UTAH HEALTH EXCHANGE: LOCAL HEALTH SYSTEM REFORM

The Utah Health Exchange connects consumers to information about health insurance providing more choices. Employers make a defined contribution for employees. For employers who participate, the employees would be able to see health insurance plan choices within the exchange and choose one that would meet the employee’s needs. Portability of the employee’s insurance would be allowed as employees change jobs when both employers participate in the Exchange. While small business employers with up to 50 employees are currently eligible to participate, future expansion is planned. The August limited launch provided information that will be used to enroll more employers and improve the Exchange. To learn more: http://exchange.utah.gov/.

PWDNET: JOBS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

PWDNET continues to grow! More businesses join and receive training each month. They use the PWDNET keyword to tag job postings through the Department of Workforce Services’ main listing where they can be sorted, making it easier for employers to promote jobs and easier for job seekers to find employers that are committed to hiring people with disabilities. The postings can be found on the DWS, USOR and Work Ability Utah sites. PWDNET also shares postings by email with their contacts. Last quarter, there were over 200 jobs emailed for posting. Links to PWDNET are on many sites like:

- Employment Partnership
- Utah Developmental Disabilities Council
- Governor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities
- Utah Association of Community Services
- Governor's Office of Economic Development
- Utah Developmental Disabilities Council
- USOR Center for Persons with Disabilities
- Legislative Coalition for People with Disabilities
- Becoming Leaders for Tomorrow
- Work Ability Utah

TRANSITION ACTION GUIDE: ON THE WEB

Through hard work by the members of the Employment Partnership, the Transition Action Guide, is now available on the web. Always a work in progress, TAG provides helpful information about the roles and responsibilities of the students, parents, teachers, VR counselors, DSPD Support Coordinators and other providers in the transition process. Color-coded sections provide useful reminders about how to prepare for IEP meetings, considerations for jobs or college, and where to go for more. Additional resources are needed and can be sent to the Employment Partnership. Ongoing updates will be available for teachers, students and parents on the web on partner sites like:

- http://blt.cpd.usu.edu/

UPDATES AND UPCOMING EVENTS:

- The Legislative Session starts January 25. Watch for updates and news.
- Work Ability Utah and USOR will have a booth at the Outdoor Retailers Association Winter Market January 21-24, 2010 to promote employment for people with disabilities to 850 businesses.
- Progress is being made on increasing employment through Ticket To Work and other services with Community Mental Health Centers.
- The Becoming Leaders for Tomorrow Project will have an Advisory Committee Meeting January 20, 2010 and an event for youth/young adults on January 29, 2010. For details, and locations, see: http://blt.cpd.usu.edu/.
- Pioneer Adult Rehabilitation Center (PARC) is exploring setting up an Employment Network with a national retailer. Watch for more!
- Roller Derby Night, hosted by the Utah Parent Center, will be on February 6, 2010 to benefit the Family Links conference. For details, see: www.utahparentcenter.org.