

# 2011 IRA Conference Schedule

## Monday, October 10

8:00 a. m.                      Exhibitor set-up

9:30 a. m.                      IRA Board Meeting ( Room D)

10:00 Registration Opens (Conference Center Lobby)

11:00 Exhibit Area Opens (Conference Center Lobby)

12:00-1:30 p. m. Opening Luncheon (Grand Ballroom)

12:00-12:15 p. m.              Welcome

12:15-1:30 p. m.              Opening Session: Tim Ascheral-*Taking the Extra Step*

**“My people aren't disabled as long as their equipment works!” Isn't that the personal and business philosophy you want to work with?**

Tim is not a public speaker, but he has a story to tell.

\* Tim is not disabled-but he does sit in a wheelchair.

\*He is an employer, but he believes in sharing ownership.

\*He wants function- but sees the need for “Dressing Up”

Tim will share the why “Taking the Extra Step” is the only way for them to do business!

1:30-1:45 p. m.                      Session Break

1:45-3:00 p. m.                      Concurrent Breakout Sessions

## **1. Sam Irwin: Job Adjustments for Movement Disorders**

**Learning Objective.** After this session, the attendee will be able to list movement disorders, symptoms, and medication side effects. To include facilitate job adjustments to include work schedule and assistive technology.

Specifically this session will focus on movement disorders, Parkinson's disease, Restless Leg Syndrome, Dystonia, and Dyskinesia. It will be an open discussion on symptoms, medications and side effects. Progression and the impact on job performance, adjustments of work schedule, additional assistive technology to include medication reminders will be included in this session. Bring your ideas and experience to share with others.

## **2. Robin Bagby: Female Offenders, Helping Women Recover. Why they behave the way they do? How can community resources enhance re-entry.**

**Learning Objectives:** To gain a professional understanding of incarcerated female offenders and their pathways to the prison system. To understand the gender specific needs of female offenders which are holistic and diverse, and how community partnerships can successfully impact their transition back to society.

**Discussion-**This session will provide a basic overview of the female offender population at the Iowa Correctional Institution for Women. Participants will receive an overview of key characteristics of female offenders which lead them to incarceration. This includes who they are as women, why they commit crimes, their holistic needs, mental health concerns, and how key community partnerships can be instrumental in their recovery and successful transition back to their communities.

## **3. Susan Smith: "Opening Doors to Employment for Individuals on the Autism Spectrum"**

**Objective:** Participants will be able to discuss a variety of initiatives related to successful employment experiences for individuals on the autism spectrum.

**The benefits of facilitating successful employment opportunities for individuals on the autism spectrum are plentiful to both individuals and society-at-large. This presentation will review a variety of local, state, and national projects intended to "open doors" to employment for individuals on the autism spectrum.**

**3:00-3:15 p.m.                      Session Break**

**3:15-4:30 p. m.                      Concurrent Breakout Sessions**

**1. Heath Allen:    Effective High School Vocational Transition Planning**

**Objective: To explore various high schools to work transition topics and tools**

**Heath will discuss current trends in vocational transition. The group will discuss and explore various tools used to make successful transitions. Best Practices will be discussed and related to the Department of Education transition recommendations. Specific topics will include building self-awareness, pre-vocational activities, vocational exploration, interest inventories, self-determination, effective transition teaming and focused IEP teaming.**

**2. Tracy Keninger:            How can I work if I can't get ready for work?**

**Assistive Technology solutions to assist a person to be able to perform activities of daily living in order to prepare for employment.**

**3. Suzie Paulson/ Sheila Stoekel:            Inclusion of Work Incentives and the Impact on Successful job Placement**

**Description: Help your clients reach their highest employment goals through the use of work incentives available. The purpose of the Social Security work incentives is to give the individual freedom to work at a certain level with safety nets in place without fear of losing their benefits. With continued health care needs, individuals need to know that their Medicare/Medicaid coverage will continue for an extended period of time. Plus if the individual understand how to report and whom to report to, they will lessen the chance of overpayment or of having their benefits terminated prematurely.**

**4:30-5:00 p. m.            IRA Business Meeting (Ballroom SE)**

**5:00-5:30 p.m.            ICRA Business Meeting (Ballroom SE)**

**Dinner on your own: At Castaways (Hotel Restaurant) or nearby restaurants  
(Some of Gary's recommendations listed:**

- 1) Greenbriar-Italian**
- 2) Marinos-Italian**
- 3) El Rodeo-Mexican**
- 4) Daytonas-Sports Bar/Café**
- 5) Chicago Pizza-Pizza**

**7:00-9:00            *Musical Entertainment: Justin Apple & Heath  
Allen***

**9:00 Till...            “Bingo” with Jessica**

## **Tuesday, October 11, 2011**

**7:30                    Conference Registration (Conference Center Lobby)**

**8:00 a. m.            Exhibit Area Opens (Conference Center Lobby)**

**8:45-10:00 a. m.    Concurrent Breakout Sessions**

**1. Scott Mattson: Siebert Mobility: Vehicle Modifications**

**Objective: Nuts & Bolts of Vehicle Modifications: Evaluation and  
Implementation.**

- **Lowered Floor Minivans**
  - **BraunAbility**
  - **Vantage Mobility**
  - **Viewpoint**
- **Full Size Van Conversions**

- **Demo of a Lowered Floor Minivan Conversion (be prepared to go outside).**
- **Other Mobility Products**
- **NMEDA & QAP**

## **2. Wayne Flatt: Hammer Medical: -The Beauty of Home Modifications**

**The How and Whens of Home Mods. Wayne is responsible for performing home assessments for all clients who call upon Hammer for home modification needs. He offers his expertise in helping the clients determine what modifications are needed to enable them to remain in homes (grab bars, ramps, walk in showers/tubs, door widening, stair lifts, or ceiling tracks just name a few). Wayne is involved in each project from start to finish, preparing all bids, and working with many outside agencies such as the VA, Waiver Programs, Work Comp insurances etc. to secure funding, ordering inventory, as well as building and installation. Wayne Flatt was a General Contractor who has spent more than 30 years in the home building industry. In 2010 he joined Hammer Medical Supply to head the Home Modification Division and received his CEAC (Certified Environmental Access Consultant) certification.**

## **3. Heather Illg: *Have you taken the LEAP to good health?***

**Have you ever taken a day off because you just didn't feel well? What if you had a lot of days like that?**

**As a Certified LEAP Therapist, Heather has specialized training in food sensitivities. Fibromyalgia, IBS/chronic diarrhea, arthritis, migraines and many other inflammatory conditions are often triggered by adverse reactions to foods and chemicals. Let Heather help you and your clients identify those triggers to make life easier, healthier and happier! Also addressing links to other conditions such as Autism, ADHD and Arthritis.**

**10:00-10:15 a. m.                      *Break (Exhibit area)***

**10:15-11:30 a. m.            General Session: Warren Larsen, IVRS: Directly Affecting Success**

**Warren Larsen is the Assistive Technology/Independent Living Specialist for IVRS in the State of Iowa. Warren works with 250 persons annually on their Assistive Technology and Independent Living needs. This session is an actual example of successes that he has had. With guest Angela Bauman.**

**11:30-11:45 a. m.            *Break (Exhibit area)***

**11:45-1:30 p.m.            Awards Luncheon (Grand Ballroom):  
Awards Chair: Marcia Gracey**

**1:30-2:45 p. m.            Concurrent Breakout Sessions**

**1. ICATER:                    *The iDevice Revolution: Hand Held Applications that Benefit People with Disabilities***

**Smart phones have not been around for very long, but they along with the tablet have infiltrated our lives to the point where they are essential for many people. One group that has especially benefitted from these devices is people with disabilities. The nature of these apps is that they are typically inexpensive and thus much more affordable than many types of traditional assistive technology. This session will demonstrate several apps for people with disabilities including apps that can be used for speech recognition, magnification, reading and accessing printed text, communication and cognitive and memory issues. Many of the apps discussed will be free or inexpensive meaning that attendees will be able to walk away from the session and immediately implement these tools with clients that already own a smart phone or table.**

**2. Mike Lightbody:        Iowa Compass: Increasing access to disability services and supports.**

**Stop reinventing the wheel each time you have unanswered questions about disability services and assistive technology (AT) solutions in Iowa. In this economic climate of doing more with less, utilizing the expertise and knowledge of Iowa Compass can enable you to spend less time searching and more time doing. Learn how we can help get the answers you need to:**

- Discover new AT funding options
- Identify AT solutions and manufacturers
- Find used AT through loan closets
- Search for (and post) used AT through our Used Equipment Referral Service (UERS)
- Learn about home and community disability service providers in more detail than ever before
- Connect with our Assistive Technology Legal Project for free legal advocacy to resolve issues such as insurance denials or special education AT questions.
- And finally, find out where you can access this information directly through a hands-on training using our online database

**Janis Mendenhall: Exploring The University of Iowa REACH Program—A college program for students with learning, cognitive, and intellectual disabilities.**

**REACH is a unique living-learning, college experience for young adults with multiple learning, cognitive and intellectual disabilities. REACH, a non-degree program, provides integrated campus, community, and career opportunities. Improved self-determination, interpersonal skills, daily life competencies, and career readiness result from this post-secondary experience. This multimedia presentation describes the students, program, collaborative efforts within the community and lessons learned.**

**Learning Objectives:**

- 1. To inform participants about a post-secondary, public university option for students with developmental and intellectual disabilities.**
- 2. To provide information about how to prepare the student and family for a university, living-learning experience.**
- 3. To engage participants in a discussion about program development and collaboration when working with young adults with developmental or intellectual disabilities.**

**3:00-3:15 p. m. Break-IRA Voting (Room D)**

**3:15-4:30 p. m.**

**Concurrent Breakout Sessions**

**1 ICATER: *Assistive Technology Solutions for Employment Situations***

**Assistive Technology tools are often critical to the success of an individual with a disability in employment settings, allowing people with disabilities to be more independent. This session will help attendees become familiar with several types of AT that can benefit people with different types of disabilities. This session will mix demonstration and hands on activities to look at tools such as Dragon Naturally Speaking, the Smart Pen, the Intel Reader and other computer access tools. Following this session, attendees will have the knowledge needed to help clients discover appropriate AT solutions for their work settings.**

**2. Tom Dirth: Why does the human brain get hung up on disability?**

**What causes problematic attitudes toward persons with disability to form? How can those attitudes be altered to allow more positive interactions and relationships between the disabled and the nondisabled? This discussion approaches disability from a social psychological perspective, considering not just what attitudes persist, but from where they originated and how we can alter them. From this perspective, appropriate avenues for assistive technologies and policies for persons with disabilities in the work place can be better illuminated. In addition, rehabilitation and education strategies for persons with disabilities seeking employment can be reinforced.**

**3. Jon Turnquist: Turning Occupations into Vocations**

**This presentation will address the lack of occupational “fitness” for vocational readiness when individuals are being considered for a vocation. The best support I can see for any vocation is maximizing the individual’s occupations (self care, leisure, etc). I will address the biometric markers that can be modified by occupation to have an individual in “shape” for a vocation. Secondly, this presentation will address the AT side of supporting both occupations and vocations and introduce the new St. Ambrose AT house and how it can play a role in supporting both occupations and vocations.**

**4:30-5:00 p. m.**

**Iowa JPD Division Meeting (Room A & B)**

**7:00-11 p. m.      Hospitality and Evening Events-Refreshments Available  
(Grand Ballroom)**

**7:00-9:00 p. m.      Musical Entertainment with Rob Lombard**

**9:00 p.m.              Silly Bingo**

## **Wednesday, October 12, 2011**

**7:30 a. m.              Registration (Conference Lobby)**

**8:00 a. m.              Exhibit area Opens (Conference Lobby)**

**8:45-10:00 a. m.      Concurrent Breakout Sessions**

**1. Deborah Johnson      Waiver Palooza**

**Did you know the first Medicaid Waiver was granted right here in Iowa? For so many individuals and families, Waivers have been life-changing. You know the waivers that are available, but do you really know how they work? What are the options? When do “*Exceptions to Policy*” makes sense? What directions are waivers headed?**

**2. Dr. Robert Stensrud: Rehabilitation Counseling Ethics in the Virtual Age**

**This presentation will discuss what information employers can obtain on job applicants and employees by searching the Internet. It will discuss what is legal to obtain, what is illegal, and the validity of the information as it relates to employment. The presentation will use the CRC Code of Ethics and the CDMS Code of Professional Conduct to discuss what we should and should not do to prepare consumers for this kind of privacy invasion.**

**3. Maggie Ferguson:      Brain Injury Basics: What to expect and how  
to accommodate for cognitive disabilities.**

**Objectives:**

- 1. To increase understanding of common brain injury characteristics and how this can impact employment.**
- 2. To increase understanding of common myths and misconceptions regarding returning to work after brain injury.**
- 3. To increase knowledge of accommodations for individuals with cognitive disabilities.**
- 4. To increase knowledge of resources for assistance and funding for the individual with brain injury.**

**10:00-10:15 a. m.            Break (Exhibit area)**

**10:15-11:30 a. m.            General Session: Deb Russell-Walgreens Quest for Inclusion.**

**Abstract: A session focused on what lessons Walgreens has learned while trying to become a good employer inclusive of people with disabilities.**

**Session Objectives: This session will describe the best practices learned by the Walgreen Company, the nation's largest drugstore chain.**

**Walgreens has recently committed to having one third of the workforce in all new distribution centers consist of qualified individuals with disabilities and the efforts to apply lessons learned in the new centers to the entire Supply Chain division; the reasons behind Walgreens Supply Chain Division's efforts to become an inclusive employer and a video of the impact of an inclusive work environment will then be shown to demonstrate why we continue down this path. The session will close with discussions of how Walgreens has spread the lessons learned to all parts of the company as well as other corporations.**

**11:30-12:00 p.                IRA Business Meeting (Grand Ballroom)  
Election Results  
Closing Remarks**