

VOCATIONAL PROGRAM STAFF

Mary Drabik, BSW

*Vocational Program
Coordinator*

Mary has been a vocational services professional for 32 years and has worked at the Kenneth Young center for 23 years.

Tom Marshall, BSBA

Vocational Counselor

Tom spent his career as a Human Resources professional and has been working since his retirement, at the Kenneth Young Center for 5 years.

Erin Blasier, MSW

Employment Specialist

Erin recently graduated with her MSW and has worked in residential and school settings.

Kenneth Young Center



*Feeling Good
Doing Better
Finding Solutions*

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VOCATIONAL SERVICES

The philosophy of Kenneth Young Center's Vocational Program is that work is an integral part of the healing process.

Recovery is not only possible, but probable with treatment, preparation, cooperation and ongoing support, leading to success in employment.

Preparation

Clients are referred to the program by their KYC therapist or case manager, or by the Division of Rehabilitation Services, if they are not receiving mental health services at KYC. A comprehensive vocational assessment is conducted, resulting in a plan for employment. Clients' needs are identified and depending on that, some or all of the following services are started. Career exploration, resume and cover letter development, interview coaching, job seeking instruction, symptom management, on-the-job evaluation, retention counseling and benefit counseling are all available.

There are two on site job seeking groups each week where clients come to do internet job seeking, fill out applications, follow up with employers and ask for advice from staff and volunteers who assist them. All clients participate in a taped interview, where they can view their performance, target areas for improvement and learn more about body language, expression and appearance.

In addition, employment partners and HR professionals in our service area come in to perform mock interviews and resume analysis so that clients can receive professional and objective feedback.

Job Placement and Advocacy

We assist clients by providing job leads and advocacy. Whenever possible, we advocate for the client to get an interview. With clients' permission, we call employers, both known and unknown to provide information about our clients' skill, experience and abilities and the program. If clients wish to keep their connection to the Kenneth Young Center confidential, we assist them behind the scenes and honor the decision to not disclose. Job development is ongoing and staff provide leads and information about job fairs, hiring surges, new businesses in the community and leads that are direct from employment partners.

Questions about our vocational program?

*Call Mary at
847.524.8800 ext 149*

Retention Counseling

Once clients are placed in a job, they are encouraged to meet with their vocational counselor weekly for the first few months. When possible the vocational counselor will solicit feedback from the employer and use the information to help the client improve or maintain their performance. Counselors provide help with benefits maximization, coping strategies, symptom management, healthy living practices, problem solving and improving focus and productivity. Retention services continue as long as clients need them and employers are able to receive help and education to maximize the client's potential.

Funding

The Kenneth Young Center's Vocational Program has been funded by the Illinois Department of Human Services-Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) since 1999. The Division has recently invited KYC to become a provider of IPS, **Individual Placement and Support**, which is an evidence based program targeting the mentally ill population. This program has been successful with this population and KYC's program will be operational in summer of 2013. Vocational services are free to employers and to DRS funded clients.