

# PRESENTERS

## Innovating Services, Improving Outcomes: A VR Model for Serving SSDI Clients

### MODERATOR



**Gina Livermore**, Mathematica Policy Research

Gina Livermore is an expert in employment and health care policy and programs for people with disabilities. She is deputy director of Mathematica's Center for Studying Disability Policy and co-director of the Mathematica Disability Research Consortium, a cooperative agreement with the Social Security Administration (SSA). Dr. Livermore also directs the national evaluation of SSA's Promoting Readiness of Minors in Supplemental Security Income (PROMISE) demonstration. Her work focuses on improving the economic well-being and self-sufficiency of transition-age youth and working-age people with disabilities. This includes research on the prevalence of long-term poverty and material hardship as well as access to health care for people with disabilities. Dr. Livermore has also described the limitations of, and suggested improvements for, the national disability data system. She holds a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and an M.P.H. in epidemiology from Tulane University.

### PRESENTERS



**Susan Foley**, Institute for Community Inclusion

Susan Foley is a senior research fellow at the Institute for Community Inclusion within the School for Global Inclusion and Social Development, University of Massachusetts-Boston (UMass). She leads several multiyear national research projects on vocational rehabilitation (VR), public policy, and the employment of people with disabilities. These projects include a multistate study of Vermont Progressive Employment, a study on the use of a labor market information dashboard by the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services, and multiple initiatives with Nebraska Vocational Rehabilitation. She is also testing a rapid engagement coordinated team approach for the Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation and for Minnesota Vocational Rehabilitation Services; the goal of this project is to see if a randomized controlled VR practice improves wage outcomes for people receiving Social Security Disability Insurance. Dr. Foley received her doctorate in social welfare policy from the Florence Heller School of Advanced Social Welfare Policy at Brandeis University.



**Joe Marrone**, Institute for Community Inclusion

Joe Marrone is a senior program manager for public policy at the Institute for Community Inclusion at UMass. He is also the coordinator of training and technical assistance for (1) the VR Management Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers based at the institute and (2) a research grant from the Rehabilitation Services Administration to help SSA recipients become economically self-sufficient. Currently, Mr. Marrone is working with tribal and Alaska Native programs across the country on various projects and with the UMass Medical School to help youth with psychiatric disabilities find jobs. He has consulted, trained, and lectured in 50 states, Canada, Puerto Rico, Asia, and Europe. He also has over 40 years of experience on topics such as policy/program design in employment services, workplace supports, psychiatric rehabilitation, program management, quality assurance, accountability

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of human services programs, workforce development, community rehabilitation, welfare-to-work issues, and consumer empowerment. Mr. Marrone has worked on the New England Psychiatric Rehabilitation Training Program, the Michigan State University Training Grant in Psychiatric Rehabilitation, and the University of Pittsburgh/Western Psychiatric Institute's National Psychiatric Rehabilitation Training Grant. He has also been an adjunct faculty member of the New England School of Professional Psychology and the Boston University School of Medicine, and he serves on the editorial boards of five peer-reviewed professional journals. Mr. Marrone holds an M.Ed. from Northeastern University.



**Purvi Sevak, Mathematica Policy Research**

Purvi Sevak is a senior researcher at Mathematica, where she leads quantitative research to study programs that support the employment of people with disabilities. Dr. Sevak is working with several state VR agencies to help them use data and technology to improve service delivery and outcomes for youth who are making the transition to adulthood. She recently designed the Survey of Disability and Employment, which is being used to better understand employment barriers and facilitators faced by people with disabilities. Dr. Sevak's published work appears in numerous journals, including the *Journal of Public Economics*, *The Journal of Health Economics*, *The Journal of Human Resources*, *The Social Security Bulletin*, *the Journal of Disability Policy Studies*, and the *Journal of Vocational Rehabilitation*. Dr. Sevak holds a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Michigan.



**Todd Honeycutt, Mathematica Policy Research**

Todd Honeycutt is a senior health researcher at Mathematica who focuses on VR and employment programs for people with disabilities. His latest research involves (1) assessing the relationship between post-secondary education supports and outcomes for youth with and without mental health issues, (2) examining long-term outcomes related to employment and SSA benefits for youth with disabilities, and (3) leading evaluations of two VR agency studies on work-based learning experiences for high school students. His work has been published in the *Journal of Disability Policy Studies*, the *American Journal of Evaluation*, the *IZA Journal of Labor Policy*, *Demography*, the *Rehabilitation Counseling Bulletin*, and the *Journal of Vocational Rehabilitation*. He holds a Ph.D. in health systems and policy from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey and an M.A. in counselor education from the University of New Mexico.

**DISCUSSANT**

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**Steve Wooderson, Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR)**

Steve Wooderson has been CEO of CSAVR since 2010. Before joining CSAVR, he was the administrator of Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services, where he oversaw the state VR and independent living programs as well as the Disability Determination Services Bureau. His experience in VR spans over 35 years, starting with a role as VR counselor in south central Missouri in January 1981. Following a 20-year career with the Missouri VR agency, he moved to Iowa to become the rehabilitation services chief and was then appointed agency administrator in 2002. He has served at all professional levels in the public VR system, which gives him a unique perspective on the local, state, and national implications of VR service delivery. During his tenure in Iowa, Mr. Wooderson also served as adjunct faculty in Drake University's rehabilitation counseling program. Since his tenure with CSAVR, he has led the way to an international partnership with allied VR service providers in Western Europe and has been a featured trainer and speaker with the European Platform for Rehabilitation, headquartered in Brussels. He has also represented CSAVR and the U.S. public VR system by presenting and meeting with members of the Vietnamese Ministry of Labor, social services providers, and higher education officials in Hanoi. Mr. Wooderson is a certified Dale Carnegie trainer and a retired lieutenant colonel with the Army Reserves. He holds an M.S. in psychometrics and counseling psychology from Spaulding University.

