California Legislature
Senate Select Committee on Autism & Related Disorders

INFORMATIONAL HEARING

Vocational Training & Employment for Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) & Related Disorders: Challenges & Innovative Solutions

August 5th 2014
Tuesday 10AM – Noon;
Capitol Building Room 112

Agenda

1) Welcoming Comments: Sen. Steinberg & Committee Members
   (10:00-10:10 AM)

2) First Panel. Overview of Current Employment Status for Individuals with ASD: Santi Rogers; Michal Clark; Catherine Blakemore. Mark Polit to provide technical assistance. (10:10-10:35 AM)
   a. Current data & statistics on employment for individuals with ASD.
   b. Overview of budget, resources, & fiscal issues.
   c. Overview of “employment first” policy.
   d. Existing employment models: Integrated employment, supported employment, and “sheltered workshop.”
e. Regulatory considerations

f. The impact of federal laws and guidelines.

g. Other issues.

3) **Second Panel. Current Employment Programs – Opportunities, Challenges, Resources, & Supports:** Joe Xavier; Jennifer Bianchi; Sue North; Tom Heinz. Jim Shorter to provide technical assistance. (10:35-11:00 AM)

   a. Unique aspects of employment supports for individuals with ASD.

   b. Employment models for individuals with ASD who require intensive services (wrap-around employment services).

   c. Behavioral challenges for individuals with ASD.

   d. Sensory & environmental issues related to employment supports for ASD.

   e. Current bills and legislation.

   f. Fiscal and Economic implications.

   g. Gaps, challenges & barriers to employment

   h. Educational and career technical educational programs.

   i. Other issues.

4) **Third Panel. Innovative Approaches & Best Practices – The Promise of a Brighter Future:** Olivia Raynor; Cindy Burton; Josh Debbs. Sara Murphy & Zach Clark to provide technical assistance. (11:00-11:25 AM)

   a. Examples of successful programs.

   b. Project Search and other effective models.
c. Employer & Industry perspectives.

d. Micro-enterprises.

e. Lessons learned from other states.


g. Other issues.

5) Public Comments: (11:25-11:40 AM)

6) Discussion & Closing Remarks: Sen. Steinberg & Committee Members
   (11:40-12:00 PM)

7) Adjournment: (12:00 PM)