



THE WORK SHEET

Employment happenings in Utah for our peeps.

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.

THE BIG CHILL

The weather outside is frightful . . . well, not yet, but surely it will be before too long. Sue Kolthoff from the State Energy Assistance & Lifeline Programs (SEAL) spoke about the various programs they administer to serve people with disabilities, the elderly and families with children under age 6 who are at 150% of poverty level. Programs include Low

Income Heating Energy Assistance Program, Utah Telephone Assistance Program, Home Electric Lifeline Program, Energy Assistance Fund and Utility Shut Off. In FY2011, 48,000 Utah households received assistance. Funding comes from Health and Human Services and they anticipate a cut between 25 and 50% for the coming year.

Local offices (through the Association of Governments) can be found online at <http://housing.utah.gov/seal/> Call ahead to verify hours they are open. Two of the programs are open year round for applications; St. George and Weber. All offices are accepting appointments in December when available. Otherwise there is a wait list for January.

BRIEF UPDATES

Employment updates Tricia Jones-Parkin attended the Employment First and the Alliance for Full Participation summits. Interesting nuggets included that Washington state's program shows an 87% employment rate among people in any service and Tim Shriver's talk which shared that communities with strong Special Olympic programs show higher rates of employment among people with disabilities.

DSPD Remind families **ON** the wait list they **MUST** respond to the wait list questionnaire yearly or they could be removed from the wait list.

Benefits Planning There is a 3.6% cost of living increase for Social Security recipients. Look at the 2012 Fact Sheet for Social Security that Alison sent.

Transition Strategic Planning Committee Susan reports USOE is committed to long

term planning for high school students to adult services and living. They would like to be proactive in meeting students' transition needs

PWDNET and other job postings are available to VR counselors via an intranet site.

UPCOMING LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Kris shared a Guide for the State Legislative Webpage, the 10 minute Advocate and a power point about the caucus process from the Utah Education Association. Caucuses are historically very powerful in the decisions made in Utah. The Republican caucus meets 3/13 and the Democratic caucus

meets 3/15. Consider expanding your current role by becoming a delegate. It is an election so take your friends and family to support you! Also, take a look at the report from the Governor's Realignment Committee. <http://performance.utah.gov/optimization.shtml>

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
- Bureau of Children with Special Health Care Needs
- Easter Seals
- 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
- State Energy Assistance and Lifeline Programs
- Work Ability Utah

UPCOMING EVENTS

- * **1/5**—Davis District Agency Fair
- * **1/13**—Transition to Adult Life Expert Panel, Utah Parent Center
- * **2/2**—LCPD Legislative Reception 4:30 p.m.
- * **3/13**—Employer Workshop, Leah and Sharon
- * **4/10**—Job Fair, Leah and Sharon
- * **4/11**—Wasatch Front Agency Fair at Murray High School
- * **4/17**—Family Links **Spanish Only**—Utah Parent Center
- * **4/19-20** - Statewide Transition Conference, Davis Conference Center, Susan
- * Got an event or announcement? Email Carol Ruddell. Check the Work Ability Utah website calendar for details about these and more events, www.workabilityutah.org.
- * Next Employment Partnership meeting, January 5, 2012 from **2-4 p.m.**

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