

THE WORK SHEET

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

Employment happenings in Utah for our peeps.

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 em-

ployers 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/>.

"Health care should no longer be a back-burner issue."

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

In related news, USOR has hired 4 On the Job Training Specialists. Both DWS and USOR provide OJT to people seeking careers this way.

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 prep for IEP meetings, considerations for jobs or college, and where to go for more. Additional resources are needed and can be sent to the Em-

ployment Partnership. Ongoing updates will be available for teachers, students and parents on the web on partner sites like: <http://blt.cpd.usu.edu/> or <http://www.schools.utah.gov/sars/manualsglines/pdfs/transguide.pdf>

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

Employment Partnership

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UPDATES AND UPCOMING EVENTS:

- * The Legislative Session starts January 25. Watch for updates and news.
- * Progress is being made on increasing employment through Ticket To Work and other services with Community Mental Health Centers.
- * Pioneer Adult Rehabilitation Center (PARC) is exploring setting up an Employment Network with a national retailer. Watch for more!
- * The Wasatch Front Regional Council will share the transportation report on January 21, 2010 See: www.wfrc.org.
- * 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
- * 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/>.
- * 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/.