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Assessing Quality of Life Following a Compensable Injury – Australian Data

James A. Athanssou

Abstract: This study examined the assessment of quality of life in a sample of compensable accident victims following a personal injury. The sample comprised 234 participants who completed the World Health Organization's EUROHIS Quality of Life scale as part of a medico-legal vocational assessment. Responses to the scale were analyzed using a partial-credit Rasch analysis. Both the eight items and the overall scale conformed to a model of measurement. The ability to perform one's daily living activities was a key aspect of the quality of life, followed by satisfaction with general health. Satisfaction with personal relationships or even satisfaction with oneself was not a key aspect. Quality of life was reduced for compensable accident victims. It was concluded that the EUROHIS may provide a brief practical and standardized assessment for medico-legal contexts.

Application of the Knowledge Validation Inventory - Revised to Examine Individual and Regional Variation Training Needs of Rehabilitation Counselors

Scott Beveridge, Jennifer Appleyard, Jaehwa Choi and Jeff DiNardo

Abstract: The following article sought to determine if training needs of rehabilitation counselors had any significant differences along personal characteristics or regional dimensions. Four hundred twenty six participants completed the Knowledge Validation Inventory-Revised (KVI-R). Hierarchical linear modeling methodology was utilized to determine if there was any shared variance in training needs due to the potentially overlapping variable of region of practice as it related to the individual practitioner. Results indicated that while gender and level of credentials were significantly related to training needs independently, region of practice was not a statistically significant predictor nor were there any interaction effects. There is a continued need to explore this area of rehabilitation counseling as the differences in regional trends do not appear to affect overall training needs.

Using Online Help - Wanted Advertising as a Tool in Vocational Assessments

Malcolm S. Cohen, Laura R. Steiner, and Carrie Fried Thorpe

Abstract: Vocational and economic experts frequently use help-wanted advertising as an indicator of jobs available to individuals in a particular labor market and occupation. In the past, vocational and economic experts obtained information from newspapers. More recently, experts used the Internet to search for available jobs. This paper discusses general benefits and limitations of working with online help-wanted advertising. We also present an analysis of over 40 mitigation cases on which we have worked over the past five years. This paper addresses use of a proprietary data source, WANTED Analytics™, which currently has a database of over one billion help-wanted advertisements, going back to 2005, from over 25,000 sources. Information from this database can be obtained

by vocational and economic experts, attorneys, and others who use the data for forensic purposes.

Appropriate Use of Vocational Opinions to Rebut a Scheduled Rating in California Workers' Compensation Claims for Permanent Partial Disability After Dahl and After Senate Bill 863

Eugene E. Van de Bittner, and Jill A. Moeller

Abstract: The opinions of vocational experts have been used for many years in California workers' compensation cases to support a more accurate permanent disability rating for injured workers with claims for permanent total disability and for claims for permanent partial disability. This article describes the history of the use of vocational expert opinions over several decades in California workers' compensation cases. Several methods are presented for the use of vocational opinions in attempting to rebut a scheduled rating in a permanent partial disability case in relation to Ogilvie III (2011) after Dahl (2015) and after Senate Bill 863 (2012).

Surveillance-system Monitors in the Work Force Kincaid Vocational and Rehabilitation Services

Dan Wolstein

Abstract: A labor market survey was conducted to assess the responsibilities and skills of Surveillance-system Monitors as they exist in the current labor market. A tri-modal approach was taken. First, 58 job vacancy advertisements were reviewed to analyze the physical requirements of Surveillance-system Monitors as they exist in the labor market today, along with other factors that contribute to the skill-level of this position. Second, the position of Transportation Security Officer was reviewed via the job vacancy advertisement and job description video (accessed through the Transportation Security Administration website). Third, employers of Surveillance-system Monitors, and employees currently performing work as a Surveillance-system Monitor, were contacted at various establishments including colleges, hotels, and malls in the New Jersey and Texas State areas. The results indicate that the physical and cognitive requirements of Surveillance-system Monitors have changed significantly since the last major revision of the Dictionary of Occupational Titles in 1991. The essential functions of Surveillance-system Monitors now require use of others skills, longer training, higher aptitudes, and greater physical demands. The research conducted for this study returned a 0% prevalence of Surveillance-system Monitors as it is conventionally described in the Dictionary of Occupational Titles.

Understanding Jobs in a Globalized Environment: Where Does Disability Fit?

Alan Bruce and Michelle Marmé

Abstract: Services for people with disabilities historically have prioritized employment outcomes as the optimum measure of societal integration for those with disability. The effort for sustainable skill acquisition, linked to the subsequent placement in a job that matched requirements to needs and capacity, has been the driving force in rehabilitation provision for many decades (Strauser, Wong & Sullivan, 2012). Securing a job was the ultimate achievement – balancing personal fulfillment, employer satisfaction and the creation of a secure socio-economic framework in which individuals with disabilities could live their lives with autonomy and dignity.

Vocational Motivation: A Forensic Perspective

Linda A. Stein, Howard Caston, Kathleen M. Dytrych,

Laura J. Lee, and Chrisann Schiro-Geist

Abstract: A review of motivation theory is presented and applications to forensic issues are discussed. The commonly accepted notion that disability payments are a disincentive and provide secondary gain for many individuals involved in litigation is analyzed. Previous research is inconclusive in supporting the notion that disability payments or potential for disability payments adversely affects vocational outcomes. Suggestions are made relative to formulating conclusive opinions in forensic testimony concerning motivational factors.