. You need services and support, such as counseling, training or job search assistance to get or keep a job.”

What are some of the services you provide for clients?

- Counseling and guidance for vocational goals/decisions.
- Counselors for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.
- Assessment services to help identify strengths, capabilities, work skills, and interests.
- Benefit Planning about how Social Security benefits will be impacted when making money from work.
- Independent living services to manage disability issues that get in the way of work.
- Assistive technology services designed to improve ability to hear, speak, move around, use a computer, etc. for work purposes.
- Training and education to learn work skills and gain the qualifications needed to enter a job in a chosen field.
- Job-related services to carry out a job search and secure a job, including: assistance completing applications, developing a resume, and practicing interview skills, conducting a job search, mastering the specific skills of a job.

What is your goal when working with clients?

“I want clients to feel empowered, motivated & in charge of making good decisions about their lives/career goals.”

What do clients expect from your services?

“Confidentiality- Information DVR receives is kept confidential. Information about you is shared with others only if you give your written consent, except in very limited circumstances, such as your health or safety. Once you are determined eligible for DVR services, you work in a very important partnership with a Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Counselor and a team of rehabilitation professionals.”

The responsibilities of the DVR team are to:

- Gather information about your strengths, interests, and abilities
- Review the pros and cons of different jobs and help you choose a job goal that is a good match
- Help you develop a step-by-step plan for achieving your job goal
- Explore resources you need to complete the plan
- Give you support and feedback as you make progress toward employment

Your responsibilities in the partnership are to:

- Actively participate throughout the process
- Provide DVR with information that is required for us to serve you
- Use the information gathered about your strengths, interests, abilities, & the labor market to guide your decisions

- Follow through with actions you agree to in your plan for employment
- Maintain ongoing contact and communication with your VR Counselor

“You may involve family members or other important people in your life to help you plan and achieve your goal of employment. You may invite others to participate in the rehabilitation process at any time.”

How many clients do you serve per month?

“Counselors at DVR serve anywhere from 80-140 clients on average.”

What do you enjoy most about your job?

“I especially like working one-on-one with people and giving people a full hour to talk, vent, feel respected and encouraged and share their life stories with me.”

What are the qualifications for working as a DVR counselor?

“DVR Counselors in the State of Washington must now have Master’s Degrees in Rehabilitation counseling or related fields.”

What is the most rewarding aspect of your job?

“I love seeing people become energized & excited about exploring their own ideas for problem solving, goal setting, making changes and seeing how it can improve their lives.”

Where are your work sites?

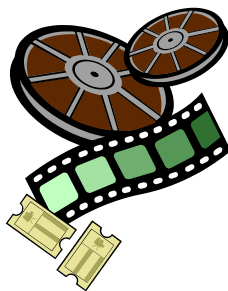
“My personal work sites are Kelso and Long Beach. I serve people from five main counties: Cowlitz, Clark, Wahkiakum, Pacific, & Lewis. DVR has many other offices than the two I am in (too many to list).”

For a complete list of DVR offices, you can check out our website at <http://www.dshs.wa.gov/dvr/ContactUs/DVROffices.aspx>

Upcoming Activities

“Let’s Go to the Movies”

Movie: Iron Man 2
Location: Raymond Theatre
Address: 323 1/2 Third St.
Date: June 14, 2010
Time: 1:00-3:00 PM



Call Melissa if you plan to attend. 875-9343 / 642-9349

Please bring money for movie/concessions.
 Attendees are welcome to bring their own snacks.

Camp Hope

August 1-5, 2010

**Ocean Park Retreat Ctr.
 28511 Vernon Ave.
 Ocean Park**



- Explore the Beach
- Swimming
- Kayaking on the Willapa Bay
- Craft Activities
- Singing around the Campfire
- “Breakthrough” stories of Jesus and the people he met.

Cost: \$400—if registration is postmarked prior to 7/1/10. Total Fee after 7/2/10 is \$420.

Camp Hope at Ocean Park is for those campers who are mobile & able to function relatively independently in dressing and bathroom self-care, able to walk on uneven terrain and interested in an active, adventuresome week at camp. The event is designed to provide extraordinary experiences in a Christian camping environment for adults with disabilities.

**For More Information / or to register contact:
 Ocean Park Retreat Center
 (360) 665-4367
 E-mail: fun@opretreat.org**

NEPTUNE THEATER

**FREE Matinee Movies—
 Every Wednesday @ 1PM**



- May 19— “White Heat” (1949)
- May 26— “Back to Bataan” (1945)
- June 2— “My Sister Eileen” (1955)
- June 9— “Sailor of the King” (1953)
- June 16— “Road to Singaport” (1940)

All shows begin at 1:00 PM. All ages admitted (subject to Theatre Capacity). Movies listed above ONLY.