

**Deborah J. Falk-Palec, MS, CRC, LPC**  
**Wauwatosa**

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**Benefits To Work. LLC**

May 2017 – Present

***Owner/Benefits Specialist*** - Analyze all Federal, State and County benefits, entitlements and subsidies received by individuals with disabilities for the impact of work on such programs. Assist individuals in utilizing work incentive provisions.

**Curative Care Network, Milwaukee, WI**

November 1991 – May 2017

***Benefits Specialist*** (1999 - 2017) – Analyze all Federal, State and County benefits, entitlements and subsidies received by individuals with disabilities for the impact of work on such programs. Assist individuals in utilizing work incentive provisions. Provide benefits counseling services in Social Security's Benefit Offset National Demonstration (BOND) research project.

***Family Care Case Manager*** (2005 – 2014) – Provided case management services to individuals with disabilities participating in Milwaukee County's Family Care Program.

***Health and Employment Counseling Program Regional Screener*** (2001 – 2010) – Developed employment plans with individuals with disabilities for participation in the Medicaid Purchase Plan. Assessed employment barriers, provided benefits counseling services and developed plans to address employment barriers.

***Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor***

Spinal Cord Injury Center, Froedtert Hospital (1991-2005) – Evaluated inpatients and outpatients to establish vocational rehabilitation plans. Provided vocational counseling, assessment and job site analysis services.

***Vocational Evaluator II*** (1991-1999) – Completed vocational evaluations. Conducted on-site job analyses. Provided vocational rehabilitation services as a member of the Work Hardening Program. Coordinated return to work with patients, employers, medical professionals and insurers.

**The Shores/Northwest Rehabilitation Center/Lakefront Center,  
Milwaukee, WI**

***Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor*** (1989-1991) - Provided vocational assessments for individuals with brain injuries. Conducted job analyses, job placement and job coaching services.

**New Medico Rehabilitation Center, Waterford, WI**

***Personal Adjustment Counselor*** (1988-1989) – Provided counseling services in individual and group sessions for individuals with brain injuries.

**EDUCATION**

Master of Science in Rehabilitation Psychology  
University of Wisconsin – Madison, August 1988

Bachelor of Science in Rehabilitation Psychology  
University of Wisconsin – Madison, May 1987

**PROFESSIONAL PUBLICATIONS**

Sanford, P., Falk-Palec, D., Spears, K., *“Return to School After Spinal Cord Injury”*,  
Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, August 1999.

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

Wisconsin Benefits Specialist Association, Member (2010 – Present)

Milwaukee County Commission for Persons with Disabilities  
-Commissioner ( 2006 – Present)  
-Commission Chairperson ( 2011 – Present)

**CERTIFICATIONS**

Certified Rehabilitation Counselor, October 1988 – Present  
Commission of Rehabilitation Counselor Certification, Rolling Meadows, IL

Licensed Professional Counselor, November 2002 – Present  
State of Wisconsin, Department of Regulation and Licensing