The Wasatch Front Regional Council is a partner in the Wasatch Front Mobility Management Project studying transportation issues that affect consumers including people with disabilities. Problems, such as lack of information about services and services not going where people need them to go, have been identified. Some local programs are coordinating to share resources through contracts and vouchers. Suggested strategies to improve coordination of efforts include having regional brokers and call centers. Regional Coordinating Councils are being formed, with the first meeting on March 2, 2010, to explore suggestions and implement solutions to improve transportation options. For more details, visit http://www.wfrc.org/.

A new national marketing campaign, Think Beyond the Label, launched the first week of February. The campaign, a collaboration of Medicaid Infrastructure Grants, takes a humorous look at a serious issue, labeling employees. Businesses can use the internet site to find local resources to help in hiring people with disabilities. Internet, print, and television ads will be part of the campaign. Once you register, you can send eCards and share success stories about hiring people with disabilities.

The Utah State Office of Rehabilitation (USOR) presented the results of an economic impact study that noted a $5.56 return on every $1 invested in Vocational Rehabilitation. Putting people to work is a sound investment, the report indicated. In other news, Representative Mascaro is sponsoring House Bill 17, Amendments to Programs for People with Disabilities, that would allow a process to appoint qualified people with disabilities to open State jobs, a change from the current and longer hiring process. Legislators are working on other bills to deal with budget shortfalls due to the economy. To find more bills or contact a legislator, visit www.le.utah.gov.

Representative Payee SSI Training continues with the March 18th session in Cedar City. RSVP to 801-887-9529.

USOR will host an Employer Workshop on March 9, 2010. For details, see: www.usor.utah.gov.

Work Ability will host a Job Fair on April 13, 2010. For details, see: www.workabilityutah.org.

The Becoming Leaders for Tomorrow Project will have an event for youth/young adults on February 24, 2010. For details, see: http://blt.cpd.usu.edu/.

The Family Links Conference, hosted by the Utah Parent Center, will be on March 19-20, 2010. For details, see: www.utahparentcenter.org.

Utah Career Days for students will be on April 14-15, 2010. For details, see: www.workabilityutah.org.