



DHS helps woman with disability find employment

Francine Hanes of Eugene worked as a cook for 15 years, until hip replacement surgery to treat a congenital condition ended her career in the kitchen.

“If someone walks by me, they’d never know that I have a disability,” she says.



Francine Hanes, OVRS

Through the DHS Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (OVRS) and the HIRE (Hiring Individuals Ready for Employment) program, she’s now a member of the department’s management team.

Francine’s voc-rehab counselor got her into computer classes — she barely knew how to turn one on — and helped her figure out what kinds of jobs she might be suited for. Through the HIRE program, she applied for and got an entry-level position as a human services assistant with OVRS.

After three years, she was hired as the OVRS office manager for the southern region, which includes offices in Eugene, Roseburg, Coos Bay, Grants Pass, Medford, Gold Beach and Klamath Falls. She is also the “business expert” for the region and the OVRS liaison with DHS Administrative Services. And she’s part of a team of three office managers who cover the business needs for OVRS offices statewide.

Her workplace has made a few ergonomic accommodations because of her invisible disability. But the biggest help her counselors provided was in learning how to correctly fill out the state’s “intimidating” PD100 job application.

“I’m very fortunate,” Francine says, “and I have nothing but great things to say about HIRE.”