Effective communication with your DBS counselor

By Robert Sandefur

I joined DBS a few months ago, in order to receive iPad training. My iPad was broken accidently, so I was forced to give up the training. I had my vocational evaluation, and it was determined the due to the lack of Para transit in Okeechobee County, and due to the fact that I didn’t wish to relocate, employment was not an option for me at this time. When I told my counselor of my decision not to seek employment, she was supportive. Jannelle Henry works at the district 10 office. The point here is to make your goals for VR clear to your counselor. You should not be rude or condescending toward your counselor, but your counselor should hear what it is that you want to do. After all, it is your VR plan. If you wish to attend the rehabilitation center, you should express this to your counselor. If you wish to express to your counselor that you want to attend a particular school, then you should do that.

It is normal for people to disagree. If you find yourself and your counselor disagree concerning something in your plan, or be it a certain recommendation your counselor is making, hear your counselor r out. The key to successfully advocating for yourself, is not only speaking, but also effective listening. You never know. In listening to your counselor you may find that he or she is making a point you didn’t think of. However, if you feel your counselor and you have a disagreement, then ask the counselor supervisor to assist you in solving the problem. Jannelle and I never really had any disagreements, and if a question arose, I’d ask her, and nine times out of ten, she would get back to me with in five to ten minutes. There were times she wouldn’t get back to me until the next day. Try to be patient with your counselor as you’re not the only client your counselor has.

In conclusion, remember to make your goals clear to your counselor, and second, be an effective listener. This will not only assist you in dealing with DBS, but these tips will also assist you on the job.