



2023 Workshop: EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT

About the Presenter: Karri Wilson completed her Ph.D. in Social Work in 2009 from the University of Missouri. Her doctoral studies focused on the subject of Employee Engagement. Research on the topic led her to develop and copy write a survey instrument designed to measure the level of engagement for employees who work in public human services agencies. Continued research and study has led to Karri being asked to present on the topic of Engagement at events around the United States and to her consulting on Engagement with multiple state Vocational Rehabilitation programs. Karri has been employed by Missouri Vocational Rehabilitation since 1994. She began her career as a VR Counselor, was promoted to District Supervisor, then to Regional Manager, and she currently serves as Coordinator of Client Services for Missouri Vocational Rehabilitation.

Contact Karri: karen.wilson@vr.dese.mo.gov

Link to Dissertation on Employee Engagement with Survey Instrument at end of document:

<https://mospace.umsystem.edu/xmlui/bitstream/handle/10355/6137/research.pdf?sequence=3&isAllowed=y>

About the Presentation: This presentation uses a combination of lecture, video, real case examples, and group discussion designed to give the participant an overview of Engagement along with an introduction to five specific strategies that can be used to increase levels of staff engagement. The presentation focuses specifically on working within the Vocational Rehabilitation system and highlights the importance of staff engagement for surviving and thriving in a changing environment. Emphasis is placed on how engaged employees will move an organization into a position to meet program requirements and achieve agency goals. Survey data from Vocational Rehabilitation employees is shared to illustrate the meaningfulness of measuring for Engagement. Participants are given access to the engagement survey instrument and permission to use it and are also given tips on how to set up their own plan for evaluating their staff's level of engagement.

Time Needed: The presentation is scheduled for 3 hours. This allows for detailed content, examples, group discussion and question and answer time. An overview can be presented in a one-hour time slot but would not allow for in-depth discussion of the strategies or for meaningful group discussion.

Expenses: There is no fee for the presentation. Reimbursement of the presenter's travel expense is required.