



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.

EMPLOYMENT-RELATED PERSONAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES (EPAS)

Patricia Wilkinson from Medicaid Long Term Care spoke about personal assistance services available to employed individuals with disabilities, to support their maintaining employment. To qualify for this program the individual must be Medicaid eligible, earning at least minimum

wage and they must work 10 hours a week or 40 hours a month. EPAS typically occurs in home but can be used in the community and workplace. Individuals using EPAS hire their own assistants (cannot be a legal guardian or spouse). Currently 60 individuals are utilizing EPAS.

THERE IS NO WAITING LIST!!

Information and application available at <http://www.workabilityutah.org/healthcare/epas.php>

For additional questions about the program contact Patricia at (801) 538-6944 or pwilkinson@utah.gov

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
Work Ability Utah

THE IMPENDING LEGISLATIVE SESSION

NOW is the time to contact and /or meet with your legislators. Invite them to the LCPD Reception on February 2, especially if you plan to attend. There will be a "history of disabilities" display at the reception. Kris has spoken with the Governor's office

and seems cautiously optimistic with regard to the Realignment Report. With respect to the budget the legislature works independent of the Governor's budget proposal which is already available. The Autism Coalition is looking at a bill addressing insur-

ance coverage. Several legislators have resigned in advance of the session. The delegates from last year will be selecting the new legislators. For redistricting information go to <http://www.redistrictutah.com>

Caucus dates **Republican 3/13, Democratic 3/15**

amend her Employment First bill to include mental health.

Robert Snarr (DSAMH) says Housing First, Employment Next is the theme for the three SLCounty housing programs.

Sharon (USOR) spoke to the new programs providing federal tax credits for employing veterans

Leslee (Gov's Committee) is working with DHRM at the State to help them become a "disability friendly employer".

Leah (USOR) will present at the Utah Diversity Connections about hiring and training individuals with disabilities.

Ronda Menlove plans to

UPDATES

Work Ability Utah Self Employment Work Group continues to have success with verbiage changes within policies in state agencies.

TSA has opened a helpline for travelers with disabilities and medical conditions. For details call 1-855-787-2227

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS:

- * **2/2—LCPD LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION 4:30 p.m.** Plan to attend
- * 3/13—Employer Workshop, Leah and Sharon
- * 3/22-23—Mini Transition Conference, Utah Parent Center
- * 4/10—Work Ability Career Preparation and Job Fair, Leah and Sharon
- * 4/11 Wasatch Front Agency Fair at Murray High School
- * 4/17—The Great Utah Shake Out at www.shakeout.org/utah
- * 4/19-20 Statewide Transition Conference, Davis Conference Center, Susan Loving
- * 4/21—Family Links—Spanish Only—Utah Parent Center
- * 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, March 1, 2012.**

Employment Partnership Facilitator: Carol Ruddell
Recorder: Carol Ruddell
Newsletter: Lynn Foxx Pease
Email Carol for meeting minutes and attachments: cruddell@utah.gov.
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