**Alice Hunnicutt**

Alice Hunnicutt has served as the State Director of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services in the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development since the fall of 2010. She has worked in the field of disability advocacy for years. She is the founding board president of the Statewide Parent Advocacy Network (SPAN), New Jersey’s federally funded parent training information center, and she spent 17 years on staff there as its transition project director. She is very excited to direct DVRS and feels that every individual with a disability in New Jersey has the right to seek employment and the services needed to be successful.

Under her watch the DVRS has been able to reestablish chief, manager, supervisory, and counseling positions in order to meet the needs of individuals with disabilities seeking employment. The DVRS has recently identified Employment First (EF) as a strategy to increase individuals with significant disabilities into competitive integrated employment and has identified students with intellectual disabilities in transition as a priority within the EF strategy. She is looking forward to further collaborations with state agencies to identify policy initiatives that will promote appropriate access for individuals of all abilities who seek employment.

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) reauthorization signaled major changes to the public VR program. Alice established a Business Outreach Team that works with New Jersey’s businesses across the state to provide opportunities for onboarding qualified candidates with disabilities to meet business needs. She also assigned counselors to coordinate pre-employment transition services in every office to meet the new requirements in WIOA for services to students with disabilities. She has developed partnerships with the Centers for Independent Living as well as other providers to meet the needs of students with disabilities.

Alice is also a member of the executive committee of the Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR) and serves as the chairperson of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing national committee.