MATHEMATICA
CENTER FOR
STUDYING DISABILITY POLICY

PRESENTERS

Barriers and Supports to Employment for State Vocational Rehabilitation Clients

PRESENTERS

Debra L. Brucker, Institute on Disability, University of New Hampshire

Debra Brucker is a researcher at the University of New Hampshire's Institute on Disability, where she uses national survey data to measure the economic, health, and social well-being of persons with disabilities. She has over 20 years of experience in applied social and health policy research and has held positions at academic institutions, research organizations, and state agencies. Her work has been published in numerous peer-reviewed journals, including *Social Science Quarterly*, the *Journal of Behavioral Health Services and Research*, and the *Journal of Disability Policy Studies*. Dr. Brucker has an M.P.A. in social policy analysis from the University of Delaware and a Ph.D. in urban planning and public policy from Rutgers University.

Angie Jaszczak, Mathematica Policy Research

Angie Jaszczak, a senior survey researcher at Mathematica, specializes in the design and direction of survey data collection. She has 15 years of experience in public health and survey research, and has developed questionnaires for numerous studies in that time. Ms. Jaszczak is the project director for the Individual Characteristics Rehabilitation Research and Training Center (IC-RRTC), overseeing a survey designed to generate new knowledge about the role of individual characteristics in explaining the disparities in employment between people with disabilities and those without, as well as disparities among people with disabilities. Jaszczak is a member of the American Association for Public Opinion Research and a peer reviewer for *Field Method*s and *Public Opinion Quarterly*. She holds an M.P.H. in health promotion and education from Emory University.

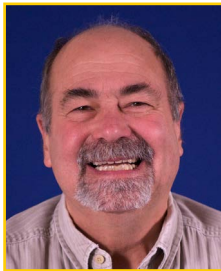**Frank Martin,** Mathematica Policy Research

Frank Martin, a researcher at Mathematica Policy Research, analyzes the impact of public programs and employment outcomes among people with disabilities. Since joining Mathematica in 2010, Martin has examined the risk of Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) entry for people with disabilities who have used vocational rehabilitation (VR) services. He also served as deputy project director for the implementation of the Benefit Offset National Demonstration, a multi-site, randomized demonstration testing the feasibility and effectiveness of an incentive to help SSDI beneficiaries earn more and keep more of their benefits. He is currently a co-investigator for a project that examines VR agency factors that affect the long-term earnings of youth. His work has appeared in the *Journal of Disability Policy Studies*, *Rehabilitation Counseling Bulletin*, *Patient Education and Counseling*, and the *Journal of Applied Rehabilitation Counseling*. He holds a Ph.D. in special education from the University of Texas at Austin.

June 2016

MATHEMATICA-MPR.COM   PRINCETON, NJ - ANN ARBOR, MI - CAMBRIDGE, MA - CHICAGO, IL - OAKLAND, CA - TUCSON, AZ - WASHINGTON, DC   1

Purvi Sevak, Mathematica Policy Research

Purvi Sevak, senior researcher at Mathematica, is an expert in quantitative research, including the use of large survey databases to conduct research on the employment of people with disabilities and their participation in public programs designed to address their health and employment needs. She is currently leading the Survey of Disability and Employment, funded by the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR). She is also leading several research projects for NIDILRR that are examining the role of individual and environmental characteristics in explaining disparities in employment outcomes among people with disabilities. Dr. Sevak came to Mathematica in 2013 from Hunter College, where she was a professor in the economics department for more than a decade. She is a member of the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management and the American Economic Association. She holds a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Michigan.

DISCUSSANT

Joe Marrone, Institute for Community Inclusion, University of Massachusetts, Boston

Joe Marrone is a senior program manager for public policy at the Institute for Community Inclusion, University of Massachusetts, Boston (UMass). He is involved with VR Management Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers funded by NIDILRR. He is currently working with Tribal and Alaska Native programs on various projects across the country, and on a project funded by a UMass Medical School research grant on assisting youth with psychiatric disabilities to achieve successful employment outcomes. Mr. Marrone has consulted, trained, and lectured in 50 states, Canada, Puerto Rico, Asia, and Europe. He has over 40 years' experience on topics including policy and program design in employment services, workplace supports, psychiatric rehabilitation, program management, quality assurance, human service program accountability, workforce development, community rehabilitation, welfare-to-work issues, and consumer empowerment. Mr. Marrone has been on the staffs of 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. He is on the editorial boards of five peer-reviewed professional journals. Mr. Marrone has an M.Ed. from Northeastern University.