



ILLINOIS EMPLOYMENT FIRST UPDATE 4/21/17

TIME SENSITIVE (4/28/17) & FREE

EXCITING NEW WEB BASED PROVIDER TRANSFORMATION SUPPORT TRAINING FROM ODEP-see attached

“ODEP recognizes that many CRPs desire to align their organizational policies in support of an Employment First approach but may not yet possess the knowledge, skills, abilities and/or resources necessary to lead and facilitate such change. To address this need, ODEP has initiated the Employment First State Leadership Mentoring Program (EFSLMP) Provider Transformation Webinar Series, six (6) ninety-minute webinars led by national subject matter experts. Through our contractor, EconSys, EFSLMP is providing the impetus for selected CRPs to pursue systems change to fully implement the Employment First approach as the primary service delivery system for people with the most significant disabilities.”

*******PLEASE NOTE THAT EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP COMMITMENT FROM YOUR AGENCY IS REQUIRED. PLEASE COMPLETELY FILL OUT THE COMMITMENT FORM.*******

Eligibility

To participate in the ODEP’s Webinar Series, organizations must be able to: 1) **commit to having at least one staff person participate in all six webinars-if you have only one person scheduled for regular attendance, assign a back-up person**; 2) read each module “assignment” in the provided Pilot Provider Transformation Manual before each scheduled webinar on that topic; and 3) provide feedback at the end of each webinar on the usefulness of the material, as well as feedback on how the manual could be improved.

EFSLMP Provider Transformation Manual Webinar Series Benefits

If selected, your organization will receive:

- Access to a pilot version of ODEP’s Provider Transformation Manual;
- Opportunity to participate in six (6) ninety-minute webinars;
- Opportunity to provide feedback about materials to ensure the “on the ground” experience is realized;
- Opportunity to network with other organizations with similar visions and goals and;
- Access to subject matter experts who will be available to answer questions.

If your organization is interested in participating in this webinar TA series opportunity, please complete and return the attached “Commitment Form” by **1 p.m. on April 28, 2017** to:

Cheryl.Mitchell@econsys.com

If selected to participate, a confirmation email will be sent to the applicant from your organization

before the scheduled "Orientation" on May 4, 2017.

If you have further questions about this webinar TA series opportunity, please contact Amy Gonzalez on ODEP's Workforce Systems Policy Team at: Gonzalez.Amy.M@dol.gov

Thank you for your interest in participating in this Employment First State Leadership Mentoring Program (EFSLMP) opportunity!

Featured Webinar -5/5/17 1:00-2:30

- **"If You Build It They Will Come; If You Close It They Can Belong: A Tale of Agency Transformation" 5/5/17 1:00-2:30**

Illinois Employment First State Leadership Mentorship Project (EFSLMP)

Description: KFI is an award winning organization that transformed itself in the 80's and 90's from traditional center-based services to personalized supports for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to live in homes of their own, work in community businesses, and contribute to their communities as typical citizens. Gail Fanjoy, CEO, will share stories and revisit many of the fundamental strategies and decisions that led to the conversion of KFI's sheltered workshop, day program, and other segregated services – and review their current successes and challenges around providing personalized supports leading to home ownership, employment, and community belonging for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



Gail Fanjoy is CEO of KFI (Katahdin Friends, Inc.), an agency which provides supports for people with disabilities in the areas of community employment, supported living, and community life engagement in Maine. Having worked for KFI since 1976 she is a leader in the revolutionary shift in service delivery away from sheltered and segregated services to customized supports for people to live and work in the community. Gail holds degrees in Speech Pathology from the University of Maine. On a national level, she is a Subject Matter Expert for the Office of Disability Employment Policy's Employment First State Leadership Program and has consulted in the area of provider transformation in numerous states. She served two terms on the TASH national Board of Directors and is Past President of TASH New England. Gail is the Past President of Maine APSE and a member of Maine's Employment First Coalition. She is active in her hometown of Millinocket, Maine serving as President of the Chamber of Commerce and volunteering on various other committees and boards in order to improve community living and employment for all its citizens. She has been married to her college sweetheart for 40 + years and is the proud grandmother of a darling ten year old grandson on the autism spectrum.

INSTRUCTIONS TO JOIN WEBINAR (Please do a trial run to ensure that your system is compatible):

To join AT&T Connect Conference:

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

For dialing-in only:

-
1. Dial one of the numbers listed below
 2. 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.

- **Tools for Finding Disability and Rehabilitation Related Data**

Date and Time: Tuesday, May 9th, 2017 2:00-3:00pm EDT

Presenters:

William Erickson and Sarah Von Schrader

K. Lisa Yang and Hock E. Tan Institute on Employment and Disability

Cornell University

Research tools for exploring national-survey and administrative data

Secondary datasets such as national surveys and administrative data are valuable resources for testing hypotheses and generating national-level statistics about disability and rehabilitation related-issues.

Unfortunately, it can be difficult to identify what datasets are available and what data are most appropriate for addressing a specific research interest.

This presentation will introduce two innovative web-based resources designed to help researchers learn:

- What datasets related to disability and rehabilitation are out there?
- What topics are covered in each dataset?
- What are the dataset strengths and limitations?
- How do I access the datasets?
- How to link to the University of Michigan's Archive of Data on Disability to Enable Policy and Research ([ADDEP](#))

The [Rehabilitation Dataset Directory](#) is a browse-able/searchable database providing an overview, description, sample and other pertinent information for nearly 60 datasets. The [Rehabilitation Research Cross-dataset Variable Catalog](#) allows the exploration of variables organized by topics (including disability and health conditions, healthcare, health behaviors and more) simultaneously across 6 major datasets.

To register for this free webinar, please go to:

<http://www.edi.cornell.edu/register/index.cfm?event=6276>

The tools were developed by the Yang-Tan Institute on Employment and Disability (YTI) at Cornell University in collaboration with the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB). This work was funded by a sub-contract to YTI through funding from The National Institutes of Health - National Center for Medical Rehabilitation Research (No. R24 HD065702) a grant funded to the UTMB's Center for Rehabilitation Research using Large Datasets.

- **Webinar: What Works for Youth? Tracking VR Outcomes**

The NIDILRR-funded [Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Vocational Rehabilitation \(VR\) Practices for Youth and Young Adults](#) will host a webinar and policy forum, [What Works for](#)

[Youth? Tracking VR Outcomes](#), April 27th, 12-1:30pm ET. A panel of researchers and practitioners will present and discuss new evidence on long-term outcomes of youth who apply for VR services, the Maryland Seamless Transition Collaborative's VR process and outcomes, and employment outcomes of post-secondary youth with intellectual or developmental disabilities. Registration is free and required.

- **Webinar: Sexual Assault and Survivors with Disabilities**

The [Administration for Community Living \(ACL\)](#) and the Department of Justice [Office on Violence Against Women \(OVW\)](#) will host a webinar, [Sexual Assault and Survivors with Disabilities](#), April 24th, 11:30am-1pm. Presenters will discuss the prevalence of sexual violence among people with disabilities, highlight strong examples from the fields of domestic and sexual violence prevention and community-based programs serving people with disabilities, and share resources for further engagement and training to better support those who have experienced sexual assault. Registration is free and required.

- **Webinar: Young Workers and the Labor Market: As the American economy completes its eighth year of recovery, have young workers witnessed the same growth in opportunity observed in other parts of the labor force?**

Tuesday, April 25, 3pm ET

We cordially invite you to join us for the following conversation on young workers, featuring our own **Amy Blair**, research director of the Economic Opportunities Program. Please see below to learn how to participate.

Connecting Communities[®] SPONSORED BY THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Young workers in the US experience higher rates of unemployment than the population as a whole. Nonetheless, they are generally optimistic about their job prospects, according to the Federal Reserve Board's new report, [Experiences and Perspectives of Young Workers](#). The report, which presents data collected through a 2015 survey, provides a snapshot of the educational attainment, employment experience, job market outlook and financial self-sufficiency of 18- to 30-year-olds.

Findings from the survey include...

- Sixty-one percent of respondents are positive about future employment opportunities, compared with 45 percent in 2013.
- Respondents with postsecondary education and those who are currently employed are more likely to be optimistic about future job opportunities.
- Despite the flexibility of some contingent or contract work, young adults prefer jobs that are permanent and steady. They also prefer steady employment to higher pay.
- Seventy-three percent of young workers said they were able to cover monthly expenses with their income in 2015, compared with 64 percent in 2013.

Join us for this one-hour Connecting Communities[®] webinar **next Tuesday, April 25, at 3 pm ET** to learn

more findings from this new Federal Reserve report. You'll hear from leading experts on young workers and the labor market.

[RSVP now](#)

bit.ly/FedYouthWebinar

Register for this session at the [Connecting Communities website](#). Participation is free, but preregistration is required.

- **Webinar: Customized Training - an Inclusive Employment Training Option in VR Practice**

The NIDILRR-funded [Langston University Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Research and Capacity Building for Minority Entities](#) will host a webinar, [Customized Training: An Inclusive Employment Training Option in Vocational Rehabilitation \(VR\) Practice](#), April 26th, 2-3pm ET. Presenters will discuss the use of customized training (CT) models to serve people with disabilities in VR, including barriers that people with disabilities from racial and ethnic minorities and other diverse populations may experience, CT practices and programs available within VR and their benefits to employment success, and outreach efforts that support the development of inclusive and diverse CT programs. Registration is free and required.

- **WEBINAR: The ABLE Act: A Tool for Financial Stability and Employment Outcomes**
THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 2017 3:00 - 4:30PM ET



LEAD CENTER

The LEAD Center, in collaboration with the [ABLE National Resource Center](#), will be holding a webinar focused on how individuals with disabilities, and their families, can use ABLE accounts to increase their financial stability and produce more positive employment outcomes.

The webinar will take place on April 27 at 3:00-4:30 pm EST and aims to demonstrate how provisions in the ABLE Act can enable people with disabilities to achieve competitive integrated employment, begin to save more than \$2,000 without fear of loss of SSI and Medicaid eligibility and set longer term goals for financial stability and self-determined and self-directed lives. The presentation will review the basic elements of these new ABLE account programs, now open in 18 states, and will include the perspective of a current ABLE account owner.

For some basic information about ABLE accounts, we encourage you to [watch the video and/or read the summary of 10 Things You Should Know about ABLE Accounts](#), prior to the webinar.

APRIL 2017

27

[REGISTER NOW](#)

We look forward to you joining us!

Presenters:

- **Michael Morris**, Executive Director - National Disability Institute and LEAD Center Public Policy Co-Chair
- **Chris Rodriguez**, ABLE National Resource Center

Register for this webinar by clicking or copying and pasting the following link:

<https://leadcenter.webex.com/leadcenter/onstage/g.php?MTID=eb151907e235c78f67e9c14e1021f5c22>



[FORWARD THIS EMAIL TO A FRIEND](#)

- **Employment: A Social Determinant of Health for People with Psychiatric Disabilities**

Employment First State Leadership Mentoring Program (EFLSMP)

Community of Practice (CoP) Monthly Webinar

May 10, 2017 3-4:00 ET

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

Topic: Employment: A Social Determinant of Health for People with Psychiatric Disabilities

This session will describe the current situation concerning community employment of people with serious mental health disabilities. Data from the public mental health system will be reviewed, multiple intersecting barriers to employment will be described and opportunities for improvement will be discussed.

Intended audience: state and Federal policy makers, direct service providers, families and persons with lived experience of mental health disability

Webinar Objectives

1. Learn about the current low rates of employment for people with psychiatric disabilities and the factors that help explain this situation. In spite of numerous studies finding that people with mental illnesses want to work, it has been very difficult to increase overall rates of employment.

- Concerns about losing medical benefits keep people from working
- Messages from mental health professionals that work is “too stressful” are disincentivizing
- There is a lack of specialized focus on employment in the mental health system, which heretofore did not see employment as its mandate.
- Workforce centers are typically not well linked with Community Mental Health Providers

2. Learn the health consequences of unemployment

- Unemployment in the general population leads to many adverse consequences in health and social wellbeing
- People with mental illnesses experience high early mortality
- People with mental illnesses experience high rates of unemployment
- Unemployment leads to poverty (SS rates are poverty level) which leads to substandard housing, nutrition, and medical care.

3. Learn about the most effective approach to help people with mental illness achieve employment

- Brief description of the Evidence Based Practice of Individual Placement and Support Supported

Employment

- Research shows the technology is effective, when provided according to fidelity

4. Learn how funding streams supporting providers to deliver IPS SE and other employment services differ from state to state

- Learning from other states is helpful but not sufficient as each state has unique factors to consider
- Medicaid is a very important funder of mental health services, but its use in supporting employment is variable. The Medicaid Rehabilitation Option has certain prohibitions and opportunities; Various Waivers (1115;1915's) offer more coverage for employment but integration into a state system is complex
- Coordination and sequencing with Vocational Rehabilitation is challenging. MOU's between state agencies are important.

Guest Speaker

Virginia Selleck, Ph.D., EFSLMP National Subject Matter Expert

Dr. Selleck has worked in the rehabilitation field for over 40 years. She has experience in psychiatric rehabilitation and recovery systems reform, program development, implementation, funding issues, legislation, and policy. She has held leadership positions in state government (Minnesota and Missouri), and with community mental health providers (in rural Illinois, urban Chicago, and St. Louis). Dr. Selleck also provided consultation to multiple other states. Most recently, she served as Vice President of Clinical Services for Places for People (St Louis, MO) and is now a consultant with the organization.

HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT COMMUNITY INCLUSION?

<https://naricspotlight.wordpress.com/2017/04/18/inclusion-the-importance-of-being-seen/>

How can you support inclusion in your community? Here are some resources from the NIDILRR community which can help:

- [Inclusion resources from the RRTC on Community Living and Participation of Individuals with Psychiatric Disabilities](#) – tools and guides to fostering inclusion at work, at houses of worship, in school, at home, and in the community.
- [Making homes visitable by people with disabilities](#), from Dot Nary, PhD, at the Research and Training Center on Independent Living.
- [Fun in Play: Independence, assistance, effort, and difficulty](#). A study from two NIDILRR-funded field initiated projects.
- [Parents with Disabilities and Their Children: Promoting Inclusion and Awareness in the Classroom](#) – a guide for classroom teachers grades 1 through 6 from the National Center on Parents with Disabilities at Through the Looking Glass.
- [Impact: Feature issue on supporting the social well-being of children and youth with disabilities](#) from the RRTC on Community Living for Individuals with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities.

And here are resources from the greater disability and rehabilitation community:

- [Creating Inclusive Play and Community Spaces](#) – an out-of-the-box approach to social and emotional inclusion, published by the Institute for Community Inclusion.
- [IncFit](#) – the Inclusive Fitness Coalition, dedicated to inclusive exercise, play, and fitness of all stripes.
- [VSA Arts](#) – the international organization focused on arts and disability, has programs and

resources to create inclusive arts programs.

- [Employer Assistance and Resource Network \(EARN\)](#) – assists employers in developing practices for inclusive recruiting, hiring, and retention of employees with disabilities.

Want to dive deeper? Explore literature on inclusion in our collection:

- [Inclusion and the arts](#)
- [Inclusion and education](#)
- [Inclusion and employment](#)
- [Inclusion and sports/fitness](#)

These are just a few ways to explore more than 200,000 abstracts of disability and rehabilitation literature indexed in our collection. [Try your own search](#) or [chat with an information specialist](#) to explore further!

FREE TRAINING IN CHICAGO

The Frontline Workforce Association

Hire Yourself! - Resources for Entrepreneurship

Do you have job seekers interested in entrepreneurship and you're not sure how to assist them on this empowering pathway to employment? Join us in May to connect with small business resources in the community and explore the ins and outs of helping your job seekers begin their journey as an entrepreneur. For this interactive meeting, we will divide into a few small groups and several speakers will rotate from group to group, giving you plenty of opportunities to network, learn and ask questions. Topics will include: creating a business plan, advising

Logistics

When:

Wed., May 10, 2017
8:30-11:00am

Where:

ICNC
320 N. Damen Ave.
Chicago, IL 60612

Cost:

FREE but advanced registration required.

and mentorship, needed technology for a business, and more!

Agenda:

- 8:30-9:00** Networking
- 9:00-10:55** Entrepreneurship Round Robin
- 10:55-11:00** Wrap-up & Evaluations

[Register here](#) to attend.
Space is limited!

Questions?

Contact:
Kaitlyn McGovern
Program Associate
kaitlyn@cjc.net

RESOURCES:

Resource Highlight

- **Research Brief: Family Caregiver Support for People with IDD**

The NIDILRR-funded [Rehabilitation Research and Training Center \(RRTC\) on Family Supports](#) and the [RRTC on Community Living for People with Intellectual Disabilities \(RTC/CL\)](#) have published a report, [Family Caregiver Support for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities \(IDD\)](#). This report uses data from the Family and Individual Needs for Disability Supports Survey (FINDS) to describe the kinds and amount of supports provided by families to individuals with IDD living in their family home. Caregivers provided an average of 9 different kinds of support and more than half of all caregivers reported providing these supports more than 40 hours per week. More than half of caregivers in this survey reported being aged 50 or older, highlighting the critical need to start planning for a future when aging caregivers are no longer able to continue providing significant amounts of support for their family members.

- [*Small Business Success Stories*](#)

Want to know what works for small businesses when it comes to disability inclusion? Check out EARN's recently enlarged Employer Success Story section, which now includes new profiles of five small businesses: 1st Bank, Division of Glacier Bank; Volk Packaging Corporation; Avery W. Hall Insurance Agency; Thomas Hooker Brewing Company and Dover Downs Hotel & Casino. Developed jointly by the Office of Disability Employment Policy and the U.S. Business Leadership Network – an EARN partner – these profiles help illuminate strategies that small businesses across the nation are using to ensure their workplaces welcome the skills and talents of people with disabilities. [Read the success stories.](#)

- [*Celebrating Deaf History Month*](#)

In honor of Deaf History Month, which ran from March 13 to April 15, the U.S. Department of Labor published a blog post noting the many contributions of American workers who are deaf or hard-of-hearing. Written by Renee Tajudeen, director of policy communication and outreach for the department's Office of Disability Employment Policy, the post celebrates the achievements of people both high profile – such as former MLB outfielder Curtis Pride, inventor Thomas Edison and Girls Scouts

of the USA founder Juliette Low – and every day workers, such as public servants, teachers and retail workers, all of whom play an important role in the nation’s workforce every day. [Read the blog post.](#)

- **Diversity Partners Debuts Online**

The NIDILRR-funded [Diversity Partners Intervention: Moving the Disability Employment Needle Through Value Added Relationships Between Talent Acquisition Providers and the Business Community](#) debuted its [online curriculum for employment service professionals](#) who wish to improve overall excellence in serving job seekers with disabilities, and to leverage existing business relationships to benefit those job seekers. The site features more than 20 learning modules for frontline service providers and managers, as well as information and guidance for organizational leaders. The curriculum is available free of charge.

- **Special Double Issue of Journal *Philosophy, Psychiatry & Psychology* Is Available for Free Download**

Nev Jones, Ph.D., writes: “I’m thrilled to announce that a massive double special issue of the journal *Philosophy, Psychiatry & Psychology* on service user/survivor research is now out...It features the work of leading emerging and established voices from around the world. The journal’s format includes formal exchanges, so for each ‘lead article’ there are two commentaries by different researchers/activists and then a response from the original author.” Dr. Jones guest-edited the issue with British survivor researcher Jayasree Kalathil, Ph.D. To download all of the articles for free, [click here](#).



Please join us for the STAR Center

[Equity and Inclusion in Leadership Networking Call](#)

Wednesday, April 26, 2017

2-3 pm ET/11 am-12 pm PT

There are many issues faced by people of color that are major stressors impacting our mental health status including the continued disparities in health and mental health outcomes for people of color. Increasing the capacity of leadership in mental health organizations to reach and connect with communities of color is a recognized organizational change strategy.

The STAR Center's monthly national networking call for people of color is for anyone who is interested in increasing the number of people in organizational leadership roles who are African-American, Native American/American Indian/Alaskan Native, Latino/Hispanic or Asian/Pacific Islanders. Our hope is that this opportunity to network and support each other's leadership efforts across the country and in our target states/regions will make a measurable and remarkable difference towards eliminating the health and mental health disparities we currently experience across the country.

[Register now](#) for this next session on April 26, 2017 from 2-3pm ET/11-12 PT!

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

CITY OF CHICAGO

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) FOR

THE SENIOR COMMUNITY SERVICE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM (SCSEP)

ISSUED BY:

CITY OF CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND SUPPORT SERVICES

APRIL 13, 2017

All proposals shall be submitted via the CyberGrants system.

The application can be accessed at:

http://www.cybergrants.com/pls/cybergrants/ao_login.login?x_gm_id=5130&x_proposal_type_id=45328

RESPONSES MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN

May 12, 2017

AT 12:00 NOON CST

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD-PARTICIPATE IN AN ENVIRONMENTAL SCANNING PROJECT



April 20, 2017

Participate in an Environmental Scan of Community-Based Disability Organizations

The rapid expansion of Medicaid managed long-term services and supports (MLTSS) and other efforts to integrate healthcare and long-term services and supports is creating new opportunities and challenges for community-based organizations (CBOs)*. This change is compelling organizations to think differently about the services they offer, the customers they serve, and how to demonstrate the value they add to services and supports. Instead of contracting directly with government funders, CBOs are now negotiating contracts with hospitals, health systems, accountable care organizations, health plans, and other integrated care entities.

To equip CBOs with the skills, training, and experience needed to effectively negotiate and partner with integrated care entities and other payers, the Administration on Community Living is funding a three-year grant focused on business acumen for disability organizations to the National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities (NASUAD) in partnership with 10 other national organizations representing a variety of perspectives and experience on disability.

To best understand and meet the needs of the disability network and CBOs, NASUAD is conducting an [environmental scan of the business acumen of organizations serving people with disabilities](#). Responses are being solicited from three types of organizations:

- [Community-Based Organizations](#);
- [Managed care organizations, accountable care organizations, and other healthcare and long-term services and supports payers](#); and
- [States currently operating or planning to implement a managed long-term services and supports program](#).

From the links above please choose the one that applies to your organization and complete the survey. All the surveys are open through May 31. Responses will be used to guide the development of a web-based resource center and training and technical assistance (including learning collaboratives).

*CBO is a broad term to describe local organizations that offer community living services and supports to advance the health, well-being, independence, and community participation of people with disabilities and older adults. CBOs include Centers for Independent Living, developmental disability organizations, University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) Education, Research & Service, behavioral health organizations, Protection and Advocacy Agencies, Area Agencies on Aging, aging services organizations, faith-based organizations, Native American tribal organizations (American Indian/Alaskan Native/Native Hawaiian), nutrition program providers and other local service providers for persons with disabilities and/or older adults.

Learn more about [ACL's Business Acumen initiative](#) to help states and community-based organizations build networks and respond to delivery system changes, including technical assistance, building business capacity for successful contracting with integrated care entities, and developing pathways to sustainability.



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