NEW Consumer Mentoring Program = More Job Placements
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By Josh Basile & Amy Wallish
Graphic: Josh Basile in a motorized wheelchair

Amy Wallish
• Founder and CEO
  • Full Circle Employment Solutions
  • Founded in 2010
• Subject matter expert on Social Security work incentives and the Ticket to Work

Josh & Amy
• Known each other since 2011
• Ticket to Work Counselor
• Advocate together to change disability employment laws and rules
• Partnered to help working persons with disabilities to reach and maintain employment
• Always brainstorming to get persons with disabilities back to work

What Is Perspective?
• Family, friends and upbringing
• Culture and societal influences
• **CHOICE**
It depends on where you are sitting, looking or how you view the world around you

It's Hard For Me To Get Over
1. The difficult transition into life with a significant disability
2. The wide range in quality of life and access to supports
3. The difficulty and luck involved with finding quality mentors
4. The current disability employment narrative and unfortunate statistics

What Can I and Others Do About These Just Can’t Get Over Issues?
What Can I Or We Do:
• Create Simplified, High Quality, and Easy to Access Information
• Match Willing Mentors and Share Success Stories
• Empower Active Living and Adventurous Spirits
• Find Your Voice and Advocate with Purpose

I Believe We Can Change The Way The World Sees Disability
Addressing These Issues
Working Together

Using Perspective to Adapt and Overcome Challenges
Approaching Everyday Challenges
Beginning a challenge feeling like you are going UPHILL vs. DOWNHILL – there is a BIG DIFFERENCE.
Cartoon: One person trying to ride a bicycle up a steep hill, thinking "Why?" and one person sailing down the hill on a bicycle, thinking "Wheeeeee!")
Slide 9
My Journey
Graphic: Photos of Josh growing up, including playing tennis, riding a jet ski, rowing a boat, soccer, running and with friends.

Slide 10
Life Changed in an Instant
Graphic: 4 people standing on a beach watching a large wave coming in.
Graphic: Warning sign showing a figure knocked upside down by a wave in shallow water.

Slide 11
C4-5 Spinal Cord Injury
Graphic: X-Ray of spinal cord injury. Chart showing location of C4 vertebrae.

Slide 12
1 Month of Critical Care
Graphic: Josh Basile lying in a hospital bed with all types of tubes hooked up to him along with a breathing tube.

Slide 13
2 1/2 Months of Inpatient Rehabilitation
Graphic: Physical therapist pushing Josh in a wheelchair past a sign that reads Spinal Cord Injury Program. Physical therapist working with Josh.

Slide 14
Transitioning Home
Graphic: Josh being helped in a bed by his parents at home.

Slide 15
Forced to Relearn Everything
Graphic: RESET button.

Slide 16
Choosing My Path
Graphic: Man in a wheelchair approaching a path with one arrow point to the left; one arrow pointing to the middle and one arrow pointing to the right.

Slide 17
Started Writing Poetry
“Different, But Not Ruined”
Life must go on
A bleak remembrance of what’s gone
Yet the future still holds promise
The mind is strong
The body is weak
I don’t know
I’m just at the doorstep
Waiting for the door to open
I’m in this early stage of a new life
Just learning how to move on my own
As the pages turn, experience gained
Will map out my new road
Paving the way to the next chapter
My new Holy Trinity is keeping me whole
My teacher feeds my mind
My mother feeds my body
My friends feed my inner child
As long as I'm positive
Energy will flow
My body will regain its inner glow
Opportunity expands as technology evolves
Hope is the drug that keeps me steady
If I wasn't here
If that single wave took me out to sea
I would be a memory
Instead, I can be an inspiration
The unfolding of a great 21st century novel
With an ending no one will forget
My story can illustrate another side of life No, not ruined at all.
With a full dose of hope
I will go on.

**Slide 18**
Finding MY Voice
Graphic: Woman with her mouth open with the word VOICE in her mouth. Josh in his wheelchair on the stage in an empty auditorium.

**Slide 19**
Rehabilitation at Home
Graphic: Montage of photos of Josh doing different types of physical therapy.

**Slide 20**
Importance of Becoming
Graphic: Close up of Josh Basile with the Superman logo in the background.

**Slide 21**
Enrolled in Maryland’s Vocational Program
Tips and Tricks
- Read through website
- Learning about each available service and how it could be applied to me
- Prepare questions
- Take notes
- Bi-monthly follow-up
Graphic: DORS logo.

**Slide 22**
My Dream DORS Counselors
- Share with me tips and tricks on how to get the most out of available services
- Stories of past clients with similar disability/functionality or employment aspirations
Graphic: Josh in bed with his dog.

**Slide 23**
My Dream DORS Counselors
- Create a roadmap with personalized vocational milestone goals
- Communicate with me once a month to check in
- Never go more than two months without communicating

**Slide 24**
My Dream DORS Counselors
- Provide me with words of encouragement
• Encourage me to get involved with advocacy and different vocational efforts to support disability employment and also DORS

**Slide 25**
My Dream DORS Counselors
• Create a transitional folder for future counselors to be brought up to speed and to continue a forward moving employment journey

**Slide 26**
My Dream DORS Counselors
• A counselor that does not feel like they are alone in getting their clients employed
• Work with past clients and share success stories

**Slide 27**
How can YOU be a DREAM counselor?

**Slide 28**
Disability Support Services
Learned about disability accommodations:
• Notetakers
• Scanned documents
• Extra time on tests
• Private room for testing

(Graphic photo of a Montgomery College building)

**Slide 29**
• Public Speaking
• Advocacy

(Graphic: Josh onstage in front of a full audience. Josh shaking hands with Michael J. Fox and Senator Ben Cardin.)

**Slide 30**
First Big Advocacy Fight: Maintaining Community Based Care
• Lost all state-funded private duty nursing care after 24 months of SSDI because of automatic enrollment in Medicare
• Was told I would need to go to a nursing home to receive nursing care
• Advocacy 101 – Get to know your local, state and federal legislators

**Slide 31**
Unfortunate Reality
(Graphic: A house wrapped in chains and padlocked.)

**Slide 32**
Simplifying The Transition Into Life With Paralysis
Determined2Heal Foundation
(Graphic: Josh in a suit wearing a dogtag with the Superman logo.)

**Slide 33**
Things Could Always Be Worse
(Graphic: Kitten stuck in a vase, and the words Remember, Remember… Things Could Always Be Worse.)

**Slide 34**
Importance of Mentors
SPINALpedia. See It. Believe it. Do it.
(Screenshot: Spinalpedia website home page.)
Graphic: In the center, the word Mentoring. From it, arrows point to the words Training, Motivation, Advice, Success, Direction, Coaching, Support, Goal.

Slide 35
Screenshot: SPINALpedia website video page.

Slide 36
What Did My Pre- And Post-Injury Lifestyle Teach Me About Perspective?
Graphic: Sign of male and female figure. An arrow points to a sign of a figure in a wheelchair.
Graphic: Sign of a figure in a wheelchair. An arrow points to a sign of a male and female figure.

Slide 37
1 Million Ways
Then versus NOW
Graphic: Young Josh playing tennis. Josh playing tennis in his electric wheelchair.

Slide 38
Believing In Yourself
Confidence is Power
Cartoon: An old woman in a wheelchair with one arm raised above her head. Her shadow on the wall is in the shape of a ballerina. The caption reads: How others see you, is not important. How you see yourself means everything.

Slide 39
A Willingness To Try
YOUR ATTITUDE DETERMINES YOUR DIRECTION.
Graphic: A wooden arrow nailed to a tree that says ADVENTUROUS SPIRIT.
Graphic: Josh and two buddies in a convertible. Their empty wheelchairs are on the curb.

Slide 40
Living With An Adventurous Spirit
Graphic: Josh in a rubber boat being towed by a swimmer. Josh being pushed by a friend in a road race. Josh participating in a bicycle race behind a friend.

Slide 41
Living With An Adventurous Spirit
Graphic: Josh on a beach in a wheelchair with tank treads. Josh tandem surfing.

Slide 42
Living With An Adventurous Spirit.
Mouth-Controlled Adaptive Sailing.
Graphic: Josh in a small sailboat controlling the boat with a sip and puff controller.

Slide 43
Living with An Adventurous Spirit
Graphic: Josh tandem hang gliding.

Slide 44
Living with An Adventurous Spirit
Graphic: Josh indoor skydiving.

Slide 45
Living with An Adventurous Spirit
Graphic: Josh preparing for and parachuting from a plane.
Slide 46
Living With An Adventurous Spirit
Graphic: Josh playing paintball with a specially outfitted machine gun mount on his wheelchair and a sip and puff trigger.

Slide 47
Living With An Adventurous Spirit
Graphic: Josh learning sling shot golf.

Slide 48
The Importance Of Giving Back
Graphic: Montage of photos of Josh with groups of other people in wheelchairs on a dock, at iFly, at paintball, on a driving range.

Slide 49
Approaching Problems With A Disability
1. Perspective
2. Willingness to try
3. Creative thinking
4. Implement a game plan
5. Repeat until task is completed

Slide 50
An Active Lifestyle Leads to a Rewired Brain

Slide 51
University of Maryland College Park
Assistive Technology
1. Three Vertical monitors
2. Gooseneck cup holder
3. Desktop microphone
4. Keyboard extension tray
5. Trackball mouse
6. Wireless fan switch
7. Paper holder
8. Travel laptop
9. Touch light switch
Graphic: Josh's A.T. setup.

Slide 52
Pursuing Law School

Slide 53
Full Circle Employment Solutions
www.fullcircledc.com
- Matched up with Josh – DORS benefits planning referral while in law school
- Reviewed benefits and work goals
- Developed a game plan

Slide 54
Full Circle Employment Solutions
www.fullcircledc.com
- Partnership Plus handoff through Ticket to Work– when DORS closed his case
- Allowed for long-term follow along support when things got sticky
- Didn’t return to DORS but came to us as the EN
Slide 55
Law School Graduate and Becoming A Barred Attorney
  • Graduated Magna Cum Laude
Graphic: Screenshot of FOX 5 tv news clip of Josh being sworn in with the caption: Overcoming the Odds. Josh sitting in his wheelchair in a court room.

Slide 56
Trial Attorney at Jack H Olender & Associates
Catastrophic Injury and Medical Malpractice Attorney
Graphic: Josh with his law partners.

Slide 57
Approaching Problems With a Disability Plus a Legal Mind
  1. Perspective
  2. Willingness to try
  3. Creative thinking
  4. Critical/logical thinking
  5. Implement game plan
  6. Repeat until task is completed
Can now tackle even BIGGER CHALLENGES.

Slide 58
Ticket to Work Program
Trial Work Period experience
Great opportunity to get my working wheels wet.
Graphic: Josh and his dog in the surf in a plastic wheelchair outfitted with giant tires.

Slide 59
How to Get the Most Out of Ticket to Work
Consumer
  • Make sure to connect with Employment Network (EN) after DORS closure
  • Interview several ENs to find that one that provides services you need
  • Keep in contact with your EN

Slide 60
How to Get the Most Out of Ticket to Work
DORS Counselor/Employment Specialist
  • Who are the ENs in your area?
  • What services do they provide?
  • What is their referral process?
  • Are they a partnership plus EN?
  • What area do they serve?

Slide 61
WIN for ALL
Consumer
  • Successful employment
  • Long-term support through the employment continuum
Employment Counselor/VR Counselor
  • Successful long-term placement
  • Less likely to return to case load

Slide 62
Answering Tough Workplace Questions
Clients ask me about
- Managing doctor’s appointments
- Attendant care at work
- Assistive technology
- Reasonable accommodations
- Dealing with coworkers
- Pay raises
- Navigating Medicaid buy-in

Slide 63
Maryland – Medicaid Buy-in
EID: Employed Individuals With Disabilities Program
Grateful for the program but surprised by all the rules and containment measures limiting my future

Slide 64
Moving Out On My Own
Graphic: Josh and friends moving him into his new home.

Slide 65
2018 Bill Passage (SB 660 & HB 1280)
Graphic: Screen shot of NBC 4 tv footage of Josh and a personal care attendant. Caption reads: NEW LEGISLATION PASSED TO CLOSE LOOPHOLE IN DISABILITY LAW.

Slide 66
Empowered Me to Improve Maryland’s Medicaid Buy-In
- Improve Maryland’s MBI barriers
  - Initial application and annual redeterminations
  - Maintaining or accessing LTSS
  - Income and asset thresholds
  - Marriage
  - Age
  - Saving for the future
- MBI disincentives outweigh incentives

Slide 67
In Maryland; Served v. Forgotten Populations
- Currently Served Population
  - Low moderate ADL support needs
  - Low moderate earnings
  - High school diploma, GED, some college or BD
  - Entry to mid-level career paths
  - Not married
  - Between 18 and 64 years old
- Forgotten Populations: Current rules discourage or punish those with:
  - Higher ADL support needs
  - Higher Earnings
  - Masters or doctorate degrees
  - Senior and executive career paths
  - Married
  - Over 65 years old

Slide 68
Working To Make Major Medicaid Buy-In Improvements in Maryland
Graphic: Josh with Governor Larry Hogan. Willing to Work logo.
Monthly Workgroup with:
- Department of Health,
- Department of Disabilities, and
- Other disability organizations

**Slide 69**
Improving Maryland’s Medicaid Buy-in program and pushing for policy reform state-by-state. Graphic: Josh and another man in an electric wheelchair in the halls of Congress. Josh and Governor Hogan at the bill signing for HB 1280.

**Slide 70**
Joining Forces
Job Mentoring – DETERMINED2HEAL
Advocacy – Willing To WORK
Benefits Counseling – Full Circle Employment Solutions

**Slide 71**
Changing the Disability Employment Narrative
- Mentoring needs to have a more active role within DORS and Ticket to Work

#INCLUSION WORKS

**Slide 72**
Changing the Disability Employment Narrative
Mentoring Support (Disability Worker) + Vocational Support (DORS) + Employment Support (Ticket to Work) = Successful Sustainable Employment

#INCLUSIONWORKS

**Slide 73**
Together We Can Make This Happen
- Work with “Willing to Work” as a Vocational and Job Mentor
- Coach and empower your clients
- Engage in Ticket to Work

We Need You!

**Slide 74**
Spotlight Success Story
Screenshot: Joshua Basile, Esq. story on DORS website.

**Slide 75**
Learning from Others: Importance of Mentors
Tim Strachan
- Beach injury
- C5 Quadriplegic
- UMD Graduate
- Law School Graduate
- Passed the bar
- Secured employment
- Lives in his own home
- Got married
- Father of 3 beautiful girls

I choose to follow in Tim’s wheel tracks

**Slide 76**
Falling in Love; So Excited for this Next Chapter
Slide 77
Let’s Get Moving to a New Disability Employment Narrative
• Life is not a SPRINT but rather a MARATHON
• There are many ways of getting to the finish line

Slide 78
Together We Can Make A Difference!
Nonprofit Foundation: www.determined2heal.org
Full Circle Employment Solutions: www.fullcircledc.com
Willing to Work: www.willingtoworkmd.com
Video Mentoring Website: www.SPINALpedia.com

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