

VR Success Story: Overcoming Obstacles and Inspiring Others While on a Path to Self-Sufficiency



IDVR Mission is to prepare individuals with disabilities for employment and career opportunities while meeting the needs of the employers.



SANDRA'S SUCCESS STORY

Occupation: Peer Recovery Support Specialist

Location: Blackfoot, Idaho

Hourly Wage: \$16.66

Weekly Hours: 30

"Sandra's past was a learning lesson for her future. She has traveled uncharted territories leading her to meet people from all walks of life. Sandra had no captain or guide in her journeys that started far too early in a child's life. Choices were made by Sandra, some good and some bad; but every choice was about survival. Learning from her past, she knew that her journey of hardship was a learning lesson for her future. This lesson and path have led her to helping others who are lost. Through these journeys, Sandra has gained the gift of empathy and helping those who are in need."

Chris Furio, Sandra's Supervisor at State Hospital South

"I am so grateful to my VR counselor for believing in me even when I didn't believe in myself. I want others to know to never give up and be willing to try other ways to succeed. We are all worth it, no matter where we've been or what we've done.

Always look for better tomorrows."- Sandra, VR Customer

- Sandra applied for IDVR services in January 2020 with the goal to work in the field of social services. Sandra had an extensive history of trauma, mental health challenges and substance abuse, along with a lengthy criminal record. At the time of application, Sandra had been sober for over 3 years and was ready to move forward with her goals for work.
- After working through setbacks due that came with COVID-19 and becoming the guardian to a family member's child, Sandra felt ready to move forward with her goal to become a recovery coach.
- Sandra successfully completed the Recovery Coaching training and Enhanced Background Check application, a very overwhelming and intimidating task given her legal history. Sandra then obtained a Provisional Recovery Coaching certification.
- IDVR assisted Sandra with the application process, resume creation, and helping her gain the confidence needed to enter her first professional role. With this support, Sandra obtained part-time employment with State Hospital South in the role of a Peer Recovery Support.
- After beginning her employment, Sandra recognized that also being Certified in Peer Support would enable her to better perform her job duties. With IDVR support, Sandra was able to also complete the Peer Support Training successfully.
- Due to Sandra's commitment, passion, and work ethic displayed in her position at State Hospital South, she was offered and accepted a full-time position with full benefits. Sandra is very active in the recovery community and strives to support others in their journeys to sobriety.
- Due to her full-time employment, Sandra is progressing toward her goal of becoming self-sufficient and ending her Social Security Disability benefits.

"Sandra amazes me with her courage and strength. She serves as an inspiration to all those who meet her and hear her story. To see her working in a field where she can use her training and lived experience to help others has been a privilege and honor."- Becca Freeburne, VR Counselor

A proud partner of the  American Job Center® network