

THE WORK SHEET

Employment happenings in
Utah for our peeps.

Volume 1 Issue 1
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SURVEY SAYS: BEST AND WORST OF THE EMPLOYMENT PARTNERSHIP

The Employment Partnership surveyed its members to find out what they liked and didn't like about the group and its meetings.

Most attendees go to each meeting. Some thought the meetings were too long and other said they were too short.

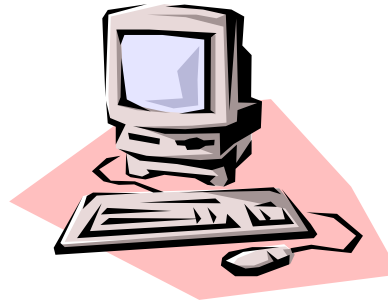
The benefits to attending were sharing information and networking. The wide representation of members and opportunities to collaborate on projects that benefited both consumers and multiple organizations were seen as strengths of the group.

The members shared their ideas for improving employment related outcomes in-

cluding working on specific projects; figuring out how to measure the impact on employment; increasing involvement from consumers and the private sector; and working on transportation and economic development issues.

Where did people want to focus in the future?

- * Disseminate knowledge from meetings
- * Get consumers involved
- * Educate on skills needed for employment and impact of wages on benefits
- * Help consumers see importance of work
- * Streamline the agency



Online survey shows many needs and ideas.

- processes
 - * Improve accessible transportation
 - * Increase the number of employment networks
 - * Host training events, webinars, make videos
- To find out more, join the next meeting.

MENTAL HEALTH BLOCK GRANT

The Utah Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health (DSAMH) administers the Mental Health Block Grant (MHBG) which provides funding to local Community Mental Health Centers. Local Clubhouses are one type of organization

that receives funding from the MHBG. The Clubhouses offer mental health rehabilitation and focus on skill-building to help individuals prepare for work.

The Division is working to develop a supported em-

ployment model and peer support services. For more details on how the \$2.9 million is spent, and what services are available call Robert at DSAMH at (801) 538-3939.

December Highlights

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Special points of interest:

- Got a story to tell or an event to share? Email Carol and let everyone know.
- Join us for the next meeting on January 7, 2010 at DSBVI, 2:30pm.
- Tell Carol what you think about the new newsletter.
- Want the attachments from the meeting? Email Carol.

Employment Partnership

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The Employment Partnership results in agencies collaborating and coordinating their policies, resources, services, and training to more effectively serve individuals with disabilities to achieve

CUSTOMIZED EMPLOYMENT: A PILOT PROJECT

At a time when budgets are tight, DSPD and USOR are being creative. Looking for cost-neutral ways to promote integrated employment is a challenge, but DSPD and USOR plan to look for those opportunities. Watch for more to come as discussion and planning occur to explore increasing integrated community employment using a Customized Employment model. With new dollars scarce to non-existent, this effort will ensure continued use of VR Supported Employment funds, while remaining cost-neutral for DSPD.

DSPD has been studying "employment first" initiatives across the country as it works to develop a Customized Employment model. This model places a

greater emphasis on community-based employment.

Fifteen other states now use a customized plans to help their clients who wish to, move from day programs to integrated employment. Many more states have proclaimed 'employment first' as their priority.

While new ideas or change can seem threatening, that's certainly not the intent. DSPD will be transparent as it proceeds. Watch for more on this.

If you have questions or want to learn more, contact Tricia Jones-Parkin at tjones@utah.gov.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION: GETTING READY

The Legislative Coalition for People with Disabilities (LCPD) is busy getting ready for the next Legislative Session. Senator Dan Liljenquist will be at the next Coalition meeting on January 7, 2010 from 12:30 to 2:00 pm. The meeting will be held at the Division of Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired (DSBVI).

The LCPD is active in advocating for people with disabilities and helping shape public policy for services in Utah. They provide fact sheets with details about past legislative sessions and how bills might impact services for people

with disabilities.

The Coalition also provides information about how to effectively advocate during the legislative session.

If you are ready to get involved in improving services and policies, you might be interested in attending the meeting and learning more about the Coalition. To learn more, contact Kris Fawson at kfawson@q.com

"Citizens working together to improve public policy."

UPDATES AND UPCOMING EVENTS: WHAT'S HAPPENING

- * Need an orientation for beneficiaries of SSA? Contact Esther at Social Security, esther.molina@ssa.gov.
- * Want to create a welcoming atmosphere for people with disabilities in faith-based communities? Contact the Center for Persons with Disabilities, mhammond@cpd2.usu.edu.
- * Catch the final film in the "Loud & Clear" series, "So Much So Fast", De-

cember 16th at the Utah Museum of Fine Arts. Details at the Disability Law Center, www.disabilitylawcenter.org.

- * Youth and young adults are invited to "Wishes & Wii" to meet their peers and share their wishes and hopes for the new year. Details at the Becoming Leaders for Tomorrow Project, <http://blt.cpd.usu.edu/>.
- * Social Security Rep Payee training is

EMPLOYMENT PARTNERSHIP MEMBERS: In case you wondered...

- Individuals with disabilities
- Parents and Advocates
- Utah State Office of Rehabilitation
- USOR Employer Relations
- USOR Benefits Planning
- Department of Workforce Services
- Utah State Office of Education, Special Education
- Division of Services for People with Disabilities
- Division of Medicaid and Health Financing
- Utah Independent Living Council
- Division of Substance Abuse & Mental Health
- Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind
- Division of Community and Family Health Services
- Utah Parent Center
- Governor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities
- Utah Association of Community Services
- UBET/Chamber of Commerce
- Governor's Office of Economic Development
- Utah Developmental Disabilities Council
- USU Center for Persons with Disabilities
- Legislative Coalition for People with Disabilities
- Becoming Leaders for Tomorrow
- Work Ability Utah

scheduled in Ogden on January 13, 2010 and in Salt Lake on February 10, 2010. RSVP to Liz at ecerna@utah.gov or 801-887-9529.

- * Next Employment Partnership meeting on Thursday, January 7, 2010 at 2:30 pm at the Division of Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired, 250 N 1950 W, in Salt Lake City. Attend LCPD first, then join the Partnership.