2018 Innovation Contest Winners
Networks 3, 4, 5, and 8

| 1st Place | My initiative is multi-tiered.  E.A.T.  First I will Educate. Education of the staff and the patients not just about Voc Rehab but about disability and how much work you can do and still keep your benefits. Our Social Security office is great about answering questions from patients about their benefits. Learning more about what Voc Rehab is and what it does specifically will help the patients and staff understand the program will be helpful. Also education about the benefits of working while on dialysis (better treatment outcomes, better mental health, etc.)

Second is Action. Having patients that work and do dialysis visit patients that are eligible for a Voc Rehab referral will help the patient to see that it is possible to do both. Also there are some useful videos on YouTube that I can have the patients watch (for example: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w3srYqCsiY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w3srYqCsiY) and [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g7RkGwxIQU4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g7RkGwxIQU4)) Also getting the staff involved with education will be helpful as well. A bulletin board to help start conversations and educated staff to help answer questions will help the patients to feel like working is the norm while on dialysis. Having someone from Voc Rehab would be helpful here as well to talk specifically about what they can do to help each individual patient.

Last is Treatment. We will be sure to have plenty of chair times available to help those patients that choose to work. We will let patients know that work takes priority and that we will do what we can to make it as easy as possible for patients to work while on dialysis. I think that getting the whole team involved in the process will ultimately help to increase referrals for Voc Rehab and will help to get the patients back to work. |

| 2nd Place | For CKD patients, Voc Rehab education needs to start in the Nephrologist’s office. Before that can be done, we need to educate ourselves so I suggest having multiple educational opportunities for each unit in the area that includes all staff (CCHT’s, RD’s and RN’s) not just the Social Workers because we are not always in the unit when patients need or want this type of information. Next, we need to have plenty of written material in doctor’s offices, dialysis units and hospitals. Then, I would like to be able to invite a Voc Rehab Rep to come talk with patients one-on-one. Finally, I would like to see a more proactive approach in my area by inviting Voc Rehab representative to local health fairs / CKD screening events. |

| 3rd Place (3 winners) | ♦ I have a patient who is currently working while on dialysis. I am talking to the patient about setting up a day for him to sit at a small table in the lobby with some brochures from our local Voc Rehab office and talk to interested patients. All the patients know this particular patient and I am hoping they will see him and think..."he is one of us...if he can do it, so can I."

♦ I am trying to work with all patients between the ages of 18 and 54 who are not already employed, to encourage them to consider a referral to Voc Rehab. I give them brochures that I have received from Voc Rehab. I also had a Voc Rehab Representative come to speak at the Renal Patient Advisory Council in March 2018. Of the eight patients I have referred for Vocational Rehabilitation, so far one patient is enrolled in the program. I hope to have him mentor other patients who are "sitting on the fence" about working. I hope to have the Director of vocational rehabilitation services come to our facility to host Lobby Days on MWF and TTS to reach all patients. I will be persistent in my approach with patients to help them become more comfortable with vocational rehabilitation.

♦ Developing a dialysis peer mentoring program for dialysis patients in a region to connect with one another (in compliance with HIPAA regulations) so that they can learn from peers about their experiences working while on dialysis and get support from others who can know and understand the daunting nature of applying to jobs after potentially several years outside of the workforce. |