

# Florida Rehabilitation Association



## Annual Training Meeting

September 22-24, 2021

Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress

One Grand Cypress Blvd.

Orlando, FL 32836

**Face-to-face and Virtual Attendance is Available**

All hotel rooms must be reserved by clicking on the following link:

<https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/group-booking/VISTA/G-REHB>

**by Sept. 3, 2021.**

**Room Rate: \$129.00\* (single or double occupancy)**

**Rooms are available three days pre or post this event!**

\*Daily resort fee is waived for conference guests and includes unlimited access to local and toll-free calls, intra-property transportation, unlimited use of Health Club, 9-hole Pitch & Putt course, driving range access, basketball, volleyball, rock climbing wall, and all water sports, including non-motorized boats (hydro-bikes, sail boats, paddle boats, and canoes), as well as resort bicycles and quadricycles. Complimentary shuttle to Disney World, SeaWorld, and Universal Studios/Islands of Adventure theme parks.

**Face coverings are required in hotel indoor public spaces and when moving around in outdoor areas. Your safety is our concern, social distancing will be maintained during this event for those who attend face-to-face.**

\*Room rate does not include parking. Daily parking rate is  
Self-parking/\$25.00 or Valet parking/\$37.00

**Cut-off date for hotel reservations is September 3, 2021.**

**Please secure your room early. The hotel does charge one night at booking, but allows for cancellation with no fee up to 48 hrs. prior to event.**

For more information, contact:

Donna Farrell [Donna.Farrell@vr.fldoe.org](mailto:Donna.Farrell@vr.fldoe.org) or 727.552.1581

Denise Giarrusso [fcgiarruss@gmail.com](mailto:fcgiarruss@gmail.com) or 813-205-1128

# Florida Rehabilitation Association

## Training Agenda

### Wednesday, September 22, 2021 (3.0 hrs)

- 11:30-1:00 pm Conference Registration & Check-in
- 1:00-2:30 pm "The Counselor's Pre-, Intra-, and Post-Election Survival Guide: How to Stay Grounded and Help Your Clients Do the Same", Part 1, Aaron Norton
- 2:30-2:45 pm Break
- 2:45-4:15 pm "The Counselor's Pre-, Intra-, and Post-Election Survival Guide", Part 2, Aaron Norton
- 4:30-5:30 pm FRA Board Meeting (Open Meeting)

### Thursday, September 23, 2021 (7.5 hrs)

- 7:30-8:00 am Registration & Check-in
- 8:00-9:30 am "Chatbot Mental Health Care Navigation", Kristin Kosyluk
- 9:30-9:45 am Break
- 9:45-11:15 am "Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Implications Relating to Drug & Alcohol Use", Sharon A. Wey
- 11:15-11:30 am Break
- 11:30-12:30 pm Lunch (provided with registration)
- 12:30- 2:00 pm "Counseling During and After the Pandemic", Aaron Norton
- 2:00-2:15 pm Break
- 2:15-3:45 pm "DVR and DBS Updates", Allison Flanagan, DVR, & Robert Doyle, DBS
- 3:45-4:00 pm Break
- 4:00-5:30 pm "ASD, VIP Works, and Bright Feats", Paula Breeden & Rori Becker

### Friday, September 24, 2021 (3.0 hrs)

- 7:30-8:30 am Registration & Breakfast Buffet (provided with registration)
- 8:30-10:00 am "Ethical and Legal Issues in Practice: Protecting Professionals and their Patients During and After the Pandemic", Part 1, Paul Stiles
- 10:00-10:15 am Break
- 10:15-11:45 am "Ethical and Legal Issues in Practice", Part 2, Paul Stiles
- 11:45 am Closing Remarks, Program Evaluation, CRC & CVE Credits

**Total: 13.5 contact hours  
(includes 5 hrs. Ethics)**

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## Registration Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Name for Badge \_\_\_\_\_  
Employer Information \_\_\_\_\_  
Employer Address \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_  
Are you a CRC  yes  no    CVE  yes  no

**NOTE:** Conference Registration Fees are non-refundable after September 3, 2021. Registration fee can be transferred to another individual from the same agency by making the request in writing. Coffee, Assorted Teas, and water will be available all day, with fresh whole fruit for morning breaks and assorted cookies and soft drinks available during our afternoon breaks. Conference registration includes buffet lunch on Thursday and buffet breakfast on Friday.

Virtual attendees will be sent the meeting link for entire conference, will be required to sign in for each session and complete and return evaluations for each session to receive CRC/CVE contact hours. No snacks or meals provided for virtual attendees.

NRA/FRA Member#	_____ \$225.00	Attending in person _____ Attending Virtually _____
Non-Member	_____ \$300.00	Attending in person _____ Attending Virtually _____
Student *Requires certification below.	_____ \$175.00	Attending in person _____ Attending Virtually _____
Total		

\* I hereby certify that \_\_\_\_\_ is a full-time student at \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ and is not employed in the rehabilitation field.

Expected date of graduation \_\_\_\_\_.

Signature of major professor \_\_\_\_\_

Will you require any accommodations for this conference?  yes  no

Accommodations needed: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail completed registration form along with your check/money order payable to:

**Florida Rehabilitation Association**, FEIN: 59-6211833

Denise Giarrusso, State Treasurer

606 Marla Creek Court

Jacksonville, FL 32220

Email: [fcgiarruss@gmail.com](mailto:fcgiarruss@gmail.com)

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## Program Presentation Descriptions

### **The Counselor's Pre-, Intra-, and Post-Election Survival Guide: How to Stay Grounded and Help Your Clients do the Same, Part 1 & Part 2.**

(3.0 hrs., containing 1.0 General Hour and 2.0 hours of Ethics)

*Presenter:* Aaron Norton, Ph.D., LMHC, LMFT, MCAP, CRC, CFMHE

The 2020 Presidential election landed alongside a global pandemic and civil unrest connected to racial injustices, creating a trifecta of stress and potential trauma. The American Mental Health Counselors Association's Code of Ethics calls upon clinical mental health counselors to maintain objectivity; to take care of our own mental health so that we can be centered for our clients; to understand the role of our beliefs, values, and biases in our clinical work while seeking to better understand our clients; and to refrain from discriminating against our clients for their political beliefs. Within the context of a society that is politically polarized, how do we maintain balance and self-care so that we can be an anchoring presence for our clients? This training was designed to equip counselors with tools to address these challenges.

### **Chatbot Mental Health Care Navigator (1.5 hrs)**

*Presenter:* Kristin Kosyluk, Ph.D., CRC

The stigma surrounding mental illness and help-seeking is a particularly potent barrier that results in mental health treatment disparities. Participants will learn about current research aimed at developing and pilot testing a chatbot to screen for psychological distress, preferences, and levels of stigma surrounding help-seeking, and refer users to appropriate resources. We propose chatbot technology as a way to mitigate stigma and solution to mental health disparities. Participants will leave this session with knowledge about stigma surrounding mental illness, which is comprised of stereotypes (negative cognitions about a group), prejudice (negative attitudes corresponding with these stereotypes), and discrimination (unjust behaviors towards a group as a result of stereotyping and prejudice). Emphasis will be placed on understanding public stigma and label avoidance, which are potent barriers to treatment seeking. Participants will also consider how culture and values might interact with stigma. Participants will take home a better understanding of how mental illness stigma impacts treatment engagement and how chatbot technology might mitigate this impact. They will view a prototype chatbot, be given the opportunity to remain connected with our team for future updates, and provided links to related web resources. Finally, attendees will reflect upon how chatbot technology might be used in various ways in various rehabilitation settings to facilitate engagement, direct people to resources, mitigate stigma, and reduce burden on rehabilitation providers.

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## **Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) and Implications Relating to Drug and Alcohol Use (1.5 hrs)**

*Presenter:* Sharon A. Wey, Esquire

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) has long been a very important legal document. The ADA also has an ADA Amendments Act, which is important for rehabilitation counselors to understand. The enforcement of the act is through the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). There are exhaustive administrative remedies with charges of discrimination and the right to sue, with lawsuits that are costly. The state and local corollaries include the Florida Civil Rights Act (FCRA), including the Florida Commission on Human Relations. It is very important for Rehabilitation Counselors to understand the Americans with Disabilities ACT and implications relating to drug and alcohol use. The ADA is complex and, as such, it is very important for the counselors to realize the information and the needs of many people with disabilities. Drugs and alcohol are also difficult to assist clients in need.

## **Counseling During and After the Pandemic (1.5 hrs)**

*Presenter:* Aaron Norton, Ph.D., LMHC, LFMT, MCAP, CRC, CFMHE

The COVID-19 pandemic of 2020-2021 ushered in an unprecedented demand for mental health counseling and related services. Depression and anxiety rates tripled, and suicide, substance use, overdose, and domestic violence rates soared. According to one national survey, 1 out of 3 Americans saw a therapist at least once in 2020. Data collected from counselors nationwide revealed that 1 out of 3 counselors were working overtime to try to meet demand, and many had stopped accepting new referrals or started limiting intakes. The echoes and repercussions of the pandemic will likely last for years to come, but throughout history every major national or international crisis has sparked a period of increased growth and awareness in the field of clinical mental health counseling. How can counselors play a role in post-traumatic growth both in the U.S. and around the world?

## **DVR and DBS Updates (1.5 hrs)**

*Presenters:* Allison Flanagan, MRC, CRC, State Director, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and Robert Doyle, MPA, PMP, State Director, Division of Blind Services

An overview of current services and programs will be presented by the State of Florida's Directors. This presentation will provide an update on current services, as well as new services. Federal Legislation may also be impacting which services will be a priority and emphasizing partnerships. Partners working together can best meet the needs of individuals with disabling conditions.

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## **ASD, VIP Works, and Bright Feats (1.5 hrs)**

*Presenters:* Paula Breeden, Rori Becker, & Phyllis Guthman

VIP Works is a partnership between ASD Adult Achievement Center and Bright Feats Directory. It offers a vocational “Skills Lab” training program to include on-the-job experience working in a variety of computer programs and other technology-related disciplines. The program encompasses print and digital production skills, problem solving skills, entrepreneurship skills, career readiness, developing communication skills for employment, successfully completing identified tasks in appropriate time, and interpersonal skills such as making eye contact and social thinking in the workplace. Program requirements include: over 18 years old, graduated from high school, and motivated to participate in the program.

## **Ethical and Legal Issues in Practice: Protecting Professionals and their Patients During and After the Pandemic, Part 1 & Part 2 (3.0 hrs)-Ethics**

*Presenter:* Paul Stiles, J.D, Ph.D.

Ethical and Legal issues are important, especially during the recent and on-going pandemic. Dr. Stiles will cover basic ethics, including legal liability, conflict of interest, guardianship and alternatives, civil commitment, end of life issues (e.g., advance directives), or protective services, and abuse reporting. He will also cover current issues that may arise at any time in someone’s lifetime. His first session will include a more structured workshop on ethics, foundations and introducing principles of legal liability. In the second part of this presentation Dr. Stiles will review legal issues relevant to counselors and will offer opportunities for discussion of issues directly related to our work serving clients within our programs.