**Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation**

**2025 Spring Conference**

**Building on our Successes: Beyond the Buzz**

*In partnership with George Washington University Center for*

*Rehabilitation Counseling, Research & Education (GW-CRCRE)*

**Hyatt Regency Bethesda**

**One Bethesda Metro Center**

**Bethesda, MD 20814**

**Friday, April 4 – Wednesday, April 9**

**Friday, April 4** **CSAVR New Director Orientation**

**1:00 PM – 4:30 PM** Ballroom 1

**Saturday, April 5** **National Coalition of State Rehabilitation**

**8:30 AM – 4:30 PM Councils (NCSRC)** Ballroom 4

**9:00 AM – 4:00 PM** **CSAVR New Director Orientation** Ballroom 1

**Sunday, April 6** **National Coalition of State Rehabilitation**

**8:30 AM – 4:30 PM Councils (NCSRC)** Ballroom 4

**10:00 AM – 12:00 PM** **CSAVR Directors Meetings** Ballroom 1

**(Legislative & Communications**

**Staff invited)**

**12:00 PM – 1:30 PM** **Lunch on Your Own**

**1:30 PM – 3:00 PM** **CSAVR Business Meeting** Ballroom 1

**(Directors and Senior Staff only)**

**3:00 PM – 5:30 PM** **CSAVR Registration** Hyatt Regency Foyer

**Monday, April 7** **Registration & Coffee** Hyatt Regency Foyer

**8:30 AM – 9:00 AM**

**9:00 AM – 10:30 AM** **Welcome**  Hyatt Regency Ballroom

**Felicia Johnson**, President, CSAVR

Commissioner, SC-G

**Steve Wooderson**, CEO, CSAVR

Welcome New State Directors

**General Session #1**

**VR Workforce Studio Customer Podcast Showcase**

**Rick Sizemore and Betsy Civilette**

Nationally Recognized Podcast Hosts, VA-G

**George Dennehy**, Motivational Speaker

Peter Bale and Kaleb Jeffries, Sentinel Robotic Solutions

Jack Pinnock, Owner, Dreamie Cookies

**10:30 AM – 11:00 AM** **Break**

**11:00 AM – 12:00 PM** **General Session #2** Hyatt Regency Ballroom

**The 119th Congressional Session and Priorities**

**Robert (Bob) Ludke**

Former Hill Staffer

**Retired Senator Tom Harkin** (D-IA)

**Legislative Assistant** (Invited)

Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-LA)

**Grace Hart**, Senior Policy Director (Invited)

Special Committee on Aging

**Phoebe Ball**, Senior Counsel, (Invited)

Committee on Education and Workforce

**Presiding**: **Jane Elizabeth Burdeshaw**

CSAVR President Elect, Director, AL-C

**12:00 PM – 1:30 PM** **Lunch on Your Own**

**1:30 PM – 2:45 PM** **Concurrent Sessions One Ballroom 2-4**

**Track #1: Building on Our Successes:**

**Policy & Streamlining**

**Rewriting the Rules: SCVRD’s Creative Overhaul**

**of Consumer Services and Fiscal Policies**

**Felicia Johnson**, Director, SC-G

**Harriett Abner**, Director of Consumer Services, SC-G

**Elisabeth “Betsy” McWhite**, Policy and Internal Control

Supervisor, SC-G

**Presiding: Felicia Johnson**

CSAVR President, Commissioner, SC-G

**Track #2: Building on Our Successes:** Ballroom 1

**Fiscal Controls & Management**

**Beyond the Numbers: Advancing Fiscal Management**

**Transparency**

**Dr. Felicia Hopson**, Director, NJ-G

**Katie Marchesano**, Program Coordinator, Fiscal and Resource

Management, VRTAC – Quality Management

**Presiding: Natasha Jerde**

CSAVR Region V Representative, Director, MN-B

**Track #3: Building on Our Successes:** Cabinet/Judiciary

**Personnel Development, Recruiting & Retention**

**Clinical Supervision for State Vocational Rehabilitation Supervisors**

**Tasha Weber**, Site Manager, MI-G

**Steve Pelli**, Site Manager, MI-G

**Dr. James T. Herbert**, Professor

The Pennsylvania State University

**Presiding: Lindy Foley**

CSAVR Region VII Representative, Director, NE-G

**2:45 PM – 3:00 PM** **Break**

**3:00 PM – 4:30 PM** **Regional Meeting**

**Region 3 Meeting Congressional**

**Region 4 Meeting Embassy Suite**

**Region 5 Meeting Executive Board Rm**

**Region 6 Meeting Diplomat/Ambassador**

**Region 7 Meeting Potomac**

**Region 9 Meeting Susquehanna**

**Region 10 Meeting Old Georgetown**

**6:00 PM – 8:00 PM** **Reception** Hyatt Regency Ballroom

**Presentation of 2025 Business Champion of Disability   
Employment Award: CleanLogic Issac Shapiro**, President, Co-CEO

***[6:15 PM DURING RECEPTION]***

**Book Signing:** **Case Studies in Disability Driven Innovation   
Bob Ludke**, Co-founder Value Inclusion, LLC

***[DURING RECEPTION]***

**Tuesday, April 8** **General Session #3**  Hyatt Regency Ballroom

**9:00 AM – 10:30 AM** **Building on Our Successes – Telling Our Story**

**Brittney Crampsie**, Principal

Brittney Crampsie Communications, LLC

**Charyl Yarbrough**, Assistant Commissioner, NJ-G

**Kristin Corash**, Director, CO-C

**Kristen Mackey**, Director, AZ-C

**Byran Dai**, Co-Founder & CEO, Daivergent, Inc.

**Presiding: Dacia Johnson**

Director, OR-B

**10:30 AM – 11:00 AM** **Break**

**11:00 AM – 12:00 PM** **General Session #4 Federal Panel** Hyatt Regency Ballroom

**Building on Our Successes – Federal Partnership**

**Dr. Jennifer L. Johnson**, Acting Commissioner Administration on Disabilities, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (Invited)

**Dr. David Cantrell**, Deputy Director,

Office of Special Education Programs

U.S. Department of Education (Invited)

**Jennifer Sheehy**, Deputy Assistant Secretary,

Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP),

U.S. Department of Labor (Invited)

**Presiding: Robert Doyle**

CSAVR Treasurer, Director, FL-B

**12:00 PM – 1:30 PM** **Lunch on Your Own**

**1:30 PM – 2:45 PM** **Concurrent Sessions Two** Cabinet/Judiciary

**Track #1: Building on Our Successes**

**Policy & Streamlining**

**Streamlining Service Access: Revolutionizing**

**the Intake Process**

**Lola Akinlapa**, Director of Strategic Initiatives, MassAbility

**Kaitlin Morrissette**, Director, MassAbility

**Presiding: Toni Wolf**

CSAVR Careers and Business Relations Committee

Co-Chair, Director, MA-G

**Track #2: Building on Our Successes:** Ballroom 2-4

**Fiscal Controls & Management**

**The Wyoming Way–How Wyoming Unified**

**Fiscal & Program Teams for Stronger Internal Controls**

**Aubree Porter**, VR Accounting Manager, WY-C

**Jennifer Cassidy**, Deputy Chief Financial Officer, WY-C

**TJ Mechem**, Programs Manager, WY-C

**Carol Pankow**, Project Director, VRTAC-Quality Management

**Presiding:** **Kathy Hayfield**

CSAVR Region III Representative, Director, VA-G

**Track #3: Building on Our Successes:** Ballroom 1

**Personnel Development, Recruiting**

**& Retention**

**Developing and Retaining VR Counselors and Supervisors**

**Kathie Smith**, EIPD Director, NC-G

**Vicky Miller**, Chief Policy Officer, NC-G

**Leighann Corbin**, Quality Development Specialists, NC-G

**Mark Beard**, Quality Development Specialists, NC-G

**Presiding: Kathie Smith**

CSAVR Customer Services for Adults Committee

Co-Chair, Director NC-G

**2:45 PM – 3:15 PM** **Break**

**3:15 PM – 4:30 PM** **Concurrent Sessions Three**

**Track #1: Building on Our Successes:** Cabinet/Judiciary

**Policy & Streamlining**

**Go/No Go: Six Easy Steps to Review**

**a VR Consumer Business Plan**

**Gary Horton**, President of Vanward Consulting Services

**Lisa Kisiel**, Division Administrator, MI-B

**Kathy West-Evans**, Director of Business Relations, CSAVR

**Presiding: Elisha Jenkins**

CSAVR Customer Services for Transition and Youth

Committee Co-Chair, Director, DE-G

**Track #2: Building on Our Successes:** Ballroom 2-4

**Fiscal Controls & Management**

**Developing and Maintaining Fee Schedules**

**Dr. Megan Lamb**, Assistant Director, AR-B

**Brian Hickman**, Deputy Administrator, WY-C

**TJ Mechem**, Programs Manager, WY-C

**Presiding: Kristen Mackey**

CSAVR Region IX Representative, Director, AZ-C

**Track #3: Building on Our Successes:** Ballroom 1

**Personnel Development, Recruiting & Retention**

**VR Internal Succession Planning: Oregon’s**

**Training Model for Aspiring Leaders**

**Keith Ozols**, Director, OR-G

**Heather Lindsey**, Deputy Director, OR-G

**Richard Clark**, Deputy Director, OR-G

**Presiding: Keith Ozols**

CSAVR Region X Representative, Director, OR-G

**Wednesday, April 9**  **General Session** #5 Hyatt Regency Ballroom

**9:00 AM – 10:00 AM** **Navigating Order of Selection in VR:**

**Balancing Financial Pressures, Regulatory   
 Compliance, and Service Demand**

**Theresa Koleszar**, Director, IN-C

**Carol Pankow**, Project Director, VRTAC Quality Management

**Melissa Diehl**, Program Manager, GWU

**Presiding: David Doukas**

CSAVR Immediate Past President, Director, CT-G

**10:00 AM – 10:30 AM** **Break**

**10:30 AM – 11:30 AM** **General Session #6** Hyatt Regency Ballroom

**RSA Update: Supporting Your Success**

**Chris Pope**, Director, State Monitoring and Program

Improvement Division

**Ashley Brizzo**, Director, Training and Service

Programs Division

**Michael Quinn**, Chief, Data Collection and Analysis Unit

Rehabilitation Services Administration

**Presiding:** **Jane Elizabeth Burdeshaw**

CSAVR President-Elect, Director, AL-C

**11:30 AM – 11:45 AM** **Closing Session** Hyatt Regency Ballroom

**Presiding:** Felicia Johnson

CSAVR President, Commissioner, SC-G