

Disability Employability Conference 2016

Holiday Inn Great Falls, MT

Schedule/Agenda

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 a vendor and job fair and entertainment.

****Please see the Session Descriptions for more details on each session.**

Wed Afternoon – May 11th

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

1:30 – Opening Remarks (large conference room)

1:45 – 3:30 Successful Transitions Roadmap (large conference room) – panel discussion about the transitions process in Great Falls, and how their schools offer services past age 18 and make it work. PANEL: Jill Keough, MRC, CRC; Pete Townsend MRC; Karen McBirnie CRC; Kathy Reed and Ann Taylor, both of Great Falls Public Schools

3:30 Break

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

4:35 – 5:00 MT Developmental Disabilities Program Overview (large conference room) By: Novelene Martin, DDP Bureau Chief
Wednesday, May 11th

DINNER ON YOUR OWN

Agenda - Disability Employability Conference May 11-13, 2016

Thursday Morning – May 12th

7:30 – 8:30 Breakfast networking session (large conference room)

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

8:45 – 10:15 Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act (WIOA) (large conference room) - new services for employers, job seekers/youth, educators, employment providers, and State Agencies that serve young adults with disabilities who need employment. By: Rita Martin, Asst. Director of CSAVR, Beverly Berg, CRCC; Tammy Hogan, M.Ed., C.R.C.; Sally Sjaastad, M.S., C.R.C.

10:15 Break

10:30- Noon– Breakout Sessions

- A. How Working Might Affect Your Benefits (large conference room) – if you are receiving SSI, SSDI, Medicaid, and other benefits. By: Margaret Keener, North Central Independent Living Services
- B. Employment Law and Disability Law 101 (Russell) By: Roberta Zenker, Attorney for Disability Rights Montana
- C. The Entrepreneur in You – (Trigg) Discussion of disabled people who have successfully started their own businesses. By: Roger Shelley, U of M Rural Institute; Lissie, owner of Lissie’s Luv Yums

Noon (lunch provided)

12:15 - 1:00 Ice Breaker with Zack Anner – (large conference room)

1:00 - 2:45 Engaging Employers and Job seekers in Assistive Technology (large conference room) By: Marsha Threlkeld, PIVOTAL Consulting and Training

2:45 Break

3:00 - 4:45 Breakout Sessions

- A. MCIS/Personal Employment Plan System (Russell) - detailed tutorial and walk-through. By: Pam Brandt, Department of Labor
- B. Tapping Into a Different Workforce (large conference room) - Provider & Employee PANEL: Jennifer Spellman, Director of Food Service and Robin Western, Lead Early Family Center; both are with the Great Falls Public Schools. Working students will also share their experiences. Christy Sofianek, Project Search Coordinator will bring an employer and student.
- C. Mapping the Route to Higher Education (Trigg) – Resources and steps in transitioning into higher education By: Bronwyn Troutman, Movin’ On in Montana

Thursday, May 12 con't

4:45 Sessions over for the day

4:30 – 6:00 Vendor and Job Fair – Hotel Atrium

DINNER ON YOUR OWN

7:00 – Large Conference Room – Comedy Entertainment with Zack Anner

Friday Morning – May 13th

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

8:10 – 8:30 Montana Youth Transitions By: June Hermanson, Program Director for Montana Youth Transitions Project

8:30 – 10:30 Strategies for Assessing and Finding Employment for People with Autism (large conference room) By: Zosia Zaks, M.Ed., C.R.C. from Towson University's Hussman Center for Adults with Autism.

10:30 Break

10:45 – 11:30 Maximizing Financial Security and Benefit Eligibility for Persons with Disabilities (large conference room) By: Nancy Gibson, Attorney at Law from Missoula

11:30 – Checkout – evaluations, etc.