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The Independence

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The Alabama Council for Developmental Disabilities (ACDD) will partner with Alabama APSE to host the first ever Alabama Disability Mega Conference. The dates are June 24—26. While planning is in the early stages, the site will be the magnificent Renaissance Hotel in Montgomery.

This conference promises to offer something for everyone. Specialized tracks addressing employment, mental illness, workshop conversion, self-determination, diversity, as well as consumer and family issues will be offered.

Look for more information to be posted on the ACDD website at <u>WWW.ACDD.ORG</u> and on the AL-APSE website at <u>WWW.AL-APSE.ORG</u>.

MR Waiver Amended

The Alabama Department of Mental Health is pleased to announce the approval of an amendment to their MR waiver. The Division for Intellectual Disabilities applied to Medicaid for approval to add two new services to the existing definition of Supported Employment. This was done to encourage full integration of waiver participants in work sites where individuals without disabilities are employed. The waiver amendment is also designed to take advantage of partnering with the Department of Rehabilitation Services and their employment initiatives.

Job development is one of the new services and includes several components: developing a career plan, performing a vocational assessment, creating a vocational service plan and then developing employment options. Job structuring, job carving and actual placement are all part of the job developer's responsibilities.

The second new service is job coaching. This includes skills development and job site training. It also includes training of co-workers, facilitation of job accommodations and transportation. Job coaches are responsible for annual vocational assessments and updates of vocational service plans.

As the mental health department's employment initiatives develop, it is hoped that many more people with intellectual disabilities will be afforded the opportunity to participate in employment in fully integrated work sites and enjoy the benefits of earned income and the satisfaction of gainful employment. (Patricia Martin)

In 2009, Alabama APSE will host 4 training events across the state entitled "Choosing Community One Person at a Time". This training will offer information on how organizations and self-advocates can choose to move out of day habilitation and workshops into competitive employment. Dates and locations are set:

February 4, Montgomery

February 5, Mobile

February 18, Huntsville

February 19, Birmingham

Visit the AL-APSE website at www.al-apse.org for more information.



Certificate Based Supported Employment Training

Trainers: Consultants from Virginia Commonwealth University

April 22—24, 2009 Birmingham

Visit www.al-apse.org

AL-APSE Regional Training

Dec. 4th 9:30-11

Mobile

Cottage Hill Baptist Church

Topic: Employment Networks

How to maximize the benefits of being an

Employment Network

Presenter: Lynn Krueger

Nov. 20th 2:00 p.m.

Birmingham

United Cerebral Palsy 101 Oslo Circle

Topic: Work Incentives

Learn how to work and retain your benefits

Presenter: Alice Sanders, ALA WIN

Dec. 5 2:00 p.m.

Tuscaloosa

Tuscaloosa VR Office Topic: Work Incentives

Learn how to work and retain your benefits

Presenter: Wanda Berry, ALA WIN

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