



## **ILLINOIS EMPLOYMENT FIRST UPDATE 7/10/17**

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### **WEBINARS**

- 7/11/17, 1:00-2:00 PM-Resources and Tools for Employers: Enhancing Success and Inclusion**

To join AT&T Connect Conference:

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Click here: <https://connect17.uc.att.com/stateofil/meet/?ExEventID=87184372762&CT=W>

For dialing-in only:

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- Dial one of the numbers listed below
- When prompted, enter the meeting access code: 7184372762#
  - \* Caller-Paid number: 602-333-0052
  - \* Toll-Free Number (in USA): 888-494-4032.
  - \* Blackberry (Caller-Paid): 6023330052x7184372762#
  - \* iPhone / Android (Caller-Paid): 6023330052,,7184372762#
  - \* Windows Phone (Caller-Paid): <tel:6023330052,,7184372762#>,

Powered by AT&T Connect.

- 7/13/17, 1:00-2:00 PM-Assistive Technology and Employment: Increasing Independence and Productivity**

To join AT&T Connect Conference:

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Click here: <https://connect17.uc.att.com/stateofil/meet/?ExEventID=87184372762&CT=W>

For dialing-in only:

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\* Windows Phone (Caller-Paid): <tel:6023330052,,7184372762#>,

Powered by AT&T Connect.

**JULY**

**12**

## Monthly Webinar Series

**Employment First State Leadership Mentoring Program (EFLMP)**  
Community of Practice (CoP) Monthly Webinar

July 12, 2017 3-4:00 ET

<http://www.econsys.com/eflsmc/copwebinar/>

### **Topic: Communications and Branding Strategies For Transition**

Communication is key to any nonprofit's success, but is particularly important during transition. This session will provide participants with strategies to effectively communicate with internal and external audiences during transition to Employment First. Using the building blocks of language, branding and targeted messaging, Ms. Ritchie will walk participants through the steps of building a communications plan that prepares audiences for change and creates a culture of transparency and trust.

### **Webinar Objectives**

1. Learn about the importance and benefits of promoting Employment First initiatives;
2. Identify your agency brand and its importance in the transition;
3. Develop strong, effective communication plans for various audiences;
4. Further expand communications plans to include social networking in effective and efficient ways that support Employment First initiatives.

### **Guest Speaker: Meredith Ritchie, National Subject Matter Expert**

Meredith Ritchie has served as in the nonprofit sector for over 10 years in Washington, DC, and Denver, Colorado, specializing in branding, marketing and fundraising development for nonprofit organizations focusing on social justice issues. Meredith began her career at St. John's Community Services, a 148-year-old nonprofit agency dedicated to developing innovative ways to support people with disabilities to live full lives in communities of their choice with alternatives to institutional settings. There, Meredith developed and implemented a Communications Strategic Plan for the organization, overhauling its online and offline presence in four states, rebranding, and creating messaging within each state location. Meredith trained staff and Board members in all of the four states in which St. John's Community Services operated at the time to address each region appropriately to internal and external audiences. This included a communications plan for a rural facility-based organization transitioning to community-bases services.

In 2014, Meredith relocated to Denver, Colorado, where she has dedicated the last year to overhauling the marketing and development program at The Learning Source, an adult education program designed to eliminate barriers to education. This included a rebranding, website redesign, and communications plan which, in turn, increased awareness within the Denver metropolitan region and subsequently, The Learning Source donor pool.

Under her guidance, Meredith has restructured these organizations' marketing plans to bring cohesion within the organization, and a clearer message and awareness to target populations to organizations working to achieve social justice in our communities.

#### Webinar Procedures

1. In advance of the webinar, we strongly recommend you test your connection and review the [Adobe Connect Instructions and Troubleshooting Tips](#)
2. On the day of the webinar, enter room here: <http://www.econsys.com/efslmp/copwebinar/>
3. In the GUEST field, enter your **first and last name followed by state abbreviation (i.e., Jeff, Smith, DC)**.
4. To connect your audio, follow the prompts to enter your phone number (direct line), and the system will immediately call you back (see [step-by-step instructions](#))
5. If you are unfamiliar with Adobe Connect, please review these [tips](#) before participating.
6. **Meeting Materials will be distributed closer to the event.**

#### Unable to Attend

EFSLMP Webinars are recorded and the link will be distributed to the list serve within two business days following the webinar. **Share this announcement with your colleagues! If they are not a current subscriber to ODEP's EFSLMP mailing list, they can register [here](#).**

#### **Webcast: Disclosing Disability in the Workplace**

The NIDILRR-funded [Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Employment of People with Physical Disabilities \(VCU-RRTC\)](#) will host a webcast, [Disclosing Disability in the Workplace](#), July 13th, 2-2:45pm ET. Presenters will review the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) pertaining to disclosure of disability in the workplace, and examine the considerations that workers with disabilities must make in deciding whether to disclose. Registration is free and required.

#### **Stepping Up the Right Way: Best Practices in the Treatment of Persons with Serious Mental Illness Who Have Contact with the Criminal Justice System**

**Date:** July 19, 2-3:30 p.m. ET

**Presenter:** Dr. Keelin Garvey, InnovaTel Telepsychiatry

**Register:** <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/4711728765740354050>

Keeping people living with serious mental illness out of criminal justice settings is a goal shared by many, yet our current clinical approaches and strategies don't seem to be working. Too many people with serious mental

illness continue to cycle in and out of jail and treatment. Effective clinical interventions with this population require proper assessment that distinguishes between criminogenic and psychiatric illness and provides the appropriate level of support based on level of risk for reoffending. This webinar will provide an overview of best practices and provide Community-based Behavioral Health Organizations with strategies for implementing these approaches.

**Topics include:**

- The role of mental health providers in jail diversion;
- Assisted outpatient treatment (AOT);
- Medication-assisted Treatment (MAT) for substance abuse; and
- Components of an effective re-entry program.

Our presenter is Dr. Keelin Garvey, director of forensic psychiatry at [InnovaTel Telepsychiatry](#). Dr. Garvey has held a number of leadership positions in correctional psychiatry over the past seven years. She served as deputy medical director and statewide psychiatric medical director for the Massachusetts Partnership for Correctional Healthcare, and has chaired the Gender Dysphoria Treatment Committee for the Massachusetts Department of Correction. She is a member of the American Psychiatric Association, the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law and the Rhode Island Psychiatry Society.

*This webinar is generously supported by [InnovaTel Telepsychiatry](#), a national leader that provides quality telepsychiatry services to community mental health centers, primary care centers, senior living centers, correctional facilities and other outpatient settings around the country.*

**Webinar – Employers: The Other Client in HVRP**

**Thursday, July 20 at 2:00 pm EDT**

The National Veterans Technical Assistance Center (NVTAC) is hosting the webinar “Employers: The Other Client in HVRP” on **Thursday, July 20 at 2:00 pm EDT**.

Employers are the other customer in HVRPs. Understanding the needs and perspective of our employers helps us prepare job applicants most likely to meet employer demands and succeed in the workforce. In this webinar we’ve invited employers and HVRP staff who collaborate together to discuss their experience and to consider their advice in efforts to work together to hire our vulnerable and homeless veterans. The discussion will include the challenges of job applicants with justice involved backgrounds and those with other barriers to employment. There will be a robust discussion of the issues and challenges, and an interactive question and answer session.

**TO REGISTER FOR “Employers: The Other Client in HVRP”**

Go to <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1253481022829790211> and complete the registration form.

**Thursday, July 20, 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET**

***Webinar: Neurodiversity and Workplace Technology***

Sponsored by the Partnership on Employment and Accessible Technology, this “virtual talk” will feature Shea Tanis, Associate Director of the Coleman Institute for Cognitive Disabilities, who will discuss why technology and information access is a critical right for everyone, and how technology solutions are

changing employment opportunities for people with cognitive disabilities, including neurodiverse individuals. [Learn more about the July 20 talk.](#)

Thursday, July 20, 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET

[Webinar: Planning and Producing Accessible Videos \(ADA National Network\)](#)

When creating videos, whether for public consumption via the web or social media or use internally for training or e-learning, it's essential to "think accessible" from the start. In this webinar, participants will learn basic best practices for video accessibility, including captioning and audio description; accessibility issues with video players; and important considerations when planning new projects. [Register for the July 20 webinar.](#)

- **Evidence-Based Strategies for Serving Jobseekers and Workers with Disabilities and Chronic Health Conditions**

[Register Now](#)

Human services and workforce development programs have a critical role to play in supporting work for people with disabilities and chronic health conditions. Fortunately, there are many evidence-based strategies for helping these clients prepare for, attain, and retain employment. [This webinar](#) will highlight three such strategies being implemented in Washington and North Carolina.

The Washington Department of Social and Health Services is piloting a Supported Employment program which assists individuals with mental illness in choosing, acquiring, and maintaining competitive employment. Because this pilot uses braided funding of both TANF and non-TANF, job coaches can continue to support the client after the job has started - for as long as they are needed. Researchers at the University of North Carolina have partnered with local human services agencies to show how public health nursing interventions can improve employment outcomes for job seekers and low-wage workers with chronic health conditions.

North Carolina's Department of Health and Human Services has implemented Project SEARCH, a strong evidence-based model for transitioning youth with disabilities into competitive employment, within its own department.

**Presenters:**

**Debbie Davis**, *Washington Department of Social & Health Services*

**Shawn Kneipp**, *Associate Professor, UNC at Chapel Hill's School of Nursing*

**Alice Farrar**, *Interim Chief of Employment Services and Program Development, North Carolina Department of Health & Human Services' Division of Vocational Rehabilitation*

**Moderators:**

**Rus Sykes**, *Director, APHSA's Center for Employment and Economic Well-Being*

**Kerry Desjardins**, *Policy Associate, APHSA's Center for Employment and Economic Well-Being*

**Thursday, August 24th**

**3:00 - 4:30 pm ET**

**REGISTER NOW**

Brought to you by:

The American Public Human Services Association

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Center for Employment & Economic Well-Being

APHSA  
American Public Human Services Association

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CENTER



## **NEW RESOURCES**

### **New Resource: Essential Elements of Customized Employment**

This [document](#) is a joint effort by the Youth Technical Assistance Center and the Workforce Innovation Technical Assistance Center funded by the Rehabilitation Services Administration and supported also by the work of the United States Department of Labor, Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) and their technical assistance center, The LEAD Center. It represents the combined efforts of several Customized Employment (CE) subject matter experts. Among its intended uses is the creation of a common understanding of Customized Employment among funding agencies and CE providers. This [document](#) should also inform requests for proposal for CE training and to evaluate the quality of CE services and outcomes.

### **Special Journal Issue Highlights Community Participation Research**

Glen White, PhD, principal investigator, and Jean Ann Summers, PhD, research director from the NIDILRR-funded [Rehabilitation Research and Training Center \(RRTC\) on Community Living](#) served as guest editors for a [special issue of the Journal of Prevention & Intervention in the Community](#) focusing on people with disabilities and community participation. The issue includes articles from the RRTC and other members of the NIDILRR community that examine community participation from multiple angles. Individual articles discuss the impact of secondary health conditions on community living, the role of independent living centers in participation, residential living and vocational rehabilitation, and improving access to parking for van drivers. [Abstracts are available free of charge.](#)

### **ADA Anniversary Tool Kit**

The NIDILRR-funded [ADA National Network](#) and its ten regional centers across the United States will lead celebrations of the anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) throughout July, leading up to the ADA Anniversary (July 26th). Regional centers will host events throughout the month to raise awareness of the progress made under the ADA and what lies ahead. The national network offers an [ADA Anniversary Tool Kit](#), which can be utilized by workplaces, schools, and communities to celebrate the ADA Anniversary. This toolkit provides resources and [monthly themes](#) to celebrate throughout the year.

### **Sign Language Video**

Did you know that American Sign Language (ASL) has regional accents? Or that people who use sign language may sign in their sleep? A new brief video can help employers and

employees better understand sign language and Deaf culture, as well as learn a few basic signs to assist when interacting with people who are deaf or hard of hearing and use ASL. Titled "A Few Things to Know About ASL," the video was produced by National Public Radio with assistance from Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C. [Access the sign language video.](#)

#### **WHO Offers Free Package of Mental Health Training and Guidance Modules**

As part of the [QualityRights](#) Initiative, the World Health Organization has developed a comprehensive package of training and guidance modules. "The modules can be used to build capacity among mental health practitioners; people with psychosocial, intellectual and cognitive disabilities; people using mental health services; families, care partners and other supporters; NGOs, DPOs, and others on how to implement a human rights and recovery approach in the area of mental health in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and other international human rights standards." For the free modules, [click here](#).

#### **ACLU Publishes New Report on the Benefits of Hiring Formerly Incarcerated Job Seekers; Also See Free Webinar by National Reentry Resource Center and Free CSGJC Newsletter**

The ACLU's Trone Center for Justice & Equality recently issued a free report on the benefits of hiring people who were formerly in jail or prison. The report, *Back to Business: How Hiring Formerly Incarcerated Job Seekers Benefits Your Company*, "lays out how, by reducing barriers to employment and implementing fair hiring practices, companies can better provide employment opportunities to formerly incarcerated people to the benefit of all." For more information and to download the free report, [click here](#). In a related story, on June 29 at 2 p.m. ET, the National Reentry Resource Center is hosting a free webinar called "Engaging Employers--A Sectoral Approach to Employment for People with Criminal Records." For more information and to register, [click here](#). In another related story, the Council of State Governments Justice Center newsletter is available for free if you [click here](#).

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT:**

#### **THINGS TO THINK ABOUT WHEN DEVELOPING A QUALITY EMPLOYMENT PLAN**



## What is a Quality Employment Plan?



## OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE

- **Transition Training Needs Survey**  
The NIDILRR-funded [Research and Training Center for Pathways to Positive Futures: Building Self-Determination and Community Living and Participation \(Pathways RTC\)](#) is conducting a [national survey of training needs for improving services to youth and young adults with mental health needs](#). The survey is open to all service providers who work with youth and young adults with mental health needs. Survey findings will guide the development of training programs to improve service providers' skills in supporting these young people. At the end of the survey, participants will have the option to receive a summary of the findings and to participate in a random drawing to receive one of four \$25 Amazon gift cards. This project is also supported by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).
- **Please Help Equip for Equality Identify the Legal Advocacy Needs of People with Disabilities in Illinois**

Equip for Equality is seeking your input on how we can best meet the legal advocacy needs of people with disabilities. **There are 3 ways for you to let us know what you think.**

**. In Person:** We are hosting a Public Meeting in Chicago. This meeting allows people with disabilities, family members, service providers and other interested parties to provide us with input on how to allocate our resources.

**Wednesday, July 12, 2017**

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Equip for Equality  
20 N. Michigan Avenue, Suite 300  
Chicago, Illinois 60602

***A sign language interpreter and real time captioning will be present at our Public Meeting.  
To attend or request an accommodation, please RSVP to [cecille@equipforequality.org](mailto:cecille@equipforequality.org)***

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**. Via the Internet:** To participate by webcast, [CLICK HERE](#)

You can give your input by filling out our online Priorities Plan Feedback Form. [Click here to submit your comments and suggestions using our Feedback Form.](#)

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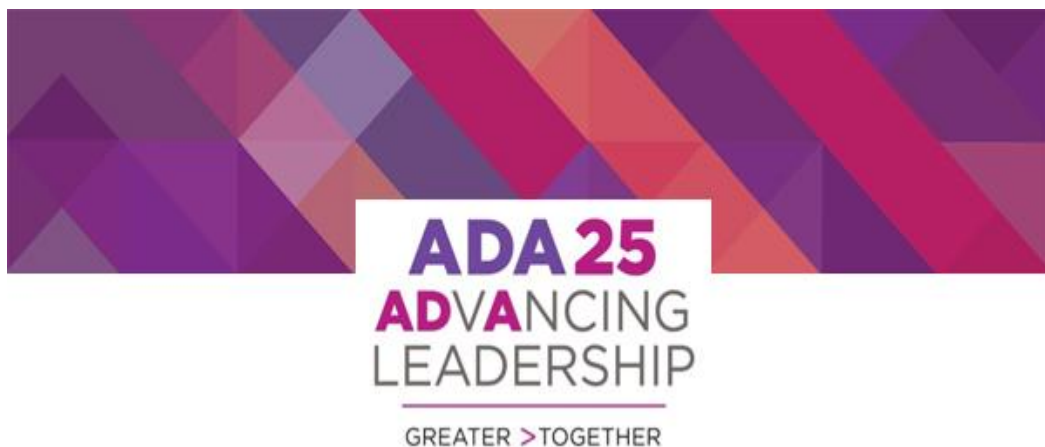
**. By Mail/Fax:** You can give your input by mailing or faxing your survey responses to us. [Click here to download a copy of our survey.](#) Then send your completed survey to us at:

Equip for Equality  
20 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 300  
Chicago, IL 60602  
Or, fax it to us at 312-541-7544.

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We are always looking for suggestions on how we can best meet the legal advocacy needs of people with disabilities in Illinois. We have a priorities planning process and we ask the public to offer ideas that will help us implement priorities that are valued most in the disability community. Please share your thoughts with us.

Thank you from Equip for Equality!



**74**

LEADERS IN  
MEMBERS  
NETWORK



**37**

CIVIC &  
PROFESSIONAL  
ADVANCEMENTS



**45**

SPEAKING &  
LEADERSHIP  
OPPORTUNITIES



### **Applications Are Now Open For the 2018 Leadership Institute!**

Do you know an emerging leader with disabilities who wants to expand their participation in the civic life of the Chicago region?

[Applications](#) are NOW OPEN for the 2018 year-long program.

**APPLY by September 19th to guarantee an interview!**

The ideal candidate will identify as a person with a disability, have 5 to 10 years of leadership and/or management experience in any context, demonstrated leadership skills, resides in the Chicago region (includes seven counties: Cook, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Lake, Will, and McHenry), and have a passion for engagement in civic life.

#### **NOMINATE**

Help us to identify and encourage qualified candidates to [apply](#) using our [recruitment toolkit](#) to spread the word through social media, email blasts, or however you best communicate with your network.

“ADA 25 Advancing Leadership is a new kind of diversity initiative, one that encourages us to recognize disability as a key part of the region’s civic and professional life...”

Read more about our evolution over the last 2 years in a [guest blog post](#) for The Chicago Community Trust’s website.

#### **READ MORE**

Thank you in advance for helping us identify qualified applicants. Please encourage them to apply directly through our website: [www.ada25chicago.org](http://www.ada25chicago.org).

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- **Insights from a Therapeutic Day Program On Mental Health and Change**

**July 13, 2017**

**10:30 a.m. – noon**

**3003 W Touhy Ave in Chicago**

**Presented By Na’ama Wasserman, Psy.D.; Shimon Zeisel LCSW; Linda Gross LCSW.**

Mental Illness is a complex issue with many different diagnosis and treatment options. The ARK's Intensive Day Program team will discuss how people with serious mental health challenges can be motivated to engage in treatment and work towards meeting their goals. The following topics will be discussed: how do people make difficult life changes? How do you help someone to take step forward? How do you motivate someone who has experienced a setback to move forward?

- **Planning for the Future**

**August 10, 2017**

**10:30 a.m. – noon**

**3003 W Touhy Ave in Chicago**

**Presented By Scott Nixon, Executive Director of Life's Plan Incorporated**

Learn about the variety of estate planning tools that are important for the families of adults with disabilities with special focus on Pooled Trust for People with Disabilities. Also reviewing other planning issues including:

- . Special Needs Trust Administration
- . What is an Able Account?
- . The importance of the Trust Administrator
- . Expenses allowed by the Trust

**To register or to request special accommodations, please contact Mariana Sanchez, Linkages Coordinator, at 773.508.1106 or [linkages@cje.net](mailto:linkages@cje.net)**

## **SELF-CARE**

### **How to Reduce Stress Through Mindfulness**

The NIDILRR-funded [Research and Training Center on Promoting Healthy Aging for Individuals with Long-Term Physical Disabilities \(Healthy Aging RRTC\)](#) has published, [How to Reduce Stress Through Mindfulness](#), the latest in the [Aging Well with a Physical Disability Factsheet Series](#). The factsheet focuses on how individuals aging with disabilities can use the practice of mindfulness to benefit their health and well-being. Sections offer information and resources on the practice of mindfulness and its benefits, common mindfulness techniques, and apps and guides to help practice mindfulness.