

EMPLOYMENT CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Becky Harker, Executive Director, Iowa
Developmental Disabilities Council

Ashlea Lantz – Senior Consultant, Griffin-Hammis
Associates

Michelle Krefft, MS., Business Consultant, Iowa
Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Reyma McCoy McDeid, MA, CESP, Executive Director,
Central Iowa Center for Independent Living

Kris Steinmetz, Executive Director, Autism Society of
Iowa

CONFERENCE INFORMATION

There is no cost to attend this conference, but registration is required to assure that there are adequate hand outs and lunches. If you register and then cannot attend, please call or email the Autism Society of Iowa by June 16, 2016, so a lunch is not purchased for you.

CONFERENCE LOCATION

The Sheraton Hotel of West Des Moines
1800 50th Street
West Des Moines, IA 50265
Phone: 515-223-1800

Rooms have been reserved for the conference participants under the Autism Society Group Block. Rooms will be held until July 21, 2016.

CONTINUING EDUCATION UNITS

4.75 hours will be credited for CEU's.
A certificate will be provided.

ADA ACCOMMODATIONS

If ADA accommodations are needed for you to attend this conference, please contact ASI by July 15, 2016



REGISTRATION FOR CONFERENCE

This conference is free, but we request that you register for handouts and lunch. If you register and then cannot attend, please contact the Autism Society of Iowa so your lunch can be cancelled.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Please select your lunch:

____ Asiago Chicken served with vegetable
and salad

____ Chicken Strips and Fries

____ Vegetarian

____ Gluten Free

____ I will not be eating lunch at the conference

Please send your registration to:
Autism Society of Iowa, P.O. Box 65311, West Des
Moines, IA 50265
Fax: 515-457-7225
Email: autism50ia@aol.com
Register online at: www.autismia.com



PO Box 65311
West Des Moines, IA 50265

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Preparation, Participation, Power

Presents:

THE 3RD ANNUAL AUTISM & EMPLOYMENT CONFERENCE

Friday, August 12, 2016

Sheraton Hotel, West Des Moines

Examples, Tools, and Resources

to use to

Explore and Prepare for Employment

and to use During Employment

EMPLOYMENT & AUTISM

This free conference is for teens and adults on the autism spectrum who are interested in employment, family members, employers, human resource managers, case managers, social workers, transition coordinators, high school, college, and vocational educators, employment specialists, residential care providers, and anyone interested in helping those with autism in the work place.

- 7:45** Registration Opens
8:00 Greetings and Announcements
8:15-9:30 **Panel of Community Employment Providers Facilitated by Becky Harker, Executive Director, Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council**
- Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services – Mary Jackson, M.A.
 - Central Iowa Center for Independent Living – Reyma McCoy McDeid, M.A.
 - Iowa Employment Services – Diane Hernandez, M.A.

- 9:30-9:45** Break and resource fair opens
9:45-11:00 **The Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP®) and Discovering Personal Genius™ (DPG) – an Introduction and Overview Presented by: Patti Bitney Starke and Bob Niemiec – Part 1**
- WRAP© The Wellness Recovery Action Plan is a personalized wellness and recovery system born out of and rooted in the principle of self-determination. WRAP is an approach that helps people to: decrease and prevent intrusive or troubling feelings and behaviors, increase personal empowerment, improve quality of life, and achieve his/her own life goals and dreams.

Overall wellness is necessary for individuals who are seeking employment. Not only does employment require that each individual bring their “A” game forward, but additionally, each person who develops and lives their WRAP helps accomplish this desired wellness when employed. It is clear that employment is a strong wellness tool.

Discovering Personal Genius™ is a functional assessment leading to employment. DPG answers the question: “Who are you?” It identifies an individual’s skills, tasks, personal attributes, interests and “ideal conditions of employment.” These are the foundation of Vocational Themes™ that guide a job seeker on his or her own unique path of discovery leading toward meaningful and lasting employment.

This presentation will provide an overview of WRAP and DPG and how both, when used together, can benefit and improve the lives of people who experience autism.

- 11:00-11:15** Break and Visit Resource Fair
11:15-12:30 **The Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP®) and Discovering Personal Genius™ (DPG) – an Introduction and Overview Presented by: Patti Bitney Starke and Bob Niemiec – Part 2**

- 12:30-1:30** Lunch provided and Visit Resource Fair
1:30-3:00 **Panel of Employers Who Employ Those with Autism and Employees with Autism – facilitated by Michelle Krefft, M.S., Business Consultant for Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services**
- Emily Brown, Retention Specialist Business Partner, Unity Point*
Bea Cisler, Recruiting Specialist, Hy-Vee
Chick Herbert – Sr. V.P. Customer Excellence, Wells Fargo
Steve Piatak – Special Projects, Fidler Technologies
Brandon Arkland – Employee at Mainstream Living
Mike Dierdorff – Employee at Adams Thermal Systems
Tyler Leech – Employee at Wells Fargo & Hy-Vee
Reyma McCoy McDeid – Employee and Executive Director at Central Iowa Center for Independent Living

- 3:00-3:15** Break

- 3:15-4:30** Breakout Sessions
- **Interviewing Practice for Those with Autism.**
This will be an opportunity for those with autism to practice interviewing with two interviewers and receive feedback.
 - **Employment Rights and Disclosure of a Disability in the Application Process -**
Presented by Cyndy Miller, Legal Director, and Tai Tomasi, Staff Attorney, Disability Rights Iowa

RESOURCE FAIR

A resource fair will be held from 9:30 a.m. -1:30 p.m. featuring employment related resources:

- Candeo
- Central Iowa Center for Independent Living
- Disability Rights Iowa
- Easter Seals Iowa
- The Homestead
- Autism Society of Iowa
- Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council
- Progress Industries
- Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services

 **AUTISM SOCIETY**
Improving the Lives of All Affected by Autism
Iowa

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

PATTI BITNEY STARKE

Patti Bitney Starke is the Director of Mental Health Recovery and Wellness Employment Services at Kaposia, Inc. in Little Canada, MN. She has accumulated over 30 years of experience as an advocate, trainer, researcher, program developer and activist. She is an Advanced Level WRAP Facilitator, a Certified Peer Recovery Specialist, an emotional CPR facilitator and has led many local, statewide and regional mental health programs. She additionally serves on the Board of Directors of the Copeland Center for Wellness and Recovery. She is on the Hero Care Advisory Council for Veterans seeking mental health recovery and wellness services and supports beyond the VA, and is a member of APSE, among other affiliations.

BOB NIEMIEC

Bob Niemiec is a Senior Consultant with Griffin-Hammis Associates, LLC and serves as the Director of the Minnesota Employment Training and Technical Assistance Center (MNTAT). A graduate of Indiana University, Bob has been in the field of employment for persons with disabilities for over thirty-four years. Bob served as the Chair of the Minnesota State Rehabilitation Council and as a member of the Minnesota Governor’s Workforce Development Council. He is a Past-President of APSE: The Association of People Supporting Employment First, a founding member and former President of Minnesota APSE, former President of the APSE Foundation, a current member of the Editorial Board of The Journal of Vocational Rehabilitation, a Subject Matter Expert (SME) with the Office of Disability Employment Policy Employment First State Leadership Mentoring Program, and a founding member of the Minnesota Employment First Coalition. Bob has provided training and consultation services in 43 states and 2 Canadian provinces as well as assisting in the planning and facilitation of Employment First events in 12 states.