



# **INARF Employment Supports Professional Interest Section Meeting**

**May 6, 2021  
12:30-2:30 PM**

## Today's Agenda

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- Welcome
- Sponsorship Recognition
- Association Current Initiatives
  - Conference Activities
- Vocational Rehabilitation Update
- Grant Funding and Opportunities: How to use Grants to help with Employment Services
- Upcoming Events & Announcements





Thank You to Our Sponsors!

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*Alicia M. Boyd, CPA*  
*Professional Corporation*



### INARF 2021 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

- ✓ Mar. 16 Exhibitor/Artisan/Sponsor Opportunities Open
- ✓ May 3 Annual Awards - Call for Nominations Open
- ☐ June 7 Attendee Registration Opens
- ☐ Oct. 5 Pre-Conference Leadership Symposium
- ☐ Oct. 6-7 Annual Conference

Learn more at [www.inarf.org/2021\\_annual\\_conference](http://www.inarf.org/2021_annual_conference)





# Employment Supports

## Vocational Rehabilitation Update

*Theresa Koleszar,*

*Director of Bureau of Rehabilitation Services*

# Bureau of Rehabilitation Services Update

May 2021

Theresa Koleszar MS, CRC  
Director, BRS

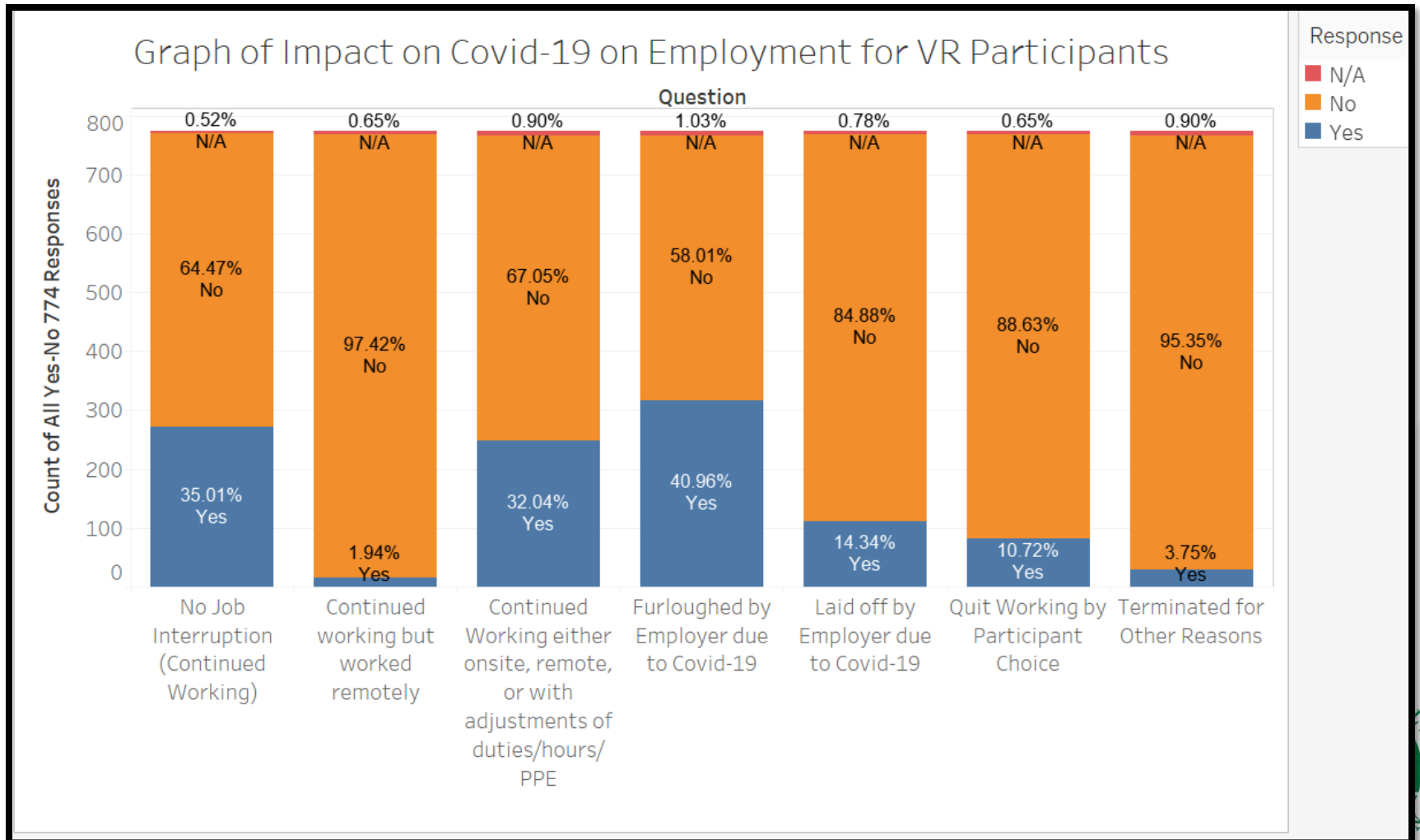


# COVID Questionnaire

- VR, with the assistance of employment service providers, obtained information from VR participants regarding the impact of the pandemic on their employment.
- Information was compiled into a questionnaire for each participant, which was then analyzed to better understand the specific employment impact.
- Completed questionnaires from approx. 800 individuals who were working at the onset of the pandemic and still had an open case with VR when the questionnaires were being completed (approx. June-Sept 2020).



# COVID Questionnaire - Findings Recap





# COVID Questionnaire - Findings

Race/Ethnicity	Still Working	No Longer Working	N/A	Percentage of Overall Respondents
White	67%	25%	8%	78%
Black or African American	62%	35%	3%	15%
Hispanic or Latino	77%	10%	13%	4%
American Indian or Alaska Native	64%	29%	7%	2%
Asian	50%	40%	10%	1%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander		.001%		.001%



# COVID Questionnaire - Findings

Age Group	Still Working	Not Working	N/A	% of Total
>20	63%	30%	7%	3%
20-30	67%	25%	8%	53%
30-40	67%	25%	8%	17%
40-50	67%	27%	6%	11%
50-60	65%	31%	4%	11%
60-70	53%	37%	10%	4%
70-80	<1%			<1%



# April 2021 Post Survey Data Finds

Of 64.5% that experienced some type of job interruption:

- 51% remain in a Service-related Status
- 31% were Closed Rehabilitated
- 10% Closed Other than Rehabilitated
- 8% are Employed

Of 14.3% laid off:

- 57% remain in a Service-related Status
- 24% were Closed Rehabilitated
- 10% were Closed Other than Rehabilitated
- 9% are Employed

Of the 41% Furloughed:

- 50% remain in a Service-related Status
- 36% were Closed Rehabilitated
- 7% were Closed Other than Rehabilitated
- 7% are Employed



# Data Trends

- Percent of referrals resulting in application has *improved* by 12%
- VR has maintained compliance with federal timeliness standards
  - Application to eligibility - 90% timely
  - Eligibility to IPE - 94% timely



# Data Trends

	<b>FFY19</b>	<b>FFY20</b>	<b>FFY21 through 3/31/21</b>
<b># applicants</b>	5864	5036	2306
<b># deferred</b>	859	712	296
<b>total served</b>	13950	13268	10550
<b># exits w/ employment</b>	1618	1402	650
<b>average wages</b>	\$11.38	\$12.66	\$12.12



# Order of Selection Update

- Order of selection in place since 8/1/17
- 2786 in delayed status as of 5/3/21
  - 1760 disability service priority category 2 (63%)
  - 1026 disability service priority category 3 (37%)
- Third release occurred May 3, 2021
- 15% of eligible individuals are deferred
- 85% of eligible individuals meet disability service priority category 1 criteria, and are served without a waiting period



# Competitive Integrated Employment

- [RSA FAQ 21-03](#) - described as proposed guidance
  - Comment period ended April 8, 2021
  - Timeframe for issuing final guidance unknown
  - While the proposed guidance makes it clear that the determination of CIE is made by VR, it does provide more specific examples than provided through previous written guidance
  - Potential Impact?
- Transformation to competitive employment act
  - [Fact Sheet](#)
  - [Bill](#)



# Mental Health and Employment Summit

- 2021 Mental Health and Employment Summit
  - <https://invrtraining.com/the-summit> to register
  - Virtual Learning and Conversation about Mental Health Conditions, Co-Occurring Disorders, and Employment
  - May 24, 25, and 26 from 1:00 – 4:30 pm EST with interactive virtual workshop sessions
  - [Agenda](#)
  - Please consider registering employment services staff!





# Additional Updates

- Work experience (from Manual of employment services)
  - VR will support up to 12 calendar weeks of work experience. All 12 weeks may occur at one site or be split across 2 or more sites. For example, activities may be broken into 2 weeks at 1 site, 6 weeks at a second site, and 4 weeks at a third site. Work experience weeks do not need to be consecutive.
- Pre-ETS
  - encouraging ramping up of summer programs, reconnecting with schools that were closed, and related.



# Looking Ahead

- Participant Engagement
  - Discovery cohort
  - Remote Discovery survey
- Flexible and responsive service options
- Inclusive Service Delivery
- Employment Service Provider Capacity
  - [Theresa.Koleszar@fssa.in.gov](mailto:Theresa.Koleszar@fssa.in.gov) - feedback and ideas welcome





## Employment Supports

# Grant Funding and Opportunities: How to use Grants to help with Employment Services

*Bruce Schnaith, Easterseals Crossroads*

*Kristy Russell, Bosma Enterprises*

*Caroline Gleason Dutkanych, Bosma Enterprises*

*Meredith Freeman, Bona Vista Programs, Inc.*

*Melinda Eisenbise, Cardinal Services, Inc.*

## Upcoming Events

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### Professional Interest Section Meetings:

- May 13 - Financial Management (10 AM-Noon) / Human Resources (12:30-2:30 PM)
- June 11 - Child and Family Services (10 AM-Noon)
- July 8 - Business & Industry / CAIO (10 AM-Noon)
- August 3 - Community Supports (10 AM-Noon) / Employment Supports (12:30-2:30 PM)

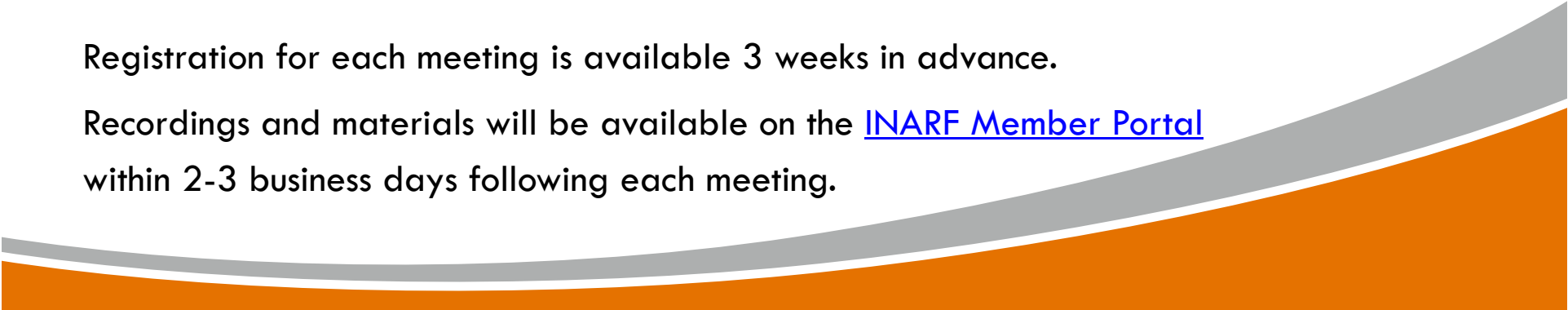
*\*Note: INARF has changed the dates of the 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> quarter Community Supports / Employment Supports meetings out of professional courtesy to The Arc of Indiana and our members who hold dual membership.*

### Upcoming Member Forum and Board of Directors meetings:

- May 21
- June 25 Board of Directors Meeting and Retreat / *\*No Member Forum.*

Registration for each meeting is available 3 weeks in advance.

Recordings and materials will be available on the [INARF Member Portal](#) within 2-3 business days following each meeting.





## Contribute to the PAC

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**INARF PAC**

Your contributions to the INARF PAC are a critical part of INARF's legislative advocacy efforts. They are used to support elected officials who serve as champions of the provider community. Please consider supporting the INARF PAC today.

For more information and to contribute, visit: [www.INARF.org/INARF-PAC](http://www.INARF.org/INARF-PAC)



**Thank you!**

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