

Wallis, Keri

From: Lori James <lfjaws@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 13, 2012 9:39 AM
To: Office State Actuary, WA
Subject: High Risk Job Re-classification

My name is Lorraine James and I have worked on the front lines with dangerous residents at both Maple Lane and Green Hill School for 17 + years. My job title is Juvenile Rehabilitation Residential Counselor.

- I am subjected **daily** to threats of physical violence verbal abuse.
- I am required to carry handcuffs as well as protection from **blood, spit, urine, feces and semen.**
- I supervise anywhere from 10 to 16 residents **by myself.** They include gang members, youth with **severe mental health** issues, and most have histories of **violent behavior.**
- I have witnessed many assaults on both staff and residents, sometimes **daily.**
- **There is a huge toll that comes with constantly being hyper-vigilante for dangerous situations.** I am currently under a physician's care for hypertension, insomnia, anxiety, and bruxism which required surgery.

Every day I experience the feelings of dread that come with being in potentially dangerous situations. Hearing feet scuffle, yelling, all precursors to assaults which brings feelings of panic and **constant stress.**

I am nearing 58 years of age. I cannot physically restrain a strong, out of control resident. It is not fair to my younger able-bodied co-workers to have to "pick up the slack" of older staff who frequently become injured during a restraint. We are required to attend yearly training on "Dealing With Resistive Youth". The training itself is very rigorous and has resulted in many injuries. Each training becomes more difficult to pass

I cannot do this until age 65. I don't know if I can do this until age sixty. This is a job that the

employee **WILL** age out of physically in addition to suffering the results of constant stress. If I could transfer to another agency, I would gladly go, however my age works against me in that I am seen as someone who is nearing retirement age and therefore it would not be wise to invest a lot of time and training into a person who won't be around long.

I would like to be able to end my career with JRA with dignity and pride in a job well done, **not out on disability.**

Thank you,
Lorraine James
Green Hill School
360-740-3421