

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation: Early Reach Initiative

"What do you want to be when you grow up?" This is a question many of us were asked as we were growing up. For youth with disabilities, often this is a daunting question filled with uncertainty and lack of information.

In order to assist youth with disabilities, better prepare for their transition into the world of work and independence, the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) has started a new initiative called "Early Reach". Early Reach is an outreach initiative intended to promote successful outcomes for youth with disabilities by increasing awareness of OVR services and the benefits of early career planning. The initiative adds an Early Reach Coordinator to the rehabilitation team in OVR's fifteen district offices.

The Early Reach Coordinator will reach out to youth with disabilities, their parents, local schools and community agencies that serve youth. The purpose of this outreach is to connect with youth with disabilities early, beginning at age 14, so that they know more about OVR services and can better prepare for vocational choices and living independently. In addition, Early Reach Coordinators will be knowledgeable about other services that are available to youth with disabilities who are transitioning from school to adult life.



Photo of Early Reach Coordinator:

*L to R Back: Sarah Vogel, Erin Lohr, Kim Golding, Stacy Shirk, Hillary Hubbell, LaRonda Moorefield, Stephanie Shuler
L to R Front: Mary Jane Saras, Melissa Demchak, Amanda Smith, Jill Grossberg, Holly Stapleton*

OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

NORRISTOWN DISTRICT OFFICE

Welcome to the Early Reach Initiative!

Primary Services offered to Community Members:

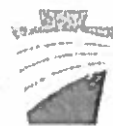
- ◆ Early Outreach, Education & Advocacy for youth with disabilities as early as age 14.
- ◆ Community Workshops, Presentations, & Consultations are offered to increase awareness about OVR.
- ◆ Provide resources to prepare youth, families, schools & community organizations with the transition process.
- ◆ Collaborate & coordinate with youth to successfully navigate the transition from high school to the workforce.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
PLEASE CONTACT:**

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"Helping Our Youth Reach Their Potential"
By: Evelyn Gardiner



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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & INDUSTRY
OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION