ON THE JOB TRAINING: USOR MAKING PLACEMENTS

With 119 placements so far, from October to April, the Utah State Office of Rehabilitation is well on track to close more on-the-job cases in fiscal year 2010 (ending October) than in the past 4 years combined. The number of closures ranges from 14 to 48 per year. Federal stimulus funds, from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, were used to hire four new OJT specialists who help Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) clients get training. VR is looking for new ways to let people know about this opportunity. VR clients are encouraged to contact their VR counselor and ask if they are eligible to participate. Employers may also benefit from the Work Opportunity Tax Credit and Targeted Tax Credit when they train and hire people with disabilities.

SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT

The Division of Services for People With Disabilities (DSPD) received $150,000 in one-time funding for supported employment starting July 1, 2010. The funds are a result of a bill sponsored by Representative Rhonda Menlove.

The partners in this project are the Utah State Office of Rehabilitation and DSPD. Community service brokers will help run the project due to staff losses at DSPD. Families are encouraged to be active partners in helping make the project a success for the employees. Individuals are encouraged to contact their DSPD worker or community service broker to find out more and possibly benefit from this project.

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 goals.

AsAP STARTS

The Alternative State Application Program (ASAP) started May 11 and allows for appointing qualified persons with disabilities to open, hard-to-fill state jobs. Human resources personnel are being trained and the program will expand over time.

BRIEF UPDATES

Options for buying out of Medicaid are being discussed at legislative interim committee meetings.

Utah’s Health Exchange is now including four large employers including RC Willey Home Furnishings. The Exchange offers more insurance options for businesses.

The Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health applied for a Mental Health Transformation Grant that would focus on employment issues in partnership with VR. This opportunity is well on track to close.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- The Primary Care Network is open from May 10-24 and provides insurance for families with a dependent child under 19 living at home. Find out more or apply at http://health.utah.gov/pcn.
- Health Care and Working May 19. RSVP to Liz at 801-887-9529.
- USOR & Work Ability Utah Health Care and Working webinars. Part 2: Medicare and More May 19, 3:00 p.m., RSVP: 801-887-9529.
- Utah Assistive Technology Foundation’s Business Planning Webinars May 19 & 26, 2010, 3:00 p.m., contact: lois.summers@usu.edu, 435-797-2025, toll free 800-524-5152.
- Utah Center for Assistive Technology Open House for Business Leaders, June 4. Call 801-887-9380.
- The Utah Parent Center has more upcoming events. Visit www.utahparentcenter.org.
- Got an event for the Work Sheet? Email Carol Ruddell.