The Joys and Pains of Working with a Disability

Developmental Disability Administration Advocacy Specialist Team

November 7, 2019
Developmental Disabilities Administration
Welcome
Objectives

- Employment today
- Navigating Challenges
- Managing stressors of the employment process
- Personal experiences working
- Resources
Developmental Disabilities Administration

Employment Today
People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities are:

• Obtaining Integrated or Competitive Employment
• Working in communities
• Developing more skills
• Making money
What has changed?

- Better business practices
- Quality of training
- Identification of Resources
- Development of Benchmarks and Outcomes
- Public Access on progress
Employment Today

Benefits

• Most people with disabilities said they like integrated or competitive employment better than being in a segregated or sheltered workshop

• Employers are learning about what great employees' people with disabilities can be!
Did you know that....

Maryland is an Employment First State!

The guiding principle of Employment First is that all people who want to work can work and contribute to their community when given opportunity, training, and supports that build upon their unique talents, skills and abilities.
Did you know that….

• The Special Options Eligible List (SOEL) allows for people with disabilities to be placed on the certified eligible list without having to compete in selection test

• To apply for the Special Options Eligible List (SOEL), visit the State of Maryland Job Openings page, and click on the Free names Applications link
Navigating Challenges
Managing Stressors of Employment
Are you worried about losing benefits if you go to work?

- Maryland’s Employed Individuals with Disabilities (EID) program allows individuals with disabilities to return to work and qualify for Medicaid (Medical Assistance) coverage.

- People have to pay to get health care from a Medicaid Buy-In program. But they do not have to pay a lot. Monthly premiums are either $0, $25, $40, or $55/month.

- To learn more visit https://mmcp.health.maryland.gov/eid/Pages/Home.aspx#What_is_the_EID_Program
Transportation

• Transportation may not be dependable, however, you there are options for you

• People who are DDA waiver eligible may receive transportation services based on assessed need

• There are many accessible transportation options in the community

• Travel training is also available
Transportation

• Paratransit programs are "origin to destination" services for people with disabilities who are not able to ride fixed-route public transportation

• Contact The Maryland Department of Disabilities at Voice 410-767-3660 Toll Free/TTY/Voice 1-800-637-4113 or your local center for independent living to find out about the paratransit program in your community
Our Stories

Personal Experiences
Our work experiences

Sharing "EXPERIENCES" you
"EXPERIENCED" in your life is a better
"EXPERIENCE" to "EXPERIENCE".

— Gyan
Things you may want to explore

Resources
Resources

• **People on the Go** is a group of advocates with intellectual and developmental challenges who use their voices to be heard and recognized.

• They advocated to end subminimum wage in Maryland, amongst other things. The law is named for their Public Policy Director, Ken Capone, as he demonstrates what people with disabilities can accomplish when they are presented with opportunities and support.
Resources

• The Maryland Department of Disabilities offers fact sheets and other information designed for job seekers with disabilities, visit [www.mdod.maryland.gov/](http://www.mdod.maryland.gov/)

• The Maryland State Department of Education's Division of Rehabilitation Services provides training and supports for eligible job seekers with disabilities. For more information and to apply Visit [www.dors.state.md.us](http://www.dors.state.md.us).
Things you may want to explore

Resources

• Job seekers with disabilities are encouraged to also register and identify job openings at the Maryland Workforce Exchange at www.mwejobs.maryland.gov

• Maryland One Stop Career Centers provide a full range of services to help job seekers identify and apply for available jobs. For more information, visit http://dllr.maryland.gov/county/.
Resources

• QUEST (Quality, Understanding, Excellence, Success and Training)
  • In partnership with the Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS), the QUEST Internship Program affords State agencies the opportunity to provide mentoring services for persons with disabilities

• For more information visit: https://dbm.maryland.gov/jobseekers/Pages/QUEST.aspx
Resources

• ABLE Accounts allow individuals who were disabled before age 27 to save up to $100,000 without jeopardizing SSI benefits.

• To learn more, visit the following websites:
  http://www.marylandable.org
  http://ablenrc.org/,
  http://www.realeconomicimpact.org
Resources

• **Centers for Independent Living** - The first Center for Independent Living (CIL) was started by people with physical disabilities in the 1970s

• There are over 500 CILs across the country, including 7 in Maryland

• CILs are peer-to-peer meaning that they are run by and for people with disabilities

• CILs provide information and referral, independent living skills training, peer support and advocacy

• To find your local CIL visit [http://www.msilc.org](http://www.msilc.org)
Advocacy Support Services

Regional Advocacy Specialist
## DDA Regional Advocacy Specialist

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Counties Served</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Central Region (CMRO)</td>
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<td>Eastern shore Region (ESRO)</td>
<td>Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico and Worcester Counties</td>
<td>Cody Drinkwater</td>
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<td>Western Region (WMRO)</td>
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THANK YOU

Questions