

**MARY CATHERINE HUTCHINSON**

**2101 4<sup>th</sup> Ave E. Suite 101**

**Olympia, WA 98506**

[mary@osc-voc.com](mailto:mary@osc-voc.com)

**CERTIFICATIONS/REGISTRATIONS:**

- 1) *Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC)*, Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification, Rolling Meadows, Illinois @ 00007061
- 2) *Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC)*, Washington State Department of Labor and Industries, Olympia, WA #10519

**EDUCATION:**

1989 *Master of Arts with concentration in Rehabilitation Counselor Education*

- Honors graduate, The George Washington University, Washington, DC
- Master's thesis: "Community Reintegration into the Workforce Following Traumatic Brain Injury"
- Internship at the Rehabilitation Institute of Pittsburgh: Return to Work-Cognitive Rehabilitation Program. Also ran Prader-Willi counseling groups.

1979 *Bachelor of Arts with concentration in Communications and Sociology-dual major*

- Honors graduate. Carlow College, Pittsburgh, PA.
- Interned in Medenhall, Mississippi poverty zone building homes and providing social services. Interned Public Relations Department, Presbyterian University Hospital.
- Interned: Good Counsel Friary Low Income Housing Program, Morgantown, WV

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:** (prior VA experience under *Impetus III* position)

2009-Present Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor  
OSC/Pac West Vocational Systems, Olympia, WA

Job description: To facilitate progressive vocational rehabilitation and/or timely return to work of injured worker; and to act as liaison for involved parties. Specific essential functions:

- Assesses and analyzes injured worker's vocational status.
- Develops progressive return to work plan.
- Manages one-time task assignment or full field case management referral to meet with attending physician, injured worker and/or employer to clarify vocational claim related information.
- Collaborates with members of the health care team to provide ongoing vocational case management services.
- Acts as liaison for involved parties in the worker's compensation injury by communicating in person and telephonically with the patient/caregiver, attorneys, employer, claims examiners, telephonic nurse case manager, ancillary provider(s) and health care team.
- Monitors injured employee's progress towards appropriately established outcomes through continued assessment and evaluation.
- Coordinates necessary medically approved referrals, consultations, and therapeutic services for the injured employee.
- Completes the interview process with the patient in the worksite, ancillary location or physician's office for current and ongoing assessments and evaluations.

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- Performs on-site job analysis and task analysis of the job of injury and draft related job analysis.
- Perform transferable skill analysis to identify existing skills sets based on past employment history.
- Testifies as needed to substantiate relevant casework or reports.
- Confers with medical treating providers concerning the course of care and treatment to determine job modifications including ergonomics and rehabilitation technology.
- Educates medical providers on return to work disability management guidelines as necessary.
- Weighs reported objective medical findings, residual functional abilities, current labor market, minimum hiring qualifications, claimant and third party statements, age, education and previous work to make vocational recommendations and define return to work goals and plan of action. Determine the need for additional documentation as it relates to vocational services.
- Vocational evaluation analysis.
- Preparation of reports summarizing progress, vocational recommendations and likelihood to benefit from further vocational services.

2006-2009 Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor

*Magnitude Consulting, Olympia, Washington*

Job description: Provides and coordinates a wide range of rehabilitation counseling and case management services to individuals with disabilities and other eligible individuals. Performs initial evaluations, makes eligibility determinations, does rehabilitation planning and problem solving, and conducts counseling. Duties include coordination and implementation of rehabilitation services, case documentation, employment services, and administration and interpretation of vocational testing. Prepare job analyses, job descriptions, and identify job accommodations and modifications. Make recommendations and referrals to other sources. Assisted with return to work processes; analyzed claimants' transferable skills and ability to perform own or alternate occupations. Created comprehensive and cost-effective return to work and retraining plans.

1/2006-3/2006 VRC Intern

*Veracity Vocational Consulting, Lacey, WA*

Job Description: Provided and coordinated a wide range of rehabilitation counseling and case management services to individuals with disabilities and other eligible individuals. Performs initial evaluations, makes eligibility determinations, does rehabilitation planning and problem solving, and conducts counseling. Duties include coordination and implementation of rehabilitation services, case documentation, employment services, and administration and interpretation of vocational testing. Prepare job analyses, job descriptions, and identify job accommodations and modifications. Make recommendations and referrals to other sources. Assisted with return to work processes; analyzed claimants' transferable skills and ability to perform own or alternate occupations. Created comprehensive and cost-effective return to work and retraining plans.

2004-2005 Social Security Disability Claims Adjudicator

*State of Ohio, Bureau of Disability Determination, Columbus, OH*

Job Description: Adjudicates initial claims for Social Security Disability. Establishes the presence and level of severity of medical determinable impairments. Determines sufficiency of medical

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evidence, credibility of allegations, symptoms and medical opinions and remaining functional capacity for work. Weighs objective medical findings, claimant and third party statements, age, education and previous work. Determines and prepares physical and psychiatric residual functional capacity assessments. Determine the need for additional documentation and authorize the purchase of specialized medical examination(s). Identify discrepancies, such as conflicting evidence, and address opinions of disability. Determine the credibility of the claimant statement(s). Determine when Social Security Administration documentation standards have been met.

2002-2003 Instructional Assistant

Highlands School District, Natrona Heights, PA

Job description: Perform any combination of following duties in classroom to assist teaching staff. Provides one on one teaching assistance to emotionally challenged youth. Distributes teaching materials to students, such as textbooks, workbooks, or paper and pencils. Maintains order within school and on school grounds. Operates learning aids, such as film and slide projectors and tape recorders. Types material and operates duplicating equipment to reproduce instructional materials.

1994-2001 Vocational Rehabilitation Case Manager

Impetus III, Pittsburgh, PA

**VA provided services:** In collaboration with the Veterans Administration. VRC provided services that involved assisting clients with career exploration and standardized testing in order to provide preparation for employment or training. This included comprehensive rehabilitation evaluation to determine abilities, skills, interests, and needs, vocational counseling and rehabilitation planning., supportive rehabilitation services including case management, counseling, and referral, assistance finding and keeping a job, including the use of special employer incentives, monitoring of On the Job Training (OJT), apprenticeships, and non-paid work experiences, post-secondary training at a college, vocational, technical or business school.

Job description: Participated in a collaborative process which assessed, planned, implemented, coordinated, monitored and evaluated options and services to meet an individual's health needs through communication and available resources to promote quality, cost-effective outcomes. As a case manager was committed to enhancing the quality of care through the appropriate use of health care resources. Responsibilities included, but were not limited to, assisting individuals with disabilities return to the workforce. Completed vocational assessments, developed rehabilitation plans, provide job search skills training and resume preparation. Worked as part of a team whose duties included vocational testing, job development, job accommodation, and Labor Market Surveys.

1992-1994 Vocational Rehabilitation Case Manager

American International Health and Rehabilitation Services (AIHRS), Pittsburgh, PA

Job description: manages and/or assesses cases to facilitate the return of ill/injured persons to productive lifestyles in an efficient cost effective and timely manner. Interacts with physicians, adjusters, employers and employees to determine current medical status and future needs. Facilitates and expedites recovery and return to work. Analyzes and evaluates medical and return-to work information so that an assessment with recommendations and goals can be established to optimize case outcome. Proposes and implements a cost effective vocational case management plan to the referral source in the form of an initial report produced via personal computer. Modifies plan as needed based on case progress.

1990-1992 Rehabilitation Counselor

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### Options, Inc, Pittsburgh, PA

Job description: Acting as a liaison between the carrier, the injured/disabled worker, the employer and the medical provider. Functioning as injured/disabled workers' advocate to coordinate quality medical care for cost effectiveness and appropriate place of service.

Evaluating medical treatment plans provided by the physician, chiropractor and/or other medical providers. Maintaining ongoing communication with the treating physician to obtain physical capabilities to ensure a safe and timely return to work. Establishing positive relationships with employers, obtaining job descriptions, and discussing and assisting in coordination of return to work, including transitional and/or modified duty.

1989-1990 Vocational Evaluator

### Goodwill Industries, Dayton, OH

Job description: Vocational testing, job analyses, job descriptions, residual functional capabilities determination, aptitude and skills assessment. Report writing.

### Accomplishments:

- #2 VRC in the State of Washington, 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter, 2006 (CACO system)
- *Rho Sigma Chi*, Rehabilitation Society for Academic Excellence.
- Founder and Editor of College Student Newspaper.
- Co-Founder, First International Pre-hospital Care Conference in Emergency Medicine, Pittsburgh, PA.
- Co-Founder and photographer, Pittsburgh Paramedic Union.
- Board member, Pittsburgh Assistive Technology Association
- Elected to "*Who's Who Among Students in High Schools*" for academic excellence.

*REFERENCES UPON REQUEST*