



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
REHABILITATION PROFESSIONALS

REHAB EXPRESS

August 2025

Address by Past President- Dana Beining



Volunteering is a commitment—to your profession, your colleagues, and yourself.

As I conclude my two-year term as President of IARP, I reflect with deep gratitude on the experience. These years have been filled with learning—not just about our organization, but about the remarkable people who shape it and others like it. Together with IARP leaders, we invested countless hours in selecting a new association management company, building relationships, and navigating challenges with integrity and care for our members. There were certainly days when opening my inbox felt daunting... but far more days when I felt proud to be part of a team that is truly making a difference in our field.

As an IARP member, you are part of a community that values the people you serve, your growth as a professional, and the future of our industry. Our efforts are

increasingly global—whether it's a Sunday evening leadership call to connect with Australian colleagues on their Monday morning, or a late-night brainstorm about a continuing education opportunity abroad. What we've discovered is that, across borders, our missions are more aligned than different. And when we unite, our voices carry further.

Yes, volunteering takes time and energy—but that time can be as little as an hour a month or as involved as a multi-year board commitment. Whatever the level, your contribution matters. It's a meaningful way to give back to the profession you chose—or perhaps, the one that chose you. And let's be honest: it's a lot more rewarding than another hour of scrolling through cat videos.

Most importantly, we value your voice. Yes, yours.

I'll continue to serve for one more year as Past President, and I'm nothing but thankful for the honor. When my time concludes, I will leave you in the hands of leaders who are dedicated, thoughtful, and capable. Until then, I encourage each of you to take one step—whether it's joining a chapter meeting, lending a hand on a short-term committee, or simply exploring where you might want to get involved.

Together, we move our profession forward.

Dana Beining

EDUCATION NEWS

Education News

Jacqueline V. Mendez,
Director of Education

I am honored to serve as Director of Education for IARP, a global professional association dedicated to advancing the field of rehabilitation through education, collaboration, and advocacy. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve and look forward to providing impactful education opportunities to our membership.

Our main education event is 5 weeks away. Join us for the 2025 IARP Fall Forum and IALCP Symposium taking place September 18-20, 2025, at the Orlando World Center Marriott in Orlando, FL.

Here are some highlights:

- IARP in Action on Thursday, September 18, 2025. This is a separate registration: <https://rehabpro.org/event/iarp-in-action-2025>. There is a \$35 donation required to participate. All funds will support UP.
- In the morning, attendees will attend 3 professional development sessions.
- In the afternoon, attendees will volunteer at United Against Poverty, a non-profit committed to empowering lives through education, workforce training, and community support. Members will be provided with transportation to and from the UP location.

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Education News...

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- We have 2 days of incredible conference content. There are 3 tracks: Forensic/SSVE; RCTS; and LCP. Each track has 10 sessions. We also have 2 dynamic keynote speakers this year.
- Friday, September 19: Linda Schultz from the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation will share the perspectives of the family and individuals in the paralysis community.

- Saturday, September 20: Dr. Howard Weiss from Brooks Rehabilitation and Officer Malik Daricaud from the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, will discuss Officer Daricaud's journey from traumatic injury to medical interventions and his overall rehabilitation recovery.

Registration remains open:
<https://rehabpro.org/page/iarpconference>

I look forward to seeing you all in Orlando!

I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Julie Sawyer-Little and Brook Feerick for their outstanding collaboration and dedication in making this event a success, as well as the entire conference committee for their hard work.

A special shout-out to the IARP Florida chapter for their invaluable support at this year's conference.

Save the Date:

We will be offering 2 days of webinars this Fall. Each day will have 5 webinars.
More details will be shared soon.

Friday, October 17 Forensic Webinar Series

Friday, October 24 Life Care Plan Webinar Series



A promotional banner for the 2025 Fall Forum & IALCP Symposium. The banner features a light blue background with a white border. On the left, the text "2025 FALL FORUM & IALCP SYMPOSIUM" is written in white and orange. To the right of this text is a silhouette of two palm trees. Further right, the word "ORLANDO" is written in large, bold, orange letters with a 3D effect, and "florida" is written in a cursive script below it. In the top right corner, the IARP logo is visible. At the bottom, a white bar contains the text "SEPTEMBER 18 - 20, 2025 | ORLANDO WORLD CENTER MARRIOTT" in orange.

2025
FALL FORUM &
IALCP SYMPOSIUM

ORLANDO
florida

IARP

SEPTEMBER 18 - 20, 2025 | ORLANDO WORLD CENTER MARRIOTT



Todd Gendreau

SSVE Representative to the IARP
Board of Directors

Legislative/Governmental Affairs Update

Dr. Michelle Aliff and Ryann Hill recently met with SSA leadership including Jay Ortis (Acting Deputy Commissioner for Disability Adjudication) and Acting Chief ALJ to discuss efforts to improve disability determinations.

Key Takeaways:

- **DDS Delays:** SSA acknowledged long wait times and is exploring tech-based solutions to streamline case processing and flag idle cases.
- **Vocational Experts (VEs):** SSA reaffirmed the essential role of VEs at the hearing level and emphasized that



Dr. Michelle Aliff

human adjudicators will continue to make final decisions.

- **Occupational Data:** Concerns were raised about the limitations of the Occupational Requirements Survey (ORS), including its lack of data on issues like cane use, absenteeism, and full-time work. SSA agreed ORS should not be the sole occupational data source.
- **ALJ Expectations & DOT:** Some ALJs still expect VE testimony to align with the outdated DOT. SSA recognized the need to resolve this inconsistency as part of modernization efforts.

SSA Modernization Efforts: What's on the Horizon for VEs?

SSA is revisiting proposed regulations that threatens utilization of vocational experts (VEs) by replacing the DOT with ORS data and relying on internal software (VIT) to determine job availability and potentially allowing ALJ's to input RFCs without expert input. These changes, originally drafted but never released under the prior administration, may soon be issued as a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. If the NPRM is issued, a public comment period will follow. This will be a critical opportunity to advocate for the continued role of vocational experts and ensure that decision-making remains grounded in expert analysis and not just algorithms.

Also on Our Radar:

The recent removal of Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Commissioner Erika McEntarfer has raised new concerns about the stability and reliability of labor market data used by SSA and VEs. We are watching this closely for potential downstream effects.

Finally, we're excited to introduce the 2025-2026 Social Security Vocational Expert (SSVE) Section Board and look forward to another strong year of collaboration, advocacy, and professional growth.

Carolina Salazar	Chair
John Yent	Past Chair
Todd Gendreau	Representative to the Board of Directors
Jacqueline Mendez	Member at Large
Taylor Pytlik	Member at Large
Melanie Frye	Member at Large
Michelle Aliff	Special Projects Director

Thank you to our outgoing board members for their dedication and leadership. We hope to see everyone at the Fall Forum in Orlando!



The 2025 Life Care Planning Summit, held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, May 16 and 17, 2025 convened over 100 interdisciplinary professionals to collaboratively shape the future of life care planning through consensus building and critical review of foundational practices. This biennial event focused on evaluating and refining the Consensus and Majority Statements that guide ethical, methodological, and professional standards in the field. Utilizing methodologies such as the Nominal Group Technique and real-time voting via Mentimeter software, participants analyzed 96 existing statements, leading to their reclassification into five distinct categories:

- Relevant to the Life Care Planner
- Relevant to the Life Care Planner- also Published Elsewhere
- Advisory to Life Care Planning Educational Programs, Certifying Bodies, Professional Associations and Organizations
- Under Further Review
- Previously Deleted, and now Historically Irrelevant or No Longer Valid.

In addition to consensus work, the Summit included breakout sessions addressing the current landscape of educational programs, certifications, and

professional associations, identifying key strengths, challenges, and areas for future development. Attendee demographics revealed a broad representation across disciplines, geographies, and experience levels, reflecting the field's diversity. The collective insights reaffirmed our commitment to maintaining reliable, defensible, and client-centered Life Care Plans. The 2025 Summit outcomes serve as a renewed call for all practicing life care planners to remain actively engaged in shaping our profession and preserving its core values while evolving to meet emerging challenges.

The venue, The MacNamara Alumni Center, was exciting and fresh. Participants enjoyed the beautiful campus of University of Minnesota and the accommodations were very nice. Please check out the article for all details and the newly formatted consensus statements in the Journal of Life Care Planning Volume 23, Issue 2, 2025 found here: <https://jlcp.scholasticahq.com/issue/12400>

Please consider joining our team as we plan to prepare for Summit 2027 where we will to, ok to update the language of the consensus statements. Updates on committee formation will be coming soon! Brook Feerick, RN, CCM, CLCP, ICCCP(F)

Highlight From Partnership Committee



The Partnership Committee would like to highlight our Affiliate Partners. This month, we are introducing VECAP.

The Vocational Evaluation and Career Assessment Professionals (VECAP) organization is an active nonprofit association that promotes best practices for vocational evaluation and career assessment and represents the needs of professionals providing those services. VECAP members represent a variety of work settings including rehabilitation, transition & special education, corrections, job training, employment & career development, insurance and personal injury, worker's compensation, Social Security Administration, and business

and industry. VECAP provides training, resources, and advocacy for professionals providing vocational evaluation and career assessment services.

To learn more about VECAP, please visit their website at <https://www.vecap.org/>.

As an Affiliate Partner for IARP, VECAP offers discounts to our members on membership and registration for their events. Go to our Affiliate Partner page to see more about VECAP and our other Affiliate Partners at <https://rehabpro.org/page/affiliates>.

Stella Spencer

IARP Partnership Committee

LAST CHANCE TO PURCHASE AN EXHIBIT BOOTH OR SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY!

Exhibiting is Efficient, Effective and Essential to Your Success

The 44th IARP has had annual conferences dating back to 1981 and combines with the 31st IALCP Symposium who has had conferences since 1994. Demand has been strong for companies wanting to exhibit in this year's Fall Forum & IALCP Symposium in Orlando. Due to the demand, management has been able to add a few more booths to the exhibit floor but the space is selling quickly.

With a booth at the **IARP Fall Forum and IALCP Symposium** you will reach over 200 decision makers, 30 + educational sessions and multiple networking opportunities

focused on Forensics, Social Security Vocational Experts, Rehabilitation Case Management, Life Care Planning and more. IARP Fall Forum & IALCP Symposium is the event you will not want to miss. This is your opportunity to showcase your products, services, technology, and boost your ROI through sponsorship opportunities.

**Mark your calendars to join us
September 18-20, 2025, in
Orlando, Florida**

The Conference Exhibitor and Sponsorship

Committee is excited to have many exhibitors and sponsors already committed to the Fall Forum and IALCP Symposium. We still have room if anyone has an interest in exhibiting or sponsoring, please go to <https://rehabpro.org/page/sponsorship> to determine the available opportunities and If anyone knows of a vendor that may benefit from exhibiting or sponsoring, please contact Karen Howe info@rehabpro.org, Paul Ramos paul@pmrmedlegal.com, or Michelle Weiss mcbroomweiss@mcbroomweiss.com.

Below you will find a list of our **exhibitors** and **sponsors** for the Upcoming 2025 IARP Fall Forum.

Company Name	Contact Person	Email Address	Sponsorship Item	Exhibitor	Column 1
RED Medical Legal	Vanessa Rodriguez	Vrodriguez@pmrdocs.com		Exhibit Table	1
EdiTs	Andrew Tricarico	service@edits.net		Exhibit Table	2
Flying Angels	Karen Derr	kderr@flyingangels.com		Exhibit Table	3
Geographic Solutions	Tim Duffy	tduffy@geosolinc.com		Exhibit Table	4
Job Accomodation Network (JAN)	LoreLee	Wolfe@jan.wvu.edu		Exhibit Table	5
The Life Care Management Institute	Jennifer Crowley	Jennifer@lcmexpert.com		Exhibit Table	6
ABVE	Tracy Steadman	abve@abve.net		Exhibit Table	7
MTI America	Robin Sanchez	robinp.sanchez@yahoo.com		Exhibit Table	8
Injury Guard Solutions	Ayesha Abin	Ayesha@injuryguardsolutions.com		Exhibit Table	9
Workscape Analytics	Kristen Medina-Perez	kristen.medina-perez@workscapeanalytics.com		Exhibit Table	10
Legal Nurse Systems Software	Sharon Martino	sharonmartino@legalnursesystems.com		Exhibit Table	11
Florida Chapter	Paul Ramos	paul@pmrmedlegal.com	Reception, transportation & signature glass	Exhibit Table	12
SkillTRAN	Jeffrey Truthan	JTRUTHAN@SKILLTRAN.COM	Mobile App	Exhibit Table	13
Strive Recreational Therapy Services	Patty DeShetler	pattyd@striverts.com	Tote Bag	Exhibit Table	14
The Performance Lab	Savannah Harmon	sharmon@tpltampa.com	Wi-Fi	Exhibit Table	15
SW FL Training Institute	Christina Dillahunt Aspillaga, PhD	dillahuntaspillagaconsulting@gmail.com	Notebook & Pens		
IARP - WA Chapter	Amy Peterson	apeterson@scsvoc.com	Silver Chapter		
Spruance & Associates	Gil Spruance	gilspruance@spruancerehab.com	Schedule at a Glance		
IARP Texas	Joanna Vasquez	joanna@alfvas.com	Gold Chapter		
Feerick Medical Planning	Brook Feerick	brook@feerickrn.com	Break		
LCP Builder	Kourtney Layton	kourtneylayton@live.com	Supporting Sponsor		
IARP CA	Steve Ramirez	psteve@psrvoc.com	Lanyards		

D O N ' T D E L A Y !

Thank you to our 2024 Fall Forum & IALCP Symposium Sponsors and Exhibitors

EXHIBITORS



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