



Awilda Danko Named Director Disability Adjudications Services

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May 30, 2013- Greg Schmieg, Executive Director for Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency, announces the selection of Awilda Danko as the Director of the Georgia Disability Adjudication Services (DAS). "DAS directly impacts countless Georgians, and we are delighted that Awilda Danko will be the next Director," said Schmieg.

With over forty years of cumulative experience in the field, Awilda understands the complexity of the program and is prepared to make an immediate impact on the program. When asked about her new role, Danko replied, "This is the only thing I can see myself doing." Prior to her selection, Mrs. Danko was the Deputy Director of Operations and had served as Interim Director on two occasions.

The Georgia Disability Adjudication Services (DAS) is a state agency that makes Social Security disability determinations under an agreement with SSA. The DAS is fully federally funded. The main Georgia DAS office is in Stone Mountain with branch offices located in Athens, Dalton, Thomasville and Savannah. In FY 2013, DAS had an operating budget in excess of \$55 million dollars.

About the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency

The Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency operates five integrated and interdependent statutory programs that share a primary goal - to help people with disabilities to become fully productive members of society by achieving independence and meaningful employment. The largest of the programs are Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Program, Disability Adjudication Services, and the Roosevelt Warm Springs Institute for Rehabilitation. Two other unique programs serve consumers with visual impairments: the Business Enterprise Program and Georgia Industries for the Blind.

To learn more about GVRA and its efforts to maximize employment opportunities and independence for Georgians with disabilities, visit www.gvra.georgia.gov.