

# Disability Employability Conference 2016

Holiday Inn Great Falls, MT

Tentative Schedule/Agenda (Subject to change. Session descriptions will be available soon)

This is the first conference of its type in Montana in which multiple departments, organizations, and other interested parties are brought together to share information and tools that are available for individuals with disabilities who are interested in integrated employment. Our goal is to promote the opportunity of meaningful work to the lives of Montanans which support and give pride to the community, as well as the individuals themselves. The conference will provide valuable employment information through sessions from state experts as well as national speakers. In addition there will be plenty of fun including door prizes, a vendor and job fair, entertainment, and much more.

## Wed Afternoon – May 11th

12:30 – 1:30 Registration (lunch on your own)

1:30 – Opening Remarks (large conference area)

1:45 – 3:30 Successful Transitions Roadmap (large conference area) – panel discussion about the transitions process in Great Falls, and how their schools offer services past age 18 and make it work

3:30 Break

3:45 – 4:30 Montana Career Information System (MCIS)/Personal Employment Plan System Overview (large conference area – helps people learn about skills, interests, and career opportunities *(detailed session occurs Thursday)*)

4:40 – 5:00 MT Developmental Disabilities Program Overview

## DINNER ON YOUR OWN

## Thursday Morning – May 12th

7:30 – 8:30 Breakfast networking session (large Conference area)

8:15 – 8:45 Keynote Speaker Lt. Governor Mike Cooney

8:45 – 10:15 (large conference area) Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act and new services for employers, job seekers/youth, educators, employment providers, and State Agencies that serve young adults with disabilities who need employment

10:15 Break

10:30- Noon– Breakout Sessions

- A. How Working Might Affect Your Benefits – if you are receiving SSI, SSDI, Medicaid, and other benefits
- B. Employment Law and Disability Law 101
- C. The Entrepreneur in You – Discussion of disabled people who have successfully started their own businesses

Noon (lunch provided)

12:15 - 1:00 Ice Breaker – large conference area

1:00 - 2:45 Engaging Employers and Job seekers in Assistive Technology (large conference area)

2:45 Break

3:00 - 4:45 Breakout Sessions

- A. MCIS/Personal Employment Plan System detailed tutorial and walk-through
- B. Tapping Into a Different Workforce (Provider & Employee Panel)
- C. Higher Education – Resources and steps in transitioning into higher education

4:45 Sessions over for the day

4:30 – 6:00 Vendor and Job Fair starts

### **DINNER ON YOUR OWN**

7:00 – Large Conference Area – Comedy Entertainment

### **Friday Morning – May 13th**

7:30 - 8:30 Breakfast networking session (large conference area)

8:10 – 8:30 Montana Youth Transitions

8:30 – 10:30 Strategies for Assessing and Finding Employment for People with Autism (large conference area)

10:30 Break

10:45 – 11:30 Maximizing Financial Security and Benefit Eligibility for Persons with Disabilities (large conference area)

11:30 – Checkout – evaluations, etc.