



IAJVS Executive Quarterly Report

Vol. 2, No. 3 • July-September 1999

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ADA 9th Anniversary Celebration Attended by IAJVS

On July 26th, along with one hundred invited guests, I attended a White House forum on disability and cultural diversity. The forum, also celebrating the ninth anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, was convened jointly by the White House Office of Public Liaison and the National Council on Disability. The day focused on how to improve outcomes in education, employment and civil rights enforcement for people with disabilities from diverse cultural backgrounds. The list of forum speakers was impressive, including Attorney General Janet Reno, Secretary of Labor Alexis Herman, Secretary of Education Richard Riley, Secretary of Transportation Rodney Slater, and a host of Congressional people. It was an honor to be part of this important discussion.

Did You Know...?

A recent report by the National Center for the Study of Adult Learning and Literacy titled **“Welfare, Jobs, and Basic Skills”** underscores the acute need to improve the basic skills of former and current welfare recipients. It goes on to list the following counties where the need for additional low-skill jobs

exceeds 20 percent. **Please take special note: Baltimore, Chicago, Detroit, Los Angeles, Miami, Newark, New York City, San Diego, and Washington, DC.**

IAJVS Goes to Camp

On Thursday, August 26th, the gray skies over Camp Moshava in the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania did not dampen the spirits of 350 participants at the Shusterman Hillel International Student Leaders Assembly.

IAJVS was represented under the Big Tent at the Partner Agency Day with over 50 diverse Jewish organizations. Students from around the U.S. and Canada stopped by the IAJVS booth to learn about the varied services offered by each member agency. Many students were interested in preparing for their first job or graduate school. Some students wanted information on internships and mentoring programs. Others were curious about opportunities to work or study in Israel.

The event was extremely successful. Students were glad to learn they could contact agencies in their hometown or college city. You should be hearing from these

highly motivated and energized collegians at your agency.

IAJVS prepared and distributed a national brochure “Services to College Students” and a detailed listing of IAJVS agency programs for young adults throughout the network. If you would like copies to use in your respective agency/city, please call the IAJVS office. Special thanks to Donna Yates, Director of Career Strategies, JEVs Philadelphia for representing IAJVS at the event. (She also wrote this article.)

IAJVS Attends NISH 25th Anniversary Celebration

On July 21st, I had the pleasure of attending a breakfast reception at the Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C., celebrating the twenty-fifth anniversary of NISH. More than two hundred people attended to honor the legacy of Jacob K. Javits. Mrs. Javits and son Joshua were the guests of honor. The late Senator Javits’ 1971 amendments to the Wagner-O’Day Act opened opportunities for all persons with disabilities.

As I was reading the milestones in the NISH history, I was struck by the 1976 one listed - “the item carrying NISH over the \$5 million threshold was the production of convalescent suits produced by ALTRO Workshops, Inc. of New York. As many of you well know, ALTRO was a non-profit Jewish agency providing rehabilitation services in the Bronx. ALTRO merged and then was taken over by F·E·G·S.

IAJVS Staff on the Move, Part I: Grants Updates

Intensive planning and preparations continue for the **IAJVS Welfare-to-Work Conference**, scheduled for October 18-19 in Philadelphia for the RETAIN grantee agencies. We are also hoping that legislative amendments to the program will occur some time this fall.

The preliminary agenda for the October Welfare-to-

Work agenda shows two local health care providers – Bayada Nursing and Genesis Health Ventures – invited to discuss employers’ perspectives on welfare-to-work. Agencies will discuss their best practices including: how to engage employers involved in an ever-growing definition of what is “health care” employment; developing an appropriate job readiness curriculum; and providing effective job retention and case management services. IAJVS staff will provide training on participant tracking and financial management.

Good news: we have just learned that **DEI will be re-funded for the second program year**. Thanks to all grantees for helping us prepare the submission. We are looking forward to another year!

IAJVS Staff on the Move, Part II: Conferences and Site Visits

Genie and Lucy continued to make the rounds of site visits to the Welfare-to-Work grantees by visiting **JF&VS of Middlesex County** in New Jersey on July 29. Lucy is also planning to visit **Minneapolis** for a **Welfare-to-Work site visit** on September 27.

And speaking of site visits, I visited JVS Detroit and JVS Los Angeles this summer. Meeting with the staffs and touring the agencies always leaves me with a sense of pride - We’re doing great work around the country!

Lucy Klain participated as a panelist at the **Welfare-to-Work Partnership Conference**, August. Her presentation went well, and she found it interesting to hear about health care programs in other cities from both employer and provider perspectives. Lucy was also able to shake the hand of President Clinton, who was in attendance. While in Chicago, Lucy also spent a day at JVS Chicago visiting the Business Career Institute, which is partially funded through IAJVS’ disAbility Employment Initiative Project.

The **Presidential Task Force on Employment of Adults with Disabilities** held a symposium “Over-

coming Obstacles to Employment of People with Disabilities” in Washington, DC on September 22. Lucy Klain attended the session during which state and local service providers from across the country developed policy and regulatory recommendations for federal action.

Finally, from October 5-7, Lucy will attend **Financial Management Training for Welfare-to-Work** project managers, in Washington, DC.

Upcoming Publication

The **1999 Conference Proceedings** (selected transcripts) will be sent to all who attended the 1999 IAJVS-AJVSP Annual Conference.

- **IAJVS-AJVSP 2000**
February 27- March 1
St. Pete Beach, Florida

On August 9th and 10th I conducted a site inspection for our annual conference 2000. The Tradewinds Resort on St. Pete Beach in Florida combines the ambience of a tropical resort with modern conference facilities. Just to make sure it would meet the high standards of our attendees, I tested the Gulf waters, walked the beach, sampled the restaurants and oh, yes, inspected the meeting rooms! My report: I can't wait to go back! I hope to see you all there for what will be a terrific conference. Mike Bernstein, CEO of Gulf Coast JFMHS and his staff are already working hard in gathering local host information. I also had the pleasure of touring Gulf Coast JFMHS and meeting with the staff of the IAJVS-funded disAbility Employment Initiative Project.

Editor Says Farewell

As many of you may already know by now, I am moving to the Washington, DC area where my husband has accepted a job. I have tremendously enjoyed working with all of you in the JVS community during the past four years. I have also been proud to be a part of the JVS effort at achieving tikkun olam - repairing the world - by connecting eager workers with meaningful employment. I have also enjoyed the way that the JVS family combines high professional aspirations with great personal warmth: in what other field do people greet each other with hugs at the annual meeting?! So, not goodbye, but shalom, and my best wishes to you all.

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We welcome your comments and suggestions.