

PARTNERING WITH VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

BEST PRACTICES FOR PARTNERING

- ◉ Develop and maintain good working relationships. Avoid “poisoning the well” but also develop polite persistence.



BEST PRACTICES FOR PARTNERING

- Offer to help with things they need!



BEST PRACTICES FOR PARTNERING

- If you are working with a new VRC or VR office who is unfamiliar with IPS, you don't have to go it alone.
- OSECE can present at a VR staff meeting or join a joint meeting with the VRC and IPS program to provide training.
- IPS Employment Center has online training for VRCs!
 - <https://ipsworks.org/index.php/training-courses/>
- Vocational Rehabilitation Discussion Group video
 - <https://ipsworks.org/index.php/video-library/>

BEST PRACTICES FOR PARTNERING

- How do you best partner with your VR office?
What is working well?



VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION PROCESS

Intake & Application

Eligibility Determination

Individualized Plan for Employment

Employment Offer Accepted

Job Stabilization/Closure of the VR file

HESITANCY AROUND VR SERVICES

- Problem: People don't want to add more to their plate than they absolutely need to.

Employment Specialist

Therapist

Case Manager

Peer Specialist

Therapy Groups

Prescriber/ Doctor

Refill/ Pick up meds



Food Stamp Worker

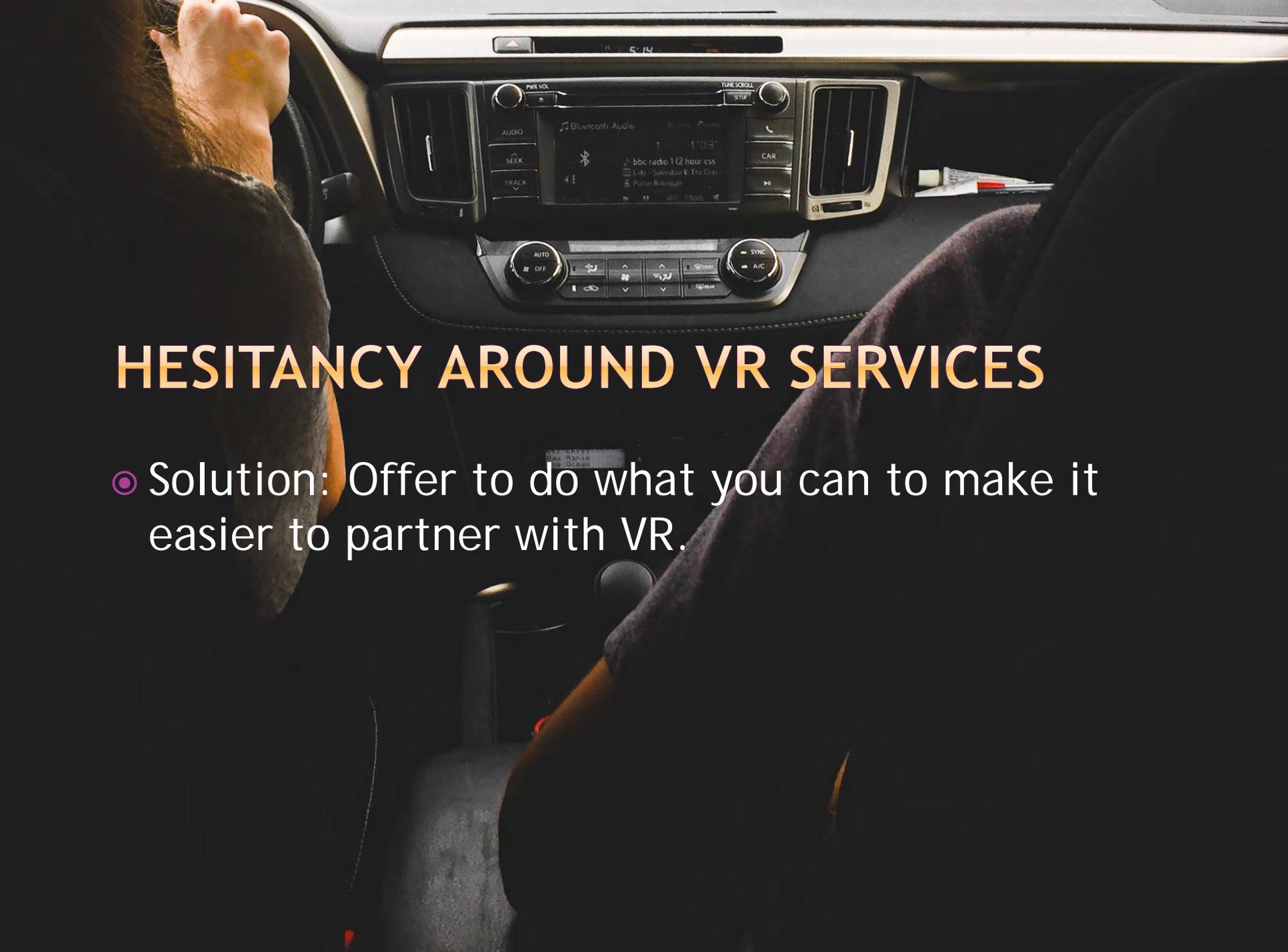
Housing Worker

Probation Officer

Public Assistance
Worker

A&D Support Groups

Social Security
deadlines and visits



HESITANCY AROUND VR SERVICES

- Solution: Offer to do what you can to make it easier to partner with VR.

HESITANCY AROUND VR SERVICES

- Problem: Some people have had negative experiences with VR in the past.

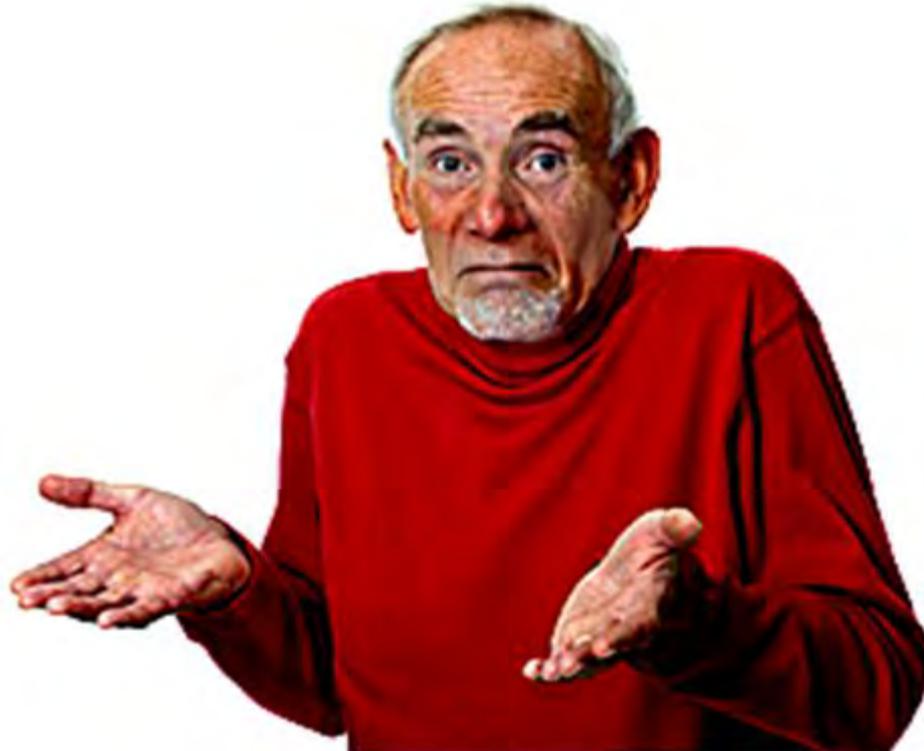


HESITANCY AROUND VR SERVICES

- ◉ Solution: First find out what happened. Then provide reassurance.
- ◉ VR no longer deems people “not competitively employable” .
- ◉ They have a special partnership with the IPS programs where things can happen more quickly.
- ◉ They won't have to wait for assistance with seeking a job because they have IPS services!
- ◉ Remind them that you will also be there to advocate for them along the way, provide reminders, help with paperwork, etc.
- ◉ Their services will still primarily be from the IPS program rather than VR.

HESITANCY AROUND VR SERVICES

- Problem: “Why do I need VR if I have IPS services?”



HESITANCY AROUND VR SERVICES

- Solution: Offer examples of ways that VR has helped some of your job seekers in the past (*without promising they will get exactly the same services, of course.*)



THINGS TO REMEMBER



- ◉ Just as you have fidelity requirements to meet, VR has federal rules to comply with and also get audited.
- ◉ Due to this, their rules are sometimes different from ours and they can't support every situation.

ADDITIONAL TIPS

- ◉ Communication
- ◉ Problem-solving
- ◉ Partnering
- ◉ Education
- ◉ Documentation



ADDITIONAL TIPS

- What tips do you have for your fellow IPS colleagues?

