

WATCH US GROW!

Last month, MAVS completed Vocational Evaluations in Hall County, Georgia. Reach out to us and watch us travel!

FEATURED ASSOCIATE:

Kimberly Bigelman, M.S.

Kim received her undergraduate degree from the University of Cincinnati and received her MS in Rehabilitation Counseling from Georgia State University in 2015. Since 2000, Kim has worked with people with disabilities providing services in a psychosocial rehabilitation program, group homes, and vocational programs. While in graduate school, Kim completed her internship with the GVRV. Upon graduation, she worked as a counselor at the GVRV until she joined MAVS as a vocational evaluator in 2016. She is a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor.



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What is a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor, and how can they help you or your client?

A rehabilitation counselor is a mental health and social work professional who works with individuals with disabilities. Their goal is to help the disabled to build skills geared toward daily living, employment, mobility, and many other concerns. They may also help individuals cope with their disability, family and social functioning.

The National Service Inclusion Project (NSIP) identified 48.9 million people in the U.S. with a disability by using U.S. Census Data. Of this number, 24.1 million have a severe disability that limits their life activities. Rehabilitation counseling helps them improve their quality of life and ability to live independently.

Rehabilitation counselors have a goal of teaching, showing or coaching people with physical or mental disabilities how to set goals and achieve them. The process begins with a thorough assessment of the person's abilities and skills to their disability. Then, the counselor works with the client to set goals, and establish steps to be taken to achieve them. The goals can be in the areas of employment, education, daily living skills, social functioning, and emotional and physical well-being.

As one example, a client with a disability may want to work, and be able to do a certain job, but they may be unable to drive to work due to their disability. The counselor can help them to set a goal of learning how to use public transportation or take advantage of ride-sharing services.

Some rehabilitation counselors focus on working with people with special needs, such as youth with autism or developmental delays. Others provide occupational counseling or rehabilitation services to people who are recovering from traumatic illnesses or injuries. A related field is veteran re-entry counseling for returning members of the armed services. Still others work with people in residential care facilities, or those with mental health challenges.

MAVS Associates who are Certified Rehabilitation Counselors are: Kristina Fredericksen, Meredith Sinclair, and Kimberly Bigelman.

Reference: www.serviceandinclusion.org

The Numbers:

Among adults with disabilities of working age (18 to 64 years old), three out of ten (29%) work full- or part-time, compared to eight out of ten (79%) of those without disabilities-- a gap of fifty percentage points.

Among those with disabilities age 16 to 64 who are not employed, seven out of ten (72%) say that they would prefer to work.

Just over half (54%) of adults with disabilities have heard of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Almost one-third of all families are impacted by disability. An estimated 20.3 million families, or 29% of all families in the United States, have at least one member with a disability.

Source: 2018 National Organization on Disability/Louis Harris & Associates Survey of Americans with Disabilities



An in-Depth Discussion: Supported Employment, Customized Employment, and IPS Supported Employment. What is the difference?

Supported employment refers to service provisions wherein people with disabilities, including intellectual disabilities, mental health, and traumatic brain injury, among others, are assisted with obtaining and maintaining employment. Supported employment is considered to be one form of employment in which wages are expected, together with benefits from an employer in a competitive workplace, though some versions refer to disability agency paid employment. For those working with persons who historically have been the least likely to become employed – persons with developmental and multiple disabilities -- supported employment offers the promise to provide a remedy through the provision of ongoing job-site supports. It is hoped that by getting around the barrier of independence, that all who want to work can now be employed.

Customized employment (CE) is a way of personalizing the employment relationship between a candidate and an employer in order to meet the needs of both. It applies in particular to employees with disabilities. The individual employee's skills, interests and needs are identified in a process of "discovery", and job content and environment are tailored to these in a process of negotiation. Individuals, as well as companies, stand to benefit from customized employment. Customized employment concept provides the business with reliable and dependable employees, it reduces recruitment and hiring processes, it matches job seekers with specific employment needs, increases employee retention, helps the business to attract broader customer base, enhance diversity, and increase tax benefits.

IPS Supported Employment is an evidence-based approach to supported employment for people who have a mental illness. IPS stands for **Individual Placement and Support**. IPS supports people in their efforts to achieve steady, meaningful employment in mainstream competitive jobs, either part-time or full-time. This stands in contrast to other vocational rehabilitation approaches that employ people in sheltered workshops and other set-aside jobs. SE/IPS is very different from traditional vocational rehabilitation. It emphasizes consumer choice as well as time-unlimited and individualized follow-along services, among other components.



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 Career Counseling and Development Workshop.

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.

Career Counseling and Development: 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...

Details on the Psychological Evaluations:

The purpose of a Psychological Evaluation is to obtain and document information regarding a client’s current level of cognitive, emotional, and behavioral functioning. They provide information that complements a Comprehensive Vocational Evaluation and offers recommendations regarding accommodations which may benefit a client’s ability to succeed in school and/or work. The evaluation may include:

- Clinical interview
- WRAT-5
- Bender-Gestalt
- BDI/BAI
- WAIS

Please contact MAVS if you know someone who could benefit from a Psychological Evaluation.

Vocational Evaluations for Persons with Visual Impairment/Blindness

MAVS offers the Comprehensive Vocational Evaluation System (CVES) for individuals with visual impairment/blindness. The CVES is the only system normed for individuals with visual impairments.

The CVES measures essential verbal-spatial-cognitive, sensorimotor, and emotional-coping abilities. Lindsay Cramer and Kristina Fredericksen, both of whom are MAVS associates, received extensive training to administer the CVES.



The MAVS Team

MAVS is here for you, your clients, and your loved ones. Our Office Manager, Kim Brown, is available to speak to regarding client referrals, services, scheduling, and more. Please do not hesitate to reach out to her for any questions you may have! She is happy to help!

Email: admin@atlvoc.com

Phone: 484-433-1661

SUMMER PROGRAM DETAILS:

Students have the option of choosing either:

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

AND/OR

Option 2: CAREER COUNSELING AND DEVELOPMENT 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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