

Caragonne and Associates, Inc.

Technical Information Services
Life Care Planning and Case Management

Alternative Designs for Access
Vocational Evaluation

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Rehabilitation Engineer, Caragonne and Associates, LLC. Guadalajara, MX and Laredo, TX. March 1993 to the present.

Alternative Designs for Access (ADA) This section provides five types of consulting services:

- Direct technology prescription, provision, and followup training services to individuals with disabilities.
- Training workshops in application and use of technology.
- Education in all phases of the technology identification, prescription, delivery and repair process.
- Consultation with institutions, agencies, and small employers to determine compliance with requirements of the Americans with Disability Act.

Consultation to firms involved in the prosecution or defense of medical malpractice, personal injury, employment discrimination, and product liability.

This component of Caragonne and Associates provides technical consultation to educational settings, government agencies, private employers and hospitals. Over 300 task analysis and subsequent work site modifications to assure return to work for disabled persons in the last twenty (20) years. Disabilities represented include persons with blindness or low vision, persons with mobility impairments, persons with speech or hearing impairments, and persons with cognitive difficulties. Individualized technology assessments have also been completed for consumers wishing to adapt and/or modify educational, home, leisure or work sites to assure access. This component works extensively with issues of access to employment, frequently fabricates both one-of-a-kind access methods designed to fit a particular consumer or agency's needs, and develops and implements housing modification services. A representative listing of agencies served is included within this resume.



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Vocational Evaluation Services This section, working in concert with vocational evaluators, determines strategies through which individuals with disabilities can seek and retain employment. Vocational assessments are provided to individuals age 16 or older who have realistic vocational/educational goals but require additional occupational information, job-site modifications or on-going work supports to function vocationally. Through a process of individualized assessment, barriers that interfere with future employment are identified. A wide variety of interest, aptitude, achievement, and personality tests can be used to assist individuals in identifying potential employment applications, but these tests are coupled with an assessment of tasks within various jobs that can be modified through use of assistive technology. The outcome of this process is a report which details:

- Appropriate occupational areas, or, determination of lack of vocational potential in the current job market.
- Identification of problems that interfere with job seeking, job placement and job retention and an analysis of the vocational impact of an individual's disability on full labor market access. In addition to results emerging from the individualized assessment process, a second quantitative analysis can be completed which is derived through a comparison of vocational capabilities, with and without injury. The percentage of local jobs which the person could access without injury is identified as is the percentage of local jobs to which the individual is now restricted as a direct function of the injury.
- Completion of labor market surveys with employers to identify availability of positions and accessibility of work to persons with disabilities, history of hiring persons with

disabilities, scope of positions available and potential compensation, advancement potential, range of tasks required for performance, skills and exertional levels associated with each job, current job openings, rates of annual job turnover in various company positions sought, and various positions within each company which utilize assistive technology.

- From completion of the vocational evaluation process, identification of the range of resources needed for job retention is made. The specific job supports required to seek, obtain, and retain employment are one outcome from this process as is determination of costs of all job supports--both initial and on-going. Final reports identify work-site modifications needed, and all on-going training and technology costs that will make the job accessible and realistically attainable to the person with disabilities, enumerate other resources needed, their purpose, costs, and timing, e.g., job seeking skills training, job development services, on-site on-going job coaching support required and any anticipated annual costs over time, content of skills enhancement and upgrade training needed.
- If requested, an appraisal of availability--and actual accessibility-- of public sector vocational resources is also provided. This section of the report depicts all explicit and implicit barriers to vocational resources in the public sector: Income restrictions in determining the level of service to be awarded, the range of resources most typically offered and their appropriateness or inappropriateness, extent of client choice in selecting resources, policy, budgetary and program restrictions to be encountered, transportation requirements necessary to secure a basic intake interview, average time lapse between referral and securing of services, changes in eligibility requirements given current budget restrictions in Vocational Rehabilitation, and other barriers inherent to service access.

Referrals are accepted from individuals, private agencies, educational institutions initiating a Transition Planning process, State Departments of Vocational Rehabilitation Services, State Rehabilitation Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired, and State Developmental Disability/Mental Health agencies.

Long-Term Planning Services Long-term Planning services develops and implements long-term case management plans for persons with chronic disabilities. The development of a long-term case management plan rests upon a data-based planning process that identifies, with the direct participation of family members, educators, medical and therapy providers relevant to the individual, all services and resources which will mitigate the handicapping effects of a disability. Plans may cover the following areas: delineation of functional obstacles experienced by the person as a result of injury, potential health complications inherent in the disability, services and resources needed to offset the effects of the disability, the purpose for each service or resource named, time frames for introduction and use of resources during the individual's life span; time spans for use of each resource, annual and net-time only costs to secure each resource or service recommended, representative providers from whom the resource or service can be secured, and the costs for any case management services required to assist the individual in identifying, locating, securing and keeping resources needed. Referrals for long-term planning services or case management services come from six sources:

- Family members or from individuals with disabilities.
- Trust Companies managing Special Needs Trust for persons with disabilities to develop long-term plans with subsequent implementation of a developed plan.
- Independent living centers, rehabilitation facilities, local hospitals, public schools and universities.
- Employers seeking to conform to requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act, or, from employers wishing to redesign job sites for their employees with disabilities.
- Agencies providing long-term living supports for persons with developmental disabilities or brain injury to assist in identifying long-term needs for services.
- Legal firms involved in the prosecution or defense of medical malpractice, product liability, or personal injury litigation. Within this context, deposition review and analysis are offered, as well as review of Life Care Plans developed by opposing experts.

Technical Information Services (TIS) TIS has completed several publications assessing various aspects of applied research in disability, the standards process in

long-term planning, evaluation of case management service delivery systems, and how to appraise the foundation and quality of a completed long-term plan. Workshops describing the technology delivery and long-term planning process are also completed from this component.

Rehabilitation Engineer, Director of Mobile Services, Illinois Assistive Technology Project, Springfield, IL. August 1991 - February 1993.

Scope of work within this project included the design, development, implementation and operation of a statewide Mobile Service Component for this \$600,000 per annum federal grant. Promotional and service activities include identifying and selecting all statewide groups targeted for rehabilitation technology services, designing materials promoting the project's services in technology, executing promotional activities to groups targeted, on-site marketing and follow-up, designing and executing workshops describing technology applications and uses, and developing all fee-for-service contracts held by the project. Other achievements include design of procedures and policies accompanying service delivery; design, selection, and operation of evaluation and fabrication equipment used to outfit the 25-foot lift-equipped mobile van, and delivery of all community-based rehabilitation technology services provided through the project to persons with disabilities.

President, Keith Sofka, Inc. St. Louis, MO. December 1987 - 1993.

Through his private consulting firm, Mr. Sofka provided technical training, curriculum development, and service provision to a wide range of private employment, insurance, governmental, rehabilitative, and educational concerns. Upgrade staff training in rehabilitation technology, technology evaluation and technology service delivery have now been provided to over 150 agencies nationally. Over the past seven years, direct technology services have been provided to over 500 persons with disabilities. These services include prescriptions for assistive and adaptive equipment, and, modifications to support educational access, home modifications to gain independence in daily living, and worksite modifications to assure employment access and stability. More specific examples of adaptations and applications are provided in the Technical Capabilities section.

Rehabilitation Engineer, Adapt-Ability, Inc. St. Louis, MO. November 1990 - August 1991.

At Adapt-Ability, Mr. Sofka designed, developed and implemented the first agency-wide rehabilitation technology service component for Adapt-Ability. Services were provided to persons of all ages and disabilities, inclusive of cerebral palsy, spinal cord injury, stroke, traumatic brain injury, blindness and deafness. Services included the design and fabrication of modifications to educational, worksite and

recreational settings. Service contracts were developed and negotiated by Mr. Sofka with private employers, public sector agencies, disability-rights groups, and university settings. Upgrade technical consultation and training was provided to Occupational and Physical Therapists on staff to develop a whole life evaluation for technology needs. Services also included workshops and training to community therapists and provider agencies, and development of on-site fabrication workshop. Other responsibilities included developing report formats for housing access reports, work site modifications, technology for daily living, education, and recreational needs. Administrative responsibilities included developing successful grant application to private foundations and state agencies for project funding. Curricula materials were developed for and workshops completed with public and professionals on key provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Administrative systems for technology case management were also developed.

Coordinator, Rehabilitation Engineering Services, Missouri Goodwill Industries, St. Louis, MO. April 1985 - November 1987.

Mr. Sofka established the first rehabilitation engineering service delivery component within the St. Louis area. Accomplishments included securing a funding base for service delivery from public sector agencies, development of all services and service delivery procedures, and provision of work and home site modifications to all adults referred from both the Illinois and Missouri Vocational Rehabilitation systems for rehabilitation technology adaptations for employment access.

TECHNICAL CAPABILITIES IN TECHNOLOGY

Mr. Sofka offers direct technology services, training workshops and education in all phases of the technology delivery process. The firm provides technical consultation to educational settings, government agencies, private employers and individual consumers wishing to adapt and/or modify educational, home, or work sites to assure access. Mr. Sofka has worked extensively with issues of access to employment and frequently fabricates one-of-a-kind access methods designed to fit a particular consumer's needs. These devices range from computer access to equipment so a legally blind farmer can continue his work to retro-fitting the homes of individuals with disabilities to assure access to all aspects of the home. As a consultant to Fred Sammons, Inc. Mr. Sofka was retained to review products and recommend new products for inclusion in Mr. Sammons' catalog of adaptive equipment. The following partial listing of seventeen (17) access projects completed has been extracted from the over five hundred (600) evaluations completed by Mr. Sofka in the last twenty years. Projects have been targeted to the systems-wide level--seeking to increase the capacity of an agency to deliver technology services--or, have focused on the needs of individual consumers with disabilities. The non-

inclusive listing is provided to illustrate the range and scope of applications possible for home, education, or worksite use:

SERVICE DELIVERY CAPACITY

Center for Independence and Access, New Haven, CT. Mr. Sofka developed an Independent Living Center based and consumer-driven model for rehabilitation technology service delivery. Funding was grant-based from the Connecticut Rehabilitation Engineering Center, a state-wide assistive technology research project, funded through the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research, Washington, DC. Responsibilities for this project included: developing and prescribing adaptive technology for individuals with disabilities to enhance access to home, work, recreation, and education; provision of consultation to the network of Independent Living Centers in Connecticut; negotiating vendor status with third party payers, e.g. Department of Rehabilitation Services, Hartford, CT; developing program and center budgets, grant writing, developing presentations to community, consumers and rehabilitation professionals on technology, and provision of consultation to other Connecticut Rehabilitation Engineering Center Technology Research Projects, e.g. Adaptive Computing Laboratory at Southern Connecticut State University.

INDEPENDENT LIVING

Impact, Inc., Alton, IL. Through a state-funded Center for Independent Living, provided technical consultation to businesses and small municipalities seeking to comply with provisions of Title III: Public Accommodations Section: The Americans with Disabilities Act. Current applications included review, analysis and re-design of a floating gambling casino--the Alton Belle--to assure access by patrons with disabilities to work site modification of a work site for a staff member with blindness. Other applications included redesigning the access to the Hardin, Illinois City Hall and the design of architectural modifications to the Carrollton Public Library, Carrollton, IL. All three settings were formerly inaccessible to persons with disabilities.

Department of Rehabilitation Services, Springfield, IL. Designed all modifications of home environment for individual with high-level spinal cord injury. Modifications for access included design of an access ramp for the external doorway and modifications to increase access to the bathroom area. Barriers included inability to leave residence and inability to access bathroom, when needed. Modifications now permit independent access of home setting and independent use of bathroom.

Department of Rehabilitation Services, Home-Services Division, Springfield, IL. Designed methods to access telephone communication system for bedfast individual in late stages of multiple sclerosis. Functional barriers for individual included limited ability for volitional movement and low voice volume interfering with ability to use

available telephone system. Modifications included identification and installation of a breath-activated Sip-and-Puff mechanism permitting telephone to be activated and used with lapel microphone. Benefits included increased safety for individual and ability to resume normal communication with others.

Royal Insurance, Kansas City, MO. Designed all modifications to assure completely accessible home environment in existing home for person with high-level quadriplegia. Areas of focus included environmental control units to permit independent control of telephones, television, lights, entry and exit from home. Modifications also included design of addition to home including roll-in-shower, space for equipment, transfer area, and installation of transfer/lift equipment to assure independent transfer from bed to wheelchair.

United Cerebral Palsy, Land of Lincoln, Springfield, IL. Designed, fabricated and installed a head control system for an adult with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) who is completely paralyzed except for head movement. Adaptations completed permit him to control a power recliner independently and independently use a call button to summon his nurse. A series of three switches were designed and mounted to the back of a headrest which he can control through minimal (less than one-half ounce) of pressure. Nursing assistance can now be summoned when needed and he can now control the direction of the recliner in which he spends the majority of his day.

EDUCATIONAL ACCESS

State of Illinois Special School Districts. Currently provide educational access services to disabled students with disabilities. Contract includes the elementary, secondary and high schools in the ten-county school district area from East St. Louis, IL to Springfield, IL. Modifications have included assuring educational access for students with speech impairments, mobility impairments, low vision, neurological impairments, traumatic brain injury, orthopedic impairments, and cerebral palsy.

Missouri Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Columbia, MO. Provided speech-controlled environmental access system for person with high-level quadriplegia. System permits operation of two tape recorders for review of class notes and dictation of papers, control of telephone, television, VCR, radio, intercom, door opener, lights, heater, and fan. Also developed a system to provide access to fluids when personal care attendants were not available for this individual.

United Cerebral Palsy of Southern IL, Carbondale, IL. Developed recommendations for access to college course work for a first year college student with low vision which included closed-circuit television system, books on tape, books on disc, Large Print DOS, portable closed circuit television, and portable computer system for note-taking and paper-writing.

United Cerebral Palsy, Land of Lincoln, Jacksonville, IL. Developed recommendations for person with undifferentiated learning disability for speech output computer access system, books on tape, and developed recommendations for additional classroom supports.

Missouri Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, St. Louis, MO. Developed recommendations for an Accounting student who is non-ambulatory as a result of muscular dystrophy. Recommendations were made which assured computer access, both for portable computer and computers in the college computing laboratory, note-taking, and adaptive software.

Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, Edwardsville, IL. Developed and implemented recommendations for campus-wide access of campus computing centers by students with the following functional limitations: blindness, low-vision, mobility, and limited range of motion. Recommendations included changes to existing computers, addition of adaptive software and hardware, including optical character recognition, speech controlled computer systems, switch controlled computer systems, miniature and enlarged keyboards, screen enlargement capacities for existing computers, and other specialized adaptive software. Current work includes design and execution of training workshops for students, graduate assistants, and Director of the Office for Students with Disabilities. Technical assistance was also provided in development of successful grant applications for funding of equipment.

Disability Network of Eastern CT, Franklin, CT. Developed and executed recommendations on behalf of adolescent with traumatic brain injury. Those recommendations included methods for note-taking, organization of work, and completion of homework assignments. Recommendations were also developed for instructors to strengthen educational supports. Recommendations were made to staff of residential group home to increase independence in daily living tasks.

EMPLOYMENT ACCESS

Missouri Bureau for the Blind, Louisiana, MO. Recommendations developed and implemented for pig farmer with sudden vision loss. Obstacles included inability to identify sick animals, inability to complete farm management accounting and reporting functions, inability to execute tasks formerly used in farm work, i.e. pig castration and corn planting. Services included task analysis and redesign of existing job tasks, modifications to warning systems for sick or injured animals, identification and development of animal restraint devices, modification to corn planting and harvesting techniques, selection and training in use of IBM computers and use of adapted LOTUS accounting packages and adapted Farm Extension Reporting Software. Yearly follow-up support and training still provided to assure satisfactory resumption of farm business.

Department of Rehabilitation Services, Hamilton, IL. Developed and implemented recommendations for non-ambulatory individual with Werding-Hoffman disease, a disease which causes severe muscle atrophy. Recommendations for this computer programmer included methods to control and access mainframe computer, telephone, emergency call system, and methods for personal assistance support to assure continued employment within Blue Cross/Blue Shield as a computer programmer.

Armstrong-Teasdale Law Firm, St. Louis, MO. Developed and executed training and worksite modifications for individual with high-level quadriplegia working in largest legal defense firm in St. Louis. Services included redesign of tasks, identification of adapted software to permit dictation, note-taking, and deposition analysis work for individual formerly employed in mail room prior to recent January 1991 injury. Individual has now been promoted from pre-injury mail room position to that of a data processing clerk through upgrade training in adapted computers and use of a Dragon Dictation system which permits hands-free word-processing.

Fireman's Fund, St. Louis, MO. Developed and executed work-site modifications for truck driver with work-related injuries to left side including complete immobilization of left arm. Modifications included access to equipment for entry and exit from truck, modifications to steering wheel, modification for loading and unloading of asphalt, note-taking and reporting, and increased safety mechanisms to worksite to prevent further injury.

Missouri Bureau for the Blind and Deaconess Hospital, St. Louis, MO. Developed and executed work-site modifications for a medical transcriptionist with blindness. Modifications include training in adapted software packages, development of macros to simplify majority of computer software functions, speech output for screen access, and implementation of over 100 hours of start-up training in WordPerfect, Screen-Reading software. Yearly follow-along training was provided through retirement.

COMPLIANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITY ACT

Completed review, analysis and summary report comparing guidelines for architectural compliance in the Americans with Disabilities Act Access Guidelines under Title III: Design of Public Accommodations and those contained within the Illinois Access Code. Project involved a review of the guidelines for access contained within the Illinois Access Code, and development of a written report and checklist, ***A Comparison of Illinois Accessibility Code and Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA) Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG)*** illustrating differences between the two codes relative to architectural accessibility requirements. Completed Access Audit of St.

Johns Mercy Medical Center to assure architectural compliance with recertification on-site review by the Commission on the Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities.

TEACHING AND TRAINING

A partial listing of workshops and training follows:

Faculty, Assistive Technology and Computer Access, Regional Consortium for Education and Technology. St. Louis, MO. May 1988.

Faculty, Technology and Early Intervention for Persons with Recent Spinal Cord Injuries, St. John's Hospital, St. Louis, MO. June 1989.

Faculty, Assistive Technology and Employment, IL Department of Rehabilitation, Belleville, IL. July 1989.

Faculty, Assistive Technology and Computer Access for Persons with Blindness and Visual Impairment, Goodwill Industries, St. Louis, MO. July 1989.

Faculty, Protocols for Assistive Technology Evaluation, MO TASH, Columbia, MO. October 1989.

Faculty, Assistive Devices for Persons with Dual Sensory Impairment, Indiana School for the Deaf, Indianapolis, IN. November 1989.

Faculty, Assistive Technology and the Recently Severely Injured Person, St. Luke's Hospital, St. Louis, MO. November 1989.

Faculty, Assistive Technology for Newly Head-Injured Individuals, Gaylord Hospital, Wallingford, CT. January 1990.

Faculty, Overview of Assistive Technology, Department of Rehabilitation Services, Hartford, CT. February, 1990.

Faculty, Assistive Technology for Persons with Spinal Cord Injury, Gaylord Hospital, Wallingford, CT. February, 1990.

Faculty, Assistive Technology and Independent Living, Disability Network of Eastern CT, Franklin, CT. April, 1990.

Faculty, Overview of Assistive Technology, The Rehab Center, New Haven, CT. April 1990.

Faculty, Technology for Youth with Dual Sensory Impairments, Helen Keller National Technology Center, Indianapolis, IN. April 1990.

Faculty, Assistive Technology for Independent Living, Independence Northwest, Danbury, CT. May 1990.

Faculty, Focus Group for Persons with Mobility Impairment, CT Rehabilitation Center, Hartford, CT. May, 1990.

Faculty, Assistive Technology for Independent Living, The Center for Independent Living, Hartford, CT. June, 1990.

Faculty, Focus Group for Persons with Blindness, CT Rehabilitation Engineering Center, Hartford, CT. June, 1990.

Faculty, Focus Group for Persons with Deafness, CT Rehabilitation Center, Hartford, CT. June, 1990.

Faculty, Focus Group for Persons with Speech Impairments, CT Rehabilitation Center, Hartford, CT. June, 1990.

Faculty, Overview of Assistive Technology and Employment, The Rehab Center, New Haven, CT. June, 1990.

Faculty, Focus Group for Persons with Traumatic Brain Injury, CT Rehabilitation Center, New Haven, CT. July, 1990.

Faculty, Overview on Assistive Technology and Employment, The Rehab Center, New Haven, CT. August, 1990.

Faculty, Assistive Technology for Persons with Traumatic Brain Injury, The Center for Independent Living, Bridgeport, CT. September 1990.

Faculty, Assistive Technology for Persons with Blindness and Deafness, University of Indiana, Department of Special Education, Terra Haute, IN. January 1991.

Faculty, Americans with Disabilities Act, MO Rehabilitation Association, Kansas City, MO. March 1991.

Faculty, Assistive Technology and Persons with Recent Spinal Cord Injury, St. John's Mercy Medical, St. Louis, Mo. April 1991.

Faculty, Americans with Disabilities Act, MO Rehabilitation Association, Columbia, MO. March 1991.

Faculty, Compliance with Americans with Disability Act, City of Kirkwood, Community Development Office, Kirkwood, MO. April 1991.

Faculty, Overview of Employment and Assistive Technology, MO Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, St. Louis, Mo. April 1991.

Faculty, Assistive Technology and Supported Employment, United Cerebral Associates, St. Louis, MO. April 1991.

Faculty, Worksite Modifications for Workers with Blindness and Visual Impairment, National Industries for the Blind, St. Louis, MO. May 1991.

Faculty, Assistive Technology, Blindness, and Employment, IL Division for the Blind, Chicago, IL. June 1991.

Faculty, Assistive Technology and Sheltered Workers, Lafayette Industries, St. Louis, MO. June 1991.

Faculty, Assistive Technology and Sheltered Workers, Canterbury Enterprises, St. Louis, MO. June 1991.

Faculty, Assistive Technology and Sheltered Workers, Work Activity Center, St. Louis, MO. June 1991.

Faculty, Assistive Technology and Sheltered Workers, ITE Industries, St. Louis, MO. June 1991.

Faculty, Basic Information in Assistive Technology: Train the Trainers Workshop, Sangamon State University, Sangamon, IL, August 27 - 28, 1991.

Exhibitor, Demonstrating Assistive Technology, Three-State Farm Equipment Show, Dalton City, IL. Jointly presented with Agreeability and Breaking New Ground, Purdue University, Indiana. September 23, 1991.

Exhibitor, Disability Awareness Day, Springfield State Capitol Building, Springfield, IL. October 4, 1991.

Faculty, Work Site Accommodations, Small Business Workshop, sponsored by The Department of Rehabilitation Services, Bloomington, IL, October 15, 1991.

Exhibitor, Disability Awareness Fair, Sponsored by the Springfield Internal Revenue Service, October 23, 1991.

Faculty, Basic Assistive Technology Devices and Strategies, State-Wide Municipal Government Conference, - Springfield Convention Center, Springfield, IL. November 11, 1991.

Faculty, Assistive Technology and Sheltered Workers, Community Rehabilitation Center, Quincy, IL. November 13, 1991.

Exhibitor, Special Education Conference, Bloomington, IL. November 18 & 21, 1991.

Faculty, IL State Police Cadets, Sensitivity to Disability Training, Godfrey, IL. November 19, 1991.

Faculty, Introduction to Work-site Modifications, Sangamon County Federal Executives Association - Springfield, IL. November 20, 1991.

Faculty, Applications of Assistive Technology for an Individual with Traumatic Brain Injury, Health South, St. Louis, MO. November 22, 1991.

Technical Assistance, Grant Development for Technology Funding, Office for Disabled Students Services, Southern IL University at Edwardsville, Edwardsville, IL. November 25, 1991.

Exhibitor, Opportunities for Access Independent Living Center Conference, Mount Vernon, IL. December 16, 1991.

Technical Assistance, Planning for Implementation for Augmentative Communication Needs, School District 186, Springfield, IL. December 20, 1991.

Faculty, - Training Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists, Speech Pathologists and Teachers on Development of Assistive Technology Evaluation Teams, Lake County Special Education District, Gurney, IL, January 14, 1992.

Faculty, Funding Technology Devices and Prices in Special Education, Special Education Conference, Northwest Suburban Special Education Organization, Elk Grove High School, Chicago, IL. January 27, 1992.

Exhibitor, TechSplosion Quad City Style, Quad Cities, IA. January 31, & February 1, 1992

Faculty, Services to Employers Available through the Illinois Assistive Technology Project, TechSplosion Quad City Style, Quad Cities, IA. January 31, 1992.

Exhibitor, Lincoln County Health Fair, Lincoln, IL. February 8, 1992.

Faculty, Basic Assistive Technology for the Classroom, Mid-Winter Conference, Urbana Special Education District, Urbana, IL. February 27, 1992.

Exhibitor, Mid-Winter Conference, Urbana Special Education District, Urbana, IL. February 27, 1992.

Exhibitor, Teacher's In-service Day, Wheaton North High School, Wheaton, IL. February 28, 1992.

Faculty, Assistive Technology - Support for Inclusion, Illinois TASH Conference, McCormick Hotel Chicago, March 12, 1992.

Faculty, Assistive Technology - Exploring the Process, ACTT Conference, Macomb Projects, University of IL at Macomb, Macomb, IL. March 16, 1992.

Exhibitor, NICAT Festival of Services, Rockford, IL. March 27, 1992.

Discussant. Daubert Issues in Time-Series Analysis by Christofferson, Susan. International Atlantic Economic Society. Charleston, South Carolina. October 15 - 16, 2000.

Faculty, Allyn Needham, Ph.D., Keith Sofka, ATP, Understanding the Medical Consumer Price Index: How to Appropriately Use the Categories, Entry-Level Definitions, and Subsequent Inflation Rates. American Academy of Economic and Financial Experts, American Academy of Economic and Financial Experts, April 3 - 6, 2002 Las Vegas, Nevada

Faculty, Appropriate Use of Technology in Long-Term Life Care Planning. American Board of Vocational Experts Bi-Annual Conference, March 24-25, 2006. Fort Lauderdale, FL

Faculty, Identifying Needs for Assistive Technology, International Association of Rehabilitation Professionals, Annual Forensic Conference. November 1 - 3, 2008, Las Vegas, NV.

PUBLICATIONS

Caragonne, P. and K.J. Sofka. "The Need to Abandon Quality of Life Assessments in Civil Litigation: Advancement of the Concept of Lost Ability to Perform Usual Functions of Life," Paper presented at *Missouri Valley Economic Association Meeting*, Memphis, TN, March 1996.

Caragonne, Penelope, Ph.D., Sofka, Keith, ATP, Ireland, Thomas R., Ph.D. An Examination of Historical net Discount Rates Relative to Medical Care Costs. *Journal of Legal Economics*. Fall, 2000. 10(2). American Academy of Economic and Financial Experts.

CONTINUED EDUCATION TRAINING

Rehabilitation Engineering Society of North America (RESNA) Annual Conferences. Sensory Aids and Employment for the Blind. Minneapolis, MN. June, 1986.

Drake University, Omaha, Nebraska. Sensory Aids and Employment for the Blind. August, 1987.

Rehabilitation Engineering Society of North America (RESNA) Annual Conference. Switch Selection and Fabrication. Toronto, CANADA. June, 1988.

Rehabilitation Engineering Society of North America (RESNA) Annual Conference. Vocational Applications of Technology. New Orleans, LA. June, 1989.

Rehabilitation Engineering Society of North America (RESNA) Annual Conference. Selection of Environmental Control Units. Washington, D.C. June, 1990.

Rehabilitation Engineering Society of North America Annual Conference. Assistive Technology Credentialing Review Course. Salt Lake City, UT. June 8 - 11, 1996.

4th Annual Life Care Planning Conference. Intellicus/International Academy of Life Care Planners, New Orleans, LA. November 5 - 6, 1999.

Life Care Planning Summit 2000. University of Florida/Intellicus in Association with the National Association of Rehabilitation Professionals in the Private Sector. Dallas, TX. April 12, 2000.

Advanced Forensic Workshop on Life Care Planning. Intellicus/University of Florida. Orlando, FL. March 23 - 24, 2001.

Rehabilitation Engineering Society of Assistive Technology for North America Annual Conference, Atlanta, GA, June 23-25, 2005.

Congress of Life Care Planning. Standards Development. Capital University Law School/Commission on Health Care Certification. March 21 - 24, 2007, Columbus, OH.

TECHNICAL CONSULTANCIES

A partial listing follows of consultancies in rehabilitation technology.

A. G. Edwards, St. Louis, MO.

Belleville Area College, Belleville, IL.

Blue Cross/Blue Shield, St. Louis, MO.

Center for Independence and Access, New Haven, CT.

City of Kirkwood, Kirkwood, MO.

Deaconess Hospital, St. Louis, MO.

Department of Rehabilitation Services, Springfield, IL.

Department of Home Services, Springfield, IL.

Department of Rehabilitation Services, Division of Blind Services, Springfield, IL.

Dierberg's Groceries, St. Louis, MO.

Disability Network of Eastern Connecticut, Franklin, CT.

Eastern Missouri Rehabilitation Advisory Management, St. Louis, MO.

Ellis and Associates, St. Louis, MO.

England and Company, St. Louis, MO.

Fred Sammons, Inc. Chicago, IL.

Gallagher-Bassett, St. Louis, MO.

Goodwill Industries, St. Louis, MO.

Healthsouth, St. Louis, MO.

Helen Keller National Technical Center, Columbus, OH.

Illinois Assistive Technology Project, Springfield, IL.

Indiana Assistive Technology Project, Terra Haute, IN.

Indiana School for the Blind, Indianapolis, IL.

Internal Revenue Services, St. Louis, MO.

JPS Rehabilitation, Belleville, IL.

Missouri Bureau for the Blind, MO

Missouri School for the Blind, St. Louis, MO.

Missouri Pacific Railroad, St. Louis, MO.

Ms. Vanderschmidt's School, St. Louis, MO.

National Industries for the Blind, St. Louis, MO.

Paraquad, St. Louis, MO.

Productive Living Board, St. Louis, MO.

Rehabilitation Engineering Center for Worksite Modification, Wichita, KS.

RehabTech, Washington, D.C.

Sisters of St. Mary Hospital, St. Louis, MO.

Southwestern Bell, St. Louis, MO.

St. Louis Community College System, St. Louis, MO.

St. John's Mercy Medical Center, St. Louis, MO.

Stavros Independent Living Center, Amherst, MA.

The Hartford Insurance Company, St. Louis, MO.

Travelers Insurance Company, St. Louis, MO.

U. S. Post Office, Quincy, IL.

U. S. Defense Mapping Department, St. Louis, MO.

U. S. Army Aviation, St. Louis, MO.

Union Pacific Technologies, St. Louis, MO.

University of Illinois at Edwardsville, Edwardsville, IL.

University of Indiana, Department of Special Education, Terra Haute, IN.

University of Missouri at Kansas City, Dept. of Special Education, Kansas City, MO.

University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT.

Veterans Administration, St. Louis, MO.

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Vocational Rehabilitation Services, Hartford, CT.

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PEER REVIEW

Field-based Peer Reviewer for the National Institute of Disability and Rehabilitation Research, Washington, D.C. 1989-1990.