

APSE Notes

MARK YOUR CALENDAR . . .

APSE: THE EMPLOYMENT NETWORK – 15TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

JULY 11–15, 2004, INDIANAPOLIS, DOWNTOWN MARRIOTT

AT THE CROSSROADS . . . ADVANCING EMPLOYMENT IN A CHANGING LANDSCAPE

The APSE conference provides an opportunity for individuals engaged in supported and customized employment to share information, sharpen their skills and reignite their commitment to the difficult task of advancing disability employment in their own communities. The conference provides multiple venues for participants to gain new knowledge based on research and practical experience. Participants enjoy quality speakers, productive dialogues, formal and informal networking, and exhibitors of tools and techniques they can utilize to enhance the employment outcomes and the lives of people with disabilities. The following are highlights of the upcoming conference.

Opening Day Training Events

Each year, well-known trainers and state-of-the art practitioners from across the country provide intensive instruction on important topics in employment during the opening day training event. These sessions are designed to provide greater exposure and learning within a topic area than is available within the shorter general conference sessions. Detailed information on opening day training sessions is available from the APSE web site.

Supported Employment 101 Institute

Back by popular demand, the fifth annual Supported Employment 101 Institute is a 4-day orientation to sup-

ported employment, offering training on the essential elements of supported employment from some of the best and most accomplished people in the field. This session will offer 24 hours of training on topics such as philosophy and commitment of supported employment, assessment and person-centered planning, career development, job development and marketing, job site training and instruction, developing natural supports, strategies for fading and ongoing supports.

Participants will be involved in major conference events like the keynotes, exhibits, and social events. *Participants in the SE 101 Institute session must sign up to attend and will be awarded a certificate of completion at the end of the four days of training. This session is limited to 30 participants.*

Theme Tracks

Some of the general conference sessions will be guided by theme tracks, which present a variety of approaches, experiences, and perspectives on a specific topic. The 2004 Conference will highlight the following themes:

Leadership. This track will focus on areas of staff development, supervisory, fiscal stability and programmatic concerns.

Public Policy, Research, and Systems Issues. This track will focus on current research, policies and systems issues such as transportation, Ticket-to-Work, and others that impact employment opportunities and outcomes.

Employer Relations and Economic Opportunities. Practical and innovative strategies will be presented to build stronger relationships with employers and enhance employment outcomes.

Unique and Emerging Programs and Services. Creative and innovative approaches to providing employment services will be provided throughout this track. Topics range from self-determination, customized employment, use of personal agents, literacy, and much, much more.

Promising Practices. This track is geared to audiences who are responsible for providing direct services. Topics will cover job carving, person-centered assessment, job site supports, fading, self-employment and much more.

Self-advocacy and Disability-Specific Issues. Presented by self-advocates, family members and other advocates to share strategies, build connections and highlight practices.

Learning Sessions

Throughout the general conference, 4 special learning sessions will be extended to 3 hours to provide the attendees a greater opportunity to participate in the learning experience. These sessions will include topics such as customized employment, creative job development and carving, increasing fiscal stability, and building a business leadership network.

Key Note Presentations

Using Humor For Change, Scott Friedman, Denver, CO

Remembering Our Roots With an Eye on the Future, David Mank, Indiana University, Paul Wehman, PhD, Virginia Commonwealth University.

Personal Perspective, Temple Grandin, PhD

Power, Accountability and Self-Determination, James D. Showkeir

Featured Track – Organizational Change Forum

As part of the APSE Conference, attendees are invited to participate in the Organizational Change Forum that will include a full-day opening session and 7 additional sessions throughout the conference. The presenters include executive directors, nationally known speakers, and staff of organizations undergoing change from facility-based to community-based employment services who will share their extensive experiences. Topics will include various elements of the change process – staff issues, fiscal stability and resources, restructuring, managing for change, marketing and business partnerships, and technical assistance needs. Participants may choose to attend any or all the sessions, but are encouraged to attend the entire strand. Attendees are encouraged to participate as teams with state agencies and local providers. Site-based technical assistance for organizations and future networking with organizations who have moved to community-based services will be shared.

The Track on Organizational Change is supported by the Training and Technical Assistance to Providers Project funded by the Office of Disability Employment Policy of the US Department of Labor, cooperative agreement # E 9-4-2-01217. The opinions contained in these sessions are those of the presenters and do not necessarily reflect those of the US Department of Labor.

For more information about the APSE Conference, registration and hotel information – go to www.apse.org.