**January 2018 Grassroots Group Summary**

**Employment First Grassroots Group Meeting: Business Relations Project**

[Recorded event here.](https://umb-ici.adobeconnect.com/p3zhiswvxvux/)

Suggested Audience: Individuals and Family Members

**Summary**

In this presentation, we heard from Kathy Davis and Aleks Bologna both from the Florida Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. They presented information on the Business Relations project.

**What did they cover?**

As a result of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), the Florida Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) has changed the way it engages businesses. VR established a business relations project which provides customized services to local businesses to help them recognize the value people with disabilities have and how to recruit and hire individuals. By providing businesses customized services, these partnerships allow VR participants to obtain competitive integrated employment.

Vocational Rehabilitation’s business relations project has become a leading tool for helping employers efficiently connect to potential employees with disabilities.  Our guest presenters, Kathy Davis and Aleks Bologna, shared information on the history of the business relations project and how it functions and provided some recommendations for people with disabilities and their families for engaging with their employment staff.

**Handouts:**

[DVR presentation slides](http://www.employmentfirstfl.org/sites/employmentfirstfl.org/files/files/EmploymentFirst-DVR-Jan-GG.pdf)

[Event transcript](http://www.employmentfirstfl.org/sites/employmentfirstfl.org/files/files/FL-grassroots-group-captioning-transcript-1-23-18.txt) (closed captioning)

[OJT: Construction flyer](http://www.employmentfirstfl.org/sites/employmentfirstfl.org/files/files/Construction%20Flyer.pdf)

[OJT: Fire fighter flyer](http://www.employmentfirstfl.org/sites/employmentfirstfl.org/files/files/FIRE%20flyer.pdf)

[Job driven training flyer](http://www.employmentfirstfl.org/sites/employmentfirstfl.org/files/files/Job%20Driven%20Training.pdf)

**Who can I contact to get more information about this presentation?**

Contact info:

Kathy Davis - kathy.davis@vr.fldoe.org

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[www.rehabworks.org](http://www.rehabworks.org/)

For more questions about the Grassroots Group series, please contact: John Kramer

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