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# The Cumming VR Office Chronicle

Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency, Cumming Office

#### **Special points of interest:**

- Talk about Vocational Rehabilitation: Who we are and what we do
- Bios on Cumming VR staff
- Tour of Cumming VR office
- Cumming VR office Meeting Rooms

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## **About GA Vocational Rehabilitation**

The Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency (GVRA) was formed on July 1, 2012, by an act of the Georgia General Assembly. GVRA has five rehabilitation programs: Business Enterprise Program, Disability Adjudication Services, Georgia Industries for the Blind, Roosevelt Warm Springs Institute for Rehabilitation (including a satellite location at Cave Spring Rehabilitation Center)

and Vocational Rehabilitation.

The Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Division provides a variety of individual services

to persons with disabilities in preparation for their employment in the competitive labor market and to employers seeking to retain valuable employees with disabilities or hire qualified individuals for their workforce.

Services available are based on what is needed to go to work. They may include, but are not limited to:

- Vocational assessment
- Vocational counseling and guidance
- Physical and mental restoration services

- Vocational training
- School-to-work transition
- Rehabilitation technology
- Supported employment
- Job search and job placement
- Referral to other agencies for needed services

Once the necessary VR services are received and employment is achieved, a 90-day follow up is provided to the individual and the employer to ensure that there are no problems and the job is a good fit. After the 90-day follow up period, the case is closed.

## **Cumming VR Office Facility Tour**

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The Cumming VR office is located on Hwy. 9 across from Andean Chevrolet at the rear of the building.

Our 4800 square-feet office is located on the 2nd floor of the BB&T Bank Building. The entrance is located at the rear of the building. Free parking spaces are available.

A wheelchair accessible ramp is also available for those needing assistance. There is also an elevator located to the left of the entrance that will take you to the 2nd floor.

Once there, enter through the wheelchair-accessible door. The lobby is furnished where our clients and providers wait to meet with counselors and office staff.

The office consists of a

RUM, three CRCs, three PRCs, two counselor assistants, an intern, an office assistant and the East Quadrant Training Specialist. We will be adding another counselor and a counselor assistant.

Our office occupies the entire floor. The right side is the main entrance into the office assistant's area. There are seven private offices for counselors, counselor assistants and the training specialist.

On the left side of the building, there are more private offices for counselors and the RUM's office. There is also a small library with books, audio, video and other literature staff can utilize as a resource.

There are five meetings rooms where our counselors and providers can reserve to meet with clients and also perform evaluations for our clients.

We also have a computer lab where clients and the public can use for job search, create or update a resume or have training classes.

Please call (770) 781-6781 or email Donna Wood at donna.wood@gvra.ga.gov to schedule an office tour or to make a room reservation.

# **Who's Who in the Cumming VR Office**

#### Corin Morgan, Rehabilitation Unit Manager



Corin Morgan is the Rehabilitation Unit Manager of the Cumming VR office. She was born in New Zealand and raised in Oregon. Corin has a Master's of Science degree in Counseling Psychology from the University of Oregon and is a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor. She moved to Georgia 10 years ago and has worked at DFCS and VR in

Georgia. Corin is available to come to your organization to present additional information on the VR program.

#### Bina Ramroop, East Quadrant Training Specialist



Bina Ramroop is the East Quadrant Training Specialist for the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Human Resource Management and actively participates on the Training Team as part of the Statewide Quality and Innovation Department (SQID). Bina is responsible for de-

signing, developing and delivering training consistent with the VRs mission, vision and values.

#### Miracle Adkins, Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor



Miracle Adkins is a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor in the Cumming VR Office. She received her Master's of Science Degree in Clinical Rehabilitation & Mental Health Counseling from Thomas University. Miracle serves general Forsyth County clients as well as transition and post-secondary clients. Mira-

cle began working in the Cumming office in August 2015.

#### Tyler Baker, Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor



Tyler Baker is a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor from the Cumming VR Office. Tyler was born in Alabama and has a Master's of Science degree in Vocational Rehabilitation Counseling from Troy University in Troy, Alabama. He moved to Georgia in January 2015 to complete his internship at the Tucker

GVRA Office. Tyler now works for some of the high schools in Forsyth and North Fulton County.

# **Who's Who in the Cumming VR Office**

#### Garry Ivey, Certified Rehabilitation Counselor



Garry Ivey is a counselor who works with the IPS/SE caseload through Avita Community Partners. He has 24 years of experience (six with mental health and 18 with VR). During that time, he has worked with transition and adult general caseloads throughout the counties our office covers. Before

working as a VR counselor, Garry was hired as a Regional Initiative Coordinator for three years. Before working with the State, he worked at Peachford Psychiatric Hospital and Laurelwood. Garry has a Master's degree in psychology and in social work. He lives in Dawsonville, is married and has a dog and two cats.

#### **Eileen Murphy, Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor**



Eileen Murphy is a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor at the Cumming VR Office. She earned her Master's of Science degree in Counseling from San Diego State University and continued to expand her knowledge of the field completing post-graduate Counseling Certifications at joint programs

with UCLA and the Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior. Eileen made Georgia her home five years ago. She was raised in a military family and from her many years in Germany, speaks German and still enjoys traveling. Eileen is a counselor to our clients in the Dawson, Lumpkin, Forsyth & Union counties.

#### Almas Shikari, Certified Rehabilitation Counselor



Almas Shikari is a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor with GVRA.

She has been working with this agency for the past five years. Almas obtained my Masters from the University of South Carolina. She works with a lot of transition students in Dawson High School, South Forsyth High School and

Lambert High School. She also works with some adults in the general population and students in college.

What Almas loves about this job is that she gets to help people help themselves to become independent and productive members of our society.

#### Mary Wareham, Certified Rehabilitation Counselor



Mary Wareham has been a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor since 1993 (23 years) and worked in the field of Vocational Rehabilitation for 26 years. She is a graduate of the Rehabilitation Counseling Masters of Science program at Georgia State and studied under world-renowned leader in Vocational Rehabilitation

Roger O. Weed, Ph.D., CRC. Mary has edited the CRC Exam Guide to Success as well as the Rehabilitation Counselor's Handbook. She has served as the President of the Georgia Rehabilitation Counseling and Education Association for two terms and was instrumental in securing the CRC as the highest professional standard in Georgia during the 1994 legislative session. Mary now serves as transition counselor for Forsyth County schools.

# **Who's Who in the Cumming VR Office**

### Keita Alston, Counselor Assistant



Keita Alston is originally from South Carolina. He has been with Vocational Rehabilitation for over five years. During his time, he has provided assistance to counselors which includes entering and maintaining data in client management system (GRACI), act as a liaison between the agency and clients and also manage the process for approval in the authorization and invoice process.

Keita is also an active member of the Georgia Rehabilitation Association where he serves as a Board Member & chairman of the Newsletter & Website committees. He enjoys helping those individuals with disabilities achieve their ability to reach their full potential.

#### **Benito Castro, Counselor Assistant**



Benito Castro was born in Lima, Peru. He lived and went to school in Queens, New York where he obtained his Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from St. Johns University. Benito was a Business Services Manager at a vocational workshop for four years run by AHRC Nassau, a supports and services provider to

people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Benito moved to Georgia in 1996 and held various inside and outside sales jobs. After much reflection, he chose to go back serving the specialty population and have since worked as Client Support Worker for Cobb Community Services Board in Smyrna, Employment Specialist for View Point Health in Lawrenceville and now as a Counselor Assistant.

#### Victoria Tarver, Counselor Assistant



Victoria Tarver is originally from the North Georgia area. She's a Counselor Assistant in the Cumming VR office. Victoria's background includes working for non-profits centers in Arkansas and Texas. Victoria attended classes at the University of North Texas and became a certified Supported Employment Specialist for both Texas and Arkansas.

Now here at Cumming VR, she assists clients with resumes and other job readiness aspects. In the future, Victoria will create a Job Club to assist clients with gaining successful employment.

#### **Donna Wood, Office Assistant**



Donna Wood has been with Vocational Rehabilitation for 15 1/2 years. When she first came to VR, she worked as a Program Assistant. For several years, Donna was the Rehabilitation Job Readiness Specialist and was in the original OASIS program (new intake orientation) and traveled to different offices to do OASIS. Donna is now the Office Assis-

tant in Cumming. She coordinates meeting space and orders office supplies. Please contact Donna for your scheduling needs.

#### **David Hodges, Student Intern**



David Hodges is a student intern at Georgia State University majoring in clinical rehabilitation counseling. He grew up in and around Atlanta and knows the community well.

David will graduate in May and has recently passed his CRC exam. He works under the counselors at the Cumming office and has experience

and clients here.

with adults with disabilities. David enjoys working with the staff

#### Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency Cumming Office

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Map of 100 Colony Park Drive, Suite 204 in Cumming Click for MapQuest Map Click for Google Maps

The Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency (GVRA) was formed on July 1, 2012, by an act of the Georgia General Assembly. GVRA has five rehabilitation programs: <u>Business Enterprise Program, Disability</u>

<u>Adjudication Services, Georgia Industries for the Blind, Roosevelt Warm Springs Institute for Rehabilitation</u> (including a satellite location at <u>Cave Spring Rehabilitation Center</u>) and <u>Vocational Rehabilitation</u>.

The VR Program mission statement is to assist people with disabilities to work and its purpose is provide opportunities to improve the quality of life for Georgians with disabilities by promoting independence through employment, service and support.

We're across the street from Andean Chevrolet in the BB&T brick building on the 2nd floor. Our telephone numbers are (770) 781-6781 and toll free (888) 781-6781. We serve Dawson, Forsyth, North Fulton, Lumpkin & Union counties.

We're on the web!

http://gvra.georgia.gov/vocationalrehab/

## **Cumming VR Office Meeting Rooms**



The Dogwood Room seats 6-8 people.



The Wisteria Room seats 2-4 people.



The Computer Room seats 8-10 people.



The Green Room seats 6-8 people.



The Magnolia Room seats 6-8 people.