



## VOCATIONAL SERVICES

### *A Marcus Community Bridge Program*

Shepherd Center's dedication to the holistic therapeutic process covers many areas. Among those areas is an individual's career. Vocational Services seeks to assist clients with catastrophic injury or illness as they navigate returning to a productive work life after injury or illness.

### SERVICES

Vocational Services is capable of providing a variety of services, including:

- Vocational assessment
- Career exploration
- Job search skills
- Interview techniques
- Labor market research
- Resume development
- Referral to State Vocational Rehabilitation
- Volunteer experience
- Referral to Shepherd Center's Peer Support Program
- Job site evaluation

### PROGRAM GOALS

The goals of the Vocational Services Program are to:

- Assist clients in returning to their previous employment, pursue new employment options or prepare for employment in the future
- Educate persons with disabilities about career options
- Facilitate accommodations for a successful return to work
- Support the client's independence and autonomy

### CLIENT ELIGIBILITY

All Shepherd Center clients are eligible for referral to Vocational Services and may be referred by any professional member of the staff. Community members may self refer and are handled on a case-by-case basis.

### SERVICE PROCESS

Clients who are referred to the Vocational Services Program are assessed by a Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist to determine appropriate services. If appropriate, clients are assigned to the career track that is most suitable to their goals and timetables. These career tracks include:

1. Previous Employment – clients who are returning to their pre-injury place of employment and require assistance
2. New Employment – clients who require assistance in beginning a new career or job
3. Readiness – clients who are not yet ready or are unsure of career goals
4. Single Service – clients who receive an evaluation or other services on a one time basis

Clients who are not yet appropriate or are not eligible for enrollment are provided guidelines to use in determining future appropriateness for Vocational Services as well as contact information for the Department of Rehabilitation Services.

## CLIENT PARTICIPATION

Enrollment into Vocational Services is seen as a partnership between clients and their Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist. The terms of that partnership are defined generally in the Vocational Services policies and procedures and specifically in the client's written career plan, which is developed by the client, career specialist and if applicable therapy team at their enrollment. Continuation of the client's enrollment is contingent on the client actively engaging in meeting the goals that are established in their written career plan.

## VOCATIONAL TEAM

The Vocational Services Program has two full-time Vocational Rehabilitation Specialists. Specialists are located at both Shepherd Center's main campus and at Shepherd Pathways. Our Vocational Rehabilitation Specialists are supported by the Peer Support Program.

## IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Vocational Services:	404-350-7588
Shepherd Center:	404-352-2020

Visit Shepherd Center online at [www.shepherd.org](http://www.shepherd.org)