

WATCH US GROW!

This semester MAVS has expanded our PEERS for Young Adults High School Program to three new High School Locations! We are now proudly working with Marietta, Norcross and Pope High Schools.

FEATURED ASSOCIATE:

Sydney Alencewicz

Sydney earned her BA from Brevard College where she majored in Psychology and minored in Business and Organizational Leadership. She is a previous intern for Meridian Behavioral Health Services where she worked with children in a day treatment program teaching coping and social skills. Sydney was involved at Brevard when she was the Student Athlete Advisory Committee President, Captain of the Women's Soccer team, and initiated a recycling program throughout the campus.



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2018 Year in Review

2018 was a successful year for Metro-Atlanta Vocational Solutions, LLC – in more ways than one! Not only did we serve more clients than we ever have before, but we have held ourselves to a higher standard while doing so.

In June of 2018, 10 MAVS Associates traveled to the University of Maryland to become certified PEERS Providers. The UCLA PEERS® Clinic trains mental health professionals and educators around the world in how to implement the PEERS® intervention taught by Dr. Elizabeth Laugeson. Dr. Laugeson is the Founder and Director of the UCLA PEERS® Clinic, which is the outpatient hospital-based program providing parent-assisted social skills training for preschoolers, adolescents and young adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders and other social impairments. The days spent in Maryland were incredibly informative, as well as motivating. Associates are implementing the skill sets that they learned in the training on a daily basis during our current PEERS sessions.

Additionally, Kristina Fredericksen, Executive Director of MAVS, traveled to Texas to become a Certified Provider for the Comprehensive Vocational Evaluation System. The *Comprehensive Vocational Evaluation System (CVES)* was developed for use with persons with visual impairment/blindness. It is the only vocational evaluation system modified for individuals diagnosed with low vision/blind. It is also a neuropsychologically-based system designed to assess vocational functioning of persons unable to be administered traditional instrumentation requiring vision. We are excited to now be able offer this level of service to our MAVS clients.

MAVS Associate Lindsey Cramer also continued to raise the bar for MAVS associates and traveled to North Carolina for the International Association of Rehabilitation Professional Conference to learn about Social Security Evaluations.

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A Year In Review...

The Numbers:

398 - Total Number of Evaluations Completed (psych and Voc Evals)

47 – Average number of PSAT Clients per Month

21 – The number of High School PEERS Sessions MAVS held weekly

12 – High School Locations who implemented the PEERS Program this Fall

3 – New VR Offices that utilize MAVS Services for Evaluations (Cumming, Dallas, and Ellijay)



Year in Review, Continued...

movement, there is increasing recognition by organizations of the importance and value of including individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities as full members of governance boards and advisory councils. One challenge many organizations face is recruiting members with the skills to participate meaningfully on governance boards and advisory councils; unfortunately, far too few individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities have had opportunities and experiences to prepare them to make meaningful contributions in governance and advisory roles.” -

www.mvmpmb.org

Meredith and Philip were proud to be included in such a powerful and motivating weekend.

In addition to holding ourselves to a higher standard through workshops and conferences, MAVS also was involved in helping others learn about services that can have a positive impact on clients, and make a difference in their lives.

In August of 2018, Kristina Fredericksen, Executive Director of MAVS, and MAVS Associate Susan Cheek, a Registered Pharmacist, presented at the Georgia Rehabilitation Agency Conference on Impact of Medication Therapy Management on Vocational Rehabilitation clients. Medication Therapy Management is medical care provided by pharmacists whose aim is to optimize drug therapy and improve therapeutic outcomes for patients. Medication therapy management includes a broad range

of professional activities, including but not limited to performing patient assessment and/or a comprehensive medication review, formulating a medication treatment plan, monitoring efficacy and safety of medication therapy, enhancing medication adherence through patient empowerment and education, and documenting and communicating MTM services to prescribers in order to maintain comprehensive patient care.

In November of 2018, MAVS Associates Meredith Sinclair and Philip Landrum were invited to participate in My Voice. My Participation. My Board. MVMPMB is a Leadership Training for individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. “With the growing power of the self-advocacy



MAVS Summer Program 2019

Our Summer Program will follow the Program for the Education and Enrichment of Relational Skills (PEERS®) for Young Adults. Additionally, we will offer a Job Skills Training Summer Program.

PEERS: The Program for the Education and Enrichment of Relational Skills, is an evidence-based social skills intervention program. The groups support those diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder or other social disorders who have difficulty with peer interactions and relationships.

It has a strong evidence-base for use with adolescents and young adults with autism spectrum disorder, but is also appropriate for adolescents, and young adults with ADHD, anxiety, depression, and other socioemotional problems.

JOB SKILLS: Choosing a career can place a lot of pressure on people. A good strategy to reduce the stress of choosing a career pathway is to focus on the “process” of selecting a career rather than their actual choice – or absence of choice. We will help students put their energy into researching their options,

choosing a career path, and prepare to enter the work force by practicing job related skills. Other topics include self-advocacy in the workplace, and employer and employee expectations.

Contact MAVS if you know an individual who could benefit from our Summer Programs!

Details on the next page...

More Details on the CVES:

The Comprehensive Vocational Evaluation System for Individuals with Visual Impairment/Blindness (CVES) includes assessment of three major constructs of behavior: Verbal-Spatial-Cognitive, Sensorimotor, and Emotional-Coping that are further divided into five "factors" for organizational purposes. Data from these factors are used to describe individual abilities, skills and aptitudes and to predict vocational and residential program levels (criteria). Each of these factors is operationally defined by one or more tests or behavioral instruments.

What's to come in 2019!

Our mission is to support individuals with disabilities on the journey of optimal self-discovery and achievement. MAVS sees disability as part of the continuum of human experience, and we serve people with all types of disabilities.

To help expand the scope of our mission, MAVS will be expanding our services in Orlando, Florida as well as Bucks, Montgomery and Delaware County in Pennsylvania!

In the Metro-Atlanta Area we will be expanding our CVES in Georgia, and offering CEU Presentations as well.



Did you know?

We can offer mobile services to the Metro-Atlanta Area, including the counties of Cobb, Ellijay, Fulton, Cherokee, Clayton, Cumming, Dallas, Fayette, Henry, Dawson, Forsyth, Lumpkin, Douglas, Gwinnett and Dekalb.

SUMMER PROGRAM DETAILS:

Students have the option of choosing either:

Option 1: PEERS WORKSHOP 9:00am-12:00pm

AND/OR

Option 2: JOB SKILLS WORKSHOP from 1:00pm-4:00pm

(Exact meeting locations to be determined.)

Both workshops will be held in *Cobb and Gwinnett Counties* on the following dates:

Session 1:

May 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st

June 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th

June 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th

June 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th

Session 2:

June 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th

*No Workshop the week of July 4th

July 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th

July 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th

July 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th

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