



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.

SUBMINIMUM WAGE EXPLORATION

The National Council on Disability recommended phasing out the subminimum wage. To be proactive and understand how the possible phase-out might affect Utah, the Employment Partnership continued discussions of the issue. The group found that there might be both ad-

vantages and disadvantages that might result from such a change in Utah.

As the discussions continue, the Employment Partnership is interested in hearing more comments from families, businesses, and other organizations that might be affected. As the group supports op-

tions in fair employment for people with disabilities, they plan to provide a balanced perspective of the impact of the potential change on people with disabilities and their families. Your input will provide valuable information to be considered if future decisions are necessary.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

The 2013 Legislative Session will begin soon. With no new funds allocated from the Executive Appropriations Committee, all committees will start with flat funding.

With the potential for decreased funds from the federal government, normal

growth in the population, and a continued strained economy, agencies that serve people with disabilities may have challenges meeting current and near-future needs.

As newly-elected legislators begin their terms, families have the opportunity to meet

these legislators and share their stories about their challenges and the services that have made a difference in their lives. Families can build relationships that can be valuable when they are ready to share their ideas about any potential or current legislation.

BRIEF UPDATES

* Graduation rates for Utah are up, as reported by the Utah State Office of Education. Indicator 13 (Transition Services) moved to "Meets Requirements".

* The Medicaid Technology Dependent Waiver, for children from birth to age

20, is up for renewal. One change is that prior authorization will be replaced by using the Plan of Care. See details at the website: <http://www.health.utah.gov/ltc/>

* The potential Medicaid Expansion would provide

some additional funding for three years that would help with the anticipated growth in needed mental health services.

* Changes to Social Security and Medicare are anticipated for 2013. The SSI Federal Benefit Rate is \$710 (single).

UPCOMING EVENTS

* Davis Transition Fair, January 10th at the Davis Applied Technology College.

* Utah Parent Center Mini Transition Conference January 28-29, 2013 in Davis School District. For additional conference dates visit utahparentcenter.org.

* LCPD meeting on February

4, 2013 in the Beehive Room of the Senate Building.

* LCPD Legislative Reception, February 7th at 4:30 pm at the State Capitol. The Employment Partnership meeting for February has been cancelled and members are encouraged to attend the Reception.

* The Family Links Conference will be held in the Salt Lake

area on March 8-9, 2012.

* Employer Workshop March 12, 2013.

* Work Ability Career Exploration and Job Fair, April 2nd.

* Employer Workshop September 10, 2013.

* Work Ability Career Exploration and Job Fair, October 8, 2013.

* Next Employment Partnership Meeting on March 7, 2013 at the Judy Buffmire Building with an update from Pathways and Ken Naegle.

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

**Employment Partnership Facilitators: Carol Ruddell
Newsletter: Al Romeo
Email Carol for meeting minutes and attachments:**

RSVP Today to attend the LCPD Legislative Reception 2/7. Email trouse@usilc.org.